



## 2025 Convention Theme:

### **"SCAASI at 46: "Deconstructing and Reconstructing the African American Experience"**

Throughout history, the African Diaspora, specifically those who identify as African American, have deconstructed and reconstructed their existence to fit within an evolving world that situates Western thought and analysis as primary to "other" philosophical traditions. However, just as ideas, traditions, ways of being, and thinking are dismantled and analyzed through deconstruction, a framework must also exist for the revived modified version of the idea, way of being, and thinking. This modification occurs through the reconstruction process, a version of constructivism that allows for the development of human knowledge through social institutions and practices. The outcome is that knowledge of the material world is obtained through "intersubjective socialization and constructed understanding" (Oxford, 2009, p. 117).

Through a continuous dialectical process of dismantling ideas, systems, and ways of thinking about the African American experience, followed by a reshaping and rebuilding of "modified" systems and ideas through constructivist and reconstructivist thought, the African Diaspora and African Americans have continuously reworked the narrative from the traditional Western lens. The continual "reshaped and reconstructed lenses" are utilized to teach, advocate, and explain the African American Experience from "our" perspective. These new lenses are utilized to shape public policy, provide new factual narratives of African American history and experiences, and also teach the next generation.

The local planning and program committees of the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Incorporated (SCAASI), invite submissions for paper and panel proposals for the forty-sixth annual conference, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas, February 5-8, 2025. Proposals and panel topics that focus on the theme of

deconstruction and reconstruction of the African/African American experience are welcomed.

All proposals with abstracts must be submitted by **November 1, 2024**, for full consideration. Submissions should not exceed 250 words or one page. Please, send all submissions, to the SCAASI Conference email address ([scaasiconferenceinfo@gmail.com](mailto:scaasiconferenceinfo@gmail.com)), or you may submit your proposal online through the SCAASI website at (<http://www.scaasi.org>).

Papers or panel proposals should be saved as a Microsoft Word document or PDF. Please place “SCAASI Proposal” in the subject field of the message. Please include the following information:

**Presenter’s Name and Affiliation**

**Presentation Title**

**Media or Other Special Needs**

Proposals will be blind-reviewed with utmost care and fairness. The review process will begin upon receipt of information, and official notifications of acceptance or rejection will be disseminated by November 30, 2023, ensuring a transparent and timely process.

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In addition to paper and panel proposals, sign up for the Quiz Bowl, Essay Contest and Awards.

McLean, I & A. McMillan Editors. (2009). The concise Oxford dictionary of politics. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Oxford University Press.