

Press Release

African Studies Association 2023 Awardees

PISCATAWAY, New Jersey, 2 December 2023 – The African Studies Association is honored to announce its annual awards heralding some of the most prominent contributions to the field of African Studies. The ASA announced the honors and winners during the organization’s 66th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA November 30 - December 2.

The ASA presented the **Distinguished Africanist Award** to honor the life work of **Richard Joseph**, Northwestern University and **Kenneth Harrow**, Michigan State University. Each year, the African Studies Association presents the Distinguished Africanist Award to a member of the association who has made extraordinary contributions to the field.

Previous honorees include Steve Howard, Frederick Cooper, Pearl Robinson, Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi, and Iris Berger.

The ASA presents the ASA Best Book Prize annually. The award recognizes the most important scholarly work in African studies published in English and distributed in the United States during the preceding year. The ASA began awarding the prize in 1965.

The finalists for the 2023 **ASA Best Book Prize** were: Omolade Adunbi, *Enclaves of Exception: Special Economic Zones and Extractive Practices in Nigeria* (Indiana University Press, 2022); Mariana P. Candido, *Wealth, Land, and Property in Angola: A History of Dispossession, Slavery, and Inequality* (Cambridge University Press, 2022); Jordanna Matlon, *A Man Among Other Men: The Crisis of Black Masculinity in Racial Capitalism* (Cornell University Press, 2022); Uchenna Okeja, *Deliberative Agency: A Study in Modern African Political Philosophy* (Indiana University Press, 2022); Peer Schouten, *Roadblock Politics: The Origins of Violence in Central Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2022); and Claire L. Wendland, *Partial Stories: Maternal Death from Six Angles* (University of Chicago Press, 2022).

The **ASA Best Book Prize** was awarded to **Mariana P. Candido**, *Wealth, Land, and Property in Angola: A History of Dispossession, Slavery, and Inequality* (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

The ASA presents the **Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize** annually to the author of the best book on East African studies published in the previous calendar. The prize began in 2012 and is named in honor of Prof. Bethwell A. Ogot, a leading Kenyan historian, public servant and public intellectual, through a generous bequest from the estate of Prof. Kennell Jackson, Jr., of Stanford University.

The finalists for the 2023 **Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize** were Michael Degani, *The City Electric: Infrastructure and Ingenuity in Postsocialist Tanzania* (Duke University Press); Holly Elisabeth Hanson, *To Speak and be Heard: Speaking Good Government in Uganda, ca. 1500 -2015* (Ohio University Press, 2022); Rhiannon Stephens, *Poverty and Wealth in East Africa: A Conceptual History* (Duke University Press, 2022); and Claire L. Wendland, *Partial Stories: Maternal Death from Six Angles* (University of Chicago Press, 2022).



The **Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize** was awarded to **Claire L. Wendland**, *Partial Stories: Maternal Death from Six Angles* (University of Chicago Press).

The ASA presented the 2023 **Outstanding Service Award** to Elias Wondimu, CEO and Editorial Director of Tsehai Publishers. Each year, the African Studies Association presents the Outstanding Service Award to a member of the association who has distinguished themselves through their dedication to the ASA's mission by facilitating the production of knowledge about Africa and its diasporas; its dissemination within the academy or in civil society; or by establishing or supporting collaborations and exchanges between institutions in the global north and in Africa.

The winners of the 2023 **Graduate Student Paper Prize** were **Mahder Habtemariam Serekberhan**, "Political Possibilities: The 2019 Sudanese Uprising" and **Kuukuwa Manful**, "Building Classes: Secondary Schools and Sociopolitical Stratification in Ghana."

In 2023, the committee selected one Honorable Mention: Georgia Brunner, "Chaos, Possibility, and Foreclosure for Women's Futures in Revolutionary Rwanda."

The ASA Board of Directors established the annual **Graduate Student Paper Prize** in 2001 and singles out an essay presented at the previous year's Annual Meeting.

The 2023 **ASA Film Prize** committee selected **Colette & Justin** directed by Alain Kassanda (2022) as this year's winner. The film was screened at the ASA Annual Meeting and was followed by a Q&A with the director.

In 2023, the committee selected two exceptional runners up: *Under the Fig Trees* dr. Erige Sehiri (2021), and *Dent Pour Dent* dr. Otis Ba Mamadou (2022).

The **Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Award** committee selected one recipient for 2023: Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa, Hekima University College, Kenya (JHIA)

The African Studies Association and the Africana Librarians Council **Gretchen Walsh Book Donation** Committee, offers an annual grant to assist book donation projects with shipping costs to send books to African libraries and schools.

The ASA selected six recipients of the 2023 **ASA Travel Grant Award** to support emerging scholar participation in ICAADS programming at the 66th Annual Meeting. The 2023 recipients were: Christabel Tsoto, Joshua Osondu, Ousmane Lecoq Diop, Eshle Lupindo, Peace Mukazi Ndekezi, and Yekatit G. Tsehayu.

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