

# Critical Talk with Artists and Scholars

Making Our New Normal based on a  
Black African Narrative

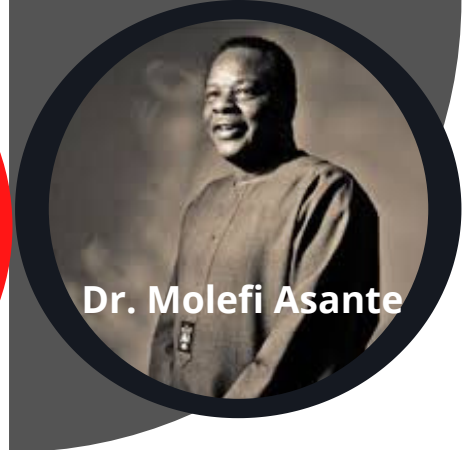
**"Our Ancestors Expect No Less"**

Sunday March 21 | 3pm est  
Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/TheABPsi>  
Youtube live



**Dr. Wade Nobles,  
Co-convener**



**Dr. Molefi Asante**



**Professor James Small,  
Co-convener**



**Dr. Cheryl Grills**



**Seun Kuti**



**Hawthorne James**



**Dr. Joy Degruy**

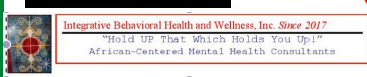
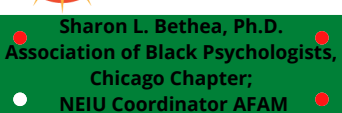
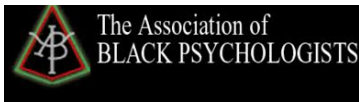


**Zetha Nobles, Host**



**Tico Wells**

In collaboration with :





**Hawthorne James** was born James Hawthorne in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Robert Hawthorne and A. M. Alene. He is an acclaimed character actor and director, known for his role as Big Red Davis in the 1991 film *The Five Heartbeats*. He is also known for his role as Sam, the injured bus driver, in *Speed* and for films and television series such as *Seven*, *NYPD Blue* and guest-starring on *Frasier* as Bill in the season one episode "Miracle on Third or Fourth Street".



**Tico Wells** is an acclaimed actor, known for his role as Choir Boy in the 1991 film *The Five Heartbeats*. He performed on the Martin Lawrence show, *Martin* as "Sweet Reggie." His theatrical range has been reflected on *The Cosby Show*, *227*, Hallmark movies and *Beverly Hills, 90210*, the movie *The Wish List*, and *Mississippi Masala*. He brought stardom and honors with his portrayal of Kirkland J. Ellis, III, in the independent film *Big Ain't Bad* at the Hollywood Black Film Festival.



**Seun Kuti** was born on January 11th, 1983, in Lagos, Nigeria. He is the youngest son of legendary Afrobeat godfather Fela Kuti and the grandchild of political campaigner, women's rights activist, and traditional aristocrat Funmilayo Ransome Kuti. At his father's untimely death in 1997, at 14 years old, he assumed the role of leader of Egypt 80. Seun has proudly followed the political and social ethos of his father. In January 2012, he participated actively in the Occupy Nigeria protests. He regularly participated in political struggles and was often arrested and harassed alongside the founder of the Afrobeat movement. In 2018, his band secured their first nomination in the Grammys in the Best World Music Album category. Seun Kuti is seen as Fela Kuti's anointed successor.



**Molefi Kete Asante** was born in Valdosta, Ga., one of sixteen children. Molefi Kete Asante completed his M.A. at Pepperdine University in 1965 and received his Ph.D. from UCLA. In the Fall of 1984, Dr. Asante became chair of the African American Studies Program at Temple University where he created the first Ph.D. Program in African American Studies. He is the founder of the theory of Afrocentricity and has received more than 100 awards for scholarship and teaching including the Fulbright, honorary doctorates from three universities, and is a guest professor at Zhejiang University and Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa. A traditional king, Nana Okru Asante Peasah, Kyidomhene of Tafo, Akyem, Ghana and Wanadoo of Gao, Songhoy, he is considered by his peers to be one of the most distinguished contemporary scholars.



**Professor James Small** was born, on Arcadia plantation, located on the banks of the Waccamaw river on the shores of historic Georgetown, South Carolina to a family that traces their descent from enslaved Africans, to the Yoruba, Akan, and Ewe people of West Africa. One of the premier scholar-activist in the world, Professor Small retired from the City College of New York. Professor Small serves as chief consultant for the ABC/Disney & Epix production television series, *Godfather of Harlem*. He is a Priest of Oya, Babalorisha, Ifa Tradition. He has two books in production, one a collection of his lectures on Malcolm X and the other on the topic of "Post Slavery Trauma Syndrome." Prof. Small is currently conducting educational and cultural tours throughout Africa and the United States. Prof. James Small has been married for over 32 years to Carol Tondou-Small, M.D. They have four children.



**Baba Dr. Wade Ifágbemi Sàngódáre Nobles**, was born to Annie Mae Cotton (1914b) and John Nobles (1900b) in Roxbury Massachusetts. A Professor Emeritus in Africana Studies and Black Psychology at San Francisco State University. He is a founding member and past president of the Association of Black Psychologists and the founder and Executive Director (retired) of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Black Family, Life & Culture, Inc. in Oakland. He is a prolific author and his newest book, *The Island of Memes: Haiti's Unfinished Revolution* was described by Dr. Theophile Obenga as perhaps the most important book of the last five decades. He was initiated (1992) into the Ifa spiritual system at Osogbo, Nigeria and enstooled (1996) as the Nkwasohene (Development Chief) of Akwasiho-Kwahu Region of Ghana, West Africa. Dr. Nobles has lectured in Ghana, South Africa, England, Haiti, Cuba and served as a visiting professor in Salvador de Bahia and Sao Paulo in Brazil. He and his wife, Dr. Vera L. Nobles have 5 children and thirteen grandchildren. Dr. Nobles currently serves as the chairperson of the ABPsi Pan African Black Psychology Global Initiative.



**Dr. Cheryl Tawede Grills** is a clinical psychologist with an emphasis in Community Psychology. She is a Professor of Psychology at Loyola Marymount University, and the Prestigious Presidents Professor in the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, national past President of The Association of Black Psychologists, and founder and director of a non-profit program evaluation organization called Imoyase Community Support Services. Dr. Grills was the Co-Executive Director of the LA County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection. She currently works in the area of racial stress focuses on training associated with racism, racial stress, implicit bias and the development of community-based self-help models to address the negative effects of racism on people of African ancestry in the US and globally. She has studied under traditional medical practitioners in Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal and is a registered member of the Ghana National Association of Traditional Healers.



**Dr. Joy Angela DeGruy** holds a PhD in Social Work Research. She is an Assistant Professor at Portland State University's School of Social Work and serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Joy DeGruy Publications Inc. She is a nationally and internationally renowned researcher and educator. She has over thirty years of practical experience as a professional in the field of social work with the last two decades devoted to the intersection of racism, trauma, violence and American chattel slavery. Conducting workshops and trainings in the areas of intergenerational/historical trauma, mental health, social justice, improvement strategies and evidence-based model development, Dr. DeGruy has published numerous refereed journal articles and book chapters and authored her seminal book entitled "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury & Healing."



**Zetha Nobles** was born to Dr. Wade Nobles (1945b) and Dr. Vera Nobles (1946b) in California. Zetha Nobles is a native of Oakland, California. She was born with Africa in her soul. Zetha studied Psychology at Xavier University in New Orleans, Education at Howard University in Washington, DC and Educational Leadership at UC Berkeley. She has served children of the world as a classroom teacher in Maryland, DC, and California; School Vice Principal in California; School Principal in California and Kuwait; Assistant Superintendent in Kuwait and Founding Director of a K-12 school in Dubai. She has lived in and worked in Louisiana, Maryland, California, Nigeria, Kuwait and Dubai and Jamaica. She has traveled to over 30 countries. She is currently the Chief Strategist at Nobles Global Consulting firm which offers a youth leadership academy, tutoring services, travel opportunities through Africa and educational consulting. [Noblesglobal.com](http://Noblesglobal.com)