Beat the drums of tragedy for me.
Beat the drums of tragedy and death.
And let the choir sing a stormy song
To drown the rattle of my dying breath.

Beat the drums of tragedy for me,
And let the white violins whir thin and slow,
But blow one blaring trumpet note of sun
To go with me
to the darkness
where I go.

—“Fantasy in Purple” by Langston Hughes
14:00-14:20 **Opening Remarks**
*Keren Omry*, Tel Aviv University
*Milette Shamir*, Chair of Department of English and American Studies, Tel Aviv University

14:20-15:20 **Keynote Lecture**
Chair: *Sonia Weiner*
*Images of Hidden Things: Bill Traylor’s Art as Resistance to Jim Crow*
*Mechal Sobel*, Haifa University

15:30-16:30 **Telling Stories**
Chair: *Hedda Ben-Bassat*
*Women as Story Tellers in Morrison’s Novels*
*Smadar Shiffman*, Tel Aviv University
*Reading Dick and Jane With Me*
*Sonia Weiner*, Tel Aviv University

16:45-18:15 **Bodies and Blackness**
Chair: *Hana Wirth-Nesher*
*Lucille Clifton and the Body*
*Karen Alkalay-Gut*, Tel Aviv University
*Black, White, Jewish: Zora Neale Hurston’s Mules and Men*
*Dalit Alperovich*, Tel Aviv University
*Disorder at the Border: Bebop, Baldwin, and Blackness*
*Keren Omry*, Tel Aviv University

18:30-19:30 **Playing the Beat** (panel in Hebrew)
Chair: *Keren Omry*
*Preachers and Gangsters of Rap: the Struggle over the Truth in Black Music*
*Uri Dorchin*, Ben-Gurion University
*The Blues Song: Blues Song Form and its Adaptation within Various Styles of Jazz*
*Dan Cahn*, The Technion