

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Ousseina Alidou, Ph.D.**

**Ousseina Alidou** is currently the Director of African Languages and Literature in the Department of Africana Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She holds a Ph.D. in Theoretical Linguistics with a minor in African Studies and Literacy from Indiana University at Bloomington. She currently teaches in the Department of Africana Studies and Comparative Literature.

Dr. Alidou has a trans-disciplinary research orientation with a focus on linguistics, cultural politics and gender studies. Her publications have centered on a variety of topics including linguistics, the political sociology of language in Africa, gender and identity (re)construction in African literature, women's education and literacy in Francophone Afro-Islamic societies.

Ousseina Alidou is the author of *Engaging Modernity: Muslim Women and the Politics of Agency* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2005). She is also co-editor and author of *A Thousand Flowers: The Struggle for Education in African Universities* (2000) and some of her articles appeared in refereed journals such as *SUGIA* (Journal of Historical Linguistics), *Trends in African Linguistics*, *Issues in Political Discourse Analysis*, *Research in African literatures*, *American Journal of Comparative Literature*. Dr. Ousseina Alidou is the recipient of the 2005-2006 Rutgers Board of Trustees Fellowship for Excellence in Research. She is one of only eight awardees, university-wide, representing the most outstanding academic profiles of all tenure candidates, and this award is in conjunction with her promotion to tenured Associate Professor. Dr. Alidou recently chaired the African Language Teachers Association's annual conference, and was elected as the organization's president.

Ousseina is married to Professor Alamin Mazrui and is the proud mother of a beautiful three-year-old daughter, Salma. A. Mazrui.

