

# ASA NEWS

ENHANCING THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ABOUT AFRICA

## CELEBRATING MILESTONES

The ASA turns 65, ASA News celebrates its 55th volume, and the Annual Meeting returns to in-person events in 2022.

SUMMER 2022

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AN AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION

# LETTER FROM THE ASA

As we move into the second quarter of 2022, and closer to ASA's 65th Annual Meeting, we wish to make you aware of several changes in the ASA's leadership and operations. During the early months of 2022, several members of the ASA Secretariat announced their departures to pursue new and exciting opportunities. As with all departures, these recent resignations are bittersweet.

After nine years of unparalleled service, Deputy Director Kathryn Salucka accepted an exciting leadership position befitting her skills and expertise. Her tremendous contributions to our institution will continue to shape the Association for years to come. After nearly five years of service, Program Manager Lori Ann Chitty Ray announced her own career change and will leave the Association in April. Her vibrant personality and spirited commitment to our membership will be sorely missed. While we will miss their dynamism, expertise, and professionalism, they will continue to be important members of the ASA community from their new posts. We are grateful for their extensive service, and we look forward to watching them flourish in their new positions.

Included in these departures is ASA Executive Director, Abdul Tejan Cole, who recently announced his decision to pursue his dream of earning a PhD. His collegiality will be missed in the Association's leadership, but we support this exciting opportunity to continue his education. We look forward to the day when he becomes one of our colleagues in the professorate and wish him great success in his studies.

The ASA remains in excellent hands, as the Board and remaining Secretariat are working closely to ensure that operations are maintained and programming continues to grow. The ASA Board gave a vote of confidence to Alix Saba, who they appointed Interim Executive Director of the ASA. Alix brings executive management competencies to the ASA Secretariat, and demonstrated exemplary leadership in her role as ASA Programs Manager over the last few years. We are deeply fortunate to have such dedicated and talented colleagues in leadership positions at this time and thank them for their volunteerism during this period of transition. We also thank the ASA community for their patience as we take this opportunity to adjust and refine our operations for a post-COVID world.

Please join us in wishing these talented members of our community best of luck in these exhilarating endeavors. We have extended invitations for each of them to join us in Philadelphia this November, and we hope to see them there for warm reunions and welcome updates. We also hope to see you, our broader ASA community, this November for the 65th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. This milestone anniversary, and first in-person gathering since 2019, is an opportunity for us to come together and realize a dynamic and inspiring exchange of ideas. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the aforementioned changes, please feel free to reach out to the ASA leadership at [secretariat@africanstudies.org](mailto:secretariat@africanstudies.org) or ASA President, Dr. Ousseina Alidou directly. Thank you for your continued support of the African Studies Association.

Wishing You a Peaceful, Healthy, and Safe Year

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Founded in 1981, the National Humanities Alliance (NHA) is an advocacy coalition dedicated to the advancement of humanities education, research, preservation, and public programs. NHA is supported by more than one hundred national, state and local member organizations and institutions.

# LOOKING BACK AT A YEAR OF ROBUST HUMANITIES ADVOCACY

**By Alexandra Klein,**

NHA Communications and Government Relations Manager

In early March, five months after Fiscal Year 2022 began, Congress finally passed a funding package for the year. The package included significant increases for federal humanities programs—most significantly, the largest increase we've seen in a decade for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This success followed a full year of robust humanities advocacy, much of which was supported by scholarly societies such as the African Studies Association. For example, thanks to their ability to mobilize their members, we were able to recruit advocates from all 50 states to participate in our 2021 Humanities Advocacy Day, which kicked off our advocacy for these FY 22 wins.

In addition to many other engagements with members of Congress and their staff throughout the year, we followed Humanities Advocacy Day with two congressional briefings to highlight the impact of NEH funding.

The first briefing, held in September 2021, discussed NEH funding for diverse histories and civics in K-12 education. Since 2018, NHA has worked with over 20 NEH-funded professional development programs for K-12 educators to survey their impacts, and this briefing was an opportunity for congressional staff to hear about the data we've collected. At the briefing, we shared that 100 percent of respondents to a post-program survey reported experiencing professional growth as a result of the program they attended and 98 percent of respondents said they would recommend participating in an NEH workshop to a colleague. Staffers also heard directly from project directors about how these programs—which covered a range of topics including Native American histories, the Mississippi Delta, the Transcontinental Railroad, and Japanese American internment—offer crucial

professional development to our nation's educators, illuminate diverse histories, and support civic education in our nation's classrooms.

The second briefing, held in November 2021, showcased how NEH funding for public humanities discussions enriches our communities by highlighting the example of the NEH-funded "Freedom Stories: Unearthing the Black Heritage of Appalachia" at the International Storytelling Center (ISC) in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Those involved in the project spoke about how it built space for dialogue and learning, and about how the discussions offered participants the chance to explore our rich histories and come together across differences. Thanks to a partnership with NHA to document the impact of the program, we were able to highlight that 82 percent of participants in the "Freedom Stories" program agreed that they "feel more confident taking part in thoughtful discussions about race" as a result of the program, and 93 percent felt motivated to "listen to the stories of people whose backgrounds are different from [their] own."

After a long year of advocacy and several continuing resolutions that kept government funding at FY 21 levels past the beginning of FY 22, we were particularly pleased to see Congress approve a \$12.5 million funding increase for the NEH in March, bringing its FY 22 budget to \$180 million.

Our other priorities also saw increases. These included an increase of \$2.5 million for Title VI, which brought its funding to \$71.9 million, and an increase of \$1 million for Fulbright-Hays, which brought its funding to \$9.8 million. The Institute of Museum and Library Services received \$268 million, an \$11 million increase for the agency overall. While there was an increase for both the Office of Museum Services and the administration budget, the funding to carry out the Library Services and Technology Act remained level. The National Archives and Records Administration received \$388 million, an \$11 million increase. And NHPRC received \$7 million, a half a million dollar increase.

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**"THOSE INVOLVED IN THE [FREEDOM STORIES: UNEARTHING THE BLACK HERITAGE OF APPALACHIA] PROJECT SPOKE ABOUT HOW IT BUILT SPACE FOR DIALOGUE AND LEARNING, AND ABOUT HOW THE DISCUSSIONS OFFERED PARTICIPANTS THE CHANCE TO EXPLORE OUR RICH HISTORIES AND COME TOGETHER ACROSS DIFFERENCES."**

There was one disappointment that came with these numbers. Nearly across the board, these final numbers were significantly lower than the numbers that the House and Senate originally proposed for our priorities. This was, however, the case for nearly all domestic spending.

As we turn our attention to FY 2023, we are hopeful we can build on the level of support we saw in the initial FY 2022 bills to secure additional increases in the coming year. The FY 23 process is off to a good start with the administration proposing another round of robust increases for several humanities priorities, which we will be working to make a reality as Congress drafts its yearly appropriations bills.

## The ASA Advocacy Travel Award Returns

Initiated in 2017, the ASA Advocacy Travel Award provides travel subsidies of \$1000 to ASA members to facilitate their attendance at advocacy events in Washington, DC each spring. The ASA believes it is critical for our members to be represented at advocacy events, and for the voices of the field of African Studies to be heard by representatives on the Hill as they prepare to make key decisions about funding for international education, the humanities, and higher-education as a whole.

After a short pandemic-induced hiatus, the ASA awarded two "mini" Advocacy Travel Awards to emerging scholars Utitofon Inyang of University of California, Riverside and Reed Couvillon of Rutgers University. These micro-prizes were awarded to facilitate their registration and participation in the 2022 National Humanities Alliance meeting. Although a fully virtual event, emerging scholars had the opportunity to attend sessions on undergraduate recruitment, advocating for the Humanities at your own institutions, and more. The virtual two day workshop culminated in Zoom based Capitol Hill visits with congressional representatives and their staff.

The ASA intends to make funds available for in-person travel to the NHA meeting in Washington D.C. once the event is held onsite. All current ASA members are eligible to win the award. You may update your membership in MyASA anytime to become eligible. The award form typically opens in January and closes in February for attendance at the March meeting.

For more information visit our website at [africanstudies.org](http://africanstudies.org) or contact the ASA via email at [advocacy@africanstudies.org](mailto:advocacy@africanstudies.org).

JOIN US FOR AN  
ASA MEMBER EXCLUSIVE EVENT

# EMERGING SCHOLARS & ADVOCACY:

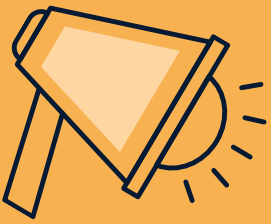
## FINDING YOUR VOICE ON CAPITOL HILL AND BEYOND

with **Eric Schmidt** (Boston University), **Utitofon Inyang** (University of California, Riverside), & **Reed Couvillon** (Rutgers University) in conversation with **Akosua Adomako Ampofo** (University of Ghana)

APRIL 27 | 2:00PM EDT

VIA ZOOM

LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MYASA



# SUBMIT TO THE 2022 AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW PRIZES

**1**

## GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER PRIZE

Nominations due **March 15, 2022**. Any paper presented by a graduate student at the 2021 ASA Annual Meeting is eligible.

**2**

## BEST AFRICA-BASED DISSERTATION

Nominations due **April 15, 2022**. Dissertations must have been defended during the previous calendar year (2021) and can be submitted in any language.

**3**

## BEST AFRICA-FOCUSED ANTHOLOGY OR EDITED COLLECTION

Nominations due **April 15, 2022**. Titles must have been published during the previous calendar year (2021) and can be submitted in any language.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**





# DEAR EMERGING SCHOLARS

**The Emerging Scholars Network (ESN) Executive Council shares updates from their 2021 programming and what we can look forward to throughout 2022 in this open letter.**

The Emerging Scholars Network (ESN) is a coordinate organization within ASA that provides support and mentorship through workshops, roundtable dialogues, public seminars and more for graduate students and scholars within 5 years of completing a terminal degree. Amid the socio-academic adjustments and embracing an envisaged, “post-Covid-19 era”, this past year has been an exciting one for the ESN. A new Executive Council formed in summer 2021 to reinvigorate the group and provide quality programming for our members. Some of the highlights from this past year include a virtual workshop on Promoting and Publishing Our Knowledge in October. We were honored to have Dr. Peace Adzo Medie, Dr. Benjamin Lawrance, Dr. Kim Yi Dionne, and Dr. Moradewun Adejunmobi join us for a panel discussion on the process of publishing in scholarly journals. We had a fruitful conversation of the dos and don’ts of academic publishing and everyone left with greater insight into the publishing process. Look out for some exciting new publications from the emerging scholars. A recording of the academic publishing conversation can be found on ASA’s YouTube channel for those who missed it.

During ASA’s virtual conference we were able to get together for our first annual business meeting where we discussed the future of ESN and got great feedback on what would be most useful for our members. We also hosted a panel discussion on researching during the pandemic. We heard from a number of our members about their strategies and struggles for continuing their work during these past two difficult years. Both events were a wonderful opportunity to meet other Emerging Scholars and we look forward to finally meeting in person in Philadelphia later this year.

To kick off our events for 2022, in February the ESN held a Q&A virtual meeting with Alix Saba, Program Manager of ASA, on submitting paper and panel proposals ahead of the ASA CFP deadline on March 15th. Alix shared invaluable insights on how to prepare and submit a winning panel/individual paper proposal. We encourage all ESN members to consider forming a panel using ASA’s online tool to give their work the best chance to be included in this year’s program. We also used this opportunity to create a shareable google spreadsheet where ESN members could provide their contact information, field of study, and research interests to facilitate panel building, as well as ignite conversations among those working on similar interests. This is the start of a long-term goal of the Executive Council to create a database of ESN members that will be available to our group to help early career scholars connect with others in their field.

Looking to the rest of the year we plan to host two virtual workshops before November's conference dealing with academic burnout and cultivating mentorship opportunities. In addition to growing our programming, we hope to get our members more actively involved by creating new leadership roles and subcommittees so that we can expand our work and become a more member-led organization.

We are also excited about this year's conference and we are thrilled to meet those who can make it in person. ESN will be hosting a panel on cutting edge research being conducted by emerging scholars and a discussion on alternative career tracks for Africanists. For those who can arrive early, ESN and ASA will host an all day workshop followed by a mixer for members and those who may be thinking about joining.

In the future, we hope to create more direct opportunities for mentorship between senior and emerging scholars. If you are an established or senior scholar that would like to share your expertise at future events, or if you are interested in mentorship opportunities, please reach out to us via email. We are also working on creating a direct line of communication with ASA by having an ESN member representative elected to a special position on the Board. The election for that position is open now and we encourage everyone to vote by going to the MyASA portal. This representative will facilitate a direct dialogue between Emerging Scholars and the Board to ensure that ASA is meeting the needs of early professionals.

If you are not yet a member of ESN and would like to join, please fill out our membership form [here](#). Membership is free, but we do ask for a donation of \$5 from those who can to support us in our efforts to create new and pertinent events for our members. Also, if you are worried you may not fit the exact definition of an Emerging Scholar, but still feel this group would be beneficial for you (for example, you graduated more than 5 years ago, but took time away to care for family, work in the private sector, or are a contingent scholar who is still on the job market), you are warmly invited to still join. The board is committed to making this group inclusive and useful to our members regardless of their life circumstances.

Lastly, we owe a big debt of gratitude to ASA's Board of Directors and Alix Saba who have supported our efforts to reestablish this important group.

#### **ESN Executive Council:**

Seulgie Lim, Chair  
 Andrew Heffernan, Vice-Chair  
 Reed Couvillon, Membership Chair  
 Utty Inyang, Events Chair  
 Brian Umaru Kauma, Outreach Chair

ASA Emerging Scholars Network

# CAREERS BEYOND THE ACADEMY:

## A PROFESSIONALIZATION AND CAREER TRAINING (PACT) WORKSHOP

+ Wednesday, November 16, 2022

+ 8:00am – 4:00pm

+ Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Franklin 11

LIMIT OF 25 SEATS

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join us for a facilitated preconference workshop to refine your resume, identify exciting job opportunities, and hone your non-academic interview skills.

Breakfast, lunch, networking time, and digital resources included.

To sign up: email [emergingscholars@africanstudies.org](mailto:emergingscholars@africanstudies.org)



# POLICY OPINION: COUPS CHALLENGE DEMOCRACY IN WEST AFRICA

**By Idayat Hassan**

Idayat Hassan is a lawyer and director of the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), an Abuja-based policy advocacy and research organization focusing on deepening democracy and development in West Africa. All opinions shared in our Policy Opinion segments are that of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Association or its Board of Directors. ASA's Policy Opinion segment is meant to address broad topics that concern ASA members and ultimately inspire a larger academic conversation within the community.

## **Coups challenge democracy in West Africa**

In the last two decades, periodic elections had become the norm rather than an exception in West Africa - a region previously adjudged as the most coup-prone in the world. There had been notable progress with heads of states being elected, incumbents unseated, and alternations of power. Despite these positives, the enjoyment of dividends of democracy in the forms of public goods and services and rights continued to elude many residents. Instead, corruption and insecurity remained rife with scant respect for constitutionalism and the rule of law. In fact, some of these countries could be described as deliberative authoritarian states who use elections as a means of legitimizing themselves in office. The August 2020 military takeover in Mali brought to the fore the fragility of West African democracy.

Since that coup d'état in Mali, there has been an uptick in democratic backsliding in the region with coups in Guinea and Burkina Faso, a military-led succession in Chad, and an aborted coup in Guinea Bissau. This instability has been mainly driven by the leaders' inability to govern effectively.

When Alpha Condé became Guinea's first democratically elected leader in 2010, his victory was widely heralded as the start of a new political era. However, by 2020 Condé became increasingly unpopular, and his decision to push through a constitutional referendum that allowed him to extend his rule to an unconstitutional third term did not reflect the people's will. According to [Afrobarometer](#), more than eight out of ten Guineans support a two-term limit on presidential mandates. Condé's decision, along with economic missteps, set the stage for the

military putsch.

The inability to effectively deal with prevailing insecurity is another regional challenge. In Mali and Burkina Faso, this created an increasing lack of trust in democracy as an effective system of government. In the months leading up to the coups in both countries, both governments had lost control of large swathes of territory to insurgents and jihadists. The state was no longer able to protect its citizens. This partly explains why citizens were seen on the street celebrating the ouster of the government in both countries.

### Changing coup dynamics

Coups in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea have been orchestrated by middle-aged officers of the elite or special forces trained to protect the regime and not national security. Assimi Goita, 39, Mamady Doumbouya, 42, and Paul Henri Damiba, 41, all led coups in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso, respectively. These actors have benefited from the US and French government training. This time around, the coup leaders are innovating and, importantly, learning from one another. Across the board, they are consulting with citizens to present a veneer of popular participation. Furthermore, each has an elongated transition agenda – 30 months for Burkina, between 9 –60 months for Mali, and unspecified for Guinea. This emphasizes the need for state-building over elections.

Regional geopolitics is also shifting. The importance of France, the United States, and other European governments has dwindled in the region. The inability of the French military, G5 Sahel or Operation Takuba, to bring about improvements in the security situation in the Sahel, driven in part by disinformation campaigns, has delegitimized western powers. Instead, Russia, China, Turkey, and other Gulf countries wield more influence as the go-to partners. These are states who support non-interference in the internal affairs of the country and whom African leaders believe offer them more respect. But importantly, they give arms, drive development and give unconditional aid.

At the regional level, ECOWAS is fast losing its reputation as a credible actor, and the Commission's legitimacy is increasingly in question. When Alpha Condé, Alassane Ouattara, and Gnassingbe Eyadema

committed constitutional coup d'états in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo respectively, ECOWAS was notably silent. The ECOWAS response to coup d'état has been to slam sanctions on the country, including suspending them from the community. These sanctions are always ineffective save for the recent sanctions imposed on Mali, which included the suspension of non-essential financial transactions, closure of land and air borders, and the freezing of state assets, amongst others. This translates to adding economic to political sanctions. The imposition led to demonstrations supporting the Goita Junta in Mali and against ECOWAS. These sanctions are onerous and have implications on the economy of neighbors such as Senegal and help cement the relationship with authoritarian states such as Mauritania.

### Looking to the future

More coups in West Africa are not out of the question, as recent events in Guinea-Bissau reaffirmed. Citizens are disappointed with the reality of flawed elections, human rights violations, prevailing socio-economic challenges, the proliferation of extremist groups, and accompanying insecurity. Flawed and corrupt democracy in West Africa has made civilian populations accept military takeovers. This concerning trend signifies a dwindling trust in democracy.

To address this, the ECOWAS protocol on Democracy and Good Governance must be reviewed to address and prevent the symptoms and root cause of military coups, rather than imposing sanctions after they have happened. Malians' decision to protest against ECOWAS sanctions against the military junta clearly showed that the Commission failed to understand the needs of citizens. A problem is solved by addressing its causes, not by managing its consequences. Therefore, the African Union and ECOWAS need to put in place concrete measures that directly tackle insecurity and safeguard democratic processes if they are to reduce the risk of further military encroachment into civilian life in the region.



*Image of UN-ECOWAS meeting ceremony courtesy of the US Army Africa. Covered under CC Attribution license.*

# MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING

NEW RATES FOR 2022

## Membership Rates

K-12 Teacher: **\$50**

Current Student: **\$50**

International Emerging Scholar: **\$5**

\*\*terms available on ASA website\*\*

Retiree: **\$100**

Annual Income -  
below \$30,000: **\$75**

Annual Income -  
\$30,000-\$49,999: **\$110**

Annual Income -  
\$50,000-\$74,999: **\$170**

Annual Income -  
\$75,000-\$99,999: **\$190**

Annual Income -  
\$100,000-\$129,999: **\$225**

Annual Income -  
\$130,000-\$149,999: **\$250**

Annual Income -  
above \$150,000: **\$275**

Sustaining Member: **\$375**

\*\*includes tax deduction of \$150\*\*

Lifetime: **\$3500**

## Member Pre-Registration Rates

K-12 Teacher: **\$110**

Current Student: **\$110**

International Emerging Scholar: **\$110**

\*\*terms available on ASA website\*\*

Retiree: **\$110**

Annual Income -  
below \$30,000: **\$110**

Annual Income -  
\$30,000-\$49,999: **\$110**

Annual Income -  
\$50,000-\$74,999: **\$195**

Annual Income -  
\$75,000-\$99,999: **\$195**

Annual Income -  
\$100,000-\$129,999: **\$215**

Annual Income -  
\$130,000-\$149,999: **\$215**

Annual Income -  
above \$150,000: **\$215**

Sustaining Member: **\$125**

Lifetime: **Income-Based**

# NEW MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR ALL

If you noticed a change in MyASA this past January, you're not alone. For the first time in over 10 years, the ASA has updated its membership and registration fees to reflect the changing professional landscape and address pay equity concerns. See how these changes can benefit your wallet and help ensure the professorate of tomorrow.

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The ASA's Membership and Annual Meeting registration rates have not been adjusted in over a decade. Recognizing the upcoming milestone of a 65th Annual Meeting year in conjunction with accumulated community feedback, the ASA undertook a review of its entire fee system. The goal was ultimately to implement a more thoughtful and equitable system to meet the needs of our growing community. Expanding our programming while increasing accessibility to that programming and other resources is one of the ASA's most important missions. To balance meaningful growth while simultaneously acknowledging the global and domestic shifts in employment and the precarity of many Emerging Scholar careers, a comprehensive restructuring of our payment tiers became necessary. The culmination of these efforts was finalized in fall 2021, and we have achieved this restructuring while lowering costs for many of our community members.

## Specifically we have:

- Extended our \$5 African Emerging Scholar tier to include International Emerging Scholars\*
- Adjusted income based tiers to increase equitability
- Lowered the fees of students
- Lowered Lifetime Membership to be closer to industry standard
- Created a "Sustaining" tier for those that want to build a donation into their membership payments to further support International and Emerging Scholars. This tier is partially tax deductible.\*\*

\*The ASA defines an Emerging Scholar as in pursuit of one's terminal degree, within five years post completion. International Emerging Scholars residing in the following countries are not eligible based on their World Bank designation as high income: United States, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

\*\* The ASA defines a Sustaining Member as a member that has includes an additional \$150 tax deductible donation into their membership fee for one year. As a thank you, the ASA offers a discounted Annual Meeting registration and no onsite increase to Sustaining Members in their given membership year.

## 2022 ASA Membership Tiers & Rates

The tiers on the opposite page reflect nearly two years of work, community feedback, and research. The ASA Board of Directors unanimously voted to review rates at more regular intervals to ensure that these rates reflect the realities of our community and the commitments and goals of the Association. A comprehensive chart is available which illustrates how these shifts impact Annual meeting registration rates. We have ensured that each membership tier continues to offer a discount on Annual Meeting registration. The cost of membership + Annual Meeting registration will continue to be less expensive than non-member registration at every level.

# 2022

## PHILADELPHIA, PA

NOVEMBER 17-19



# African Studies Association 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

## African Urbanities: Mobility, Creativity, and Challenges

**Program Chairs:** Antoinette Tidjani Alou (Université Abdou Moumouni) & Charles Tshimanga-Kashama (University of Nevada, Reno)

The majority of the world's population currently dwells in cities, which also form dynamic hubs and vigorous centers of political, economic and cultural life. Africa is no exception to the remarkable escalation of urbanization nor to the crucial stakes of urban life, marked by mobility, creativity, and multiple challenges.

Contrary to hegemonic clichés and local nostalgia, Africa counts the fastest urban growth in the world, with an overwhelmingly youthful population, expected to double in 30 years' time. Consequently, to think Africa is to think cities, not merely in terms of private and public spaces, but moreover as regards sustainable and healthy relations with rural and pastoral dwellers and spaces, which sustain cities and nations in myriad fundamental manners.

Clearly, the exciting and abundant academic, cultural/artistic, and technological points of entry opened by the 2022 conference theme do not refer to contemporary Africa alone. To the contrary, cities in their various guises, histories, and energies were important to Africa's pasts. They will continue to impact and shape the futures of urban and rural global Africa.

Historical and archaeological sources attest that cities have existed in Africa since ancient times, while others preexisted the colonial era. Aksum, Lalibela, Memphis, Berbera, Djenné, Benin City, Ile-Ife, Ancient Kano City, Zanzibar, Sofala City, Mombasa, Kumasi, Gao, Kanem Bornu, Zanzibar, Timbuktu are but a few examples of dynamic ancient or precolonial African urban, trading and cultural centers. These historical cities influenced the dispersion, mobility and circulation of African peoples, disseminated their cultures and technologies, spurred cultural hybridization, and positioned Africa in the history of longstanding mobility and globalization. They interconnected African peoples and polities, notably in the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and Atlantic worlds.

Scholars are invited to tackle multidisciplinary remappings of African urban history rising from the sites on which this living socio-cultural history emerged, bequeathed its legacies and currently evolves.

African states are predominantly situated in urban centers, which form oases of power, leaving huge chunks of national territories unserved and ungoverned. Their physical presence in cities fail to erase challenges of governance, health, education, infrastructure, architecture, and urban planning. How do particular political trajectories and practices of democracy, as well as science, technology, and digital democracy play out in the cities of global Africa? Presenters are also invited to shed light on economic challenges, innovations, and on formal and informal solutions.

As in the past, mobility - including voluntary and forced, local and global, seasonal or permanent migration - is still a driving factor, which compellingly shapes and fuels African urbanities in social, demographic, political, economic, environmental, and cultural ways. Over the last decades, several African cities have experienced particularly rapid urbanization and have become megalopolises rife with multiple challenges and extraordinary quotidian as well as cultural/artistic creativity. City dwellers often demonstrate unrivalled economic ingenuity in the quest to rise the towering challenges many people face in making a living within the spatially diverse and economically unequal realities of contemporary urban centers.

The challenges/obstacles to the enjoyment of a good quality of life include unplanned urban development, inadequate water and power supply, a paucity of public transportation, insufficient household waste management and health and education coverage, unemployment, inflation, religious radicalization, political conflicts, migration, etc. In the face of such challenges and that of the failure of the state, Africans continually "invent" and "re-invent" diverse, dynamic, youthful, and culturally vibrant cities.



As in other parts of the world, African cities produce both solutions and problems. Rapid urbanization, economic and population growth disrupt and degrade ecosystems, and exert nefarious pressures on natural habitats and on agricultural and pastoral lands. While cities often grow into and swallow adjoining rural land spaces, intermediate or rural, agricultural interstices also emerge, or resist asphalt and concrete. We welcome presentations examining urbanization's encroachment on pastoral life and grazing lands, and impact on farming, nomadic lifestyles, and chaotic sedentarization.

Despite the challenges they experience, youth and other African urban dwellers evolve dynamic and distinct cultures, thus shaping unique and complex gendered identities. We encourage the study of cultural expressions such as music, dance, theater, neo-orality, literature, film production, popular culture and urban culture, social media, architecture, etc. These may be explored from the conceptual viewpoints of gender, memory and memorialization, toponymies, neo-toponymies and palimpsest, for example.

Social life in African cities is being fractured and rapidly reconfigured. Families as well as social and health sciences, among others, are confronted with challenging novelties and predicaments. Insecurity and new religious mindsets modify access to public space, based on gender, whilst internal and external movements and migrations expel many youth and rural migrants to the fringes and underbellies of cities. African cities are also arenas where women challenge patriarchy and fight for equal rights, thereby deconstructing practices and ideologies. Alternative masculinities, femininities, families and sexualities emerging in cities offer exciting worksites for Gender Studies. Scholars are also invited to consider the occurrences of loss of power and public presence which women also experience, due, in part, to disruptive hegemonies.

With the rise in connectivity and the use of computers and smartphones, the digital revolution has led to profound societal changes, including intergenerational fractures and disconnects. But Africa's digital age, with its new oralities and forms of communication, such as email, social media, blogs, and websites, create local and global electronic networks which reconfigure relationships, identities, and civic and political struggles. Scholars are invited to submit proposals on digital sustainability and emerging smart enclaves/initiatives in African cities.

As always, submissions that fall outside the scope of this theme statement are welcome.

## 2022 Subthemes:

**Africa and International Relations:** John Taden (Pepperdine University) and Michael Woldemariam (Boston University)

**Africa's Diasporas:** Ben Talton (Howard University)

**African Feminisms, Gender, & Sexuality:** J. Jarpa Dawuni (Howard University) and Sarah N. Ssali (Makerere University)

**African Philosophy and Thought:** Mickaella L. Perina (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

**Anthropology, Society, & Material Culture:** Isidore Lobnibe (Western Oregon University) and Tasha Rijke-Epstein (Vanderbilt University)

**Climate Change and Sustainability:** Jacob Dlamini (Princeton University) and Maano Ramutsindela (University of Cape Town)

**Development and Political Economy:** Abdul-Gafaru Abdulai (University of Ghana) and Roseline Wanjiru (Northumbria University)

**Education and Pedagogy:** Cati Coe (Rutgers University)

**Ethnicity, Race, & Nationality:** Nada M. Ali (University of Massachusetts, Boston) and Peter Wafula Wekesa (Kenyatta University)

**Health, Healing, & Disability:** Lauren Carruth (American University) and Julia Cummiskey (University of Tennessee-Chattanooga)

**History and Archaeology:** Gérard Chouin (College of William and Mary), Kathryn de Luna (Georgetown University), and Benjamin Twagira (Williams College)

**Literature and Language:** Bhakti Shringarpure (University of Connecticut) and Alioune Sow (University of Florida)

**Mobility, Migration, & Borders:** Aïssatou Mbodj-Pouye (French National Centre for Scientific Research) and Vivian Chenxue Lu (Fordham University)

**Music, Performance, & Visual Culture:** Bamba Ndiaye (Cornell University)

**Parties, Politics, & Elections:** Safia Farole (Portland State University) and Josef Woldense (University of Minnesota)

**Peace, Law, & Security:** Yonas Adaye Adeto (Addis Ababa University) and Charles Thomas (US Air Command and Staff College)

**Popular Culture and Media:** Carli Coetzee (Oxford University)

**Religion and Spirituality:** Terje Ostebo (University of Florida) and Abimbola Adelakun (University of Texas, Austin)

**Social Movements, Activism, & Resistance:** Matthew Swagler (Williams College)

**Urban Africa Online:** Katrien Pype (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and James Yeku (University of Kansas)

**Special Topics:** Antoinette Tidjani Alou (Université Abdou Moumouni) and Charles Tshimanga-Kashama (University of Nevada, Reno)



# CALL FOR PAPERS

*African Studies Association  
65th Annual Meeting  
and Virtual Workshop*

**African Urbanities: Mobility,  
Creativity, and Challenges**

SEPTEMBER &  
NOVEMBER 2022

Established in 1957, the **African Studies Association** (ASA) is the flagship membership organization devoted to enhancing the exchange of information about Africa. With almost 2,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, the ASA encourages the production and dissemination of knowledge about Africa, past and present. Each year, the ASA hosts an Annual Meeting to facilitate its mission and foster its global networks of Africanists scholars and practitioners. The 2022 ASA Annual Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, November 17-19, creating new opportunities to access path-breaking research and key debates in the field.

Thanks to the generous support of the **Carnegie Corporation of New York** (CCNY), the ASA is excited to announce two opportunities for Carnegie supports scholars: a virtual skills-building workshop as well as **two panels** at the 2022 Annual Meeting on which Carnegie supported fellows will be invited to present their work.



ASA & SPORTSAFRICA

TRIVIA

NIGHT

Wednesday

Nov. 16th

at

6:00 PM

PHILADELPHIA  
MARRIOTT  
DOWNTOWN

Dinner, Drinks, & Trivia  
following the Emerging Scholars  
Network PACT Workshop

PRIZES AWAIT OUR TOP TEAMS!

Registration suggested at [africanstudies.org](http://africanstudies.org)

# STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The ASA Board of Directors voted on the action items listed below since September 2021. The 2022 board members are:

**Ousseina Alidou**, *President*  
**Aderonke Adesanya**, *Vice President*  
**Carolyn A. Brown**, *Past President*  
**Timothy Longman**, *Treasurer*  
**Adeline Masquelier**, *Ombudsperson*  
**Akosua Adomako Ampofo**, *Member*  
**Nana Akua Anyidoho**, *Member*  
**Yacine Daddi Addoun**, *Member*  
**Rita Kiki Edozie**, *Member*  
**Didier Gondola**, *Member*  
**Abdoulaye Gueye**, *Member*  
**Dumi Moyo**, *Member*  
**Robert Trent Vinson**, *Member*



## 2021-2022 Board Decisions

- The Board approved the Statement by the African Studies Association on Discriminatory Treatment meted out to Africans, including Scholars and Students, fleeing the war in Ukraine.
- The Board approved updated membership and registration tiers and associated fees.
- The Board appointed Cajetan Iheka as incoming Editor in Chief of *African Studies Review*.
- The Executive Committee approved the temporary appointment of an Interim Executive Director for 2022.

JOIN US FOR AN  
ASA MEMBER EXCLUSIVE EVENT

# COVID, GENDER, & ACADEMIA:

## PANDEMIC IMPACTS ON HIRING, PROMOTION, & TENURE REVIEW

a roundtable discussion with **Harmony O'Rourke, Anita Plummer,  
Tshepo Masango Chéry, & Martha Ndakalako**  
Cosponsored by the **ASA Women's Caucus**

**JUNE 2 | 12:00PM EDT**

**VIA ZOOM**

LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MYASA

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

# 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

## EXHIBIT HALL

## PACKAGES

The ASA Annual Meeting grants exhibitors and sponsors access to over **2000** participants from more than **60** countries, representing over **600+** universities, colleges, and organizations. Annual Meeting attendees include scholars, students, K-12 educators, researchers, consultants, development experts, activists, diplomats, government officials, and non-profit agencies.

	Platinum <b>\$2750</b>	Gold <b>\$1650</b>	Silver <b>\$1000</b>	Bronze* <b>\$525</b>
Listing on ASA website & in Program	●	●	●	●
Exhibit Booth with complimentary drape, signage, & security	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1/2</b>
ASA Annual Meeting Registrations [\$245+ value per registration]	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Conference Mobile App Listing	●	●	●	●
Mobile App "Digital Booth"	●	●		
Full Page Annual Meeting Program Ad [\$700 value]	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		
One-day ASA Twitter Takeover	●			
Pre or Post-conference mailing	●			

\*Available to non-profits, Africa based publishers, & bookstores - subject to approval.

**AD ONLY** \$700 Full Page | \$375 Half Page