

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES & THE  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES PRESENTS

# STEPHANIE Y. MITCHEM

(University of South Carolina)

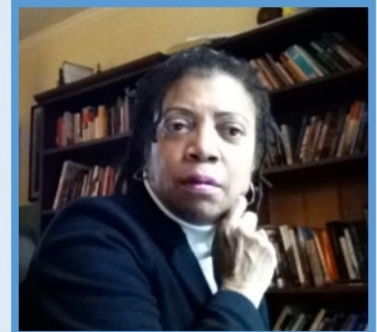
## Lecture: "The Embodied Power of Sankofa"

Thursday, April 20, 2017

6:00 - 7:30 PM, 630 William Pitt Union

**Pre-keynote reception from 5:00 - 6:00 PM**

What does it mean for African Americans to discuss religious embodiment? The discussions are driven by praxis, by experience, rather than theory. The discussions develop along a trajectory of Jim Crow and sharecropping; to radically unequal education, housing and income; to mass incarceration and state sanctioned murder. Our bodies have been on lines we did not draw. But we have chosen ways to exercise our genius, including religious creativity, especially hoodoo, and folk healing. Both of these re-center our humanity and become sources for African American intellectual life. That intellectual life is exchanged with others across Africa and the Diaspora. That rich intellectual life is embodied and can be reflected in varieties of our academic scholarship. This talk will present a view of religious embodiment that draws from the tapestry of African American and African Diasporan intellectual traditions and current scholarship.



**Bio:** Stephanie Y. Mitchem, Professor, holds a joint appointment with the Women's and Gender Studies Program and the Department of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina. Mitchem holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University (1998) and focuses her research on exploring the rich religious contexts and meanings of African American women and men. In addition to numerous articles, she is author of *African American Women Tapping Power* (Wipf and Stock 2010 reprint); *African American Folk Healing* (New York University Press, 2007); *Name It and Claim It: Prosperity Preaching and the Black Church* (Pilgrim Press 2007); and co-edited with Emilie M. Townes, *Faith, Health, and Healing Among African Americans* (Praeger 2008).

This PUBLIC LECTURE is part of the *Diverse Spiritualities Symposium* taking place from April 20 - 22, 2017.



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