

# Featured Speakers



Winthrop-King Institute for  
CONTEMPORARY FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES  
Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics  
Florida State University, Tallahassee



**YANICK LAHENS** lives in Haiti. She is the author of short stories, novels, and critical works on Haitian literature and society which have been published in Haitian and international journals. She has published three collections of short stories: *Tante Résia et les Dieux* (1994), *La petite corruption* (1999), and *La folie était venue avec la pluie* (2007). Her first novel, *Dans la maison du père* (2000), was awarded the LiBeraturpreis in Germany. Her second novel, *La couleur de l'aube*, was published in autumn 2008 and was awarded four prizes: the Prix Millepages Littérature française 2008, the Prix Richelieu de la Francophonie in March 2009, the RFO prize in November 2009 and the Prix des lecteurs de la ville de Vincennes in September 2010. A compilation of selected short stories was published in the United States in April 2010 under the title *Aunt Resia and the Spirits*. In October 2010, *Faïlles*, her essay on the earthquake of 12 January, 2010, was published in France. Yanick Lahens has taught at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, worked on radio programs, and engages in on-the-ground activities in Haiti. She has recently set up a foundation to encourage better targeted support activities for Haiti's young people.



**ELIZABETH MCALISTER** is Associate Professor in the Religion Department at Wesleyan University, where she also teaches in African American Studies and American Studies. Her research focuses on transnational Afro-Caribbean religions, Caribbean music, and race theory, with a focus on Haiti. McAlister is author of *Rara! Vodou, Power and Performance in Haiti and its Diaspora*, a book and CD published by University of California Press in 2002 which is an ethnography of a musical, religious, and political festival in Haiti. Her second book, *Race, Nation, and Religion in the Americas* (Oxford University Press, 2004), is a volume co-edited with Henry Goldschmidt, which theorizes race and religion as linked constructs. Her current research focuses on relationships and spatial imaginings shared by American and Haitian evangelicals.



**MATTHEW J. SMITH** is a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of West Indies, Mona. His main area of research is in Haitian politics and society after the U.S. occupation (1915-1934) and Haitian regional migration in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. His book, *Red and Black in Haiti: Radicalism, Conflict, and Political Change, 1934-1957* (UNC Press, 2009), was a winner of the Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Award for Best Book on the Caribbean (2009-2010) at the Caribbean Studies Association. He has been the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship for graduate studies at the University of Florida; an Andrew Mellon Visiting Professorship at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Duke University; and a Dubois-Mandela-Rodney Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

## Haiti 2011

International Symposium

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

February 17, 2011

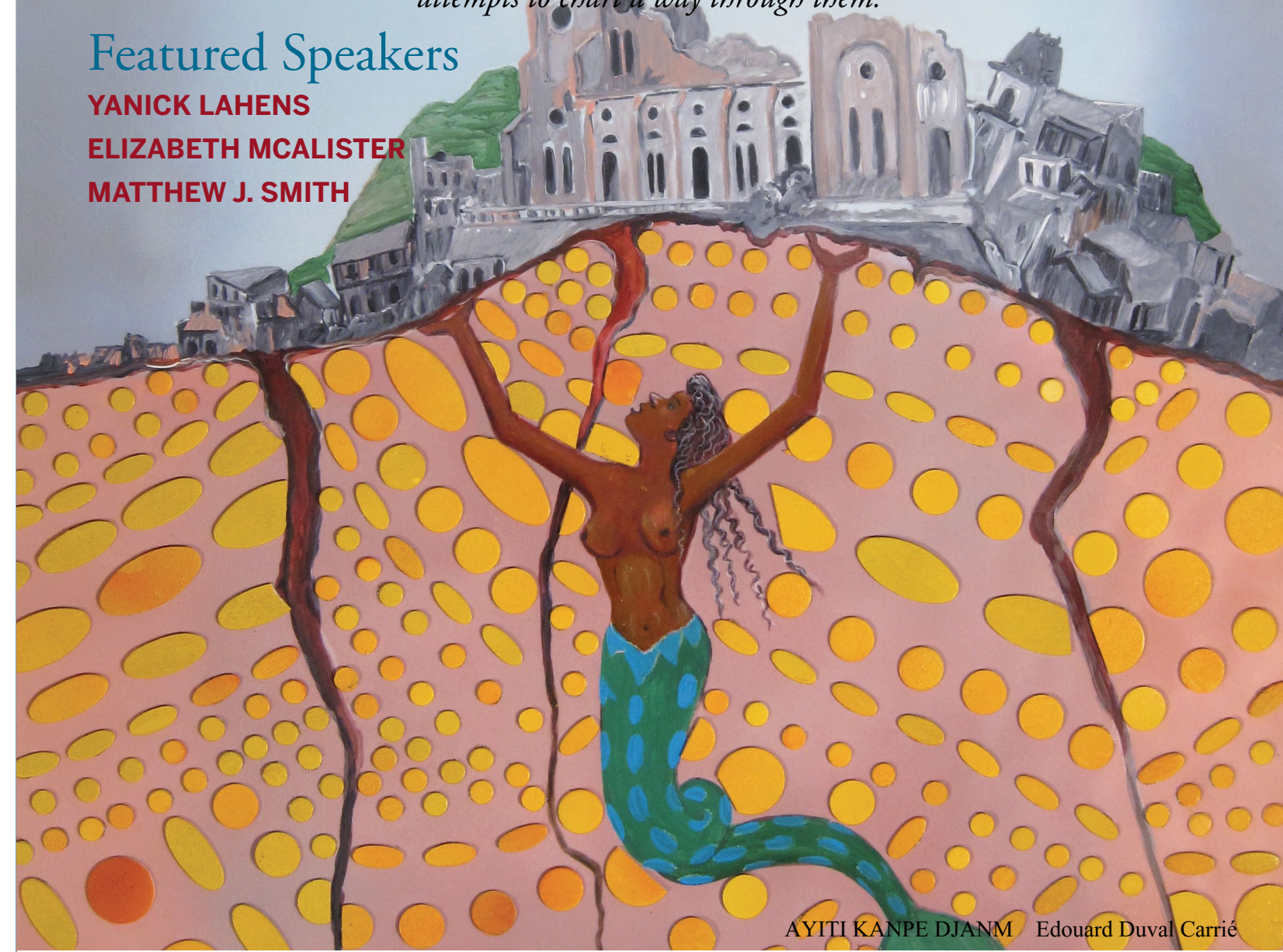
*A year after the earthquake in Haiti, how has the nation coped with the destruction of January 12, 2010? How do present challenges compare with earlier periods of adversity? What can the international community do to help? What way lies ahead amid the political uncertainty arising from the disputed presidential election and the return to Haiti of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier? Speakers at this symposium will consider many different aspects - social, cultural, humanitarian, political, etc. - of the troubles besetting Haiti and assess current attempts to chart a way through them.*

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YANICK LAHENS

ELIZABETH MCALISTER

MATTHEW J. SMITH



### Haitian Art Relief Fund

*The front cover image, "Ayiti Kanpe Djanm", was designed by Edouard Duval-Carrié.  
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