



## ***Observing Black History Month***

Fulbright Greece in collaboration with the Department of American Literature and Culture, School of English at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Department of English Language and Literature at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, cordially invite you to an **online lecture** on **Friday 26 February 2021** at **6:30p.m.**

### **Guest Speaker:**

***Michelle M. Wright***

Augustus Baldwin Longstreet Professor of English  
Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia (USA)

### **Lecture Title:**

***Blackness in Europe: False Temporalities and Possible Futures***

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The available places for the online event are limited. Please **fill in the form** made available [here](#) in order to secure registration.

Information about the **zoom link** to be used will be sent to all attendees the day before the event.

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### **ABSTRACT**

"Despite 200 years of attempting to find biological --even genetic--proof of racial difference, the fact remains that "Blackness" was never a scientific discovery. To the contrary, it was a sociopolitical and economic argument finely honed during the Enlightenment to justify newly developing republics and constitutional monarchies to support chattel slavery and, later, the colonization of other nations in the name of democratic and humanist ideals. Indeed, Blackness achieves its greatest salience when understood as a historical category--one that did not exist until it was first invented as the "Negro" white European and U.S. philosophers and political scientists. But what kind of history? In this talk, Michelle M. Wright will discuss the importance of defining Blackness as a "when and where" rather than a "what" when it comes to temporality, epistemology and historiography. Drawing on the examples of Black British and Black German identities, Wright looks at the ways in which Europe must contend both with its historical myths and paradigms of knowledge to better understand emerging and established Black European identities."

### **BIO**

Michelle M. Wright is the Augustus Baldwin Longstreet Professor of English at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia (USA), where she teaches courses on African American, Black European and African/Black Diaspora literature, culture and theory. She is the author of two books, *Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora* and *Physics of Blackness: Beyond the Middle Passage Epistemology*.