**Book Project**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

***Obama’s Rhetorical Presidency and Legacy:***

***Global African Perspectives***

**Background**

Transformational, conflictual or Rhetorical Presidency? The presidency of the United States has been a historically complex and rhetorically rich position. Presidents are asked to provide responses and visions for a variety of issues both foreign and domestic, and economic and civil. What appropriate label or category best applies to Obama’s rhetorical performance as the president of the Unites States of America? Obama has completed 2 terms as President of the United States of America, riding an inspiring and hopeful, yet often criticized vision of the U.S. shaped by his rhetorical addresses to the public. Jaap de Jung, a Dutch rhetorical scholar has described Obama as the Patron Saint of Rhetoric in the 21st century. Yet, many would describe the rise of Donald Trump, the current president, as a national appraisal of Obama’s policy and activities, due to Trump’s campaign to reverse many of Obama’s policies and acts as president. Given that any singular act can undermine or damage a sitting President’s legacy in heavily divided democracies, Obama’s performance of rhetoric has been exemplary. Young politicians in other contexts have emulated some of Obama’s delivery techniques. His deft use of social media platforms and mobile technology has become a staple of modern politics. Overall, Obama’s rhetoric deserves increased attention post-presidency given the iconic role of his oratory, and its esteemed place in modern history. From an existentialist point of view, we ask: what realities did he create as the rhetorical president? How did Obama’s rhetoric affect realities in other continents like Africa, to whom he declared, ‘Africa’s future is in the hands of Africans?’ Did Obama leave behind a model of Presidential rhetoric that is transformative, rhetorical or imperial?

**Possible sub-themes**

* Form, style and performance
* Obama’s Rhetorical leadership, models and inventiveness
* Obama’s rhetoric and Africa Policy
* Obama’s mnemonics and prompts
* Obama and his speech writers
* Policing, Race rhetoric, race relations and Obama’s Presidency
* Obama’s rhetorical influence on Politicians in Africa and African Diaspora
* Obama’s Campaign rhetoric
* Obama’s rhetorical tradition/legacy

**Submission due dates**

**Abstracts:** May 30 2018 **Length:** 350 words

**Papers:** July 30 2018 **Length:** 6000-8000 words

**Keywords:** Obama, Rhetoric, Presidency, Transformation, Oratory, Politics, Africa, Africa in the Diaspora, Speechwriting, Foreign relations, Diplomacy, Reception Studies

**Venue of Symposium:** TBD

**Proposed date for the Symposium:** November 22-23 2018

**Proposed date of publication:** December2019

**Co-conveners**

Dr Segun Ige

Department of Classics,

Howard University,

Washington DC

Email: [Johnson.ige@howard.edu](mailto:Johnson.ige@howard.edu); [aar.southafrica@gmail.com](mailto:aar.southafrica@gmail.com)

Dr David Green

Department of English,

Howard University,

Washington DC

[david.f.green@howard.edu](mailto:david.f.green@howard.edu)