

PRESENTS

Obama and Kenya: A Book Launch and Film



Come to a book launch and discussion of
Obama & Kenya: Contested Histories and the Politics of Belonging (2016, Ohio University Press)
with co-author

Matthew Carotenuto, St. Lawrence University

Matthew Carotenuto and Katherine Luongo argue that efforts to cast Obama as a “son of the soil” of the Lake Victoria basin invite insights into the politicized uses of Kenya’s past. Ideal for classroom use and directed at a general readership interested in global affairs, *Obama and Kenya* offers an important counterpoint to the many popular but inaccurate texts about Kenya’s history and Obama’s place in it as well as focused, thematic analyses of contemporary debates about ethnic politics, “tribal” identities, postcolonial governance, and U.S. African relations.

Followed by a screening of
The Education of Auma Obama, A film by Bramwen Okpako. Documentary. 2011. 1h21min

with a discussion afterwards by
Wangui Kimari, PhD candidate, York University
Salau Rogei, PhD candidate, Carleton University

Bramwen Okpako is one of the only documentary filmmakers in the world to have observed the historical election of Barack Obama, the first African-American President, from the point of view of his family in Kenya, making this film required and compelling viewing. Her acquaintance with Obama’s elder sister, Auma, with whom she went to film school in Berlin, gave her unprecedented access to the family, creating the conditions for a film which succeeds not only in offering us a unique and intimate portrait of the US President’s sister Auma Obama, who stands on her own as a public intellectual and activist, but also in bringing into visibility the hopes of Kenya (and indeed Africa) in relation to this momentous election. The film is a moving tribute to a trans-generational legacy of struggle which is quietly, yet resolutely, contributing to shaping the world of tomorrow.

Friday, October 14, 2:30 - 5:30 pm
#2017 Dunton Tower, Carleton University*

For more information, please contact African.Studies@carleton.ca

*For a campus map, please see: <http://carleton.ca/campus/map/>