Black men and women have lived in Germany since the Middle Ages. In the modern era, Black German history encompasses the movement and settlement of subjects from Germany’s African colonies, the occupation of the Rhineland after World War I by French colonial troops, resulting in the birth of hundreds of Afro-German children, and the traumatic experience of racial terror during National Socialism. After World War II, the Black diaspora in Germany was affected by the division of the nation and took quite different routes in the East and the West. These disparate and fragmented origins have created a barrier to the recognition of the commonalities among Black Germans as subjects of their own history and historiography. Beginning in the early 1980s, Black Germans have not only begun to form a new Black German cultural movement but also to rewrite German history from a Black perspective. Since its inauguration, the project of recovering the Black presence in Germany has given rise to a whole array of methodological approaches, drawing their inspirations from African-American Studies, feminism, literary theory, anthropology, and cultural studies. Black German Studies, conceived in such an interdisciplinary and transnational way, can not only contribute to Black diaspora and German Studies but also illuminate the process of modern racial formation in a new way.

**University of Massachusetts Amherst, 21–23 April 2006**

To register for the conference and for information about food and lodging, contact: University of Massachusetts Amherst, Tobias Nalig and Boyuan Gao, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 517 Herter Hall, Amherst, MA 01003, Phone: 413-545-6678, nalig@german.umass.edu and bgao@student.umass.edu

Remapping Black Germany: New Perspectives on Afro-German History, Politics, and Culture

Friday, 21 April, Hampden Gallery / Southwest Residential Area  4:00–7:00  Art Opening and Reception / Paintings by Daniel Kojo Schrade / Video works by Ingrid Mwangi


Friday, 21 April, Hampden Gallery / Southwest Residential Area  7:30–9:30  Performances by Olumide Popoola (spoken-word poetry) and Patrice (acoustic reggae/neo-soul)