



African Studies Association  
**2023-2026 CAMPAIGN**



# LETTER FROM ASA LEADERSHIP

We are delighted to share the Invest in a New Generation Campaign with ASA members and the broader African studies community. This Campaign was born of our ambitious goal to double ASA's programmatic investment in its members and we'd like to invite you to join us in this effort. ASA aims to raise over one million dollars to expand its programming, foster innovative scholarship, engage global constituents, and invest in the future of our field.

Since its founding in 1957, the African Studies Association has been a steadily growing community of scholars, public servants, activists, diplomatic officials, and others who share a passion for knowledge about Africa. As the preeminent association for African Studies, ASA hosts the largest annual gathering of Africanist scholars in the world, celebrates and supports innovative scholarship through its awards and grants, and publishes cutting-edge research through its scholarly journals. Today, ASA plays many important roles in the lives of its members: it is a familiar place where old friends and colleagues gather, an inspiring space that catalyzes new publications and collaborations, a prominent stage for intellectual debate, and a scholarly incubator for new research and innovative methods.

We have watched the educational landscape shift rapidly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dramatic changes in enrollments, reallocations of funding, shifts in the academic job market, and increasing infringements on academic freedom have impacted ASA members around the world. The Invest in a New Generation Campaign is more than a reaction to these realities; it is a visionary investment in the immediate needs of our community with an emphasis on building sustainable long-term support for emerging scholars - future leaders of ASA.

ASA is slated to give more than 50 awards, fellowships, and grants to its members this year. Unfortunately, ASA will also receive hundreds of worthy requests for support that will remain unfunded. This is a critical time in our organization's history, and we need your support to make our vision a reality. We believe that with your help, we can expand our impact, create unparalleled accessibility, and reach new constituencies to further strengthen the field. We can also make a material difference in the lives and careers of students and colleagues in the U.S. and around the globe by building new opportunities.

We appreciate your consideration during this multi-year campaign and look forward to celebrating each milestone with you as ASA strives to invest in a new generation of African studies scholars and practitioners. Thank you for your commitment and for championing the future of the field.

With Gratitude,  
Alix Saba, ASA Executive Director

# RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

## **African Studies Review Distinguished Lecture**

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**Cajetan Iheka**, Yale University

*African Studies Review* Editor-in-Chief

The ASR Distinguished Lecture invites a leading scholar to prepare an overview paper summarizing the state of knowledge and debates in a field or fields of crucial interest to Africanists, with a view toward shifting the parameters of the discourse. Over the years, the lecture has provided an opportunity for the ASR to be better integrated into the ASA Annual Meeting. Furthermore, the Annual Meeting has been enriched with a lecture by a prominent scholar or artist whose work then graces the journal, advancing the field of African studies in the process. Recent speakers in the series include Amina Mama, Aminatta Forna, Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Peter Geschiere, and James Ogude. These papers have become the most read and widely cited pieces in the journal. Many of these speakers have also expressed delight at the opportunity to mainstream ideas from their discipline for a broader Africanist audience. In addition to better integrating the journal and the ASA, enriching the Annual Meeting with a stimulating lecture, and advancing knowledge in African studies, the lecture provides an additional venue for the ASA to honor excellent scholars for their contributions to the field.

A photograph of James Ogude, a Black man wearing a dark suit, a patterned tie, and a flat cap. He is standing at a podium, gesturing with his right hand while speaking into a microphone. The podium features the ASA logo, which consists of a stylized sunburst icon next to the letters 'ASA'. The background is a warm, reddish-orange curtain.

**James Ogude**, University of Pretoria  
2023 ASR Distinguished Lecturer

# TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT

## PACT & PIPES Workshops

**Seulgie Lim, Bates College**

2019 PIPES Workshop Participant, 2022 PACT Workshop Participant



I had the opportunity to attend two different yet equally valuable pre-conference workshops in 2019 and 2022 with the support of ASA. During the 2019 PIPES workshop, I was paired with three scholars with different expertise to provide detailed feedback on the paper I had submitted prior to the workshop. As a graduate student in 2019, it was one of the few papers with such detailed and constructive feedback I had yet gotten. The reviewers had clearly spent time on my paper to seek out not only the relevant sources but also the line of my argument, my evidence, and how my contribution might fit within the existing scholarship. I am still self-conscious when it comes to sharing my writing for feedback, but this experience alleviated some of that fear.

The 2022 PACT workshop was designed for alternative career paths outside of academia but it was an eye-opening experience to see how the skills in academia are transferrable and how what we think matters ("publish or perish") may not always have the same value in the rest of the world. Learning that the average person actually goes through multiple career changes in their lifetime was strangely reassuring. While I am happy to be part of academia for now, I think all of us should still be aware there is a whole world outside.

Taking part in these two workshops put me in a better headspace to participate in the conference and I would gladly participate in other ones in the future, as well as recommend them to any graduate student or early career scholar. I gained skills and knowledge pertaining to my field, but more than that, there was a sense of community that is not always easy to experience in academia.

## Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Student Travel Award

**Ashley J. May, Brown University**

2024 Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Student Travel Awardee



Receiving this travel award has meant so much to me. I view it not only as material support for my initial research, but also as an investment in my training and development as an emerging scholar of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

This summer's fieldwork proved to be transformational - I have made several connections that will support my work for many years to come and I appreciate the support of ASA, as well as my MA Committee Members, including Dan Smith who has been an invaluable resource in my development in the field of African Studies.

# TRAINING & ENGAGEMENT

## Presidential Fellowships

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**Kudus Adebayo**, University of Ibadan

2025 ASA Samora and Graça Machel Presidential Fellow



The fellowship was a transformative experience in my academic journey. My brief residency at the Department of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University provided an intellectually stimulating environment where I presented my research on hospital-based informal caregiving and health systems in Nigeria and engaged with leading scholars in the history of medicine and global health. Equally valuable were my interactions with doctoral and postdoctoral researchers working across Africa, which expanded my international academic network and relationships. One particularly meaningful outcome was being contacted by a doctoral researcher preparing for fieldwork in Nigeria, who sought my advice on conducting hospital-based research. This to me was an indication of the collegial exchanges and mutual learning the

fellowship made possible. The fellowship also opened doors beyond Johns Hopkins, including an invitation to serve as a discussant at a special panel during the ASA meeting. These experiences broadened my scholarly collaborations, connected me with potential mentors and future research partners, and strengthened my commitment to internationally engaged interdisciplinary research.

## Advocacy Travel Grant

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**Julia Cummiskey**, Johns Hopkins University

2018 ASA Advocacy Travel Awardee, National Humanities Alliance



I traveled to Washington, D.C. in early March to participate in the National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Day, thanks to a grant from the African Studies Association. I have done some state-level advocacy work in the past, but this was my first time visiting Capitol Hill and I was a little anxious. When I moved to Tennessee this past August, I had promised myself to become engaged with the politics in my new state and this was a unique opportunity. In each meeting we emphasized the role of humanities programs in serving populations the representatives were especially dedicated to helping, such as veterans, adult learners, and families. I was consistently surprised by how welcoming and engaged these staff members were and how they appeared genuinely interested in what we had to say and how we could help them make informed

reports to their superiors. By the end of the day I was exhausted and exhilarated. I returned to Chattanooga with a far greater understanding of the policies related to humanities education and programming, the operations of federal appropriations, and the role I could play in advocating for the programs I know to be important. I am grateful to the ASA for making this experience possible and encourage anyone who is interested but hesitant to commit to advocacy work to take the plunge!

# ACCOLADES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## ASA Best Book Prize

**Mariana Candido**, Emory University  
2023 Best Book Awardee



It was a great honor for me to have my book, *Wealth, Land and Property in Angola: A History of Dispossession, Slavery, and Inequality*, recognized with this prestigious award. As a Brazilian born historian, who was trained in Brazil, Mexico, and Canada, the ASA Best Book Award holds deep personal and professional importance. It is also especially significant for scholars working on pre-20th century period and in non-Anglophone parts of the world. The ASA Best Book Award brings invaluable visibility to the work of its recipients. Since my book's nomination, I have received numerous invitations to discuss my research across the United States, Europe, and in Angola, Brazil, and Mexico. The *Jornal de Angola*, a leading newspaper in Angola, published an article about my nomination and the award. I have also given interviews,

including for the *Africanist Podcast*, an important podcast focusing on artists, activists, and scholars working on African societies. Thus, the ASA book award facilitates exposure beyond academic circles. Beyond the ASA, few book prizes are available for scholars specializing in African societies, making the ASA Book Awards especially significant. I sincerely hope that the ASA will be able to expand the number of book awards to offer more visibility to all the disciplines that make the ASA a rich intellectual community.

## Ken Harrow ASA Film Festival Attendance Stipend

**Peter Limbrick**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
2026 Film Festival Attendance Stipend Grantee



Receiving this grant was a great honor and allowed me to attend to the symposium of the Congress of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) in Rabat, Morocco. The focus of the 2026 symposium was African and Arab film archives and collaborations and the symposium was a wonderful occasion for me, as a researcher actively engaged with those archives and issues, to be in conversation with colleagues from across the region. Screenings every night presented a rich array of newly restored films from Senegal, Iraq, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, and many other places, and paid tribute to some of the great African and Arab filmmakers of the past century whose work is only visible thanks to FIAF member institutions and their dedication. With issues of colonization,

restitution, and disparity of resources posed front-on, this symposium also allowed space for hope and for new possibilities. It was an intense and enriching experience and I'm grateful to the Harrow family and ASA for the opportunity to participate and thereby further my own research, writing, and curation.

# ACCOLADES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize

**Mai Hassan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

2021 Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize Awardee



As a scholar of Kenyan politics, I have long been familiar with Professor Bethwell A. Ogot's research and legacy. To have been the 2021 recipient of the African Studies Association award in his legacy, and for a book written on Kenya, is an enormous honor for me personally. Winning this award has been a boon to me professionally as well. As one of the most important African Studies awards to date, receiving this prize sent a weighty signal to my home discipline of political science that my ideas, research methods, and conclusions are respected within a broader community of scholars. Moreover, the prize helped shine a light on my research to the broader African Studies community: I carried out years of archival and interview work for this project, and I'm thankful for the publicization of the book to scholars within

disciplines outside political science.

## Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Award

**Rachel Ama Asaa Engmann, Christiansborg Archaeological Heritage Project**

2022 Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Grant Recipient



The Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Award provided a significant book donation from the Africanist scholar, Dr. Pier M. Larson's collection on the history of slavery in West Africa to The Christiansborg Archaeological Heritage Project (CAHP)'s community library. The CAHP is an ongoing study (2014-present) of the history and legacies of the Danish transatlantic slave trade at Christiansborg Castle in Osu, Accra, Ghana. Its library forms part of the Excavating Knowledge Project (EKP), an important component of the CAHP's community education outreach. This year with the help of the Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Award, we received almost 600 books on the slave trade, slavery, African and African diasporic history that we are committing to the work of CAHP and EKP and will be helpful to the community involved with

these projects. This influx of books came from the personal library of Pier Larson and are the gift of his wife, Michelle Boardman. Dr. Larson, who died in 2020, was a longstanding member of the ASA. Michelle is "thrilled that nearly half of his books are now in this beautiful library where they can be of use to the Osu community undertaking this innovative archeology and education project."

# OUR MISSION

## Our Mission

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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 members include scholars, students, teachers, activists, 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

## Coordinate Organizations

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ASA is proud to support the production and dissemination of knowledge in specialized areas of interest as the fiscal sponsor for the following Coordinate Organizations:

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|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| • African Film Studies Association             | • Islam in Africa Studies Group                      |
| • African Military Studies                     | • Kongo Academy                                      |
| • Africana Librarians Council                  | • Lusophone African Studies Organization             |
| • African Studies Association Outreach Council | • North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon |
| • ASA Emerging Scholars Network                | • Nigerian Studies Association                       |
| • Association of African Studies Programs      | • Queer African Studies Association                  |
| • Central African Studies Association          | • Senegambian Studies Group                          |
| • Congolese Studies Association                | • Sports Africa                                      |
| • Ghana Studies Association                    | • Uganda Studies Group                               |
| • Health, Science, Medicine, and Technology    | • Women's Caucus of the ASA                          |

# CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS

## Campaign Leadership

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**Ato Quayson** (Stanford University), Committee Co-Chair  
**Ousseina Alidou** (Rutgers University), Committee Co-Chair  
**Charles Ambler** (University of Texas at El Paso), Committee Member  
**Carolyn Brown** (Rutgers University), Committee Member  
**Muadi Mukenge** (MADRE), Committee Member  
**Timothy Longman** (Boston University), Board Treasurer  
**Alix Saba** (African Studies Association), Executive Director

## Campaign Contributors

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Drs. Christie, Chinelo, Ikechukwu,  
 Chidi, and Nwando Achebe  
 Nwando Achebe  
 Aderonke Adesanya  
 Edward Alpers  
 Charles Ambler  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Marty and Debbie Bank  
 Gretchen Bauer  
 Wendy Belcher  
 Yasmina Bouraoui  
 Judith Bridger  
 Carolyn A. Brown  
 Judith S. Burkitt  
 Judith Byfield  
 J. Jarpa Dawuni  
 RJ and Teresa Devick  
 Mikki Droste  
 Stephen L Esquith  
 Steve Feerman and Sandra Barnes  
 Jennifer Grau  
 Zachary Kagan Guthrie  
 Aram Harrow and Shefali Oza  
 Edward Harrow  
 Kenneth W. and Elizabeth W. Harrow  
 Sharon R. Herson  
 Najib Hourani  
 Steve Howard  
 Lester and Barbara Hyman  
 Cajetan Iheka  
 Allen and Barbara Isaacman  
 Eric Janus and Carolyn Chalmers  
 Rachel Jean-Baptiste  
 Anthonia Kalu  
 Alice Kang

Matthew Kaufman  
 Don and Liz Kaufman  
 Benjamin N. Lawrance  
 The Lewis Family  
 Jody Lewis  
 Seulgie Lim  
 Lisa Lindsay  
 Timothy Longman  
 Deborah Margolis  
 Mary Jo Maynes  
 Sarah S. Milburn  
 Bill and Sue Morris  
 Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué  
 Valerie Orlando  
 Mary Osirim  
 Kriss Ostrom  
 Bharatkumar J. Oza  
 Anita and Derrick Plummer  
 Anita Plummer  
 Claire Robertson  
 Adam Rothstein  
 Martha Saavedra  
 Alix Saba  
 Elizabeth Schmidt  
 Sandra Seaton  
 Kathleen Sheldon  
 Arthur Slabosky and Robin Willne  
 Spartan Housing Cooperative  
 Larry Stoler and Amy Schuman  
 David Stowe  
 Steve Tarzynski  
 Joya Uraizee  
 Judith Van Allen  
 Robert Trent Vinson  
 Stuart Wagner  
 James Warren  
 Roberta Washington  
 Lily Woodruff  
 James Yékú

# 2023-2026 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDING GOALS & OPPORTUNITIES

In a defining, post-pandemic moment for the field, ASA initiated a \$900,000 campaign to double its financial investment in a new generation of students, scholars, and practitioners. After meeting that goal in 23 months, the ASA has increased its target to \$1.5 Million. There are many ways to make a tax-deductible gift to this exciting campaign. You may make a one-time donation or a multi-year pledge. You may also designate your contribution to more than one area or fund, with a variety of payment options. Individual members, groups of members, and/or institutions may combine support to establish an endowed or named fund in honor of an individual.

Additional gift opportunities within one of the priority areas, such as support for a Coordinate Organization award or Annual Meeting event, may be discussed with the Executive Director at any time.

## Research & Knowledge Production

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**ASR Distinguished Lecture Fund** – \$35,000 to endow the *African Studies Review* Distinguished Lecture.

**Dissertation Writing Fund** – \$60,000 paid over three (3) years to create one (1) \$20,000 dissertation support grant for a PhD candidate annually or \$500,000 to endow.

- ✓ **Student Research & Travel Award** – \$150,000 to endow up to five (5) grants per year.
- ✓ **Named Lecture or Session** – \$100,000+ to endow a named lecture or session.

## Training & Engagement

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**ASA Engagement Fund** – \$75,000+ to support ASA memberships or registration fees for scholars in need.

**National Advocacy Grants** – \$12,000 paid over three (3) years to provide four (4) annual advocacy grants or \$100,000+ to endow.

**ESN Workshops** – \$15,000 paid over two (2) years to provide two (2) emerging scholar career training and professionalization workshops.

**Teacher Workshops** – \$175,000 to endow the annual ASA K-12 Teacher Workshop.

- ✓ **Presidential Fellows** – \$100,000 to endow up to one (1) fellowship per year.
- ✓ **Dependent Support Fund** – \$100,000 to provide up to ten (10) \$500 dependent care stipends annually.

# 2023-2026 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDING GOALS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Accolades & Acknowledgement

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**Awards & Prizes** – The campaign aims for a minimum of \$150,000 to support and expand existing awards and prizes that recognize exceptional scholarship, mentorship, and contributions to the field. For example:

- o \$10,000 minimum to endow the Paul Hair Prize
- o \$10,000 minimum to endow the Conover-Porter Award
- o \$15,000 minimum to endow the Best Book Prize
- ✓ o \$35,000 minimum to endow the ASA Film Prize
- o \$45,000 minimum to endow the Gretchen Walsh Book Donation Award
- o \$75,000 minimum to endow the Distinguished Africanist

## Sustainability

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**Sustainability Fund** – \$100,000 to areas of greatest need within the ASA mission.

**Sustainable Events** – The campaign aims for a minimum of \$100,000 to support and expand existing Annual Meeting events. For example:

- o \$125,000 to endow and name a roundtable for an ASA journal.
- o \$150,000 to endow and name the Past & Future Leadership Reception.
- o \$250,000 to endow and name the annual Presidents' Luncheon.
- o \$350,000 to endow and name the ASA Closing Reception.

**Directors' Fund** – Endowed support for rotating programs to respond to shifts in the field.

**ASA Legacy Fund** – Documentation of planned giving to ASA in our new ASA Legacy Circle. All estate planning options will be considered and recognized within the Campaign as well as the ASA Legacy Circle in perpetuity.

To arrange a fund transfer, for more information, or to discuss how you can help invest in a new generation, please contact the Executive Director at [asaed@africanstudies.org](mailto:asaed@africanstudies.org).

You can also visit the Campaign website at:  
[africanstudies.org/invest-in-a-new-generation/](https://africanstudies.org/invest-in-a-new-generation/)

Please note: The acceptance of all gifts is subject to ASA's ethical guidelines and policies.



[AFRICANSTUDIES.ORG/INVEST-IN-A-NEW-GENERATION/](https://AFRICANSTUDIES.ORG/INVEST-IN-A-NEW-GENERATION/)