SCANDAL in Real Time
A National Conference on
Black Women, Politics, Oral History

Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm
Humanities Gateway 1030, UC Irvine
Featuring: Poet Natalie Molebatsi

Thursday, May 12, 2016—Friday, May 13, 2016, 8:00am-4:00pm
Cross Cultural Center, Dr. White Room, UC Irvine
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To request reasonable accommodations for disability, please contact Jasmine Robledo, robledj1@uci.edu

Like other blockbuster media moments, Shonda Rhimes’ television show Scandal proves that there is a massive audience for American political dramas, especially those featuring a sidelong glance toward largely repressed national and cultural debates about the role and meaning of black women in political life. Scandal’s thinly veiled illusions and obsessions with “fixers” of every sort and dimension obscure the fact that black women have “out-protested, out-participated, out-organized, out-mobilized, out-registered and out-voted African American males,” as political scientist Hanes Walton recognized (2014). Thus, this national conference features scholars from the Association for the Study of Black Women in Politics, and those in allied interdisciplinary fields, that have done the most sustained analysis of the political lives black women inherit, envision, and theorize. Additionally, during one afternoon session, graduate students will conduct oral histories with the conference presenters to gather a new data set on the experiences/epistemologies/methodologies/publishing experiences/ and impact of scholarship on black women in politics.

Co-Sponsors include: UC Consortium for Black Studies in California; 2nd Century Fund American Political Science Association Centered Center for Political Science and Public Affairs; Department of Women’s and Gender Studies Rutgers University; Mississippi State University; Francille Williams; Nikil Alexander-Floyd; Kathleen Stromeil Collins; Tameka Austin; R. Black Women Daily; UC Black Student Union; National Conference of Black Political Scientists; UCLA African Studies Center and International Institute; UCI’s School of Humanities; School of Social Sciences; Graduate Division; School of Social Ecology; School of Education; School of Law; School of Nursing; School of Medicine; School of the Arts; Associate Dean of the School of Law; Director of Public Health; UC Libraries’ 50th Anniversary Project; Historian, Archivist for the Southeast Asian Archive and Regional History; Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity; Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs; Women’s Caucus for Political Science (An APSA Caucus); New Majority Initiative; International Excellence Programs; Office of Undergraduate Research Opportunities; Career Center; Humanities; Communications; Vice President for Academic Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; African American student experience (a workgroup for campus climate); Associated Students UC; Antioch TV; Humanities Research Institute; Digital Media and Learning Research Hub; Center for the Study of Democracy; Political Science; Gender and Sexuality Studies; Criminology, Law and Society; History; African American Studies; Culture and Theory; English; Illuminations; The Chancellor’s Arts and Culture Initiative, the Cross-Cultural Center, and many others whose work and wisdom is deeply valued.