GOAL OF THE FORUM:
Often discussions of diversity and inclusion in the US academy remain focused on domestic minorities. While that is exceedingly important, what often remains unaddressed are the ways in which international students and faculty are racialized (differently) in the US space and experience that racialization in ways that are significantly different from US minorities, while sometimes also converging with their experiences. We live in a highly connected transnational world—where the ‘here’ and the ‘there’ are inextricably linked. Often the project of US empire as it relates to populations from ‘other worlds’ including when those populations reside in the US tend to be ignored in US centered discussions of diversity. This forum seeks to explore the cultural and racial challenges as well as other structural barriers that international academics face in the US and how that may affect their performances and experiences of University life.

SPEAKERS/PANELISTS

Etienne Achille is Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Coordinator of the FFS program and Affiliated with the Africana Studies Program. His research focuses on colonial legacies in contemporary France, and 21st Century French fiction. Most recently, he has co-edited Postcolonial Realms of Memory: Sites and Symbols in Modern France (Liverpool University Press, 2020).
Norman Ajari is Assistant Professor of philosophy and affiliated faculty in Africana studies at Villanova University. He is the author of Dignity or Death: Politics of Blackness and the critique of European philosophy (Polity books, 2021, forthcoming). Ajari is a board member of the Frantz Fanon Foundation.

Alexandra Delboy Zenteno is a Peruvian graduate student in the Communication program. She works as a graduate assistant at the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and as a facilitator for the Intergroup Relations Program at Villanova University.

Olukunle Owolabi is an associate professor and director of the graduate program in political science at Villanova University. His research explores the developmental and political legacies of colonialism in the Global South, and he teaches courses on Comparative Politics, African Politics, Latin American Politics, and Comparative Democratization.

Serah Nthenge graduated from Villanova University, M. Louise Fitzpatrick college of Nursing, doctoral program in May 2019. Their dissertation focus was on perinatal experiences of women with physical disabilities. They are currently doing a postdoctoral fellowship at Brandeis University, MA. Their research focus is on perinatal health of women with disabilities and sexual and reproductive health for women with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Shiyu (Jenn) Su is a senior student at Villanova in Computer Science.