

Center for Black
European Studies
and the Atlantic

Carnegie
Mellon
University

2025 Annual Report



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MILLE MERCI!

Nardal (2026), artwork by Mame-Fatou Niang, created during her residency at the Villa Medici, French Academy in Rome.

Photo credit: Mame-Fatou Niang.

1. A Word From The Director



The year 2025 marked a turning point for the Center for Black European Studies and the Atlantic at Carnegie Mellon. We began with the momentum of our Terra-funded gathering in Giverny at the end of 2024, with friends of the Center Dionne Brand, Alexis Peskine, Christina Sharpe, Rinaldo Walcott, Billy Gerard Frank and 12 thinkers from the Black Atlantic. Throughout 2025, CBESA connected people from Pittsburgh, to Dakar, New York, Paris, Berlin, Bogotá, Rio de Janeiro, Pointe-à-Pitre, and far beyond. Together, these places form part of the intellectual geography of our work and of our effort to understand Black Europe through its relationships with Africa and the wider Atlantic world.

One of the year's most significant moments was the launch, on April 15, of G-SAP, the Global Network for the Study of Africans and People of African Descent, at the UN Headquarters in New York. CBESA played a fundamental role in developing the network and establishing its close collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva and UNESCO in Paris. For me, this achievement carried a particular meaning. It affirmed that scholarship on Africa and its diasporas belongs not only in universities, but also in the international institutions where questions of human rights and our global futures are debated.

The inaugural BLACK|FRANCE|NOIRE symposium in Paris in May was another important moment. The event crafted a space for Black French Studies across space and academic traditions, and reinforced the need for lasting platforms through which this work can circulate. Institutionalization and circulation are also behind two major CBESA initiatives pursued in 2025: *SEA: A Journal of Black European Studies* and the emerging *Association for Black European Studies and the Atlantic*. Both are part of a longer effort to give the field stronger editorial and professional structures.

We strengthen our cultural partnerships and presence in communities outside our campuses. In Rio de Janeiro, CBESA curated the international program of Flup (*Festa Literária das Periferias*), a major literary festival that welcomed approximately 35,000 guests over five days in November. We also worked with partners in Guadeloupe and Marrakesh while continuing collaborations connected to Berlin, Dakar, and other sites. These projects allow scholarship to move beyond the university and into public conversations. That circulation between research and culture is central to what I want CBESA to be: an institution that brings people together across all type of borders while helping Black European thought reach its publics.

The Center also strengthened its organizational foundation. Hailing from Sweden, Michael McEachrane joined CBESA as Senior Research Fellow, bringing extensive experience with the United Nations and the European Union, as well as scholarship on human rights and people of African descent in the Nordic region. We expanded our local network through affiliated faculty at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh and continued to build the administrative capacity needed to sustain our international work. Taken together, the developments documented in this report reveal that CBESA's contribution cannot be measured only by the number of events it has organized. The Center is building the infrastructure needed for Black European Studies to grow as a field. It is also defending the belief that ideas matter, that institutions can still be created with care, and that knowledge can still be placed in the service of repair.

This growth has taken place at a difficult moment. Black Studies programs are being questioned in many parts of the world, institutions are retreating from earlier commitments, and sources of funding are shrinking. The humanities and the public role of universities are increasingly contested. These conditions certainly do make the work harder, but they also make its importance clearer. CBESA remains committed to education as a mean for repair. As we enter 2026, I am proud of what we have accomplished and aware of the work ahead. At three years old, CBESA is entering its toddlerhood, a thrilling age of discovery and new horizons. What began as an idea is now turning into an institution. Our task today is to be deliberate about what we build, whom it serves, and how scholarship can remain a living resource in uncertain times.



Mame-Fatou Niang, PhD
Trustee Professor of Global French Studies
Founder | Director of CBESA

2. 2025 at a Glance





FOLLOW OUR ACTIVITIES HERE



From left to right, top to bottom: CBESA-curated symposium at the HKW/Berlin; Senior fellow McEachrane at the Vice-President Office in Colombia; CBESA co-curated the inaugural Black|France|Noire symposium; Our literary festival in Brazil



CMU's Edda Fields-Black (2025 Pulitzer Prize in History) is in conversation with The Met's Denise Murrell and historian Christy Pichichero. Led by award-winning journalist Lori Stokes, this panel explored the ways buried past can be recovered and represented through art and technology.

29 NOV

SÁBADO
VIADUTO DE
MADUREIRA

18H



**DIONNE
BRAND**

**ONDE A VIDA NÃO
SEJA APENAS
POSSÍVEL**



**CHRISTINA
SHARPE**



FLUP
A FÓRUM LINGÜÍSTICO
DE PORTUGUÊS

MEDIAÇÃO
BIA FERREIRA





Dionne Brand and Christina Sharpe in conversation at FLUP, Madureira, Rio de Janeiro.

3. Who We Are



Established in 2023 within the Department of Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics at Carnegie Mellon University, the Center for Black European Studies and the Atlantic (CBESA) advances research, public humanities, and transatlantic partnerships in Black European Studies .

The Center supports scholarship on Black life in Europe and its global connections, with particular attention to translation, cultural productions and practices of the quotidian.

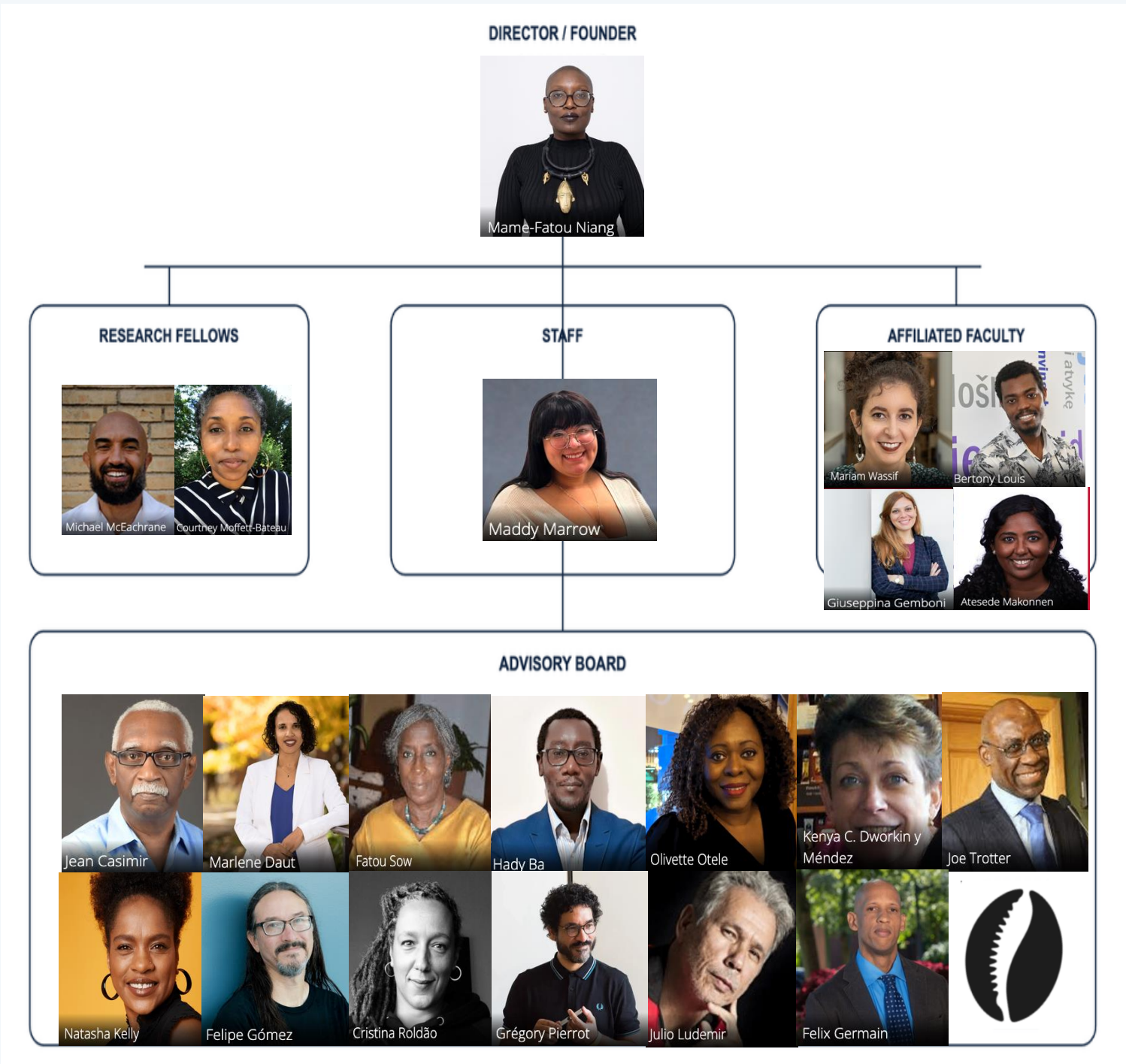
Our work is organized around four priorities:

- ❶ Public humanities and cultural partnerships, through transatlantic collaborations (HKW in Berlin, the Museum of Black Civilisations in Dakar, Flup in Rio de Janeiro ...)
- ❷ International research infrastructure, and the creation of durable networks for collaboration and policy engagement
- ❸ Scholarly platforms and research development, including SEA: A Journal of Black European Studies and residency initiatives that support scholars and artists.
- ❹ Institutional visibility and strategic engagement, through invited lectures, keynotes, partnerships, and high-impact international initiatives.



CBESA houses a growing library in the humanities, Black Studies, cultural studies, and related fields. The room is also used for screenings and small gatherings. The Center is located in Posner251 (Department of Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics)

Organizational Chart



Organizational Chart

CBESA is organized around its founder and director, Mame-Fatou Niang, and a deliberately interdisciplinary structure that connects research, teaching, and intellectual guidance across Black Europe and the Atlantic. Administrative coordination is led by Maddy Marrow.

The Center currently includes two senior researchers: Michael McEachrane, whose work at CBESA focuses on G-SAP and a book project. Entitled *Decolonial Blackness*, the book situates the history and philosophy of Pan-Africanism in Europe. Based on his work as a Member and the first Rapporteur of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, the book outlines a transnational decolonial perspective on the human rights of Africans and people of African descent. The second fellow is Courtney Moffet-Bateau, whose research examines Black literary aesthetics and visual culture, with particular attention to the circulation of Black cultural forms between the United States and Europe.

CBESA's four affiliated faculty extend the Center's reach across multiple geographies: Giuseppina Gemboni works in Italian, postcolonial, and Mediterranean studies; Atesede Makonnen studies race and Blackness in British visual culture; Mariam Wassif analyzes race and material culture in Britain and France; and Haitian poet Bertony Louis brings a creative practice shaped by questions of displacement, exile, language, and migration.

The Center is further strengthened by an extraordinary advisory board that includes major figures in the field such as Jean Casimir, Marlene Daut, Fatou Sow, Olivette Otele, and Joe Trotter. From the outset, we wanted this board to reflect not only the intellectual vitality of Black European Studies, but the Atlantic relationships that make the field possible. Its composition therefore deliberately brings Black Europe into conversation with Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the United States.

CBESA, CMU Symposium "Black Europe and the World"





CBESA at Carnegie Mellon

CBESA was born at Carnegie Mellon because the university offered the conditions for thinking about Black Studies at an unusual scale. Grounded in the humanities, the Center was created to study Black Europe, and to help establish the field through research, archives, publications, teaching and public engagement. Carnegie Mellon makes it possible to connect this work to expertise in technology, information science, public policy and education. These connections have shaped projects ranging from digital archives and multilingual publishing to research networks and work on reparatory justice.

Its home in the Department of Languages, Cultures & Applied Linguistics (LCAL) has been equally important. Black Europe is, by definition, multilingual and transnational. Its histories and intellectual traditions move across French, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Creoles and many other languages, and across Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas. LCAL provides a natural setting for work that takes translation and cultural circulation seriously. CBESA has been able to draw on this environment in developing projects such as TransE and the Journal of Black European Studies and the Atlantic.

Being at LCAL also means that CBESA sits within a department where the humanities are already understood internationally rather than through the lens of a single national tradition. This is clear in the work of the Center's affiliates: in Pina Gemboni's research on Italian postcolonial literature; in Kenya Dworkin's work on Afro-Cuban histories and Blackness in Cuba and its diaspora; and in Michael McEachrane's coordination of G-SAP, including the development of a multilingual research network designed to connect scholars and experts. That matters for a Center whose very purpose is to connect histories and bodies of knowledge that have often been separated by linguistic boundaries. From that base, CBESA can reach across Carnegie Mellon, bringing the humanities into conversation with the university's strengths in technology, policy and applied research. The result is a Center firmly rooted in humanistic inquiry, but able to build projects that speak to audiences well beyond the university.



4. CBESA in 2025

4.1 G-SAP: From an Idea to a Global UN Network

The Global Network for the Study of Africans and People of African Descent, known as G-SAP, was developed with members of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, representatives of OHCHR and UNESCO, and an international group of scholars and practitioners. Its Terms of Reference were finalized in January 2025, and the network was officially launched at United Nations Headquarters in New York on April 15, 2025.

G-SAP is an expert-led network connecting research on Africa and its diasporas with the work of the United Nations, civil society, universities, and policymakers. It brings scholars and practitioners from different disciplines and regions into sustained exchange and provides research-based expertise to the Permanent Forum, the Working Group, the current drafting of a new UN Declaration on the human rights of people of African descent, UNESCO, Member States, and other parts of the UN system. One of G-SAP's key objectives is to promote Black/Africana Studies globally, including by creating online education resources for this purpose. A multilingual database is also intended to make specialists across Africana Studies, Black Studies, African Studies, and African Diaspora Studies easier to identify.

The network is being developed within the framework of the UN Second International Decade for People of African Descent, 2025–2034, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its work places education and research within broader efforts to address persistent racial inequalities affecting Africans and people of African descent worldwide.

**Launch of the Global Network
for the Study of Africans and
the People of African Descent**

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. | Tuesday, April 15, 2025 | Room: CRE, United Nations Headquarters, NYC

Panelists

- 
Tao Leigh Goffe
Hunter College, City University of New York
- 
Keisha Blain
Brown University
- 
Kia Caldwell
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Washington University in St. Louis
- 
Barbara G. Reynolds
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
- 
Denise Ferreira da Silva
New York University

Moderators

- 
Mame-Fatou Niang
Center for Black European Studies and the Atlantic
- 
Michael McEachrane
Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Join us for the launch of G-SAP, a global research network of educators, academic institutions, Member States, UN agencies, funders, civil society organizations and activists united to produce knowledge and research-based policy advice on the human rights and socio-economic development of Africans and people of African descent.

United Nations
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
Carnegie Mellon University

G-SAP five objectives

1. Produce of research and research-based legal and policy advice on human rights and sustainable development.
2. Create spaces for knowledge exchange through seminars, workshops, roundtables, conferences, and UN side events.
3. Strengthen research-based engagement with UN anti-racism mechanisms, UNESCO and other UN bodies.
4. Develop educational materials for general audiences
5. Support universities and schools in developing courses and research on human rights and people of African descent.



G-SAP Launch at the UN Headquarters, New York City



4.2 BLACK | FRANCE | NOIRE | Paris

CBESA co-curated the inaugural symposium of the BLACK | FRANCE | NOIRE collective, “Gendered Identities, Racialized Spaces,” held in Paris and Bagnolet from May 21 to 23, 2025. These three days brought together 37 participants and over 220 attendees to reflect on Black French Studies, with a particular focus on how race and gender shape the lived experiences of Black French women.

The symposium explored the intellectual and creative possibilities rooted in historical experience while committed to imagining more just futures. Participants engaged in discussion around a wide range of topics – from intellectual history to contemporary media, from art and performance to activism, from storytelling to sport. They were asked to reflect on the essential, long-standing contributions of gendered and racialized individuals and communities across the French-speaking world. Each participant presented for seven minutes, followed by a moderated discussion with the audience. Bilingual translation (French and English) was provided throughout, ensuring an inclusive experience for the diverse audience.

A publication will help preserve and extend the work of this conference. We also look forward to a Carte Blanche at Mondes en Vues and to organizing the second edition of the conference in 2027.



COLLECTIF BLACK FRANCE NOIRE PRESENTS

OUR INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM

**GENDERED IDENTITIES,
RACIALIZED SPACES**

**WED - FRIDAY,
21-23 MAY 2025**

4 RUE DE CHEVREUSE
PARIS, FRANCE
75006

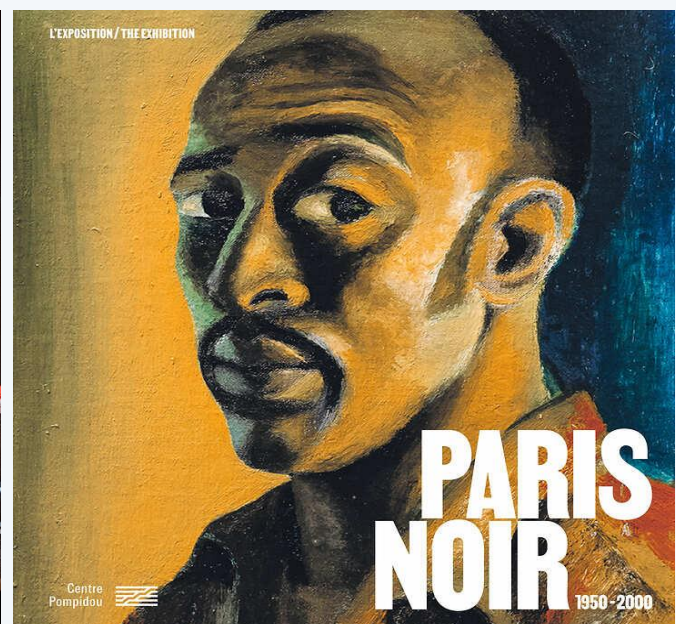


ON BEHALF OF THE B | F | N ORGANIZING COLLECTIVE
A. VERONIQUE CHARLES, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
KATHARIN L. GLOVER, YALE UNIVERSITY
REGINE MICHELLE JEAN-CHARLES, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
MAAME-FATOU NIANG, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
MABOUKA SOUMAHORO, UNIVERSITÉ DE TOURS

Fabiola Jean-Louis Image courtesy of the artist

A key aim of the symposium was to provide experiences beyond the roundtables for participants. On May 21st, the Collective partnered with the Centre Pompidou for a private tour with lead curator Alicia Knock of the exhibit *Paris Noir: Artistic Circulations and Anti-Colonial Resistance, 1950–2000*. This free event brought together 20 participants. That evening, participants also attended *Les Indes Galantes*, a choreographed concert by Bintou Dembélé, a prominent figure in France’s hip-hop movement. This work blends baroque music with hip-hop dance as a powerful form of protest and artistic resistance.

The event announcement was met with enthusiastic online engagement. The venue for each day exceeded capacity and was standing room only.



Sponsors and partners: Columbia University Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies; Society of Fellows in the Humanities at Columbia University; Columbia University Institute for Social and Economic Research Policy; Reid Hall–Paris, Columbia University Global Center; Maison du Parc Centre Culturel et Maison des Arts; Carnegie Mellon Center for Black European Studies and the Atlantic; Northeastern University College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Africana Studies; Yale University Department of African American Studies.

4.3 Building a Field: A new journal and an academic association

SEA: A Journal of Black European Studies is being developed as a multilingual academic journal devoted to Black people, Africans, and people of African descent in Europe and to Europe's historical and contemporary relationships with Africa, the Atlantic, and the wider world. The project responds to a simple problem: scholarship on Black Europe remains dispersed across languages, disciplines, and national contexts, with few structures designed to bring it into sustained conversation.

SEA will be the first academic journal worldwide devoted to this nascent field. It is an open-access and peer reviewed bi-annual journal fully available in four languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish and French.



The logo of the journal is a cowrie shell. It evokes oceanic circulation and exchange. Historically found across Africa, the Indian Ocean, and Europe, the cowrie situates the journal within a transoceanic and diasporic geography rather than a fixed national frame. The legible “S” inside the shell anchors the logo to the journal’s name while echoing wave-like movements between shores.

SEA will be published as an imprint of Carnegie Mellon University Press and made available online through the CMU Libraries, with its first issue projected for May 2027.

The Association for Black European Studies and the Atlantic (ABESA)

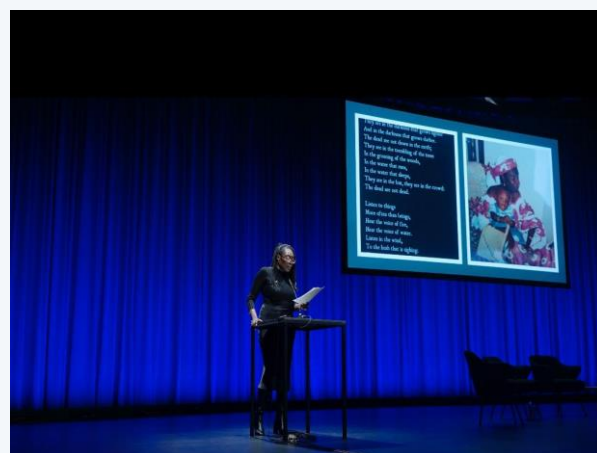
ABESA is a charitable society and member association dedicated to advancing Black European Studies. The field is understood as including scholarship, teaching, education and public understanding of the experiences, histories and socio-political experiences of Black people, Africans and people of African descent in Europe. The Association will also study the historic and contemporary relationships to Europe of Black people, Africans and people of African descent across the world.

Integral to this mission is an engagement with the histories that have shaped Blackness in Europe and with their continuing effects today. This includes European racialization and nation-state formation, the trafficking and enslavement of Africans, colonialism and neocolonialism, and the rise of global capitalism.



The Association pursues its mission by:

1. Promoting scholarly inquiry and critical engagement with the histories, lives, contributions, cultural expressions, social and political conditions and activism of Black people, Africans and people of African descent in Europe as well as the historic and contemporary relationships to Europe of Black people, Africans and people of African descent across the world.
2. Supporting scholars, teachers, students, activists, and cultural workers engaged in the field of Black European Studies, including inter alia Black Atlantic Studies, African and Africana Studies, Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies on the historic and contemporary relationships of Black people, Africans and people of African descent across the world to Europe.
3. Providing platforms for the dissemination of research, including conferences, publications, and public events.
4. Examining Europe's historic and contemporary relationships with Africa, the Atlantic world and African-descended communities worldwide.
5. Promoting Black European Studies and education on such studies and encouraging inclusive pedagogies and curricula in European and global academic institutions.
6. Fostering transnational and interdisciplinary collaboration within and beyond academia, including by providing platforms for scholar-activist engagements.



4.4 Public Programming



In 2025, CBESA's public programming carried the Center's work beyond the university. From Brazil to Morocco, the Center curated programs that examined Black life and thought.

FLUP 2025 | Rio de Janeiro

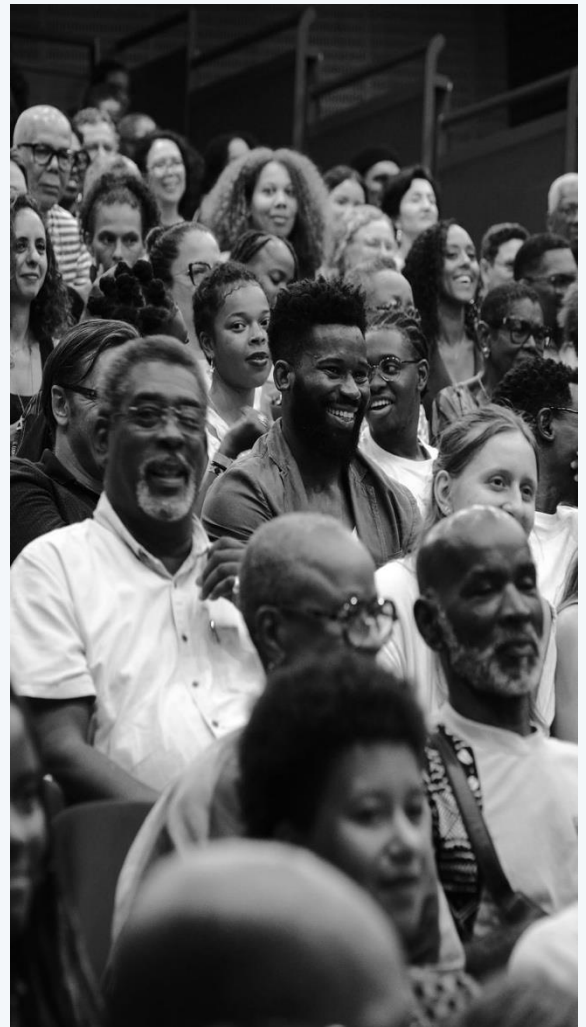
For the second consecutive year, CBESA curated the international program of FLUP, the Festa Literária das Periferias, one of Brazil's major literary festivals. Held in Madureira, Rio de Janeiro, the 2025 edition brought Brazilian artists and thinkers into conversation with voices from Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. As part of the France-Brazil 2025 cultural season, the program gave particular attention to the Black Atlantic and to connections between Brazil and the French-speaking world. Participants included Conceição Evaristo, Mireille Fanon, Bonaventure Ndikung, Patrick Chamoiseau, Michelle Alexander, Dionne Brand etc. For CBESA, FLUP has become an important place for bringing scholarly and artistic conversations into a major public festival rooted in one of Rio's historically Black neighborhoods.



Mondes en Vues Literary Festival - Guadeloupe

CBESA's collaboration with the Monde en Vues International Human Rights Film Festival began with a full-day carte blanche in October 2024 devoted to Water in the Black Atlantic, and the continued heritage of Guadeloupean writer Maryse Condé. The relationship continued in 2025 through a wider exchange linking Guadeloupe, Brazil's FLUP. During the France-Brazil cultural season, FLUP traveled to the Mémorial ACTe in Pointe-à-Pitre with Brazilian writers and historians, while artists and thinkers from Guadeloupe later joined the FLUP program in Rio. What began as a CBESA carte blanche thus developed into a broader circulation between the Caribbean and Brazil.

In 2026, the collaboration will continue with the inclusion of the BLACK|FRANCE|NOIRE Collective.

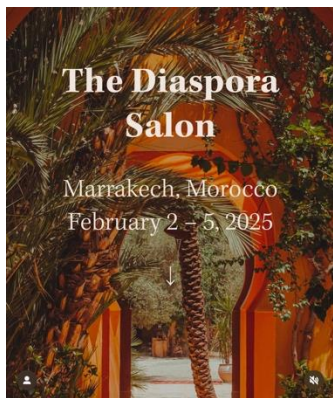




The Diaspora Salon – Marrakesh.

The Diaspora Salon is an intimate annual gathering held at Jnane Tamsna, Meryanne Loum-Martin's nine-acre garden estate and cultural retreat in Marrakesh's Palmeraie. Listed by Time's magazine as one of the world's greatest places to stay, Jnane provided the setting for a Salon that brought together writers, artists, scholars, entrepreneurs, and public figures from the Black world. Deliberately small, the gathering favored sustained conversation over the conventions of a traditional conference and encouraged connections across parts of the diaspora that too rarely meet.

The 2025 edition, *The Wealth of Our Identities*, explored identity as a source of knowledge and collective power. With co-curator Meryanne Loum-Martin and financier Claude Grunitzky, CBESA's Mame-Fatou Niang shapes the Salon by identifying impactful participants and developing the intellectual architecture of each panel.



From Boutique Hotel To Global Power Hub: Inside Morocco's Black Diaspora Salon

By [Richard Fowler](#), Contributor. © I am a cable news contributor and professo...

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5. Our Partners

Academic and Research Institutions

- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of Pittsburgh
- Columbia University, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies
- Columbia University, Society of Fellows in the Humanities
- Reid Hall, Columbia Global Centers | Paris
- Northeastern University, Africana Studies
- Yale University, African American Studies
- CNRS, France

Museums and Cultural Institutions

- Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin
- Musée des Civilisations Noires, Dakar
- House of European History, Brussels
- Ateliers Médicis, Paris

United Nations and Policy Partners

- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- UNESCO
- UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
- UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

Festivals and Public Humanities Platforms

- FLUP, Festa Literária das Periferias, Rio de Janeiro
- Diaspora Salon, Marrakesh
- Amerfrica Project, Rio de Janeiro
- Mondes en Vues
- BLACK | FRANCE | NOIRE



6.Organizational Growth

The Center grew with the appointment of Michael McEachrane as Senior Research Fellow . This arrival marked an important step , as Michael brought his expertise in human rights, the United Nations, and the study of people of African descent into CBESA’s work.

Michael McEachrane is a researcher in Black European Studies, Postcolonial/Decolonial Studies and Human Rights Studies as well as an international activist and UN mandate holder. As a researcher he is, among other things, the editor of the first book in English on people of African descent in the Nordic region, *Afro-Nordic Landscapes: Equality and Race in Northern Europe* (Routledge, 2014) and a book with decolonial and political perspectives on Sweden, *Decolonial Sweden* (Routledge, 2025). Among his articles and book chapters are “On Conceptualizing African Diasporas in Europe”, “Pan-Africanism and the African Diaspora in Europe”, and “Situating Afro-/African Swedish Studies” in *Black Studies in Europe: An Anthology of Soil and Seeds* (Northwestern University Press, 2025).

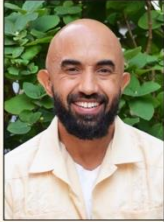
As an activist he has, among other things, co-founded several civil society organizations and was involved in the establishment of the UN Permanent Forum of People of African Descent of which he is a founding Member. Dr. McEachrane was a 2024-2025 Racial Justice Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights and is an External Affiliate at the University College London (UCL) Sarah Parker Remond Centre Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialisation.



BLACK STUDIES *Matters!*
EVENT SERIES SPONSORED BY THE MELLON FOUNDATION

“Broadening the Boundaries of the Discipline: The Case for Global Black Studies”
Lecture by Dr. Michael McEachrane

At its inception in 1968, Black Studies was conceived as an institutional space for mapping the cultural, social, and political forms created by African-descended peoples. For much of its disciplinary history, Black Studies has centered the social, cultural, and political experience of Africans enslaved in North America (especially in the US) and their descendants. Since the late 20th century, however, Black Studies units have increasingly expanded their purview to include Africa, the Caribbean, South America, and Europe, thereby fostering the emergence of Global Black Studies. This lecture considers the imperative for a global approach to Black Studies in the 21st century.



Michael McEachrane is an international human rights activist and researcher in Black European Studies, Human Rights Studies, and Postcolonialism. He is currently a Member of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent & a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Black European Studies & the Atlantic at Carnegie Mellon University.

SEPT. 22nd
11:00AM-12:30PM

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN & AFRICAN STUDIES

FACULTY CLUB
MAIN DINING ROOM


THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

RACIAL EQUITY BUILDERS DIALOGUE, SAN JUAN 20-23 February

McEachrane played a central role in CBESA's engagement in Puerto Rico, where the Center deepened its relationship with the Fundación Comunitaria de Puerto Rico and the Institute for Building Racial Equity in the Americas. In February, CBESA took part in the 2025 Racial Equity Builders Dialogue in San Juan, a gathering that brought together organizations from across the Americas working on questions of racial equity and democratic inclusion. The conversations in Puerto Rico also helped CBESA think more concretely about the structures needed to sustain international research collaborations and contributed to the continued development of G-SAP.

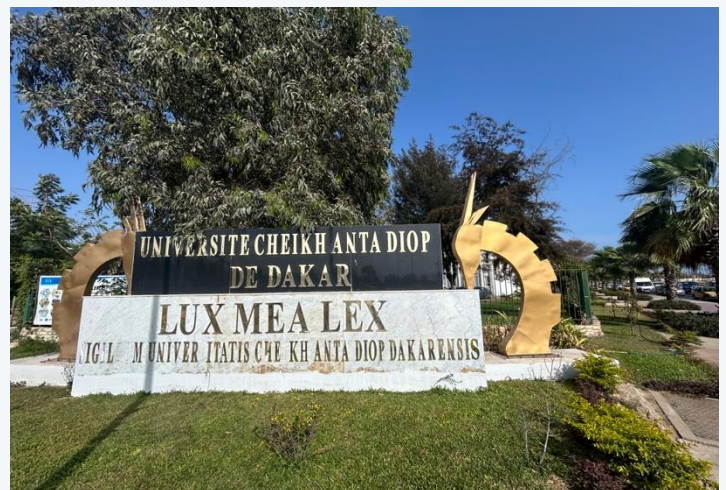


CBESA IN COLOMBIA

In Bogotá, Colombia, McEachrane represented CBESA in strategic engagement connected to a regional consultation for Latin America held by UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent in collaboration with the Government of Colombia and then Vice President Francia Marcia on the drafting of the UN Declaration on the human rights of people of African descent. The visit strengthened the Center's presence in Latin America and its work at the intersection of scholarship, human rights, and international policy.

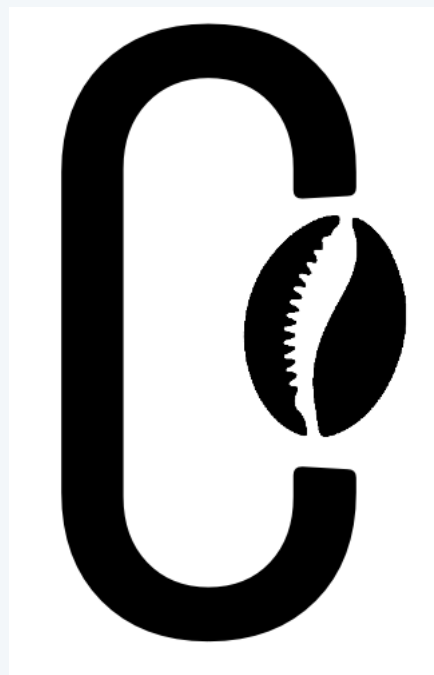
LEARNING FROM PARTNERS

Institutional learning also became part of CBESA's growth strategy. Dr. Niang visited HKW (Berlin) and RAW Material Company (Dakar) to study how established research and cultural centers organize their spaces, programs, partnerships, and intellectual communities. These visits brought ideas back to Pittsburgh about what a center can be, not only as a producer of research, but as a place where people build life together.



NEW LOGOS

In 2025, we rethought our visual identity. A new family of logos was created to reflect CBESA's transatlantic character and give greater coherence to its growing presence.



A MAJOR EXHIBIT IN BRUSSELS AT THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

In 2025, CBESA contributed to the development of *Postcolonial?*, a major temporary exhibition at the House of European History in Brussels, slated to open in April 2026. The exhibition examines how Europe's colonial past continues to shape the present, bringing together historical objects, contemporary art, and personal narratives to explore colonialism, decolonization, and their unfinished legacies.

CBESA Director Mame-Fatou Niang and Senior Research Fellow Michael McEachrane are among eight scholars and activists serving as the exhibition's "Critical Friends," an external group invited to challenge and advise the curatorial team throughout the development of the project. McEachrane is also contributing to the accompanying exhibition catalogue with an essay on why Scandinavia should be included in the global history of colonialism, extending CBESA's involvement from the curatorial process to the publication that will document and contextualize the exhibition.

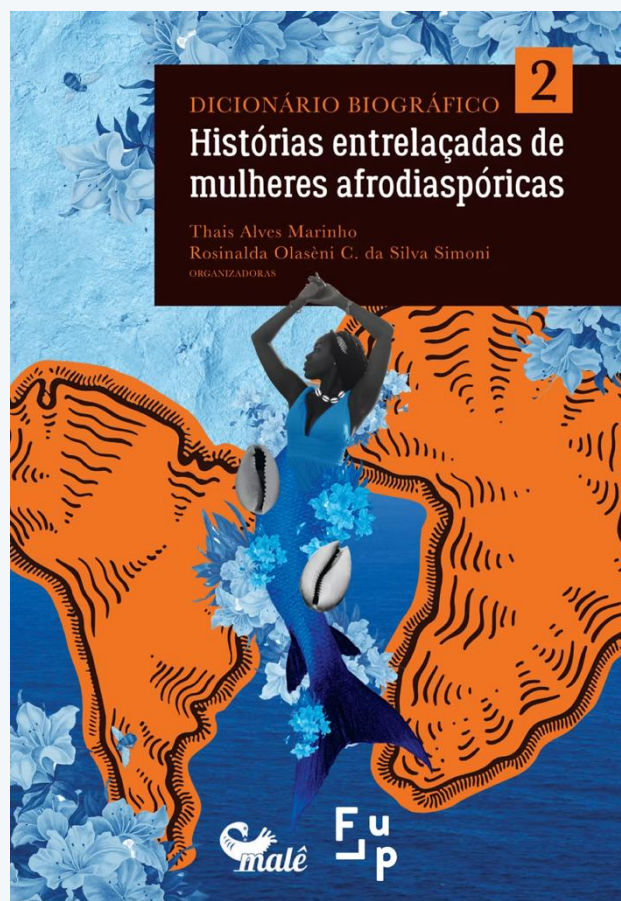


THE DICTIONARY OF AFRODIASPORIC WOMEN

In 2025, CBESA and Mame-Fatou Niang joined the editorial board of the second volume of *Dicionário Biográfico: Histórias Entrelaçadas de Mulheres Afrodiaspóricas*, organized by Thaís Alves Marinho, a sociologist and professor at PUC Goiás whose work focuses on race, affirmative action, and cultural diversity, and Rosinalda Corrêa da Silva Simoni, a historian and quilombola scholar working on Black feminist thought. Bringing together 110 biographies of Black women across the African diaspora, the volume contributes to a growing body of work recovering and circulating the intellectual, political, and cultural histories of Afro-descendant women across national and linguistic borders.

CBESA is now part of the Rede de Mulheres Amefricanas (REMA): Histórias Entrelaçadas, an international research network dedicated to recovering the histories of Black, Indigenous, and Roma women often absent from official narratives.

The project grew out of an encounter at FLUP between Mame and Thaís, and developed into a broader collaboration around the documentation and circulation of women's histories.



REMA at Flup 2025 in rio de Janeiro

7. 2026 and Beyond

The relationships developed in 2025 are now giving rise to more permanent projects. In 2026, CBESA's work will move through several institutional settings, beginning with a symposium at the House of European History, the official museum of the European Union in Brussels. The event will bring 26 scholars together around the future of Black European Studies and provide a setting for the launch of *SEA, the Journal of Black European Studies*. In Brussels, the launch of a French translation of writings by Brazilian thinker Beatriz Nascimento will extend the Center's work on intellectual circulation

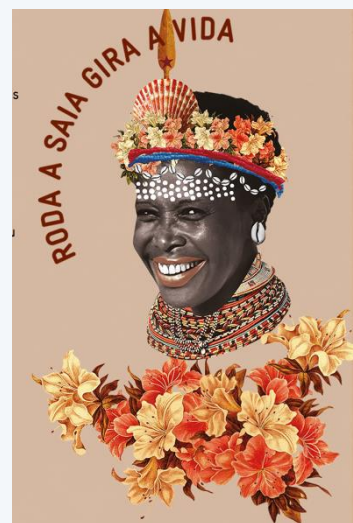
Publishing and translation will remain central to our mission. CBESA will continue its collaboration with FLUP in Rio de Janeiro, Mondes en Vues in Guadeloupe and The Diaspora Salon in Marrakesh. Thanks to advisor and colleague Kenya Dworkin, new courses will bring Atlantic Studies more fully into the curriculum at Carnegie Mellon and connect the Center's research with undergraduate and graduate education.

In 2026, we want to turn the relationships built through gatherings and collaborations into structures that can support our field over time.

SEA | *Journal of
Black
European
Studies*



ABESA | *Association for
Black European
Studies and
the Atlantic*





8. Why Support Black Studies in Europe?

Dr. Niang's academic trajectory from France to the U.S. explains why CBESA could have only been created on an American campus, as well as the reasons why your support for this cause enriches understanding of the American experience. Her family arrived in France in 1835 from St-Louis, a quaint coastal town in northwest Senegal. She is a seventh-generation French citizen who grew up in France hounded by one question: "Where are you from?", as if the color of her skin perpetually anchored her in places outside of France.

African and Afrodescendants account for 3% of continental Europe's population, yet Black Studies are absent from curricula, from primary schools to universities. This is due to Europe's enduring colorblindness and the accompanying perception of racialized communities as solely tied to 20th-century migrations. To date, there is only one professor of Black Studies in the continent, and only one department of Black Studies, a program implemented in 2017 at Birmingham City University in the UK (and currently at risk of disappearing).

In 2006, Dr. Niang had the opportunity to spend 9 months at Brown University. Then a student in Urban Planning and Literary Theory, she was a product of the *Classes Préparatoires Littéraires*, a two-year rigorous academic program that acquaints students with canonical figures of French humanities and social sciences.

It was in America that Niang heard of the Haitian Revolution for the first time.

The French education system hammered that slavery was an American institution. French people naturally associate slavery with cotton plantations in Alabama and Louisiana or the negro spirituals in Mississippi. Yet, between 1525 and 1866, the accepted duration of the transatlantic slave trade, an estimated 12.8 million Africans were sent to the New World. Of the 10.7 million estimated to have survived the Middle Passage, between 400 and 600,000 disembarked in North America and an estimated 1.6 million were sent to the Sugar Islands, the French West Indies. Up to three times more Africans were deported in the French Empire than in the United States, yet the French curriculum remained mum about this history. France abolished slavery in 1794 and reinstated it in 1802, making it the only Western country to have ever reestablished slavery.

Dr. Niang's time at Brown had been illuminating, exciting, and intriguing. It has also set the tone of her vision as an educator for the next seventeen years and grounded her research around pivotal questions:

- How was it possible for French canonical humanities to leave so many of these names, dates and events behind?
- How did that erasure affect the making of France as well as its contemporary fabric, and ideals of belonging, equity?
- Un-silencing this past, how does academia reconsider French and Western modernity in all their contradictions, in a bid to ultimately propose a fuller picture of the human experience?

These interrogations are not unique to France, as our activities in Belgium, Spain, Italy, Poland or Switzerland show that these European countries are grappling with many of the same questions around belonging and the place of minorities within national narrative.

This is where CBESA needs support:

- to establish Black European studies as an academic discipline in Europe.
- to accompany the spectacular emergence of comparative study of Blackness in American academia.
- to connect and foster a generation of students and scholars working to break these new paths in American and European institutes of higher education.
- to paint a fuller portrait of European history and culture, and by ricochet, to broaden perspectives on American and global history. to democratize the creation, access and sharing of knowledge on marginalized communities at a global level.
- to co-create solid foundations for global and sustainable futures by revealing long-hidden pasts and stories that intimately connect human communities.

9. MILLE MERCI!

CBESA exists because of a community that has believed in the necessity of this work and helped us give it form. We are deeply grateful to our Board, staff, research fellows, affiliated faculty, colleagues, speakers, artists, and collaborators. We thank Michael McEachrane for helping us imagine the Center's next stage, and to our partners at the UN in Paris, Geneva and New York for their intellectual generosity and guidance: Mactar Ndoeye, Niraj Dawadi, Barbara Reynolds, Marie Joseph Ayissi, Nonso Obikili, Sara Brandao. We are equally grateful to the communities and publics who have welcomed our work in Dakar, Accra, Rio de Janeiro, Paris, Pittsburgh, Marrakesh, and beyond.

At Carnegie Mellon, we thank Anne Lambright, Chair of Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics for believing in this project and allowing it to see the light of day. We are also profoundly indebted to Richard Scheines, Nancy Monda, Vera Lampley and Maddy Marrow for their generosity and continued support. We are grateful to the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry and to the colleagues across the university who have encouraged CBESA from its earliest days. The support of the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President, our home in the Department of Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics, and the generosity of colleagues across the university gave us the freedom to build something that did not yet have a model. CMU gave CBESA both an institutional home and the confidence to think beyond the boundaries of the university

Many of the projects represented in this report grew out of relationships sustained over time. We thank Meryanne Loum-Martin and Claude Grunitzky for their friendship and for the community built around the Diaspora Salon in [Marrakesh](#); Julio Ludemir and the FLUP team for making Rio an essential part of our intellectual geography; Elisabeth Gustave and the Monde en Vues team for their extraordinary support; and Kaiama L. Glover, A. Véronique Charles, Maboula Soumahoro and Régine Jean-Charles for the collective work that gave shape to BLACK | FRANCE | NOIRE. We also thank the Puerto Rico Community Foundation and its Racial Equity Building Institute for the Americas (REBIA) for their partnership in the development of G-SAP.

We thank the Ateliers Médicis, and particularly its director Cathy Bouvard, for her continuous support, as well as the residents of Clichy-sous-Bois and Montfermeil who have welcomed our work. Our gratitude goes to the Terra Foundation, our funders, and the many universities, museums, cultural organizations, festivals, and public institutions that have opened their doors to us.

CBESA is sustained by these relationships. Whatever comes next will only be because of you all.
Merci

On continue!



