KINGSBOROUGH’S COMMON READING program was inaugurated at a meeting of the Faculty Assembly in Spring 2001. Like universities across the country, we wanted to adopt a program that would cultivate a reading culture and foster campus community through a single book. Since its inception, the program has been highly collaborative, with participation from every corner of our campus -- in events, meetings, debates, art projects, book nominations, reading groups and more. KCC Reads cultivates community chiefly through the work of our campus-wide cohort—including staff, faculty and students—which organizes events, selects the annual book and supports the broader work of teaching, reading and research through course adoptions across several disciplines.

The utility of a university common reading program is in the way it not only fosters a spirit of community at our school but also functions to enrich students in important ways: research and public speaking skills, critical thinking and writing skills, management and leadership experience, as well as preparing them for senior college or for the career they may enter upon graduation. The program also engages a social justice agenda, through student research elaborating social and political themes of the books and by means of civic engagement work in the world beyond our campus borders.

We organize an events series in which students, staff and faculty collaborate. Our culminating event for the year is today’s program: the KCC Reads Student Conference, where students present their work on the book—this year, Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie—in panel and roundtable discussions, debates, posters and power point presentations, and as part of an art exhibition. The conference features a Keynote Lecture, given this year by esteemed immigration lawyer, Chaumtoli Huq, J.D., and a special opening Plenary Session, a Faculty Forum on the intersection of social justice, art and teaching.

In September 2016, we will hold our Inaugural Lecture for next year on Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. It will be given, we are pleased to announce, by Professor Debra Schultz of the Dept. of History, Philosophy and Political Science. At that event (full details forthcoming), look for Volume IV of our student journal—Paideia: The Journal of KCC Reads—publishing outstanding work presented at today’s conference.

More Info: | www.kbcc.cuny.edu/KccReads | KccReads@KBCC.CUNY.edu
THE KCC READS STUDENT CONFERENCE

on

Americanah

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 AND 4, 2016

MAC CONFERENCE CENTER (M-240)

TUESDAY, MAY 3RD:

Plenary Session
3:00 p.m.: Session 1: A Faculty Forum on the Intersection of Social Justice, Art and Teaching

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4TH:

Student Conference
9:00 – 9:10 am: Welcome Remarks In West
9:10 – 10:10 am: Session 2 (concurrent): 2A in Central, 2B in South
10:20 – 11:20 am: Session 3 (concurrent): 3A in Central, 3B in South
12:40 – 1:40 pm: Session 4 (concurrent): 4A in Central, 4B in North
1:50 – 2:50 pm: Session 5 (concurrent): 5A in Central, 5B in South, 5C in North

Keynote Lecture
3:00 – 3:15 pm: Opening Remarks & Introduction In Central
3:15 – 4:30 pm: Session 6: Keynote Lecture: Chaumtoli Huq in Central

Art Exhibit in the Rotunda Lobby
Curated by Professor Madeline Sorel, Dept. of Art

Video & Art Installations in EAST
Curated by KCC Student Renea Toni Burke, KCC Alumna Zanib Ahmad (Class of ’14), & Students of Prof. D.L. Anderson
A diagram of the MAC Conference Center, with Session Locations marked:

ON 5/5/15 at 3pm, C/S & C/E walls need to be open. Chairs need to be turned and Rooms need to be MIXED.
TUESDAY, MAY 3RD

SESSION ONE: Opening Plenary

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in Central:

A Faculty Forum:

Intersecting Tenets: Social Justice, Art, Pedagogy

Featuring:

Professor Madeline Sorel, Dept. of Art
Professor Jason Leggett, Dept. of History, Philosophy & Political Science
Professor Caterina Y. Pierre, Dept. of Art
Dr. Michael P. Rodriguez, BMI & The Men’s Resource Center
Professor Jennifer Radtke, Dept. of English

Convener: Professor Maureen Fadem, Dept. of English

This session is graciously catered by Professor Carol Durst (Culinary Arts) & the Students of TAH 43: Catering Event Management
Wednesday, May 4th

The KCC Reads

Student Conference &
Keynote Lecture

for the 2015 – 2016 Academic Year

on

Americanah

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Each of today’s session is graciously catered by Professor Lorne Feldman (Culinary Arts) and his Students.
SESSION TWO: 9:10 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

Session 2A in CENTRAL:
Panel Discussion with KCC Alumni: Trials and Tribulations at/of the Color Line: Reading Americanah with Dubois

PRESENTERS: Dalila Mendez (Class of ’13), Zanib Ahmad (Class of ’14), Anna Sacerdote (Class of ’15), Farin Kautz (Class of ’12) and Jazmin Preyor (Class of ’15).

Moderator: Dr. Maureen Fadem, Dept. of English

Session 2B in SOUTH:
Panel Discussion with Honors Students: Americanah through Different Eyes

PRESENTERS: Amanda Dellavecchia, Anshera Galan, John Johnson and Reanna Ramasami.

Moderator: Professor Jane Birzin, The Honors Program

SESSION THREE: 10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Session 3A in CENTRAL:
Dramatic Performance: The Struggle of Love Against All Odds in Americanah and the Classics.


Additional support from: Justina Alexander, Kevin Beauchamp, Paulina Bildirici, Nicole Dovman, Kevin Feng, Paola Beard Guzman, Diana Leon, Jonathan Luna, Azad Mahmood, Rochelle Marcus, Michelle Odnayayeva, Kawasi Rudder-Henry, Tristan Smith, Danielle Vinokur, Kimberly Volcimus and Dina Yassine.

Director: Professor D.L. Anderson, Dept. of English

Session 3C in SOUTH:
Panel Discussion: Prof. Leggett’s Students Present on: “Law and Identity: Exclusion”

PRESENTERS: Yulissa De La Paz, Anshera Galan, Jazmin De La Cruz, Andy-Samuel Voltaire and Schontasha Dyee.

Moderator: Professor Jason Leggett, Dept. of History, Philosophy and Political Science
SESSION FOUR: 12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Session 4A in CENTRAL:
Dramatic Performance: *Americanah* and the Social Forces That Define Us  
*Additional support from:* Wilson Chiu, Judeline Joseph, Giuseppe Lamarre, Nasiva Lee, Kevin Lee, Melanie Maldonado, Issa Mariam, Nicole Moraskin, Sana Naveed, Ibreus Scheber, Ahmad Kahn Shazad, Chris Vaquero and Peter Vellios.  
*Director:* Professor D.L. Anderson, Dept. of English

Session 4B in NORTH:
Roundtable Discussions: Prof. Radtke’s Students Discuss Class, Culture, Heartbreak and Identity in *Americanah*  
*Discussion Leaders:* Jennifer Goosby, D’asia Mitchell, Jillian Selch, Fortuna Florio, Kemberly Jean, Brittany King, Aurora Reyes, Hakim Thomas, Brianna Castelle, Jeremy Wischik and Paola Guerini.  
*Convener:* Professor Jennifer Radtke, Dept. of English

SESSION FIVE: 1:50 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Session 5A in CENTRAL:
Dramatic Performance: The Activist’s Voice: Using Solo Performance to Create Change  
*The Performers:* Kwesi Baird, Alehia Renee, Kristina Paul, Tyller Mendoza, Melika Parker, Stephanie Kavasansky and Nyiekie Chrysostom.  
*Director:* Professor Paul Ricciardi, Dept. of Communications & Performing Arts

Session 5B in SOUTH:
Artist Slide Show & Discussion: Prof. Sorel’s Illustration Students Present: Illustrating *Americanah*  
*The Artists:* Gabrielle Navarro, Mico Elle Marcelo, Yolanda Nicole Herndon, Thalyann Olivo and Angel Duran.  
*Facilitator:* Professor Madeline Sorel, Dept. of Art

Session 5C in NORTH:
Roundtable Discussions: Prof. Radtke’s Students Discuss Authenticity, Ethnicity and the Family in *Americanah*.  
*Discussion Leaders:* Carolina Abreu, Oksana Velkya, Olabimpe Dare and Beryl Gorky Quarshee.  
*Convener:* Professor Jennifer Radtke, Dept. of English
Thank You!

to the hundreds of KCC Students
& KCC Alumni
who Performed, Presented, Spoke, Taught,
Attended & Supported this Event!

You are ALL remarkable!
SESSION SIX: The Keynote Lecture

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

New York based Immigration and Labor attorney,

Chaumtoli Huq, J.D.

will speak on

Immigration, Separation, Deportation: Americanah and Migrant Love Stories

Opening Remarks, 3:00 – 3:10:
Freida D. Foster, CUNY Board of Trustees

Introduction, 3:10 – 3:15:
Maureen Fadem, Dept. of English

Lecture & Discussion, 3:15 – 4:30:
Chaumtoli Huq, J.D.
Acknowledgements

This Conference could not have taken place without the gracious and tireless support of the following individuals and offices:

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- Chaumtoli Huq
- Asif Hussain
- Jason Leggett
- Cindy Lui
- Dalila Mendez
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- Francis Qiu
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- Paul Ricciardi
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- The Office of Communications & Gov’t Relations
- Buildings & Grounds
- Event Technical Services & Events Management
- The Honors Program Office
- The Men’s Resource Center
- Office Services
- Panda House
- The President’s Office
- Public Safety
- The Office of Student Affairs
- Scepter

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- Chef-Instructor Lorne Feldman and his Culinary Arts Students for preparing amazing food for today’s conference!
- Chef-Instructor Carol Durst and her Culinary Arts Students for preparing the food for our faculty forum!
- Prof. Madeline Sorel (Dept. of Art), for working with students to create visual interpretations of Americanah and curating our Art Exhibit, for helping us with conference set up and being part of our faculty forum;
- Ms. Irina Pistsov, for creating the program, the conference poster, our journal Paideia, and all other program media;
- And, the entire KCC Reads Cohort for all their work, all year: www.kbcc.cuny.edu/kccreads/Pages/cohort
The KCC Reads Annual Student Conference

on

Americanah

May 3 - 4, 2016

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The COVER ART copyrighted © by KCC student-artist Gabrielle Navarro
Both pieces were created under the supervision of Professor Madeline Sorel, Dept. of Art