
ASA NEWS

ENHANCING THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ABOUT AFRICA

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WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF ASA NEWS!

Welcome to the Summer 2016 edition of ASA News! In this issue you will find letters from the ASA President and Executive Director, member announcements, and information about new ASA initiatives and developments. We hope you enjoy this issue, and please feel free to share your feedback about this issue with us by emailing the ASA at kathryne@africanstudies.org.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this edition of *ASA News*! We apologize for the inconsistent publication of the newsletter over the past year or so, but look forward to a regular publication schedule now that the Secretariat is once again fully staffed.

I have now had the privilege of serving as President of the ASA for six months, and what an active, exciting, and rewarding time it has been. The strength of our association depends on the tireless service of our members, who chair or serve on numerous committees (including the ASA Board of Directors), edit our premier journals, *African Studies Review* and *History in Africa*, run teachers' workshops, lead our coordinate organizations, and more. As Vice President and now President, I have had the honor to meet with many of you in San Diego, Chicago, Washington DC, New York and lovely New Brunswick. I admire your dedication to the ASA and to strengthening African studies in the US and globally. Thank you for all that you do. And for those of you interested in becoming more involved with ASA – karibu sana!

Meanwhile, as you can see from the Summary of Board Decisions below, the Board and Secretariat have been busy developing programs to meet our strategic goals. These include: the new AfricaNow! category for the annual meeting to showcase sessions on late-breaking events, including memorials; our first ever Advocacy workshop for members, in collaboration with the National Humanities Alliance; planning for the next Africa-based conference to be co-sponsored by the ASA and the American Political Science Association; and support of a named "African Studies Association" panel at the next annual meeting of the World History Association.

I am pleased to report that the ASA is thriving: we are financially strong and fully staffed, with ambitious plans for future growth and development in the service of our mission as the preeminent scholarly organization for the study of Africa. Some of our recent new initiatives include:

* Our first meeting on the continent – Dakar 2016! Jointly organized with the American Anthropological Association and hosted by CODESRIA and WARA/WARC, Dakar 2016 will bring together scholars, activists and others from around the world to discuss "Innovation, Transformation and Sustainable Futures in Africa." Program Co-Chairs Mwenda Ntarangwi (Calvin College) and Ellen Foley (Clark University) have created a dazzling program featuring scholars from across the globe. We hope that the conference will serve as a model for future smaller joint meetings on the continent with AHA, APSA, ALA and other US-based scholarly organizations. Please visit dakar2016.org for more information.

* An advocacy policy to ensure that we are more actively representing the interests of our association and members: "The ASA engages in advocacy to raise general awareness about the field of African Studies, to ensure continued funding and support of African Studies within institutes of Higher Education, and to address ethical, academic freedom, and human rights issues relevant to the field." We seek to fulfill our advocacy agenda by issuing policy statements and letters to officials, participation in coalitions such as the ACLS, National Humanities Alliance, and Council for International Education, and outreach to media. To date we have signed letters to Congress in support of maintaining Fulbright-Hays funding and challenging the new interpretations of FLAS graduate funding. We are also planning several workshops at the annual meeting in DC for members interested in learning more about how to advocate for African Studies.

* A development plan that highlights our top priorities for fund-raising such as the Presidential Fellows program, Emerging Scholars network, increased participation of Africa-based scholars in our annual meeting, activities and conferences in Africa, and strengthening our social media and digital resources for members.

* Efforts to improve the openness and transparency of ASA opportunities and decisions. These include open calls for Board-sponsored sessions, open nominations for people interested in running for the Board, and the publication of key Board decisions in the ASA News.

* Plans to expand our services and value to members beyond just the annual meeting and journals...look out for our expanded social media presence, updated membership directory, new journal features, and opportunities for members to showcase and share their accomplishments and activities.

* Constant innovations to make our annual meetings accessible, exciting, and inclusive: live-streaming panels from the continent (Dakar and Nairobi last year, with plans to add more sites), Author Meets Critic panels, expanded professional development opportunities for attendees (including the First Time Attendee breakfast, information sessions with the Fulbright program, informational sessions organized by journal editors and academic publishers, and Board-organized workshops), and bringing together junior scholars through the ASA Presidential Fellows Program and the Carnegie Scholars Program to attend and present at the Annual Meeting.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the steadfast leadership of our Executive Director, Suzanne Baazet, and the hard work of her amazing staff: Kathryn Salucka, Renee DeLancey, and Sonja Madison. Like all members, I appreciate their professionalism, responsiveness, and dedication to the work of the association.

I look forward to seeing all of you at 59th Annual Meeting of the ASA in Washington DC in just a few months. Program Co-Chairs Benjamin Lawrance (Rochester Institute of Technology) and William Moseley (Macalester College) have developed an engaging theme, "Imagining Africa at the Center: Bridging Scholarship, Policy and Representation in African Studies," for which they received a record-breaking number of submissions. Meanwhile, the Local Arrangements Committee, under the able leadership of Co-Chairs Alem Hailu (Howard University), Eve Ferguson (Library of Congress) and Carl LeVan (American University), has exciting plans for us to explore, celebrate, and learn together in DC.

We invite you to keep up with these and other ASA initiatives and news by following us on Twitter (@ASANewsOnline) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/1957ASA/).



Dorothy L. Hodgson

Dorothy L. Hodgson
President of the African Studies Association

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ASA Community,

As I write to you from the gardens of the Novotel Hotel in Dakar, Senegal I am reminded of what an extraordinary time it is for the ASA. The ASA's new program manager Renee DeLancey, Ushma Suvarnakar from the American Anthropological Association, and I are onsite to put the finishing touches on the "Innovations, Transformations, and Sustainable Futures in Africa" conference which kicks off this week.

After a whirlwind month which included a very productive ASA Spring Board meeting, the ASR Editor's Retreat, and the American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting, it is incredible to find myself in Dakar, awaiting the start of this week's conference.

Since my first contact with the ASA almost a decade ago, there have been two recurring themes that have dominated the Association's strategic conversations: the importance of engaging scholars based in African Institutions and the critical need to host an event on the continent to further this engagement. This week's conference will mark the first time in the 59 year history of the ASA that the Association hosts an event in Africa.



As I sit here, looking out over Goree Island and awaiting the 200 participants who will join us over the next few days, I am reminded of what a long path it was to get here. So many ASA members have made contributions to ensure this event became a reality. I'm reminded of Teresa Barnes who led a committee on meetings in Africa during her ASA Board term. Peter Little, Gracia Clark, Judith Byfield, and Jennifer Yanco spent countless hours representing the ASA on the #DakarFutures2016 steering committee. Mwenda Ntarangwi and Ellen Foley led the review of the overwhelmingly positive response to the Dakar2016 Call for Proposals with incredible dedication and creativity. Ousmane Sene, the director of WARC, has shown us the true reach of Senegalese hospitality and ensured that our participants will have the opportunity to interact with the academic, political, and artistic communities of Dakar. If the ASA had honorary membership, I would bestow it on Ed Liebow, Executive Director of the American Anthropological Association. His personal commitment to making this event a success speaks to the importance he places on African Studies and the engagement of his members on the African continent. Finally, I am reminded of the active engagement of our President, Dorothy Hodgson, as an African Anthropologist to ensure this meeting was a strategic priority of the Association during her term.

While not every ASA member will be with us in Dakar this week, I hope that each one of you feels a strong sense of pride for the important step forward that our Association has made. Please take the time to visit www.dakar2016.org to review the program for this meeting and to see what innovative and exciting content has been generated through the CFP. You can also follow the event on social media with hashtag #dakarFutures2016. Our next challenge is to ensure that this is not a one-time event, but the start of a series of ongoing conferences. The ASA aspires to host future events on the continent in collaboration with not only AAA, but also with other disciplinary learned societies and coordinate organizations. We are already well underway on this front and hope to announce some exciting developments at this year's Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

While it's hard to think that in only six days I will leave Dakar behind, I'm excited for the tasks awaiting myself and the Secretariat after the closing of this event. The preliminary program for the Annual Meeting has just been finalized and we will spend the coming months continuing to engage with the Program Chairs, Local Arrangements Committee, and ASA Board on finalizing the content and logistics of this year's Annual Meeting. We will finalize the selection and participation of our Presidential Fellows in the Annual Meeting, and we will submit a new proposal to the Carnegie Corporation of New York to continue the engagement of their networks of scholars in Africa in our Annual Meeting. We're also preparing to launch phase two of our member portal, which will include many exciting new member resources and tools to add value to your ASA membership experience.

I hope that you share my excitement about the state of our Association and I hope that the innovative new activities of the ASA motivate you to continue to support the critical work of the Association. It is only by the engagement, input, and dedication of our members that these kind of initiatives can come to be. I encourage each of you to think about ways in which the ASA can be more relevant and support you in your research, your teaching, and your broader engagement with African Studies. The Secretariat is always open to receiving your input and guidance on how we can ensure the relevance of our Association. I look forward to seeing all of you this fall in Washington, DC!

Warmest Regards from Dakar,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "S E Baazet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Suzanne Moyer Baazet,
Executive Director of the African Studies Association
asaed@africanstudies.org

ANNOUNCING

ASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

The ASA is pleased to announce the results of the 2018 election of the ASA Board of Directors. The following members will join the board in November 2018.

Vice President-elect:

Jean Allman, Center for the Humanities, History, and African and African American Studies
Washington University in St. Louis
You can read Jean Allman's candidate statement here: [Jean Allman Candidate Statement](#).



Board Members-elect:



Nwando Achebe, History Department and Journal of West African History
Michigan State University
You can read Nwando Achebe's candidate statement here: [Nwando Achebe Candidate](#)

Cyril Obi, Program Director, African Peacebuilding Network
Social Science Research Council
You can read Cyril Obi's candidate statement here: [Cyril Obi Candidate Statement](#).



Derek R. Peterson, History and Afro-American & African Studies
University of Michigan
You can read Derek R. Peterson's candidate statement here: [Derek R. Peterson Candidate Statement](#).

Emerging Scholar Representative-elect:



Ruth Murambadoro, University of Pretoria
You can read Ruth Murambadoro's candidate statement here: [Ruth Murambadoro Candidate Statement](#).

You may notice that the 2016 election included the opportunity to vote for an emerging scholar representative. The ASA is committed to supporting emerging scholars, and is pleased to continue to have a representative for the Emerging Scholars Network on the Board of Directors. For more information on the Emerging Scholars Network of the ASA, please visit their page on the ASA website.

The ASA Board of Directors congratulates its new officer and directors, and extends its sincere appreciation to all the candidates for their willingness to serve the Association

"INNOVATION, TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES IN AFRICA" CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The African Studies Association (ASA), American Anthropological Association (AAA), Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), and the West African Research Center (WARC) are happy to launch the inaugural joint conference of the ASA and AAA, entitled, "Innovation, transformation and sustainable futures in Africa". The conference was held in Dakar, Senegal on June 1-3, 2016 and hosted by local partners WARC and CODESRIA.

This joint conference in Africa presented an interdisciplinary occasion to focus research attention on transformations as they relate to Africa's future. The ASA knows that many of our members often have to choose between attending the AAA and ASA conference each year, and is excited we were able to partner with AAA on this initiative.

The conference will itself model innovation and creativity in its presentation formats and its location. Dakar, now a city of more than two million people, exemplifies these dynamic changes — developing into a modern, global city while maintaining its rich cultural roots and identity. The response to the CFP was outstanding and led to the creation of a rich and multifaceted program — you can review the preliminary program at www.africanstudies.org/conference-program.

To facilitate participation in the conference, the ASA Board of Directors authorized the creation of a special travel fund to provide subsidies to conference attendees. The ASA awarded travel grants to 14 participants, most of whom are emerging scholars. This support would not have been possible without the generosity of ASA members, and the African Studies Association thanks all who have donated to the endowment and other ASA initiatives.

There are many conference highlights to showcase!

The Welcome Reception for the 2016 Dakar Conference was hosted by the West African Research Center on the evening of Wednesday, June 1 from 6pm to 8pm. This fabulous evening of festivities served as a kick-off and the official start of the conference in the beautiful WARC facilities. The Welcome Ceremony was presided by His Excellency Mary Teuw Niane, Minister of Higher Education of Senegal, and included welcome messages from Professor Ibrahima Thioub, Rector, University Cheikh Anta Diop; US Ambassador to Senegal, James P. Zumwalt; Prof. Ousmane Sene, Director of WARC; Prof. Ebrima Sall, Executive Secretary of CODESRIA; Prof. Dorothy Hodgson, President of the ASA; and Prof. Ed Liebow, Executive Director of the AAA.

The official Dakar 2016 Gala Dinner was held on Thursday, June 2 at 7 pm at the fabulous Lagon I restaurant. This unique restaurant, located on a pier stretching into the ocean provided the perfect venue for a night of festivities and a beautiful view of the sun setting over Goree Island.

ASA President Dorothy Hodgson moderated the roundtable, “Feminist Futures in Africa?” which included participants Fatou Sow, Ousseina Alidou, Aminata Diaw Cisse, Ayesha Imam, and Omotayo Jolaosho. If you are not attending the conference but are interested in following the conversation, make sure to follow the conference organizers on twitter: @ASANewsOnline, @AmericanAnthro, @CODESRIA, and @wara_warc, and the official conference hashtag, #dakarfutures2016.



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE ASA SECRETARIAT

The African Studies Association is excited to announce that the Secretariat is now fully staffed! We have welcomed two new staff members to the ASA in 2016. The completion of the Secretariat staffing will allow the ASA to continue our programming activities such as the Annual Meeting, as well as expand to new initiatives, such as our Dakar 2016 conference in partnership with the American Anthropological Association, the West African Research Center, and CODESRIA, and the new ASA advocacy agenda.

Renee DeLancey joined the ASA in February 2016, and will focus on ASA membership and meetings. In her role as Program Manager, Renee is responsible for organizing and executing the ASA Annual Meeting in the U.S. and conferences in Africa. Renee will also focus on ASA member relations and membership benefits. Renee is the go-to person for any questions you may have about the ASA Annual Meeting, including special topics such as the film screenings, local activities, and the Exhibit Hall. Renee will also serve as the point of contact for any queries about ASA membership and membership benefits. Renee joined the Secretariat after serving as the Administrative Manager of the Center for African Studies at Rutgers University, where she worked for over ten years. Her work at the center was multifaceted, including managing budgets, creating communications, website development, the coordination of events such as conferences, lectures, book launches and film screenings, graphic design and event publicity, facilitating the visits of fellows and visiting scholars, community building, Rutgers Senegal Service Learning administration, and more. After completing her Bachelor's degree in English at the Pennsylvania State University, Renee worked in several industries including designer furniture, banking, real estate and risk management, before settling into the academia arena. She lived in Algeria as a young girl with her family, and, while she is delighted to have visited two other countries in Africa, Morocco and Senegal, she is eager to add many more African countries to that list! The ASA welcomes Renee to our staff, and to the ASA family. Renee has spent the last three months managing the Dakar 2016 conference, and you can find more information about that event [here](#). If you are at Dakar 2016, make sure to find her and say hello!

The ASA is happy to share that Sonja Madison joined the Secretariat in January 2016, and serves as the new executive assistant of the association. Sonja brings with her over 20 years of experience working as an executive assistant in non-profits and in the financial industry. Please also join the ASA in congratulating Sonja on her recent completion of her Associates Degree, which was awarded to her last month by Essex Community College. Sonja wears many hats at the ASA, and is the first point of contact if you have questions about membership or meeting registration payment and processing, requests for invitation letters, requests to join the ASA mailing list, and more. Additionally, Sonja manages the ASA Presidential Fellows Program, and you can find more information about that program [here](#).

Renee and Sonja join current ASA Program Manager Kathryn Salucka and Executive Director Suzanne Baazet at the Secretariat. Kathryn is shifting her responsibilities from managing the Annual Meeting to focus on outreach, communication, publications, and advocacy. In this role, she will serve as the point of contact for coordinate organizations and institutions looking to collaborate and engage with ASA. Kathryn will also lead the new ASA advocacy plan, and manage ASA News and the ASA blog. Suzanne Baazet will continue to oversee African Studies Association operations, development, and strategic planning, and serve as a liaison between the ASA Secretariat and the Board of Directors.

You can reach Sonja Madison at sonja@africanstudies.org, or via phone at 848.445.1273. You can reach Renee DeLancey at renee@africanstudies.org, or via phone at 848.445.1367. Kathryn Salucka can be reached at kathryn@africanstudies.org, or via phone at 848.445.1368. You can reach Suzanne Baazet at asaed@africanstudies.org, or via phone at 848.445.1369.

ISITA HONORS JOHN O. HUNWICK WITH SYMPOSIUM ON TEXTUAL CULTURES IN ISLAMIC AFRICA

Submitted by Rebecca Shereikis

The African Studies Association will showcase the events and activities of one of our coordinate organizations in each issue of ASA News. The Summer 2016 edition features an update from the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa. The ASA thanks Rebecca Shereikis for sharing ISITA's update with the association.

From April 21-22, over twenty scholars from Africa, Europe, and North America converged at Northwestern University to take part in an interdisciplinary symposium coorganized by ASA coordinate organization the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern's Program of African Studies, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Center for African Studies, and the American Islamic College, Chicago. Titled "Sacred Word: The Changing Meanings in Textual Cultures of Islamic Africa" the symposium was dedicated to the memory of ISITA cofounder and Northwestern history and religion professor emeritus John O. Hunwick (1938-2015). Among Hunwick's many honors and achievements are the ASA's Best Text Prize in 2001 for *Timbuktu and the Songhay Empire* (Brill, 1999) and the Distinguished Africanist Award in 2005.

The symposium honored Hunwick's groundbreaking scholarship on the intellectual traditions of Muslim West Africa by exploring the meaning(s) of textual cultures in Muslim societies in Africa and the changes that have taken place in those cultures during the last two centuries. The joint NU-UIUC organizing committee made a special effort to include junior scholars, many of whom spoke movingly of Hunwick's role in shaping their intellectual development, even though they had never met him. As such, the symposium showcased the next generation of scholarship in the field of Islamic manuscript and textual studies in Africa, and the organizers anticipate that many of the papers will be published.

Six panels held over two days progressed from investigating the meanings of the physical elements of hand-written manuscripts (including script, calligraphy, colophons, and visual patterns) to exploring how African Muslims give form to the sacred word beyond the page—in sound, music, and performance. The significance of market literature and print editions and their relationship to handwritten texts was also addressed. Papers involving close readings (or rereadings) of texts were balanced by papers that explored the multi-faceted uses to which texts are put in social and political life. The significance of Ajami in Muslim Africa's textual and aesthetic traditions was a major focus of the symposium.



Photo Credit: Program of African Studies, Northwestern University

A special reception to remember John Hunwick brought forth many moving testimonials from his former students, colleagues, friends, and especially, members of his family. A full report and photos of the event will be available on the Program of African Studies website (<http://www.africanstudies.northwestern.edu/>)

The event was partially supported by a US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant to the Illinois-Africa Consortium, which joins Northwestern's Program of African Studies and the University of Illinois' Center for African Studies in activities to strengthen the study of Africa on both campuses. Generous cosponsorships from the American Islamic College, Chicago and other Northwestern units provided additional support.



ASA

MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join the ASA Secretariat in congratulating our members on their recent accomplishments, and remember to let the ASA know of your achievements so the ASA can celebrate with you!

Recent Member Publications

Women and Power in Postconflict Africa (Cambridge University Press) by **Aili Tripp**, Professor of Political Science and Gender & Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Investing in Authoritarian Rule: Punishment and Patronage in Rwanda's Gacaca Courts for Genocide Crimes (Cambridge University Press) by **Anuradha Chakravarty**, Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of South Carolina

Women in Twentieth-Century Africa (Cambridge University Press) by **Iris Berger**, University at Albany, State University of New York, Professor Emerita

Before Middle Passage: Translated Portuguese Manuscripts of Atlantic Slave Trading from West Africa to Iberian Territories, 1513-26 (Routledge) by **Trevor P. Hall**, Associate Professor of African History

Book chapter (co-authored): *Defending Neoliberal Mali: French Military Intervention and the Management of Contested Political Narratives*, by **Bruno Charbonneau** and **Jonathan Sears**, Assistant Professor, International Development Studies, University of Winnipeg. In *The Politics of International Intervention: The Tyranny of Peace* (Routledge). Edited by **Mandy Turner**, **Florian P. Kühn**

Muslims Beyond the Arab World: The Odyssey of Ajami and the Muridiyya (Oxford University Press) by **Fallou Ngom**, Boston University. Companion website.

African State Governance: Subnational Politics and National Power (Palgrave Macmillan) Edited by **Carl LeVan**, **Joseph Yinka Fashagba**, and **Edward McMahon**

Popobawa: Tanzanian Talk, Global Misreadings (Indiana University Press, forthcoming) by **Katrina Thompson**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Historical Dictionary of Women in Sub-Saharan Africa, Second Edition (Rowman & Littlefield) by **Kathleen Sheldon**, Research affiliate, Center for the Study of Women, University of California, Los Angeles

Recognition, Awards, and Fellowships Awarded to ASA Members

Jeffrey Ahlman, Smith College

Ahlman was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend for his project "'Nkrumah Never Dies': History, Culture, and the Power of Postcolonial Afterlives".

Emmanuel Akyeampong, Harvard University

Akyeampong was appointed the new Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the Harvard University Center for African Studies.

Carl LeVan, American University

LeVan was recently promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure in the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC.

Kuruvilla Mathews, Addis Ababa University

Mathews served as an expert invitee to the 'Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa', which was held in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, in April 2016.

Sylvester Ogbechie, University of California, Santa Barbara

Ogbechie has been awarded a Smithsonian Institution Senior Fellowship Award (2016/2017) to conduct research on a book project titled *Rethinking African Art History: Indigenous Arts, Modernity, and Discourses of the Contemporary*. The book project investigates a fundamental split between the study of pre-colonial African art forms and those that developed in response to colonial and postcolonial experiences, urbanization, and globalization. It proposes a historiography of modern and contemporary African art that analyzes principal texts, artists/artworks and discursive practices in order to map how the shift from historic to modern and contemporary arts affects African art history, and suggests analytical frameworks that link both contexts in order to give the former discursive relevance and the latter historical awareness.

Katrina Thompson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thompson was promoted to Full Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Aili Tripp, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Tripp is working on a research project on Women and Legal Reform in the Maghreb. She taught at Al Akhawayn University and conducted research in Morocco for the academic year 2015-16. She received a Feminist Scholars Fellowship leave for the fall semester 2016 from the Center for Research on Gender and Women at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was awarded a residency fellowship at the American Academy in Berlin for the spring 2017 semester. Tripp was awarded an endowed professorship, the Evjue-Bascom Professorship in Gender and Women's Studies.

2016 ASA PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS

The African Studies Association Presidential Fellows program was established in 2010 with the objective of inviting outstanding Africa-based scholars to attend the ASA Annual Meeting and to spend time at African Studies programs/centers in the U.S. Now entering its sixth year, the Presidential Fellows program has expanded to include member nominated fellows, and to explore additional opportunities for collaboration between these fellows and ASA members.

ACLS-AHP Fellows

Evassy Amanda Tumusiime, Lecturer, Visual Communication and Multimedia, Makerere University

Tumusiime will present the paper “Art and Gender: Imag[in]ing the New Woman in Contemporary Ugandan Art”. This study proposes that patriarchal perceptions have continued to influence the kinds of images through which women are represented in Ugandan art. This argument is well supported by evidence from visual art as well as from other sources of popular culture. This proposed study intends to show how African women in general and Ugandan women in particular are ‘othered’ in cultural discourse authored by men and expressed through the medium of art. Such images of women in Ugandan art serve a political purpose, the most important being to silence the voices of women. On the other hand, the study will articulate that despite their small number Ugandan professional women artists, who are formally trained, see themselves as new women by virtue of their tertiary education and professional practice. These ‘new’ women are able to articulate different visual representations from those formed by men, thus epitomising unrelenting resistance to patriarchal oppression.



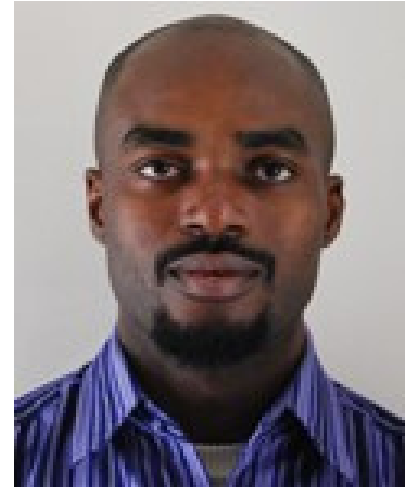
Nomusa Makhubu, Lecturer, Fine Art, University of Cape Town



Makhubu will present the paper “Interventionism, Art and Protest: Renegotiating Urban Spaces of Africa”. Over the last twenty years, there has been an increase in unconventional art forms and popular cultural interventions in African urban spaces that not only challenge the traditional tenets of the art history discipline but can also be seen as complex forms of political and social engagement. A common thread in these art forms is performance and live art. This study approaches live art interventionist aesthetics as significant discourses that illuminate the paradoxes of social practice in contemporary African cities. The initial research for this study focuses on two cities: Lagos and Cape Town. Based on doctoral research, this study interrogates the ways in which performance in live art, video art and video-film is used to renegotiate ‘public’ and ‘private’ spheres in continually changing and enigmatic urban spaces of Africa.

Okechukwu Charles Nwafor, Lecturer II, Fine & Applied Arts, Nnamdi Azikiwe University

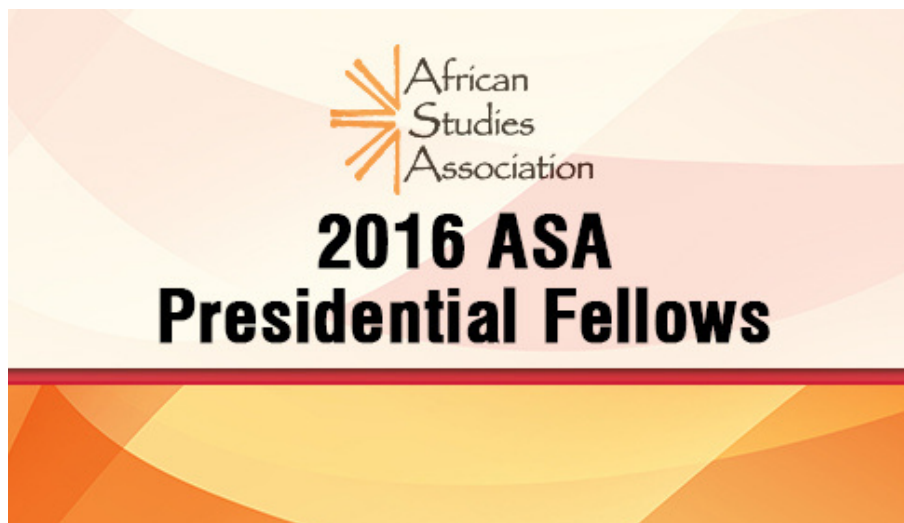
Nwafor will present the paper "The Fabric of Friendship: Asọ ebì and the Moral Economy of Amity in Nigeria". Asọ ebì is a practice which is thought to have originated among the Yoruba who live in the Western part of Nigeria. In Yoruba, asọ means cloth while ebì means family. Translated literally, asọ ebì means family cloth. Among many other recent interpretations, asọ ebì fabrics connote solidarity, uniformity, oneness and friendship. This project, which will focus on the south eastern part of Nigeria, hopes to investigate whether asọ ebì's solidarity is bound by any genuine mobilizing sense of collective. The author asks whether asọ ebì gift's claims as the spiralling movement towards the consolidation of collective relationships has been supplanted by a sense of individualism and ephemerality. The author enquires whether the spirit of asọ ebì solidarity has been substituted by shallow, bodily attire and finally the author investigates the roles of visual cultural practices in the social and cultural valences that constitute asọ ebì as a gesture of group conviviality.



Eric Debrah Otchere, Lecturer, Music & Dance, University of Cape Coast



Otchere will present the paper "Seashore harmonies: the message in the songs of a dying fishing culture". Indigenous Ghanaian fishermen in many coastal towns propelled their canoes and boats through manual rowers who sang as they rowed to sea. These songs, which served a variety of purposes, have grown extinct since outboard motors have come as a convenient substitute to the manual rowing. The place for the singing now is when the fishermen are pulling their nets on shore. Their songs, apart from providing useful reference points for synchronizing their individual efforts and hence easing the labor, also contain vital pieces of encoded information. Unfortunately, modernism has made the death of this fishing culture imminent, as equipment for pulling fishing nets have already been embraced in many places. Focusing on two surviving singing-fishing communities in Cape Coast, the author will document the songs and examine the extent to which these songs reflect the belief system, identity, cosmology, genealogy and general philosophy of life of the people.



11TH ANNUAL ASA PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Every spring the African Studies Association welcomes its Board of Directors to the ASA headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ, for the Spring Board Meeting. During this time, the ASA partners with the Center for African Studies at Rutgers University to host a lecture delivered by the President of the ASA. This year, ASA President and Professor and Graduate Director in the Department of Anthropology at Rutgers University Dorothy Hodgson delivered the lecture "Gender Justice, Human Rights, and the Problem of Culture."

If you are interested in viewing the lecture "Gender Justice, Human Rights, and the Problem of Culture," you may watch it online. The ASA thanks Rutgers University and the Center for African Studies for filming this lecture, and allowing the ASA to share this video with our members. The ASA has been hosted by Rutgers University since 1998, and enjoys its long-term collaboration with the Center for African Studies.

This lecture is a sneak peek to the fall Presidential Lecture, which will take place at the ASA Annual Meeting. Watch the ASA website for more information and the 59th Annual Meeting Preliminary Program.

11th Annual African Studies Association Presidential Lecture

"Gender Justice, Human Rights, & the Problem of Culture"

Dorothy Hodgson
Anthropology, Rutgers University

Thursday, April 28, 2016
Teleconference Room, Alexander Library
(College Avenue Campus)
4:30 PM - Reception to follow

ASA LAUNCHES NEW MEMBER PORTAL

The African Studies Association launched a new membership portal in February 2016. This portal, hosted directly by the ASA on its main website, will replace the Cambridge membership system. The new portal allows ASA members to process their membership renewals, register for the annual meeting, edit their member profile, and access the member directory.

In building this portal, the ASA worked to incorporate member feedback from the past few years. This new portal allows the ASA to more easily register groups for ASA membership and the Annual Meeting, assist members in updating their profiles, and provides a working member directory. If you have any feedback about the membership portal and the member directory, please share it with the ASA by emailing members@africanstudies.org, as the ASA is always looking for ways to improve the member experience.

Please note that ASA membership is based on the calendar year, and expires every year on December 31. If you have not yet renewed your membership in the ASA in 2016, we encourage you to do so! Over the summer the ASA will be adding additional features in the members only section of the website, including membership resources focused on professional development, advocacy, employment, and more. This members only section will also provide a platform for ASA coordinate organizations and new ways for ASA members to interact with ASA publications.

You may utilize this portal to register for the ASA Annual Meeting – and remember that all those who are on the program must register by **June 15, 2016**! You only have two weeks left to register, so make sure to do so today.

If you are not sure if you have renewed your membership, you can check by either contacting the ASA at members@africanstudies.org, or by trying to access your profile in the portal. If you are not a current member and had a user account on the legacy ASA membership site hosted by Cambridge Journals Online, your user information has been carried over automatically to the new system and you will find instructions on how to login to the portal using your existing username.



ASA ADVOCACY POLICY

At their 2015 Fall Board Meeting, the ASA Board of Directors approved the following policy, which will direct the ASA's involvement in advocacy efforts.

The ASA engages in advocacy to raise general awareness about the field of African Studies, to ensure the continued funding and support of African Studies within institutes of Higher Education, and to address ethical, academic freedom, and human rights issues relevant to the field.

The ASA achieves its advocacy agenda through the issuance of position statements and letters to officials, participation in coalitions such as ACLS and the Council for International Education, and outreach to media.

The ASA core advocacy agenda is defined through the following:

- 1) The "Ethical Conduct Guidelines" adopted by the Board of Directors on June 23, 2015
- 2) The ASA Policy Statement Concerning Academic Freedom
- 3) The ASA Policy Statement Concerning Human Rights

The ASA will advocate and release formal statements only on issues that directly relate to one of these three policies and which are directly relevant to the field of African Studies.

The decision to issue advocacy statements will be at the discretion of the ASA Board, represented by the ASA Executive Committee when the Board is unable to convene. The ASA Secretariat may also draft policy statements from time to time and bring these to the Board for approval by electronic vote. In order to ensure the timely response to emerging issues, all advocacy statement will be approved via an email vote with non-response within the 48 hour window considered to be consent with the issuance of the statement.

Requests for the ASA to engage in advocacy can be generated by ASA members for consideration by the Association's leadership. All requests for advocacy should be sent to the ASA Executive Director who will coordinate with the Board of Directors to evaluate the potential for advocacy. Moreover, the ASA by-laws allow for members to bring a specific issue to vote by the full ASA membership by presenting a petition signed by 100 ASA members in support of an issue.

ASA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DECISIONS

The ASA Board of Directors met April 29–30, 2016 in New Brunswick, NJ, at the annual Spring Board Meeting. Below please find a listing of some of the accepted Board motions and action items coming from the meeting.

Accepted Board Motions

- To accept the policy change that the Author Meets Critic sessions will not count towards participation limits at the ASA Annual Meeting
- To approve all four African Humanities Program fellows nominated by ACLS to serve as ASA Presidential Fellows
- Approve the completed 2015 990 form
- Move forward in using TIAA CREF services for investment management
- Accept the proposed Development Plan
- Extend term to five years for African Studies Review editors
- In the case of a tie in Board election, a runoff vote will be conducted between the tied candidates with an election period of 10 days

Action Items for the ASA Secretariat

- Reassess meeting space in hotel contracts for the next five years to ensure the ASA has enough space to accommodate the growth in the meeting
- Encourage diversity in Annual Meeting submissions by including diversity guidelines in the submission guidelines
- Create a submission category in the 2017 CFP for participants to request submissions be considered for Board Sponsorship
- Consider implementing an art competition for the cover of the 2017 annual meeting program
- Conduct analysis on the titles submitted in the past three years for the Herskovits award to determine discipline trends
- Support activities listed in development plan
- Schedule a Coordinate Organization meeting during the Annual Meeting to discuss new opportunities for Coordinate Organizations and new ASA policies
- Work with the Emerging Scholars Network to create a yearly webinar schedule with topics to be determined