Call for Papers:
Reflections on the Contributions of Dr. Robert Williams

The Seventh National Conference on African/Black Psychology
at Florida A&M University

The Seventh National Conference on African/Black Psychology will honor the works and contributions of Dr. Robert Williams (“Dr. Bob”). Dr. Bob has appeared as a frequent public speaker and has been featured on numerous national television programs relating to IQ testing, including CBS's "IQ Myth" with Dan Rather, Prime Time Saturday Night, The Phil Donahue Show and The Montel Williams Show. His works on biases in IQ testing were also used as a theme for one of the "Good Times" TV programs. He was featured on Black Entertainment Television (BET) and NBC News to discuss "EBONICS," a term he coined in 1973. Dr. Williams spent over three decades of his long and distinguished career working as a Professor of Psychology and African and African American Studies at Washington University. He developed the Black Studies Program and the Graduate Training Program in Minority Mental Health at Washington University and served as its first director. He retired from Washington University in 1992 and is now Professor Emeritus. Dr. Williams returned to the academy (2001-2004) as The Distinguished Visiting Professor of Black Studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. On October 15, 2011 he was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. On February 26, 2015 he was the Distinguished Laureate at the Clinton's Presidential Center. His specialty areas are effects of racism on blacks, racial scripting, bias in IQ testing, and Ebonics.

Given Dr. Williams’ decades of scholarship and dedication to the development of paradigms that address the emotional, cognitive, and linguistic experiences of African descent people in America, we solicit papers that critically analyze the impact of his work on the lives of African people in America (and beyond). Proposals should be grounded in the African-centered worldview framework (i.e., based on the history, philosophy, knowledge, traditions, and cultural understandings of Africa and her indigenous people). Given the broad scope of Dr. Williams’ work including personality, cognitive (so-called “intelligence”) and linguistic theory development/construction, assessment, and examination of the effects of racism/White supremacy on mental lives of African Americans, we are emphasizing the multidisciplinary nature of this conference and encourage scholars, theoreticians, practitioners, and educators from all fields to submit papers. We seek papers on topics from a broad range of disciplines including psychology, education, history, sociology/social work, linguistics, cultural anthropology, etc. Papers should address any number of subject areas consistent with Dr. Bob’s decades of work in areas such as African/Black personality theory and assessment, intellectual/standardized testing, African American linguistic development (Ebonics), and the effects of racism/White supremacy on African/Black people in America (including racial scripting).

The selection criteria will involve: relevance to theme, clarity of paper, intellectual significance, and originality. Presenters must send a 150-300 word abstract by August 29, 2016. Submission of the abstract must include the presenter’s affiliation, CV, paper’s title, three learning objectives and email address. The paper must be submitted by September 12, 2016. Notification of acceptance will be communicated by the review committee on or before September 5, 2016. Upon notice of acceptance, the presenter must register and pay for the conference, at the reduced Presenters’ rate of $100, on or before September 29, 2016.

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