From Blog to Book.

WWW.ASANEWSONLINE.COM
Chapter 1

2012

1.1 March

Howard Wolpe (1939-2011) (2012-03-08 14:38)

Remembering Howard Wolpe, the Tireless Peacemaker

by Steve McDonald

Reprinted with permission from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Africa Program

Former U.S. Representative Howard Wolpe of Michigan, who served seven terms in Congress and was a powerful advocate for Africa, died on October 25 at his home in Saugatuck, Michigan. After leaving Congress, Wolpe served as the Director of the Wilson Center’s Africa Program and Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity. He was 71. He is survived by his wife, Julie, his son, Michael, and stepson, Paul. His was a tremendous spirit that continues to move and inspire us all.
I have known Howard Wolpe for over 30 years. When he took over as Chairman of the Africa Subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1981, I had been living and working on the continent for a decade.

I had the chance to interact with him professionally and welcomed having a chairman of the important subcommittee who had lived and worked in Africa. Because he had done his doctoral research in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, where he lived for two years, he brought to his position not just a love of Africa, but a sense of its deeper character, culture, potential and promise.

It was a life-long love between Howard and Africa, on both sides. I worked closely with Howard in the 1980s during the fight to pass the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act and to move South Africa to a just future, helping put him in touch with South African leaders inside and outside the country. He strategized with Members from both sides of the aisle and both houses and brought together the bi-partisan coalition that eventually overrode the Reagan veto and set in motion the international pressures that were so important in influencing non-violent change in South Africa.

Just as important, however, was the dialogue that Howard joined with former Senator Dick Clark at the Aspen Institute to bring together black and white South African leaders across all party lines to seek understanding and common goals for their country’s future. It was a role Howard would play later as U.S. Special Envoy as he negotiated the Lusaka and Sun City talks that brought an end to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Arusha Peace Process that did the same for Burundi.

It was the next decade that allowed me to know the true visionary and statesman that was Howard Wolpe. He asked me to join him in an 'experiment' born of his despair as the Arusha Accords fell apart and Burundi returned to war in 2000. He drew upon his experience, long before his public life, of working to bring reconciliation and rebuild trust and collaborative capacities among community leaders and students in schools and towns torn apart by racial strife in a racist America.

He had seen communities come together again to rebuild their lives after they had been facilitated through a process that restored their sense of cohesion and interdependence - a process that changed how they saw each other and helped them "walk in the shoes of the other," as he put it.

Why, he asked me, could that not work at a national, state-building level in war-torn Burundi. We were to make that our central task for the next 10 years, with the support of the World Bank, United Nations, European Union, and the U.S., UK, Norwegian and Swedish governments.

By then we were both at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, where Lee Hamilton, president of the Center and former congressional colleague, asked Howard to take over the Africa Program. Howard also started a project on Leadership and Building State Capacity to reinforce the work we had started in Africa.

In Burundi, we helped facilitate the 2004 cease fire commission; the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration of the various military factions; elections in 2005, and training for the new government, parliament and political parties in the following years. With a dedicated and professional team of Americans, Africans and Europeans, we did the same in the DRC, and later Liberia.

Howard’s team designed a similar program for Timor Leste, and consulted on similar projects in Togo, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and elsewhere.

Even though Howard retired in 2010, he and I met three weeks ago with Burundian President,
Pierre Nkurunziza, to gain his support for renewed political party work with his ruling party and the extra-parliamentary parties who left the country after the 2010 elections, reigniting violence and human rights violations and pushing Burundi towards another precipice.

Howard was excited at the prospect of re-engaging in this troubled land that he knew so well and loved. I asked him if his health would allow it. As usual, he dismissed that as a factor and focused on what he could do to help build a lasting peace in Burundi.

I can tell story after story of Howard’s celebrity - Nelson Mandela calling him on his release from prison or sighting him across a crowded Congressional chamber and waving for Howard and his wife to join him; of his counseling President Clinton in Arusha as they tried to hold the angry ethnic groups together and move them to a signature of the peace accords; of the calls he got in the night from presidents, Congress members, cabinet members, military faction leaders, United Nations representatives; of stars like Peter, Paul and Mary or Harry Belafonte campaigning for him; of a dinner with actor Ben Affleck that excited his interest in channeling his resources and energy to help the people of the DRC. This list goes on and on.

But my favorite memories stem from his humanity - his mentoring of young Americans and Africans just beginning their careers, never failing to take time from his impossible schedule to counsel, guide, and assist; his understanding of and connections with the victimized and disconnected African populations; his endless hours, working around the clock, with patience and wisdom as he sat with warlords and presidents, dissidents and dictators, peasants and priests, teachers and technocrats, moving them to understand the need for change; his deep intellect and analytical clarity.

Most of all, I cherish memories of his constant sense of humor, often self-deprecating, which served him so well in breaking down barriers, and disarming the most recalcitrant of individuals to help them see the folly of pride and prejudice.

Howard was a rare leader for all these reasons. He loved what he did. He loved those he worked with, was unstintingly loyal and gave a new meaning to the word commitment.

Africa has lost a great champion. The world has lost a great peace maker. His family and friends, who are legion, have lost a loved one who can never be replaced.

Donations in Howard’s memory are welcome, but the family would prefer that you do not send flowers or gifts to them. Howard saw the apex of his life's work embodied in the post-conflict peace building and reconciliation programs in Africa that he initiated at the Woodrow Wilson Center in 2002, and would want that legacy to continue. The Africa Program and the Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity, which Howard directed for six productive and exciting years, continue under Steve McDonald’s stewardship to underpin the transitions to peace, democracy and development in countries like Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and elsewhere. So, Please send any donations to the following address, stating that they are in Howard’s memory: The Woodrow Wilson Center, the Africa Program, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004-3027. The Woodrow Wilson Center’s Africa Program is a 501(c)3.

Ivan Karp (1943-2011)  (2012-03-08 14:39)

By Mary Jo Arnoldi and Doran H. Ross

Reprinted with permission from the Arts Council of the African Studies Association Fall 2011 newsletter.

Ivan Karp, a National Endowment for the Humanities Professor at Emory University, passed away on September 17, 2011. Ivan was a voracious reader and rigorous thinker, always open to new approaches and critical debates in the fields of anthropology, museum studies, and beyond. For many of us he was an unfailing and generous mentor. Many more of us saw him as larger than life, but truth be told, that would be the petite view of him. His infectious laugh, his passion for ideas, and his love of food, drink and enlightened conversation embraced a large circle of friends and colleagues.

At Emory University Ivan and his partner in life, Professor Corrine Kratz, co-directed the Center for Public Scholarship, dedicated to the idea that intellectual work must engage not only academics, but larger publics as well. For over a decade the Center has fostered a dynamic and ongoing collaboration between Emory University and various museums, universities, and other institutions in Cape Town, bringing together students and faculty from South Africa and Atlanta in this shared enterprise.

Ivan’s commitment to public scholarship was honed from 1984 to 1993 at the Smithsonian Institution prior to taking up his professorship at Emory. As Curator for African Ethnology in the Department of Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History he further developed his passion for African arts and material cultures. In 1988 he conceptualized and convened a symposium on African material culture at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy. This symposium brought together Africanists from the humanities and social sciences, from Africa, Europe, and the United States, to share new perspectives and theoretical approaches to these studies.

While at the Smithsonian Ivan began his systematic study of the representation of non-Western cultures in museum exhibitions and the interrogation of museum practices more broadly. He implemented many insights from this work as a key member of the team that developed the new permanent exhibition, African Voices (1999), at the National Museum of Natural History. Through the past two decades, Ivan served as a consultant on many other museum projects across the United States.

At the Smithsonian Ivan was the intellectual catalyst and convener for two innovative international conferences that led to co-edited anthologies: Exhibiting Cultures: the Poetics and Politics of Museum Display (1991) and Museums and Communities: The Politics of Public Culture (1992), which continue to shape thinking in the field. Later at Emory he extended his work on museum cultures and practices, lectured widely, delivered papers and served as a discussant on conference panels, and published extensively in a rich variety of journals. The final co-edited volume of his museum trilogy, Museum Frictions: Public Cultures/Global Transformations, appeared in 2006. This book followed a series of meetings beginning in 2000 in New York, followed by Buenos Aires, Cape Town and Bellagio that looked at the place of museums in new global contexts and the frictions generated from globalizing processes.

Throughout his career, Ivan maintained a serious commitment to the study of African religions and systems of thought and to ethnographic inquiry worldwide. He coedited two important book series: “African Systems of Thought” (with Charles Bird) for Indiana University Press, and the “Smithsonian Series in Ethnographic...
Inquiry” (with William Merrill) for the Smithsonian Institution Press. With his extraordinary intellectual prowess Ivan had that rare ability to recognize and engage new ideas and to support and encourage creative and innovative work in the field.

But for many of us in ACASA, the legacy rests with his thinking about museums and African art. When walking through an exhibition with Ivan we participated in a state-of-the-art clinic that injected praises for artists and cultures combined with potential cures for curators, designers, and educators. We all learned. His scholarship and friendship will be remembered.

The Ivan Karp Fund was created by Corinne Kratz to honor Ivan’s memory and work in anthropology, museum studies, African studies, social theory, and public scholarship. Founded after his death in September 2011, the Fund will help continue his collaborative work with universities, museums, and other cultural institutions in Cape Town, South Africa through lectures, workshops, programs, and student research support. Your contribution will help support these activities.


Please send your tax-deductible donation to:

IVAN KARP FUND
c/o Corinne Kratz
PO Box 216
Tesuque NM 87574 USA


Ivan Karp Archive Launched (2012-03-09 09:56)

Ivan Karp Archive Launched

By Corinne A. Kratz, Emory University

[1] Karp

Emory University recently launched an online archive of Ivan Karp’s published papers in order to keep his work widely available (See obituary on this page). Karp was a leading scholar of African studies, museum and heritage studies, and social theory who began doing research in Kenya in 1969. Plans are under way for his unpublished papers to be deposited with the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian Institution.

The new online archive includes complete lists of Karp’s books and of the works published in the book
series for which he served as editor: the African Systems of Thought series at Indiana University Press and
the Smithsonian Series in Ethnographic Inquiry at Smithsonian Institution Press. Downloadable links to
Karp’s published papers are an important feature of the archive, which also includes video clips from his
presentations and audio from the memorial held in his honor at the National Museum of African Art in
November 2011. The archive can be found online at [2]http://international.emory.edu/karp_archive/.

2. http://international.emory.edu/karp_archive/

ASA Survey Results (2012-03-10 09:52)

What You Told Us: Results of Survey of ASA Membership, November 2011

Total number of respondents = 519
Opportunities in African Studies (2012-03-10 10:04)

AWARDS

American Historical Association’s Equity Awards
These awards recognize individuals and institutions for excellence in recruiting and retaining students and new faculty from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented within the historical profession. Deserving nominees will have records that include such achievements as mentoring, program building, fundraising initiatives, pursuing civic engagement, and enhancing department and campus culture to promote a
supportive environment. Nominations are due by May 15. For details and instructions for submitting a nomination, see: [1]http://www.historians.org/prizes/EquityAwards.cfm

Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology  
Sponsor: Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI)  
Description: The prize will be awarded to the author or authors of the most valuable of the submitted works of anthropological research published in the calendar year prior to the submission date. Preference will be given to works relating in the first place to Nigerian and in the second place to any other part of West Africa in general.  
Deadline: March 31, 2012  

INTERNSHIPS

Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars  
Internships with the Africa Program  

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fulbright Scholar Competition for 2013-2014  
The 2013-2014 Fulbright Scholar Program competition has opened.  
Deadline: August 1, 2012.  

Fulbright NEXUS Program  
Deadline: June 15, 2012  
Website: [5]Fulbright NEXUS Program  

Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)  
Comparative Research Networks 2012-2016  
Deadline: 15 June, 2012  
Email: nwg@codesria.sn  
Website: [7]www.codesria.org  
Facebook: [8]www.facebook.com/pages/CODESRIA

CONFERENCES

African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) biennial conference  
Location: Leeds, UK  
Dates: From 2pm on Thursday 6th to 1pm on Saturday 8th September 2012  
Abstracts due: April 27, 2012  

Paper proposals are also invited for four panels on ‘New Articulations in Africa’s Literatures and Cultures.’ For more information on individual panels please contact the panel organisers listed below.  
Music and the African Novel - Pim Higginson (Bryn Mawr) - fhiggins@brynmawr.edu  
Law and Literature - Stephanie Jones (Southampton) and Ambreena Manji (BIEA) – S.J.Jones@soton.ac.uk  
African Texts and New Cosmopolitanisms - Ranka Primorac (Southampton) - R.Primorac@soton.ac.uk
Indian Ocean Africa: Cultural, Historical & Literary re-orientations - Meg Samuelsen (Stellenbosch) and Tina Steiner (Stellenbosch) - megsam@sun.ac.za

Postcolonial Women’s Writing
Sponsor: Pacific, Ancient and Modern Language Association
Dates: October 19-21, 2012
Deadline: Decisions will be made and indicated on the website by April 23rd

International Conference on Nollywood, Women, and Cultural Identity
Sponsor: Benue State University
Dates: Tuesday, May 8, 2012 to Friday, May 11, 2012
Abstract due: March 30, 2012
Location: Makurdi, Nigeria

Evolving Dynamics of Security in Africa: Assessing Diplomacy, Development, And Defense Responses
Sponsor: Climate Change and African Political Stability Program (CCAPS)
Dates: April 24, 2012
Location: Austin, TX, United States

Change and Continuity in the Middle East: Rethinking West Asia, North Africa and the Gulf after 2011
Sponsor: British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Graduate Section (BRISMES GS)
Dates: June 11, 2012
Proposal or Application Due: April 13, 2012
Location: London, United Kingdom

2012 Africa Workshop “Local Communities and the State in Africa”
Sponsor: American Political Science Association
Dates: July 15 to 27, 2012
Location: University of Botswana in Gaborone
Application deadline: March 30, 2012
Website: [14]APSA Africa Workshop website
More information: [15]africaworkshops@apsanet.org

International Peacekeeping in Africa: Actors and Missions
Sponsors: Center for Security Studies (CSS), ETH Zurich in Switzerland
Date: November 23-24, 2012
Proposal due: May 31, 2012
Contact: wyss@sipo.gess.ethz.ch
Website: [16]www.css.ethz.ch/events/International_Peacekeeping_Africa

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Journal: African Musicology Online Journal

Call for Papers in Journal Publication
Date: June 8, 2012
Description: The African musicology Online Journal calls for well researched articles to be published in its Vols.5 and 6 editions.
Contact: africanmusicology@yahoo.com
Website: www.africanmusicology.org

Journal: Feminist Studies
Theme: Special Issue on Africa Reconfigured
Description: How does feminist scholarship on African contexts push conventional disciplinary boundaries? How does feminist work in cinema studies, linguistics, cultural studies, literature, history, and anthropology, for instance, reconfigure how Africa is represented in the broader academy? Feminist Studies welcomes submissions dealing broadly with the African continent, with the goal of featuring exciting feminist scholarship in African Studies and questioning representations of Africa for feminist readers outside the area.

We welcome full-length research manuscripts (10,500 words), review essays, short commentaries on policies, creative writing, and art essays.

Abstract due date: Monday, April 30, 2012
Deadline for manuscript: December 1, 2012
Contact: Editorial Director, Ashwini Tambe, atambe@umd.edu
Website: http://www.feministstudies.org/home.html

14. http://apsa.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taTOxNTEyMzZjN2IwMzAxNjM5OTAyNjI1MjYwNzg4/index.html
15. mailto:africaworkshops@apsanet.org
17. http://www.africanmusicology.org/
18. mailto:atambe@umd.edu

Teaching in African Studies (2012-03-10 10:16)

Have a suggestion for a future focus on teaching in African Studies? [1]Contact us.

1. http://www.asanewsonline.com/contact/
2011 Distinguished Africanist Award: Dr. Toyin Falola (2012-03-19 14:40)

Award presented by Dr. Aili Tripp, University of Wisconsin, ASA President

Citation read by Dr. Charles Ambler, University of Texas at El Paso, Past President and Chair of the Distinguished Africanist Selection Committee

It is now my great pleasure to introduce the 2011 Distinguished Africanist, Dr. Toyin Falola, the Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin and Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters and of the Historical Society of Nigeria.

The African Studies Association honors Dr. Toyin Falola for his wide-ranging and prodigious contribution to scholarship in African studies, for his deep commitment to teaching and mentorship; and for his extensive service to African Studies and the African Studies Association.

A full biography of Dr. Falola is printed in the Annual Meeting program. Still youthful, Dr. Toyin Falola is very much an elder in our field. Dr. Falola earned a BA and a PhD in history at the University of Ife, where he began his career as a university teacher and scholar. He moved to the University of Texas in 1991. While at Ife, Dr. Falola began a career in scholarship that has resulted in books, articles, chapters, and reviews that reflect his seemingly endless intellectual curiosity. To date he is the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of more than 100 books that range widely across time, space, discipline and subject area. Some have made powerful contributions to established areas of research. Others have pointed us in new directions of inquiry. In addition Toyin Falola is a published poet and his wonderful memoir, A Mouth Sweeter than Salt was a finalist for the Herskovits Prize.

In addition to his own work, Toyin Falola has been a passionate advocate for African Studies. Through the book series he edits, his service on editorial boards, his work in African Studies organizations in the United States and in Nigeria and notably through his sponsorship of an annual African studies conference at UT Austin, he has tirelessly supported and encouraged the work of his fellow Africanists. The recipient of the University of Texas System Chancellor’s Teaching Award and recently the UT Austin outstanding graduate teaching award, is an affectionately revered teacher and mentor—and a good friend to many. We
especially honor him for his work training future members of our profession, many of whom I am sure are here today and at this meeting. Toyin Falola exemplifies the goals of our association through his scholarship, his promotion of the field, and his tireless efforts to build links between African scholars and institutions and those in the U.S. He is the recipient of many awards and honors. We are proud to add the award of Distinguished Africanist to that list.

Dr. Toyin Falola

Brief Biography
Dr. Toyin Falola has been selected to receive the African Studies Association Distinguished Africanist award for 2011. Toyin Falola, a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters and of the Historical Society of Nigeria, is currently a Distinguished Teaching Professor and the Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor in History at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Falola is honored for his wide-ranging and prodigious contribution to scholarship in the field of African Studies; for his deep commitment to teaching and to mentorship; and for his extensive service to African Studies and the African Studies Association. He is a Life Member of the ASA.

Toyin Falola began his career in education in 1970 as a teacher at the UAMCP Primary School, Pahayi, Ilaro Nigeria. After earning a B.A. in history at the University of Ife, he remained there to do a Ph.D., completing a dissertation on “The Political Economy of Ibadan” (1981). He remained at Ife as a member of the history faculty, moving to the University of Texas in 1991. While at Ife Falola completed the first of the more than 100 books that he has published to date. His important early work on the political economy of southwestern Nigeria would lead to studies that have ranged widely across time, space, discipline and topic. Among his best-known works are Violence in Nigeria: The Crisis of Religious Politics and Secular Ideologies (1998), The Power of African Cultures (2003), and Nationalism and African Intellectuals (2001). In addition, he has published countless articles, book chapters and reviews. The expanse of his intellectual interests is breathtaking. In recent years he has edited, co-edited, or co-authored books on Teen Life in Africa (2004), Black Business and Economic Power (2002), and The Politics of the Global Oil Industry (2008). Particularly noteworthy are his co-edited volume, exploring Pawnship, Slavery, and Colonialism in Africa (2003), an important examination of the practice of African history, Sources and Methods in African History: Spoken, Written, Unearthed (co-edited, 2002) and the widely cited co-edited volume, Africanizing Knowledge: African Studies Across the Disciplines (2002). Just this fall his co-edited work, Landscape and Environment in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa (2011) was published. His evocative memoir, A Mouth Sweeter Than Salt (2004), was a finalist for the Herskovits Prize. He has also published a volume of poetry.

Beyond his own scholarship, Toyin Falola has been a passionate and indefatigable champion of African Studies research. Through his initiation and editorship of the University of Rochester series, Studies in Africa and the Diaspora, the Carolina Academic Press African World Series, his long-term editorship of African Economic History Review and through service on many editorial boards he has supported and encouraged other scholars. His efforts to promote the discipline are especially visible in the annual conference on Africa that he first convened more than ten years ago in Austin. Each year the conference takes up a distinctive theme, and each year a diverse mix of scholars, students and practitioners, based in the U.S. and Africa, meet and present their work in an exciting and democratic atmosphere. The volumes that have emerged from these conferences, co-edited by Dr. Falola have become important avenues for the publication of new research.

Toyin Falola is an affectionately revered teacher and mentor. The recipient of the University of Texas System Chancellor’s Teaching Award in 2003 and other teaching awards, Falola has mentored a long line of doctoral students, all of whom have gone on to tenure-track positions. His mentorship reaches out far beyond the confines of his own students to many junior scholars in North America, Europe and Africa.
devoted citizen of the community of Africanists, he currently chairs the ASA Herskovits Prize Committee and has offered his time and expertise in numerous similar roles. A pioneer in digital communication among Africanists, he has been particularly instrumental in building linkages between scholars and institutions in North America and those on the continent. The recipient of numerous honors, including the 2006 Cheikh Anta Diop Award for Excellence in African Studies and the Ibn Khaldun Distinguished Award for Research Excellence, his contributions have most recently been recognized through the inauguration of an annual conference in Nigeria in his name. The ASA is proud to recognize Dr. Toyin Falola as the Distinguished Africanist for 2011.


2011 Herskovits Award Winners & Runners-Up (2012-03-19 14:48)

By Toyin Falola, Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor in History, University of Texas-Austin


For many decades, historians have confronted some of the fundamental issues and questions of the Atlantic slave trade. Questions regard the culpability of African societies in the trade, factors that caused African societies to transition from their system of enslavement to the commercial slave trade with Europeans, the effects the trade had on the societies involved, the lasting consequences of the trade in contemporary times, and many more. Nwokeji takes up the task of providing answers to some of these questions. In particular, he examines the political, social, and cultural implications of the slave trade, the expansion of the slave trade within some African societies, and the gender, ethnic, and numeric compositions of the millions of African peoples shipped to the Americas as the region’s labor resource. Focusing on the Bight of Biafra as a major exporting region of African slaves, Nwokeji underscores the factors behind the development of large-scale commerce in the region without a corresponding development of large-scale centralized states.

Indeed, many historians recognize the significance of the Bight of Biafra in the slave trade. It was regarded as the third most important supplier of African slaves after West-Central African and the Bight of Benin with an estimated 13 percent of all African slaves arriving in the Americas came from the region between the periods of 1551 and 1850. Yet, despite the significance of the Bight of Biafra, researchers
have devoted very little attention to unraveling some of the complexities and nuances regarding the region and its involvement. Thus, Nwokeji uses his book as an opportunity to extend the historical data on the Atlantic slave trade. He relies on archival data, oral traditions, and genealogies to provide a chronological reconstruction of the history of the slave trade in the region.

Nwokeji utilizes the rise of the Aro society (present-day southeastern Nigeria) during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as a case study. According to him, the king of the Aro, during the above periods, organized the establishment of a number of settlements on the outskirts of Arochukwu (homeland of the Aro) primarily for trade and governed these trading settlements through trade consuls called Mazi. The expansion of the European demand for slaves in the mid-eighteenth century caused the Aro to increase their slave raids and to expand their trading ties with Europeans. The expansion of the slave trade among the Aro was also facilitated by certain socio-cultural institutions such as the institution of Okpankpo (Aro central council), which enabled individuals and groups to pledge their allegiance to the Aro and to enter into the slave trade.

Undoubtedly, the major strength of The Slave Trade and Culture in the Bight of Biafra is Nwokeji’s ability to decompress the complexities surrounding an almost obscure history of the slave trade and to bring out one of the least discussed issues of the trade—women. As Nwokeji points out, because the Aro’s involvement in the slave trade depended on networks of economic and cultural institutions, they fundamentally defined and determined the gender composition of the trade, that is, the proportional representation of women and men shipped into enslavement in the Atlantic world. Within the Aro society, because men were the primary agricultural producers, the Aro were less likely to retain women slaves and more likely to sell women than men into enslavement. This gendered division of labor among the Aro and its interface with the slave trade helps to highlight a dimension of the slave trade distinct to the Bight of Biafra.

The book points in several ways to the difficulty of providing a logically complete story using incomplete data and drawing on inferences. However, Nwokeji’s attempt to provide a comprehensive history of the Biafra and the slave trade will expand our understanding of the history of African enslavement, but it is also a good source material for researchers and the general public interested in studying the obscured dimensions of the Atlantic slave trade.

Neil Kodesh has written a book that promises to energize the field of pre-colonial African history, which has declined in the past few years. Beyond the Royal Gaze examines the political perspectives of the Buganda people who were not central to politics but were important to the functioning of politics in the Buganda kingdom (present-day Uganda). Drawing on varied sources and fields including ethnographical data, anthropology, history, historical linguistics, and archaeology, Kodesh argues that the “domains of politics and public healing were intimately entwined in Buganda from the sixteenth through the early nineteenth centuries.” He demonstrates that through the language of healing and health the Buganda people ensured collective prosperity and perpetuity. Rather than following the familiar style of historical narratives that privilege the elite, Kodesh takes the founding narratives of Buganda’s kingdom and reinterprets them.

Through the historical figures of Kintu and Bemba the snake, he describes the growth of territories of healing and the continuous interchange between the metaphysical and the physical world. In addition, clans became essential social institutions through which spirits and their human intermediaries exchanged and extended their efficacy. Clanship, Kodesh postulates, was “discursive and ritual cement” that connected people who had particular forms of knowledge in the pursuit of social and biological health. Eighteenth century Buganda’s political leaders depended on these older social institutions and figures of authority in order to cement their own political statuses and policies.

In shifting the foundations of political power to peoples who otherwise would be at the periphery of power, Kodesh not only challenges historical elitism, but also he shows that kings were not necessarily authority onto themselves. They had to negotiate with healers and clan leaders in order to reinforce their own authority. Beyond the Royal Gaze contributes significantly to eastern African historiography. Kodesh demonstrates that authority could emerge around what is usually considered mundane and without political capacity. The book challenges how we have conceptualized the role of clanship and the centralization of great kingdoms and promises to chart new paradigms in historical discourses on Africa. Its accessible language will appeal to both undergraduate and graduate students, and scholars of political history, health and healing, and oral history will find it valuable.


The predominance of religion in the African life has often been used to erroneously portray African societies as lacking distinct political structures capable of functioning without illogical and superstitious beliefs and practices. Africans, from the lowest to the highest social hierarchy, did participate in political
activities either through ordinary activities or through a more structured setting. However, as with many of their conceptions about Africans, European imperialists conceived of Africans as politically naïve and failed to see or understand the political acumen of Africans. Popular Politics in the History of South Africa, 1400-1948 calls for historians to reinterpret European misconceptions and misunderstandings about Africans in South African political history. Relying primarily on archival sources, Laudau explores issues in the political history of South Africa from the pre-colonial period, through the colonial period, to the dawn of the Apartheid era. He argues that while Europeans did all they could to stifle, transform, and misinterpret the political activities of the South African people, they failed to purge it completely from historical consciousness.

In six chapters, Laudau takes on the challenge of providing a new understanding of the political perceptions of the indigenous people of southern African and explains how the ways in which they organized and mobilized before colonialism set a course to change and rewrite their history. Landau conceives of southern African in broad terms, although his focus remains mostly on the southern Highveld and eventually on a transnational movement called the “Samuelites.” He points out that contrary to previous assumptions about the inward looking nature of the South African people and their inability to interact with strangers and outsiders, they were well equipped to welcome and accept strangers in their mix. Europeans were the ones who had phobias about mixing with others and accepting different and dissenting political arrangements. European political misconstructions about Africans were the factors that ultimately informed the growth of South Africa’s independent Christian churches, popular movements, rural resistance, and the nationalism of the African National Congress.

Popular Politics in the History of South Africa, 1400-1948 has received great reviews from many scholars as original, thought provoking, insightful, ambitious, and a masterful piece of scholarship. Indeed, Landau’s ability to weave tales, language, Christianity, and politics together in an easy to follow narrative is worthy of praise. He shows a great erudition of history by tackling minuet linguistic inaccuracies and misconstructions about words such as “tribe” and “ethnic,” often taken for granted in historical discourses. Besides its contributions to the scholarship on Africans south of the Zambezi, the book holds the potential to change how we have conceptualized and written about the past of the African peoples. Scholars in African history and students and researchers interested in the African past will find Popular Politics in the History of South Africa, 1400-1948 as both insightful and a great read.

In Informal Institutions and Citizenship in Rural Africa, MacLean examines the history of the political and economic transformations that have taken place among the Akan peoples of the Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire border since the colonial period. Drawing on extensive archival sources and ethnographical data, MacLean highlights the historical implications of the state’s role in local affairs and in transforming informal institutions of reciprocity and citizenship. Often times, assumptions about the similarities of African social, economic, and political institutions in historical discourses have led to the homogenizing of African societies without adequate analysis of the diversities and complexities of African socio-economic and political structures. MacLean takes on this challenge, demonstrating that considerable differences exist in African socio-cultural arrangements, such as the reciprocal exchange of gifts and favors amongst people. She shows that states have powerful effects in terms of transforming cultural arrangements even in situation where change was not expected.

According to the author, prior to European colonial rule, the Akan villages under study in both Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire had very similar political and cultural institutions. Indeed, it was the result of colonial state demarcations that politically confined one group to Ghana and the other to Cote D'Ivoire. The result of this political division was that by the late 1990s, significant differences in the informal institutions of reciprocity and indigenous notions of citizenship had developed between these people. MacLean contends, “divergent histories of state formation not only shape how villagers help each other but also influence how local groups and communities define citizenship and then choose to engage with the state on an everyday basis.” In addition, the centralized nature of the colonial and postcolonial state in Côte d'Ivoire stimulated a greater volume of informal reciprocal exchange whereas in Ghana the reverse was the case. The state intervention in local affairs in terms of political administration, social services, and agricultural programs not only spurred varying degrees of diversification among the Akan societies in the two countries, but it also highlighted the socio-economic and political advantages and disadvantages of state formation in these two Akan societies.

MacLean concludes that over time, colonial and postcolonial states transformed informal reciprocity and citizenship in different ways as a result of the different political structures established in Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire. Informal Institutions and Citizenship in Rural Africa makes a significant contribution to African historiography and opens an avenue to confront some of the commonly held assumptions about the homogeneity of African societies. In addition, the book contains important tables and illustrations to help provide examples and expatiate on issues. Informal Institutions and Citizenship in Rural Africa is bound to engender discourses about the similarities and differences in African societies and the influences of external factors on African socio-economic and political structures. The book’s writing style will make it attractive to both graduate and undergraduate African history students and to researchers and scholars interested in the African past and present.
Self and Community in a Changing World begins with the problems associated with the acceptance of African philosophy on equal terms as other philosophical ideas. Masolo indicates that until recently, African philosophy had virtually no place in philosophical discourses in academia. African philosophy, for many decades, had been regarded as an informal discourse that only occurred at night by the fireside in African villages and away from the intellectual activities of the academic world. In many places, such as France, the United Kingdom, and Belgium, some African philosophical works have only just gained acceptance, an indication of “the degree of skepticism that continues to greet the idea of African or African-American philosophy in Southern Europe.” Masolo’s focus in this book then is to confront the above issues and to identify the themes that stand out in the recent history of African philosophy.

Self and Community in a Changing World is structured to advance an understanding of what it means to be human. In six chapters, Masolo portrays indigenous knowledge as diverse and expatiates on the structure of consciousness; the boundaries between self and other; universal and particular; and individual and community. He further offers solutions for containing socially destructive conduct and antisocial tendencies by engaging community. His aim is to enable the reader to get a handle on the historical origins and broader contexts, in Africa and elsewhere, from and within some of the important issues and discussions in contemporary African philosophy that have taken shape and, especially, to get readers to participate in and advance the debate. Furthermore, he aims to provoke and urge readers to develop a reflection on the issues for themselves in the spirit of seeking to develop standard interpretations and understanding of the African texts, whether these are the experiences of African peoples in their daily lives and expressions or the existing and expanding written texts. In an area that lacks academic voice and representation, Masolo’s work on African philosophy is an exciting addition to the literature, and an inspiration to those with interest in African philosophical issues. It is an important scholarship and without doubt will serve as a measure for others for years to come.
Credit between Cultures is the third volume of a trilogy that uses theory, historical and ethno-graphical description, and practical analysis to show what is cultural about credit and debt. According to Shipton, Credit between Cultures explores systems of credit and debt among the Luo of western Kenya. Based primarily of fieldwork conducted by the author and by other researchers, the book treats “financial and fiduciary culture as a topic worthy of study from more than one scholarly discipline, and as far possible from more than one point of view.” Shipton describes local particularities of culture, circumstances of society, political economy, and techniques in changing times. He also points out some patterns of action and principles of human thought and feeling more widespread and enduring in terms of how they influence credit and debt, wealth and poverty, and aid and exploitation. Shipton suggests that his ideas about the effects of credit and debt in African societies is in no way meant to portray borrowing and lending as constituting the “best or only way to approach the problems of rural poverty or powerlessness, or to improve the quality of life, in Africa or anywhere else—as has been so often assumed.” He insists that equal attention must be given to credit and indebtedness, as both are conditions humans can endure within limits. Shipton pays attention to details, analyzing the evidence in a careful and rigorous manner.

Shipton’s work builds upon previous scholarships that have analyzed the effects of interest rate policies, lean repayments determinants, and allocation of measurable costs and benefits over income or class strata. But more importantly, by infusing a social and cultural perspective into a traditionally economic subject, Shipton shows that morality was an essential element of lending, borrowing, and indebtedness before they became economic issues. Credit between Cultures is an impressive book that takes on a very difficult and complex subject, with an approach that challenges traditional orthodoxies and opens the possibility of re-conceptualizing the way we have viewed and analyzed issues about African people.

New Ogot Award (2012-03-19 16:25)

The Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize of the African Studies Association will be awarded annually at the Association Annual Meeting to the author of the best book on East African Studies published in the previous calendar year. The award is being initiated this year, considering books published in 2011. The award is made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of the late Professor Kennell Jackson. The award honors the eminent historian, Professor Bethwell A. Ogot.

Dr. Bethwell A. Ogot is a distinguished Kenyan historian and public servant. B.A. Ogot was born in 1929 in Gem in western Kenya. He was educated at Maseno High School and at Makerere University, where he studied mathematics and history. After teaching briefly at Alliance High School in Kenya he enrolled at the University of St. Andrews where he studied history and philosophy. He returned to East Africa as a history tutor at Makerere, and then went to the U.K. to the School of Oriental and African Studies as a Ph.D. student. He then began his path breaking work on Luo oral traditions, which resulted in his 1967 book, History of the Southern Luo. In London he led the Kenya Students Association and provided assistance to Oginga Odinga and Tom Mboya in the 1960 negotiations leading to Kenyan independence.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s he was instrumental as a faculty member and chair in making the history department of the new University of Nairobi among the most prominent on the continent. As a scholar, teacher, research supervisor, mentor and colleague, Ogot did much to stimulate the rapid expansion of research in Kenya at that time. Among those to whom he provided guidance and inspiration was UCLA Ph.D. student, Kennell Jackson.

Ogot was also the long-term president of the Historical Association of Kenya where he did a great deal to stimulate the publication of new research in the Kenya Historical Review, Hadith, and the Transafrican Journal of History. His edited collection, Zamani (1968) was a key text in the development of research and teaching on East Africa. Later he was instrumental in the creation and publication of the UNESCO General History of Africa. During more than four decades Ogot has taken a leading role in Kenya’s key cultural institutions, as a dean at the University of Nairobi, as director of the Louis Leakey Memorial Institute for African Prehistory, as professor at Kenyatta University, director of research at Maseno University College and then in 2003 as Chancellor at Moi University.

In his career he has served on a series of important official commissions and boards. In addition he has been an influential and often controversial contributor to national debates about the role of Kenya’s past in its present and future. A Fellow of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences, Ogot received the African Studies Association Distinguished Africanist Award in 2008.

In Memoriam (2012-03-19 16:29)

1. [Howard Wolpe (1939-2011)](http://www.asanewsonline.com/2012/03/08/howard-wolpe-1939-2011/)

Kony 2012 (2012-03-19 16:32)

The viral video Kony 2012 has produced a host of responses from all over the globe. Here are links to some particularly insightful commentary on the film from academics, journalists, and other local voices:

- Ugandan journalist & blogger Rosebell Kagumire’s video response raises questions of historical accuracy and assumptions about local perspectives on the crisis.
- Professor Mahmood Mamdani responds at Pambazuka and in Uganda’s Daily Monitor with criticism of the film’s suggestion that a military solution will end the LRA problem.
- The Association of Concerned Africa Scholars released a statement on the film.
• Elliot Ross [8] questions Invisible Children’s relationship to evangelical Christian circles at the popular Africa is a Country culture blog.

• Writing at the Nordic Africa Development Policy Forum website, Cecilia Backlander [9] argues that ending the LRA crisis is far more complex than simply targeting Kony.

• Ugandan journalist [10] Angelo Izama sharply criticizes the Kony 2012 campaign at African Arguments, arguing that it is misleading about the situation in Uganda.


• Al Jazeera’s Malcolm Webb [12] chronicles the response of citizens of Lira, Uganda to the film after a screening was organized there.

• Ugandan civil society leader Sam Okello and Hope North respond with [13] a video about their efforts to help victims of the LRA.


• Ugandan civil society leader Victor Ochen [15] calls for a more comprehensive response to the needs of LRA victims.

• Richard Vokes at The Africanist blog [16] describes the political complexity of the LRA situation.

• Invisible Children [17] responds to their critics.

• The Guardian’s Polly Curtis [18] rounds up criticism and commentary on the film.

5. http://www.monitor.co.ug/artsculture/Reviews/-/691232/1365090/-/item/1/-/2ibo3r/-/index.html
13. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFRPYy0H9Tc
By Charles Ambler

The 2011 awards were announced at the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. with President Judith Byfield presiding.

Toyin Falola honored as Distinguished Africanist

Outgoing Past President and chair of the Prize Committee, Charles Ambler, announced the award for the Distinguished Africanist, which was jointly presented by President Byfield and incoming President, Aili Tripp. The 2011 awardee, was Professor Toyin Falola, Distinguished Teaching Professor and the Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin. In his remarks, Ambler noted that the Association honored Falola “for his wide-ranging and prodigious contribution to scholarship in African studies, for his deep commitment to teaching and mentorship; and for his extensive service to African Studies and the African Studies Association.” After directing the audience to the fuller biography printed in the program Ambler noted that although he is “still youthful, Dr. Toyin Falola is very much an elder in our field.” Falola earned a BA and a PhD in history at the University of Ife, where he began his career as a university teacher and scholar. He moved to the University of Texas in 1991. While at Ife, Dr. Falola began a career in scholarship that has resulted in books, articles, chapters, and reviews that reflect his seemingly endless intellectual curiosity. To date he is the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of more than 100 books that range widely across time, space, discipline and subject area. Some have made powerful contributions to established areas of research. Others have pointed us in new directions of inquiry. In addition Toyin Falola is a published poet and his wonderful memoir, A Mouth Sweeter than Salt was a finalist for the Herskovits Prize.

In addition to his own work, Toyin Falola has been a passionate advocate for African Studies. Through the book series he edits, his service on editorial boards, his work in African Studies organizations in the United States and in Nigeria and notably through his sponsorship of an annual African studies conference at UT Austin, he has tirelessly supported and encouraged the work of his fellow Africanists. The recipient of the University of Texas System Chancellor’s Teaching Award and recently the UT Austin outstanding graduate teaching award, is an affectionately revered teacher and mentor—and a good friend to many. Ambler concluded his remarks, stressing that “we especially honor him for his work training future members of our profession, many of whom I am sure are here today and at this meeting. Toyin Falola exemplifies the goals of our association through his scholarship, his promotion of the field, and his tireless efforts to build links between African scholars and institutions and those in the U.S. He is the recipient of many awards and honors. We are proud to the award of Distinguished Africanist to that list.” In addition to the ASA Officers
the selection committee consisted of Dr. Mary Moran, Dr. John Mugane, and Dr. Akin Ogundiran.

Click [2] here to read the full citation for the 2011 Distinguished Africanist award.

Herskovits Award Shared by Neil Kodesh and Ugo Nwokeji

The Melville J. Herskovits Prize for the outstanding work in African Studies in English published in the previous year was awarded by committee chair, Toyin Falola. The prize was awarded jointly to Neil Kodesh, University of Wisconsin, for his book, Beyond the Royal Gaze: Clanship and Public Healing in Buganda published by the University of Virginia Press; and to Ugo Nwokeji of the University of California, Berkeley, for The Slave Trade and Culture in the Bight of Biafra: An African Society in the Atlantic World (Cambridge University Press). The additional finalists were Paul S. Landau for Popular Politics in the History of South Africa, 1400-1948 (Cambridge University Press); Lauren MacLean, Informal Institutions and Citizenship in Rural Africa: Risk and Reciprocity in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (Indiana University Press); D.A. Masolo, Self and Community in a Changing World (Indiana University Press); and Parker Shipton, Credit between Cultures: Farmers, Financiers and Misunderstanding in Africa (Yale University Press). In addition to Prof. Falola, the selection committee included Robert Baum, Cassandra Veney, and Jean Borgatti.

Click [3] here to read the full citations for the Herskovits Award Co-Winners and Runners-up.

Additional Awards

The award for the outstanding paper by a graduate student presented at the previous meeting went to Noel Twagiramungu, Ph.D. candidate at the Fletcher School, Tufts University and a Research Associate at the University of Dar es Salaam. His paper, "The Anatomy of Leadership: A view-from-within Post-genocide Rwanda," was nominated by his advisor, Professor Peter Uvin. The selection committee consisted of chair, Margot Lovett; Layi Abegunrin and Catherine Cole.


Constituent Organization Awards

Children’s Africana Book Award is given each year by Africa Access, in conjunction with the ASA, for the best Africana works for children. The 2011 best book winner is Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace, a picture book about the late Wangari Maathai by Jen Cullerton Johnson and illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler. The Honor Book winner is S is for South Africa by Beverley Naidoo with photographs by Prodeepa Das.

The Women’s Caucus Aidoo-Snyder Prize for works in English that prioritize African women’s experience in 2011 was given to Unoma N. Azuah, Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee.

At their meeting at the ASA Annual Meeting, the African Politics Conference Group (APCG) awarded prizes for outstanding articles and books. The 2011 prize for the Best Article was awarded to Mireille Razafindrakoto and François Roubaud, “Are International Databases on Corruption Reliable? A Comparison of Expert

The APCG 2011 Prize for the best book published in 2010 was awarded to Charles Piot, Nostalgia for the Future: West Africa after the Cold War published by the University of Chicago Press. The First Runner-Up was Aili Mari Tripp, Museveni’s Uganda: Paradoxes of Power in a Hybrid Regime, Lynne Rienner Publishers (2010); and Second Runner-Up was Brenda Chalfin, Neoliberal Frontiers: An Ethnography of Sovereignty in West Africa, University of Chicago Press (2010).

Charles Ambler is Professor of History, University of Texas-El Paso and served as ASA president in 2010.


Debate Proposed ASA Resolution (2012-03-19 16:50)

The ASA Board will be discussing at its Spring board meeting April 27, 2012, whether or not to pass the resolution below submitted by Association of Concerned Africa Scholars. Please post your thoughts on this resolution in the comments section below. Comments are moderated to protect the site from spam, so it may take a few hours for your comment to appear.

ACAS Statement to the U.S. Government about the
Lord’s Resistance Army and Central Africa

March 14, 2012

Scholars in the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars (ACAS) are encouraged whenever U.S. citizens become knowledgeably involved in debates about important policy regarding Africa. However, after consulting with scholars of Uganda and Central Africa and with other experts in the region, we are deeply concerned that the recent campaign in the United States to pursue and arrest Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), could have dangerous unintended consequences.

Expanding U.S. military operations with the Ugandan army to capture Kony could increase the militarization of the region and lead to deaths of civilians who are caught in the crossfire or become targets of retaliatory attacks by the LRA, as has occurred in the past. Indeed, the Ugandan army itself has been guilty of atrocities and abuse of civilians. First and foremost, the U.S. government must refrain from actions that could undermine peace and security.

The Association of Concerned Africa Scholars calls on President Obama, Secretary Clinton, Assistant
Secretary Carson, Ambassador Barrie Walkley (Special Advisor for the Great Lakes and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and relevant members of Congress:

- To cooperate closely with the African Union (AU) and its new Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Ambassador Francisco Caetano José Madeira. The U.S. also should provide financial, logistical, and equipment support to the AU as needed in efforts to end the destabilizing activities and atrocities committed against civilians by various militias, including the LRA, and by the national armies in this region.

- To acknowledge that ending the violence and its resulting devastation in Uganda and Central Africa primarily requires negotiations with the goal of creating a favorable environment for beginning to build sustainable and productive economies and to reintegrate members of the various militias into their societies. Aggressive military action and the active involvement of the U.S. military is highly likely to be counterproductive, increasing rather than solving the problems of violence, disorganization, weak governance, and lack of development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Uganda.

- To take a strong stand against the use of child soldiers by fully complying with the U.S. Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2009 by prohibiting military assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other governments until they meet specific benchmarks, including ending recruitment of child soldiers, demobilizing children from existing forces, and bringing recruiters of child soldiers to justice, as urged by Amnesty International.

- To actively seek an effective United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to end irresponsible trade in weapons, munitions, and other military and policing equipment that often inflict misery and carnage on people, especially in Africa.

- To provide all possible support, funding, and facilitation to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for their enduring and as yet not fully funded work to meet the needs of former child soldiers, refugees, victims of rape and abuse, and the wider population displaced by the militias, including the LRA, and armies of the Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan, and Uganda. For further information – Chair, ACAS Task Force on Demilitarizing Africa and African Studies: Prof. David Wiley, (Michigan State University) wiley@msu.edu, (517)332-0333 ACAS CoChairpersons: Prof. Eve Sandberg (Oberlin College) eve.sandberg@oberlin.edu (440)775-3003 Prof. Noah Zerbe (Humboldt State University) noah.zerbe@humboldt.edu ACAS Board of Directors and Advisory Council: http://concernedafricascholars.org/people/board/

I, too, support the resolution. Many thanks to ACAS and the ASA for publicizing the issues.

I, too, fully support the resolution.

I support the ACAS statement to the U.S. government.

I fully support the ACAS resolution on the LRA and Central Africa.

I am glad that the ASA is taking this step. As I know from experience when Invisible Children got involved with students at my institution, the group is very problematic - and this video appeal is quite typical of their approach. They may be well meaning at bottom, but they seem to have little grasp of the wider context of LRA origins and activities - and, it seemed, little interest in acquiring a better understanding. Normally, their claims could be dismissed as silly but harmless popular rhetoric (rather like claims to end hunger "tomorrow"), but the demand that the US get militarily involved in some way might well cause real damage.

I support the resolution.

This is a very thoughtful, inclusive and important resolution. I support it.

I support the resolution.

I support the resolution.

I fully support the resolution.

I support the resolution.

Thank you ASA for posting this resolution, which I support. I am very concerned about U.S. military intervention, under the guise of humanitarian goals, a familiar theme with a very long history of atrocities.

I strongly support the resolution.
Catharine Newbury (2012-04-27 14:17:27)
I strongly support this resolution. Many thanks to ACAS for submitting it, and to the ASA Board for taking this under consideration.

Jan Burgess (2012-04-27 14:45:56)
Echoing Carol’s comments above on US military intervention, I too support the resolution.

I support the resolution and having been on the Board some years back I think it is an appropriate expression of a professional opinion by the Board.

David Newbury (2012-04-27 15:16:49)
The ASA has long sought greater engagement with African issues. "Invisible Children” certainly increases awareness of an important problem. However, effective action must be informed action, and this video either distorts or omits many important aspects of the challenges facing northern Uganda. In the past, evangelists, colonial advocates, investors, military advocates and many other outsiders have all claimed to act in Africa’s interests. Too few have worked through local groups to address local problems, fully aware of the wider ramifications of such external initiatives. The ACAS statement clearly sets out such concerns, and acknowledges local initiatives; I hope the ASA will fully endorse the ACAS initiative.

I support the resolution and encourage ASA members to do so as well. I also share Carol Thompson’s concerns about the growing militarization of US Africa policy.

Elias Bongmba (2012-04-27 15:32:36)
I am thankful for the thoughtfulness that has gone into this letter. I also appreciate the recommendations to President Obama and American leaders. Those recommendations stand by themselves and worth considering even if the ideas were proposed in a non Kony context. I must also say that the letter recognizes efforts by the African Union to deal with this matter. However, I would not sign the letter as it is now. First, the premise that targeting, capturing and bringing Kony to justice would further destabilize the region cannot be sustained given the atrocities that Kony and his followers have committed. This argument seems to endorse the so called power vacuum doctrine. Second, even if one agrees with the claim that the Ugandan military has been violent (and I agree they have been violent), the damage Kony has done is unacceptable and after many years of terror, he should be brought to justice. Third I think this appeal should actually go to the Ugandan and AU officials who need to invest in peace building. If we decry foreign intervention, we should make the case to African leaders. Fourth, the Kony situation offers an opportunity to visit the conflict in the region, but to imply that capturing Kony or taking actions to end his terror in the region might lead to cause might also be imaginary and reactionary. One wonders if the issue here is foreign intervention, or the fear that were Kony to be captured and brought to justice, his supporter would continue to war! Finally, rather than write a letter, the ASA and its member organizations could think of asking for a broad based conversation with the US administration, drawing on the expertise we have in the ASA to shape policy in Africa.

I support the resolution.

James Mittelman (2012-04-28 16:09:37)
I support the resolution.

Kari Bergstrom Henquinet (2012-04-28 20:52:42)
I support this resolution.
Merle Bowen (2012-04-29 11:09:35)
I support the resolution.

Judith Van Allen (2012-04-29 14:14:53)
I support the resolution.

Brian Dowd-Uribe (2012-04-30 16:17:48)
I support this resolution.

Jeanne Marie Penvenne (2012-05-04 12:57:04)
I support the resolution.

Eve Sandberg (2012-05-04 20:07:15)
I support the ASA endorsing this statement (with its amendments). Our ASA needs to become a greater voice in national African affairs.

New ASA News Editor (2012-03-19 16:51)

Laura Seay is the new editor of the ASA News. She serves as assistant professor of political science at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Seay’s research is centered around the study of social service delivery and non-state-based forms of governance in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. She is currently completing her first book, Substituting for the State, about evaluating the role of civil society organizations in providing health care and education in response to the Congolese state’s weakness in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, DRC. Her research and teaching interests include qualitative methods, African politics and development, post-conflict state reconstruction, and piracy.

Seay earned a PhD in Government from the University of Texas at Austin in 2009. She blogs about African politics, development, and security at Texas in Africa, contributes to the Christian Science Monitor’s Africa Monitor blog, the Guardian’s Global Development blog, The Atlantic.com, and Al Jazeera English. She is happy to be helping to revive the ASA News and looks forward to receiving your feedback on the new site and submissions for future issues.
African Humanities Program (2012-03-19 16:54)

Training A New Generation of Scholars

By Andrzej W. Tymowski

In 2008, when the African Humanities Program (AHP) was first proposed, it seemed an idea whose time was right. Higher education in Africa, especially in the humanities disciplines, was caught in a scissors. On the one side, an urgent need for new university teachers due to ballooning enrollments driven by demographic pressures and politicians’ commitments to the widest possible educational opportunity. On the other, heavy teaching loads prevented new faculty from finishing the research and writing they needed to gain credentials and assure the future supply of university teachers. The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) proposed to alleviate this problem with AHP fellowships for dissertation completion and early-career postdoctoral research and writing.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York funded the proposal and asked ACLS to offer fellowships to individuals in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Africa as a way of complementing its own and other foundations’ ongoing institutional grants. Today, AHP is in its fourth annual cycle of competitions. A good moment to take stock and look forward, with an eye to how members of the African Studies Association might become involved.

From the start, ACLS staff and advisers realized that a straightforward fellowship program would not meet the need. A program in Africa would have to offer more comprehensive support than a similar one in the U.S.A. Therefore, we designed the AHP to go beyond ‘buying time” through fellowships. We proposed writing residencies for Fellows at centers for advanced study in Africa and assistance for the publication of manuscripts. As a long-term goal, we sought to build an AHP community of advisers, peer-reviewers, and Fellows that could eventually perform functions similar to the ones the African Studies Association provides to its members in North America, including access to international scholarship.

We began in 2008, then, with launch meetings at African universities to introduce the AHP, to encourage eligible early career scholars to apply, to invite senior scholars to act as mentors and peer reviewers, and to establish rapport and credibility with host universities. Because we wanted to reach scholars doing excellent work in all regions of our five countries, we held 7-8 launch meetings per year at a number of universities, among them: Ghana-Legon in Ghana; Ibadan, Ile-Ife, Kano, Zaria, and Nsukka in Nigeria; Makerere in Uganda; Dar es Salaam in Tanzania; and Witwatersrand, Cape Town, the University of Fort
Hare in Port Elizabeth, and the University of the Western Cape in South Africa.

Launches were enthusiastically received by applicants and mentors alike. For this reason, and because every year we received new requests from universities who wanted to host, we continued to “launch” in each of the four years. Workshops at the meetings gave valuable feedback to applicants on their draft-application essays, a process that also benefited mentors and reviewers. As they discussed strengths and weaknesses of draft applications, they identified elements and qualities that any good application – and by extension, any good research project – should contain. This developed a sense of shared standards among applicants, mentors, and, fellowship recipients. It also publically articulated the criteria of assessment for the benefit of all.

Many comments at these discussions were similar to what could be heard in workshops held anywhere in the world. Application essays need to present a clear argument, they should frame the particular case being examined in categories understandable (and enticing) to scholars working on other geographic areas and in other sub-disciplines. Sources and methods should be selected to address specific research questions. The workplan must be feasible and must move the project effectively to conclusion.

Other questions, however, spoke directly to the African context. Some of the most intractable concerned the AHP’s call for basic research in the humanities. Many scholars received the call joyfully, because they had long ago wearied of having to justify all research by its relevance to development. “The AHP is not only offering us a chance to pursue our true interests in literature, language, history, and philosophy,” one scholar at an early launch meeting said, breathing a sigh of relief. “It is calling us to return to our roots in the interpretation of what it means to be human. Of what African societies, cultures, and languages have contributed to the world’s knowledge.” Two decades of structural adjustment had inflicted enormous damage to basic research in the humanities. Departments changed their titles to demonstrate their relevance (e.g., from “History” to “History and Heritage Management”). Programs have appeared in what might be called the applied humanities (“Theatre for Development,” “The Ethics of HIV management”).

At the same meeting another colleague objected to the exclusiveness of the call for basic research in the humanities. “The principle of knowledge for its own sake is selfish. All of us in African universities owe something to our societies, which have allowed us to pursue intellectual life at the university. We must give back.” According to this way of thinking, “applied humanities” not only have a reason for being, they should be eligible for AHP funding.

What ASA members can do

The ASA has already done much. It accompanied the earliest planning for AHP as an inspiration for an exciting, collegial form of intellectual and professional sociability. Presidents of the association have served on the AHP Selection Committee and attended its meetings in Africa: Sandra Barnes, Aili Tripp, Paul Zeleza, and Charles Ambler. The ASA-Presidential Fellows initiative, instituted to bring African scholars to the ASA annual meeting, has co-sponsored with AHP the visits of three AHP Fellows in 2010 and 2011.

We invite the interest and engagement of ASA members. Please visit the AHP website [1]www.acls.org/programs/ahp to become familiar with AHP Fellows and their projects. Follow the AHP on Facebook at [2]https://www.facebook.com/ACLS.AHP. Attend the panels at the ASA meeting that feature AHP Fellows. Encourage eligible African colleagues to apply – there will be four more fellowship competitions, 2012 to 2015.

As AHP moves into the next four years, these competitions will remain the central priority. However, we will begin increasingly to emphasize writing for publication and the internationalization of
scholarship. We invite the thoughts and energies of ASA members for practical suggestions on how this can be done. Please visit the Facebook page for contacts with AHP Fellows and to offer suggestions for cooperation.

Andrzej W. Tymowski is Director of International Programs at the American Council of Learned Societies.

Left to Right: Andrea Johnson, Program Officer, Higher Education and Libraries in Africa, International Program of Carnegie Corporation; AHP postdoctoral fellows Susan Kiguli, Literature, Makerere University and Leketi Makalela, Linguistics, University of the Witwatersrand; Kwesi Yankah, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana-Legon and Associate Director, AHP. Taken at 2011 ASA Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Future Federal Funding for International Studies (2012-03-19 16:55)

By Judith Byfield

FY 2011 proved to be a dismal economic year for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs. Title VI funds distributed through the Department of Education support African Studies centers designated as National Resource Centers (NRCs). National Resource centers provide a wealth of academic programs on Africa as well as language training and outreach to K-12 teachers and schools, while the Fulbright/Hays program supports students conducting field work in Africa. In the last grant cycle FY 2010 - 2013, the number of successful African Studies centers increased to twelve: Boston University; Harvard University, Indiana University, Michigan State University, Ohio University, UC-Berkeley, University of Flora, University of Kansas, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Yale University. The joy from this successful competition dissipated in fiscal year (FY) 2011 when funds were cut by approximately forty percent. The reduction of federal funds compounded an already poor economic climate for each university was in its own distinctive process of belt-tightening exercises.

The picture for FY 2013 offers the slightest glimmer of improvement as the 2013 budget requests a small increase for Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs. This increase of $1.7 million represents a 2.3 % increase over the FY 2012 funding level ( $74.037 M). This increase will not restore funds to continuation grants, such as the NRCs, or to other programs eliminated, and it is still very far from FY 2010 funding levels when the programs received $123.936 M. An attempt to provide a small increase cannot be dismissed in our current economic climate, although it is unclear if the funds will actually be dispersed in the near future. Close observers of Washington suggest it is highly unlikely that the budget will be approved before the November elections. Furthermore, since the Super Committee failed to identify where $1.2 trillion could be cut from the budget, it may still trigger automatic cuts.

Though gloomy, the circumstances require that we support efforts to protect the gains we have made in integrating international education generally and African Studies specifically into the nation's universities and colleges. Intellectually and pedagogically we cannot afford to withdraw from international education. There are a number of organizations representing international educators and African Studies in the halls of Congress. The ASA is an active member of the Coalition for International Education. We will use the newsletter to periodically update the ASA membership on the discussions about Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs. We will also alert you to letter-writing campaigns to members of the Senate and Congress. Hopefully our combined voices will help to restore and even surpass previous levels of funding to international education and African Studies specifically.

Judith Byfield is Past President and Associate Professor of History at Cornell University. She is the ASA Board’s representative to the Coalition for International Education.
Suzanne Moyer Baazet has been involved with the ASA since 2008 when she joined the organization as Senior Program Manager. This will be Suzanne’s second term as Interim Executive Director, having previously served in the role in 2009-2010. With an academic background in business and a passion for international development and cooperation, Suzanne has spent most of her career in NGO and association management. Prior to joining the ASA, she served as the Financial Director and Executive Director of AIESEC, where she designed and implemented international internship programs for University students in over 90 countries. It was during her time as the Director of AIESEC that Suzanne had her first opportunity to work in Africa. Through AIESEC, Suzanne attended conferences and coordinated exchange programs in Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Egypt, Senegal, Morocco, and Tunisia. This experience left Suzanne with a strong desire to return to the continent. In 2005, after leaving AIESEC, she spent time in Kenya working on a trade development project. The following year the opportunity to return to Africa arose again in the form of a Fulbright grant and Suzanne relocated to Morocco to conduct research on the implementation of the Morocco-US Free Trade Agreement.

Suzanne is currently co-located between Princeton, NJ, and Rabat, Morocco. Since leaving her full-time position with the ASA, she has served as an NGO and development consultant on a wide range of projects with organizations such as USAID, US Commercial Services, Vital Voices, PNB-NAPEO, and the High Atlas Foundation. She has also been involved in the start-up of two companies generating more than 20 new jobs in Morocco. Suzanne holds a BSBA Summa Cum Laude in International Business and Honors Accounting from Ohio State University, a Certificate of Arabic Language Study from the Arabic Language Institute of Fes, and hopes to begin a Doctoral program focused on economic development and entrepreneurship in North Africa in the coming years. She speaks fluent French, Moroccan “Darija”, and Arabic.
Edited by Scott Straus and Lars Waldorf, the 2011 volume Remaking Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights After Mass Violence generated critical acclaim from the scholarly community for its interdisciplinary approach to understanding the challenges facing Rwanda today. The government of Rwanda, however, was not pleased with the volume’s conclusions, and it responded via state and social media with personal attacks on the credibility of authors of several of the book’s chapters. ASA News editor Laura Seay talked with Scott Straus about these reaction to Remaking Rwanda and the broader challenges facing researchers working on Rwanda.

Could you briefly describe what Remaking Rwanda is about? Remaking Rwanda is an edited volume that critically examines contemporary, post-genocide Rwanda. The volume is dedicated to the memory of Alison Des Forges, a remarkable human rights activist and historian who died in a plane crash three years ago. The book brings together 29 scholars and human rights researchers, principally those who have recently conducted fieldwork in the country but also those who are veteran observers of Rwanda. Divided into five main sections, the book includes 26 chapters ranging in topic from politics to justice to rural reengineering and much more. The book aims to provide a multi-faceted, though largely critical, approach to issues in contemporary Rwanda. Were you surprised by the official Rwandan reaction to Remaking Rwanda? Why do you think the government was so angered by some of the contributions in the book? I was a bit surprised at the vitriol, but not the gist. The reaction confirmed one of the central arguments of the book, which is that there is little space for criticism and open inquiry in contemporary Rwanda. If you depart from official scripts or question the country’s direction, the typical reaction is not engagement, but attack, dismissal, and name-calling. To that end, pro-government sources created a blog to attack the book (a blog that was, in turn, featured on the website of the Rwandan Embassy to the United States). On the blog, the book’s authors were denounced as vultures, pathological, fraudulent, unethical, unprofessional, friends of genocide deniers, and the like. The reaction also revealed an external communications strategy, which is to stigmatize critics outside of Rwanda. While being attacked is, of course, no fun, my real concern is for what the reaction says about the political and social environment in Rwanda now and for the future. There my response was more one of sadness than surprise. No one can deny the extraordinarily complex challenges of governing post-genocide Rwanda, and the government has made important gains in a number of sectors. But intimidating and attacking critics will not, in my view, serve the country well in the long run. Why pro-government actors reacted as they did requires some conjecture on my part. On the one hand, the government’s domestic and international strategy is to silence critics, and the reaction was consistent with that approach. On the
other hand, attacking the book meant that the book received more attention than it might have otherwise. My instinct here is that academics and human rights organizations remain some of the only preserves of legitimate, non-partisan external criticism. The Rwandan model of what we call in the book “transformative authoritarianism”—remake the country’s society, economy, and polity but with a heavy hand—has earned the government much accolade. Foreign governments, international financial institutions, journalists, and streams of American students are wowed at the country’s progress. But scholars who have observed the country over time, who maintain networks of long-term contacts, or who have recently conducted rural fieldwork come to different conclusions. Human rights communities are especially attuned to repression in Rwanda. In short, I would conjecture that pro-government sources feel a need to attack academics and human rights organizations because these remain some of the only remaining sources of criticism in contemporary debates about Rwanda.

Scott Straus What can the response to Remaking Rwanda tell us about broader challenges confronting researchers working in Rwanda? One has to recognize a diversity of views among scholars. Some serious researchers who work on Rwanda conduct their scholarship or come to conclusions that pose little risk for the current government. For these researchers, I do not foresee a major change in the research environment. But for scholars who work on more sensitive topics or who come to more critical conclusions, the reaction to Remaking Rwanda affirms what many of us knew already: if you go public with your criticism, you risk denunciation and, ultimately, access. That dilemma leads many of us, including myself, to practice self-censorship. The reaction to Remaking Rwanda will thus likely reinforce a tendency for scholars to avoid certain topics or to remain quiet if they hold views that they know would jeopardize their ability to conduct research in the country. What I don’t know is whether the attacks on Remaking Rwanda indicate a new, general level of government concern about academic research. If I am right that a part of the reason for the attacks is because academics are perceived as one of the remaining arenas of criticism, then we should expect increased scrutiny and difficulty for scholars down the road. To that end, during the past year, I have heard anecdotally of new restrictions and new bureaucratic obstacles for researchers. I do not know yet how widespread or institutionalized these are, but they could indicate a new government approach to deepen control over academic data and information. Are you referring to restrictions on all researchers or just foreign researchers? Do foreign researchers face different restrictions from local researchers? I am referring to foreign researchers. I do not know whether there are new restrictions for Rwandan researchers, but I would say that the pressure to police oneself is even more pronounced for domestic scholars than for foreign ones. Is researching controversial topics more difficult in Rwanda than it might be in other African states? Why or why not? That is a good question and, to an extent, I don’t know. I can tell you that I have recently done research in Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, and Senegal, and the research environment was much more relaxed in those states than in Rwanda. The challenging aspect of Rwanda is that the government has invested heavily in certain narratives of the past and the present, and the government aims to exercise strong control over those narratives. Deviating publicly from official scripts can feel dangerous, especially so for Rwandans in the country. Most researchers are aware that certain topics and certain opinions are effectively taboo. These aspects obviously constrain scholarship. That said, I am hesitant to claim that Rwanda is unique or more difficult than other places. My sense is that every location has specific complexities. Anything else I’ve forgotten to ask here? Discussions about Rwanda are becoming increasingly polarized among Rwandans, but also among scholars. Going forward, I think it crucial that we find ways to have reasoned, scholarly, and
even-handed discussions about the country—its past, its present, and its future. That can be difficult in the face of name-calling, but I think it essential that the scholarly community remains engaged on Rwanda and resists the nasty polarization that characterizes many discussions.

ASA News is Back! (2012-03-19 17:01)

Dear ASA members,

This will be an eventful year for the ASA. We are making many changes that will result in a more professional and reinvigorated organization and one that is more responsive to its membership. We carried out a [2]survey in November 2011 and got a very good sense of what the members want from the organization. Now it is up to us to start addressing those concerns. This revived newsletter is a first step, and we are grateful to [3]Laura Seay (Morehouse College) for graciously taking this on. I apologize in advance for the length of this letter, but there is a lot to report because we have not had a newsletter for so long!

Relocating Secretariat and Search for New Executive Director

Our contract with Rutgers University concludes at the end of 2012 and we have invited bids to re-locate the organization. We really appreciate all the support Rutgers has extended to the ASA as our host. Following our call for proposals in February, we have received indications of interest thus far from eight institutions. The board will decide on an institution by May 1. Our current Executive Director, Karen Jenkins, and the secretariat staff will also be leaving us May 1 as part of this transition. We are grateful to them for their years of service and many contributions to the association. [4]Suzanne Moyer, who was with the ASA from 2009-10, will be our interim director and we have full confidence in her abilities to get us through the next few months. As soon as we have selected an institutional home, we will be issuing a call for a new executive director. Things may get a little bumpy for the next few months, but we are confident that the ASA’s organizational presence will be strengthened by these changes.

Annual Meeting

Our goal is to make the annual meeting a more intellectually stimulating and exciting conference. We can always count on the annual meeting being fun — great networking opportunities, great mix of diverse peoples, and, of course, the dance party — which is not something one can say about all professional meetings. We have two first rate program chairs on board this year: Tejumola Olanyian (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Staffan Lindberg (University of Florida and University of Gothenburg). We also
have an extremely energetic Local Arrangements Committee Chair, Rick Shain (Philadelphia University). The 55th annual meeting in Philadelphia (Nov. 29-Dec. 1) promises to be one of our best as the caliber of many of the submissions appears to be very high.

One of our more exciting new developments has to do with the fact that we are getting more paper submissions from all over the world: from Kuwait to Russia, India, Mexico and, of course, from all over Africa. We have always said we are an international organization, but it is more true now than ever. We reached out to African Studies centers and programs all over the world and this has had a huge payoff.

We have already changed the application system so that one pays registration fees only after submitting a proposal. One must then pay in order to be listed in the program. This has helped boost our submissions.

We have made numerous changes that will improve the quality of the conference: we have shifted some of the program related tasks from the secretariat to the Program committee, e.g., scheduling of panels. We have taken measures to ensure that panels on similar topics are scheduled appropriately. We are bringing back more discussants into the program. We are encouraging participants to send their papers to the discussants and fellow panelists ahead of time, and are looking into options for posting papers online in advance of the meeting. We will be taking note of no-shows. These are practices which lapsed over the years. We are committed to providing AV to as many of our participants as possible. We have changed the schedule of the conference in a way that brings in more participation into some of the key events and avoids the Sunday morning slump in attendance. We have introduced a series of pre-conference workshops and a dinner for past ASA presidents.

We are getting more junior scholars engaged in the ASA, but need to do more in this area. To this end, we are trying to generate more submissions for a Graduate Student paper award and some of the coordinate organizations are doing the same. The board is also launching a mentoring session where students can meet in small groups with faculty to discuss issues pertaining to Africa-related research. Each forum will have a particular theme, focusing on fieldwork work, methods, publishing, grantwriting, and other such concerns. We encourage junior scholars to suggest themes and faculty to organize or participate in these fora. This forum should provide grad students a way to network with each other and established scholars.

A big welcome back to our anthropologists this year, who have suffered conflicting annual meeting schedules with AAA. My understanding is that the ASA tried to coordinate with AAA when the current contracts were signed, but were trumped by AAA’s own scheduling prerogatives. We will continue to work with AAA in planning future conferences, but there are unfortunately no guarantees that the same thing won’t happen again. We will have the same problem with overlapping meetings in 2013 and 2015.

Publications

After many years of deliberation, the ASA Publications Committee is exploring options to find a university press to publish the ASA journals, African Studies Review and History in Africa. This is intended to improve the management of the journals and give them the visibility they deserve.

The African Studies Review, together with the ASA Board, has launched a lecture on state of the art research in African Studies. Our first awardee was Thandika Mkandawire, who spoke to a standing-room only audience at the last ASA meeting. The ASR board nominates the awardees and their lecture is intended for publication in the African Studies Review. The ASR also hosts a workshop featuring the editors of African Studies journals.
Awards

We have launched a new (endowed) Bethwell Ogot award for the best work in East African studies. Many thanks to Tom Spear (University of Wisconsin-Madison) for helping develop the guidelines.

Some of the awards we give have no funding behind them. This means that the stakeholders involved with these awards are going to have to raise the funds or the awards will need to be dropped especially as new ones are created. We would much prefer to keep them and will be seeking your support to fund the ones you feel most passionate about.

Strengthening Ties to the Continent

Former ASA President Sandra Barnes and myself have been integrally involved in the Carnegie funded African Humanities Program (AHP) of the American Council of Learned Societies is in its fourth year of holding competitions for its awards. The ACLS program has proven to be an excellent way for the ASA to strengthen its ties to African scholars by bringing AHP fellows to the ASA annual meeting as Presidential Scholars. Thus far, Rutgers University has hosted the scholars prior to the annual meeting. We will be encouraging other institutions who would like to host AHP fellows prior to the annual meeting and help defray their costs.

Membership and Coordinate Organizations

We are introducing rolling membership fees to make it easier for our members to maintain their membership. We will be employing the services of a company specializing in membership services to assist us in this area of operations. We are taking steps to improve communication with the coordinate organizations and will be relaunching a membership directory.

The Board

We have a very hardworking and dedicated board. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for their support and assistance through some of the challenges we have faced this past year. At the next board meeting we will be approving a new set of Policies and Procedures that reflect a consensus on how we think the organization should be run. We hope that this will help strengthen continuity in institutional memory for the new executive director and for future board members.

International Higher Education

This is a challenging time in international education, given the cuts in Title VI programs and other funding sources for international study and research. The ASA has been involved in efforts to confront these challenges, particularly through the Coalition on International Education (see article by past president Judith Byfield). Increasingly, due to such cuts and to a changing international environment, some Africanist scholars are gravitating towards applying for research support from the Defense Department, raising difficult questions about the implications of accepting funding from such sources. We had a board sponsored panel: “What Role Now for National Security Funding of African Studies?” at the last annual meeting and there was a strong feeling expressed by participants that developing international research capacities is primarily the role of the Department of Education and the education system, and not that of the defense or diplomatic agencies. This has been the position of the ASA since 1993, when the board adopted a resolution to that effect.

Donations
I encourage you to support the many exciting initiatives in which we are engaged. Please do so by contributing to our exchanges with African scholars, to the book and paper awards, to the African Studies Review “State of the Art” Lecture, the Bashorun M.K.O. Abiola Lecture, Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Award and the ASA Endowment. Our donations page be found at the [8]link below.

Thank you for your continued support. Please keep sending us your ideas and suggestions to make this a better organization.

With all best wishes,

Aili Tripp
President, African Studies Association
Professor, Political Science and Gender & Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison


1.2 May

ASA Member News (2012-05-28 13:22)

Elizabeth Schmidt, professor of African History at Loyola University Maryland, received the “Faculty Award for Outstanding Service-Learning” at a March 2012 Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Conference sponsored by 29 colleges and universities in Maryland and the District of Columbia. The award recognized her students’ work with Baltimore City Community College’s Refugee Youth Project and Soccer Without Borders-Baltimore, which provide academic and extra-curricular activities for African and Asian middle school and high school students.

Winners of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation 2012 awards this year include Elisha Renne (Professor of Anthropology and Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan); Luise White (Professor of History, University of Florida); Catherine Bestman (Professor of Anthropology, Colby College) and James McCann (Professor of History, Boston University)

James H. Mittelman, university professor of international affairs, School of International Services, American
University, was named Honorary Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.

This year’s National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award winners in political science included Robert Blair, Yale University (Christopher Blattman, advisor); Eric Krammon, University of California, Los Angeles (Daniel Posner, advisor); Barry Driscoll, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Michael Schatzberg, advisor); Kathleen Klaus, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Scott Straus, advisor); Taylor Price, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Aili Tripp, advisor); and Brett Carter, Harvard University (James Robinson, advisor).

Sandra Barnes, former ASA President, was honored in an event, Anthropologies of Africa Across Decades and Disciplines, at the University of Pennsylvania, April 28, 2012, on the occasion of her retirement. Dr. Barnes received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1974 and has been teaching at Penn since 1973. She was the founding director of Penn’s African Studies Center and a consulting curator in the African Section of the Penn Museum. Read more about Dr. Barnes, her work, and her legacy [1]here.

Please let us know about your promotions, awards, accomplishments and other news so we can share the information with other ASA members in ASA News. Next deadline: August 1 for September 1 publication. Submit to ASA News Editor, Laura Seay, [2]lseay@morehouse.edu

1. https://www.sas.upenn.edu/anthropology/content/honoring-dr-sandra-barnes
2. mailto:lseay@morehouse.edu

ASA Updates (2012-05-28 13:24)

New Coordinate Organizations

The ASA Board voted at its Spring Board meeting to approve four new coordinate organizations. We welcome the following new coordinate organizations of the ASA:

Central African Studies Association
Congolese Studies Association-Association des études congolaises
Uganda Studies Group
Zambezi African Studies Association

New Affiliate Organizations
The ASA Board voted at its Spring Board meeting to approve four new affiliate organizations. We welcome the following new affiliate organizations of the ASA:

French Colonial Historical Society
Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA)
Senegalese Studies Group
Wales African Studies Network

ASA Policies & Procedures

American Council of Learned Societies
Sandra Barnes, Professor Emerita of Anthropology, at the University of Pennsylvania, and former president of the African Studies Association attended the 2012 ACLS Annual Meeting as the ASA delegate on May 10-12 at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. She took the place of regular delegate Professor Joseph Miller. Barnes and ASA President Aili Tripp gave talks at the ACLS meeting in a session on “The Future of International Education and Research Collaborations in Challenging Times.”

Past President’s Dinner
Past President Charles Ambler (Professor of History, University of Texas at El Paso) will be hosting this year’s dinner for past ASA presidents at the annual meeting in Philadelphia. It will be held Friday, November 30, 2012, at 6:30 pm.


ASA ANNUAL MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA
November 29-December 1, 2012

CALL FOR GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPANTS: Dissertation Project Workshop

Organizers:
Victoria Bernal, UC, Irvine (Anthropology) [vbernal@uci.edu](mailto:vbernal@uci.edu)
Sheryl McCurdy, University of Texas (Global Health) [sheryl.mccurdy@gmail.com](mailto:sheryl.mccurdy@gmail.com)

The Workshop is sponsored by the African Studies Association and will be held on Friday, November 30, 4:30-6:15 pm, at the Annual Meetings in Philadelphia

Purpose: This ASA Mentoring Workshop is designed to help graduate students strengthen their dissertation projects and improve their chances of funding, as well as to facilitate interdisciplinary networking among graduate students and faculty in African Studies. The Workshop will provide mentoring to graduate students at all stages whose doctoral projects are related to Africa. There will be opportunities for discussion and feedback with faculty mentors and fellow graduate students from a range of institutions and disciplines and drawing on various regional and thematic interests and expertise. The workshop aims to facilitate research and create support networks across the disciplines in African Studies.

Workshop structure: An introductory panel will provide an overview of some current issues related to African Studies research. Then participants will meet in smaller breakout sessions with faculty mentors to discuss issues related to their research plans and career stages. Depending on the registered applicants’ needs these sessions will address grant proposals, research design, funding opportunities, collaborative relationships across institutions and continents, and crafting the dissertation and other writing projects.

To Reserve Your Spot: Please send an email to the organizers with: (1) a 250-500 word abstract of your research interests and plans; and the following information: (2) your stage in the thesis/dissertation process; 3) your contact information, department and institution, and (4) any particular issues you would like the workshop to address. Participation in the workshop is free with your ASA conference registration.

Workshop Reservation Deadline: July 1, 2012
See ASA website for conference info and registration

48
Eligibility: The workshop is open to graduate students at all stages. Projects linking the African continent and diasporas, and comparative projects with a significant African component are welcome. Students at institutions that do not have African Studies Programs are strongly encouraged to participate.

RESERVING RECEPTION/MEETING SPACE

The ASA offers complimentary meeting space to Coordinate Organizations and institutions whose participants are fully paid meeting attendees and welcomes your request for space. Scheduling requests are met on a first come, first serve basis. Please fill out the following forms:

Business meeting

Click [3] here for information about the business meeting.

Reception

Click [4] here for information about the reception.

BOOK SIGNINGS OR READINGS

We welcome members who are authors who wish to do book signings or readings in the exhibit hall to submit an email indicating the request, the title of your book and CV and preferred time. Requests will be honored on a first come first serve basis.

Please send to: secretariat@africanstudies.org

FILM SCREENINGS

Kenneth w. Harrow, Distinguished Professor of English at Michigan State University ([5]harrow@msu.edu), has kindly agreed to organize 5-6 film screenings at the ASA annual meeting (roughly two a day) in a separate room. We are also planning on arranging a videomarket place in the exhibition hall where people can check out DVDs and view the films that interest them in a booth. To submit requests for screenings, please fill out [6]this form.

TO EXHIBIT OR ADVERTISE AT THE ASA ANNUAL MEETING

Please fill out [7]this form.

Exhibitors include:
Scholarly and commercial presses
Film producers
Sponsors of internships, exchanges and grant making opportunities
Publishers of journals and teaching materials
Research institutes
Information technology companies
Universities and university departments

SPONSORSHIPS AT ASA ANNUAL MEETING
Increase the profile of your press, journal, organization, company, or department by sponsoring one of the following:

Dance Party  
Welcome Reception  
Conference Bags  
Name Badge Lanyards  
Exhibit Hall Beverage Bars

1. mailto:vbernal@uci.edu  
3. https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cMdeUX1TDAhhoyg  
4. https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_dg0Nw9TjZFFcK16  
5. mailto:harrow@msu.edu  
6. https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_7NGVjj5wW1ArWZ  


The ASA, which has been active in the Coalition on International Education through our representative Professor Judith Byfield (Cornell University), signed the May 2012 letter (below) to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee leadership and Labor/HHS/ED Subcommittee Members and staff on FY2013 funding for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs.

MEMORANDUM

TO:  
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman  
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations, U.S. Senate

Members and Staff of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations, U.S. Senate

FROM: The Coalition for International Education

RE: FY 2013 Funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies:

The Higher Education Act, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)

50
The undersigned organizations of the Coalition for International Education appreciate the continued Congressional support for the U.S. Department of Education’s premier international and foreign language education programs noted above.

We recognize the difficult choices on spending priorities that must be made as Congress seeks to reduce the deficit. Among the highest priorities should be education, including investment in international education, in which the federal government’s role is critical. The nation needs a steady supply of graduates with deep expertise in strategic languages, world areas, transnational trends and global business, while the need for imparting basic global competencies to students across the educational spectrum is greater than ever.

We remain deeply concerned that the sudden and dramatic $50 million or 40% cut in FY 2011, followed by an additional $1.6 million or 2% cut in FY 2012, has eliminated or damaged programs vital to the national interest. In light of continued overall education budget constraints, we urge Congress to safeguard these programs from further cuts, and to provide in FY 2013 no less than the President’s FY 2013 request of $75.729 million, which includes $68.3 million for HEA-Title VI and $7.5 million for Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6). The amount proposed for Title VI restores the $1.6 million cut Congress made in FY 2012.

HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are the federal government’s most comprehensive investment in the development of high quality national capacity in international, foreign language and global business education and research. Programs support complementary activities to create and sustain our international and foreign language education capabilities throughout the education pipeline. Unlike other federal agency programs supporting foreign language training, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are foundational programs, supporting education and research in a wide variety of world areas, disciplines and languages (over 200) and at all levels of education, thus ensuring the nation’s capacity to respond to new and unanticipated global challenges. Today these programs represent roughly 0.1% of the Department of Education’s discretionary budget, an extremely modest investment in a growing need vital to our national security and economic competitiveness.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, Congress significantly enhanced these programs to increase the number of Americans trained in strategic foreign languages and targeted world areas of strategic national need, such as Central and South Asia, the Middle East, Russia, and the Independent States of the former Soviet Union. Between FY 2000 - 2008, foreign language training capacity and the number of FLAS fellowships for these world areas nearly doubled. In some of the most critical languages, enrollments increased threefold. Unfortunately, the recent budget reductions have pushed back Title VI/Fulbright funding to pre-September 11, 2001 levels in current dollars, putting our nation’s strengthened international education capacity at risk.

As a result of the FY 2011 cuts alone, we have seen the essential fabric of this world-class infrastructure begin to unravel, threatening most of the nation’s foremost language, world area, and global business programs. Surveys on the impact of the FY 2011 cuts in the current (2011-2012) academic year indicate:

- Reduction or cancellation of over 400 less commonly-taught language and area studies classes in areas of national need, affecting over 6,300 students;

- Reductions in international business programs resulting in over 4,300 fewer graduates with international business expertise and 10,000 fewer business professionals trained;
• Reductions in language resources and research resulting in over 5,900 fewer language teachers trained, involving 29 languages of national need;

• Reductions or elimination of access to overseas research resources in strategic host countries for thousands of US scholars and study abroad students; and

• Reductions in international and foreign language expertise outreach forcing deep cuts to activities in K-12 schools, underrepresented populations, minority institutions of higher education, community colleges, businesses, as well as in federal, state and local agencies, including the military.

Continuation of the deep cuts noted above into FY 2013 and beyond will further weaken this infrastructure, as federal funding reductions will not be replaced with non-federal funds. Prolonging the losses will damage our long-term national security and global economic capabilities by reducing—and in some cases eliminating—the production of our next generation of international experts and a globally competent workforce, at the same time the nation’s shortfalls in these areas continue to increase.

We appreciate your leadership in safeguarding this modest Department of Education investment that is so vital to America’s wellbeing. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Appeal to Safeguard Mali’s Cultural Heritage (2012-05-28 14:55)

The following is an appeal from the School for African Heritage/Ecole du Patrimoine Africain:

May 2012

All specialized agencies and heritage professionals join the School for African Heritage (EPA - Ecole du Patrimoine Africain) in sending out this appeal: a heartfelt plea in view of the urgency to protect the cultural heritage of Mali, which is the heritage of Africa and of all humanity. The call comes following the severe crisis which, since 24 March 2012, has affected the north of the Republic of Mali with the presence of the MNLA forces, Ansar ad-Din, AQIM and other armed fundamentalists, bringing about a tragic situation that makes us fear the worst for the future of the cultural heritage of Mali, a country known for its ancient civilization.

The recent desecrations (two mausoleums of Saints at Timbuktu, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site, on Friday 4 May, perpetrated by the fundamentalist group, Ansar ad-Din), as well as serious threats to all cultural assets in the north, confirm the fear by specialized heritage agencies and professionals. With great concern for the tragic situation of Mali’s heritage, we come together to denounce and condemn these acts with utmost resolution.

It should be remembered that Mali has an extremely rich and varied cultural heritage, which is eloquent proof of the African contribution to world civilization. Evidence of this includes the many ancient manuscripts of Timbuktu (intellectual and spiritual capital and centre of the spread of Islam throughout Africa in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries), the famous earthen buildings and structures of ancient cities, terracotta of the Inner Niger Delta: all examples of secular traditions that have shaped the history of the great empires from the Sahel to the savannah. Today, Mali has four sites on UNESCO’s World Heritage List: the ancient city of Djenné (1988); Timbuktu (1988); the Bandiagara cliffs, Dogon Country (1989); and the Tomb of Askia, Gao (2004).
There are also six examples of intangible heritage inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, namely: the Cultural space of the Yaaral and Degal (2008); Septennial re-roofing ceremony of the Kamablon, sacred house of Kangaba (2009); Manden Charter, proclaimed in Kurukan Fuga (2009); the “Sanké mon” rite of collective fishing in Sanké (2009); Cultural practices and expressions related to the balafon (xylophone) of the Sénoufo communities of Mali and Burkina Faso (2011) and the Secret society of the Kôrêdugaw, the rite of wisdom in Mali (2011).

Many more recent markers and heritage sites such museums, monuments, memorials, conservatories, cultural centres and spaces are all indicators that testify to the cultural and intellectual dynamism of Mali today, sadly facing the double menace of intolerance, and looting and illicit traffic of cultural property.

There is also a serious humanitarian crisis, which manifests itself in the massive displacement of populations, especially from the North towards the interior as well as to border countries, in extremely difficult conditions racked with insecurity and humiliation. As of 05 April, 2012, the number of people displaced – the majority of whom are women and children – was estimated at more than 235,000 according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Along with a country’s cultural heritage, its most precious assets are its people, especially the youth.

The threats to security, economy and identity generated by this tragic situation, and the collateral effects, are also part of more global geopolitical context that could permanently destabilize the entire Sahel region and beyond.

Faced with this disastrous state of affairs, this appeal is intended as a unique opportunity to establish a network for advocacy and pressure, to inform and raise awareness nationally and internationally.

To this end, the implementation of international conventions for the protection of cultural, natural and intangible heritage, depends on the international community, including UNESCO and other international and regional institutions in charge of heritage, to act quickly; threats and damage to property should be assessed, and professional meetings should be organised to address this issue.


Our appeal is also directed to all political and administrative authorities as well as the National Army of the Republic of Mali, so that the best interest of the Malian nation takes precedence in ensuring a sustained process for a return to constitutional order and normalization in the north.

This appeal also invites all players in the field to strictly ensure the preservation, integrity and security of cultural goods and people in all their dimensions and components, especially in occupied areas in Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal and elsewhere in Mali.

Finally, we ask Mali’s neighbouring countries, whose hospitality and African solidarity we count on, to prevent the illicit transfer of objects and works of art from Mali through efficient customs and police controls at their borders.

Porto-Novo, 23 May 2012
Mali Crisis Resources (2012-05-28 15:00)

Mali experienced a coup in late March, followed quickly by a declaration of independence by MNLA rebels in the country’s north. As the country’s future remains uncertain, many academic specialists on Mali and the region are offering useful analyses:

- The African Arguments blog (a joint project of the Social Science Research Council and the Royal Africa Society) has run several excellent analyses of the Mali crisis.
- Northwestern University Department of Religion PhD candidate Alex Thurston writes the very insightful Sahel Blog.
- Haverford College political scientist Susanna Wing wrote about the crisis in Foreign Policy and was also interviewed by NPR, the BBC, and RFI.
- The Center for Global Development’s Todd Moss explained the causes of the crisis at UN Dispatch.

5. http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00r08zl
7. http://www.undispatch.com/there-was-a-coup-in-mali-here-is-why-you-should-care

---------

Host an ASA Presidential Fellow at Your Institution in November 2012 (2012-05-29 12:49)

We are delighted to announce the ASA Presidential Fellows for 2012. They are:

Gbemisola Adeoti (English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)
Jemima Asabea Anderson (English, University of Ghana, Legon)
Amidou Jean-Baptiste Sourou (Saint Augustine University of Tanzania)

The ASA Presidential Fellows Program was instituted in 2010 with the objective of inviting outstanding Africa-based scholars to attend the ASA Annual Meeting and spend time at African Studies programs/centers in the U.S. For the past two years, the ASA has worked with the African Humanities Program of the American Council of Learned Societies to identify scholars and to fund their visits to the ASA meeting. We invite institutions to apply to host one or more of the following individuals selected by the American Council of Learned Societies for up to a week prior to the annual meeting of the ASA. The institution would be expected to cover the costs of domestic travel and hotel at the institution, including an honorarium. For more information contact ASA interim executive director Suzanne Moyer Baazet (asaed@africanstudies.org), who will be assisting with the arrangements.
Gbemisola Adeoti holds a Ph D in English from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan. He is a Professor in the English Department of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He was once a Reporter/Researcher with The News Magazine, Lagos, before joining the academia. His areas of teaching and research include: Dramatic Literature, Poetry, Literary History/Theory and Popular Culture. He is the author of Naked Soles (poems), Voices Offstage: Nigerian Dramatists on Drama and Politics, Aesthetics of Adaptation in Contemporary Nigerian Drama, Co-editor (with Bjorn Beckman) of Intellectuals and African Development: Pretension and Resistance in African Politics and Editor of Muse and Mimesis: Critical Perspectives on Ahmed Yerima’s Drama. He was a British Academy Visiting Fellow at the Workshop Theatre, School of English, University of Leeds, United Kingdom in 2008 and a Postdoctoral Fellow of the African Humanities Program in residence at the International Institute for Advanced Studies of Culture, Institutions and Economic Enterprises (IIAS), Accra, Ghana from 2009-2010. He is currently the Director, Institute of Cultural Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria.

His AHP/ACLS project is on:

Politics and the Urban Experience in Postcolonial West African Literature

Imaginative literature in West Africa, like other parts of Africa, is a by-product of urbanisation. Many writers have depicted various dimensions of city life in their countries, through the genres of the novel, drama, poetry, and short story. They have grappled with the socio-political and economic conditions that exist in the cities, sometimes pitching the subalterns who live on the fringes of urban existence against the people of power. This is evident in the works of writers like Armah, Awoonor, Sutherland, Ekwensi, Achebe, Soyinka, Ososifan, Ousmane, Sowfall, and Sarif among others. This research focuses on the urban experience as captured in the postcolonial literature of West Africa. While considering the nature of politics that shape this experience, it contends that to understand the extent of postcolonial predicament, it is necessary to conceptually interrogate the cities. This is the crux of in-depth analyses of relevant primary texts in the research.

* * * * *

Jemima Asabea Anderson
Jemima Asabea Anderson is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, University of Ghana, Legon. She holds a Bachelor of Education (English) degree from University of Ibadan, a Master of Arts Degree in General Linguistics from Indiana University, Bloomington, U.S.A and both a Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in English from University of Ghana. Her areas of research interest are politeness in African languages and African varieties of English, cross-cultural pragmatics, speech acts, the codification of English in Ghana and language and gender in Africa. Some of her research articles have appeared in local and international peer-reviewed journals. She teaches courses in Phonetics and Phonology of English, Varieties and Functions of English, Discourse Analysis, Pragmatics and Sociolinguistics. Some of the awards she has received include the Fulbright Fellowship, the Korean Foundation Fellowship and the African Humanities Program/American Council of Learned Scholars Fellowship.

Her ASA presentation will be on:

From Mothers to Presidents: A Linguistic Analysis of Media Portrayal of Two Female African Presidents

In this presentation, she examines the media representation of two female African Political leaders: Ellen Sirleaf Johnson and Joyce Banda from a linguistic perspective. Several studies have shown that the media represent female politicians in ways that question or undermine their authority, competence and credibility as politicians (Ross, 1995, Kahn, 1996; Lithgow, 2000 and Gidengil and Everitt, 2003). Lithgow 2000, for instance, argues that the media downplays the professional achievements of women while they highlight their marital and maternal status. Using content analysis of reports from five different media sources, she compares the media coverage of Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, the first female African President and Joyce Banda, the second female African President. The reports on Ellen Sirleaf Johnson when she came to power in 2006 are compared to reports on Joyce Banda when she became president in 2012. The findings show that there are differences between the media presentations of these two female African political leaders. On the basis of the findings, she argues that there seems to be a reduction of gender imbalances in the way female African political leaders are portrayed, especially in the international media. She attributes this development to greater sensitivity about gender biases and professionalism on the part of the reporters.

* * * * *

Amidou Jean-Baptiste Sourou

Amidou Jean-Baptiste Sourou, citizen of Benin Republic, is Professor of Communications at Saint Augustine University of Tanzania in Mwanza, and teaches Rituals and Communications at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. He holds a BA, MA and PHD in Social Communications and Social Sciences from the Gregorian University. He also has a BA and MA in Theology from Universities in Padua and Rome. His research interests center on rites, dance and music, and the relationship between media, culture and religion, especially in Africa. His PhD thesis was about the interface between the entertainment (story telling, music, dance, etc) in the oral African culture and its articulation into mediated, public mass communication; the
interface of the religious oral language and religious media and how media pick up, articulate and “extend” the oral. His actual fieldwork involves the search of identity in ritual celebrations in African cities. He has published several books about African cultural, social and religious life, among them: “Afrique: Rites antiques célébrations modernes comment les Africains célébrent leurs rites aujourd’hui”. Africa: Ancient Rituals, New Celebrations, How Africans Celebrate their Rituals Today (Ed. Menaibuc, Paris, France). He is member of the International Society in Media, Religion and Culture, and Consultant for the Observatory of Media and Religion in Canada.

Dr. Sourou is the founder and the president of “Cedres NGO” which mission is the study of Benin, and African cultures, and their promotion through research, publications, and learning.

He speaks French, English, Italian, Spanish, Fon and Mina, and knows Latin.

Dr. Sourou’s ASA Presentation will be on:

Ritual Celebrations: The Development of New African “Hybrid” Cultures

This paper focuses on the contemporary ritual celebrations (weddings and funerals) among the Fon community in Benin. The rituals are directed by musical groups and masters of ceremonies who are able to invent a new “hybrid” form of traditional songs, mixing new and old languages and symbols. Without changing the original meaning of the rites, the innovations make them memorable, actual, real, and highly participatory. The innovators of these spectacular celebrations make particular use of music, which plays a central role in these rituals, in their discourses. Examining music’s relationship to ritual and dance reveals how it embodies symbolic forms in urban culture in Africa.

This presentation will demonstrate how the combination of the traditional pre-colonial culture and modern elements help Africans today to develop their sense of belonging to their communities in the context of globalization. The artistic ability of the musicians and producers and the interaction with participants is a key moment of communal meaning creation.

1. mailto:asaed@africanstudies.org

2012 ASA Election Winners (2012-05-29 13:01)

The winners of the 2012 election to the Board of Directors of ASA are:

Vice President Elect:
James A. Pritchett (Anthropology, African Studies Center, Michigan State University)

Board of Directors Elect:
Gracia Clark (Anthropology, Indiana University)
Fallou Ngom (Anthropology and African Studies, Boston University)
Tejumola Olaniyan (African Languages and Literature and English, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
They will join the board in November 2012.

The election monitors included: Suzanne Moyer Baazet, Catherine Boone, Bruce Magnusson, and Aili Tripp.

ABOUT THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

[Image]

James Pritchett

James A. Pritchett

Director, African Studies Center, Michigan State University

My interest in Africa arose organically from deep immersion in its various Diasporas. I started life in a small Black farming community in the American South, surrounded by flora and fauna, foods and lifeways reminiscent of a rural African village. Subsequently I lived in the Caribbean and in Brazil, for several years each, where the religious practices and cultural aesthetics of Africa were on daily display. Becoming a professional anthropologist with a focus on Africa was a natural progression from these early experiences.

I received my BA from Ohio State University, my MA and PhD from Harvard, and have also been affiliated with the University of Guyana, the University of Brasilia and the University of Zambia. During 17 years at Boston University I variously served as Professor of Anthropology, Director of African Studies, and Associate Provost for Intra-University Affairs. I currently serve as Director of African Studies and Professor of Anthropology at Michigan State University.

My primary research focus has been on social and economic change, rural-urban dynamics and intergenerational social relations in South Central Africa. My publications include: Friends for Life, Friends for Death: Cohorts and Consciousness in South Central Africa (University of Virginia Press, 2007), The Lunda-Ndembu: Style, Change and Social Transformation in South Central Africa (University of Wisconsin Press, 2001) and more recently, Christian Mission Stations in South Central Africa: Islands of (Post) Modernity, in Christianity and Public Culture in Africa, Harri Englund, (ed), (Ohio University Press, 2011).

My administrative experience includes having served as Director of two of the nation’s premier African Studies programs (Boston and Michigan State), and twice co-hosting the annual meeting of the African Studies Association (Boston 1993, 2003). Additionally I have served on the National Screening Committee for Fulbright (IIE), National Nominator for the Carnegie Foundation, Board of Directors and Africa Advisor for OXFAM America, Board of Advisors of the International Consortium for Law and Development, Board of Advisors of the African Presidential Archives and Research Center, Co-founder of the Boston Pan-African Forum, as well as PI on numerous trans-disciplinary, multinational, and multi-institutional research initiatives.
ABOUT THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

[2]
Gracia Clark

Gracia Clark

Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University

As an economic anthropologist, I have worked in Kumasi, Ghana since 1978 on issues and projects related to its influential Central Market. My published articles have touched on credit, leadership, price controls, food security, urban planning, structural adjustment, globalization, kinship and marriage. My book Onions Are My Husband is widely used in Ghana and in the US, especially in classes on gender or ethnographic methods. It was recently joined by a volume of life histories titled African Market Women. I am a longtime member and past president of the Association for Africanist Anthropology, and even longer ago co-chair of the Women’s Caucus and still a member. I am also a loyal member of the Ghana Studies Association and former board member of the West African Research Association.

My international personal network includes both academic and professional linkages in England, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Canada, Ghana and Kenya. My doctoral work at the University of Cambridge continues to link me to researchers there and at Oxford, SOAS, LSE and Manchester.

I have worked closely with historians, economists, geographers, political scientists and lawyers on issues of economic development, gender and commercial policy. Occasional consulting for UN affiliates since the 1980s has yielded continuing opportunities for conferences and grant applications with scholars in the Netherlands, Belgium and UK, and I currently am in Ghana on a group project from the University of Bergen, Norway. One of the most unique was a writeshop in Nairobi on African agricultural marketing that included traders as co-authors. My collaboration with Ghanaian scholars includes co-authored publications and contributions to their edited volumes. I also ran a methodology workshop for younger African scholars for two summers at the Indiana University African Studies Program, where I was Acting Director when we hosted SCALI. The wider African contacts available through IU would also assist me in ASA business.
Fallou Ngom

Associate Professor of Anthropology and African Studies, Boston University

I was born and raised in Ziguinchor, one of the most multicultural towns in Senegal. I grew up with over ten ethnic groups from different religious backgrounds (Muslim, Christian, and followers of traditional African religions). Speaking several languages and celebrating together Christian, Muslim, and African traditional religious events were the norm in my neighborhood. My upbringing in this community where diversity and tolerance were the norms triggered my early interest in the study of languages, cultures, and religions in multilingual and multicultural African communities. After earning a high school degree from Lycée Djignabo of Ziguinchor in 1991, I attended Gaston Berger University of Saint-Louis in northern Senegal from January 1991 to July 1996, where I earned a BA in English with an emphasis on Grammar and Linguistics. I attended the University of Montana where I earned an MA in French Linguistics (1996-7), and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I completed a PhD in French Linguistics (1997-2002). I served as an Assistant Professor of French and Linguistics at Western Washington University (2002-7) and was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in fall 2007. I was hired by Boston University as a tenured Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Title VI-funded African Language Program in spring 2008.

My current research interests lie in (1) the interactions between African languages and cultures and non-African languages and cultures, and (2) African primary sources written in non-Latin scripts, especially Ajami (African languages written with the modified Arabic script). My primary goal is to study these sources, from a multidisciplinary perspective, to uncover the insights they hold and to ensure that they are no longer treated as insignificant footnotes, but rather as major sources of local African knowledge. I have worked closely with colleagues from Senegal, Niger, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and South Africa and maintain enduring professional relationships with colleagues, scholars, private and public institutions in these African countries, as well as in Europe, and in the US.

Tejumola Olaniyan

Professor of African Languages and Literature and English, University of Wisconsin-Madison

I was an undergraduate student in drama but my first college publication was in the journal for economics majors association. I had imbibed, too enthusiastically, the philosophical orientation of my drama department: that drama is about life, and life is all things, and therefore a successful dramatist must have a broad understanding of all fields and things affecting life. I read widely. No, no one could know all fields and things, I realized later. But there was no pain in that knowledge, only gain: a robust cross-disciplinary curiosity, and a stout passion for studying the discrete in its larger, broader contexts. For over twenty years now, I have had no better professional scholarly context for nurturing this my intellectual orientation than the African Studies Association (ASA).

I hold a B.A. in Drama (1982) and an M.A. in Literature in English (1985), both from the University of Ife, Nigeria (now Obafemi Awolowo University). I received the Ph.D. in English from Cornell University, USA, in 1991. I taught at the University of Virginia for ten years before joining UW-Madison in 2001, where I was (founding) chair of the African Diaspora and the Atlantic World Research Circle till 2010. I have served as member of the ASA annual meeting program committee, and I am currently Co-chair of the 2012 Program Committee.


Teaching about the LRA

The Kony 2012 viral video produced by activist organization Invisible Children prompted a major debate among scholars, practitioners, and the general public about how African conflicts are presented. Several ASA members are involved in efforts to help teachers and others who work with students learn about the Lord’s Resistance Army, Ugandan history, and the situation in the countries in which the LRA operates. The following resources are appropriate for those teaching at any level, from elementary school to the university level:

- [2] React and Respond: The Phenomenon of Kony 2012 is an 11-page resource written by Barbara Brown (Boston University Africa Studies Center), John Metzler (Michigan State University Africa Studies Center), Patrick Vinck (Program for Vulnerable Populations at Harvard Humanitarian Initiative), and Christine Root (Michigan State University/ACAS). It is published by the Outreach Council.
- The Association of Concerned Africa Scholars has [3] a useful resource list on its website.
- Making Sense of Kony is a collaborative effort of scholars who conduct research on Uganda, the effects of conflict in the region, and the LRA. It is a [4] comprehensive website featuring analysis, recommended reading lists, and links to organizations working with LRA survivors and impacted communities.


Resolution of the African Studies Association on the Crises of Central Africa

Adopted by the Board, May 14, 2012

The African Studies Association calls on President Obama, Secretary Clinton, Assistant Secretary Carson, Ambassador Barrie Walkley (Special Advisor for the Great Lakes and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and relevant members of Congress:

• To cooperate closely with the African Union (AU) and its new Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Ambassador Francisco Caetano José Madeira, in seeking a peaceful resolution through negotiation to the militia crises of Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Uganda. We believe that the U.S. should provide the necessary financial and logistical support to the AU and/or regional associations of states for negotiating an end to the destabilizing activities and atrocities committed against civilians by various militias, including the LRA, and by the national armies in this region.

• To acknowledge that ending the violence and its resulting devastation in the four countries primarily requires negotiations with the goal of creating a favorable environment for beginning to build sustainable and productive economies; to reintegrate members of the various militias into their societies; and to work towards ending impunity. Aggressive military action and the active involvement of the U.S. military is highly likely to be counterproductive, increasing rather than solving the problems of violence, disorganization, weak governance, and under-development in the four countries.

• To take a strong stand against the use of child soldiers by fully complying with the U.S. Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2009 by prohibiting military assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other governments until they meet specific benchmarks, including ending recruitment of child soldiers, demobilizing children from existing forces, and bringing recruiters of child soldiers to justice, as urged by Amnesty International.

• To actively seek an effective United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to end irresponsible trade in weapons, munitions, and other military and policing equipment that often inflict misery and carnage on people, especially in Africa. The Treaty should include munitions, should establish criminal and monetary penalties for illegal arms brokering, and should establish mandatory criteria that are not merely voluntary (or only “to be kept in mind”) for states considering arms transfers.

• To provide all possible support, funding, and facilitation to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for their enduring and as yet not fully funded work to meet the needs of former child soldiers, refugees, victims of rape and abuse, and the wider population displaced by the militias (including the LRA) and the armies of the Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan, and Uganda.


JOBS

University of Massachusetts Boston
Assistant Professor of History
The History Department of the University of Massachusetts Boston invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor in 19th-21st century Sub-Saharan African History. The appointment may begin as early as February 2013. Area of specialization is open. We are favorable to candidates whose interests include transoceanic connections, including the Atlantic World, as well as the history of women and gender, environmental history, history of religion, urban history, and history of science, medicine and technology. Teaching responsibilities include a two-semester African History introductory survey and upper division and graduate courses in the candidate’s areas of specialization.

Minimum Qualifications: Teaching experience preferred. PhD must have been awarded no later than December 2012. Candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to scholarship and to teaching excellence in a diverse urban public university.

To apply, submit a c.v., letter of application describing research and teaching experience and future goals, and an article-length writing sample online:[1]http://umb.interviewexchange.com/candapply.jsp?JOBID=3467

Additionally, have three references send confidential letters to[2]africa.history@umb.edu<mailto:africa.history@umb.edu> or mail to Prof. Benjamin Johnson, African History Search Chair, History Department, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125. Applications postmarked by October 22, 2012 will be assured full consideration. We will conduct first-round interviews in mid-November.

Fordham University

The Department of History at Fordham University invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor in Iberian Atlantic history. We are seeking a scholar working on the Iberian-Latin American connection, during any period. Teaching responsibilities include introductory courses in Latin American and in Spanish or Portuguese history, as well as advanced undergraduate and graduate courses in the candidate’s area of specialization. The position includes the opportunity to teach in the university’s interdisciplinary programs, such as the Latin American and Latino Studies Institute. Candidates must have the PhD in hand by September 1, 2013. Send letter of application, c.v., and three letters of recommendation via Interfolio by November 15, 2012, at[4]https://secure.interfolio.com/apply/15940. For more information, see the department’s website at [5]http://www.fordham.edu/history. Fordham is an independent, Catholic University in the Jesuit tradition that welcomes applications from men and women of all backgrounds. Fordham is an AA/EOE.

Contact:

Dr. Thierry Rigogne, Department of History, Fordham University
Website: [6]http://www.fordham.edu/history

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fulbright Scholar Competition for 2013-2014

Fulbright NEXUS Program  Deadline: June 15, 2012
Website: [10]Fulbright NEXUS Program

Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)
Comparative Research Networks 2012 -2016  Deadline: 15 June, 2012
Email: nwg@codesria.sn
Website: [12]www.codesria.org

Social Science Research Council
African Peacebuilding Network Research Grants  Deadline: June 12, 2012

CONFERENCES

West Africa Comparative Research Conference
Location: Avakpa Tokpa Place Independance, 01 BP. 3950, Porto-Novo, Benin
Date: July 14, 2012
Conference Paper abstract submission deadline: July 5, 2012
http://www.facebook.com/events/319757898102676/

Golpes de Estado em África: O Papel das Organizações Regionais e o Caso de 12 de Abril na Guiné-Bissau
Location: Universidade de Santiago, Assomada, Cabo Verde,
Date: 11 de Junho de 2012, 15h30
Paulo Freire Monteiro, Aquilino Varela e Miguel de Barros estarão no dia 11 do corrente mês, segunda-feira, a partir das 15h30, no Auditório da Reitoria da Universidade de Santiago, Assomada,sob a coordenação do curso de Direito, a discutir numa mesa aberta o enquadramento e implicações das resoluções da UA e CEDEAO no processo de mediação dos golpes de Estado em África, os limites e as possibilidades da actuação de Cabo Verde no contexto regional e a participação da sociedade civil da CEDEAO na influência das decisões políticas.

Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies Annual Conference
Location: Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, London
Date: November 16-17, 2012
Theme: ‘Postcolonial Bodies’, and abstracts of 250-300 words, plus 50-100 words of bio-bibliography, should be sent to Maria Flood ([15]sfpsconference@hotmail.co.uk). Papers can be in either French or English. Deadline for abstract submission: Monday, 25 June 2012.

Workshop: Love & Sex in Islamic Africa
Location: Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
Date: September 27-28, 2012
Call for Papers:
The 1980s and 1990s saw groundbreaking studies of the intersections and divergences between European and African understandings of gender in colonial and postcolonial Africa. Recent work on love and sexuality in Africa has paved the way for new directions in the study of women and gender. Works such as Love in Africa (2009) and Love and Globalization (2009) lay the groundwork for questioning the universality of romantic love. Meanwhile, scholarship on sexuality, such as Marc Epprecht’s Heterosexual Africa? The History of an Idea from the Age of Exploration to the Age of AIDS (2008) and Sylvia Tamale, ed., African Sexualities: A Reader (2011), deconstruct the heteronormativity assumed to exist in African communities. Much of the work in this field looks at areas of the continent that have become heavily Christianized over the past one hundred years. Missing from this new field is an in-depth discussion about how shifting concepts of love, sex, and sexuality intersect with transformations in Islamic beliefs and practices in Africa. Whereas European colonial officials and missionaries often blamed such social “problems” as homosexuality, premarital sex, and female promiscuity on “oversexed” African cultures, many African Muslims in the past and present associate these practices with Westernization. Furthermore, campaigns promoting the acceptance of non-normative approaches to love and sex in Islamic Africa stress the need to reconcile with local articulations of Islam. This workshop addresses debates about changing concepts of love, sex, and sexuality in Islamic Africa as they intersect with Islamic reform, Westernization, colonialism, development, and globalization. We seek papers that explore the tensions and overlaps between Islamic, indigenous, and/or international interventionist beliefs and practices, and that address themes such as courtship, love, lust, jealousy, sexuality, marriage, divorce, heterosexuality, homosexuality, homoeroticism, intimacy, initiation rites, or other questions related to love and sex. This interdisciplinary workshop is open to historians, anthropologists, linguists, public health and education specialists, and other scholars interested in contributing to the dialogue about love, sex, and Islam in Africa. The workshop will feature a keynote speech by Laura Fair of Michigan State University.

Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words to Liz McMahon (emcmahon@tulane.edu) or Corrie Decker (crdecker@ucdavis.edu) by June 10, 2012.

Norms in the Margins and Margins of the Norm The Social Construction of Illegality
Sponsor: The Royal Museum of Central Africa, the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Location: Tervuren, Brussels, Leuven
Dates: October 25-27 2012
Website: illegality.africamuseum.be

Land Divided: Land and South African Society in 2013, in Comparative Perspective
Sponsor: The University of Cape Town’s Law, Race and Gender Unit, Centre for Curating the Archive, in partnership with the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, and the Land, Environment and Society in Africa (LESA) Research Programme at Stellenbosch University, and PLAAS and the NRF Chair in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies
Dates: 24-27 March 2013
Location: University of Cape Town
Website of call for proposals:

2. mailto:africa.history@umb.edu
By Thomas Asher

The Social Science Research Council launched in 2011 a program on "Critical Perspectives in Peace, Security, and Development" to support early-career faculty in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. The purpose is to address a dynamic familiar to most readers from the African Studies Association that causes significant harm to overburdened faculty in African universities. Governments, largely in response to the needs of a knowledge economy predicated on a highly educated workforce, have invested enormous monies to increase the pipeline of students into higher education but have not made proportionate investments in the training of social science faculty. In response to swelling enrollment numbers, universities hire faculty who frequently hold only a master’s degree in such numbers that they now make up the majority of the professoriate throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

While there are a number of extraordinary scholars who work in this context, a testament to the resilience
of social science faculty, a sizeable majority of faculty members in African universities lack both time and resources to undertake a research agenda of their own shaping. Or fulfill the steps required to complete their doctoral degrees. The SSRC developed the fellowship program, titled Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa, with Carnegie Corporation support to intervene in this situation in a strategic fashion.

The program offers three types of fellowships with the goal to create a sequence of opportunities for strong researchers to progress steadily toward the completion of the degree. The first fellowship supports dissertation proposal development, offering $3,000 to allow faculty to undertake preliminary research in support of what should emerge as a stronger and more focused research proposal. The Next Generation program also offers fellowships up to $15,000 to permit faculty to undertake 9-12 months of dissertation research, with the maximum award amounts reserved particularly for projects that build into their analysis a comparative dimension. Finally, the program offers $15,000 dissertation completion fellowships for faculty who have completed one chapter of the dissertation. These support a one-year leave of absence from teaching in order to allow fellows to complete the writing of the dissertation. While applicants may enter the program at any point, fellows who hold a proposal development fellowship are encouraged to apply for the research fellowship the following year. And research fellows are encouraged to apply in subsequent years for additional funding to complete the dissertation.

The program looks to do more than merely provide credentials for faculty. These are important for the advancement of careers but by no means sufficient. The Next Generation program offers workshops for fellows to help them engage relevant scholarly literature on their topics and develop the ability to explain how their arguments advance social science research analysis and research programs. In the process, and an abiding concern of this program, the workshops will enable fellows to better participate in and engage an international community of researchers. We additionally offer travel grants and small conference grants for the fellows as part of this goal of expanding research communities beyond national boundaries.

The program features a theme that must be evident in the scholarship that it supports – critical perspectives in peace, security, and development issues. This has been an abiding priority at the SSRC, for sixty years and counting. In this instance we support an international community of researchers who provide sounder understanding of issues at the intersection of peace, security, and development even as we encourage fellows to examine the ways that these issues are at once part of larger global processes but with a contextual logic that is highly localized.

By way of example of the work supported in the first year of the program, and we could have picked other equally compelling instances, one fellow from the inaugural cohort is exploring the ways in which Middle Belt Historiography in Nigeria inadvertently reflects and accelerates local tensions while another is examining the Hawala system of Islamic finance in Somalia historically and its transformation through the lens of both finance capital and the security state.

As we look toward the second year of this new fellowship program, we seek assistance from members of the African Studies Association. We desire more reviewers of the proposals – especially reviewers working within African universities – and we hope for a group of scholars on whom we can call to help us to develop workshops that will offer fellows intellectual support and guidance.

Above all we require word of this fellowship opportunity to reach talented but often isolated faculty who work in African universities. Encourage faculty who you know to be eligible to apply.

Northwestern University’s Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, which is the official repository of ASA’s archives, is seeking — in cooperation with the ASA — to create a more comprehensive archive, particularly of documents pertaining to the organization and its coordinate organizations since 1990. If you were a board member, past president, committee member, or leader of a coordinate organization, please consider sending any documents you might have of the following nature:

- Board meeting minutes
- Board books
- Reports by Program Chairs
- Reports by Local Arrangements Committees
- Committee minutes
- Special reports by Standing or Ad Hoc ASA committees
- Reports by individuals commissioned by the Board to carry out special studies or projects
- Financial records and reports
- Grant applications and fund-raising materials for projects sponsored by or undertaken using the name of the ASA
- Profile, resource, and contractual agreement statements relating to the ASA host institution, including communications between ASA and host institution officials
- Newsletters of coordinate organizations
- Key documents involved in running the ASA journals

Before sending anything, please check with, David Easterbrook, the George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator of the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies at [2]dleaster@northwestern.edu. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Aili Tripp
ASA President
May 28, 2012

Dear ASA Members,

We are at a “critical juncture” in the organization’s life. The ASA Board met in Madison April 27-29, 2012, and made some important and positive decisions that will affect the way the organization operates. Recently we faced some major and unexpected financial losses, some of which can be attributed to a downturn in returns on investments. At our meeting, which could be characterized as not only serious but also upbeat, we came to a strong consensus on the steps necessary to move forward.

We are aggressively taking measures to deal with our overall financial situation, which looked dire at the beginning of 2012. In our first quarter we recouped investment losses incurred in 2011. We now have a balanced budget thanks to our interim Executive Director, Suzanne Moyer Baazet, and the Finance Committee of the Board. Suzanne has strong skills in financial administration and knows our organization well from her previous engagement with us in 2008-10. She has been able to provide us with excellent financial and administrative support and guidance.

Recent events have forced us to reevaluate many aspects of the running of the organization and have necessitated making some long overdue changes. We believe our efforts to respond to these challenges will leave the organization on a better footing. We have needed to reinvigorate and professionalize the organization in important ways. I feel optimistic about the organization’s future and I believe the Board shares this sentiment.

We were forced to cut back our staff in order to address our financial difficulties and are now looking to restructure the secretariat. Our interim executive director will remain with us until we hire a new Executive Director, who we hope to have on board by the next annual meeting. The new ED will make a final determination of our staffing needs and how to best meet them. We will be putting out a call for applications for a new executive director. We are looking for someone with strong administrative and financial management skills and with a background in running a non-profit association like ours. We will start reviewing applications in June.

We have made major decisions in other areas as well. The ASA Publications Committee sought the advice of members of a 2008 ad hoc committee that looked into possibilities for outsourcing our journals. They drew on the expertise of a consultant, Alma Wills of Kaufman Wills Company, and sought the views of the editors of the current journals. They then sought bids from four publishers to take over the publication of ASA journals, African Studies Review and History in Africa. All the bidders recognized that these journals are of very high quality. There was no question in the minds of the publishers that these are leading journals and are an important part of what gives the ASA our scholarly reputation. We worked closely with the editors of the journals throughout the process.
We decided to go with Cambridge University Press because they offered the best overall services. This move will significantly improve the management of the journals and give them the visibility they deserve. We will now be able to provide a decent online presence for the journals, edit them through an online management system, provide for online submissions, expand our advertising worldwide, and simplify the editing process.

Two years ago the association contracted with a web design company that turned out to be a poor choice for us. It is time consuming and complicated on the backend, but it is a complete disaster for users. We sincerely apologize for the difficulties many members faced in registering for the annual meeting and in renewing their membership. We recognize the frustration, headaches and time that this has cost our members. We realize that this situation is completely unacceptable, but we only learned that the system could not be fixed at a point in the registration process when it was too late to do anything about it. With a limited staff, we hobbled through. Needless to say, we are ending our contract with the current web design company and will be transitioning to another membership system which will allow members to easily renew their membership, pre-register for meetings, manage their member profile, and make financial donations.

The board voted to approve a new edition of ASA’s Policies & Procedures that reflects the current consensus on the board as to how the organization should be run. It will help strengthen continuity in institutional memory for the new executive director and help orient future board and committee members. It provides important policies that will help ensure accountability and responsiveness to the ASA membership and board as we move ahead. The 78-page document was the product of a year’s work of drafting, revising, and deliberations. It is by no means a perfect document but it is a start. No doubt future boards will enjoy revising it!

We have learned a lot from this recent episode in the life of the ASA. I sense that some of our problems in recent years resulted in members feeling that the ASA was not sufficiently attentive to their needs. We now have an opportunity to rectify some of these lapses by reintroducing practices that fell by the wayside:

- We have brought ASA News back thanks to the efforts of Laura Seay.
- We have made numerous innovations in the annual meeting, the most recent of which is a contract with an online service that posts social science and humanities papers and abstracts in advance of the conference. By contracting with outside vendors, we can afford AV and will be bringing that back. We have reintroduced a no-show policy and will be keeping track of absences.
- Board member Victoria Bernal has outlined a strategy to increase membership that involves appealing to younger scholars, making our organization more user friendly, and doing a better job of publicizing the organization.
- We are reviving the ASA archives, which are located at Northwestern University, with the help of chief curator, David Easterbrook.

These are just a few of the practices we are reinstituting.

Finally, I want you to know that none of these changes would have been possible without our interim executive director and an incredibly hardworking and dedicated board, which has made all the difference. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate everything they have done.
I wish to congratulate our new vice president elect James Pritchett and incoming board members Gracia Clark, Fallou Ngom and Tejumola Olaniyan on their electoral successes. The current board hopes that the dust will have settled by the time they come on to the board and will be able to enjoy a smooth and eventful transition.

The ASA has been integrally involved in the Carnegie funded African Humanities Program (AHP) of the American Council of Learned Societies. The program has proven to be an excellent way for the ASA to strengthen its ties to African scholars by bringing AHP fellows to the ASA annual meeting as Presidential Scholars. Thus far, Rutgers University has hosted the scholars prior to the annual meeting. We will be encouraging other institutions who would like to host AHP fellows prior to the meeting to apply. See notice for this.

The board also passed the resolution submitted by Association of Concerned Africa Scholars (ACAS) on [2]The Crises in Central Africa and sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on [3]the humanitarian crisis in Mali as well as threats to the country’s cultural assets and historical heritage.

I thank you for your patience as we move through this challenging period and I welcome your suggestions as to how we can do better.

With all best wishes,
Aili Mari Tripp
President, African Studies Association
Professor of Political Science and Gender & Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Getting Research Permission (2012-05-29 13:42)

By Laura Seay, Morehouse College

Getting formal and informal permission to conduct research in Africa is a challenging process, and the steps academics must take to do so vary widely from country-to-country. The Fulbright Program offers country-by-country guidance on research clearance requirements (eg, for [2]Namibia, [3]Kenya, and [4]Cameroon), but the reality on the ground can be quite different, especially for scholars working in challenging contexts such as conflict or extreme state fragility. Additionally, sometimes it is necessary to get research clearance through informal channels at the district or village level in order to ensure access to subjects. To get a sense of how the process of getting permission to conduct research, ASA News asked several Africanist scholars about their experiences. Most responses to this survey came from scholars working in central and southern Africa. We welcome your comments and submissions about
experiences in other parts of the continent.

While this is a non-scientific study, we hope it will help young scholars who are beginning to conduct research in Africa to be prepared for this key process. To maintain confidentiality, scholars are only identified by the country in which they have conducted field research.

Question 1: Briefly describe the process of getting formal clearance or permission in the country in which you conduct(ed) fieldwork.

Tanzania: I began by submitting an application through COSTECH which included a CV, research plan and other paperwork. Application forms are available online at: [5]http://www.costech.or.tz/services/research-clearence - After submitting, there was the usual delay, but I sped up the process significantly by going to Dar es Salaam and walking the paperwork through myself. At this point, I met with COSTECH staff and the research clearance was given very quickly.

Zambia: For more information see [6]www.network4zambia.com or email [7]admin@network4zambia.com. The proper clearance process to research in Zambia takes place at two levels. In order to legally research you must be in Zambia on a “Visitor’s Permit,” which you can obtain after arriving. However, in order to have a visiting permit for a researcher you must be affiliated with a local institution. For most people, this means the University of Zambia (UNZA). A letter from UNZA requires a number of documents, including: * A research proposal - four sides A4 - outlining your topic, aims, methodology etc. * A sample of your work relating to Zambia - under 8000 words. Don’t worry too much for this. They seemed to barely read mine. * Two character references from lecturers in your department * A letter or form from your university confirming your enrollment * A copy of your criminal record (many people forget this, if you don’t have time to get it before you leave there should be ways around it) * A CV You will need a bank certified check and a government medical, both of which can be done in Zambia. Some researchers are required to go through a local “IRB” process, for which you must pay extra, but others are not required to and simply receive their permits. Once you have the letter, you can apply at the second level, Zambian Immigration, for your visitor’s permit. They are usually issued for six months or less.

Rwanda: Rwanda requires researchers in order to obtain a research permit through the Ministry of Education, located on the 5th floor of the MOE building in Kacyiru. The process is overseen by Dr. Marie-Christine Gasingirwa. In order to apply, one needs to present a letter to Dr. Gasingirwa or Minister of Education Dr. Vincent Biruta requesting the permit and briefly describing one’s research. Also, a CV, letter from one’s home university, letter of affiliation from the Rwandan agency one is working with (mine was from the Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs at the National University of Rwanda, who is quite helpful), two passport photos, and a research proposal and approval from the Rwandan National Ethics Committee (RNEC), located in the Ministry of Health building in Kicukiro. These last two are very tricky. The research proposal needs to be carefully worded, and around 4 pages, including sources. Mine was very close to non-academic sounding, as one will want to make one’s project sound as politically innocuous as possible, at the same time making it sound as though this project will bolster the RPF’s mission of stability and development. The RNEC is a whole different ballgame. One needs to present all the above research materials, plus a letter to the Chairman Dr. Justin Wane, to the RNEC secretary, Valentine Ingabire. She is the most important person in the country if you are doing research. One also needs to supply the above materials on 9 separate CDs for the committee members. Each CD should be labeled with the applicant’s name and the date of submission, and each should be in its own jewel case (don’t mess around with this). Valentine must receive these 15 days before the monthly meeting of the RNEC in order to get a review; if not, you have to wait until the next month. Also, the review costs 100,000 RWF (approximately $162), payable to Valentine. Once the RNEC approval is in place, the research permit is pretty much guaranteed. There is a separate process for people doing more invasive types of research, and as I understand, that goes through the Ministry
of Health and costs about 450,000 RWF (approximately $1500).

Zimbabwe (nb, based on research conducted 2000-2005, procedures may have changed): One must get an academic affiliation. After that, one must put together an application that includes a 2-3 page description of the project, which is then submitted to the Research Council. The research council must approve the application, after which it is submitted to the President’s Office for a second vetting. Then it needs to go to Immigration, so they can issue you with a resident’s permit. The whole process may take 6 months.

Malawi: I only know of processes for health research in Malawi. There is a long, back-and-forth process with the National Health Science Research Committee that is somewhat similar to an American IRB... But with added costs associated with printing 14 copies of everything: application then amended application with new documents requested by the review committee.

Question 2: Is it necessary to get official permission from both national and sub-national authorities in order to conduct research in this country?

Tanzania: You need to have an affiliate or organization you will be working with - so not sub-national authorities, but some in-country representative or agency affiliation is necessary.

South Africa: It doesn’t appear so. No one (at the archives, etc.) ever asks for proof of such permission.

Zambia: Yes, from Zambian Immigration as well as the institute of affiliation (usually UNZA).

Rwanda: No, as everything is quite centralized.

Zimbabwe: Officially, I don’t believe so, but, unofficially, definitely. Especially in rural areas, informants are much more willing to speak with you if you have met with or are carrying a letter from the district commissioner, from a provincial official, or from a ministry (in addition to the academic affiliation letter). Even then, if you’re working in communal areas, etc, you will likely need to get an introduction from the headman or chief.

Malawi: Not de jure, de facto. If you don’t have official stamps from the district commissioner’s office, it is a challenge to get traditional authorities to allow you to work in their areas.

Question 3: What fees were associated with getting official permission to conduct research in the country?

Tanzania: $50 deposit submitted with application and then $300 when your proposal is approved. Some affiliations in country have additional fees.

South Africa: According to the official list ([8]http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/research.htm), you need to pay 1) Non-refundable fee of $72.00 money order for processing 2) $16.00 money order for overnight mailing 3) $1,500.00 money order for repatriation deposit to be lodged in case applicant stays for longer than one year or travels on one way ticket

Zambia: The fees are about $200 for immigration. The fees for UNZA are $100 per month of research affiliation.
Rwanda: The RNEC review is 100,000 RWF, which is mandatory for all researchers working with human subjects (even if, like mine, said subjects are historical/no longer alive).

Zimbabwe: I don’t remember. It was maybe US $100 – but I think I paid part of it in Zim dollars, so that might be $500 or more now.

Malawi: I can’t remember. The official fee for affiliation with the university and the national archives access is $500, each.

Question 4: Is it necessary to get permission/clearance in person, or can it be handled by phone or online?

Tanzania: It theoretically can be handled online (or at least through the mail services) but in my experience, it was easier to just plan on spending a few days in Dar to get everything in order before beginning my research. I think it does help to submit the application early, and then if it's not going fast enough, it might speed things up to do it in person. If you have time, everything can be handled by mail, phone or online.

South Africa: Not sure. Perhaps if you apply overseas, you can do it by post, but otherwise I think it’s handled in person.

Zambia: It is definitely necessary in person and will require several weeks of your time before it is complete. If you are doing archival research, however, a letter from a professor at UNZA can get you into the National Archives to begin your research when you are not running back and forth from UNZA, Immigration, and other relevant bodies.

Rwanda: Ostensibly, the Ministry of Education Directorate of Research has an online platform for submitting materials, but it was up and running at any point during my process. I have found that, as with most things in Rwanda, it’s better to just show up at 7:30am and talk to authorities in person.

Zimbabwe: In person.

Malawi: You might not have to be there in person, but it helps to have someone walk it in. Since hard copy filing is required, you need someone to assist you.

Question 5: On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being very simple and 10 being very difficult, how easy or difficult was it to get permission to conduct research in the country?

Tanzania: About an 8 when I was managing it from Nairobi, and a 1 once I got to Dar and met with COSTECH officials in person.

Zambia: 6 (This might be a bit low for some people, but I have researched in communist countries and I am used to Africa. For people used to the USA or UK and with little or no African experience, it could easily be a 9 or a 10. It is not impossible, it just takes time.)

Rwanda: It’s about an 8.5.

Zimbabwe: 10

Malawi: 9
Question 6: Do you perceive it to be more difficult to get permission to conduct research on politically or socially sensitive topics than for other topics? Are you aware of scholars who have been denied clearance to conduct research in this country and/or of the reasons why he/she was denied permission?

Tanzania: I did my research on gender and HIV/AIDS, which is a sensitive topic. I did not have any problems, however, I did tone down the feminist language for the proposal.

South Africa: Not aware of any scholars being denied at all for research. I don’t think there’s any issue regarding political or social sensitivity and the granting of research permission in South Africa.

Zambia: No, I am not aware of this ever happening. Zambia is very open and you would even be hard pressed to find any documents labeled “classified” in the National Archives and there are none to my knowledge in the UNIP or Catholic Mission Archives (the three main repositories for research). If you can prove your affiliations and funding, and you have a bit of patience in the process of obtaining permission, you will be fine.

Rwanda: It is my feeling that the Rwandan government is actively trying to discourage foreign researchers from doing research in the country. Many of my other friends have also had very arduous processes of gaining approval. I haven’t heard of anyone yet who has been denied, but that may also be because some people just get fed up and quit. For projects that are considered politically sensitive (like mine), I feel like there is extra scrutiny.

Zimbabwe: Yes. Yes. I have also known people who have been stripped of their clearance and declared persona non grata. This last person was working on farmworkers. Any work related to politics or to the land reform process is suspect and probably very difficult to pursue. Though my research was political, I was affiliated with the Department of Economic History, and I received research clearance to study post-colonial labor history. Again, this is again a function of the time that I was doing fieldwork, but I would advise anyone thinking about research clearance in Zim to be similarly cautious. Framing is crucial.

Malawi: I don’t know of anyone who applied through the NHSRC in Malawi that was proposing sensitive work.

5. http://www.costech.or.tz/services/research-clearance
7. mailto:admin@network4zambia.com

Protecting Mali’s Cultural Treasures (2012-05-29 16:38)

By Susanna Wing, Haverford College
Ansar Dine and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) control Timbuktu, after profiting, along with the Tuareg rebel group MNLA (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad), from the overthrow of Amadou Toumani Touré’s regime on March 22, 2012. They have imposed sharia law in towns across the North and, according to some reports, residents are prisoners in their own homes. Many other residents have fled. Timbuktu houses manuscripts dating to the 14th century. Distinguished families cared for the manuscripts and passed them down from generation to generation. Over 500,000 manuscripts exist in both public and private libraries across the town. The Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research houses about 30,000 manuscripts and is currently guarded by Ansar Dine. All these treasures are currently in the hands of Ansar Dine. On May 4, 2012 armed men from the Islamist group Ansar Dine desecrated the mausoleum of a 15th century Sufi saint, Sidi Mahmoud Ben Amar, in Timbuktu. One man wielding a gun declared worship at Saint Sidi Amar’s tomb to be haram (forbidden). Their actions sent shock waves around the globe, raising fears for the future of Timbuktu’s many cultural treasures. The threat to Mali’s cultural heritage brought to mind the destruction of the Buddhas of Bamiyan in Afghanistan. The tomb of Sidi Amar is sacred to many and is a symbol of the golden age of Timbuktu, the City of 333 Saints, once a center of learning that reached its peak in the 15th and 16th century. Its ancient mosques and tombs are beautiful examples of mud-brick and wood architecture of the Sahel. The tomb, and the entire town of Timbuktu, is a UN World Heritage Site. Ansar Dine has threatened to attack other tombs in the town but may have decided that this would not win hearts and minds of the local population. Protests have taken place in the nearby town of Gao against Ansar Dine’s control of the city. To date, the only additional monument that militants have destroyed is the Monument to the Martyrs, a modern tribute to those who died in the revolution of 1991 that led to two decades of democratic rule. Ansar Dine militants used vehicles to pull down Timbuktu’s monument to martyrs for democracy on the very same day Mali’s Interim President Dioncounda Traoré flew to France for medical treatment following an attack at the Presidential Palace and Captain Sanogo took the reins of power. The symbolism is lost on no one.

---

A letter from ASA President Aili Mari Tripp to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton: May 30, 2012

Hillary Rodham Clinton Secretary of State U. S. Department of State 2201 C Street NW Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

On behalf of the African Studies Association, its Officers and Board of Directors, I write to express our grave concern about the rapidly unraveling humanitarian crisis in Mali as well as threats to the country’s cultural assets and historical heritage. We hope that the Administration will use its full complement of diplomatic resources to bring an end to the rape, use of child soldiers and pillaging of hospitals, schools, aid agencies and government buildings confirmed by Human Rights Watch. It is essential that the United States speak loudly and clearly in support of the quarter of a million people already forced to flee from their homes and daily routines. As they relocate to southern Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Algeria and Mauritania, their lives and prospects remain endangered and fragile.

As scholars and practitioners who study, teach and work on the continent we are compelled also to voice our
concern about the safekeeping of the country's historical and cultural heritage. Organizations such as École du Patrimoine Africain (EPA), with the support of a number of our members have been at the forefront of efforts to protect Mali’s extremely rich and varied cultural heritage. The Library of Congress and Harvard University played a significant role in the preservation of ancient manuscripts from Timbuktu, a former center of scholarship and learning in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Mali has six examples on the Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and four sites on UNESCO’s World Heritage List affirming its rich cultural contribution to our general humanity. Its World Heritage sites are: the ancient city of Djenné, Timbuktu, the Bandiagara Cliffs, and the Tomb of Askia in Gao. Sadly two mausoleums of Saints at Timbuktu have been destroyed already. While the people of Mali are the country’s most precious resource, we cannot remain silent in the wake of the destruction of its historical and cultural heritage. The destruction of these sites will be a loss to Mali, Africa and the world.

We have taken the liberty to forward to you the appeal issued by EPA. We hope that you will do all within your capacity to help bring a speedy conclusion to this war and the massive disruption to the lives of so many thousands of men, women and children. In addition, we trust that you will do all in your capacity to help prevent further destruction of the country’s historical heritage.

Sincerely,

Aili Tripp President, African Studies Association

Here are more sources of information on efforts to protect Mali’s cultural treasures during this time of unrest:

1. [2]Heritage on the Wire


1.3 July

ASA Seeks Applicants for Executive Director Position (2012-07-30 14:17)

The African Studies Association invites applications for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director manages the ASA secretariat, which is based at Rutgers University in New Jersey and oversees the organization of the Association’s annual meeting, membership services, communications, and publications.
The Executive Director is responsible for managing the ASA budget and for supervision of the staff. Working with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director represents the ASA to the membership, to Rutgers University, Africa scholars and policy-makers, and to the wider public.

With almost 2,000 individual and institutional members, the ASA is the largest professional association of African specialists in the world. See http://africanstudies.terradotta.com/

Qualifications: Demonstrated administrative experience as non-profit manager, including budgetary, event, and program management; fundraising and development experience. Excellent written and oral communications skills required. Experience in Africa-related work ideal but not required.

Salary: Competitive

Application: Applicants should forward a letter outlining interest in the position, qualifications and experience together with a CV or resume and the names and contact information of three references in electronic format to Aili Tripp (ASA President) at atripp@wisc.edu AND interim Executive Director Suzanne Moyer Baazet (asaed@africanstudies.org). Review of applications will begin immediately. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Applications received by August 18th will be considered for first round interviews which will take place in late August/early September.

The African Studies Association is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer.

---


---

### 1.4 August

**Host an ASA Presidential Fellow at Your Institution in November 2012 (2012-08-29 16:25)**

We are delighted to announce the ASA Presidential Fellows for 2012. They are:

Gbemisola Adeoti (English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)
Jemima Asabea Anderson (English, University of Ghana, Legon)
Amidou Jean-Baptiste Sourou (Saint Augustine University of Tanzania)

The ASA Presidential Fellows Program was instituted in 2010 with the objective of inviting outstanding Africa-based scholars to attend the ASA Annual Meeting and spend time at African Studies programs/centers in the U.S. For the past two years, the ASA has worked with the African Humanities Program of the American Council of Learned Societies to identify scholars and to fund their visits to the ASA meeting. We invite institutions to apply to host one or more of the following individuals selected by the American Council of Learned Societies for up to a week prior to the annual meeting of the ASA. The institution would be expected to cover the costs of domestic travel and hotel at the institution, including an honorarium. For more information contact ASA interim executive director Suzanne Moyer Baazet ([asaed@africanstudies.org](mailto:asaed@africanstudies.org)), who will be assisting with the arrangements.
Gbemisola Adeoti holds a Ph D in English from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan. He is a Professor in the English Department of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He was once a Reporter/Researcher with The News Magazine, Lagos, before joining the academia. His areas of teaching and research include: Dramatic Literature, Poetry, Literary History/Theory and Popular Culture. He is the author of Naked Soles (poems), Voices Offstage: Nigerian Dramatists on Drama and Politics, Aesthetics of Adaptation in Contemporary Nigerian Drama, Co-editor (with Bjorn Beckman) of Intellectuals and African Development: Pretension and Resistance in African Politics and Editor of Muse and Mimesis: Critical Perspectives on Ahmed Yerima’s Drama. He was a British Academy Visiting Fellow at the Workshop Theatre, School of English, University of Leeds, United Kingdom in 2008 and a Postdoctoral Fellow of the African Humanities Program in residence at the International Institute for Advanced Studies of Culture, Institutions and Economic Enterprises (IIAS), Accra, Ghana from 2009-2010. He is currently the Director, Institute of Cultural Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria.

His AHP/ACLS project is on:

Politics and the Urban Experience in Postcolonial West African Literature

Imaginative literature in West Africa, like other parts of Africa, is a by-product of urbanisation. Many writers have depicted various dimensions of city life in their countries, through the genres of the novel, drama, poetry, and short story. They have grappled with the socio-political and economic conditions that exist in the cities, sometimes pitching the subalterns who live on the fringes of urban existence against the people of power. This is evident in the works of writers like Armah, Awoonor, Sutherland, Ekwensi, Achebe, Soyinka, Osofisan, Ousmane, Sowfall, and Sarif among others. This research focuses on the urban experience as captured in the postcolonial literature of West Africa. While considering the nature of politics that shape this experience, it contends that to understand the extent of postcolonial predicament, it is necessary to conceptually interrogate the cities. This is the crux of in-depth analyses of relevant primary texts in the research.

* * * * *

Jemima Asabea Anderson

Jemima Asabea Anderson is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, University of Ghana, Legon. She holds a Bachelor of Education (English) degree from University of Ibadan, a Master of Arts Degree in General Linguistics from Indiana University, Bloomington, U.S.A and both a Master of Philosophy and Doctor of
Philosophy degrees in English from University of Ghana. Her areas of research interest are politeness in African languages and African varieties of English, cross-cultural pragmatics, speech acts, the codification of English in Ghana and language and gender in Africa. Some of her research articles have appeared in local and international peer-reviewed journals. She teaches courses in Phonetics and Phonology of English, Varieties and Functions of English, Discourse Analysis, Pragmatics and Sociolinguistics. Some of the awards she has received include the Fulbright Fellowship, the Korean Foundation Fellowship and the African Humanities Program/American Council of Learned Scholars Fellowship.

Her ASA presentation will be on:

From Mothers to Presidents: A Linguistic Analysis of Media Portrayal of Two Female African Presidents

In this presentation, she examines the media representation of two female African Political leaders: Ellen Sirleaf Johnson and Joyce Banda from a linguistic perspective. Several studies have shown that the media represent female politicians in ways that question or undermine their authority, competence and credibility as politicians (Ross, 1995, Kahn, 1996; Lithgow, 2000 and Gidengil and Everitt, 2003). Lithgow 2000, for instance, argues that the media downplays the professional achievements of women while they highlight their marital and maternal status. Using content analysis of reports from five different media sources, she compares the media coverage of Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, the first female African President and Joyce Banda, the second female African President. The reports on Ellen Sirleaf Johnson when she came to power in 2006 are compared to reports on Joyce Banda when she became president in 2012. The findings show that there are differences between the media presentations of these two female African political leaders. On the basis of the findings, she argues that there seems to be a reduction of gender imbalances in the way female African political leaders are portrayed, especially in the international media. She attributes this development to greater sensitivity about gender biases and professionalism on the part of the reporters.

* * * * *

Amidou Jean-Baptiste Sourou

Amidou Jean-Baptiste Sourou, citizen of Benin Republic, is Professor of Communications at Saint Augustine University of Tanzania in Mwanza, and teaches Rituals and Communications at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. He holds a BA, MA and PHD in Social Communications and Social Sciences from the Gregorian University. He also has a BA and MA in Theology from Universities in Padua and Rome. His research interests center on rites, dance and music, and the relationship between media, culture and religion, especially in Africa. His PhD thesis was about the interface between the entertainment (story telling, music, dance, etc) in the oral African culture and its articulation into mediated, public mass communication; the interface of the religious oral language and religious media and how media pick up, articulate and “extend” the oral. His actual fieldwork involves the search of identity in ritual celebrations in African cities. He has published several books about African cultural, social and religious life, among them: “Afrique: Rites antiques célébrations modernes comment les Africains célèbrent leurs rites aujourd’hui”. Africa: Ancient Rituals, New
Celebrations, How Africans Celebrate their Rituals Today (Ed. Menaibuc, Paris, France). He is member of the International Society in Media, Religion and Culture, and Consultant for the Observatory of Media and Religion in Canada.

Dr. Sourou is the founder and the president of “Cedres NGO” which mission is the study of Benin, and African cultures, and their promotion through research, publications, and learning.

He speaks French, English, Italian, Spanish, Fon and Mina, and knows Latin.

Dr. Sourou’s ASA Presentation will be on:

Ritual Celebrations: The Development of New African “Hybrid” Cultures

This paper focuses on the contemporary ritual celebrations (weddings and funerals) among the Fon community in Benin. The rituals are directed by musical groups and masters of ceremonies who are able to invent a new “hybrid” form of traditional songs, mixing new and old languages and symbols. Without changing the original meaning of the rites, the innovations make them memorable, actual, real, and highly participatory. The innovators of these spectacular celebrations make particular use of music, which plays a central role in these rituals, in their discourses. Examining music’s relationship to ritual and dance reveals how it embodies symbolic forms in urban culture in Africa.

This presentation will demonstrate how the combination of the traditional pre-colonial culture and modern elements help Africans today to develop their sense of belonging to their communities in the context of globalization. The artistic ability of the musicians and producers and the interaction with participants is a key moment of communal meaning creation.

1. mailto:asaed@africanstudies.org

Exhibiting and Advertising at ASA Annual Meeting (2012-08-30 14:16)

TO EXHIBIT OR ADVERTISE AT THE ASA ANNUAL MEETING

Please fill out [1]this form.

Exhibitors include:
Scholarly and commercial presses
Film producers
Sponsors of internships, exchanges and grant making opportunities
Publishers of journals and teaching materials
Research institutes
Information technology companies
Universities and university departments

SPONSORSHIPS AT ASA ANNUAL MEETING
82
Increase the profile of your press, journal, organization, company, or department by sponsoring one of the following:

- Dance Party
- Welcome Reception
- Conference Bags
- Name Badge Lanyards
- Exhibit Hall Beverage Bars

1. [http://www.africanstudies.org/?go=ExhibitAdvertiseSponsor](http://www.africanstudies.org/?go=ExhibitAdvertiseSponsor)

Opportunities in African Studies: Grants, Calls for Proposals for Conferences and Journals (2012-08-30 14:18)

AWARDS

The Lusophone African Studies Organization (LASO) will award a prize to the best paper presented at the ASA conference 2012 by a graduate student (from any location) or a scholar (based in Africa) on a Lusophone topic. Papers that have been accepted for presentation are eligible. Only those attending the 2012 ASA meeting will be considered for the $200 award. Papers have to be submitted as an attachment to [mcandido@princeton.edu](mailto:mcandido@princeton.edu) by October 25, 2012. LASO will announce the winner at the ASA and the LASO business meetings. This year, the LASO business meeting will take place on Friday, November 30, 2012, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
Fellowships to Assist Research and Artistic Creation
Deadline: September 19
[http://www.gf.org/applicants/application-resources/](http://www.gf.org/applicants/application-resources/)

United States Institute for Peace
The Annual Grant Competition continues to development the field via grantmaking that stresses innovation. Preference is given to those projects that will (1) generate and aggregate original knowledge; (2) design, implement, and evaluate creative and novel techniques for research, training, education, information collection, and outreach; and/or (3) involve distinctive efforts to prevent, manage, and resolve violent conflict and consolidate post-conflict peace, stability, and development. The spirit of the competition remains broad and inclusive: all projects that fall within USIP’s mandate are eligible to be considered for funding.
Deadline: October 1, 2012
[http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/annual-grant-competition](http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/annual-grant-competition)

Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program
Description: The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program is seeking applications for five-month residential fellowships at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, D.C.
Deadline: October 15.
Contact Fellowship Programs: Program Assistant, Fellowship Programs, International Forum for Democratic Studies,
Phone: (202) 378-9700 / Fax (202) 378-9407
E-mail: fellowships@ned.org.

Human Rights Watch
Fellowships in International Human Rights
For recent graduates of law schools or graduate programs in journalism, international relations, area studies, or other relevant disciplines from universities worldwide. Fellows typically work full-time in Human Rights Watch’s New York or Washington, D.C. office or in some instances in another location. Fellows monitor human rights developments in various countries, conduct on-site investigations, draft reports on human rights conditions, and engage in advocacy and media outreach aimed at publicizing and curtailing human rights violations.
Deadline: October 11, 2012
Contact: fellowship@hrw.org

African Humanities Program in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda 2012–2013
Description: Stipends are $10,000 for dissertation-completion Fellows and $17,000 for postdoctoral Fellows, plus an additional $1,000 per Fellow for books and media. Dissertation applicants must be doctoral candidates in the final year of writing the dissertation. (No dissertation fellowships are available in South Africa.) Postdoctoral candidates must be scholars who have obtained the Ph.D. within the past eight years. All applicants must be citizens of a sub-Saharan African country residing and working in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda.
Deadline: 1 November 2012
More information: http://www.acls.org/programs/ahp (after September 4) or may be requested by email at ahp@acls.org

Social Science Research Council
International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)
The Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF) offers nine to twelve months of support to graduate students in the humanities and humanistic social sciences who are enrolled in PhD programs in the United States and conducting dissertation research on non-US topics. Eighty fellowships are awarded annually. Fellowship amounts vary depending on the research plan, with a per-fellowship average of $20,000. The fellowship includes participation in an SSRC-funded interdisciplinary workshop upon the completion of IDRF-funded research.
Deadline: November 7, 2012
http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship/

Social Science Research Council
Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa: Critical Perspectives in Peace, Security, and Development Issues
Eligibility: All applicants must be citizens of and reside in a sub-Saharan African country while holding a current faculty position at an accredited college or university in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda. Applicants must have a master’s degree and be working toward completion of the doctoral degree.
Awards:
Doctoral dissertation proposal fellowship (up to US $3,000)
Doctoral dissertation research fellowship (up to US $15,000)
CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS: JOURNALS

Special Issue of Gender & History 26:3 (November 2014)
Theme: 'Gender, Imperialism and Global Exchanges'
Issue Editors: Stephan F. Miescher, University of California, Santa Barbara; Michele Mitchell, New York University; Naoko Shibusawa, Brown University

We plan to approach the creation of this special issue via a colloquium to be held at New York University (or Brown University) on Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, 2013. Please submit 1-2 page abstracts in English (500-750 words maximum) to gendhist@umn.edu by October 1, 2012, with 'Special Issue 26:3 abstract submission' in the subject line (limited funds for the translation of articles written in other languages might be available). Invitations to present at the colloquium will be issued in November 2012. Papers must be submitted for pre-circulation to the editors by April 1, 2013, as a condition of participation.

Africa Update
2013 Winter Issue
Contributors must address
- Mali’s Past, Present and Future within the context of the current challenges facing this great
- African nation that has contributed so much culturally and intellectually to enrich our world.
Submissions should be sent to the Guest Editor, Abdul Salau to salau234@gmail.com Deadline: December 1, 2012
Length of submission: 8 to 15 pages (double spaced)
Style: Chicago
http://www.ccsu.edu/afstudy/archive.html

Politique africaine
Crises and whispers in the Sahel
The journal Politique africaine (www.politique-africaine.com) is preparing a special issue on crises in the Sahel. Deadlines:
- Abstracts (maximum one page) should be sent to Vincent Bonnecase (CNRS) and Julien Brachet (IRD) by September 30th, 2012.
- Selected articles (8000 words) are expected on 30th December 2012.
Contacts: vincentbonnecase@yahoo.fr and Julien.Brachet@ird.fr

Student Anthropologist
The Journal of the National Association of Student Anthropologists
Call for Papers for Special Issue on African Diaspora Religion
Deadline September 30, 2012
All submissions should be under 6,000 words in length and are subject to a peer review process. All submissions should be sent in a single document as an attachment and saved in Microsoft Office Word (.doc or .docx) or Mac
Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
Theme: 'The Sociology of Translation in a Developmental Context’
Guest-edited by Sergey Tyulenev and Marlie van Rooyen

Journal of African Cinemas
Theme of special issue: “Everyday Violence(s) and Visualities in Africa”
Please submit Abstracts of not more than 300 words to Guest Editors:
Prof. Maurice T. Vambe, [16]vambemt@unisa.ac.za, English Studies, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
Or
Dr. Nyasha Mboti , [17]nyasha.mboti@gmail.com, Centre for Communication Media and Society, University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban
Due Date for Abstracts: 1 October 2012
Submission of Full Paper: 1 April 2013

Contemporary Black Female Sexualities
Editors: Trimiko Melancon and Joanne M. Braxton
Please send abstracts of 250-500 words, along with a CV or full list of credentials, to blackfemalesexualities@gmail.com by October 1, 2012. Editors will invite contributors to submit completed essays of 4000-7500 words, which will be due by January 15, 2013. As we have already received strong interest in the collection from a reputable academic press, review of materials and requests for revisions will proceed in a timely and efficient fashion, as we are eager to submit the collection for publication review in April 2013.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Life Histories of African Slaves
Over the last five years, Alice Bellagamba, Carolyn Brown, Sandra Greene and Martin Klein have been involved in a project to find and publish African sources on the history of slavery and the slave trade within Africa. The most recent was a conference in Berlin that dealt with work
and life cycle. We are in the process of publishing documents and papers that have emerged from these conferences. One of our central concerns has been to understand the lived experience of slaves in Africa and in the slave trade out of Africa. To that end, three of us would like to push further in one area, the quest for life histories of African slaves. Some recent work has been done in this area by Paul Lovejoy and various collaborators, by Michael Larue and by Eve Troutt Powell. Are there more life histories out there? We think so. If so, we would like to organize panels at the biannual meeting of Africa-Europe Group of Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS) in Lisbon 26-28 June 2013 and at the African Studies Association Meeting in Baltimore 21-24 November 2013.

Our goal would be to eventually publish a book of such narratives. These life histories can be biographical or autobiographical.

Interested persons should submit titles and abstracts to martin.klein@utoronto.ca or alicebellagamba@yahoo.it or seg6@cornell.edu. Please indicate which conference you wish to participate in. We need proposals for the AEGIS meeting by October 10. The ASA programme deadline will be much later. We have no funds to underwrite travel.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CONFERENCES

Fifth European Conference on AFrican Studies (ECAS 5): African Dynamics in a Multipolar World

Location: Lisbon, Portugal
Dates: June 26 to 28, 2013

The Call for panels closes 19th October 2012
All proposals must be made via the online form [21]http://nomadit.co.uk/ecas/ecas2013/panelproposal.php5. Proposals should consist of a panel title, a (very) short abstract of <300 characters, and an abstract of 250 words. The proposal may also include the names of any chairs or discussants, although these can be added subsequently using the login environment, Cocoa. Please use the convention of Firstname Lastname (Institution). If these roles are to be taken by convenors, then please do not enter your own names there - as it’s implicit that this will be the case where other names are not listed.


Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) Conference
Theme: “Africa and Her Resources”
Location: Hilton at the Ballpark Hotel, St. Louis, MO
Dates: Nov. 2-3, 2012
To propose a paper or panel, please send a 250-word abstract or panel
description by September 1, 2012 to: Glenn Adams, MAAAS Vice President
(2011-2012) email address: adamsg@ku.edu

Theme: Dying, Death and the Politics of After-Death in the African World
Location: School of General Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
Dates: March 20-22, 2013
Deadline for submission: Friday, September 28, 2012
Submit: If an abstract is accepted for the conference, a full draft paper would be required by Friday January 4, 2013. Submissions should indicate the following: a) author(s), b) affiliation, c) email address, d) title of abstract, e) body of abstract, f) up to 5 keywords
For enquiries, call 234-8037244485, 234-8060910453, 234-8039580855, 234-8063290671
Email: ceberus@heavensgate-ng.com, conference@jls-online.com

AFRICE International Conference in Comparative Education
Theme: Old and New Slaveries: What are the schools telling humankind?
Yaoundé -Cameroon
Dates: March 1st - 3rd, 2013
Deadline for Abstracts: September 30th 2012
Deadline for selected Abstracts: October 15th 2012
Deadline for Final Papers: December 15th 2012
[26]Website
Inquiries: Dr. Willibroad Dze-Ngwa, AFRICE President, africeconference@yahoo.com
Dr. Tohnian Nobert Lengha, AFRICE Secretary-General
E-mail: [27]tohnole@yahoo.com/tohnolecneminrest@yahoo.co.uk

Eleventh North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa (NEWSA)
We encourage scholars from all disciplines who are currently working on southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to submit proposals.
Date: April 19-21, 2013
Location: Bishop Booth Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont (USA),
Deadline: For paper and/or panel proposals, or to volunteer as a discussant, September 30, 2012.
Contact: Please send proposals to Judith Van Allen at [28]jv43@cornell.edu.
Website: [29]http://csbs.csusb.edu/newsa/index.htm

Alien Bodies: Race, Space, and Sex in the African Diaspora
The African-American Studies Collective
Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Dates: February 8-9, 2013
Please send 250-300 word abstracts to alienbodies@gmail.com by October 7, 2012. Send a 150-400 word abstract for a panel (one for the panel subject and one for each panelist), and/or individual paper and poster
presentations. For roundtable discussions, submit a 500 word abstract that explores the discussion topic.
For more information and updates, follow us on Facebook (Alien Bodies Conference), on Twitter (@AlienBodies), and on Tumblr (alienbodies.tumblr.com).

The 39th annual conference of the African Literature Association (ALA)
Literature, Liberation, and the Law
Location: Charleston, South Carolina
Dates: March 20-24, 2013
Deadline: November 30, 2012
Application: Please send abstracts of up to 500 words for individual papers and/or four-person panels to Simon Lewis at [lewiss@cofc.edu]
Website: [http://claw.cofc.edu/ala/conference.html](http://claw.cofc.edu/ala/conference.html).

ORGANIZE A POLITICAL SCIENCE WORKSHOP IN AFRICA

APSA is now accepting proposals from political scientists interested in serving as co-leaders for the 6th annual APSA Africa Workshop. This two-week political science workshop will take place in the summer of 2013. Submissions must come from a team of two US-based and two Africa-based scholars. Those applying to be co-leaders must propose a workshop theme, location, and African institutional partner. The application deadline is November 1, 2012. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the 2013 workshop is part of an ongoing multi-year effort to support political science research and teaching in Sub-Saharan Africa through a series of residential political science workshops. Previous workshops were held in Gaborone, Botswana (2012); Nairobi, Kenya (2011); Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2010); Accra, Ghana (2009); and Dakar, Senegal (2008). Each year, the program is hosted by a university or research institute in Africa and brings together up to 22 Africa-based scholars, as well as four advanced PhD students from US-based universities. Workshop leaders will serve as academic directors of the project who will be responsible for all substantive content. A modest honorarium will be provided and related expenses (meals, transportation, lodging, incidentals) will be covered. Workshop administration and logistics will be led by APSA staff in conjunction with the local partners in Africa.

Inquiries: Andrew Stinson ([astinson@apsanet.org](mailto:astinson@apsanet.org))
Long time ASA member Ahmed Samatar and brother of ASA Vice President, Abdi Samatar, ran for president of Somalia in the September 10 elections, in which Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was elected president. See [1]Minnesota Public Radio for more commentary.

Catherine Lena Kelly, Ph.D. candidate in government at Harvard University, will spend 2012-13 as the Harvard Sciences-Po Exchange Fellow, where she will share her work with Paris’ community of scholars of francophone Africa.

Christopher Clapham is retiring as editor of The Journal of Modern African Studies, after fifteen years, at the end of Vol. 50 (2012). The new editorial team of Paul Nugent (Edinburgh) and Leonardo Villalón (Florida), assisted by Maggie Dwyer (Edinburgh) will be taking over from Vol. 51 No. 1 (March 2013). After 1 September 2012 all correspondence relating to JMAS should be sent to the new email address at: [3]jmas@cambridge.org.

Former Director of the Center for African Studies, Dr. Leonardo Villalón, has been awarded a three year, $1.25 million grant to study factors affecting political stability in the Sahel. The award is part of the Minerva Research Initiative, a university-based social science research program intended to increase understanding of regions and topics considered important to U.S. national security and funded by the Department of Defense. The award will support field research by UF faculty and graduate students in six Sahelian nations: Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.
We need more news about our members! Please let us know about your promotions, awards, accomplishments and other news so we can share the information with other ASA members in ASA News. Next deadline: November 1 for January 3 publication. Submit to ASA News Editor, Laura Seay, [4]lseay@morehouse.edu

3. [mailto:jmas@cambridge.org](mailto:jmas@cambridge.org)
4. [mailto:lseay@morehouse.edu](mailto:lseay@morehouse.edu)

Annual Meeting Features Workshops (2012-08-30 14:25)

ASA ANNUAL MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA
November 29-December 1, 2012

Health Workshop
Wednesday, November 28, noon – 5 pm

![2011 Health Workshop](image)

We are pleased to announce a workshop to assist younger generations in developing critical research approaches that can be used to inform and to problematize public health research, policies, and programming in Africa. We also will use the workshop as a starting point to push the science of public health interventions in new directions, ones that are more inclusive of social science and humanities approaches and that better integrate country-level civil society concerns and local health needs. We seek to identify strategies for mobilizing the knowledge and expertise of researchers in African studies that can inform public health research, policy, and programming in Africa.

Registration for the Health Workshop is now open. It is free but required. The format for the workshop is a panel of interdisciplinary researchers from the humanities, social sciences, public health, and medicine who will present information about health-related interventions in African settings from around the continent. After the panel session we will break up into small groups to discuss topics emergent topics related to particular types of health interventions and plan for the health workshop in Baltimore in 2013 where we can interact more easily with representatives from various branches of the NIH. Young scholars are encouraged to participate. We will create an abstract book with participants’ research abstracts to facilitate networking and collaboration.
Applicants may send titles and abstracts of research projects to: [2]asahealthworkshop2012@gmail.com.

Workshop organizers:
Sheryl McCurdy can be reached by email at [3]Sheryl.A.McCurdy@uth.tmc.edu
Tamara Giles-Vernick can be reached by email at [4]tgiles@pasteur.fr.

Cooking with Ancient African Grains (Cancelled)
This workshop features the renowned Senegalese chef, Pierre Thiam. Mr. Thiam is the former proprietor of Le Grand Dakar Restaurant in Brooklyn, New York, and is the author of the cookbook, Yolele!. Presently, Mr. Thiam runs a catering business in New York where his clients include the musician Jay-Z; and participates globally in cooking workshops. Participants in the workshop will gain hands-on experience in cooking with such grains as fonio and will learn about the cultural history of the dishes they are preparing. The workshop will be held in a professional demonstration kitchen. Conveners: Pierre Thiam and Richard M. Shain (Philadelphia University; shainr@philau.edu)

Dissertation Project Workshop (registration now closed)
Friday, November 30, 4:30-6:15 pm
Organizers:
Victoria Bernal, UC, Irvine (Anthropology) [5]vbernal@uci.edu
Sheryl McCurdy, University of Texas (Global Health) sheryl.mccurdy@gmail.com

Publish that Article: A Workshop Featuring the Editors of African Studies Journals
Saturday, December 1, 10:30 – 12:15 pm
Organized by the African Studies Review editors.

Teacher’s Workshop
Saturday, December 1, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
The Outreach Council coordinates this annual program for K-12 educators. Educators have the opportunity to participate in various panels and receive materials and resources for teaching about Africa. Organizer: Anastasia Shown (shown@sas.upenn.edu)
William Cyrus Reed III (born October 16, 1955), also known as "Cy," died in Cassopolis, Michigan, on July 19, 2012. He had been a professor of political science, having taught at Simpson College, Wabash College, the American University of Cairo, Egypt and the American University of Bulgaria. He was a lifetime member of the ASA.

Reed received his PhD in political science from Indiana University in 1989 and studied at in Cologne and Innsbruck. He carried out fieldwork in Rwanda, Southern Africa and Egypt and lived in Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa and Bulgaria. He traveled extensively throughout the Asia and Middle East as director of international trade for the State of Indiana. In the 1970s helped build a school in Ada, Ghana, in and then hitch-hiked across the Sahara in 1979.

He had published extensively on the politics of Rwanda, Sudan, Zimbabwe and various themes in international studies. Reed founded and directed the African Studies program at the American University of Cairo from 1991-2001. He held administrative posts with Ball State University as assistant provost for International Education; associate provost for International Programs at the American University of Cairo; vice president for Global Academic Programs at the New York Institute of Technology; and most recently as provost at American University of Bulgaria.

Cooking with Ancient African Grains (Cancelled)

This workshop features the renowned Senegalese chef, Pierre Thiam. Mr. Thiam is the former proprietor of Le Grand Dakar Restaurant in Brooklyn, New York, and is the author of the cookbook, Yolele!. Presently, Mr. Thiam runs a catering business in New York where his clients include the musician Jay-Z; and participates globally in cooking workshops. Participants in the workshop will gain hands-on experience in cooking with such grains as fonio and will learn about the cultural history of the dishes they are preparing. The workshop will be held in a professional demonstration kitchen. Conveners: Pierre Thiam and Richard M. Shain (Philadelphia University; shainr@philau.edu)

The Barnes Collection – African Art, Cultural Politics and Power in The City of Brotherly Love

The Barnes Foundation Museum, formerly located in the Philadelphia suburbs, was one of the first museums in the world to show African art along-side modern European art. Its collection of post-impressionist, cubist and fauvist art is among the most celebrated in the world. Its collection of African art, while not as famous, certainly is worthy of note. The museum’s founder, Dr. Albert C. Barnes, rebelled against the dominant curatorial traditions of his time. He refused to ghettoize African art that for him was art in the same way a Matisse painting was art. In a move that has created a local controversy, the Barnes collection was re-installed recently into a new building near the Philadelphia Museum of Art. This workshop will include a guided tour of The Barnes’ new home and then will explore the debate generated by its relocation. It is extremely difficult to obtain tickets for the Barnes and this workshop will provide a unique opportunity for its participants. Convener: The Philadelphia Local Arrangements Committee ([3]shainr@philau.edu)

An ASA-African Immigrant Community Town Hall Meeting

The African Town-Hall will bring together representatives from the Philadelphia region’s many African immigrant communities to meet with professional Africanists to discuss matters of mutual concern. The workshop will help break down the artificial barriers that exist between the ASA and African immigrants
ASA Annual Meeting Will Feature Murray Last as African Studies Review Distinguished Lecturer (2012-08-31 11:19)

By Miriam Goheen

The editors of the African Studies Review are delighted to announce Murray Last, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University College London, and former Editor of AFRICA, the journal of the International African Institute, as the ASR 2012 Distinguished Lecturer. His lecture, “The legacies of Sokoto: usable history, polarities of piety, Boko Haram...?!” will be presented at the ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on Friday, November 30, 10:30am-12:15pm. Professor Last holds degrees from University of Cambridge (Hons) 1959, Yale University (MA 1961) and University of Ibadan, where he received the first PhD awarded by that institution. He specializes in both the pre-colonial history of Muslim northern Nigeria and the ethnography of illness and healing, and is currently co-Director, Centre for Medical Anthropology, University College London

Professor Last is well known, admired and respected throughout the African Studies community as an eminent scholar and author of over 100 publications on African history and anthropology, and as the intrepid and brilliant sole editor of the International African Institute’s journal, AFRICA, from 1986-2001. Many are less aware of Professor Last’s unparalleled commitment to field research and to the people of northern Nigeria: he has been working in or on northern Nigeria since 1961, researching a wide variety of subjects with colleagues in Bayero University, Kano, where he was Professor of History 1978-80. He has spent at least one month a year in northern Nigeria since 1961, and has been both a “traditional” Muslim student in Birnin Zaria and a guest for two years in a Maguzawa (non-Muslim Hausa) farmstead. When asked for a list of his publications, he listed only two of more than 100 published works: his 1967 publication of The Sokoto Caliphate (London: Longmans Green), published in Hausa as Daular Sakkwato, and The Professionalisation of African Medicine, co-edited with G.L. Chavunduka, published in 1986 by Manchester University Press
for the International African Institute. As one colleague wrote to us, “[one of] the most amazing things about Murray has been his total devotion to returning to his place in Nigeria every single year for his whole career...he has lived with that compound, as it has changed over time, for most of his life! There must be no western scholar who could appreciate the nuances of Hausa life—historically, socially, religiously and so on—more than Murray”.

Many remember Professor Last well through interactions with him during his tenure as Editor of AFRICA, where his insistence on ethnographic detail, maps to scale, and the ability of authors to show a real understanding of ethnography and place are legendary. As editor of AFRICA, he engaged in all kinds of conversations with manuscript reviewers, not only out of appreciation for their efforts but also the deepest of interest. He seldom if ever wrote a pro forma “thanks”, but always had something substantive in response to reviewers’ comments. As editors, we stand in awe of his energy, as well as his deep knowledge and abiding scholarly interest which continues to characterize interactions with Murray today. Equally salient is his commitment to Nigerian scholars and scholarship, especially to young scholars whom he has engaged and encouraged and collaborated with for his entire career.

It is impossible to do justice here to a scholar whose C.V. is so highly distinguished and fills more pages than some scholarly publications. Murray Last has made serious, substantial, and lasting contributions: as a scholar to the African Studies literature, as a teacher to international university education for many years, and as a colleague and editor where he has engaged all of us... He has served as an outside examiner throughout Africa and Europe, and has been a distinguished Professor of History at Bayero University, Kano, and Distinguished Visiting Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. He knows an enormous amount about a wide range of topics or as a colleague put it,”[Murray] has forgotten more than most of us know...he knows more than most about just about anything—such as the history of London...[and] as a pacifist, he knows more about the great wars of the twentieth century than anyone I know”. Distinguished Africanist, international scholar of a wide range of topics, and leading western expert on northern Nigeria, we are truly grateful Professor Murray Last has agreed to be the 2012 ASR Distinguished Lecturer, and look forward to welcoming him in Philadelphia in November.

The African Studies Review Editors would like to thank the entire Board of the African Studies Association, and Aili Tripp, President of the ASA, for their on-going support, especially for their funding for this lecture series.

Submitted by Miriam Goheen, editor of the African Studies Review and Professor of Anthropology-Sociology and Black Studies at Amherst College.

Letter from the ASA President (2012-08-31 12:28)

Dear ASA members,

I am delighted to inform you of some exciting new directions the ASA is taking. We are undergoing many major changes in the structure and direction of the organization, all for the better.

In anticipation of the end of our current contract with our host institution, Rutgers University, we issued a call for proposals in February to host the association from 2013 to 2018. We received indications of interest from nine institutions. We requested bids from four: Northwestern University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Five Colleges and Rutgers University. Northwestern University withdrew its bid after further consideration. We conducted site visits at three institutions and after careful deliberation of each option, we ranked Rutgers University as our top choice. All three institutions had compelling reasons for being our host. We were grateful to all the institutions and individuals who worked on the indications of interest and bids. This provided us an opportunity to weigh our options and determine how our needs might best be met at this time.

While all institutions had much to offer, we decided to go with Rutgers University in the end, because it proposed the most from a financial standpoint; and it provided us with the necessary space and other amenities, as well the institutional independence that we required. The university administration and the Center for African Studies have been consistently supportive and helpful to the association. We are extremely grateful for all the assistance they have provided us in the past and look forward to continuing this relationship. We will be especially interested in pursuing new synergies with CAS as we move forward. The location provides for a large pool of qualified individuals who might serve as Executive Director. The proximity to foundations in New York City, the government in Washington D.C., and to numerous corporations and universities, will facilitate the Association’s engagement in fundraising and other activities. We are now in the process of signing a contract with Rutgers University and we look forward to another five years of collaboration with them.

We put out a call for a new Executive Director and have done an initial round of interviews and hope to be able to announce the new ED in the near future.
We have also made major decisions in other areas as well. This week we signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to take over the publication of the ASA journals, African Studies Review and History in Africa. CUP will also provide our members with free online access to current and back issues of ASR and HiA; process our membership payments, annual meeting registration and donations to the association; and allow us to access a membership directory. We anticipate that this will address most of the problems we have experienced with registration for membership and the annual meeting (See article in newsletter).

We still need to address remaining issues with the ASA website, to make it more user friendly and a centralized source of valuable information relating to the African studies community.

Finally, I wish to inform you that the ASA signed hotel contracts with the Marriott hotel for Chicago in 2017, Atlanta in 2018 and Boston in 2019.

Special thanks to Suzanne Moyer Baazet, our interim Executive Director, who has provided excellent advice and support to the Board in coming to these many decisions we have had to make in recent months. She has been an enormous asset in helping us find efficient yet professional solutions to the many challenges we have faced.

With all best wishes,
Aili Mari Tripp
President, African Studies Association
Professor, Political Science and Gender & Women’s Studies

1. [1](http://www.asanewsonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/AiliTripp.jpg)

Ama Ata Aidoo to Deliver Abiola Lecture at Annual Meeting (2012-08-31 13:29)

This year, the Abiola Lecture at the ASA Annual Meeting will be delivered by Professor Ama Ata Aidoo, a Ghanaian author, playwright, and poet. It will be held Saturday, December 1, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm. Her talk is entitled, "Clapping with One Hand, Or a Fundamentally Flawed Management of Post-Colonial African Public Spaces." The Bashorun M.K.O. Abiola Lecture was established in 1992 with a generous grant from the Honorable Bashorun M.K.O. Abiola to provide for a lecture by a senior African scholar selected by the ASA Board of Directors. Aidoo’s first play, The Dilemma of a Ghost, was published in 1965, making her the first published African woman dramatist. She was awarded fellowships at Stanford University and
University of Ghana, and held a professorship in English at the University of Cape Coast and visiting professorship at Brown University. Her novel Changes, won the 1992 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book (Africa). Her most recent publication is Diplomatic Pounds & Other Stories, 2012. The lecture has been made possible partly by generous funding from Cornell University and from Brown University, where Professor Aidoo will also be speaking during her visit to the US.

The ASA Annual Meeting will also feature numerous other events discussing her work:

I-F-8 Roundtable — The Literary Artist as Public Intellectual: The Example of Ama Ata Aidoo
Chair: Adams, Anne, Cornell University
Mugo, Micere, Syracuse University
Falola, Toyin, University of Texas
Odamtten, Vincent, Hamilton College
Ajayi-Soyinka, Omofolabo, University of Kansas
Busia, Abena, Rutgers University
Cheryl Toman, Case Western Reserve U

IV-F-8 The African Short Story (Part II) (Sponsored by the African Literature Association)
Chair: Emenyonu, Ernest, University of Michigan-Flint
Iwuanyanwu, Obiwu, Central State University, Hunger in the South African Short Narratives of Can Themba and Nadine Gordimer
Egbunike, Louisa, London University, Snapshots of the Botswana Nation: Bessie Head’s The Collector of Treasures and Other Botswana Village Tales as National Project
Uko, Iniobong I., University of Uyo, Contextualizing Love and African Womanhood in Select Stories in Ama Ata Aidoo’s African Love Stories
Diala-Ogamba, Blessing, Coppin State University, Exposition of Apartheid South African Violence and Injustice in Alex La Guma’s Short Stories
Discussant: Nwankwo, Chimalum, North Carolina A & T University

VI-F-8 Gender, Creative Dissidence, and the Discourses of African Diaspora: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Ama Ata Aidoo’s Literary Corpus
Chair: Miescher, Stephan, University of California-Santa Barbara
ASA Journals to be Published by Cambridge University Press (2012-08-31 14:36)

Beginning in 2013, Cambridge University Press will assume publication of the ASA journals, African Studies Review and History in Africa. Up until this time, the ASA has self-published these journals. This move will significantly improve the management of the journals and will give them the visibility they deserve. We will now be able to provide a decent online presence for the journals, edit them through an online management system, provide for online submissions, expand our advertising worldwide, and simplify the editing process. Cambridge University Press will also provide our members with free online access to current and back issues of ASR and HiA. Because of past difficulties with our current online membership services system, we decided for the time being to use Cambridge Journals online to process our membership payments, annual meeting registration and donations to the association. ASA members will once again be able to access a membership directory after many years of not having one. We are confident that this will enable our members to easily register and renew membership without the difficulties many encountered in the past. Members are guaranteed first-rate membership support services should they experience difficulties. Although we do not anticipate problems, we are free to change systems if they do not meet our expectations. This move will save the organization considerable resources, which is a priority given the challenges we have recently faced as an organization.

Fieldwork as a Diasporan: How I Increased My Bride Price and Other Insights from the Field (2012-08-31 15:37)

Jacqueline Mougoué in Buea, Cameroon

By Jacqueline-Bethel Tchouta Mougoué

To be honest, I never believed that my doctoral dissertation research in Cameroon would be an easy undertaking. Colleagues and friends coined me as lucky upon learning that Cameroon was my country of birth and in the words of many, “research will be easy.” I was given further nods of approval when people learned that I would be staying with family and saving money (the ultimate goal for all funding-strapped graduate students). I was excited to finally be undertaking research, particularly in a country that I believed to be marginal in the field of African history. Furthermore, I was eager to contribute to the burgeoning field of African gender studies. Thus, I took a plane to Cameroon with a conglomerate of feelings—a duty to redress the imbalance of Cameroonian history, a determination to do the best ethnographies and archival research, sentiments of patriotism, and, of course, wariness, and nervousness.

I was nervous because I felt extra pressure to do my best work. After all, I was born in Cameroon. I believed that if I failed, I would put myself (and other African scholars) to shame. Additionally, my wariness stemmed from the unknown. My dissertation advisors had prepared me academically for this trip, but I also knew to expect the unexpected. I knew that obstacles (and insights) not directly related to my research would arise. The following anecdotes are used as platforms to showcase two important lessons (among others) I learned during my doctoral dissertation field research in Cameroon from 2011 to 2012.

1. Never assume others know one is African

Instructors at the University of Buea (my school of institutional affiliation) realized I was of Cameroonian origin several months into my trip. Before this, they apparently referred to me as the “black American woman” (though they did admit to speculating about my very Cameroonian last name). This realization was shocking to me. One of my excitements about being in Cameroon was that I believed that I no longer had to announce my origin. In the U.S., people are constantly asking me where I’m from. In Cameroon, at least, I thought I would be free of this and receive the type of acknowledgements that occurs between groups of people from the same country. I was evidently wrong. Unfortunately, in my stubbornness to assimilate, I went on ignoring
the fact that, at first conversation, people coined me as American. Fortunately, my stubbornness lost out, and I learned how to navigate through these issues. I quickly discovered that sometimes being the “American” opened some doors for me, while being Cameroonian opened others. I’m not saying that I ever denied being Cameroonian. I merely state that the perception of me as an American or Cameroonian by others opened or closed doors while at the same time, allowed me to negotiate these two identities to my advantage. For instance, interviewees were more willing to explain and elaborate on specific issues when they perceived me to be only American. On the other hand, officials were more likely to help me with paperwork when they perceived me as a Cameroonian who wanted to return to my roots via academia.

2. Downplay some of my feminist beliefs and adjust to Cameroonian gender norms

Subscribing to Cameroonian gender norms was a really difficult obstacle for me. It is noteworthy to first point out that in Cameroon there are many gender norms due to diverse geographical locations, cultures, gender, age, etc. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that all Cameroonian ethnic groups have monolithic ideologies about gender roles/relations. I can only speak about my personal experiences. Politics aside, I will just state that I am what you call an African feminist and was raised by a Cameroonian father who fervently believed in and ardently supported feminism. While in Cameroon, I had some exchanges with men that left me feeling belittled because of my gender. I often had to remind myself that I am in Cameroon where gender relations differ from those in the U.S. After grudgingly accepting this, specific research obstacles I was dealing with became easier to deal with. Let me describe a few elements that define ideal Cameroonian womanhood as examples of gender norms I confronted:

The assumption that all women must know how to cook is one that holds true in contemporary Cameroon. During my field research, family members, colleagues, and even interviewees often asked me what cuisines I liked to prepare. The natural belief was that as a woman I knew how to cook, but it was just a matter of what type of dishes I knew how to prepare. One particular day during my stay in Buea with family members, my aunt found herself occupied with an unforeseen task. Thus, I took it upon myself to prepare the meal for the day, a popular Cameroonian dish called le Poulet DG. My male cousins were quite surprised to know that I knew how to cook a Cameroonian dish. After surpassing their shock and tasting the dish, one of my cousins proclaimed me a true Cameroonian woman and announced that my bride price had now dramatically increased because of my cooking skills! He joked that the family would now ask for herds of cows and goats as a direct result of my cooking skills.

Being Cameroonian did not always mean having an easier inroad to finding potential interview subjects. In a culture that is hierarchical (in terms of age and one’s point in the life) I struggled to find women over 50 who were willing to allow me to interview them. I knew it was because I was unmarried and childless and was not yet perceived as a true woman (marriage and motherhood being key defining aspects of Cameroonian womanhood). Despite being almost 30 years old, I still look young for my age, another component that made my situation worse. In the words of an aunt, “these woman will look at you like a child!” I resolved my problems when the same aunt volunteered to convince women from her women’s groups and associations to grant me interviews.

In the end, I successfully finished my doctoral dissertation field research. The help I received from family members, friends, colleagues, and other Cameroonian scholars was of monumental value during my stay. But I always remember that these experiences not only gave me a lesson in humility, but that field research in African countries for scholars of African origins presents unique problems and obstacles, and yes, also advantages.

Jacqueline-Bethel Tchouta Mougoué is a PhD Candidate in History at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.
Share your research experiences as a diasporan below. What particular challenges did you face? How did you cope?


Peace Medie (2012-09-13 16:16:54)
Thanks for this interesting piece. I think that it is often a matter of doing what is going to get results. On the other hand, conforming to these roles (gender and age) is not always guaranteed to provide an advantage. For example, most of my interviews in Liberia were with policemen. I don’t think that if I had been more feminine in dress, speech, etc. or been less assertive, I would have accomplished what I did. I don’t think that I would have been taken seriously and might not have been able to have the kind of conversations that I had with these officers. Secondly, there are some advantages to being an African studying in the Diaspora and conducting field research in one’s country of origin. They include fluency in the local language(s), familiarity with the cultures, and having the company and support of locally-based relatives and friends during extended research stays. On the other hand, these advantages are not always realized. For example, although I had tried to mentally prepare myself for the experience, I was still shocked at the human and structural toll of the Liberian civil wars when I returned to the country to conduct research in 2010. I found myself having to re-learn how to live and work in this significantly modified environment. I often felt like an indigene and a foreigner at the same time. As the author observed, conducting field research as a Diasporan is not necessarily an “easy” experience but it is definitely one that presents many opportunities for learning and adapting.
Chapter 2

2013

2.1 January

Opportunities in African Studies: New Journal Announcement (2013-01-01 08:00)

The Journal of West African History (JWAH)

Nwando Achebe, Editor-in-Chief
Hilary Jones and John Thabiti Willis, Associate Editors
Harry Odamten, Book Review Editor
Published semiannually

[1] The Journal of West African History (JWAH) is a new interdisciplinary peer-reviewed research journal that will publish the highest quality articles on West African history. Located at the cutting edge of new scholarship on the social, cultural, economic, and political history of West Africa, JWAH will fill a representational gap by providing a forum for serious scholarship and debate on women and gender, sexuality, slavery, oral history, popular and public culture, and religion. The editorial board encourages authors to explore a wide range of topical, theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives in new and exciting ways. The journal is committed to rigorous thinking and analysis; is
international in scope; and offers a critical intervention about knowledge production. Scholarly reviews of current books in the field will appear in every issue. And the publication will be in both English and French; an abstract in the other language will be provided of each. Michigan State University Press publishes the JWAH in collaboration with the MSU African Studies Center, and the History Department.

The debut issue of JWAH will appear in Spring 2014. To this end, the editorial board invites scholars to submit original article-length manuscripts (not exceeding 10,000 words including endnotes, 35 pages in length) accompanied by an abstract that summarizes the argument and significance of the work (not exceeding 150 words); please see submission guidelines for detailed expectations. Review essays (not exceeding 1,000 words) should engage the interpretation, meaning, or importance of an author’s argument for a wider scholarly audience. A list of books available for review can be found on our website; please contact our book review editor at hodamttten@scu.edu for more information. Beginning November 23, 2012, manuscripts submitted to the Journal of West African History should be submitted online at http://jwah.msu.edu/ or jwahsubs@msu.edu. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2013.

We recognize that access to the internet is not universal; therefore we will accommodate those who are unable to submit their manuscripts electronically. Please contact the editorial staff at: JWAH, 141 B & C History Hall (Old Horticulture), 506 E. Circle Drive, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824; Phone: (517)884-4593, Fax: (517)884-4594, or jwah@jwah.msu.edu for further instructions. The editor-in-chief can be reached directly at achebe@jwah.msu.edu.


A Note from Outgoing Editor Laura Seay (2013-01-01 09:13)

After several years of its absence, in 2012, we revived the ASA News in a new online format. It has been a wonderful experience working with outgoing ASA President Aili Tripp and the ASA Secretariat to build the new website, collect information about the exciting research, teaching, and service activities in which our members are engaged, and having conversations with Africanists around the world about improving the site. ASA News Online has become an important source of information on issues important to those who care about Africa. I’m particularly proud of our efforts to cover issues few others have examined, such as scholarly efforts to preserve Timbuktu’s treasures, the need to preserve funding for African Studies, and the experiences of African researchers in their home countries. We have also worked hard to provide resources for graduate students and others doing research in countries for the first time by looking at research permission requirements and gaining insights from ASA members on the challenges of researching in authoritarian states.
My tenure as ASA News Online editor is up with this issue. I want to thank everyone who has played a part in resurrecting the ASA News, especially the ASA Board members who supported this endeavor from the beginning, as well as the ASA members who have sent in stories, agreed to interviews, and taken the time to engage in online conversations about the association and its activities. It is not an exaggeration to say that ASA News Online would not exist were it not for Aili Tripp’s commitment and dedication to the association and the dissemination of information to the membership. Incoming Executive Director Suzanne Moyer Baazet’s help has been invaluable. Under Moyer Baazet’s leadership, the Secretariat will take over publication of the ASA News Online. I am certain they will continue to produce a high-quality, interesting publication that provides ASA members with timely information about association activities and the broader landscape of African Studies. Thanks for all your help in reviving this publication.

3. [http://www.asanewsonline.com/2012/03/19/future-federal-funding-for-international-studies/](http://www.asanewsonline.com/2012/03/19/future-federal-funding-for-international-studies/)
5. [http://www.asanewsonline.com/2012/05/29/getting-research-permission/](http://www.asanewsonline.com/2012/05/29/getting-research-permission/)

2013 ASA Membership Renewal (2013-01-01 09:14)

It’s time to renew your

African Studies Association

membership for 2013!


As of January 1, 2013, Cambridge University Press is publishing the ASA journals and providing membership services for the ASA. This change includes additional benefits for ASA members:

- Members will now have online access to History in Africa (HIA). HIA articles will be published online as each is ready, so members can use the journal well before its printed volume publishes in October.

- African Studies Review (ASR) issues will be immediately available online as they’re published. Members will continue to receive the print version of ASR if they wish.

- Members will now also have online access to ALL volumes of BOTH journals once they’ve been mounted on Cambridge Journals Online.

- Listing in and access to a new ASA Online Membership Directory – a great way to connect and network

- Members now receive a 20 % discount on most Cambridge University Press books. Reference books are discounted 10 %.
In addition to the above, you will continue to receive these valuable benefits by renewing your 2013 ASA membership now:

In addition to the above, you will continue to receive these valuable benefits by renewing your 2013 ASA membership now:

- Discounted registration fee for the ASA Annual Meeting – a savings of over 50%!

N.B. Registration for the 2013 meeting in Baltimore, Maryland is now open and can be purchased at the same time that you renew your 2013 membership via our site! [2]Click for details

- Opportunity to vote to elect officers and members of the ASA Board of Directors
- Opportunity to serve on ASA Committees of interest to further your research and advance agendas of importance to you
- Ability to nominate individuals for the Distinguished Africanist Award

To renew your membership now, please click [3]here

Memberships can now be purchased in US dollars, UK pounds, or Euros.

Please note that the new membership site hosted by Cambridge Journals Online requires that you either create a new login or use your existing Cambridge Journals Online login if you already have one. Previous ASA website login information will no longer work on the new site.

If you have any difficulties renewing your membership, we are here to help.

Contact us:

- By email: [4]USmemberservices@cambridge.org
- By phone: 845-353-7500

Best wishes,

Cambridge University Press Member Services

1. http://journals.cambridge.org/ASAMBR
2. http://journals.cambridge.org/ASAMBR
3. http://journals.cambridge.org/ASAMBR
4. mailto:USmemberservices@cambridge.org
James F. Searing (1953-2012)

by Kevin M. Schultz and Laura Hostetler | Dec 04, 2012

Reprinted with permission by authors from University of Illinois at Chicago Department of History website

Jim Searing, Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he taught since 1992, died unexpectedly on December 3. Searing, who specialized in African History and served as Chair of the UIC Department of History from 2005-2010, will be missed greatly for his sense of humor, his deep intellect, and his commitment to the Department and the University.

Searing’s research, which focused on the history of Senegal, was enriched through an ethnographic approach to the peoples and cultures of Senegal, including their historical encounters with Islam, the Atlantic world, and French colonial rule. These interests led to flood of dynamic scholarship, including two important books, West African Slavery and Atlantic Commerce: The Senegal River Valley, 1700-1860 (Cambridge, 1993) and “God Alone is King”: Islam and Emancipation in Senegal, 1859-1914: The Wolof Kingdoms of Kajoor and Bawol (Portsmouth, 2001). His current research examined ethnicity and conversion through a fieldwork-based study of the Sereer-Safên, an ethnic minority in the Thiès region who converted to Islam in the colonial period. He was in the midst of producing a steady stream of publications related to that project in top-notch journals, including, “’No Kings, No Lords, No Slaves’: Ethnicity and Religion among the Sereer-Safên of Western Bawol (Senegal), 1700-1914,” Journal of African History, 43 (2002): 407-29; “Conversion to Islam: Military Recruitment and Generational Conflict in a Sereer-Safên Village (Bandia), 1920-1938,” Journal of African History, 44 (2003): 73-94; and “The Time of Conversion: Christian and Muslims among the Sereer-Safên of Senegal, 1914-1950s,” in Benjamin F. Soares (ed.), Muslim-Christian Encounters in Africa, (Leiden & Boston: Brill, 2006).

Shortly before his death, Searing had also initiated negotiations with the United Nations regarding UIC’s participation in UNESCO’s Decade for People of African Descent project, and was in the process of securing recognition for UIC’s Daley Library’s Special Collection on the Sierra Leone, the African slave trade, and the Caribbean.

Searing will also be remembered as a remarkable teacher with an unbridled commitment to his students. He loved introducing undergraduates to the key concepts of history in his historical methods course, and he particularly enjoyed introducing them to the complex history of Africa. For his graduate students, he was a tireless advocate, gently pushing them to do their best work and always offering a humane perspective on the profession they were about to enter. Searing was also the founding member of the graduate concentration in Encounters, Empires, and Ethnography, a concentration that brought together
several of the unique talents of the Department. He leaves a legacy of sophisticated, committed scholars and educators he has trained in the fields of African and Atlantic world history.

Professor Searing is survived by his wife Patricia Hickling and three children, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Katherine Payne Moseley (1941-2012)

Submitted by Rosemary Galli

[2] Katherine Payne Moseley (KP Moseley) passed away peacefully on 4 October 2012. Her often cited work with Immanuel Wallerstein on pre-capitalist social structures initiated a long list of studies and publications on the Trans-Saharan trade, the political economy of West Africa including Sierra Leone and Nigeria, and most recently the economic and social history of the larger oasis band of the northern Saharan edge including Morocco and Mauritania. Kay also actively promoted water and other environmental issues as represented by her paper entitled “Development or Ecocide? Dilemmas of Water Exploitation in the Sahara.” A PhD in Sociology from Columbia University, she did her fieldwork in Dahomey and taught at Fourah Bay College (Sierra Leone) and at the University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria), as well as at Vanderbilt, Brooklyn College, the University of Connecticut (Storrs), and several other American universities. From 2000-2006 she worked as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. State Department and served in Sudan, Mauritania, and Chad. She is remembered by her family and friends for her warmth, sense of fun, wit, love of jazz and African rhythms, and music in general, generosity, hospitality, openness and elegance. She lives vividly in our memory.

Peter James Duignan Jr. (1926-2012)

Peter Duignan Jr. died November 17, 2012, in Cupertino, California. Peter received his BA from the University of San Francisco in 1951 and his MA and PhD in history from Stanford University, where he remained for the duration of his career. In 1957 he was awarded a two year grant by the Ford Foundation to study Native Policy in what was then Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). His other awards included a Rockefeller Foundation International Fellowship (1963-64), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1973-74), and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (1973-75). These were followed by fellowships at Jesus College at Cambridge, St. Antony’s College at Oxford and the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton.

In 1959 he was named curator of the African Collection at Hoover and Director of its African Studies program from 1965 onward. In 1966 he was appointed Curator of Africana Stanford, and built the collection into one of the leading African research archives in the US. In 1968, he was named to the Stella and Ira Lillick Curatorship at Hoover, the first endowed chair in the United States devoted exclusively to the study of Africa.

Duignan authored, edited or coauthored over forty-five books on Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. He coauthored (with Lewis Gann) Why South Africa Will Survive, The United States and
Africa: A History, and Hope for South Africa. He was coeditor of the five volume set Colonialism in Africa.

He served as a board member of the African Studies Association and was an active member of the American Historical Association, the Middle East Studies Association and American Professors for Peace in the Middle East.

Peter Duignan is survived by his wife, Frances and six children. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made in Peter's name to Hospice or [3]http://www.aidforafrica.org/girls

ASA Member News (2013-01-01 09:17)

Richard B. Allen

Richard B. Allen is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for the 2012-13 academic year to complete a book-length manuscript on European slave trading in the Indian Ocean, 1500-1850.

ASA 2013 Call for Proposals (2013-01-01 09:19)

[1] MOBILITY, MIGRATION AND FLOWS

November 21-24, 2013
Marriott Baltimore Waterfront Hotel
DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: March 15, 2012

Program Chairs:

Jamie Monson and Dianna Shandy, Macalester College

The ASA will soon be soliciting proposals for papers, panels, and roundtables. Presentations may focus on the theme of “Mobility, Migration and Flows” or on broader social science, humanities, and applied themes relating to Africa. We strongly encourage the submission of formed panels.

On a geographically diverse continent, Africanists examine the multi-directional movement of people, things, capital, and ideas at many levels. We study not only the movements of people within the Global South and between the Global South and the Global North, but also the borders and the institutions created to police them, in relation to war, environmental change, and outside influence. We look at the transport of materials from one space to another by train, plane, and vehicle across mountains, deserts, lakes, and oceans. Increasingly we are discussing the fluid crossings of boundaries of identity in Africa, be they of religion, ethnicity, gender, language, or sexuality. In our era of social media and technology, we are examining the influence of mass media on the mobility of ideas, symbols, and material objects as well as their commoditization – both within Africa and between Africa and other continents. We look at the ways in which movement can create, sustain and reconfigure human relationships. Recent changes in governments prompt us to think about movement of power and privilege within and outside of state institutions.

All of this fluidity and movement comes with its antagonist obstruction. We see many impediments to physical movement of persons in the form of immigration and border control. The intention of refugee camps and detention facilities is to wall one population from another. Not only physical but also economic, social and cultural spaces within Africa are segregated. There are steep challenges in navigating cultural and social impediments to mobility in many African countries based on the identities mentioned above.

We invite proposals to the 56th ASA Annual Meeting to reflect on how we as researchers study a continent with multiple layers of mobility as well as evident obstruction. The conversation around these issues needs to ask questions about fluidity and obstruction as concepts in African society and culture that are rooted in historical contexts. Then we can begin to unpack the areas of movement and blockages of people, place, and power that are growing so prominent in African Studies. This situation calls for thinking that is itself mobile, and that can engage and transform existing categories. We invite panel, roundtable and paper submissions on the meeting theme.

Inquiries: [2]asameeting2013@gmail.com

Program Committee:

1) Music, Performance, and Visual Culture: Ryan Skinner, University of Ohio

2) Agriculture and Environment: Bill Moseley, Macalester College

3) Education: Cati Coe, Rutgers University

4) Economics and Political Economy: Michael Kevane, Santa Clara University

5) Producing Knowledge: Methodologies and Pedagogies: Cawo Abdi, University of Min-
6) Health and Healing: Greg Maddox, Texas Southern University
7) Human Rights and Transitional Justice: Jean-Pierre Karegeye, Macalester College
8) Legality/Illegality: Eric Allina, University of Ottawa
9) Gender, Women, and Sexualities: Ashley Currier, University of Cincinnati
10) Policy and Evaluation: Tania Bernath, Bernath Consulting International
11) Religion and Spirituality: Derek Peterson, University of Michigan
12) Youth and Urban Spaces: Anna Jacobsen, Gustavus Adolphus College
13) History: Abdullahi Idrissu, St. Olaf College
14) Science and Technology: Nancy Jacobs, Brown University
15) Peace and Security: Scott Straus, University of Wisconsin, Madison
16) Politics and Governance: Amy Poteete, Concordia University
17) Literature and Film: Alexie Tcheuyap, University of Toronto
18) Special Topics

ASA Announcements (2013-01-01 09:20)

Suzanne Baazet has accepted a full time position as ASA Executive Director (See annual report from past President Aili Tripp).

ASA Secretariat: Funmi Vogt has accepted a position as Associate Director of the ASA, based at Rutgers University. See more in [2]President’s Report.
ASA News Online Editor

The ASA is enormously grateful to Laura Seay (Assistant Professor, Morehouse College) for helping get the ASA NewsOnline revived. Editorial responsibilities will be assumed by the new African Studies Association associate director, who will be responsible for overall communications in the association.

Incoming ASA Board Members
The following officers and board members were introduced at the ASA Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting, November 29, 2012.

Vice President:
James Pritchett, Michigan State University

Board:

Gracia Clark, Indiana University
Fallou Ngom, Boston University
Tejumola Olaniyan, University or Wisconsin-Madison

Outgoing members included: Judi Byfield (past president), Teresa Barnes, Cathy Boone, and Richard Schroeder.

Nominees for ASA Board

The candidates for the next ASA Board election in April include:

Vice President:
Toyin Falola (University of Texas-Austin)
Elizabeth Schmidt (Loyola University Maryland)

Board:

1. Peter Lewis (SAIS – Johns Hopkins)
2. Oussaine Aidalou, (Rutgers University)
3. Moraadeewun Adejummbi (African Studies, University of California, Davis)
4. Lori Hartman-Mahmud (Center College, Kentucky)
5. Ugo Nwokeji (History, University of California, Berkeley)
6. Bereket Habte Selassie (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

ASA Seeking Treasurer

The ASA is seeking a new treasurer as the term of Professor Mesfin Bezuneh is ending May 1, 2013. If you are interested in this 5-year position or would like to nominate someone, please let ASA President Abdi Samatar know [mailto:samat001@umn.edu].

3. mailto:samat001@umn.edu
Opportunities in African Studies: Calls for Proposals for Conferences, Journal
(2013-01-01 09:21)

Listed by date of conference

2013 Africa Conference at the University of Texas at Austin

Theme: Social Movements, Religion and Political Expression in Africa
Dates: 29-31 March 2013
Venue: The University of Texas at Austin
Convener: Professor Toyin Falola
Contact: africaconference2013@gmail.com

Liberian Studies Association 45th Annual Conference
Theme: The Human Aspect of Development in Liberia: Steps, Strategies, and Sustainability
Dates: 4-7 April 2013
Venue: Rutgers University
Contact: Jackie Sayegh - jsb25@cornell.edu

Africa Communicating: Digital Technologies, Representation, Power
Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Conference
Institute of African Studies, Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario, May 1-3 2013
Deadline for submitting paper proposals and panel proposals: January 31, 2013.

The Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative - Ghana Interdisciplinary Conference
Theme: Diversity and Multiculturalism in the Global Educational Community
Dates: 22-24 May 2013
Venue: University of Cape Coast, Ghana
For more information:

Sudan Studies Association
32nd Annual Conference: "Greater Sudan: Cross Roads to the Future”
Location: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Dates: May 24, 25 & 26, 2013
Deadline: Abstracts of proposed papers, panels and roundtables should be sent by March 1st, 2013 to Dr. Abdullahi A. Gallab, African and African-American Studies, Religious Studies, Arizona State University.
Email: abdullahi.gallab@asu.edu
A preliminary program will be announced by April 1, 2013. Late proposals for papers will be considered only if space is available. Proposals and paper abstracts submitted earlier will receive preferential treatment in scheduling. Acceptance for presentation will depend on the quality of the abstract and the judgment of the program committee. Registration and conference fees must be paid before presenters will be placed in the formal conference program. Stipends of $200 are available for assistance to a limited number of graduate students. Interested persons should contact SSA President Dr. Randall Fegley, Pennsylvania State University, Berks College, Tulpehocken Road, Reading, PA, USA 19610, Tel. (610) 396-6092, e-mail [6]raf8@psu.edu Local host: Dr. Ali Ali-Dinar, Associate Director African Studies Center University of Pennsylvania.


L2C–Learning to Compete: Industrial Development and Policy in Africa
UNU- World Institute for Development Economics Research
The first of the two 2013 UNU-WIDER Development Conferences
Date: 24-25 June, 2013
Location: Helsinki, Finland.
Deadline for submission of proposals of papers: 31 January 2013
The conference titled ‘L2C – Learning to Compete: Industrial Development and Policy in Africa’ builds on the research from the collaborative project between UNU-WIDER, the Brookings Institution and the African Development Bank, and aims to bring together research on industrial development and industrial policy in Africa. The conference will feature a mix of plenary speakers and panels, sessions based on invited papers and those submitted through this call for papers.

Diversity and Multiculturalism in the Global Educational Community
The Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative - Ghana Interdisciplinary Conference
Location: University of Cape Coast, Ghana
Dates: May 22 to 24, 2013

The Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is seeking paper submissions for an interdisciplinary conference on diversity and multiculturalism in the global community. The conference, co-sponsored by the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, will focus on the politics of diversity and multiculturalism in the 21st century, with a particular emphasis on bridging the divide between internationalism and U.S. domestic discourse on diversity, especially as they relate to education. This will be a unique opportunity to engage, support, and build a broad network and global coalition of professionals committed to expanding knowledge in the areas of diversity, multiculturalism, and internationalism.

If you are interested in participating, please read our Call for Papers:[9]http://www.frederickdouglassinstitute.org/resources/FD I %20Ghana %20Conference %20Call %20for %20Proposals.pdf

For more information regarding the conference, please see our [10]Conference Schedule and Details:
2nd Interdisciplinary International Conference City Catholic University of Eastern Africa
Dates: 25-29 June 2013
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Contact info:
Phone: +254-700-744545
E-mail: amutabi@yahoo.com
Submission of abstracts: Send abstracts of between 250 and 500 words, including full contact details (title, name, address, email-address, and telephone) as well as institutional affiliation by 30th March, 2013 to Prof. Maurice Amutabi at Amutabi@cuea.edu or Amutabi@yahoo.com or research@cuea.edu. The deadline for submission of full papers is 30th May 2013. Some papers presented at the conference will be selected and published in edited volumes and journals affiliated to CUEA. The conference will consist of ten colloquia organized along themes.
Website: [12]http://www.cuea.edu/

5th European Conference on African Studies
Date: 27-29 June 2013 (new dates)
Location: Lisbon, Portugal
Deadline for CFP: January 16, 2013

International Planning History Society (IPHS) & Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal
International Conference
Theme: "Colonial And Postcolonial Urban Planning In Africa”
Theme I - 19th and 20th Century Colonial Urban Planning in Africa
Theme II - Postcolonial Urban Planning in Africa
Location: Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal.
Dates: 5-6 September 2013
Deadline for abstracts: January 15, 2013. Notices of acceptance will be sent by e-mail on February 15, 2013. All colleagues interested to participate in the conference are invited to submit, by e-mail, an abstract (up to 500 words), by no later than 15 January 2013, to: Carlos Nunes Silva, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal; E-mail: [13]urbanplanningafrica@gmail.com
More information: https://sites.google.com/site/cpcup2013conference/

Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana Legon Campus
International Conference
Theme: Revisiting the First International Congress of Africanists in a Globalised World
Location: University of Ghana Legon Campus
Dates: 24-26 October, 2013
For more information: iasconference@ug.edu.gh

NEW JOURNAL

The Journal of West African History (JWAH)
The Journal of West African History (JWAH) is a new interdisciplinary peer-reviewed research journal that will publish the highest quality articles on West African history. Located at the cutting edge of new scholarship on the social, cultural, economic, and political history of West Africa, JWAH will fill a representational gap by providing a forum for serious scholarship and debate on women and gender, sexuality, slavery, oral history, popular and public culture, and religion. The editorial board encourages authors to explore a wide range of topical, theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives in new and exciting ways. The journal is committed to rigorous thinking and analysis; is international in scope; and offers a critical intervention about knowledge production. Scholarly reviews of current books in the field will appear in every issue. And the publication will be in both English and French; an abstract in the other language will be provided of each. Michigan State University Press publishes the JWAH in collaboration with the MSU African Studies Center, and the History Department.

The debut issue of JWAH will appear in Spring 2014. To this end, the editorial board invites scholars to submit original article-length manuscripts (not exceeding 10,000 words including endnotes, 35 pages in length) accompanied by an abstract that summarizes the argument and significance of the work (not exceeding 150 words); please see submission guidelines for detailed expectations. Review essays (not exceeding 1,000 words) should engage the interpretation, meaning, or importance of an author’s argument for a wider scholarly audience. A list of books available for review can be found on our website; please contact our book review editor at hodamtten@scu.edu for more information. Beginning November 23, 2012, manuscripts submitted to the Journal of West African History should be submitted online at http://jwah.msu.edu/ or jwahsubs@msu.edu. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2013.

We recognize that access to the internet is not universal; therefore we will accommodate those who are unable to submit their manuscripts electronically. Please contact the
editorial staff at: JWAH, 141 B & C History Hall (Old Horticulture), 506 E. Circle Drive, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824; Phone: (517)884-4593, Fax: (517)884-4594, or jwah@jwah.msu.edu for further instructions. The editor-in-chief can be reached directly at achebe@jwah.msu.edu.

Opportunities: Grants, Fellowships, Postdocs, and Internships (2013-01-01 09:23)

Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship
Social Science Research Council
Description: The Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (DPDF) Student Fellowship Competition is organized to help mid-stage graduate students in the humanities and social sciences formulate effective research proposals through scholarly exchange within interdisciplinary areas of study.

Each year, the program offers dissertation proposal development workshops led by pairs of tenured senior faculty in the US and abroad who define emerging or reinvigorated multidisciplinary research fields. These research field directors lead groups of 12 graduate students through two workshops during the fellowship cycle. The spring workshop prepares students to undertake summer preliminary research that will inform the design of more robust dissertation research in the future. The fall workshop helps students apply their summer research experiences to writing both dissertation and funding proposals. Students may apply for up to $5,000 to cover summer research costs. Travel and accommodations to attend both workshops are covered by the DPDF Program.

Working together with faculty research directors, graduate students design research that will help to shape
evolving fields in the humanities and social sciences. Additionally, through the program’s collaboration with international research institutions, the DPDF creates a space for international as well as domestic network building among fellows.


Deadline: January 31, 2013

Horowitz Foundation
Description: The Foundation makes targeted grants for work in major areas of the social sciences, including anthropology, area studies, economics, political science, psychology, sociology, and urban studies, as well as newer areas such as evaluation research. Preference will be given to projects that deal with contemporary issues in the social sciences and issues of policy relevance, and to scholars in the initial stages of their career. Awards are not allocated so as to ensure a representative base of disciplines, but are approved solely on merit.
Award: $2,500-5,000
Eligibility: Citizens from all countries
Deadline: Applications accepted from July through January
More information: http://www.horowitz-foundation.org/grant-info.html

Fulbright Public Policy Fellowships
Deadline: February 1, 2013 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

West African Research Association: WARA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Competition
Description: The WARA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, for 2 to 3 months research in West Africa during the summer of 2013, is for the purpose of: 1) preparing a doctoral research proposal; or 2) carrying out research related to the completion of another terminal degree program (e.g., MFA or MPH). This competition is open to U.S. citizens who are currently enrolled in graduate programs at institutions of higher education in the United States. It is advisable that applicants be conversant in an African language spoken where they will be conducting research. Priority will be given to applicants who are at the pre-dissertation stage, that is, who will be returning to their institution to complete course work and exams, before beginning their fieldwork.
Award: Travel and $3500 for summer research
Deadline: February

Joseph L. Fisher Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
Description: Resources for the Future (RFF) will award fellowships for the coming academic year in support of doctoral dissertation research on issues related to the environment, natural resources, or energy. RFF’s primary research disciplines are economics and other social sciences. Proposals originating in these fields will have the greatest likelihood of success. Proposals from the physical or biological sciences must have an immediate and obvious link to environmental policy matters. Awardees may be invited to present the results of their dissertation research at RFF.
Award: $18,000 over one academic year
Eligibility: Citizenship not mentioned; Must have completed exams; Final year of dissertation write up (graduate at end of Fellowship)
Deadline: February

The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
Description: Questions that interest the foundation concern violence and aggression in relation to social change, intergroup conflict, war, terrorism, crime, and family relationships, among other subjects. Dissertations with no relevance to understanding human violence and aggression will not be supported. Priority will also be given to areas and methodologies not receiving adequate attention and support from other funding sources. For students in their last year of dissertation writing.
Award: $20,000 over one year
Eligibility: Citizenship not mentioned;
Deadline: February
More information: http://www.hfg.org/df/guidelines.htm

GUEST RESEARCHER SCHOLARSHIP

Guest Researcher at Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden
African Guest Researchers’ Scholarship Programme
Description: This scholarship programme is directed at scholars in Africa, engaged in research on the African continent. Female researchers are especially encouraged to apply for these scholarships.
Deadline: 1 April 2013 (for a scholarship in 2014)
More information: http://www.nai.uu.se/scholarships/african/

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Resources for the Future: Gibert F. White Postdoctoral Fellowship
Description: Resources for the Future (RFF) will award resident fellowships for the 2012-2013 academic year in honor of Gilbert F. White, retired chairman of the RFF Board of Directors, distinguished geographer, and statesman of science. The fellowships are intended for researchers who have a doctorate degree and wish to devote a year to scholarly work in areas related to natural resources, energy, or the environment.
Eligibility: Citizens of all countries
Deadline: February
More information: http://www.rff.org/About_RFF/Pages/GilbertFWhitePostdoctoralFellowshipProgram.aspx

INTERNSHIPS

World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki, Finland
United Nations University
PhD Research Internships

Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars
Internships with the Africa Program
ASA President’s Annual Report (2013-01-01 09:25)

The following is a Report of outgoing ASA President, Aili Mari Tripp, to the Business Meeting at the ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, November 29, 2012.

To say that this has been an eventful and extraordinary year in the life of the African Studies Association is an understatement. The bottom line is that we have landed on our feet. We took a financial hit early last year and the organization could have easily collapsed, but we developed a strategy to get out of the mess with the help of Suzanne Baazet and the board, in particular, Abdi Samatar, Rick Schroeder, Cathy Boone, and Judi Byfield. We are financially solvent and we are in a better position than we have been in a long time, even though we still have many things we need to fix. I feel very confident about the prospects for this association right now.

So what happened? There was a conjuncture of events that took place more or less at the same time. In a nutshell, the first thing that happened was that we fell into some serious financial difficulties. Our hotel bill, for example, was 17 times more than what it was this past year and 5 times more than it had been in previous years. As a result we were forced to lay off our entire staff.

At the same time, Karen Jenkins, our Executive Director, resigned after being two years with the ASA. We hobbled along all year with a staff of one, Suzanne Baazet. Suzanne had been an associate director under Carol Martin. She started as a financial consultant at 20 hours a week and eventually took over most of the functions of the ED. I also spent the better part of my year sharing many of the staff functions. Suzanne reworked the budget and as a result of some smart financial decisions and an improved investment
situation, we are basically solvent again.

The third conjuncture of events had to do with the fact that our contract was ending with Rutgers University. We felt it would be a good time to reconfigure the staffing arrangement once we got back on our feet again. We decided to rebuild with a smaller professional staff. Some functions like membership services were absorbed by Cambridge University Press, which publishes our journals.

This whole episode forced us to take measures to professionalize the association:

Executive Director: We did a search for a new permanent Executive Director and insisted that we find someone who had a background in organization and financial management rather than someone who was primarily an African Studies academic or had consultancy or NGO experience in Africa. We received about 40 applications in the first round, conducted phone interviews with 8, and interviewed 5. The search did not result in our hiring someone who had the skill set we were looking for. I then asked Suzanne if she was interested in the position even though she had not applied. We had worked successfully this past year together and she would have easily been our top choice had she applied. The board made her an offer and she recently accepted. So we now have a new ED!

We are thrilled to have Suzanne, who not only has an institutional memory of the organization, but has all the skills we were looking for. She is easy to work with and works well with the board. She has lots of great ideas of how to run an organization, raise money, and save money, and has already saved us an enormous amount of money. She has extensive experience running a large membership organization, AIESEC. She does extremely well under pressure and we have had a lot of it. She does not seemingly get bothered by difficult situations or members, not that we would of course have any. She likes the ASA and seems to enjoy the challenge of turning this organization around. One doesn’t meet people like this every day and we are extremely fortunate to have Suzanne in this position. Now that Suzanne is ED, she will go ahead and hire and train a new staff. That will ease some of the problems we have encountered.

Staff: Recently, Funmi Vogt accepted our offer to serve as Associate Director of the ASA. She will be based at Rutgers University. She comes to us with 15 years of experience working with Africa and US-based organizations on issues concerning Africa, with a special focus on women’s development issues as they relate to peace and security. She has worked for Social Science Research Council, the African Leadership Centre in Nairobi, the Conflict, Security and Development Group at King’s College London and has held several other positions. We believe she is a perfect fit for the needs of the ASA and are eager to welcome her on board in the near future.

Policies & Procedures: We passed our Policies & Procedures last spring to help provide some continuity with the loss of institutional memory. We still need to update our bylaws.

Publications: We signed a contract with Cambridge University Press (CUP) to take over the publication of the ASA journals, African Studies Review and History in Africa. CUP will also provide our members with free online access to current and back issues of ASR and HiA; process our membership payments, annual meeting registration and donations to the association; and allow us to access a membership directory. Even though we were under pressure to make a quick decision about what to do with our publications, I want to emphasize that Suzanne and Cathy Boone both helped us make sure that we made the decision thoughtfully and considered our options carefully. The process was led by the Publications Committee, building on the work of the 2008 publications ad hoc committee. We hired an external consultant. We invited and received bids from several publishers and eventually decided on CUP. CUP has proven to be a terrific partner for the ASA. In terms of marketing, production, finances — all the way around — going with CUP has turned out to be a good decision. Suzanne has been working with them over the last few weeks to develop new ways to
promote ASA membership and the journals.

Hosting of Association: In anticipation of the end of our current contract with our host institution, Rutgers University, we issued a call for proposals in February to host the association from 2013 to 2018. We received indications of interest from nine institutions. We requested bids from four. We conducted site visits at three institutions and after careful deliberation of each option, we ranked Rutgers University as our top choice primarily because they offered the best financial package and most space, but also for other reasons. We signed another five-year contract with Rutgers and are very pleased to continue what has been a productive relationship with Rutgers.

Annual Meeting: We have started professionalizing our Annual meeting in a variety of ways. For example, we purchased AV for the annual meeting at a price significantly cheaper than contracting with a company. We signed a contract with SSRN, who will assist the Program Committee in putting together the program.

Hotel contracts: ASA also signed hotel contracts with the Marriott hotel for Chicago in 2017, Atlanta in 2018 and Boston in 2019.

Archives and Records: We reconnected with David Easterbrook at Northwestern Library and have established that they will continue maintaining ASA archives.

Communications: We relaunched ASA Newsonline with the help of Laura Seay and hope that those functions will be taken over by the secretariat once we hire a communications person. The ASA website needs to become a go-to place for things like academic jobs, grants and other Africa related information.

Coordinate Organizations: We have improved our relations with coordinate organizations and are trying to accommodate their space needs at the annual meeting.

Looking Ahead: I feel that what we have accomplished this year is considerable. As we move ahead there are lots of issues we still need to tackle, including:

- Hiring more staff;
- Contracting with a new web design company. The current system we have is a disaster both for users and on the back end. It does not have a fraction of the functionality that we need.
- Launching some serious fundraising efforts;
- Continuing with efforts around increasing the membership;
- Revising the Bylaws.

We are in excellent hands with Abdi Samatar at the helm as president this coming year.

ASA 2012 Awards Presented at Annual Meeting (2013-01-01 09:30)

The ASA awards ceremony was held November 29, 2012, at the 55th Annual Meeting. It was presided over by past president, Professor Judith Byfield. The following awards were presented.

DISTINGUISHED AFRICANIST AWARD

Presenter: Judith Byfield

About the award: The African Studies Association offers a Distinguished Africanist Award in recognition of lifetime distinguished contributions to African studies.

Awardee: Jane Guyer, George Armstrong Kelly Professor of Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University.

Citation: Each year the African Studies Association presents the Distinguished Africanist Award to a member of the association who has made a significant contribution to the field. The committee composed of the officers of the ASA and members of the association at large consider a range of criteria including research productivity, cumulative research impact; impact on teaching, impact on publishing; editorial work, graduate supervision; impact on transformative policies or institutional building in Africa, community outreach, and impact on professional organizations. This year’s committee is very pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Africanist Award is Jane Guyer, George Armstrong Kelly Professor of Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University. Professor Guyer’s scholarly contribution to African studies has been described as superbly original and its impact extends well beyond Anthropology. Her careful ethnographic studies of economic life in West and Central Africa illustrate the creativity and resilience of African men and women despite political and economic turmoil. Her work challenges those scholars and pundits who dismiss Africa as well as the theoretical models and assumptions that obscure their understanding of the continent. Her studies have influenced scholars in numerous fields including History, Development Studies, Gender Studies, Political Science, and Sociology and her membership in the National Academy of Sciences ensures that Africa is integrated into wider circles of discussion. Professor Guyer’s commitment to institution building is equally exemplary. She has been active in scholarly organizations in the U.S., Europe, and Africa, she has advised foundations, and international agencies, and she has brought great creativity and dynamism to several African studies programs. Professor Guyer’s record also demonstrates an enduring commitment to helping and supporting successive generations of African and Africanist scholars. Her nominees wrote movingly of the mentoring and encouragement she has offered to students and colleagues around the world. As an outstanding, passionate and engaged scholar Professor Guyer models the mission and goals of the African Studies Association and is a most deserving recipient of this award.
HERSKOVITS AWARD


Committee: Professor Toyin Falola (chair), Professor Robert Baum, Professor Jean Borgatti, Professor Kenneth Harrow, and Professor Cassandra Veney.

Presenter: Kenneth Harrow

Co-Winners:


Citation for Doris: In Vigilant Things: On Thieves, Yoruba Anti-Aesthetics, and the Strange Fates of Ordinary Objects in Nigeria, David Doris focuses on the power relationship between the creator of aale (the vigilant things) and the would-be thief; the power of words used to execute aale; the symbolism of aale; and whether aale could be considered a true African art form. Yoruba created aale purposely for the protection of personal property. Made from such mundane things as torn clothing, worn-out shoes, peppers, brooms, palm fronds, snail shells, corncobs, cowries, and dried cocoa pods that have outlived their usefulness, the appearance of an aale would not register as an art form to the casual outsider. Yet its very nature allows the aale a symbolic quality that allows would-be transgressors to recognize the likely misfortune that would befall them should they steal an individual’s personal property protected by the aale. In other words, it triggers the conscience of the would-be thief to reconsider his or her actions and thus avoid the consequence of being rendered “useless.” Perhaps it is the aale apparent uselessness, worn-out appearance, and, very triviality that has led to limited attention from scholars interested in African cultural forms and aesthetics. Yet, as Doris demonstrates, aale are at the core of Yoruba aesthetic culture and important components of the socio-cultural outlook of that society.

In his discussions, Doris points out that the simplicity of any particular aale belies its efficacy, that is, its capacity to foil an anti-social act. However, an aale is more than a mere image, for its creator casts particular choice words (ayajo) over it and, for some categories of aale, adds medicinal substances (òògùn) to accomplish certain punitive acts against a potential offender. Accordingly, the words and medicine transform the “useless” objects into meaningful articles with the potential to change the physical and social condition of
the transgressor. Though more than a mere image, Doris argues convincingly that their very visibility is what kicks into motion a realization that the object has a power to make something happen and authenticates its status as a positive cultural agent. The aale is the picture worth a thousand words—the warning and the preventative. And that is its point: not to punish but “to recall a person back to an idealized field of social interaction in which beautiful, excellent character is measured by the perceptible grace of one’s actions in the world.”

Vigilant Things is certainly an important addition to the scanty scholarship that engages the subject of aale and its role in the socio-cultural institutions of the Yoruba people. It is also a major addition to the considerable scholarship on Yoruba art history, the study of visual culture in general, and the fields of African religions and cultural anthropology. Specifically, it addresses the debate about the nature of symbolic action and the role of objects described as amulets, talismans, and fetishes. Doris explores the symbolic efficacy of aale and, by doing so, demonstrates the importance of complex forms of symbolic ritual actions. As he concludes, aale make permeable the boundaries of easy [our emphasis] dichotomies: display and power, the visible and the invisible, the ‘work in virtuosity’ and the ‘work in invocation,’ ‘art’ and ‘artifact,’ art history, and anthropology. He combines traditional ethnographic research with theoretical frames drawn from an array of disciplines. His narrative approach and complexity of presentation make the book a compelling read. It is, moreover a significant contribution to our understanding of Yoruba aesthetic practices in their own terms. As such, Vigilant Things should be of interest to historians, art historians, and to students of visual culture, comparative religion, and cultural anthropology, as well as African studies researchers and students and the general public interested in Yoruba art and culture. Rather than succumb to the tendency to look at amulets and fetishes on a basic plane, Doris powerfully demonstrates the importance of complex forms of symbolic ritual actions.

[3] Citation for Gikandi: In Slavery and the Culture of Taste, Simon Gikandi explores the parallel worlds of eighteenth-century British high culture, or what Gikandi calls the “culture of taste” encased in proper manners, civility, politeness, and aesthetics on the one hand, and slavery on the other. Contrary to popular belief that these two worlds existed as separate and unequal spaces with little or no social interconnections, Gikandi demonstrates that the worlds of high culture and of slavery were intrinsically intertwined. The connection between the two worlds was often very subtle, such as slave-grown sugar sweetening the coffee consumed by the upper classes in their homes and in the coffeehouses, or the slave-induced wealth the upper classes used to support the work of individual artists and the “institutions of cultural production.” Using a wide range of sources, including personal narratives, diaries, paintings, and portraits, Gikandi highlights how the economic exploitation of enslaved Africans in the New World fueled
aesthetic ideas and notions of taste in England.

Slavery and the Culture of Taste highlights important discussion points, including the transformation of bourgeois ideas of selfhood and freedom, the alteration of the ideals that defined the middle class, and the ways in which slave ownership in America transformed plantation owners into a new aristocracy. The beauty of Gikandi’s analysis lies in its multi-dimensional focus on both the master class and the enslaved class and how these two groups engaged the cultural transformations spurred by the immense fortunes made in the plantation economy. According to Gikandi, the status of the enslaved population denied them privileges freely enjoyed, and even taken for granted, by the white population, but they could not be denied participation in the cultural transformations that occurred.

Enslaved Africans responded to the bizarre interplay of the new notions of freedom and selfhood advanced and embraced by the emergent upper classes and to the reality of bondage by creating spaces of freedom outside of the confines of forced labor. Unlike earlier scholarship that portrayed some enslaved Africans (such as Olaudah Equiano and Phillis Wheatley) who sought the trimmings of European high culture as having appropriated the master’s aesthetic ideals, Gikandi concludes that these Africans developed “a counter-culture of taste” by substituting a black aesthetic and cultural presence steeped in African aesthetic culture. This is an outstanding work that sheds new light on the cultural nuances and ramifications of African enslavement in the New World. In Gikandi’s work, we see how Africa came to participate in the shaping of modernism. The modern subject and its sense of itself were formed through an enterprise that encompasses both slavery and the cultivated classes of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Finalists


The Fante and the Transatlantic Slave Trade by Rebecca Shumway (University of Rochester Press, 2011)


BETHWELL OGOT AWARD

About the award: The Bethwell Ogot Award recognizes the best work in East African studies published in the previous year. This award, funded by a bequest from Prof. Kennell Jackson, will be given for the first time in 2012. The award process was designed by Professor Tom Spear and we are grateful for his efforts.

Selection committee: Professor Ed Keller, Professor Simon Gikandi, Professor Carol Summer.

Presenter: Professor Ed Keller

128

Citation: Cultured States is a systematic exploration of the cultural politics of the “long sixties” in Tanzania and a powerful statement on the transformation of African lives and identities in the first decade of independence. Focusing on the changing fashions of style in music and dress during the early years of independence, and how that related to state-society relations, the book explores how a new generation of Africans set out to fashion themselves in relation to global cultural flows and the anxieties of decolonization. This was all done in the context of an increasingly cosmopolitan society still heavily influenced by traditional mores and morals. The book juxtaposes the official rhetorical of nation building with emerging sub-cultures among urban youths, going beyond previous studies of cultural forms in Tanzania to underscore the intersecting dynamics of youth, gender, and modern style. Moving beyond the traditional histories of Tanzania, which have tended to focus mostly on the state’s project of fashioning new socialist subjects, this book deconstructs the rhetoric of nation-building and underscores the role of gendered and generational subjects in rethinking and reconstituting modern style. This is a compelling and original history of early postcolonial Tanzania and an outstanding work of social history and cultural criticism.

Finalists:


Live From Dar es Salaam: Popular Music and Tanzania’s Music Economy by Alex Perullo (Indiana University Press, 2011)

PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

About the program: The Presidential Fellows program is an initiative of the ASA Board to assist outstanding Africa-based scholars to attend the Annual Meeting and spend time at a US university. For the past three years the program has drawn on the African Humanities Program fellows of the American
Council of Learned Societies. This has been a very productive collaboration between the ASA and the ACLS. The ACLS is now in its fifth year of coordinating the African Humanities Program, with the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and has provided 160 dissertation and postdoctoral fellowships to humanities scholars in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Africa and 87 residential fellowships in African universities. The program is directed by Andrzej Tymowski.

Presenter: Judi Byfield

Awardees:
Gbemisola Adeoti (English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)
Jemima Asabea Anderson (English, University of Ghana, Legon)
Amidou Jean-Baptiste Sourou (Saint Augustine University of Tanzania).

COORDINATE ORGANIZATION AWARDS:

GRETCHEN WALSH BOOK DONATION AWARD

Presenter of award: Beth Restric of the Africana Librarians Council

About the award: This ASA program, administered by the Africana Librarians Council, makes funds available annually to assist groups with shipping costs for book donations to African libraries and schools.

Awardees:
University of Sierra Leone Foutah Bay College. Professor Fodei Batty accepted the award on behalf of this project.

Ontulili Literacy and Resource Center (OLRC). A non-profit organization based in Fort Wayne, Indiana is building and equipping a community library in Ontulili, Meru, Kenya, which is an economically disadvantaged community. The library will serve 7 public primary schools, and existing private primary schools. Florence Mugambi accepted the award for Center.

CONOVER-PORTER AWARD FOR AFRICANA BIBLIOGRAPHY OR REFERENCE WORK
About the award: The Conover-Porter Award is presented every two years. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in Africana bibliography and reference tools among works published in the preceding two years. The Conover-Porter Award was established in honor of two pioneers in African Studies bibliography, Helen F. Conover, of the Library of Congress, and Dorothy B. Porter, of Howard University.

Presenter: David Westley of the Africana Librarians Council.

Awardees: The award went to Africa Yearbook: Politics, Economy and Society South of the Sahara, Volumes 1-7, 2005-2011. Edited by Andreas Mehler, Henning Melber, Klaas van Walraven (Brill: Leiden, Boston). The Conover-Porter Award was received on behalf of the editors by a member of the editorial board and publishing staff of the Africa Yearbook, Benjamin Soares, from the African Studies Center in Leiden, and by the Africa representative of Brill Publishers, Joed Elich.

CHILDREN’S AFRICANA BOOK AWARD

About the award: This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Children’s Africana Book Awards. The Outreach Council established the awards in 1992 to recognize and promote outstanding juvenile literature on Africa available in the U.S. The awards were presented November 3, 2012, at the National Museum of African Art.

Winner of Best book: Stones for my Father by Trilby Kent. This historical novel shows how the British targeted South African Boers for large-scale extermination during the Anglo-Boer War and how Africans were maligned and oppressed by the Boers.

Winner of Honor Book: Street Level compiled and illustrated by Sarah Markes. This is a collection of drawings and creative writing about Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The book includes prose and poetry.
by various Dar residents.

AIDOO SNYDER BOOK PRIZE OF THE ASA WOMEN’S CAUCUS

Winner: Adeline Masquelier, Women and Islamic Revival in a West African Town (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009). The award was presented at the Women’s Caucus Luncheon and Lecture on December 1, 2012.

AFRICAN POLITICS CONFERENCE GROUP


APCG Best Article Award, 2011


APCG-Lynne Rienner Award for Best Dissertation in African Politics, 2011

Jaimie Bleck (Cornell University): “Schooling Citizens: Education, Citizenship, and Democracy in Mali”

APCG-African Affairs Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, 2011-12
Robin Harding (New York University): “One for the Road: Voting for Public Goods in Ghana”

NIGERIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Book Awards for 2011 and 2012
Winners: Henry Glassie for his biography Prince Twins Seven Seven: His Art, His Life in Nigeria, His Exile in America (Indiana University Press 2010)


The African Studies Association of India (2013-01-01 09:31)

Recently the African Studies Association of India became and affiliate organization of the ASA based in the U.S.

By Professor Ajay K. Dubey, General Secretary of [1]ASA India and Chairperson, Centre for African Studies, [2]Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

[3] African Studies Association of India (ASA) is a pan-India subject association on African Affairs. It is an all India apex body of Indian Africanists coming from academics, media, civil society, diplomatic services, business and other professions. It is a non profit, non-governmental organization of scholars whose mandate is to ‘foster the study, knowledge and understanding of African affairs in India and Indian affairs in Africa’ through research and studies.

Being an pan-India subject association, ASA has six fold objectives: a) promotion of the study of African affairs in India and Indian affairs in Africa through research and studies; b) strengthening academic development in the inter-disciplinary field of African Studies through seminars, workshops, discussions, round tables,
study groups, conferences, symposiums, research colloquia, journals and other publications and by other means; c) establishing and fostering an institute of African studies; d) establishing and maintaining library and documentation services to facilitate the development of African Studies in India to encourage policy dialogue on African issues; e) promoting and strengthening friendship and cooperation between India and African countries and peoples in political, economic, scientific, technological, environment, social, cultural, intellectual and other fields; f) cooperating with similar bodies to enhance international cooperation in African Studies.

Founded in 2003, the permanent secretariat of the Association is located at Centre for African Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. It has its regional units at Mumbai, Patiala, Chennai and Kolkata. The Association’s particular strength is in developing multi-disciplinary approach, bringing together the expertise of researchers from the natural, social sciences and humanities on African issues, through major research projects, seminars, workshops, discussion, round table, study groups, conferences, symposia, research colloquia. These programs increase contact and develop synergies between experts who are currently scattered over many departments, institutes and colleges across India. ASA encourages flow of ideas across different disciplines, and provides a base for collaborative projects on African affairs.

The Association intends to link up the various African Studies programmes and such Associations all over the world. It has a special emphasis to work as an umbrella organization for African studies scholars in Asia to promote Asian perspective on African affairs to facilitate Afro-Asian cooperation. ASA has organized several international conferences, symposium and seminars. Most of its members have post graduate degree in Social Sciences and humanities with specialization in African affairs. A good number of student members are also there who are pursuing higher studies on Africa.

ASA publishes books on African Affairs, Indo-African relations and Afro-Asian cooperation. It has two refereed biannual journals Africa Review and Insight on Africa. Africa Review is an interdisciplinary, academic journal and focuses on, though is not confined to, theoretical and historical enquiries related to African affairs. Similarly, Insight on Africa focuses on, though not confined to, foreign policies and development issues of African countries and Afro-Asian relations. This journal specially encourages young research scholars to publish their serious academic work on African studies, with special attention on policy perspectives. Moreover, ASA brings out an open access electronic tri-annual news letter that carries major events and issues concerning African Affairs and India-Africa Interface.

As part of its commitment for establishing and fostering an institute of African studies, ASA has set up Policy Research Institute of African Studies Association of India (PRIASA). The institute delimits its research and publication mandate under the ASA’s preview. Research and publications remain the mainstay of PRIASA’s activities. It aims at promoting and conducting research for building a knowledge base on Africa, as well as on Indian affairs as it relates to Africa, in order to foster understanding between India and Africa. It remains committed for conducting studies in the political, socio-economic, international relations, cultural and related fields, with a view to promoting India-Africa relations.

PRIASA intends to serve as a forum to debate important aspects of African and Indian affairs, as well as India-Africa co-operation. The institute conducts national and international conferences, seminars, study-group courses, lectures, round tables, workshops, and other similar activities in pursuance of its fivefold mandate: a) to develop policy options for the improvement of policy-making and to provide research and advisory services to governments, public bodies, businesses, and other institutions, including international agencies, on matters having a bearing on the performance and optimum use of resources for the social, economic and cultural development of both India and Africa; b) to engage the public sphere in policy debates, and to create a community of researchers on the subject area of India and Africa; c) to disseminate information
Meet our new Executive Director, Suzanne Moyer Baazet (2013-01-01 09:35)

Suzanne Moyer Baazet

The ASA is thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director, Suzanne Moyer Baazet. She shares her background and vision for the association’s future in an interview with ASA News Online editor Laura Seay.

Tell us a bit about your background and interests in African Studies.

My academic background is in business and management and I have spent most of my career managing international non-profit organizations. I am passionate about the way that business principles such as strategic planning, strong financial management, and operational efficiencies can help non-profit organizations to achieve their missions. It is this passion, together with my strong connection to the African continent, that attracted me to the ASA.

My first experience working in Africa was as an undergraduate student and a member of AIESEC. This university-based international exchange organization organizes more than 4,000 internship placements annually, including exchange programs with 20 countries on the African continent. I began volunteering with the organization while still a student, then took a full-time position with the organization after finishing my studies, and eventually became the Executive Director of AIESEC United States. I travelled extensively to all regions of Africa while working with AIESEC and built life-long friendships with my African colleagues. Working on the continent in the context of leadership development and partnering with US Universities to build international exchange programs, I was exposed to a diverse community of Africanist Scholars.

I went back to the continent, to Morocco in particular, as a Fulbright Scholar to conduct research on the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between Morocco and the US. As part of my Fulbright program, I spent three months living in the wonderful ancient city of Fes learning both classical Arabic and Moroccan dialect. The experience of conducting research and studying on the continent opened my eyes to another aspect of African Studies which was key to my understanding of the field.
I joined the ASA in 2008 in the position of Senior Program Manager and I have been involved in the organization in various roles, including two terms as Interim Executive Director. It has been a real pleasure working with the ASA Board, membership, and coordinate organizations over the last five years and I look forward to leading the organization in 2013 and into the future.

How do you see the ASA evolving in the next 5-10 years?

I believe that the ASA’s role as the flagship, cross-disciplinary, organization for Africanists is more relevant than ever. The complex challenges facing the African continent require collaboration across disciplinary lines and the ASA is a platform to bring together Africanists from a wide-range of backgrounds to share diverse perspectives on key issues. Moreover, the field of African studies needs a strong voice to advocate for important issues facing the field both in the US and on the continent.

I envision a strong growth period for the ASA in the coming 5-10 years. I believe that we will see major growth of the organization with respect to the number and diversity of our membership base and the participation in our annual meeting. I believe that the Association’s journals, African Studies Review and History in Africa will continue to be important publications in the field and with the transition to Cambridge University Press I believe that the journals will be even more visible and widely distributed. I also see the Coordinate Organizations playing a critical role in the ASA’s future growth and in the association’s ability to achieve its mission by offering diverse and relevant prizes, lectures, and events in the US and in Africa.

What role do you see the association playing in issues relating to Africa-based scholarship like protecting the cultural treasures in Timbuktu, ensuring funding for research, and commenting on public policy issues?

The ASA is in a unique position to serve as both a platform for scholars to collaborate on critical issues such as these and as the voice of the Africanist academic community in the larger ecosystem dealing with these issues. Through its Annual Meeting, the ASA convenes the leading thinkers on the issues facing the continent and the field of African Studies and encourages debate and discussion of these issues. Beyond that, the ASA has an important role to play in the public sphere as the voice of Africanist scholars. The strategic priorities of the ASA in coming years will include active outreach to promote the interest of African and Africanist scholars, including more active outreach to the media, funders, and the general academic community. We are also exploring how we can add more open discussion forums and thematic sessions to the annual meeting which will foster dialogue about critical challenges facing the field.

What challenges does the ASA face and what ideas do you have for addressing them?

I believe the ASA’s biggest challenge is to remain relevant in the world of social media, internet, and online communications. Before these tools were available, the ASA played a critical role of compiling and exchanging information about job opportunities in the field, research that was being conducted, and general collaboration opportunities. The association achieved this through ASA News and through the ASA’s Annual Meeting. The ASA is working on an online strategy that will allow the association to continue to function as a key aggregator and disseminator of information about the field, but using the most modern online collaboration tools.

Anything else you’d like to share with the membership?

The ASA Secretariat is here to serve your needs and we are very interested in finding out more about programs and services which interest our members.
The input of ASA members is critical to the future of the organization. We are working to build interactive systems which ASA members can use to request assistance from the Secretariat, share job postings/fellowship opportunities, and collaborate on their research. In the meantime, please feel free to send an email to asaed@africanstudies.org with any recommendations you have for how the ASA can assist you as a member of the association or how the ASA can be more relevant in the field of African Studies.


Profile: Jane Guyer, ASA’s 2012 Distinguished Africanist (2013-01-23 11:58)

Aili Tripp, who recently stepped down as president of the ASA, interviewed Jane Guyer, winner of ASA’s ASA Distinguished Africanist Award. Guyer is George Armstrong Kelly Professor of Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University.

AT: Could you tell me a little about your background.

JG: Next year I will turn 70 on New Year’s Eve, so this moment is a bit of a watershed for me. I was born in Scotland in 1943. Because of the war, my father, who was in the Royal Navy, was stationed in Scotland. The family later moved to Birkenhead, Merseyside, which is Beatles country, where I grew up. My family name was Mason. I was just thinking the other day of the importance of skilled artisans and how all of my family names were names of occupations. If one took the English telephone directory, there would not be many names left if one excised all the artisanal names.

I think I grew up with quite a solid ethic of being able to know how to do things and make things work on a daily basis. My father was a high school teacher; he had studied physics. He was part of the first generation in the family who went to university. He was also talented in music. My mother also had university education. She did the classic thing that women in her generation did — work at home and as a volunteer — since the job market for women was very limited in that period.

AT: How did growing up in the aftermath of World War II in England influence you?

JG: Growing up in England at that time had a very profound influence on me and the longer I live, the more profound I think the influence was. I was once talking to some feminist friends about the question: When in doubt, what do you fall back on? Where do you locate yourself? I felt that I came from a particular moment in history. For me, there was a sense that everybody had had to put out for the war. Life was a collective endeavor. There was a “home front” as well as a foreign front. Everybody had suffered in one way or another, and reconstruction would have to be a collective effort. A national health service was created and the education system was to be less class ridden. The notion that everyone made sacrifices was recognized. So the idea that every one chipped in was programmed into our minds at a very young age.

I grew up with food rationing until I was 10. I have a clear memory of going to do shopping with a ration book. Everyone had ration book on an individuated basis, not a family basis. I still have my own last ration book and use it sometimes in lectures. When I went to university in 1962, I was skeptical about market economics. I had an intuitive knowledge that this was not the only way to run a provisioning economy.

AT: How did you become interested in the study of Africa?

JG: I went to London School of Economics in 1962. This was immediately after the decolonization
of large parts of old empire and in our classes we had students from the former colonies. They were reconstructing their societies and political systems. It was a very political moment. [Frantz Fanon’s] Wretched of the Earth had come out in English. There was a sense that there was real work to be done. People that I knew were very on board in supporting that. There was the War on Want [anti-poverty movement raising public awareness about developing nations]; Oxfam’s famine relief movement; and the anti-apartheid struggle was very strong in London. We were very interested in the students from overseas. I remember, in particular, the students from Pakistan and the Caribbean.

Photo credit: Nathan Guyer

My more specific orientation towards Africa, however, came a little later when I went to graduate school at University of Rochester. I had come to the US in 1965 to take a break after final exams at LSE. Bernard Guyer and I were married in 1966. Rochester was where he was at medical school and I studied Africanist anthropology because it was so prominent. Alfred and Grace Harris, [who taught at Rochester], worked on Tanzania and encouraged me to work in Africa.

AT: Who have been some of your main intellectual influences?

JG: In that period as a graduate student I had an adviser, Robert Merrill, who is not known well, but who was very smart and interesting. He had been working in archeology and social anthropology and was interested in innovation. He wanted to know about routine innovation and improvisation, that is, what people did to keep improving after a major discovery had been made and how intellect was brought to bear on material objects.

When I went to Nigeria, my mind was opened up by Nigerian professors, like sociologist and demographer Francis Okediji and Akin Mabogunje in geography at the University of Ibadan

AT: What was it like raising children while being an academic?

JG: My husband [Bernard Guyer] and I went together to Nigeria, where we stayed from 1968-69. Bernie was a medical student. He developed a research program in child health at Ibadan while I was doing research. We lived and worked together, out in the countryside at a rural health center attached to the university. We had our first child in 1970, after we returned to the US. In Nigeria I was very impressed by
how active everybody was with children in tow, integrating children into life very effectively. We discovered that if you can manage the bring them along, no one is necessarily going to tell you to stop. We developed a real partnership: at home and in our professions. Bernie moved up in maternal and child health, from state government, to Harvard, to Johns Hopkins, where he was a department chair for fifteen years. We always tried to figure out how to make the opportunities work for both of us, as well as for the children.

AT: You had three children with you in Cameroon. How did you combine fieldwork with raising children? What were the particular challenges you faced? How did you make it work?

JG: I defended my dissertation in 1971. Our second child was born in 1973 while I was teaching part-time in Nashville. Bernie had an opportunity to go to Africa to take a three-year position as a CDC [Centers for Disease Control] epidemiologist during the smallpox eradication campaign, and to do international surveillance for other quarantinable diseases. We decided to go to Yaoundé, where our daughter was born in 1976.

I found that the logistics of doing field work with 3 children was relatively easy in Cameroon. I had household help. I was doing research in a peri-urban area within a short commuting distance. People in the countryside, and even professional friends, thought that raising small children was the best possible thing for a young woman to be doing.

AT: Who were your role models as a woman scholar?

JG: An African American friend in Ibadan, Claire Beetlesone, who was a doctor, comes to mind. I found her to be a very impressive person. She was beautiful and elegant and wore clothes made of African prints. She was probably the closest I had come to a professional woman who was doing everything at once: she was bringing up children and working as a medical doctor. She looked elegant and was lively. I had known older women who had one or another of those characteristics, but I had not seen them gathered in one person as I did with Claire. I had this sense from Claire that indeed, if you could configure things right, you could in fact do a lot of different things and do them with panache.

JG: Life is more competitive, more difficult for the younger generation. We were poor, but we did not have an incredible sense of anxiety about climbing ladders, of achieving certain kinds proficiency, nor did we face the pressure of “self-branding.” Those pressures did not exist in our particular generation. It was much more the case that you could build a solid career, work with others in a team, and fulfill your role in your department. You had to work hard, but the stress was about whether I slept 4 or 6 hours, not whether or not one had created a unique profile to draw attention to oneself. I was hugely fortunate to raise kids in the 1970s, when we still had the 1960s ethic of helping each other. We were in babysitting and nursery co-ops run by the parents. I had to work one morning a week at our oldest child’s coop nursery school, and ran the accounts of an after-school program for the others.
I tangibly benefitted from the feminist movement. When I came back [from Cameroon in 1977] I started teaching at Boston University. By then, the feminist movement in academia was strong enough to be watching the hiring and promotion of women. Departments were censured by the AAA [American Anthropological Association] for hiring practices of women. If men were dismissive, we had reached stage in the feminist movement where we could be vigilant, compare notes with each other, figure out how to keep moving forward and generally offer support. But many of our male colleagues did not pose profound problems. I did not feel discriminated against in any major ways in anthropology or African Studies and especially amongst the men of my own generation. Some prominent and charismatic male scholars were experimental and were open to promoting women. Malinowski in Britain had promoted women like Lucy Mair and Audrey Richards. Franz Boas had supported Ruth Benedict, Margaret Mead, and Zora Neale Hurston in the US. So anthropology may well have been less sexist than other fields. Some of our founding major figures were women. There was also a sense that male anthropologists could not do everything in terms of documentation of ways of life in the field, hence the real interest in the new feminist ethnographies of the 1970s.

AT: How did you arrive at the questions that motivated your research?

JG: Through a combination of being attentive to the ordinariness of life and to ordinary improvisation of making a living under specific historical conditions. I had this interest partly out of the experience of life, but also because of my family history and the reconstructive and decolonizing moment of British history in which I grew up. Raymond Firth was chair of the department in LSE, whose work encouraged my interest in economic anthropology. My older brother, Tim Mason, who has now passed away, was a well-known historian and an important influence on me. He was always the brilliant older brother, an extraordinary talent, one of foremost historians of society and economy under the Third Reich, and one of the founders of History Workshop Journal (subtitled “a journal of socialist and feminist historians”). I was very influenced by him, and during my whole life as younger sister I was always compared to him.

AT: What do you regard as your most important intellectual contributions?

JG: I recently took a jaunt around my citation numbers and found that they did not quite correspond to the contributions on which I had worked the hardest and tried to push the envelope the furthest.
My most cited piece, by a long shot, is a review article "Household and Community in African Studies" (African Studies Review, 1981, 24, 3/4:8737), which, when combined with a co-authored piece with Pauline Peters also on households (1988), would perhaps make up half of my total citations. These were based on work I did for the SSRC-ACLS Joint Committee on African Studies. I felt very fortunate to have been on the committee and had such good colleagues like Michael Watts, Valentin Mudimbe, Ivan Karp, Thandika Mkandawire, Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o, Kit (Christopher) Davis, Allen Isaacman, Harold Scheub, and Benetta Jules-Rosette. The SSRC later abolished those committees, but in hindsight they were very important. Every single person on that committee went on to become a prominent scholar, but at the time they were young, in their 30s. It shows how important it was to give young and midcareer people leadership and team work opportunities, provide them with an arena where they can make a difference. They are the ones who go on to become leaders.

In terms of intellectual contributions, I tried self consciously to combat notion that African economies are stagnant and backward. This just is a scandalous misrepresentation. I think quite a lot of the work that I have done is trying to illuminate how African economies developed in their own particular way and to describe and theorize that. I was not doing this for ideological reasons, but rather to show that this is how it was, and is.

I am very impressed by the work of Morten Jerven, who has done a reconstruction of the quantification of African economies. He is finding that the numbers that institutions like the World Bank and IMF use are very bad in terms of representing African economies. He has a book coming out with Cornell University Press (Poor Numbers: How we are Misled by African Development Statistics and What to do About It, 2013). These are extraordinarily important findings.

I have tried to show the same types of problems with the way that it has been easy to pick up a few numbers and infer something quite erroneous because the data have been so poor or simply nonexistent. The ignorance allows for misleading inferences. In one of my first publications, I wrote about the representation of root crops in the Berg Report. There had been no attention in the productivity figures to cassava being intercropped, and basically no focus on cassava and yam being major staples. These schematic and erroneous representations were used to support the argument that African agriculture was inefficient and needed to be subjected to the measures eventually known as structural adjustment.

My larger interest has been in how people make a living in extraordinarily turbulent times. I have seen it as an intellectual achievement of the mind, not just of “coping.” Improvising intelligently is an orientation in ordinary life.

Relatedly to themes of indigenous growth, I have been interested in urban food supply. Urban areas are huge motors for regional growth because they tap into and stimulate the economies of surrounding areas. When I did my dissertation research, I went to do farming research in the context of the domestic cycle of kinship groups. When I got to the field, I realized that people had already been drawn into the urban supply system. This was a moment of expansion of the city of Ibadan. When I went to Yaoundé to work on the farming system, no one had done a history of the urban food supply system, so I became a historian (this was my first major journal publication, in 1978). I became convinced that urban provisioning more broadly, beyond food, including charcoal, thatch, and so on, was very important for the development of these communities, to respond to urban demand. I keep coming back to this and did so in the edited 1987 book Feeding African Cities. Later I developed the idea of the “niche economy.” Niches of specialized expertise, that draw on indigenous technical and social organizational knowledge, expand and proliferate in response to urban demand. New skills are created in new product niches, and money and credit management techniques are innovated upon and applied to new domains. For some reason, policy-makers were not interested in that idea at the time. This is the very opposite of the structural adjustment ideology of expanding through
international trade. Yet the patterns of urban growth elsewhere, not just around the great centers like Paris or London, but in small towns and regional urban centers as well, have enormously stimulated economic growth in their hinterlands, throughout history. Why does development have to come out of the export economy? Why not promote regional growth and diversification in the urban hinterlands?

In this framework, the gender aspects of growth and diversification have always been important for me to focus on. I first learned this in Southern Cameroon, which has what Ester Boserup called a “female farming system.” Some of my first publications in the 1980s were centered on the gender division of labor and informed the papers on household analysis mentioned earlier.

Another interest is in a series of papers written in the mid-1990s about “wealth” in Africa: wealth-in-people, in things and in money, in relation to “self-realization” and “traditions of invention.” The richness of the sources and conversations with many colleagues allowed me to bring field work, ethnography, archival sources and the creative arts together, to address what we mean by profit and accumulation. Marginal Gains was a culmination [Marginal Gains. Monetary Transactions in Atlantic Africa. University of Chicago Press, 2004], although a full theorization awaits a new effort that others’ generous commentaries have provoked.

I have a series of anthropological papers about western money and economy, which take a view that is nourished from Africa: on the intelligibility of economic rhetoric, the depiction of the future, the creation of prices, and the life course as a “rational proposition.”

AT: What are some of the most interesting questions in your area of work that have yet to be explored?

JG: There has not been much on exchange rates and the turbulence they have produced in Africa. The postcolonial period in Africa resulted in 20+ new currencies. We need to look carefully at equivalencies of African currencies and how they were crafted. This is so incredibly important in the predictability in ordinary peoples lives. It is also very important to look at national currencies within regions. Nigeria is surrounded by CFA countries. It is deeply affected by exchange rates and how people are paid. Workers from CFA zones come into the rural area of Nigeria that I know and prefer to be paid in goods like a motorbike rather than in naira. What does national and international policy make of all this, as well as figures on consumption and standards of living? We have whole a vista here of certain macrophenomena – including the extractive industry economy — that are very powerful and have major implications. In African diasporic enclaves in China and Dubai and elsewhere trade and exchange rates are managed all the time in what we used to think of as the popular economy.

In the domestic economies, including agriculture, the small businesses of the “niche economy” still demand study in order to foster their growth in the livelihood and provisioning of the population. The price and availability of energy and other infrastructures are crucial. How are these provisioning functions managing in the era of the land-grab, extractive industry expansion and high petrol prices? For an anthropologist, it’s always a question of “how does it work?” “with what implications for the people?” and “how do people envisage personal and collective futures?”

I have been fortunate to work with Nigerian colleagues – Adigun Agbaje, Olutayo Adesina, Kabiru Salami and others — on some of these issues, and we have a new proposal to take further the collaborative work that resulted in our collection on devaluation and the popular economy entitled “Money Struggles and City Life” (Heinemann 2002, co-edited with Agbaje and Denzer)

AT: How do you think the study of Africa changed and influenced the broader field of anthropology?
JG: It has been interesting the way anthropology has been nourished by waves of regional studies. Since 1990s scholarship from India has been very important, Arjun Appadurai, Gayatri Spivak, Veena Das, and others have been bringing particular perspectives and have been engaging with philosophy and theory and influencing the field in certain directions. Veena’s work on suffering, for example, has helped shape an anthropology of suffering. There was a big Latin American surge of work regarding development influenced by the thinking of Paulo Freire and Andre Gunder Frank, then by Arturo Escobar, June Nash and Michael Taussig. The Caribbean scholars developed ideas about créolité, ahead of the ANT [actor network theory] theorization of hybridity. There has been a surge in the work of the anthropology of ethics fueled by the post socialist world, from Poland and Russia.

Africa was extraordinarily important to anthropology historically because of the work of Meyer Fortes, Evans Pritchard, and Max Gluckman. Africa has come back now in different way. There are still the canonical works, but now there are new questions about the representation of lived life, including the kind of work of Filip de Boeck on Kinshasa. Scholars coming to grips with the small improbabilities of life, the juxtapositions of the real and the surreal, the tangible next to imagination. I am thinking of the work of Achille Mbembe on carnival and the post-colony, Charlie Piot’s work on “nostalgia for the future” and other work on how representation and imagination of life come together with the material and the political, as in the work of Jean and John Comaroff and Jim Ferguson. This work has much potential for the discipline as a whole that is new and different from the old influences. We still have rather few anthropologists based in Africa, but we draw can on the philosophers, artists, historians and others, as the discipline as a whole opens up to new interdisciplinarities.

AT: You work on subjects that have implications for economics. Why do you think economics been more resistant to anthropological insights than other disciplines?

JG: Some micro-economists like Chris Udry, Chris Barrett and Michael Kevane have been closely interested in how to draw on anthropology and work with data in new ways. Many young economists seem to be under great pressure to do quick analyses, working with data that is available and putting it into calculative models. But Udry, Barrett and Kevane have done field work and are going beyond that.

There are others who work at the more macro level, a group of people who define themselves as heterodox economists, like Howard Stein, Béatrice Hibou, and some segments of the economist community who are more critical of the discipline. There are many economists and economic historians outside of the USA whose work interfaces with our own, such as Michel Callon, Bruno Théret and others in France, and Akinobu Kuroda in Japan. Opportunities to collaborate have been opening up in new ways since the 2008 crisis. Economics has become more varied and the people who are very rigid about it are the ones defending the fort. They may not be at the wave of the future at all, as these new international networks link up with each other.
