

ARCHIVES AND FICTION

of the GLOBAL BLACK 1930s

A roundtable with Maaza Mengiste, Marina Bilbija, Alex Lubin, and Garry Bertholf

ROUNDTABLE

This roundtable on the Global Black 1930s brings together a novelist and two scholars working with Black and colonial archives from this decade. Maaza Mengiste, author of the award-winning *The Shadow King*, a historical novel about Mussolini's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, will be in conversation with Marina Bilbija and Alex Lubin (Penn State), co-editors of Duse Mohamed Ali's newly reissued 1934 Pan-African novel, *Ere Roosevelt Came*. Garry Bertholf will moderate the session. They will discuss the place of the historical record, fiction and the counterfactual in their respective work and examine where their creative, scholarly, and editorial projects overlap and, conversely, where they diverge. Furthermore, the panelists will compare their own present-day efforts to narrate inter-war Black histories in a global and colonial frame to those of Black writers from the 1930s like Duse Mohamed Ali and Claude McKay.

SPEAKERS:

ALEX LUBIN

Professor of African American Studies and History, Penn State

MARINA BILBIJA

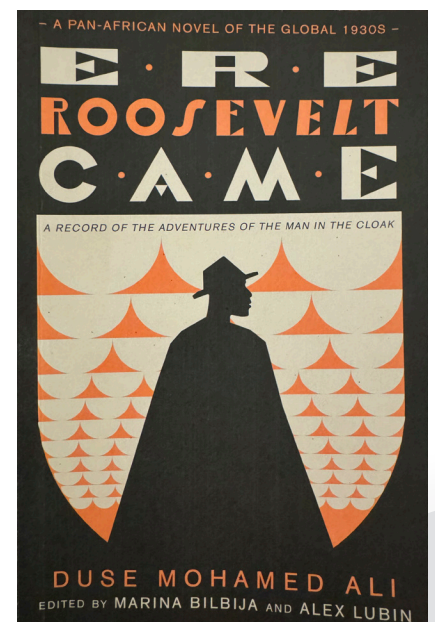
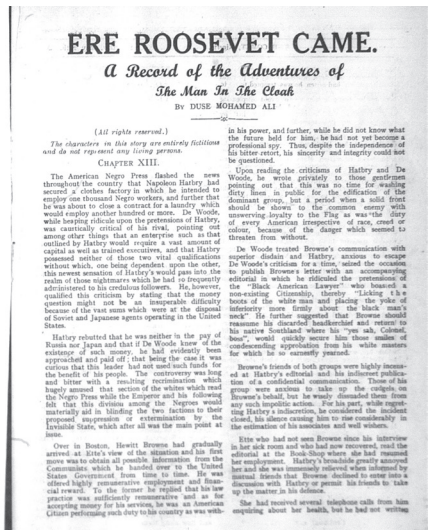
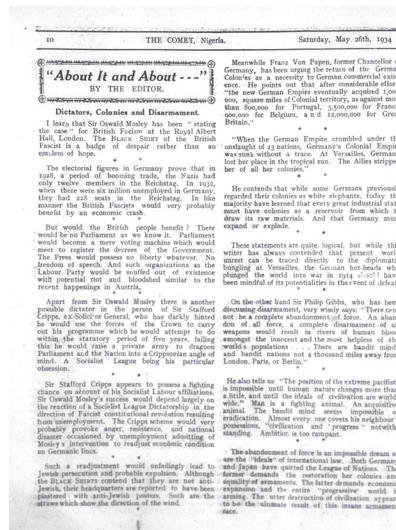
Assistant Professor of English, Wesleyan

MAAZA MENGISTE

Professor of English, Wesleyan

GARRY BERTHOLF

Assistant Professor of African American Studies, Wesleyan



Wesleyan University

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 28, 2024

4:30 P.M.
Downey House, Rm 113