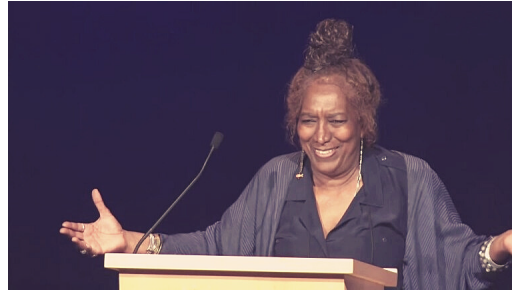


**ABSTRACT: Opening Keynote—"Why Africana Womanism?
Authenticity & Collectivity for Social Justice"-- *Clenora Hudson-Weems, PhD***



It is an honor & a privilege to deliver the Opening Keynote Address for the UZ 2021 *Conf. on Women*, a Continuum of the 1st International Africana Womanism Conf, OCT 2010, with an impressive representatives from the U.S/Africa--university professors, administrators, politicians (VP of the Republic of Zimbabwe). All joined this historic moment, as we shared challenging, provocative ideas, while advancing an urgent demand for prioritizing race/class/gender in addressing continuing issues for Africana people. The 2012 edited volume, *Rediscovering African Womanhood: Africana Womanism in Muti-Disciplinary Approaches*, validates this collective.

Gracious Madondo, in "Why Africa Relates to Africana Womanism," takes a positive position on *Africana Womanism* in *The Southern Times*. Buchi Emecheta asserts, "My novels are not feminist. I deal with a variety of topics in my novels that are certainly not feminist" (50-1). Ruth Mompati joins in: "The National liberation of the Black South African is a prerequisite to her own liberation and emancipation as a woman and a worker." (*One is not a Woman* 112). And my 1997 *Western Journal of Black Studies* article, "Africana Womanism & the Critical Need for Africana Theory" agrees that "We need our own Africana theorists, not scholars who duplicate or use theories created by others in analyzing Africana texts" (79). My 2021 edited volume, *Africana Paradigms, Practices & Literary Texts: Evoking Social Justice*, echoes that mandate in "Africana Womanism: Authenticity & Collectivity for Social Justice," insisting upon self-naming & defining as we explore possibilities and solutions for Social Justice for Africana people worldwide.