Burying Nkrumah: Nation, State, and Pan-Africanism in the Fight over Kwame Nkrumah’s Body

Dr. Jeffrey Ahlman’s talk examines the fight over Kwame Nkrumah’s body following his 1972 death. Nkrumah has long been remembered as perhaps the most prominent figure in the African independence movement. His death in exile unleashed a nearly two-month long fight between Ghana and Guinea over access to his body. Embedded within this diplomatic wrangling were foundational debates over the legacy and future of the African liberation movement.

Jeffrey Ahlman is an associate professor of History and the director of African Studies at Smith College. He is the author of Living with Nkrumahism: Nation, State, and Pan-Africanism in Ghana (Ohio University Press, 2017).