



MEET THE EMERGING SCHOLARS NETWORK

After a brief restructuring hiatus, the Emerging Scholars Network is back with a volunteer leadership team that is as inspired as it is industrious. Meet some of the current team members and find out how you can get involved.

Andrew Heffernan

4th Year PhD Candidate in Political Studies
University of Ottawa

What excites or interests you about being involved with the ASA ESN?

African studies have always been a great passion and interest of mine and one of the greatest things about those involved is they tend not to be the most widely offered areas in undergraduate programs and especially at the secondary level. As a result, those who are involved truly want to be there which leads to some of the most fruitful collaborative, and cross disciplinary approaches to some of the most fascinating and important global issues.

What do you research?

I research global environmental governance specifically in the southern African context. Generally interested in anything to do with African politics or climate change as well as the politics of food. My main research projects are on Community-Based Natural Resource Management studying it within the context of the global political economy as well as an ongoing project on the future of sustainable protein and the planet.

What are you passionate about teaching or collaborating on?

I really love teaching about anything to do with Africa, as it is so often a region that is less well-known/less studied especially at the undergraduate level. Those taking the courses tend to have a real interest in them and there is such an endless variety, diversity, and wealth of enriching topics to discuss. Similarly with the politics of climate change which is the challenge of our generation as well as the quintessential global issues I love to discuss its endless complexities and work through the many competing sets of questions and challenges that both students and myself have.



Utitofo Inyang

ABD Ph.D in Comparative Literature
University of California, Riverside

What aspects of the ASA ESN are you most excited by or interested in?

I am excited about the opportunities of interdisciplinary collaboration, career advancement and collegial support that the ESN makes possible.

What do you research?

My doctoral research examines how specific African geographies define forms of literary production that emerge from them, especially the interface of visual and spatial signifiers to situate subjectivity in contemporary Anglophone African literature. My research interests include African Literature, Postcolonial Studies, Critical Theory, Global Anglophone Literatures, Spatial Literary Studies and Digital Humanities.

What are you passionate about teaching or collaborating on?

I am interested in teaching or collaborating on research that intersects African traditional/indigenous geographies and contemporary Anglophone literature.

**Bryan U. Kauma**

PhD Candidate in History
Stellenbosch University

What excites or interests you about being involved with the ASA ESN?

Increasingly, the challenge of being an (African) emerging scholar and historian in particular has been that of locating yourself within a fast and ever-growing academic environment. From finding funding and job/research placement opportunities or having a safe space to be actively involved in academic discussions. However, the ASA ESN has become that panacea. It intersects senior scholars with emerging ones, to provide a conducive and supportive platform for mentorship. ASA ESN offers a safe space for academic growth and networking. The interdisciplinary diversity is excellent for how it then horns members to be rounded scholars with a richer appreciation for multiple disciplines. In today's world, such networks have become the mainstay for academic survival - no doubt this improves the quality of work one produces.

What are you passionate about teaching or collaborating on?

I am a proud social and environmental historian. My research interests are firmly grounded within appreciation of the everyday added with a deep passion for underprivileged histories. These are the stories that matter to me. My current research explores the social and environmental history of African small grains in southern Africa and Zimbabwe in particular from the precolonial



past to present, and continuing with that steam I look to collaborate with scholars that are working on scholarship that explores human - crop/plant relations across different communities. There is no doubt that human-crop relations allow us to explore the complex nature of human society and how we relate not only to the environment but to one another as well. This type of history fascinates me, and being involved in its documentation offers me a golden opportunity to enrich my understanding of the shifting social, economic and political dynamics of society.

Seulgie Lim

Bates College (ME)

Assistant professor in Politics

What excites or interests you about being involved with the ASA ESN?

Meeting new people, organizing events, getting to know more about the ins and outs of the ASA!

What do you research?

My research mostly revolves around the political participation of women in Senegal, making connections between the political, social and religious elements. More recently, I am trying to expand my research to the rest of the West African region, as well as looking into diasporas and refugee communities in the US.

What are you passionate about teaching or collaborating on?

I love teaching everything Africa honestly, as I am currently in a small liberal arts school that does not have a big program in African studies and is in the middle of Maine (aka not very diverse). I especially am passionate about deconstructing the prejudices that young students in America might have about the continent, especially in terms of the role of women and the role that Islam plays in different societies.

I have not had the chance to collaborate yet with colleagues in African studies, but would love to collaborate on how to teach about Africa in the States, how can we best convey the realities of the continent all the while increasing their interest



in this place that is across the globe for the students, as well as the ins and outs of doing fieldwork (especially as a woman).

Tell us about your experiences at the ASA.

One thing I do regret is not having come to the ASA annual conferences sooner honestly. As a graduate student, I thought that I needed a solid paper and presentation to attend the conference, and/or was pushed to attend the larger political science conferences such as the American Political Science Association (APSA) one. I realize that ASA is so much more convivial than other associations, people are so much more diverse and while it's a large enough community that facilitates networking, it is still a "cozy" community that is very welcoming in different ways. I really look forward to the next one "irl" and of course to the work with the ESN. And ASA overall offers a wide variety of resources outside of the conference too!

GET INVOLVED

Become an official ESN Member in MyASA under "Coordinate Organizations." Membership tiers allow Emerging Scholars to pay what they can afford (including \$0) and 100% of the funds collected go to ESN programming.

Upcoming Events:

Promoting & Publishing Our Knowledge: A Conversation

Friday, October 22, 12:00pm EDT/UTC-4

Free, Registration required to receive the Zoom link

ESN Business Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 12:00pm EST/UTC-5

ASA Annual Meeting Registration Required

JOIN THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION'S
EMERGING SCHOLARS NETWORK

Friday, October 22, 2021
12:00pm-1:30 EDT/UTC-4



**PROMOTING & PUBLISHING
OUR KNOWLEDGE:
A CONVERSATION**

With Expert Panelists:

Dr. Moradewun Adejunmobi, *Journal of the African Literature Association*

Dr. Peace Adzo Medie, *African Affairs*

Dr. Benjamin Lawrance, *African Studies Review*

Dr. Kim Yi Dionne, *The Monkey Cage (Washington Post)* and *Ufahamu Africa* podcast

This event is free. Registration is **required** to receive the event link.