



Africana Studies
Latin American and Latino Studies
Leonard Lief Library
present
A Reading and Discussion

**The Keloids We Heal:
Trauma, Spirituality, and Black Modernity in Literature**
by Sarah Soanirina Ohmer

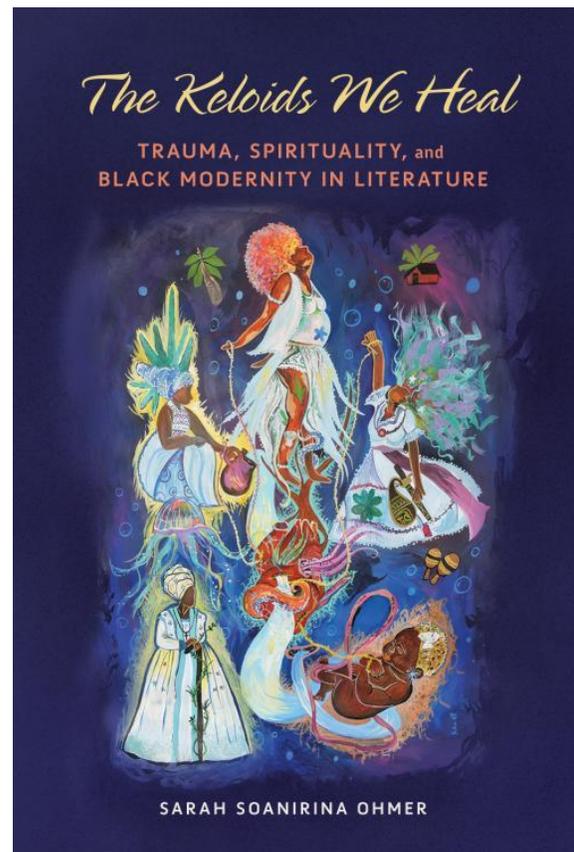
The corporeal and spiritual healing in literature by women of colors can be seen to redefine modern thought and printed text. Sarah Soanirina Ohmer traces impact of colonization and enslavement on Black women and Black women's contributions to colonial, 19th and 20th century literature in the U.S., Brazil, and the Caribbean.

Drawing on intersectional analysis - Ohmer focuses on portrayals of trauma and spirituality in works by Toni Morrison, Conceição Evaristo, Maryse Condé, Gloria Anzaldúa, the Quilombhoje poets, and María de los Reyes Castillo.

Ohmer compares literature from different countries along four thematic pathways: ghosts, mirrors, naming, and motherhood. Her analysis unlocks literature's power to heal through gut-wrenching descriptions of wounds and thrilling passages of hope and liberation.

Throughout, Ohmer weaves in her life story as a Black woman as she reflects on how colonialism, racism, sexism, and capitalism have impacted her work, traumas, and faith journey.

Sarah Soanirina Ohmer is Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Latin American and Latino Studies at Lehman College.



Wednesday, March 25, 2026

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Book Signing: 2:00 - 3:00 PM

RSVP by March 24th: <https://libcal.lehman.edu/event/16327673>

Location: Library - Classroom A - Concourse Level

Registration is required

Information: Bernice.Suphal@lehman.cuny.edu