Stony Brook University
College of Arts and Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES

AFRICANA STUDIES IS FOR EVERYONE

Blood Flowers: How Nature Got Colonized

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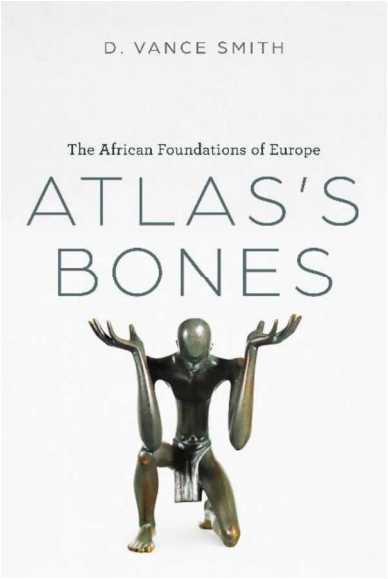

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 12:30PM
Richard B. Moore Library
SBS S224

Abstract. This talk concerns the history of flowers as an object of (European) beauty, and the medieval and colonial roots of modern flower farms in Africa.

Speaker's statement:: My work focuses on African and decolonial literature and theory, African futurism, the history of anthropology, the medieval roots of colonial administrative and ideological structures, ecocriticism, and medieval philosophy and literature.

My most recent book is *Atlas's Bones: The African Foundations of Europe* (University of Chicago, 2025). *Atlas's Bones* is an intellectual history about 1) the classical and medieval production of knowledges in Africa, and 2) the imposition of medieval structures of knowledge and governance on African colonies. I'm working on a related book, *Blood Flowers*, a study of the environmental and human costs of the African conservation and flower-farm industries, and the medieval roots of the land laws that empower them. On the medieval side, I'm writing a book called *Love Without Object*, a study of love objects in mysticism, psychoanalysis, and queer theory.

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Welcome to the Africana Studies Department

Refreshments will be served