

ASA

ANNUAL REPORT

ENHANCING THE EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION ABOUT AFRICA SINCE 1957



AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION



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LETTER FROM THE ASA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ASA Community,

2024 was an exciting year in many ways. ASA was enthusiastically returned to the Midwest for our 67th Annual Meeting in Chicago. Although the temperature was in the single digits outside, the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile was filled with joyful attendees, happy to see one another before the winter break. The Annual Meeting was the largest since the pandemic, with nearly 400 sessions and events. After the meeting, we were thrilled to discover that our Association has grown by nearly every metric. Our Annual Meeting data analysis illustrates strong emerging scholar engagement as well as increased attendance for colleagues from Africa and Asia.

ASA's completed its first full year of the ambitious Invest in a New Generation Campaign. The Campaign is strategically investing in Research & Knowledge Production, Training & Engagement, Accolades & Acknowledgement, and Sustainability over three years. In 2024, ASA was thrilled to announce the ASA Samora and Graça Machel Presidential Fellows Fund, made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Allen and Barbara Isaacman. The loss of lifetime member and namesake of the new Ken Harrow ASA Film Fund, Dr. Kenneth Harrow, was a difficult loss for the African Studies community. We are incredibly grateful for Dr. Harrow and his wife Liz, for their generosity. We are honored to carry on his legacy of supporting film and filmmakers from the continent. In the summer, ASA also welcomed its first class of Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Student Travel Awardees. This inaugural Campaign Fund has already impacted a diverse cross-section of students and expanded access to educational and research opportunities. In September, ASA announced the expansion of the Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Student Travel Award, made possible by an additional generous gift from Dr. Steve Howard.

ASA's publications continued to grow in 2024 with a notable increase in readership for the *African Studies Review*. Their 2024 forum call, "African Studies and Black Studies: Intersections, Genealogies, and New Directions" attracted an impressive number of transdisciplinary submissions. Selected scholars gathered at Duke University in the fall to present at a special symposium ahead of the forum's publication. *History in Africa*, which celebrated its 50th issue in 2023, commemorated its 50th Anniversary under Editor-in-Chief Lorelle Semley in 2024 with special programming at the 67th ASA Annual Meeting. We look forward to another 50 years of engaging historical debates, methods, and sources in African Studies.

We are inspired by the spirit of generosity and community building at ASA. We believe that the continued support and commitment of our community will enable the organization to expand its impact, to create unparalleled accessibility, and to reach new constituencies. Together we can bolster the field and build a better future for scholars and practitioners alike. You can support any of these inspiring funds with a gift on [our website](#). If you find yourself inspired by these stories of generosity and want to establish an award, lecture, fellowship, or other fund, please contact the Secretariat so we can discuss your vision for ASA's bright future. As always, we remain grateful to all our members, board, editors, program chairs, LAC members, volunteers, donors, exhibitors, sponsors, institutional partners, and broader community for your dedication to ASA and its mission. Thank you for your continued contributions and we look forward to another inspiring year together in 2025.

With Gratitude,
Alix Saba, ASA Executive Director

ASA MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1957, the African Studies Association is the flagship membership organization devoted to enhancing the exchange of information about Africa.

The African Studies Association encourages the production and dissemination of historical and contemporary knowledge about Africa. The ASA is based in the United States and aims to cultivate a better understanding of the continent, taking a holistic approach to its areas of focus. This includes all facets of Africa's political, economic, social, cultural, artistic, scientific, and environmental landscapes, to name a few. Our global membership include scholars, students, teachers, activists, artists, development professionals, policymakers, and donors.

The ASA achieves its mission by:

- Providing access to path-breaking research and key debates in African Studies
- Facilitating interdisciplinary exchanges with African scholars and institutions
- Publishing high-quality research on Africa-related issues
- Fostering networks of Africanist scholars and practitioners through the Annual Meeting and other forums
- Addressing the challenges faced by universities engaged in research, teaching, and outreach related to Africa
- Broadening professional opportunities on African issues
- Promoting a better understanding of Africa through academia, policy-makers, NGOs, media, business, learned societies, and other interested communities

SECRETARIAT

Alix Saba, Executive Director

Jessica Lofgren, Financial Manager

Ellen McPherson, Programs Manager

Reed Couvillon, ESN Administrative Assistant

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

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Gretchen Bauer, University of Delaware

VICE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Schmidt, Loyola University Maryland

PAST PRESIDENT

Adérónké A. Adésànyà, James Madison University

TREASURER

Timothy Longman, Boston University

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Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Stanford University

Jacqueline-Bethel Tchouta Mougoué, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Mucha Musemwa, University of the Witwatersrand

Robert Trent Vinson, University of Virginia

Bright Nkrumah, Clark University, *Emerging Scholars Representative*

2024 COMMITTEES

ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

Chair: Elizabeth Schmidt
Yacine Daddi Addoun
J. Jarpa Dawuni
Mucha Musemwa
Jennifer Hart
Bright Nkrumah (ESN Rep)
Alix Saba (ex-officio)

NOMINATIONS & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Elizabeth Schmidt
Robert Trent Vinson
Rita Kiki Edozie
Rachel Jean-Baptiste
Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué
Plus 3 non-board members
Alix Saba (ex-officio)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Gretchen Bauer
Elizabeth Schmidt
Adérónké Adésolá Adésànyà
Tim Longman
Robert Trent Vinson
Mucha Musemwa
Yacine Daddi Addoun
Alix Saba (ex-officio)

FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Robert Trent Vinson
Tim Longman, Treasurer
Rachel Jean-Baptiste
Claudia Gastrow
Alix Saba (ex-officio)

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Mucha Musemwa
Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué
Claudia Gastrow
Bright Nkrumah (ESN Rep)
African Studies Review editors (ex-officio)
History in Africa editors (ex-officio)
Alix Saba (ex-officio)

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Chair: Yacine Daddi Addoun
J. Jarpa Dawuni
Rita Kiki Edozie
Jennifer Hart
Alix Saba (ex-officio)

PRIZE & AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Adérónké Adésolá Adésànyà, Past-President
Committee of the Whole

OMBUDSPERSON

Adeline Masquelier

2024 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND RELATED INITIATIVES

The Strategic Priorities are set by the Board of Directors with support from the Executive Director. They are then accomplished through thoughtful programming and special initiatives. The ASA's current Strategic Priorities are listed below with progress updates and ongoing programming developed to further these goals.

- 1. Increase our membership footprint, our member engagement, and the dissemination of our members' and coordinate organizations' work in a way that achieves our mission of increasing knowledge about and promoting a better understanding of Africa.**

In 2024, ASA welcomed three coordinate organizations: the ASA Film Studies Association, the Congolese Studies Association, and the Kongo Academy.

- 2. Diversify our financial model to reduce dependence on membership dues, meeting registration fees, and publication royalties for the association's survival.**

ASA continued the quiet phase of its first comprehensive Capital Campaign promoting investment in a new generation. ASA successfully applied to a multi-association grant from ACLS in collaboration with the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

- 3. Ensure the ASA's implementation of innovative event management technologies and processes to improve the efficiency and impact of the ASA Annual Meeting, ancillary meetings, and other events organized by the association.**

In 2024, ASA launched a new MyASA to improve user experience and membership offerings. ASA continued to use the OpenWater conference management software and its Guidebook app.

- 4. Ensure, through our own journals and wider engagement with African Studies publishers, that the field of African Studies publishing is robust, diverse, and accessible to emerging scholars and scholars based in non-North American institutions.**

ASA was awarded an ACLS Intention Foundry Grant to support an 18th-Century Africa Publication Fellowship. ASA partnered with journals to present at ECAS. ASR editors served as mentors to emerging scholars from the continent to revise drafts for publication. The Publication Committee sponsored Publish That Article: Meet the Editors at the Annual Meeting. The ASA ESN hosted "Publishing Beyond the Academy."

- 5. Advocate and work in support of inclusion and representation in the field of African Studies both through our own organization and partnerships and collaboration with related organizations.**

ASA worked to expand coordinate organizations that represent diverse interest groups. In collaboration with the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the ASA launched the 2025 Eighteenth-Century Africa Publication Fellowship. ASA grew its institutional membership to include diverse institutions, and engaged new allied institutions including ACC&U and PEN America.

2024 MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

14 MEMBERSHIP TIERS

New membership rates implemented in 2022 increased accessibility for underemployed and non-North American scholars by lowering student rates, creating 5 new financial tiers, expanding the \$5 International Emerging Scholar membership, and creating a Sustaining donor tier. ASA has 14 membership tiers, which aim to create a more inclusive membership.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Kellogg Institute for International Studies
Rutgers University
Stanford University
University of Michigan
University of Wisconsin–Madison

6 LARGEST COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS



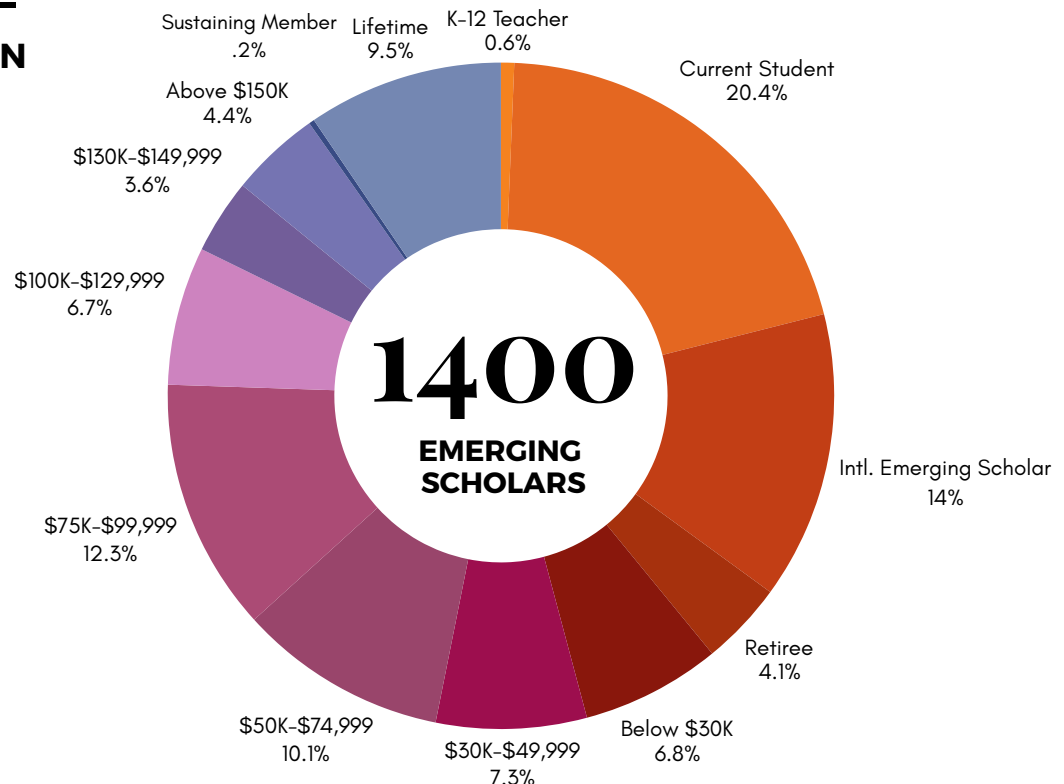
7%

**OF OUR 2024 MEMBERS
JOINED COORDINATE
ORGANIZATIONS**

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN

We are thrilled that the number of global students and Emerging Scholars continues to grow. The proportion of non-Africa-based Emerging Scholars is higher than what is represented in this chart, as recent graduates based outside of Africa are included in the Earners categories. The ASA boasts 1200 active Emerging Scholar contacts globally.

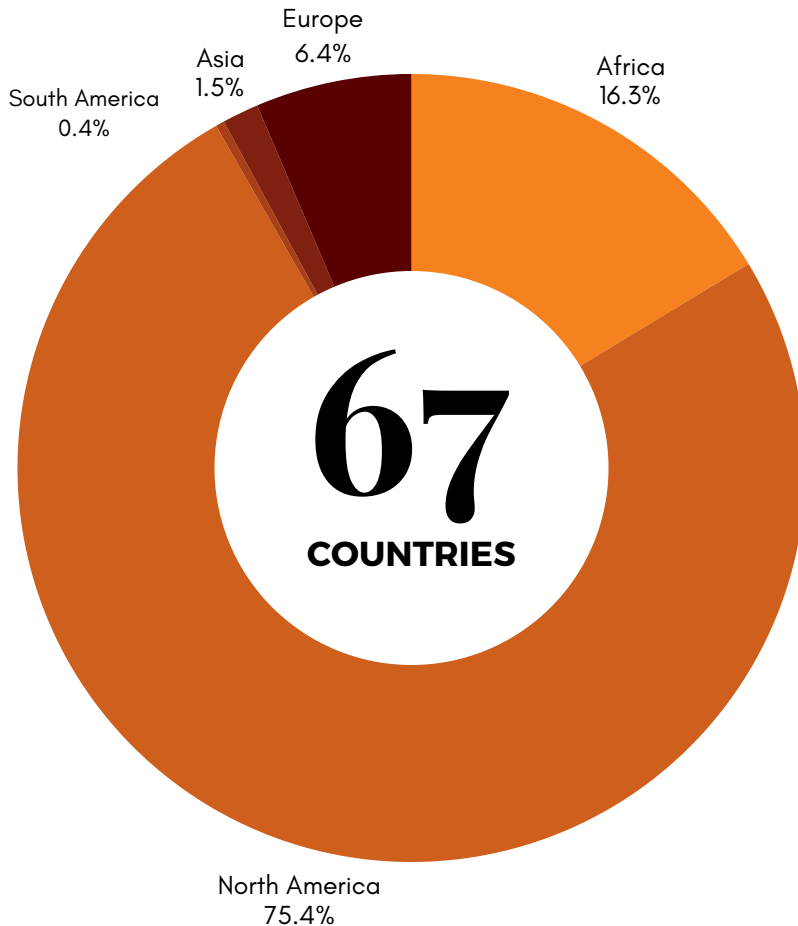
The ASA defines an Emerging Scholar as in pursuit of one's terminal degree, or within five years post completion.



2024 MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

CURRENT MEMBER GEOLOCATION

**location was self-reported*



638 INSTITUTIONS

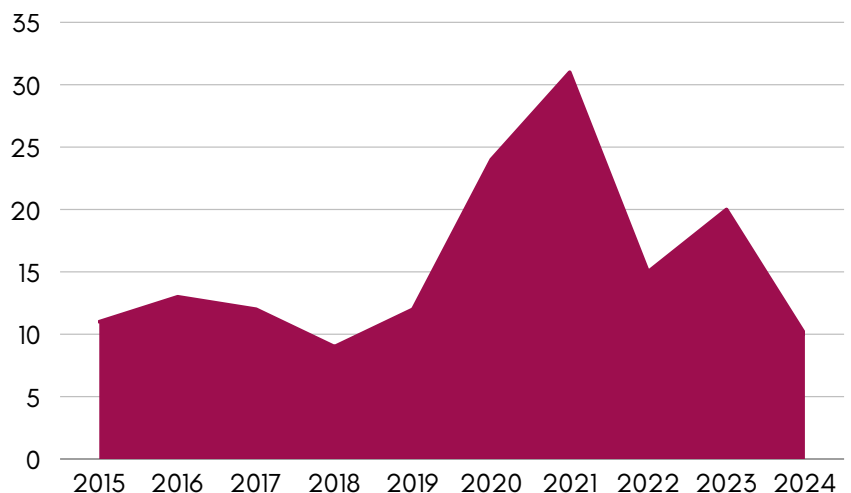
We are delighted to see growth in the types of institutions represented within the ASA including community colleges, public schools, museums, and think-tanks.

6 AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION

1. South Africa
2. Nigeria
3. Ghana
4. Kenya
5. Uganda
6. Senegal

CARNEGIE FELLOWS

Each year the African Studies Association works with the Carnegie Corporation of New York to invite Africa-based emerging scholars to attend and present at the ASA Annual Meeting as CCNY Fellows. In addition to presenting on special panels, the CCNY Fellows become ASA Members and an integral part of the ASA Emerging Scholars Network community. CCNY Fellows also attend a virtual skills development workshop in advance of the Annual Meeting.



PUBLICATIONS

AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW

2024 marked the first full year of Cajetan Iheka's tenure as the *Africa Studies Review* Editor-in-Chief and Katherine Luongo served her first full year as Deputy Editor. The editorial team welcomed Naminata Diabate as Associate Editor for a three-year term and welcomed back Claudia Gastrow for a second three-year term. Paul Ocobock ended his leadership tenure as Senior Book Review Editor and the team welcomed Chris Day into the role. Rachel Gabara ended her leadership tenure as Senior Film Review Editor and the team welcomed Alessandro Jedlowski into the role. ASR also launched its Neglected Voices series in early 2023.

In 2024, the ASR published 29 peer-reviewed articles. The ASR published 119 individual book reviews, 10 scholarly review essays, 20 film reviews, and 7 in memoriam pieces honoring Paulin Hountondji (1942-2024).

In 2024, the *African Studies Review* awarded three prizes and additional honorable mentions:

The 2024 **ASR's Best Article Published in 2023** was awarded to Humphrey Asamoah Agyekum for the article "We Are not into Politics, but Politics Is into Us": The Politicization of the Ghana Armed Forces Through Patronage Exchanges between Political Elites and Military Leaders." ASR 66.4 (December 2023): 967-987.

The 2024 **ASR Prize for Best Africa-focused Anthology or Edited Collection** was awarded to Oyèrónkẹ́ Oyewùmí and Hewan Girma, *Naming Africans: On the Epistemic Value of Names* (Springer Nature, 2023).

The 2024 **ASR Prize for Best Africa-based Doctoral Dissertation** was awarded to Qmó máyò wá Qláwálé Àbàtì, Stellenbosch University, for "Beyond #NotTooYoungToRun: Party Candidacy, Political Representation and Legislative Effectiveness of Young Politicians in Nigeria's Fourth Republic."

Beginning in 2011, the ASR qualified for rating in the Journal of Citation Reports (JCR), published by Clarivate. Only the journals that are indexed by Clarivate are included in the calculation, but because they index a large number of the most respected journals, the impact factor indicates how many active scholars cite articles published in a particular journal. ASR's 5-year Impact Factor is 1.3. The 2024 Impact Factor is forthcoming.

HISTORY IN AFRICA

2024 marked Lorelle Semley's fourth year of tenure as *History in Africa* Editor-in-Chief. In 2024, *History in Africa* celebrated its 50th anniversary. The journal's impact factor application was approved, and its first Impact Factor is forthcoming. During the ASA Annual Meeting, the journal editors co-hosted a special roundtable entitled "Publish That Article: Meet the Editors."

ASA ADVOCACY

GROWING ASA ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee of the Board was established in 2015, after then President Dorothy Hodgson proposed an Advocacy Policy to guide the Association and the committee. The policy was adopted in Fall 2015. Prior to this policy, the Executive Committee of the Board would issue advocacy statements and directives on an ad hoc basis.

Pursuant to the directive of the Board, the ASA Secretariat joined advocacy organizations such as the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), and NAFSA: Association of International Educators. ASA staff had already begun attending conferences of these organizations in 2014. The ASA continued its active engagement with the Coalition for International Education (CIE). We proudly engage in these organizations each year to support international education, language and area studies funding, and the proliferation of humanities & social science education.

TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

In 2018, under the leadership of Derek Peterson, the ASA Advocacy Committee created the Task Force for the Protection of Academic Freedom. The Task Force works to defend and advance scholars' ability to freely pursue, distribute, and discuss their research in academia and in public life. Through the Task Force, the ASA monitors infringements on academic freedom worldwide but specifically in Africa and the United States. While the Advocacy Committee Members serve on the Task Force, the Task Force is an entirely separate entity and includes representatives from ASA Coordinate and Affiliate Organizations.

2024 ADVOCACY STATEMENTS

- Statement by the African Studies Association concerning the current crisis and ceasefire in Gaza
- African Studies Association co-signs the American Historical Association Statement on campus protests

FELLOWSHIPS



FELLOWSHIPS

EXPANDING ASA FELLOWSHIPS

In 2024, the African Studies Association received a two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) to continue its fellowship program. As a result of this grant, the ASA invited 10 Africa-based emerging scholars to attend and present at the ASA Annual Meeting in Chicago. CCNY fellows were placed on one of two thematic panels at the Annual Meeting, “**Sustainable African Futures: Climate Change, Policy, & Innovation**” and “**African Identities Amidst Urbanism, Migration, & the Digital**”. Returning fellows Chikezie Uzuegbunam and Natasha Mwila served as discussants on the thematic panels and received publication feedback from ASR Editors on a draft journal article.

For more information about the CCNY partnership with the African Studies Association, please see this video [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOIHL0JN2hA>].

2024 CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK FELLOWS

Mugalula Ashiraf, Makerere University, Makerere Institute for Social Research

Naeema Ahmad Ramadan Hussein El Kout, The University of the Witwatersrand, CCNY supported projects at the University of the Witwatersrand

Elgidius Ichumbaki, University of Dar es Salaam, Science for Africa Foundation (POSSIBLE-Africa)

Pauline Mateveke Kazembe, University of Zimbabwe, African Peacebuilding Network

Anna Msigwa, The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, CCNY supported fellows at the University of Pretoria Future Africa Institute

Natasha Mwila, University of Zambia, CCNY supported projects at Makerere University

Lilian Caroline Namugenyi, Makerere University, Makerere Institute for Social Research

Levy Otwoma, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, CCNY supported fellows at the University of Pretoria Future Africa Institute

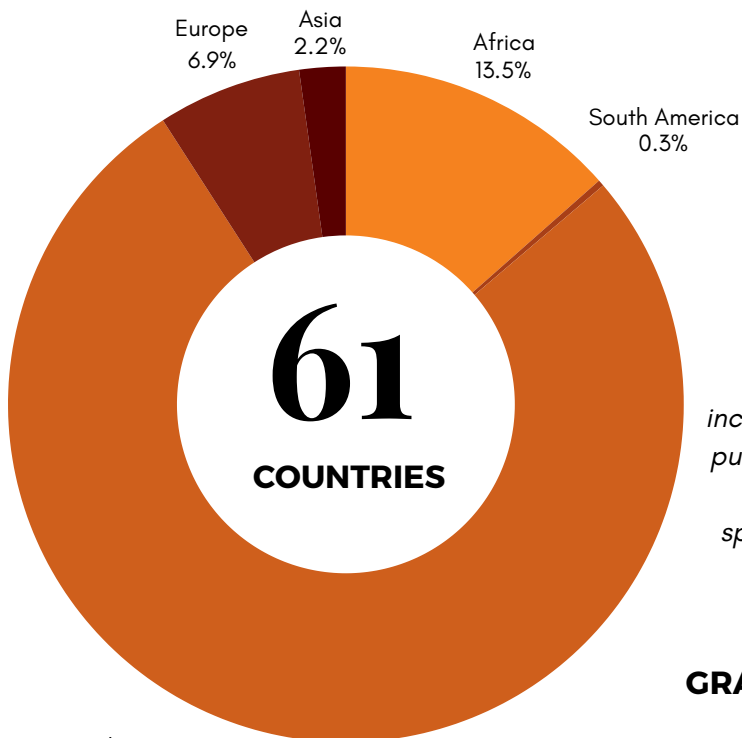
Mbasughun Ukpi, Makerere University, Makerere Institute for Social Research

Chikezie Uzuegbunam, Rhodes University, CCNY supported projects at the University of Cape Town

2024 ANNUAL MEETING BY THE NUMBERS

The 67th Annual Meeting statistics below are meant to illuminate the singular event as well as provide points of comparison over time. As we continue to improve and refine our data collection annually, we will have an increasingly clear picture of on our Annual Meeting participants, academic trends, and strategic growth opportunities. This allows us to better serve the changing needs of our membership. This year, we saw significant increase the percentages of roundtable and AfricaNow! submissions.

PARTICIPANT TRAVEL LOCATION OF ORIGIN



*Participation location was self-reported

1,707

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRANTS

39%

OF OUR 2024 PRESENTERS WERE EMERGING SCHOLARS

The Emerging Scholars Network, founded in 2015 and revitalized in 2021, offers professional development opportunities and supports innovative research for the increasing number of emerging scholars in our membership.

"I really enjoyed it. It was very welcoming. The post session chats were great to connect with people in my research fields. I especially loved the Writing Boot Camp, the Emerging Scholars meeting and the Congo Research meeting."

– Annual Meeting Survey Respondent

10

CCNY SCHOLARS

Thanks to the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the African Studies Association hosted 10 Emerging Scholars from the Continent.

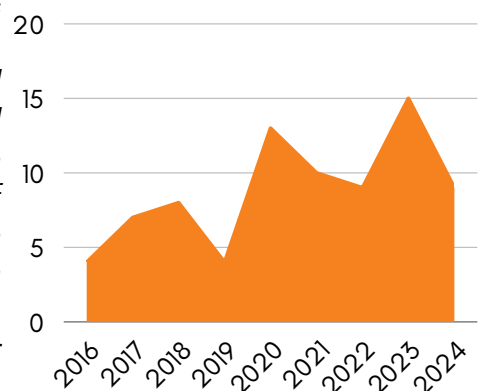
Our growing number of Exhibitors and Sponsors met with prospective authors and increased accessibility to African area studies publications for Annual Meeting attendees by offering discounts and donating works. The spacious Exhibit Hall provided a comfortable space for networking with fellow Annual Meeting attendees.

33

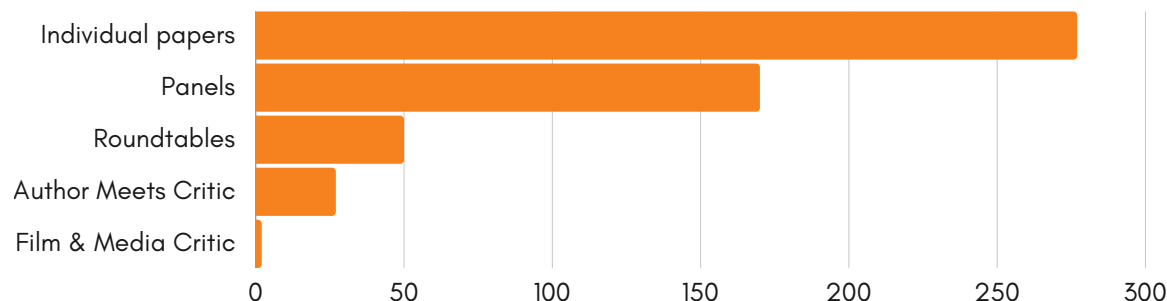
EXHIBITORS

GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER PRIZE SUBMISSIONS

Since the prize was established in 2001, submissions have increased overall, and the ASA will continue to encourage more submissions with the goal of having ¼ of Graduate Student presenters polish and submit a paper annually. Nine students submitted their paper in 2024.



SUBMISSIONS BY SESSION TYPE



599

TOTAL SUBMISSIONS

Total submissions including the AfricaNow! call increasing from 2023.

390

SESSIONS & EVENTS

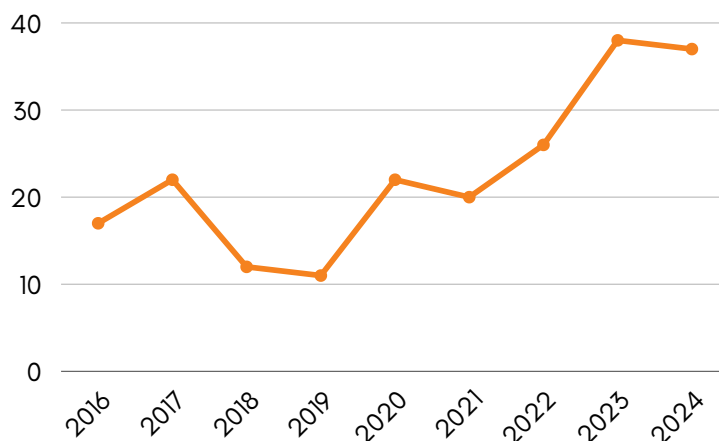
83

SPONSORED SESSIONS

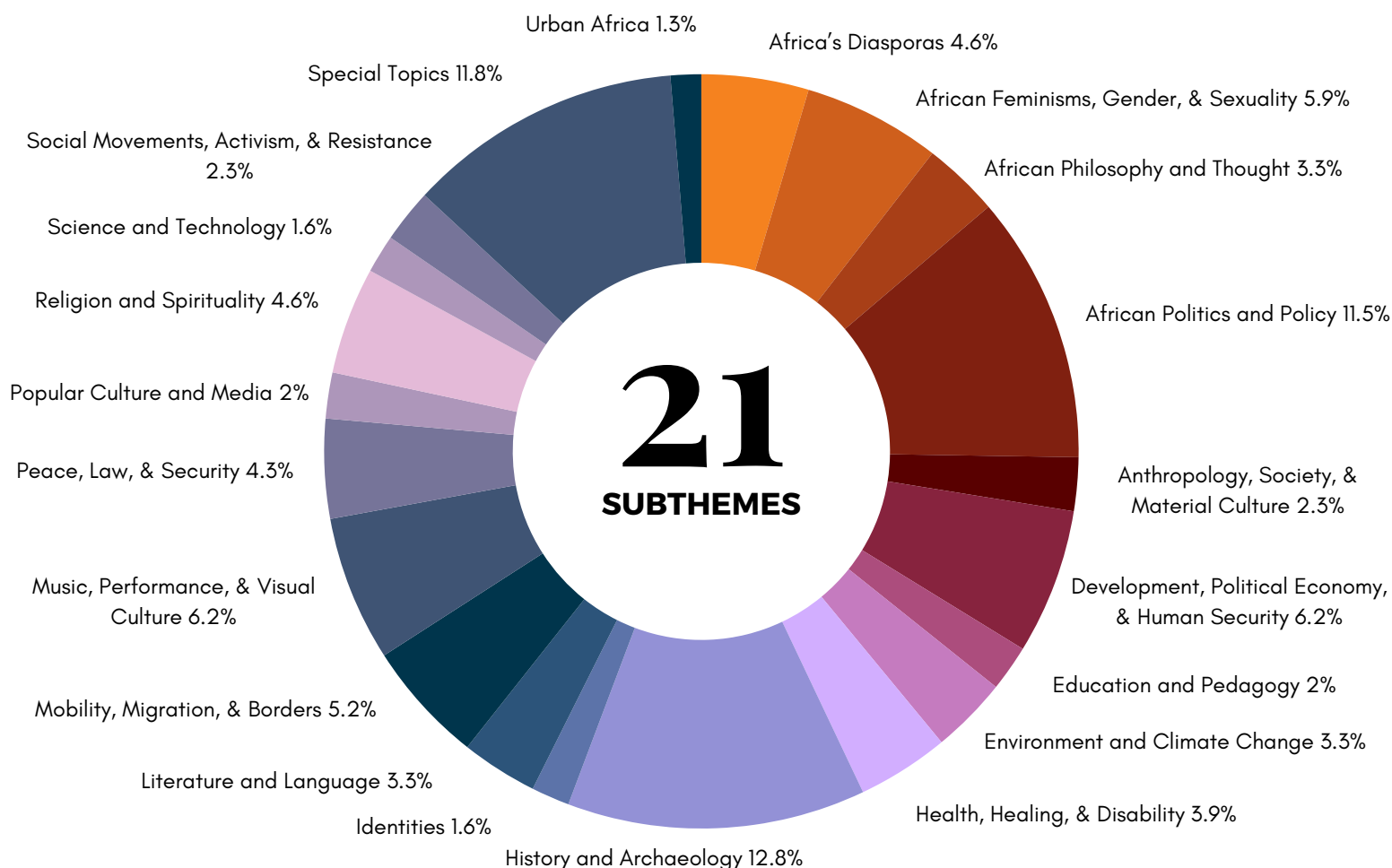
AFRICANOW! PRESENTATIONS

Originally this non-peer reviewed format was added to the ASA Annual Meeting program to support current events content.

Over time, the submission category has evolved to also include practitioner reports, new research, alternative presentation formats, and memorials. In 2024, we received 74 individual and group submissions to create 37 sessions.



SESSION BREAKDOWN BY SUBTHEME



21

SUBTHEMES

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The ASA announced the winners of its annual awards on Saturday, December 14, 2024 during the awards ceremony of the association's 67th Annual Meeting.

DISTINGUISHED AFRICANIST AWARD

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. Considered in deliberations are the candidate's research productivity, cumulative research impact; impact on teaching; impact on publishing; editorial work; graduate supervision; impact on transformative policies or institutional building in Africa, community outreach; and impact on professional organizations.

The Distinguished Africanist Award honored the life work of **Ousmane Kane**, Harvard University and **Paul Lovejoy**, York University.

Previous honorees include: Pearl Robinson, Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi, and Iris Berger.

ASA BEST BOOK PRIZE

The ASA Best Book Prize 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 ASA Best Book Prize was awarded to **Gabrielle Hecht**, *Residual Governance: How South Africa Foretells Planetary Futures* (Duke University Press, 2023).

The other finalists for the prize were: Rabiya Akande, *Entangled Domains: Empire, Law and Religion in Northern Nigeria* (Cambridge University Press, 2023); Brahim El-Guabli, *Moroccan Other-Archives: History and Citizenship after State Violence* (Fordham University Press, 2023); Rachel Jean-Baptiste, *Multiracial Identities in Colonial French Africa: Race, Childhood, and Citizenship* (Cambridge University Press, 2023); Hugo ka Canham, *Riotous Deathscapes* (Duke University Press, 2023); and Amanda Swarr, *Envisioning African Intersex: Challenging Colonial and Racist Legacies in South African Medicine* (Duke University Press, 2023).

BETHWELL A. OGOT BOOK PRIZE

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 Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize was awarded to **Ng'ang'a Wahu-Mũchiri**, *Writing on the Soil: Land and Landscape in Literature from Eastern and Southern Africa* (University of Michigan Press, 2023).

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The other finalists for the prize were: Jennie E. Burnet, *To Save Heaven and Earth: Rescue in the Rwandan Genocide* (Cornell University Press, 2023); George Paul Meiu, *Queer Objects to the Rescue: Intimacy & Citizenship in Kenya* (University of Chicago Press, 2023); and Jodie Yuzhou Sun, *Kenya & Zambia's Relations with China, 1949-2019* (Boydell & Brewer, 2023).

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

The ASA presented the 2024 Outstanding Service Award to **Alwiya Omar**, Indiana University.

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.

GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER PRIZE

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 winners of the 2024 Graduate Student Paper Prize was **Oluwasola Daniels**, University of California, Davis, "How Stories of Sex Became Stories of Shame: Ale and Sexual Mobilities in Yoruba Conjugal Spaces."

In 2023, the committee selected two Honorable Mentions: Stephen Quansah, University of Alabama, "Decentralization Local Level Development Process in Ghana: A Case Study of Asokore Mampong Municipal Assembly" and Tony Yeboah, Yale University, "The Capital City of Trees: Kumase in the Making of the Asante Kingdom, 1650-1874."

ASA SEMBÈNE-KELANI FILM PRIZE

The ASA Sembène-Kelani Film Prize is awarded annually for an outstanding film, whether fiction or documentary, made in the preceding two calendar years by an African filmmaker. Established in 2019 as the ASA Film Prize, this award was made possible by a generous gift from Kenneth W. and Elizabeth W. Harrow through the establishment of the Ken Harrow ASA Film Fund.

The 2024 ASA Film Prize committee selected **Mambar Pierrette** directed by Rosine Mbakam (2023) as this year's winner. The film was screened at the ASA Annual Meeting and was followed by film discussion.

In 2023, the committee selected two exceptional runners up: *Mami Wata* directed by CJ "Fiery" Obasi (2023) and *Omen* directed by Baloji (2023).

AWARDS AND PRIZES

GRETCHEN WALSH BOOK DONATION AWARD

The African Studies Association, with the support of 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 award was established in 1993.

The Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Award committee selected three recipients for 2024: **The Sherkole Secondary School in Sherkole Refugee Camp, Centre de Documentation, l'UFR CRAC**, and **The Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA)**.

MAHMOUD MOHAMED TAHA STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

The Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Student Travel Award facilitates research, study abroad, and/or travel to present research at the ASA Annual Meeting. The award was established in 2023 by a generous gift from Dr. Steve Howard and is named in honor of Sudanese author, activist, and intellectual Mahmoud Mohamed Taha (1909-1985).

The nine recipients of the 2024 Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Student Travel Award were: **Ridwan Balogun**, Florida State University, **Diweng Mercy Dafong**, University of Alabama, **Oluwasola Daniels**, University of California, Davis, **Kevin Hayes**, Howard University, **June Kariuki**, Ohio University, **Kefas Lamak**, University of Iowa, **Atswei Laryea**, Barnard College, **Ashley May**, Brown University, and **Vitalis Nwashindu**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

NEW ASA AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT



ASA was pleased to announce the **Sembène-Kelani Film Prize**, previously the ASA Film Prize, to recognize outstanding films by African filmmakers.

The winning film is a screened at the Annual Meeting and

the filmmaker is invited to participate.

This award was made possible through the establishment of the Ken Harrow ASA Film Fund by a generous gift from Kenneth W. Harrow and Elizabeth W. Harrow.



ASA was delighted to announce the **ASA Samora & Graça Machel Presidential Fellows Fund**, to support scholars in the humanities & social sciences based on the continent.

2025 Samora & Graça Machel Presidential

Fellows will visit U.S. institutions and attend the Annual Meeting for the first time since 2017.

This fellowship was made possible through a generous gift from Allen Isaacman and Barbara Isaacman.

COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS

The African Studies Association has two primary categories of organizations that are affiliated with it: **Coordinate Organizations** and **Affiliate Organizations**.

Affiliate organizations consist of organizations that have a scholarly and professional interest in Africa and operate entirely independently of the ASA but are encouraged to participate in and collaborate on ASA activities including at the Annual Meeting. The ASA has 41 Affiliate Organizations that range in mission, size, and, geolocation.

Coordinate Organizations build communities around specific areas or interests within the field of African Studies with the primary focus of facilitating the exchange of ideas, information and research findings within the ASA. They function as autonomous elements of the Association, bound by the Association's policies and procedures and legal status. The ASA has 18 Coordinate Organizations under its umbrella. Below is a short profile on each Coordinate Organization which provides a snapshot of their leadership and activity highlights in 2024.

COORDINATE ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICANA LIBRARIANS COUNCIL

Mission Statement

The Africana Librarians Council (ALC) was founded in 1957 as part of the ASA and is comprised of librarians, archivists and documentalists working with materials from and about Africa and scholars interested in the preservation of or access to Africana.

Activity Highlights

The Africana Librarians Council gathered in Washington, DC for their Spring Meeting at the Library of Congress in May 2024. The ALC would like to acknowledge and celebrate the retirement of longtime member and former Chair, Ruby Bell-Gam, African Studies Librarian and Bibliographer at UCLA.

ASA AFRICAN FILM STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Activity Highlights

We are a new organization and held our first meeting at the ASA 2024 conference. It was decided that this year Carmela Garritano would undertake the tasks of writing bylaws and a mission statement which the membership would vote on at the 2025 ASA meeting. At this meeting, Steve Thomas agreed to serve as treasurer and Matt Brown and Yaw Asare agreed to help with communications.

COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS

ASA OUTREACH COUNCIL

Mission Statement

The ASA Outreach Council aims to promote the teaching of Africa in K-16 schools in the local, regional, and national communities throughout the United States and provide information, resources, workshops, and other opportunities to promote and encourage the teaching of Africa.

Activity Highlights

Highlights include the 2024 Children's' Africana Book Awards, 2024 Global Reads, 2024 ISGOG Repositioning Africa's Place in the Classroom, 2024 Islam in Africa Teachers' Workshop, and panels at ASA for higher ed and at NCSS for K-12 educators.

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS

Mission Statement

The AASP is an organization made up of the deans, directors, chairpersons, committee heads, or other individuals who have the responsibility for organizing or leading the African studies program at their college or university. Members range from directors of large Title VI centers to colleagues who keep the flame of African studies alive in quite isolated settings. Members may head stand alone African studies programs or carry out their Africanist activity within programs that may include African and African-American Studies, Black Studies, Multicultural Studies, or Global Studies. AASP's primary concern is to reach out and support all Africanists who shoulder campus responsibility for Africa-related activities. The purpose of AASP is to keep all members informed of major national developments that impact African studies programs.

CENTRAL AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement

The Central African Studies Association is a professional scholarly organization with the goal of fostering a close collaboration between Central African, European and American researchers and enhancing the presence and visibility of academic research in Central Africa. We are a Coordinate Organization of the African Studies Association in the US.

Activity Highlights

In collaboration with the University of Kinshasa, CASA organized a conference in Kinshasa, DR Congo, in July of 2024. It was a one-day conference on the theme of "Remembrance, Reckoning, and Renewal: Central Africa into the 21st Century." The conference featured presentations from 19 different scholars of Central Africa, presenting on a wide range of topics from multiple disciplines. It was an international conference, with scholars attending from both western and central African institutions. The conference was well-attended and sparked meaningful intellectual exchange between all attendees and participants. The small nature of the conference made it an intimate affair that the board hopes will promote future collaborations between participants. We hope to arrange another small conference in the near future.

COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS

CONGOLESE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Activity Highlights

The Congolese Studies Association held election of new officers: Muadi Mukenge, Pres.; Roger Alfani, VPres, Stella Wankamba, Secretary-Treas, successfully applied as a Coordinate Organization of the ASA, held an event in Kinshasa, DRC in July 2024 with the theme "Building Knowledge, Skills, and Unity for a Stronger Congo" to introduce CSA and foster interest with universities and NGOS to collaborate with us, conducted outreach to multiple universities in the U.S., launched a website: <https://congolesestudies.org>, and sponsored a panel at the ASA Annual Meeting in Chicago titled Congo Global Perspectives: Establishing Truth and Agendas from the Eye of the Beholder.

EMERGING SCHOLARS NETWORK

Mission Statement

The ASA Emerging Scholars Network (ESN) supports the innovative research and professional goals of graduate students and early-career members of the ASA by: Identifying shifting emerging scholars' needs and exploring how the ASA and ESN can address those demands; Representing emerging scholars' interests to the ASA board by sending a voting representative to all ASA board meetings; Organizing and moderating one or more information sessions, events, workshops, or professional development opportunities for ESN members; Enabling mentorship connections between established academics and professionals in the field and emergent scholars/practitioners; Advocating for greater inclusion of African and other international graduate students and early-career professionals through active engagement in activities and the promotion of their participation in events and training opportunities; Recruiting diverse new graduate students and early-career professionals into the membership to diversify the ESN network broadly for the benefit of intellectual exchange and career development.

Activity Highlights

The ESN hosted their annual Call for Papers Q&A, created Calls for Co-Panelists, and sponsored four panels in Chicago featuring 19 presenters. ESN hosted a virtual roundtable, Publishing Beyond the Academy and thank William Shoki, Boima Tucker, James Wan, and Joseph Mujere for offering their expertise and insight. The ESN co-hosted an ASA Listening Session with the ASA Board, which provided an opportunity for meaningful discussion. ESN hosted several events to support emerging scholars, including a First-Time Attendees Q&A and two Mock Conference sessions.

The ESN was excited to have our largest number of sponsored events at the Annual Meeting, beginning with the biannual Professionalization and Career Training (PACT) Workshop. The workshop was designed to help scholars effectively share their research through podcasting and social media. We were thrilled to partner with Michigan State University's Matrix to put on this hands-on workshop that will end with a participant led podcast to be published on ASAPod. ESN also hosted an Annual Business Meeting and an informal social hour.

COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS

GHANA STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement

The Ghana Studies Association (GSA) began as the Akan Studies Council (ASC) in 1988. It is a multidisciplinary organization of scholars based in Africa, North America, Europe and Asia whose research focuses on the the West African state of Ghana.

HEALTH, SCIENCE, MEDICINE & TECHNOLOGY

Activity Highlights

Our planned participation in the ASA Conference in Chicago included a two-part panel, which was approved by ASA. The central theme of our presentations was "Competing and Coexisting Vernaculars for Understanding and Communicating about Health and Disease." However, due to unforeseen circumstances, three presenters were unable to attend the conference in Chicago. Despite this challenge, the panel proceeded with engaging discussions, contributing valuable insights into how diverse linguistic and cultural frameworks shape perceptions of health and disease. We remain committed to fostering dialogue on these critical issues and look forward to continued participation in future ASA initiatives.

ISLAM IN AFRICA STUDIES GROUP

Mission Statement

A. The IASG is an independent professional society established in the United States that is open to all scholars of Islam in Africa, from any nation, academic discipline and/or professional interest. B. The specific aims of the organization are the following: (1) To promote scholarly research, both within and outside Africa, in all areas and disciplines of the social sciences and humanities relevant to Islam in Africa. (2) To encourage international cooperation and facilitate the exchange of ideas and meaningful dialogue among persons engaged in research on Islam in Africa. (3) To encourage the publication and dissemination of scholarly and artistic works as well as primary sources on Islam in Africa. (4) To organize panels, symposia, and conferences on Islam in Africa at meetings of regional, national and international organizations. (5) To provide the general public with information on issues of historical, cultural, and contemporary interest in Islam in Africa.

Activity Highlights

The IASG sponsored nine panels at the 67th Annual Meeting of the ASA in Chicago, IL: Author Meets Critic Faith-based Student Activism in Togo and Benin: Muslims and Christians on University Campuses, The History of Islam and Muslim Societies in Africa in Question, Part I, The History of Islam and Muslim Societies in Africa in Question, Part II, Historical Narrative Construction in Two West African Kingdoms, Author Meets Critic. Entangled Domains: Empire, Law and Religion in Northern Nigeria, Mediating Islam: Voices, Visions, and Journeys in Africa and Beyond, Islamic Poetry of West Africa, Cross-border Dynamics and Local Responses in the Sahel: Security, Religion and Diplomacy, and Building Maktaba: Reflections on a West African Arabic Manuscript Translation and Access Project.

COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS

KONGO ACADEMY

Activity Highlights

Kongo Academy has organized monthly webinars and semester-based symposia on topics ranging from religion, Kongo history, development, refugees and migration, to peace and conflict resolution, with speakers including scholars from various academic institutions.

LUSOPHONE AFRICAN STUDIES ORGANIZATION

Mission Statement

The Lusophone African Studies Organization (LASO) encourages scholars to share ideas, post queries, and engage with a broad network of people interested in Lusophone Africa.

NIGERIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement

The Nigerian Studies Association is a scholarly, nonpolitical professional association of all persons interested in Nigerian studies. The NSA promotes interest in and scholarly study of Nigeria, provides means for the publication of scholarly research and other materials designed to promote Nigerian studies, and promotes cooperative activities and exchange of information within the field of Nigerian studies.

NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS ON CAMEROON

Mission Statement

The North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon is based in North America, but includes any scholar with an interest in Cameroon, regardless of geographical residence.

Activity Highlights

In 2024, NAASC was engaged in a membership campaign drive and reenvisioning the Organization. The organization sponsored one round table and one panel at the 2024 ASA Conference in Chicago. NAASC also elected new leadership team at its annual business meeting. The new leadership team includes Jude Fokwang as President, Womai Song as Vice President, Ivoline Kefen Budji as Secretary General, Esmeralda M. Kale as Treasurer, Boniface Noyongoyo as Financial Secretary, Baskouda Kevin as Adviser and S.N. Nyeck as Adviser. The new executive will serve in accordance with the organization's Bylaws for a term of two years. NAASC also succeeded in establishing a website for itself:

<https://naascameroon.wordpress.com/>. The organization joined in the celebration of Spears Books' 10th anniversary and looks forward to the future with optimism.

COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS

QUEER AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement

QASA aims to facilitate communication, develop networks, and share information among scholars, activists, students, and artists working in the areas of gender, sexuality, and queer studies in Africa.

Activity Highlights

QASA sponsored two panels at the 2024 annual conference, an Author-Meets-Critics roundtable on B Camminga and John Marnell's edited collection, *Queer and Trans African Mobilities*; an Author-Meets-Critics roundtable on Gibson Ncube's *Queer Bodies in African Films*.

SENEGAMBIAN STUDIES GROUP

Mission Statement

The Senegambian Studies Group is a nonpartisan forum made up of academics from institutions of higher education and independent scholars that seek to promote the study of Senegambia world-wide from a broad analytical perspectives. We facilitate interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and cross-national research collaboration and engage with current socio-political and economic issues in Senegambia in accessible and wide-ranging formats.

Activity Highlights

In 2024, the Senegambian Studies Group held a successful conference June 19-21 at the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal. The conference, "Circulating the Senegambian and Beyond" had 50 panelists who presented original work, and over 100 participants. The conference was sponsored by the West African Research Association, the African Studies Association, Kansas African Studies Center, the University of Dayton Human Rights Center, and the Center for Asian and African Studies at El Colegio de México.

SPORTS AFRICA

Mission Statement

Sports Africa was founded in 2003 with the goal of making African sport studies an interdisciplinary, inclusive, accessible and integral part of the global conversation and scholarship on sports by engaging an intellectually vibrant, creative and passionate community of practitioners and academics.

Activity Highlights

Sports Africa hosted a major book discussion as our singular Sports Africa live event in April. The book was *African Football Migration. Aspirations, Experiences and Trajectories*. The

COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS

authors James Esson, Paul Darby and Christian Ungruhe were the panelists with Mari Engh of University of KwaZulu-Natal serving as a moderator.

As part of the ASA 2024 conference, Sports Africa hosted 3 panels and a roundtable at the conference in Chicago: Institutionalized sports and African Nation States, Community Development, Gender and Public Policy, Sporting life (Hi)stories, and RT Sports Africa 20 years of Advancing African Sports Studies

Most of 2024 was spent planning for our the upcoming 2025 conference in Abidjan, Cote. D'Ivoire.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS OF THE ASA

Mission Statement

The African Studies Association's Women's Caucus was established in 1970 to promote the study of women and gender within the various disciplines of African studies, to promote the greater inclusion of African women in scholarship and in the ASA, to ensure an active and representative role for women within the ASA at all levels of leadership and engagement, and to develop scholarly and activist links with women in Africa.

Activity Highlights

The Women's Caucus hosted its annual Luncheon & Lecture at the ASA Annual Meeting including special speaker Dr. Naminata Diabate. The Women's Caucus awarded the Aidoo-Snyder Book prize, revised their Bylaws to conform with ASA, and held a marketplace in ASA Exhibit Hall.



AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

