The African Diaspora International Research International Research Network (IRN):
The Compelling Case for Enhancing Global Research Exchange Across the African Diaspora

WERA Annual Report 2018 and Early 2019

Administrative and Organizational Structure and Details

- Created, designed, and defined leadership and participant structure, including university partnerships, advisory board, senior and early career scholars, graduate students, undergraduate students, and practitioners (see attached). This structure was designed to capture a wide range of voices and of scholarship and best practices, while building scholarly capacity, connection and exchange of a much needed broader range of scholars, practitioners, and artists across the African Diaspora.

- Invited and confirmed participants in each category across regions/countries (a sampling of a growing numbers of scholars and practitioners are highlighted in the included chart).

- Created and released our first AD-IRN Newsletter that highlights the scholarly and important intersection of history, the arts, and education in addressing knowledge gaps and educational outcomes across the African Diaspora (AD-IRN Fall Newsletter). https://mailchi.mp/0289215ba407/falling-for-the-adc-team

Scholarly Activities

- Began the initial scan of research in the field; given that there has and continues to be a paucity of research on education across the African Diaspora, and particularly related to comparative education research, it has been more challenging than we anticipated to collect research. Nonetheless, we are moving ahead with a review of the status of research in the field.
Although the scan will be ongoing, we will begin the process of producing a publishable synthesis paper that integrates the state of the field and sets forth promising research directions and possibilities.

Presented at three scholarly conferences related to comparative education and the African Diaspora: 1) The Comparative and International Education Research (CIES) in Mexico City, Mexico; 2) Association for the Study on the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) in Seville, Spain; and 3) AfroEuropeans: Black Cultures and Identities in Europe in Tampere, Finland.

Original research (Economics of Education, Hip Hop and Literacy Education, Research on the African Diaspora Curriculum, the work of the Emerging Scholars). Our team is in the process of developing and conducting original scholarship across continents on a limited budget (see example below from one of our Senior Fellows, Dr. Nicola Rollock). We are also actively seeking funds to subsidize this important but often undervalued work.

Submitted symposium proposal to participate in the 2019 WERA Conference in Tokyo, Japan.

[https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/black-female-professors-uk-universities](https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/black-female-professors-uk-universities)

**We Urgently Need More Black Female Professors In UK Universities**

There are just 25 black British female professors in UK universities – the smallest group of professors in terms of both race and gender. A new report by Dr. Nicola Rollock, and the first study of its kind in the UK, delves into the experiences and challenges of this virtually invisible group of women. Here, Rollock speaks to some of them.

*By NICOLA ROLLOCK*

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