



Center for

# AFRICAN STUDIES

RESEARCH REPORT  
2013-2014



**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA



# ABOUT THE CENTER

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## **ONE OF THE NATION'S PREMIER INSTITUTIONS FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH ABOUT AFRICA**

Founded in 1964, the Center for African Studies at UF has been continuously designated a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center for Africa for 30 years. It is currently one of only 12 such centers nationally, and the only Africa NRC located in a sub-tropical zone. Title VI funding to CAS supports research, teaching, outreach, and the development of international linkages in Africa.

The Center has over 100 affiliated teaching and research faculty in all of the core disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, as well as in agriculture, business, engineering, education, fine arts, natural resources and environment, journalism and mass communications, law, tourism, and natural sciences. Graduate study on African issues may be pursued in any of these fields. Center faculty maintain ties with universities across the African continent, including institutions in Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The Center's innovative and influential on-line journal, the African Studies Quarterly, is the first fully peer-reviewed electronic journal devoted to the field. ASQ plays an important and largely unique role in facilitating the publication of research on and from Africa, and offers invaluable professional training for UF graduate students who serve on its editorial board.

## **GRADUATE STUDY OF AFRICA AT UF**

Graduate study with a focus on Africa can be carried out in virtually every graduate or professional program across the university. Prospective students are encouraged to consult the websites of the individual programs for admissions procedures and criteria. Students in any graduate program at UF have the option of pursuing a Graduate Certificate in African Studies. We also encourage them to consult the Center's website and to contact us when they submit their applications.

Complementing formal coursework, a regular and dynamic series of lectures, conferences and other activities open to all interested graduate students provide rich opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange and discussion about Africa. Most significantly, a number of dynamic CAS-sponsored interdisciplinary working groups organize speakers and events that bring together faculty and graduate students with shared interests, providing students with unique opportunities for research and professional development.

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

ABE GOLDMAN



It is a great pleasure to present the University of Florida's Center for African Studies (CAS) 2013-14 Research Report. These research summaries represent a sample of some of the wide scope of work on Africa being carried out at the University of Florida. Our faculty and graduate students as well as visiting scholars are involved in research that spans the continent geographically and ranges in focus from multiple areas of the humanities to the natural sciences and wildlife conservation; from aspects of political, social, and economic change to the human and environmental impacts in Africa of climate change, disease, and globalization.

A major objective of CAS is to bring together scholars from numerous backgrounds and perspectives to identify and address important questions of intellectual and applied significance. The Center and our faculty and students have also consistently encouraged and supported collaborative engagement with our colleagues throughout Africa, and we have been enriched by short and longer term visits by scholars and researchers from various parts of Africa and elsewhere.

In addition to work by individuals and smaller groups of researchers, several larger collaborative projects included in this report help to illustrate the range of

interdisciplinary work at UF and CAS. Particularly notable in 2013-14 has been the major exhibit of Central African Kongo art and its impacts in the Americas. Titled *Kongo Across the Waters*, the exhibit and its associated major publication with the same title, is the result of collaboration among our affiliated faculty at the Harn Museum, UF's School of Art & Art History, and the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren. The exhibit and related research was also the foundation of the 2014 Carter Conference, which brought together historians, archaeologists, art historians, and artists to explore past and present interconnections among Central Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Following its time at the Harn Museum, the exhibit is scheduled to travel to Atlanta, Princeton, and New Orleans in 2014-15.

Numerous other collaborative efforts, both formal and informal, are reflected in the report. Among these are various projects carried out by members of the interdisciplinary working groups sponsored by the Center, among the most active of which in 2013-14 have been groups focused on Islam in Africa and on Health and Society in Africa. Both of these groups hosted a range of visiting speakers and other events through the year. Some of the research being done by members of the Islam in Africa group is summarized in reports by faculty members Ostebo, Kane, and Villalon and graduate students Bodian, Eizenga, Hauser, and Grimstead. Some of the work on health issues in Africa is reflected in the reports by faculty members DeVos, Mulligan, Rheingans, Sonke, and Young and graduate students Stirling and Zantout. In addition, the research summaries include a selection of work at UF on language and linguistics, art, archaeology, development and political change, and conservation and climate change.

CAS also continued its strong commitment to the new Masters in Development Practice (MDP) degree, jointly offered with the Center for Latin

American Studies at the University of Florida. MDP admitted its fourth class in 2013, and many of the MDP students have been or plan to be involved in development projects and efforts in Africa.

Finally, UF's Program in African Languages, which is closely linked to CAS as well as UF's Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC), organized and hosted a third summer of intensive African language instruction through the African Languages Initiative (AFLI). Graduate and undergraduate students from UF and numerous other American universities received innovative immersive instruction in five African languages.

These are only some of the collaborative efforts involving our faculty and students over the past year. Many more research activities of wide ranging focus and interest are summarized in the reports below, and we hope you will find them stimulating.

We are also very pleased to acknowledge the support we receive from various sources. Most notably, CAS was again granted funding as a Title VI National Resource Center for African Studies in 2010, one of only 12 in the country. Despite substantial budget cuts to the Title VI programs nationwide, this grant helps us continue our work and supports many of our students through Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. We are also grateful for continuing support from several sources at the University of Florida, especially the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Office of Research, and the Office of the Provost. Numerous individual donors, listed later in the report continue to support our activities and students and help us to prepare skilled and knowledgeable scholars and researchers who have deep understanding of and commitment to African peoples, societies, and environments.

For more information about CAS, and our various activities and opportunities, please visit our website: [www.africa.ufl.edu](http://www.africa.ufl.edu).

# Infrastructure, Extraction and Urban Public Life in Ghana

BRENDA CHALFIN

I am presently in the midst of two new projects. Building on my earlier research on maritime frontiers and security infrastructure, my newest project explores the manifold regimes of risk management surrounding off-shore oil rigs and operations. Drawing on a pilot study conducted in Ghana (the hub of this new oil front) with UF PhD students in 2012, I focus on deep water hydrocarbon prospecting and extraction in the western Gulf of Guinea. In addition to presenting preliminary research findings, I am now preparing grant applications for what I envision to be a multi-disciplinary study involving a number of West African and European collaborators.

The second project, which I am using my current sabbatical year to write-up in book and article form, addresses infrastructure and urban politics in Ghana. I began this work in 2009 and continued in 2010 and 2011. As the places and processes of interest to me continue to unfold, I returned for follow-up research during the summers of 2012 and 2013. Bringing me back to grass-roots ethnography, this research reveals the centrality of infrastructure to the political life of Ghana's urban underclass at a time when state capacity for public provisioning is largely disabled by international interventions and a push for administrative decentralization. In the informal and partially planned settlements of urban Ghana of interest to me, the result is a host of private, primarily community-based and profit-driven authorities that both replace and recreate the state in the production and capitalization of public goods. Relevant to understanding urban trends elsewhere in the world, my understanding of these phenomena is informed by Lefebvre's notion of the 'right to the city,' Arendt's discussion of the public realm, and Latour's conception of 'thing-politics.' An article drawn from this study appears in the February 2014 issue of the journal *American Ethnologist*. Like my earlier



work on tropical commodities, bureaucracy, and security, it attests to the value of exploring and theorizing global processes from the vantage point of the so-called periphery.

I build my case around the range of variation found across the multiple quarters of the city of Tema. Planned and constructed at the cusp of independence at the behest of nationalist leader and political visionary Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Tema is an artifact of modernist internationalism. While most high-modernist mega-projects in the tropics are considered failures, Tema is noted for its relative success. My research reveals the city's very existence and on-going functioning to be predicated on a series of carefully orchestrated exclusions and displacements. These include the removal of Tema's original inhabitants, the rerouting of shorelines and waterways, and the creation of informal satellite settlements and populations poised to service the city but rarely receiving comparable services or supports in return. Like Tema's electrical grids, drainage channels, and sewer networks, these persons, locations and environmental modifications provide the backbone of the city's operability yet are treated as an implicit and thus largely unexamined feature of the wider urban setting.

Revealing the functional underpinnings of the modernist city upon which its production and reproduction is based, my research brings the politics of these invisibilized yet vital spaces, and modes of social life to the fore. At the crux of my analysis are the social and technical infrastructures of waste production and waste management deployed at the city's margins. These include public toilets and bath houses, sewage and septic systems, garbage dumps, waste-transfer sites, and bio-waste power generators. Though devised in the face of exclusion and the failure of state-based public services, as a form of 'infrastructural politics from below' these solutions instantiate new modalities of public life and public provisioning, refiguring the urban public sphere and its political underpinnings and potentials.

*Brenda Chalfin is professor of anthropology and a Center for African Studies affiliate. Her research was supported by a 2010-11 Department of Education Fulbright-Hays FRA fellowship and a 2012 Research Tutorial Abroad grant from the UF Center for International Business Education and Research.*



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# Emergency Medicine Curriculum Development for Africa

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ELIZABETH DEVOS



Imagine rushing your infant with pneumonia or a friend injured in an automobile crash to a hospital only to find the most junior medical graduates staffing the casualty ward with little expertise and no supervision. This was the reality in most of the world until relatively recently—in fact, Emergency Medicine was only officially recognized as a specialty in the United States in 1979. The African Federation of Emergency Medicine is working to change that reality on the continent. The field of practice based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis and management of acute and aspects of illness and injury in patients of all ages has been recognized for only a few years in most of Africa. During the 2012-2013 year, Dr. DeVos worked with the African Federation for Emergency Medicine to develop model curriculum for the training of specialist Emergency Medicine physicians.

The residency training program for doctors at the Emergency Medical Department at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania is amongst the first on the continent. Dr. DeVos developed a month-long curriculum for Emergency Psychiatry to be utilized by trainees at Muhimbili and later the lessons will be adapted for use more broadly in

the AFEM core curriculum bank. Utilizing lectures, journal clubs, quizzes, vignettes and case simulations, faculty from across the continent and the world are working to improve the available resources for EM education. Similarly, the African Federation for Emergency Medicine will release a handbook for practitioners in emergency centers across the continent. International and African faculty partnered to develop the first book of its kind especially for the African provider. Dr. DeVos collaborated with emergency physicians from South Africa to edit the psychiatry section of the book and authored several chapters.

Further, Dr. DeVos continued to work in the development of skilled ambulance transport for emergencies when she served as an organizer for the Pre-Hospital Leadership Workshop satellite to the First African Congress on Emergency Medicine



in Accra, Ghana in 2012. Emergency physicians and EMS experts from the United States and South Africa partnered to offer senior medics from the Ghana National Ambulance Service a day of training and career development. Dr. DeVos also presented two lectures to African and International nurse, medic and physician delegates to the main congress on low-cost, high-yield approaches to thoracic and head trauma.

As demographics and burdens of disease change, the work of providers of emergency care in Africa will continue to evolve. The first generation of African emergency physicians and acute care providers will address non-communicable diseases and injury in addition to infectious diseases. Dr. DeVos plans to continue to engage UF residents and faculty along with African partners to support these efforts as the first locally trained Emergency specialists set out to in their own practices and training programs.

*Elizabeth DeVos is the Medical Director for International Emergency Medicine Education at the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville, an assistant professor of emergency medicine, and an affiliate of the Center for African Studies.*

# Documenting the Language of Fishing among the Dwang

JAMES ESSEGBEY

In 2013 I spent nearly six months studying the influence of the disappearance of a cultural practice on the language of the Dwang community in the middle belt of Ghana. This group call themselves Akenyenyi and their language Kenyen. The total population of the Dwang people is 3300 and they live in a total of 21 villages. My research consisted mainly of finding out which fishing-related practices the Dwang engaged in and which of these are expressed with Dwang words and which ones are expressed with borrowed words. Although mostly farmers, the Dwang people also fish in the rivers on their territory, the most notable one being the Sene river. Until the late 1960s, the main fishing method was communal. It involved using some herbs known as *kəsə*. At different times in the year, the community would harvest the *kəsə* and take it to the rocky banks of the Sene river. There they beat it into pulp. They would then spread it over the waters and wait ashore. Not long afterwards the fish in the area become incapacitated and then the community moves into the water in an orderly manner to collect them. The communal importance of this practice is such that everyone was required to cultivate some *kəsə* on their farms and make it available during *kəsə* expeditions. The fishing event itself was a festive occasion and competing groups were formed to see which one beat their *kəsə* into pulp fastest. The integral nature of this to the Dwang can be seen from the fact that the traditional way of saying 'to fish' is *ye kəsə* which literally means 'go kесе.'

Sometime in the 1960s, the Akosombo dam was constructed which led to the creation of the then largest man-made lake in the world, part of which is in the Dwang area. This led to the influx of fishing communities from southern Ghana with their fishing practices. Unfortunately, the new guests also brought along more lethal methods of incapacitating their fishes



than *kəsə*: they introduced DDT and a powder which the people simply called 'poison.' Within a short time, this lethal and extremely effective method replaced *kəsə*. It also removed the need for communal engagement since anyone could go and sprinkle some poison over an area and then start collecting the dead fish. The new method didn't last long however. This is because it was illegal and the Dwang people themselves discovered that the fish they caught through the process did not taste good, and rotted in short time. Surprisingly by the time they stopped this process, they had also stopped the cultivation of *kəsə*. They explained that it was too time consuming to cultivate and took precious land. As such, they could not revert to their collective fishing practice. During the time I spent there nobody could produce a sample to show to me.

The immediate consequence of the stoppage of the *kəsə* practice is that the expression for catching fish among most Dwang has changed from *ye kəsə* to *kyire mkpətra*, literally 'catch fish'. In fact, it wasn't until more than a month into my stay when a medicine man talked about medicinal uses of fish among the Dwang

that he used the term to my hearing for the first time. A second consequence is that since the fishing practice is no longer communal, fewer people get involved in fishing activities. As a result, fewer people know of Dwang names for fishes and their uses. Thus within one generation, a development project wrought changes which have far-reaching consequences on the community, including their language.

*James Essegbey is associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and a CAS affiliate faculty member.*



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# Building Enduring Partnerships In Research and Performance: The First Decade of the Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium (TACAC)

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JOAN FROSCH



21st century African experimental choreographers have not only constructed dances, but also spaces of freedom. As they embody new forms of expression, forerunners imagine new communities and stimulate public discourse. Often confronting and challenging dominant norms, the creative practices of such artist-citizens are also practices of democracy building. Inspired by their work, the UF Center for World Arts celebrates the tenth anniversary of co-founding of the Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium (TACAC), an organization formed to support the work of contemporary artists in and of Africa.

Creative processes and products amass energy and resilience, building potential to alter critical perceptions and material realities. A new generation of choreographers has mastered such artistic alchemy. Faustin Linyekula (DRC), Opiyo Okach (Kenya), Nelisiwe Xaba (South Africa), Nadia Beugré (Cote d'Ivoire), among others, have transformed political histories, social tensions, governmental disruptions, and more, into intimate spaces for analysis and reflection. Such intricately mediated environments foster possibilities for “thinking differently.” If, during the decades since independence, dance performance was primarily positioned to play the role of cultural progenitor, this dance form has taken on the role of cultural interrogator, if not iconoclast.

From 1999 to the present, I have

been fortunate to work with outstanding choreographers, including Béatrice Kombé (1971-2007). Resolving early on to engage with international audiences, artists showcased their creativity in uneven associations with European presenters. If initially positioned in the “global arts” market, a number of artists emerged as leading contemporary dance figures. While building European audiences, artists also sought to develop audiences for their work at home, seeking to professionalize and sustain their craft at the grassroots level.

By 2004, Americans remained largely unaware of contemporary dance from Africa. To address the gap, in concert with the Center for African Studies, the UF Center for World Arts created the Gwendolen M. Carter conference/festival Movement (R)Evolution Dialogues: Contemporary Performance in and of Africa. Prominent participants introduced the form to American artists, scholars, critics, and students in several days of lectures, symposia, and choreographic laboratories. Moreover, as the artists debated best practices to foster and sustain contemporary dancemaking in Africa, they came to understand the unique circumstances of their fellow African artists. Preparing for the Gwendolen M. Carter conference/festival was followed by a special invitation from MAPP International Productions to collaborate with top tier American arts organizations; and in 2004, the UF Center for World Arts co-founded The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium.

Today, ten U.S. organizations and ten African affiliates comprise TACAC. Our activities cycle to amass energy and resilience among partners, affiliates, and the varied constituencies we serve. In contrast to many “cultural exchanges,” TACAC projects pursue mutually beneficial interactions defined by those involved. In a decade of operation, TACAC has prioritized people

over “cultures.” Our evolving friendships and artist-networks thrive as we engage with cultural workers, organizations, and public communities across Africa and the U.S. We embrace human creativity as an invaluable resource. However fleeting, fragile, or intangible it may seem, human creativity is, in fact, a resilient, renewable, and eminently sustainable resource...particularly in a diverse and relational ecosystem such as TACAC.

*Joan Frosch professor of theater & dance, director of the Center for World Arts, and founding member of TACAC. TACAC is supported by the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and in-kind contributions of member institutions. Individual touring and residency projects have received support from l'Institut Français, and from the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts (with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation, and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust). Support for the participation of African artists in TACAC programs has been made possible by the Lambent Foundation, the eeg-cowles Foundation, and Art Moves Africa. Leadership support for research, planning, and contextualization provided by the National Endowment for the Arts (2006-2012).*

# The African Diaspora: A Global Geographical and Historical Phenomenon

BARBARA McDADE GORDON



During 2013-2014 I am a visiting scholar in the Department of Geography & Resource Development at the University of Ghana. UG was my academic base when I did doctoral dissertation fieldwork in Ghana as a Fulbright Scholar over 25 years ago. I have returned to Ghana several times since then for research or professional conferences and this was an opportunity to serve as a faculty member at the University. The International Academy of African Business and Development (IAABD) of which I am a member held its Annual Meeting in Ghana in May 2013. I presented a paper, “Networking among African-owned Businesses in the Diaspora (United States) and Businesses in Africa.” This report examined the incidence and characteristics of African-owned business in the United States: types of businesses, size, location and geographical distribution. Ghana’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently established a program to encourage Ghanaian businesspersons living in the United States, United Kingdom, Europe, and other countries to network and collaborate with businesses owners in Ghana.

The Africa Diaspora is global and reaches almost every country in the world.

The migration of African peoples has both historical and geographical resonance.

I presented a paper at the International Conference on African Studies sponsored by the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana in October 2013 that captured this phenomenon - “The Geography of the African Diaspora: Where, When, Who, What.” I also chaired a panel session “Out of Africa, Back to Africa: African Diaspora, Migration, and Sustainable Development.” Material from my research as well as other studies on this topic will inform the new course that I am developing at the University of Florida, “Geography of the African Diaspora.”

In addition to my research on the African Diaspora and follow-up on previous research on African entrepreneurs, I am teaching several courses at UG: Human Geography, Regions--West and East Africa, and Population Studies. Students at UG are enthusiastic about learning these subjects as well as wanting to know more about students at the University of Florida and life in the United States. I also learned much from Ghanaian students as well as international students at UG from China, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Tanzania, and the United States.

In collaboration with faculty members in the UG Geography Department, I initiated a project to produce a textbook for the two-semester sequence of introductory courses, Physical Geography and Human Geography, which are required for all geography majors. One of the book’s authors is Dr. Kwadwo Owusu, Senior Lecturer, who

returned to Ghana after completing his Ph.D. in geography at UF.

While here I am also doing research on Africans from the Diaspora who ‘returned’ to Ghana. The diversity of these groups ranges from recent immigrants from the United States and the Caribbean to descendants of Africans who escaped enslavement in Brazil in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and relocated to Ghana.

*Barbara McDade Gordon is associate professor of geography and CAS affiliate faculty. During 2013-14 she is a visiting scholar in the Department of Geography & Resource Development, University of Ghana.*



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# The Centrality of Fez in the Articulation of Translocal and Transnational Tijani Religious Circuits: the Case of the Baro Family in Mbour, Senegal

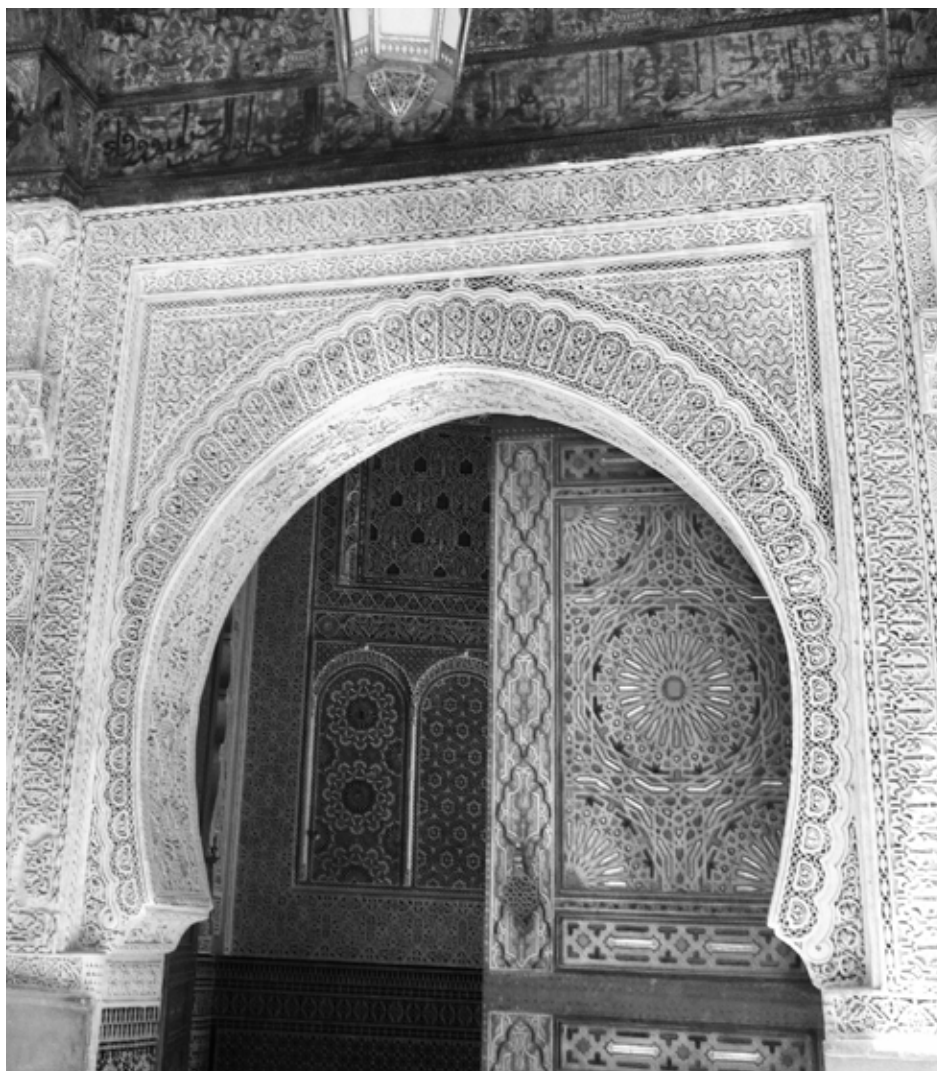
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ABDOULAYE KANE

Every year thousands of West African Muslims belonging to the Tijani Sufi Order travel to Fez to pay a visit (*ziarra*) to the founder of the Tariqa buried inside the Tijani Zawiya situated in the old Medina of the city. The Baro family in Mbour, known for belonging to the Medina Gounass branch of Tijaniyya in Senegal, has over the past two decades led collective visits to the Zawiya Tijani of Fez. The annual *ziarra* of Fez has become one of the most important moments for the Baro brothers to reenact their religious authority over their expanding translocal and transnational networks of followers.

Mansour Baro initiated in the 1980s translocal circuits of travel that take him from Mbour to the villages of the Senegal River Valley (along the border between Senegal, Mauritania, and Mali) and among popular neighborhoods of Dakar where he exhorts Muslims to return to the practice of “true Sufi Islam” by following the recommendations of the Prophet and Sidi Ahmed Tijani. Over the years, he established a vast network of villages who are affiliated to him and to the Medina Gounass Branch of Tijaniyya. Some of the leaders of this translocal community of followers were invited to join Tierno Mansour on his annual *ziarra* in Fez where they are met by their followers from Morocco and Europe. After his death in 2007, Tierno Mansour was replaced by his brother who continues to entertain both his expanding translocal and transnational networks, with a special attention to Fez and their connections with the Tijani Family in Morocco.

This research examines how the Baro brothers use the *ziarra* of Fez to consolidate their religious authority and to prove their special rank in the Tijaniyya brotherhood. It analyzes the ritual performances and the sermons delivered by the Baro brothers inside the Zawiya



during annual *ziarras*. The appearance of Sheikh Tijani to Sheikh Baro as well as the claims of embodiment of Sheikh Tijani by followers, and the assurances of prayers answered are all part of the confirming elements of the high ranking of Sheikh Baro. The research analyzes the relations that pilgrims in the Zawiya Tijani of Fez entertain with the sacred and how they attempt to materialize *baraka* through the combination of the water of Zawiya’s well, the tomb of the founder of Tijaniyya, and his

descendants. The research addresses lastly a touristic dimension of the pilgrimage by looking at various activities that pilgrims engage in which make them comparable to secular tourists. The research examines lodging arrangements for pilgrims outside hotels as well as the shopping and sight-seeing of symbolic places in and around the city of Fez.

*Abdoulaye Kane is associate professor of anthropology & African studies.*



# Chinese Investments in Zambia: The Role of Government in Protecting Workers

AGNES LESLIE

My current research focuses on Chinese investments and their impact on Zambian workers. This is part of my book project which examines China's relationship with Zambia since the latter's independence in 1964. Part of the research investigates Chinese investments located in Lusaka with the objective of portraying the working environment and conditions of service of the workers. The investigations focused on benefits for the workers, including salary, allowances, sick leave, safety, and compliance to environmental standards.

I toured and investigated small, medium, and large-sized companies. Four of the companies were located in the Lusaka's industrial area, a few miles from the town center. The fifth company was located in a non-industrial area, a few miles off the Great North Road. One company was involved in brickmaking, another one in making roofing tiles, two were engaged in plastic bag production, and the fifth and largest dealt in steel production.

The companies had similar characteristics, including location, set-up, conditions of employment, and style of management. They all employed a majority of their workers on a non-permanent basis. Some were on contract, but the majority

was employed as casual workers even those working at the company for a long time. The workers in all the five companies were concerned about the conditions of service and benefits. They had few or no benefits and no sick leave or housing allowance. Two of the companies offered their employees transport allowance if they left work after six in the evening, but their employers avoided paying that by keeping the workers locked in the factory and working until six the next morning.

There are several laws enacted by the Zambian parliament intended to protect the Zambia workers. There are at least seven laws which relate to labor, employee relations, benefits and their working environment. However, most of the Chinese employers said they were not aware of the laws. In most cases the foreign investors are made aware of the laws as soon as they start operating in Zambia. The labor department also holds workshops to educate employers about workers' rights.

Despite having the laws and the Ministry of Labor and Social Services (LSS) there have been several incidents in which workers' rights and environmental protection have not been observed. The LSS has at times had to close factories due to non-compliance of the safety and environmental



laws and the poor labor conditions. In 2013, the Zambian government revoked licenses of Chinese officials who managed the Collum Coal mine, 200 miles south of the capital of Lusaka due to poor safety, health and environmental conditions. This is the company where the Chinese employers shot and injured 11 workers, two seriously.

I conducted surveys with various groups including LSS officials, members of parliament, the media, university faculty and graduate students. Most of them felt that the government was not doing enough to protect the workers. Officials from the LSS admitted that they were understaffed and would be more effective if they had more staff and transportation to conduct the inspections. The MPs suggested the need for more laws to protect the workers and stronger laws to guide the investors and keep them accountable. They also suggested that foreign investors should partner with indigenous companies in order to create positive environments and to empower Zambians.

*Agnes Ngoma Leslie is senior lecturer and outreach director in the Center for African Studies. This research is funded in part by the Center for African Studies and the Office of Research.*



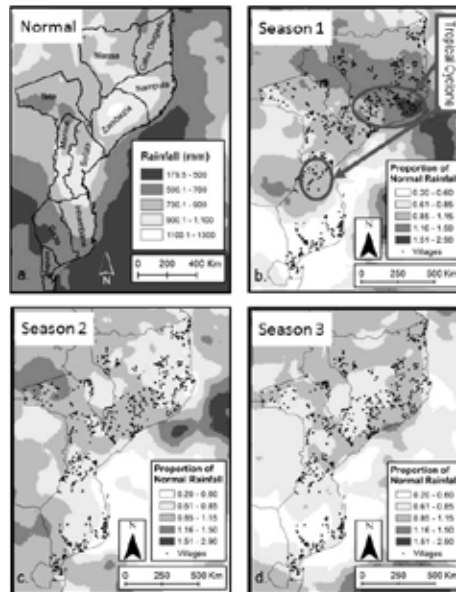
# Rainfall Patterns in Mozambique and Relationships to Income Change for Rural Subsistence Farmers

CORENE MATYAS

As societies dependent on rain-fed agriculture are highly vulnerable to weather extremes, linkages between rainfall variability and economic well-being merit close attention. Since 2011, I have been working with Dr. Julie Silva (University of Maryland) to explore how rainfall variability and extreme rainfall events may be related to changes in income for rural subsistence farmers across Mozambique.

To date, we have characterized the rainfall patterns that occurred between two national surveys of socio-economic data. The National Agricultural Survey of Mozambique was conducted in 2002 and 2005 by the Mozambican Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and USAID. We extracted data for 3,859 households in 536 villages. We utilized rainfall estimates detected by satellites to develop monthly rainfall climatology and determined the percentage of normal rainfall received at each village in each study month of the growing season. We also calculated rainfall received at each village from two landfalling tropical cyclones. These rainfall totals plus the percentage of normal rainfall received in each month were analyzed to establish nine rainfall zones across the country. Rainfall was below normal overall in all three growing seasons.

To measure economic well-being, we calculated the change in income from 2002 to 2005 for each household. We found that more than 30% of villages experienced income declines over this 3-year period. We further explored linkages between rainfall patterns and change in income by developing a regression model to predict annual household per capita change in agricultural crop income as rain-fed agriculture is extremely vulnerable to high rainfall variability in the region. We discovered that variables measuring agricultural characteristics and regional rainfall patterns were significant, while none of the demographic variables were significant in the model.



Regions experiencing the least variability in rainfall and fewest extreme rainfall events were characterized by better economic performance in agricultural crop income, after controlling for other predictors in the model.

Households affected by Cyclone Delfina in January 2003 exhibited the worst economic performance, indicating that heavy rainfall from some tropical cyclones can have long-lasting negative effects on income. Rainfall from Cyclone Japhet in March 2003 may have benefitted crops in an area that was previously experiencing drought as many households experienced increases in income. Households experiencing high rainfall totals from events other than tropical cyclones fared poorly relative to those that did not receive these heavy rains. The southern portion of the country experienced rainfall deficits in many months. In some locations, these deficits were interlaced with above-normal rainfall thereby increasing the month-to-month variability.

Various factors, including social, political, and historical elements, influence changes in household economic well-being. However, our research indicates that high

rainfall variability and abnormally high or low rainfall amounts exhibit a stronger association with declining incomes than do demographic variables that are not associated with the weather, such as being a female-headed household.

We have published two papers with a third in the planning stages. Our first paper appeared in *Natural Hazards* and the second has been accepted by *Weather, Climate, and Society*. Although Drs. Silva and I hold separate CAREER awards from the National Science Foundation to examine rural development in southern Africa (Silva) and tropical cyclone rainfall in the U.S. (Matyas), our collaborative work examining rainfall and socio-economic outcomes in Mozambique is self-funded.

*Corene Matyas is associate professor of geography.*

# Centenaire Pidgin: Senegal's Newest Urban Language

FIONA McLAUGHLIN



My current research focuses on the sociolinguistics of language contact in urban West Africa, and while my original intent before I left for the field in 2013 was to look into the linguistic ecology of urban Fula (Pulaar and Fulfulde) in Dakar, Bamako and Niamey, my plans were thwarted by the cancellation of all Fulbright programs in Mali due to political instability following the coup d'état of March 2012. An extended stay in Dakar, however, resulted in a fruitful new area of research on Dakar's newest language, which I am undertaking in collaboration with Minna Zhou, a Fulbright researcher from Northwestern University. In Niamey, and especially in conversations with graduate student Hamza Abdoulaziz in the Linguistics Department at the Université Abdou Moumouni, I became interested in an urban variety of Hausa that has emerged out of contact with Songhay, which I hope will become part of a future project.

As Dakar evolves from a post-colonial capital into a globalized metropolis it has started to attract new kinds of migrants and with them, new kinds of language contact. Beginning in the late 1990s, a significant number of recently arrived Chinese shopkeepers began moving into one of the central residential areas of the city, known as Centenaire. They rented space from local owners along the Boulevard Général de Gaulle, established stalls from which to sell their merchandise in the garages or front yards of the residences,

and eventually built shops along the street in front of them. This influx of Chinese retailers quickly transformed what had formerly been a residential area inhabited primarily by Senegalese civil servants into a hub of commercial activity. Currently there are two hundred small businesses concentrated along the boulevard, and the name Centenaire has become synonymous with the Chinese market.

Most of the Chinese merchants in Centenaire are Mandarin speakers from Henan province. They spend long hours in their shops, interacting with their Senegalese employees and customers who come from Dakar and other parts of Senegal, as well as from neighboring countries such as Mauritania, Guinea and Guinea Bissau. Outside work hours, however, they socialize almost uniquely with other Chinese, thus their domain of linguistic interaction with African speakers is mostly limited to the workplace. These are the classic circumstances under which pidgin languages – simplified languages that generally arise in situations of commerce among speakers of different languages – emerge, and in this case a unique language, which we have dubbed Centenaire Pidgin, serves as the lingua franca of the market.

Like creole languages, pidgins are often discussed in terms of their lexifier and their substrate. The lexifier is the language that has contributed most of the vocabulary (or lexicon) to the pidgin, while the substrate contributes grammatical structures. In almost every pidgin or creole that has an African and a European component,

the African language serves as the substrate and the European language as the lexifier, but Centenaire Pidgin is different in that it has been lexified primarily by an African language, namely urban Wolof, and to a certain degree French, while the substrate influences are from Mandarin. Not only is this different from the majority of documented pidgin languages, it is also different from what is found in Chinese markets in other parts of West Africa, where English appears to dominate.

Our research on Centenaire Pidgin is starting to yield some interesting results, some of which were presented at the France Florida Research Institute's workshop on "French in Contact" in November 2013. We look forward to publishing a first account of this language which has changed, ever so slightly, the linguistic ecology of Dakar.

*Fiona Mc Laughlin is associate professor of linguistics and African languages and chair of the Department of Linguistics. Her research in Dakar during the spring and summer of 2013 was funded by a Fulbright Africa Regional Research Award.*



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# Epigenetic Alterations and Stress among New Mothers and Neonates in the DRC: A Biocultural Investigation of the Intergenerational Effects of War

CONNIE J. MULLIGAN

It has been known for decades that a mother's health impacts the health of her children. Moreover, it is known that a mother's experiences while she is pregnant (i.e. peri-natal experiences) affect her children's health, both when they are born and throughout their lives. What is unknown is how information about the mother's health is transmitted to the developing fetus and, furthermore, how this information impacts children's health throughout their lives. This project is one of the first to test the possibility that extreme environmental or psychosocial stressors may result in altered health outcomes, possibly in a heritable, multigenerational manner.

With Nikki Rodney (2013 UF anthropology PhD), we are testing if epigenetic changes, which are **inherited** changes in **gene expression** that do not affect the underlying DNA sequence, translate the impact of stress and trauma to mothers into altered health outcomes in newborns. We are working in Goma, in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where ongoing civil war and the use of rape as a weapon has created one of the most stressful and traumatic environments for women on the planet. Through extensive ethnographic interviews, Nikki has developed culturally relevant measures of maternal stress. We tested these data against patterns of epigenetic variation detected in DNA samples collected from mothers and their newborns. Cutting-edge DNA sequencing techniques were used to generate the largest epigenetic dataset ever on a unique set of mother-newborn samples.

Our first results from 25 mother-neonate dyads collected in 2010 were published last year (Mulligan et al. *Epigenetics*, 2012, 7:853-857). We showed that increased maternal stress was correlated with increased methylation at the glucocorticoid receptor (*NR3C1*, associated

with birthweight) and decreased birthweight. These results are consistent with the developmental origins of health and disease hypothesis in which events in early life, such as pre-natal maternal stress, may modify offspring biology, in this case via an epigenetic mechanism. We also have a manuscript in review in which we present genome-wide methylation data at over 400,000 sites. These data show that methylation in both mother and newborn is correlated with maternal stress indicating that stress has a more generalized effect that is manifest throughout the entire genome at over 600 genes.

Based on these initial, intriguing results, I was successful in obtaining NSF funding to expand the study. This past summer, Nikki returned to Goma to train a team of collaborators at HEAL Africa to conduct interviews, collect samples and oversee the project over the long-term. This expanded collaboration has resulted in a fabulous, unprecedented set of samples and data to address the long-term, possibly heritable, effects of stress. Our HEAL Africa colleagues are collecting information on

stress exposures as well as information on post-partum depression and anxiety, blood samples from mother, placenta, cord blood and newborn for DNA and RNA analysis, and saliva and hair samples from mother and baby to measure cortisol as a biological indicator of stress and stress reactivity. We have also recently expanded the study to include follow-up samples from the infants at birth, Day 1, Month 1, Month 6 and Year 1. Felicien Maisha, who is director of the HEAL Africa team, recently visited the U.S. for the first time – he hand-carried the samples to UF and also started the process to apply to our graduate program in medical anthropology.

We believe this research will improve our understanding of the link between stress and health and has broad implications for the increasing prevalence of stress-related disorders in the US. Our project takes a broad, interdisciplinary perspective that integrates human genetics, cultural anthropology and sociology, biology and psychology, as well as political realities and public health policy.

*Connie J. Mulligan is professor of anthropology, associate director of the UF Genetics Institute, and a Center for African Studies affiliate. Her research is supported by a NSF grant from the Program in Biological Anthropology. The UF team for this project includes Alyson Young and Lance Gravlee (anthropology) and Darlene Kertes (psychology). The HEAL Africa team includes Luc Malemo Kalisya and Justin Paluku Lussy, Felicien Maisha, Georgette Kanate, Bernard Kitumaini, Bisho Malungule, Chantel Meba, and Anne Marie Rutega.*



# Islam, Ethnicity and Reformism in the Horn of Africa

TERJE ØSTEBØ

Much of my research in 2013 has been devoted to three parallel projects. The first focused on previous Islamic practices in Ethiopia, represented by *jinn*/spirit possession cults – and encounters with contemporary Salafi reformism. Pointing to how such earlier practices have been discredited by the reformers, the project also demonstrated a certain degree of continuation in which conceptions of – and practices related to – spirits have been re-appropriated. The result of the project will be published in *Contemporary Islam* in 2014.

The second project called “Claims for Authority” was about contestations of power among the leadership at the shrine of Sheikh Hussein in Bale, Ethiopia. This is one of the most important Muslim shrines in Ethiopia, and has for decades been ridden by intense power-struggles. My project analyzed this struggle, and demonstrated how different actors are utilizing and combining narratives we commonly would label as either traditional or modern in a way that makes it difficult to maintain a strict dichotomy between the two. The result of this project will be published in *Journal of Islamic Studies* in 2014.

My third and long-term project has been on religion and ethnicity in the Horn of Africa, focusing on the so-called Somali and Oromo liberation movements struggling for various forms of autonomy for Ethiopian Somalis and Oromo. The aim of the research is to provide much-needed empirical knowledge and new perspectives on the nature and developments of the Somali and Oromo ethno-nationalist movements in the southeastern parts of Ethiopia. It will also provide a more nuanced understanding of inter-religious relations in Ethiopia/Horn of Africa, in which I challenge the assumption that Ethiopia is a model for peaceful inter-religious



co-existence, and demonstrate how the historical dominance of Christianity as a political culture and state-ideology has produced a lasting asymmetric relationship and consequently antagonistic attitudes between Christians and Muslims.

Through my engagement in the International Law and Policy Institute (Oslo, Norway) I have started working on the religious dimension in three major research-projects: Ethiopia: Consolidating Peace, or Emerging New Conflicts?; Ethiopia’s Foreign Policy; and a project on conflict and mediation in Zanzibar. These projects are funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the US State Department, respectively.

2013 also saw the publication of the book *Muslim Ethiopia: The Christian Legacy, Identity Politics and Islamic Reformism* edited together with Patrick Desplat (Cologne University). The book focuses on changes with regard to the Muslim

communities in post-1991 Ethiopia, including intra-religious dynamics within the Muslim communities, Islam intersecting with Ethiopian public and political spheres, and Islam in Ethiopia in relation to the geopolitical discourses in the wider Horn of Africa.

*Terje Østebø is assistant professor in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Religion.*

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# Manuscripts Support Research on Wildlife Conservation

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DANIEL REBOUSSIN

University of Florida biology and environmental science graduate students have the opportunity to study African anthropology, geography, history, language, and politics. Many students apply an interdisciplinary understanding to the community management of wildlife conservation in Africa first in project teams and then as graduate practitioners. Now an established principle worldwide, the community management approach was first implemented by the Galana Game Management Scheme in colonial Kenya and later expanded by the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) in Zimbabwe. As African Studies librarian, I have had the pleasure of supporting teaching and research programs relating to wildlife conservation by facilitating the acquisition, arrangement, and description of several outstanding donations of rare and unique primary resources documenting these historic waypoints in sustainable wildlife conservation.

The *Graham and Brian Child African Wildlife and Range Management Collection* details CAMPFIRE operations implemented in communities across Zimbabwe. It reflects program growth through annual reports, educational and promotional materials, and subsequent external critiques. Researchers will find the *Ian Parker Collection of East African Wildlife Conservation* offers similar documentation of the implementation and eventual failure of the Galana Scheme, along with even more extensive research materials on the ivory trade. The *Records of the East African Professional Hunters Association* offer a glimpse into the operations of a private group that from 1934-1974 was influential in the development of wildlife conservation practice, opposition to poaching, the creation of wildlife tourism, and in framing Kenya's game laws.

These are among the most substantial and significant primary resources available on the history of African wildlife

conservation. Combined, almost 150 archival document boxes contain nearly 100 linear feet of gray literature reports, diaries, financial records, correspondence, government documents, maps, ephemera, research data, photographs, and digitized video. In addition to providing materials essential for research into the history of community conservation strategies in Africa, these related but distinct manuscript collections document over 100 years of conservation law history in the British Empire, wildlife policy implementation across colonial Africa, change in practices following national independence, and impacts on animals (elephants, rhinoceroses, crocodiles, and hippopotami) as observed by game wardens, professional hunters, ranchers, and researchers.

Included materials were authored by game and park officials, the US Agency for International Development, non-government organizations such as World Wildlife Fund, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, International Union for Conservation of Nature, trade groups, consultants, and

academics. They address topics including hunting practices, community relations with parks, overpopulation and herd culling, banning the international trade in ivory, controlling poaching, corrupt government practices, game ranching, fish farming, environmental degradation, and disease control. More details on these collections are available online, with links to research finding aids: <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/africanwildlife/> Also available there are links to selected digitized items: the Elephant Data Sheets project (currently transcribing biological data to machine readable format), and an extraordinary 40' x 3.5' hand drawn map of hippopotamus herds below the Nile River's Murchison Falls, as counted from the air.

*Daniel A. Reboussin is African Studies collections librarian at the UF George A. Smathers Libraries and a Center for African Studies affiliate. Digitization of African Studies Collections is supported by the CAS Title VI grant in collaboration with UF Digital Collections.*





# Understanding and Tackling Health Disparities

RICHARD RHEINGANS

Diarrhea is one of the leading causes of child mortality globally, resulting in almost a half million deaths in sub-Saharan Africa annually. Simple interventions like clean water, sanitation, hygiene, vaccination, and timely treatment can effectively control it, yet these interventions often do not reach those who need it the most. Over the past year, my research group has continued to work on a series of projects to better understand these disparities, their consequences, and potential solutions.

New vaccines have recently been developed to control rotavirus diarrhea, which accounts for 40% of childhood diarrheal deaths. However such vaccines often do not reach those who need it the most. We recently completed a project to better understand the disparities in access to routine vaccination and the resulting effect on the health gains from new vaccines, such as that for rotavirus diarrhea. This work has included a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to better understand the determinants of vaccination disparities in Nigeria, which has been presented to UNICEF and conferences. It also included a study of how disparities in risk and access to vaccination can limit the impact of new vaccines, resulting in publications in *Vaccine* and the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. We are currently working with partners to use this information to increase the emphasis on programs reaching those who need it most.

Water and sanitation are also critical interventions to prevent diarrheal disease and malnutrition, as well as being basic rights. Over the past year we began collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Tanzania to evaluate their National Sanitation Campaign (NSC). The NSC is a long-term effort to increase

the coverage of improved sanitation in rural Tanzania. Our collaboration provides the ministry with data on changes in sanitation behaviors, the barriers to change, and opportunities for improving the effectiveness of intervention activities. In particular, we focus on whether the campaign reaches the most vulnerable population and whether poorer households



benefit equally. This project is carried out through SHARE (Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity), a research consortium based at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and funded by the UK Department for International Development.

In collaboration with SHARE we have also carried out research to better characterize sanitation related disparities at a global level. This has included a study of the methods for measuring these disparities (published in *Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*) and another estimating the

disparities in child mortality associated with unequal access to sanitation.

Even when households make improvements in water and sanitation, children often face poor conditions in schools. Last year we completed a six year study of the impact and sustainability of school water, sanitation and hygiene in western Kenya. Our publications this year showed that improvements in conditions can reduce diarrheal incidence, reduce absenteeism, and improve gender parity in enrollment. However it also showed that these improvements can be difficult to sustain. The project included collaborators from CARE, Great Lakes University of Kisumu, and Emory University.

*Richard Rheingans is associate professor in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Environmental and Global Health. His work is funded through grants from the UK Department for International Development, PATH, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. His research team includes PhD students John Anderson, Poulomy Chakraborty, Ben Anderson, and Jacob Atem.*

# Africa at the Colonial Expositions: Representation through Visual Art

VICTORIA ROVINE

I recently completed my book, *African Fashion Global Style: Clothing, Innovations, and Stories about Africa*, which will be published in fall 2014 by Indiana University Press. I'm very excited about the book, in part because I will be able to illustrate the work of a great many designers. The book will have ninety images, all in color. This extensive illustration program was made possible in part by a College Art Association award, from the Millard Meiss Publication Fund.

This past summer, with support from a Fine Arts Scholarship Enhancement Fund award, I initiated a new research project. This work grows out of one aspect of my fashion research, focused on the intersection of African visual art and European constructions of Africa during the early twentieth century. I will address the two major colonial powers in Africa, England and France, through the representation of their African colonies at two key, hyper-visual events: the British Empire Exhibition of 1924, and France's 1931 Exposition Coloniale Internationale. These expositions, part of a history of colonial-era events, were government-sponsored celebrations of French and British national achievements in a wide range of areas, including promotion of the nations' colonial endeavors.

The 1924 and 1931 events were each the largest exposition of their respective nations, and both made extensive use of works of visual art from Africa (classified as "craft" or "artisanat") to encourage public interest in the colonies and to assert the potential value of African forms as sources of inspiration for British and French artists. In Africa, my focus is on the British colonies of the Gold Coast (Ghana)

and Nigeria, and the French Soudan (Mali), and I plan to conduct research in each country as I pursue this project. Each of these colonies was prominently featured at the expositions through objects as well as through the presence of colonial subjects themselves, whose clothing and other body adornments enhanced the presentation of the "exotic" colonies. Through archival re-

search, investigation and analysis of public and private collections that hold objects created for/displayed at the expositions, and through interviews with people who have connections to the events through family members--such as the children of West Africans who participated in the expositions--I will piece together the stories of specific objects, art forms, and people to describe the uses and misuses of visual arts as a tool for colonial propaganda.

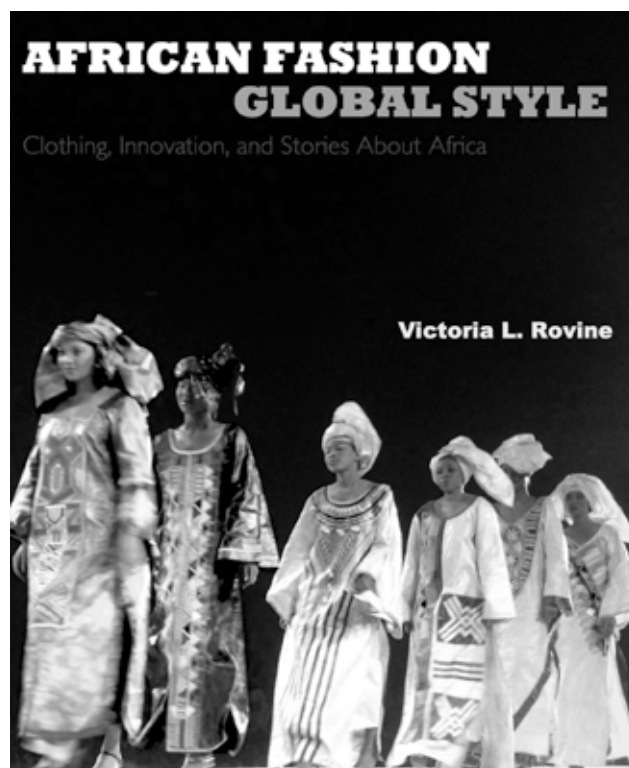
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the most prominent media used to enhance the African displays at these events. They were included as industrial products that highlighted the important cotton production of the colonies, and, in the form of European-made textiles for African consumers, they celebrated Africa as a major market for French and British industries. My own expertise in African textiles makes this element of the project a natural extension from my previous work. The architecture of the expositions, which included many buildings built expressly for these events, reflected British and French responses to the indigenous architecture of their colonies.

Last summer, I conducted research in Senegal's Archives de l'Afrique Occidentale Française (1895-1959). I also worked in several libraries, museums, and archives in France, including the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the archives of the Quai Branly, and the Archives Nationales d'Outre-mer, located in Aix-en-Provence. In the UK, I worked in the National Archives and the British Library's Asia, Pacific, and African Collection. I found hundreds of fascinating documents, some of which I will use to write my first paper on this new research subject, which I will

present at the Triennial Conference on African Art in New York City this March.

*Victoria Rovine is associate professor of art history and African studies.*



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I plan to make two key artistic media the center of my investigation: textiles and architecture. Textiles were among

# Building Community Heritage Collaborations in Kagera, Tanzania

PETER SCHMIDT

Since 2009, research in Kagera Region of NW Tanzania has responded to successive requests by local communities to engage heritage preservation and development. These collaborative ventures began with research into the oral traditions of villages, a research initiative that arose out of local needs and was conducted by local investigators. As Katuruka village developed a clear agenda for preservation of its heritage, so too did a plan emerge for the development of a heritage tourism destination to generate income for the exhibit multiple heritage sites. Over the years the developmental program expanded to include archaeological excavations in Katuruka to expose ancient iron smelting furnaces, thus enhancing the impact of exhibits during heritage tours.

Shortly after the Katuruka initiative, community heritage projects took root in other parts of the region, the most notable of which was the restoration of Kanazi Palace—a grand edifice built by the German colonial government for its primary client among the local *Bakama* or kings. An initiative taken by the royal Hinda clan and the former sitting king, the Kanazi Palace now features a small museum that presents exhibits about the past kings and about the archaeological investigations that occurred at Kanazi Palace in 2011 and 2012. Gradually our attention turned to other important heritage sites in the region. One important site, burial estate of King Kahigi II who was the original occupant of Kanazi Palace, hosts the last remaining Buchwankwanzi house in the region. Once a common feature in highly venerated royal burial locales in former palace compounds, these specialized houses had significant ritual importance. King Kahigi's burial occurred in a traditional palace compound in Ibwera, 12 km West of Kanazi, not the European-styled palace at Kanazi. Used by Kahigi as a retreat and common residence

free from the direct gaze of German administrators, it was his natural resting place following his suicide, widely attributed to his public humiliation at the hands of the first British administrator in 1916.

The Buchwankwanzi house at Ibwera was the last intact structure of its genre in the entire region. When our team visited the site in 2011, we found the royal drums being eaten by termites and other regalia in various states of degradation. A report submitted to government and to the royal clan asked if a collaborative effort might help to preserve and curate these irreplaceable relics. The royal clan responded that it did not want the artifacts removed for safe keeping and treatment and that they would repair or replace the house to preserve them. Two years later, upon another visit to the site with a senior Haya scholar and cultural expert, we found the house unrepaired and overgrown with vines, the mud walls collapsing, and corrugated iron sheets missing from the roof. Relics formerly present were missing and the drums had been reduced to three by termite action. Upon moving the drums, out dropped the skull of Kahigi II. Knowledge of his presence within the Buchwankwanzi had been kept a well concealed secret, as otherwise knowledgeable Hinda elders remain unaware of its presence, though his father Rugomora Ibale was similarly treated—having his head removed and the skull preserved in a Buchwankwanzi. His skull is now on display at a small museum in Kamachumu to the south.

Our heritage preservation efforts thrust us into the midst of an ethical conundrum: given that we employ a collaborative approach that valorizes initiatives taken by local communities and key community members, how could we advocate the removal and preservation of these precious objects without the concurrence and cooperation of the royal clan?

This heritage dilemma arises out of the replacement of traditional values by



Christian beliefs. Before Christianity, the relics preserved in the Buchwankwanzi were held in the highest regard and we used in monthly New Moon ceremonies of renewal involving Bacwezi spirit mediums and other religious functionaries. As Christians today, the clan elders privilege their beliefs about the dangers of engaging objects within a “Bacwezi domain” over the huge historical importance of these objects. This conundrum was at last resolved when in a last minute effort we contacted the land owner and royal princess, sharing our concern and asking for her cooperation to remove the objects. Her response was immediate and unequivocal, authorizing us to remove them with her son's assistance, thanking us profusely for our assistance to resolve a long simmering frustration with her uncles and siblings over their preservation. And, so it came to pass that with the collaboration of a royal family member and the Tanzania government, the objects were removed for curation and safe-keeping until a better venue can be found for their long-term preservation and use for educational purposes.

*Peter Schmidt is professor of anthropology and former director of the Center for African Studies.*



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# Documentation of Baga Mandori: an Endangered Language of Guinea

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FRANK SEIDEL



In the coming two years I will document the language Baga Mandori, an under-documented Atlantic language spoken on the Guinean littoral. The work on Baga will be similar to the work I have done on Nalu, a neighbouring language, during the past years at the Center for African Studies. The purpose of the project is to create a digital archive on Baga Mandori containing annotated audio-visual material, a grammatical sketch, and a trilingual, Baga-English-French dictionary.

Baga Mandori belongs to the Atlantic (Niger-Congo phylum) group of languages, or the *langues sénégalo-guinéennes* as they are sometimes referred to in French sources, and it is spoken on the northern littoral of Guinea-Conakry in the Basse-Côte region. It represents the northernmost variant of a cluster of languages (or dialects) generally called Baga which are (from north to south: Baga Mandori, Baga Sitemu, Baga Sobané, Baga Kakissa (also Baga Marara), Baga Koba, and Baga Kaloum, all of which are or were spoken – some of these varieties are already extinct – in the Republic of Guinea. This group of languages is, together with Landuma, related to the Temne language of Sierra Leone and are part of the Mel cluster of languages.

According to available publications and my own experience of the research area, speakers of Baga Mandori live in a heterogeneous ethnic and linguistic environment. Baga Mandori is predominately spoken in the area around the mouth of the river Kogon, namely the districts of Dobaly

and Kalagba located within the prefecture of Boké with the additional possibility of further villages situated closer to Guinea-Bissau and even in Guinea-Bissau itself. Neighbouring languages include, among others, Landuma, Balanta, Nalu, Peul (Fula) and other Baga varieties. Overshadowing this situation is Soso, the dominant lingua franca of the Guinea littoral, with speakers also in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone and to which Baga Mandori speakers are starting to shift. Finally, French has to be factored into this multilingual situation even if the fluency rate is low. The community speaking Baga Mandori is said to number approximately 4000 speakers although I suspect the actual number to be much lower.

Baga culture, religion, and languages have been under considerable pressure from the outside for a long time and exist in an environment where being Baga is/was often viewed as pagan and backward by outsiders. This includes the political and religious dominance emanating from the Fouta Djallon, the expansion of Mande languages (notably Soso) and cultures, and the “paranationalist” politics after independence. In response to this, every Baga society has already undergone critical changes to their culture. One illustrative example of this is the iconoclastic ‘Jihad’ by Asekou Sayon (Yaasekou Sayong) which happened shortly prior to independence and succeeded in destroying a considerable amount of Baga (and other coastal groups’) ritual objects and sacred sites. The adverse attitude towards being Baga, combined with the rise of Soso since independence as a language of the political center Conakry, has led to a general situation where Soso presents a prestigious alternative means of communication for Baga speakers. This contributes considerably to the language shift from Baga to Soso. A point that severely aggravates this situation is the in-existent administrative support for Baga Mandori. Baga Mandori (or any

Baga language) is not considered a national language and thus it is, to my knowledge, neither part of any government or NGO initiative for alphabetisation, nor is it part of any school curricula, nor is it used in the media. This state of affairs has already led to the disappearance of Baga languages, such as Baga Kaloum, and to the endangerment of any Baga varieties still spoken, some of which are reported to only feature a few remaining speakers (Baga Koba, Baga Sobané).

In a 1996 New York Times article, Holland Cotter remarked that despite the international prominence the Baga cultures had gained due to the popularity of the Nimba (D’mba) mask that iconically represented African art, the people, language, and culture behind the art still remain little known. Seventeen years later Cotter’s comments are still valid and this project hopes to make a dent into the lack of Baga linguistic documentation.



*Frank Seidel is a post-doctoral fellow in the Center for African Studies. His current research project is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

# Women's Collective Action in Agricultural Markets

RENATA SERRA



Since 2012 I have been absorbed by a new line of research, which explores the extent to which African women farmers can gain from participating in agricultural markets through collective action – defined as any action by a group of people intended to promote the group's interests. Collective action, both as formal cooperatives and informal groups (self-help groups, rotating savings and credit associations, etc.), holds substantial promise for enhancing women's productivity, access to markets, bargaining power and economic empowerment.

I joined in the last phase of an exciting collaborative research project managed by Oxfam UK (with Thalia Kidder as project manager and Sally Baden as research manager), titled "Researching Women's Collective Action (RWCA): Empowering Women in Agricultural Markets in sub-Saharan Africa." Covering three countries (Ethiopia, Mali and Tanzania), the aim of the research (2009-12) was to investigate the role of collective action in enabling women smallholders to enhance their income, improve access to markets, and become more economically empowered. My role as research adviser was to help the team carry out a quantitative analysis of the data already collected, and contribute to three

country reports plus an overall comparative report. To enhance collaboration during the writing process, Sally Baden visited the Center for African Studies during Fall 2012.

Fieldwork in the last phase had focused on one sub-sector in each country: honey in Ethiopia, Shea butter in Mali and vegetables in Tanzania. These sectors were chosen due to their market potential, their large or increasing presence of women small-scale farmers, and high incidence of collective action groups. The quantitative data included a survey of individual women farmers, both members of groups and non-members; and a survey of groups. The quantitative research component was complemented by qualitative data collection and analysis, stakeholder workshops, national and regional seminars, intense blog postings, debates and exchanges on the wiki page.

The research found that women members of collective action groups derive significantly higher economic benefits than comparable women non-members, in terms of higher sales, greater productivity or better price. Women members of groups are also better able to overcome constraints to market access than women non-members, for instance have better access to credit. The findings on women's

empowerment, however, are less stark; and causation links more difficult to infer. While women members of groups appear to be more economically empowered in some aspects, the reverse is true in others. Moreover, there does not seem to be much difference between women group members and non-group members in terms of their ability to control assets and property within the household.

This calls for further research. With other team members, we have thus written a follow-up research proposal for which we hope to obtain funding sometimes in 2014. The objective is to gather more and better quantitative and qualitative data, and adopt more appropriate research methods, to investigate higher levels questions that have remained unaddressed. These include exploring the interaction between women's role in agricultural markets and gender issues within the household (intra-household bargaining); and analyze the relationship (and causality link) between women's market involvement and empowerment.

Since the end of the research, we have been disseminating the research results. I made a presentation at the First International Conference on Sustainable Development Practice, held at Columbia University and jointly organized by the Global Association of Master's in Development Practice Programs (MDP) and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). Final reports and other outputs from the RCWA project are available from <http://womenscollective-action.com>.

*Renata Serra is lecturer in the Center for African Studies.*

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# The Arts and Health in East-Central Africa

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JILL SONKE

The UF Center for Arts in Medicine's "AIM for Africa" initiative engages the arts to address health in African communities. As a part of this initiative over the past year, I have continued to research the use of the arts in health practices in east-central Africa, and have developed local networks and training programs in the region. Over the past four years, my research has identified widespread and highly innovative applications of the arts in health programs by organizations in the region. These organizations expressed the need to bring program professionals together, along with government officials, to formally discuss the arts and health.

As a result, in May 2011, the Center for Arts in Medicine, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Arts & Health and the Rwanda Red Cross, hosted the two-day "East-Central Africa Arts & Health Forum" in Kigali, Rwanda. With support from Johnson & Johnson, the forum

brought together 120 government leaders and arts and health professionals from six African countries: Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The two-day meeting presented effective programs that use the arts to enhance individual and community health, improve health literacy, and provide new vocational skills to people whose lives are affected by illness and disability. Attendees discovered and shared resources, collected best practices, and learned how to implement and sustain programs. Government officials developed an understanding of the arts and health as a formal discipline, and participated in planning for its future.

The forum resulted in the formation of national arts and health networks in three countries, and identified a need for more in-depth education and training opportunities in the region. Thus, the 2012 Arts in Healthcare for East-Central Africa Training Program was planned in partnership with the University of Goma,

the Kigali Independent University and the Rwanda Arts in Healthcare Initiative. I led the training program at the Kigali Independent University in October of 2012 for over 50 students and professionals from Rwanda and DRC.

Following the program, the regional leaders envisioned the development of a revenue-generating annual arts and health training program in east-central Africa that would draw participants from around the globe to learn how to use the arts to improve health in developing communities. Over the past year, with support from the UF Warrington College of Business and in partnership with our East-Central Africa leaders, I developed a business plan, and began a train-the-trainer program for the local leaders. The initiative was joined by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, where the first annual Arts in Healthcare for Global Communities Intensive Training Program will be launched, featuring local trainers, in May of 2014. For more information, see [www.arts.ufl.edu/cam/aimForAfrica.aspx](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/cam/aimForAfrica.aspx)



*Jill Sonke is Director of the UF Center for Arts in Medicine and current 2013-14 chair of the CAS Advisory Council. The AIM for Africa program has been supported by the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Johnson & Johnson, the UF Center for World Arts, the UF Center for African Studies, the Global Alliance for Arts & Health, the Rwanda Red Cross, and the Kigali Independent University.*



# US Africa Policy and the Changing Global System: the EU-China-US “Triangle” of Relations and Hungary

ISTVÁN TARRÓSY

In our era of global anxieties there is a tendency in Europe to see the rise of emerging powers (among which China gets first and foremost mention) as something that challenges the geopolitical, geo-strategic positions of the technologically and economically more developed North (West). In today's world of transnational IR and cobweb-like interdependent and interconnected interactions, North-South relations are seemingly being overarched and “superseded by South-East, even, Africa-East, alliances” (Shaw, 2010).

Africa is undoubtedly on the rise, offering numerous opportunities, but African states still struggle with managing themselves, and the question is ever so important: can development be driven from within, and can the involvement of external forces/stakeholders reach the level of the individuals and their communities so that there will be lasting “society-wide repercussions” (Hyden, 1989)?



In my research, from an IR point of view, I look at the rise of “new,” emerging powers and the dynamics of the “interpolar” global scene, in particular, when I think of the competition and cooperation among China, India, Japan, the USA, the European Union and others on African soil. Since 2009 my research interest has been centered on Afro-Asian relations in world politics. I have looked at this closely in Tanzania, Kenya and the DRC, as well as Japan and China - and written on Sino-African and Japanese-African relations. During my Fulbright year at the UF Center for African Studies I am investigating the implications these intensifying relations have for the US, and how these new dynamics will affect US-African relationships, both in general terms, as well as on bilateral grounds, and even in a triangular framework of European Union-US-China linkages in a pursuit for African “friendships.”

The research project I foster concentrates on the US administrations and their refined (redefined) foreign policies towards Africa since 1993, with a close eye on the EU-US Trans-Atlantic alliance, and how the EU-China-Africa trilateral scheme (encouraged by the EU) is evaluated from the US, in particular, as Chinese engagement in Africa “presents a potential alternative to the existing Western (Northern) developmental model in Africa” (Liu, 2011). This is a relevant and growingly important foreign policy consideration for Hungary and in a broader context, for Central and Eastern European countries.

As for my home country, evident consequences are already traced in foreign policy decisions. After the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2011, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs published a new foreign policy strategy devoting chapters on countries and regions of the Global South, including ideas for involvement in Northern

Africa, and separately, across sub-Saharan Africa. Naturally, as a member state, the first system of reference for Hungary is that of the EU, but as far as the big(ger) powers are concerned, on the level of world politics, the other major point of reference is still the United States (Magyarics, 2004). As a consequence, it is important for Hungary, too, to learn about and understand the policy considerations of the US for Africa and the changing global order, too. My research can also be useful for articulating the proper Hungarian response.



*István Tarrósy is assistant professor of political science and international studies as well as director of the Africa Research Center at University of Pecs, Hungary. He is a 2013-14 Fulbright Visiting Research Scholar at the UF Center for African Studies. His project is also supported by the Hungarian Eötvös Postdoctoral Fellowship and the Campus Hungary program.*

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# Political Reform, Social Change, and Stability in the Sahel

LEONARDO VILLALÓN



The overarching goal of this large research project, funded by a generous three-year grant from the Minerva Research Initiative, is to study the factors affecting political stability in a set of six African countries—Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad—stretching across the arid Sahelian region of West Africa. Collectively they are among the least developed countries in the world, and they present some of the most significant governance challenges anywhere. At the same time, several have been in many ways laboratories for democracy in the Muslim world, and all have experimented in recent years with reforming institutions in the name of democracy. Unfortunately, developments in the region in the past few years, including the actions of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and especially the consequences of the collapse of the Qaddafi regime in Libya, placed significant pressures on these states. In the time between the submission of the research proposal and the initiation of the project, the region was rocked by the overthrow of the government in Mali and the subsequent displacement of state authority in the north of the country by an assortment of Islamist *jihadi* groups.

While these events pointed to the high degree of salience of the research topic, they also necessitated some refinement of our analytic framework. Our goal is to examine the interactive and reciprocal

effects of institutional reform on social change, in an iterative process of “micro-transitions” that cumulatively build to potentially more substantial transformations in state capacity, and that hence shape the prospects for stability or instability.

As with virtually all of Africa, the Sahelian states were directly affected by the intense pressures for political reform in the name of “democracy” of the early 1990s. While their initial responses were quite varied, all were obliged to undertake significant liberalization, reflected primarily in reduced state capacity to shape and control social forces. As a result, in all six countries significant social transformations were set in motion, and their political systems today are still being shaped by those forces. The collapse of Mali, and the eventual French-led international intervention to attempt to restore the country’s territorial integrity, however, also set in motion new dynamics affecting the entire region.

Over the course of the first year of the project, the research team, led by the PI and including three Ph.D. students in political science, devoted considerable time attempting to understand the causes and the consequences of the Malian collapse, and to developing a framework for comparative analysis of the six countries. Our weekly “Sahel Seminar” served as a forum for regular discussion and debate on developing events. Other activities included sponsoring invited speakers and experts, hosting a semester-long visiting scholar from Chad, and organizing a conference on the politics of institutional reform in the region featuring scholars from all six countries. In addition, scoping trips by each team member to two or three of the Sahelian countries in summer 2013 provided a basis for the more extensive fieldwork to be carried out starting in 2014. We presented our initial findings at the 2013 meeting of the African Studies Association, in a panel entitled: “Reconfiguring the Sahel: The Regional Effects of the Mali Crisis.”

Collectively, our efforts to date have led us to an initial observation that will be key to shaping the project as we move forward. In each of the six countries, the interactive processes of institutional reform and social change that have been carried out in the name of democratization had led to a proposed grouping of the six countries into three pairs on the basis of an observed outcome on the democracy dimension in the two decades from 1991-2011: Senegal and Mali (democracies); Chad and Burkina Faso (electoral authoritarian regimes); and Niger and Mauritania (unstable efforts at democratization). Our initial work has shown that the processes and patterns of democratization do intersect with processes of building resilient state institutions, but in complex ways that are in the end independent of the outcome on the democracy dimension. Within each of our pairs, then, we have identified one country where the two decades of political debates on reform appears to have strengthened state structures and another where it has not done so, despite similarities in terms of the democracy variable. Current efforts are aimed at trying to understand the processes that produce these varied results and the variables we need to consider in trying to build a broader understanding of these processes. Our fieldwork protocols are being prepared with the goal of ensuring that we are well placed to offer strong answers to this important question.

*Leonardo Villalón is professor of political science and African studies. He is former director of the Center for African Studies and is currently Dean of the UF International Center. He serves as principle investigator on the Minerva Initiative grant and coordinator of the Sahel Research Group.*

# Mobile Soldiers, Porous States: The Un-National Liberation of Southern Africa

LUISE WHITE



For several years I was all but obsessed with the situation of armies in exile in Southern Africa. Starting in the 1960s, the armies of the national liberation movements of Southern Africa tended to be based in, and fight from, nations other than the ones they were struggling to liberate. Southern Africa reveals regional system in which national liberation was conducted in a closed circuit of acronyms and camps (guerrilla and refugee) that may have strained ideas about nations and citizenship from the start. The best example is perhaps Umkhonto wa Sizwe (MK), the ANC's army in exile, which never entered South Africa as a fighting force. It did however fight in Angola, where it was based, for the ruling party, the MPLA, in its long civil war. Because of the disputed border between northern Namibia and Angola, many freedom fighters went from the MPLA to UNITA to SWAPO. There were the Katangans, a group of soldiers who had been Moise Tshombe's personal guard in Katanga and fled to Angola in 1962 where

they fought for the Portuguese and then the MPLA. Zimbabwe had two guerrilla armies fighting for its liberation from white, minority rule: ZANLA in Mozambique and ZIPRA in Zambia; Zimbabweans entered Zambia via refugee camps in Botswana. ZIPRA's army in Zambia was larger than Zambia's own, and it may have provided more support for the government than the Zambian army did, while the government of Mozambique, itself a former guerrilla movement, found it as difficult to convince ZANLA to stop fighting in 1979 as it had been to get them to start in 1974. FRELIMO supported and tried to arrange international funding for a third Zimbabwe guerrilla army in 1977.

In 2011, I began to plan a small workshop where scholars could meet and talk about this. With Miles Larmer, then of the University of Sheffield, I organized a small workshop to be held at Sheffield – equidistant between North America and Africa – and was able to pay everyone's accommodation with funds from the Center for African Studies matched by the UF Office of Research. At the end of March, 2013, ten scholars – two from the US, five from Africa, two from the UK, and one from Europe – arrived the day before the biggest snow storm to hit Sheffield in a decade. With the aid of some excellent photographers among us, we trekked to our conference venue and spent two days in extraordinary discussion. All the papers complicated the questions of what exile and proxy armies meant. There were several papers on borders – one on negotiating the crossing the border from what was then Rhodesia to Botswana, and two on how the disputed border between Namibia and Angola created relations between and within guerrilla armies. There were three papers on training camps, one on SWAPO's camp in Tanzania in the 1960s, another on MK's camp in Angola in the 1970s, and one on a ZAPU camp in Zambia where the man in charge of security had defected from

the Rhodesian police. One paper detailed the very gentle treatment of South African prisoners of war in Angola, while another depicted the apartheid era police unit whose covert actions took place across the entire region. There was also paper on the Katangans and their circuitous history and convoluted movements fighting in Angola. Six of these papers are being prepared for a cluster of articles to appear in the *Journal of Southern African Studies*.

*Luise White is professor of history and CAS affiliate faculty.*



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# Environmental Risk, Human-Animal Health Systems, and the Socioecology of Maternal and Child Health in African Pastoral Communities

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ALYSON YOUNG

My research in 2013 has been devoted to a diverse set of projects centered on environmental risk, human-animal health systems, and maternal and child health African pastoral populations. Essential to this research has been a focus on how responses to environmental uncertainty shape caregiver-infant interactions and child health among Datoga agropastoralists in northern Tanzania and the mechanisms that link pastoral livelihood strategies to patterns of human and animal health in eastern and western Africa.

Ongoing research on perceptions of environmental risk, human-livestock disease interactions and water quality among Datoga in Tanzania (initially funded by a UF Humanities Enhancement Grant) recently culminated in a paper entitled, “Global Convergence in Ethnotheories of Water and Disease” that appeared in *Global Public Health*. The paper uses data from nine different sites across the world, including Tanzania, to examine cross-cultural perceptions of waterborne infection and their relation to public health messaging.

I also presented a paper at the American Anthropology Association annual

meeting entitled, “Maternal Perceptions of Breastmilk Quality, Breastfeeding Decisions, and Child Growth Among Agropastoral Datoga.” This paper uses longitudinal data collected among mother-infant dyads in Tanzania to explore the effect that maternal perceptions of breastmilk quality have on patterns of mother-infant interaction, breastfeeding decisions, and child growth. I’m currently in the process of revising the paper for submission to the *American Journal of Human Biology*.

The LCC-CRSP series report, “The Nexus of Gender and Nutrition: A Literature Review” came out in early 2013 as an outcome of collaborations with Sarah McKune, Sandra Russo, and a LCC-CRSP workshop on livestock sustainability and climate change held in Senegal in 2012. The report discusses the interaction between climate change, gender and nutritional outcomes among African pastoral communities. The report was produced with significant help from Therese D’Auria Ryley, a graduate student in anthropology and current FLAS fellow in Wolof.

Finally, I’m involved in a proposed interdisciplinary project in northern Senegal that examines the interaction between seasonal environmental fluctuation, parasitic infection, and human and animal health patterns in five rural communities along the Senegal River. The proposed project brings together a team of researchers from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Alyson Young), College of Agriculture (Adegabola Adegosan), and the College of Veterinary Medicine (Jorge Hernandez, Sarah Reuss, and Heather Walden) as well as members of the Senegalese Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health. Senegal, like many places in Africa, has suffered significantly and disproportionately from the local effects of global climate change. In fact, the term “desertification” took hold in the academic literature as a result of the drought in

Senegal between 1968-1972. Sahelian Africa is expected to experience a 4°C average rise in temperature and 20% decline in rainfall over the next 100 years. The impacts of these changes are most likely to affect the health and nutrition of women and children in poor households, particularly in areas of northern Senegal where women take primary care of livestock and often ensure up to 80% of agricultural production.

The goal of our proposed project is to develop and consolidate a long-term partnership between UF, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture to investigate key issues that affect the sustainability of livestock systems and health of animal and human populations in changing environments. The project specifically proposes to: 1) estimate seasonal changes in prevalence of gastrointestinal parasite burdens and nutrition among small ruminants, women, and children in three communities of northern Senegal; 2) compare the efficacy of different forage types for reducing parasite infections and improving nutritional status of small stock; and 3) identify whether there are specific sociodemographic or economic factors, such as changes in livelihoods or household production activities that impact the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites and nutritional health of community members. Funding status for the project under the Feed the Future Innovation Lab initiative is pending, however Dr. Hernandez and colleagues received a seed grant from the College of Veterinary Medicine for collection of pilot data to move the project forwards.

*Alyson Young is assistant professor of anthropology and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.*



# The Influence of an Agricultural Mosaic on Small Mammals and Their Ecosystem Services

KAREN BAILEY

This summer I began field research for my dissertation project on small mammals in southern Africa. The goal of the dissertation research is to understand how different land use practices and patterns in an agricultural landscape alter small mammal communities and how those alterations influence human and environmental health. Agriculture accounts for over 40% of the earth's land use. The dominance of agriculture has created landscapes with interspersed patches of highly cultivated land, grasslands, urban and suburban areas, and forests. This has led to declines in biodiversity, decreases in water and soil quality, habitat fragmentation, and declines in ecosystem health. Healthy ecosystems provide services including food, timber, pollination, nutrient cycling, stability, and water purification and small mammals can play an important role in maintaining these services. Changing land use patterns have the potential to drastically alter and inhibit these roles. I sought to understand how continued land use change will influence ecosystem health in terms of small mammal ecosystem services. This research was conducted primarily in Swaziland, with one site in South Africa and is particularly important in a developing nation, where a significant portion of the population is directly dependent on the land.

While agricultural intensification and population growth are often followed by declines in biodiversity, some research suggests agricultural landscapes may retain or increase diversity and ecosystem health. The configuration and pattern of the surrounding landscape may influence this. I began my research by using satellite imagery and remote sensing techniques to categorize land use and land cover in Swaziland and parts of South Africa. In doing so, I was able to look at historic changes in land use and land cover and select sites with

varied landscape configurations to sample ecosystem health in the region.

Having categorized the landscape, I aimed to understand ecosystem health using small mammals as a proxy. Small mammals include rodents (mice, rats, voles, gerbils) and shrews. They are ideal study species because they are widely distributed



in all land use types and they play important ecological roles, exploit a wide variety of resources, and are important prey species, herbivores, disease vectors, and seed predators. Research was conducted during the summer and fall of 2013 in several of the dominant land use types in Swaziland. These included sugarcane plantations, which are an important commercial crop, protected areas and nature reserves, ranches and grazing land, and homesteads with subsistence agriculture. Using Sherman traps (small collapsible traps), small mammals were trapped all over the Swazi lowveld. I obtained data on abundance and species richness and collected blood, fecal, and tissue samples to conduct genetic and

disease analyses. In this way, I can begin to understand how the landscape and land cover influence small mammal diversity (a proxy for ecosystem health) and small mammal parasite load (which has implications for disease spread to humans). I also piloted experiments to understand how small mammal roles as seed dispersers and seed predators vary with land cover.

I will return to the region in Spring 2014 in order to account for seasonal variation and will replicate the research in 2015 as well. Further, I will conduct interviews and surveys with land owners and farmers to determine management of small mammals and perceptions of overall ecosystem health which will be helpful in future land management plans.

*Karen Bailey is a PhD student in wildlife ecology and conservation. This project funded by the Gates Millennium Scholars Foundation, the Center for African Studies, the Office of Research, and the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.*

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# Coalition Politics and the Evolution of Electoral Systems in Francophone Africa

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MAMADOU BODIAN

During summer 2013, I was able to travel to Senegal, Mali and Niger for my pre-dissertation research. The initial purpose of this research was to collect empirical data on elections and electoral systems in order to write a well-informed dissertation proposal.

My focus on the origin and change of electoral systems is informed by the empirical puzzle that a number of French African countries which were under the same electoral system during the colonial period chose different electoral systems during the “authoritarian rule” (after the 1960s) and throughout the democratic period (after the 1990s). For instance, Mali has continued to use the two-round majority-runoff formula inherited from the colonial administration while Senegal has shifted from a pure proportional representation system in 1978 to a mixed electoral system since 1983. Niger has been using a proportional representation system since 1991. Whether the initial electoral system is maintained or change largely depended how actors and groups mobilize in the process of institutional design. The purpose of my research is to examine how coalition politics account for the divergence in patterns of electoral systems in three countries (Senegal, Mali and Niger) that share many background conditions.

I largely spent summer 2013 doing archival work and collecting both published and unpublished documents on elections and electoral systems. I was able to conduct semi-structural interviews with key actors working on electoral issues in order to gauge the trajectory of electoral systems in Mali, Niger, and Senegal since the colonial period. These actors include civil servants, leaders of political parties, journalists, civil society activists, and academics. I was also fortunate to be in Mali a few weeks before the July 2013 presidential campaign. I was able to follow the debates on the new arrangements of electoral system during the transition. The data I collected were primarily



meant to help to build an inductive theory of the origin and change of electoral systems in Francophone Africa and better prepare my dissertation fieldwork. As I move forward with my dissertation proposal, I am paying a close attention to the patterns of coalition-making and the process through which they affect the evolution and change of electoral systems.

In addition my pre-dissertation fieldwork, I have also followed the consequence of the Malian crisis of 2012 in Senegal. In fact, not only has this crisis threatened the sovereignty of the Malian state from an assault led by a Tuareg rebellion connected to Islamists affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, it also has far-reaching effects in West Africa and the Sahel. In Senegal, it has fueled two domestic concerns. The first effect is economic and is related to the disruption of the terms of trade between Senegal and Mali that began during the first five months of the crisis. The second is relative to the national security of Senegal. Perhaps, the main worry is associated with Islamist

threats. These domestic impacts of the Malian crisis in Senegal were developed more broadly in a paper I presented in a panel at the African Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting in November 2013 in Baltimore, Maryland.

*Mamadou Bodian is a PhD student in political science. Funding provided by the UF Office of Research, the Center for African Studies, and the Minerva Research Initiative.*



# Situational Analysis of Communities Bordering Sabie Game Park in Mozambique

LEANDRA CLOUGH



I spent the summer of 2013 working on a pilot project for governance in community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) conducted by the Southern African Wildlife College. The primary goals of CBNRM in these projects are to improve conservation and reduce poverty. To assist with monitoring and evaluation of this project, I conducted a situational analysis to gather baseline data on four communities bordering Sabie Game Park (SGP) in Mozambique, a private reserve that operates hunting safaris. SGP borders Kruger National Park in South Africa and is part of the Greater Limpopo Trans-Frontier Conservation Area. This area is of great importance for conservation of ecosystems and charismatic species such as lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo, and rhino.

My research included household livelihood surveys, informal interviews, and situational analysis workshops. The workshops consisted of participatory methods for developing a historical timeline, helps/hindrances in the development of the village, needs assessment, resource use, and community mapping. The results were

compiled into a typed report in Tsonga (the local language) with digitized maps and returned to the communities for use in future planning.

Mozambique achieved independence from Portugal in 1974 and soon after, the country experienced a long and violent civil war. As a result of the fighting, many people fled the region. Those that stayed were forced to seek shelter in the mountains and caves along the border between Mozambique and South Africa. The civil war ended in 1992 and many people began returning to their former homes. When SGP was created in 2000, some of these people were forced to relocate yet again from where they had settled inside the new park borders. The completion of a large electric fence around the game park has eliminated communal access to ancestral graves and water sources that are of particular importance in the dry season. In exchange for the land, communities were promised new water sources, schools, and clinics. To date, some, but not all of these promises have been fulfilled. As a result, many community members expressed animosity toward the park which has created mostly costs and few benefits for them.

Human-wildlife conflict is mitigated by the fence, although it still occurs. The most common issue is loss of crops from wild pigs, elephants, and hippos. Livestock losses from leopard, lion, or crocodile occur annually and human life is reportedly threatened by buffalo, elephant, or predators on occasion. These conflicts combined with the loss of access to the park itself have led many community members to be unsupportive of conservation. It is likely that receiving financial benefits from SGP would compensate the costs and improve attitudes toward conservation. This shared interest in wildlife can lead to fewer illegal activities in a region where rhino poaching is prevalent.

People in this region are primarily livestock owners and subsistence farmers that are heavily reliant on the environment for their own survival. Natural resource extraction includes firewood, timber, rocks, thatching grass, fish, game meat, wild-fruits, medicinal plants, and edible insects. Additionally, adequate land and water are needed for crop and livestock production. Because employment is low, cash is primarily obtained from selling livestock or charcoal. The heavy reliance on natural resources can lead to environmental degradation and increased vulnerability of locals. Income from wildlife can increase household economic standing and potentially reduce the threat of environmental degradation.

The results from this initial assessment can be used to guide the development of the pilot project in this region and to monitor its effectiveness. Before and after comparison studies can be conducted to see if conservation attitudes improve and poverty is reduced in these communities as anticipated.

*Leandra Clough is a second-year student in the Masters of Sustainable Development Practice Program. Support for this project provided by MDP/Center for African Studies and Southern African Wildlife College.*

# Fate and Transport of Phosphorus Fertilizer and Pesticides in a Northern Nigerian Soil

NASIRU DANMOWA



My summer 2013 travel grant was for the purpose of collecting soils samples for areas where cowpea, sorghum and millet are grown in Northern Nigeria. Initially, I planned to cover ten states in Northern Nigeria, but due to political unrest, my supervisory committee decided I should select an area that is important in production of these crops from any accessible states and do more intensive work. It was in this light that I chose to select Tulluwa, an area in Sokoto State. Before proceeding for the sampling, a permit for importing soil samples into the U.S. was obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) by my major advisor. The main purpose of the research was to collect soil samples from an important producing area of the aforementioned crops and use the samples to assess the fertility status of the soils as well study as the fate and transport of fertilizers and pesticides used during the production of these crops.

Obtaining permission was facilitated by Usmanu Danfodiyo University. Soon after receiving the request, and upon learning that the samples were going to be shipped to the University of Florida for analysis, the District Head of the village was very excited - so much so that

he assisted in organizing labor for the work which facilitated and eased the entire exercise.

Sampling was done by digging five soil profile pits in each of the previously identified sampling units (making a total of 15 soil profiles), describing them in the field, collecting relevant soil samples from each soil horizon in each soil profile (using standard criteria) and storing them for onward shipment to UF. Sites for digging the pits were selected randomly within a soil unit, while maintaining a distance of at least 300m between profile pits. Samples were also collected from surface soils (0-15cm and 15-30cm) around each profile pit (total of 12 samples per pit area and 60 per soil unit). The samples will be used to study

pesticide degradation in the laboratory at UF.

All samples collected were packed using the minimum guidelines contained in the USDA permit before delivering to the shipping company for onward shipment to the University of Florida.

*Nasiru Danmowa is a PhD student in the Department of Soil and Water Sciences. Funding for this project is from the UF Office of Research and the Center for African Studies.*



# Ethiopian Archaeology and the Archives

JUSTIN DUNNAVANT



For summer 2013 I was awarded a FLAS fellowship to study Amharic in preparation for my proposed dissertation research studying slavery and archaeology in Ethiopia. I had to travel to Boston University to attend the summer course and, to my surprise, discovered that I was the only student enrolled! With no prior background in Amharic, the intensive one-on-one classes with Dr. Telahun Gebrehiwot helped me advance from beginning to intermediate proficiency in the language.

While in Boston I also conducted archival research at Harvard University and University of Massachusetts-Amherst on the life and legacy of Dr. William Leo Hansberry. Although not widely known in the field of archaeology, Hansberry was the first African American archaeologist to study African archaeology and taught courses on ancient African civilizations at Howard University from the 1922 to 1959. He was also the first scholar to be awarded the African Research Award from the Haile Selassie Prize Trust and taught a number of prominent leaders, including Nigeria's first president, Nnamdi Azikwe. I recently submitted an article outlining Hansberry's teaching pedagogy and wider contributions to African archaeology for publication in the November 2014 issue of *The Archaeological Review*.

In addition to my research in archaeology, I also work closely with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program's African American History Project collecting

oral histories related to African-American life in Gainesville and the greater North Florida area. We recently received the 2013 Stetson Kennedy Vox Populi ("Voice of the People") Award for achievements in using oral histories as a means of furthering social justice. Over the past three years we have been exploring themes of racial violence, dispossession, education and community.

In 2014 I will be traveling to Ethiopia with Professor Steven Brandt and several undergraduate students to conduct archaeology in the southwestern Ethiopian highlands at the Mochena Borago Rockshelter. In collaboration with students from Addis Ababa University, Wolaita Sodo University and University of Cologne, we will explore human behavioral patterns associated with early human migrations. Home to the source of the Blue Nile, Axumite Kingdom, and one of the oldest continually written languages in the world, Ethiopia—and the wider Horn of Africa—is a region rich with historical significance and archaeological potential. While in Ethiopia I hope to also take the opportunity to locate a dissertation site and begin formulating research questions that

blend my interests in historical archaeology and African history. It is my belief that a better understanding of Ethiopian slavery will expand our knowledge of the East African slave trade and contribute to a more holistic understanding of what archaeologist Charles Orser has described as a "truly global perspectives on the African diaspora."

*Justin Dunnavant is a PhD student in anthropology and FLAS fellow (Amharic, summer 2013 and 2013-14).*





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# Processes of Democratization in the Sahel

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DANIEL EIZENGA

Over the course of summer 2013, I conducted more than thirty interviews with state, civil society and political party elites in Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Chad to prepare my dissertation proposal. In addition to the interviews I preformed this past summer, I was able to set up a network of contacts in each country. These networks will serve as the foundation of my future dissertation research in 2014. My dissertation project investigates how different regimes in the Francophone Sahel respond to pressures for political liberalization and how these responses affect political stability and state-society relations. I approach this question by analyzing three intersecting domains: civil-military relations, civil-society organizations, and political institutions. This study of democratizing processes—or their absence—utilizes a comparative framework between the contemporary regimes of Senegal, Chad, and Burkina Faso in order to examine their differences and similarities.

In Burkina Faso and Chad, ruling parties led transitions to multi-party electoral systems during the 1990s. Despite these changes, both ruling parties remained in power and both presidents have won all subsequent electoral contests by modifying constitutional term limits. In Burkina Faso, this occurred in conjunction with limited levels of political liberalization which allowed social organizations—such as the press, religious associations, and non-governmental organizations—to expand their activities and influence over society and politics. In Chad, civil society organizations were included in the transition process, but in contrast, the regime was able to negotiate the process of transition without undergoing significant liberalization. Interviews preformed during the summer of 2013 helped to substantiate this similarity in ruling-party entrenchment, but difference in level of political openness by gathering evidence that civil society associations in Chad had been coopted by the state whereas in Burkina Faso many organizations actively protest against policies advanced by the



ruling party without fear of reprisal.

The political trajectory of Senegal diverges from the electoral authoritarian regimes of Chad and Burkina Faso. Steady and incremental processes of political liberalization since independence have contributed to significant democratic gains in Senegal. During the first four decades of independence these processes occurred under the guidance of a dominant political party, but over the last three presidential elections there have been two turnovers of power and many configurations of political parties to form the majority and opposition coalitions in parliament. By analyzing these processes in comparison to those in Burkina Faso and Chad, my dissertation hopes to establish which strategies pursued by elites at the institutional level encourage or inhibit political liberalization and why.

Multiple FLAS awards to study Modern Standard Arabic contributed to my ability to engage with Muslim populations in each country as well as read the Arabic press in Chad. Finally, CAS also continues to offer support through an invaluable community of scholars and several opportunities for my professional development.

These include discussions and presentations at the regular meetings of the Islam in Africa working group, weekly Barazas from outside speakers, and SASA lunches for graduate student research reports.



*Dan Eizenga is a PhD candidate in political science and a former FLAS fellow (Arabic, 2010-2012). Funding for his pre-dissertation research was provided by the UF Office of Research, the Center for African Studies, the Department of Political Science, and the Minerva Research Initiative.*

# Woven History: Raffia Cloth in the Kongo

CARLEE FORBES



The Kongo have historically used raffia-made products to serve as signifiers of status and spirituality. My research investigates the long history of raffia products, beginning with its importance in the Kongo Kingdom (16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries), and continuing in the practices of Kongo peoples in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Past scholarly attention to raffia products focuses on small, intricately embroidered and embellished raffia textiles. These small textiles (about the size of a placemat)

featured intricate geometric designs and were used by the Kongo king, or *Mani*, as a status symbol. However, little attention has been given to the spectacular raffia mats used during funerary practices of the Kongo in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These mats are larger in size and feature both geometric and figurative designs.

My research explores continuities of use and pattern between the embroidered raffia textiles of the Kongo Kingdom with the raffia mats produced by the

Kongo people in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. For example, I identified a connection between Kongo cosmology and the interwoven matrices of the geometric patterns. Past scholarship focuses on the simple cross-patterns, but I have taken this further to reveal that the patterns are complex manifestations of the Kongo belief of the connectedness between the world of the living and the world of the dead. Therefore, by using these designs, the textiles signify important spiritual connections. Just as embroidered raffia textiles served as indicators of status, they also showed the important spiritual affirmation of the *Mani*. The *Mani* derives his power from the spirits. Thus, the textiles served as indicators of status and spirituality. The funeral mats, I found, serve an identical purpose. Whether through geometric or figurative motifs—all aspects continually serve as symbols of power and spirituality.

This research project grew out of my involvement in the “Kongo across the Waters” exhibition—a collaborative project between the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA) in Tervuren, Belgium, and the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art. Curators Susan Cooksey, Robin Poynor, and Hein Vanhee, encouraged my specific research on Kongo textiles as a part of the exhibition and publication. This led to a research trip to the RMCA in the summer of 2012 to view objects and archives. In this trip, I viewed many examples of these textiles and was able to use the accompanying collections data.

This research became the basis for my Master’s thesis and is included in the “Kongo across the Waters” catalog and exhibition didactics. I was also able to present my findings at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Florida State University Graduate Symposium in Art History, and a version of my paper will appear in *Athamor* in summer 2014.

*Carlee Forbes is a PhD student in the School of Art and Art History and a curatorial assistant at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art.*

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# Zanzibar: The Nine-Hour Revolution

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ANN LEE GRIMSTAD



I arrived in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in June 2013 to conduct my dissertation field research through February 2014. My dissertation aims to provide a multifaceted micro history of a short slice of time surrounding the January 1964 Zanzibar Revolution. This revolution has fostered many conflicting accounts but no single coherent tactical analysis of what transpired. It is still so politically sensitive that, at first, many Zanzibaris said it would be difficult to get people to talk. Having visited Zanzibar countless times over the last twenty plus years, I was fortunate to tap into long-standing networks in order to connect with relevant historical figures, many of whom have not previously told their stories. Even my location ties in to my topic, as my rooftop flat overlooks the Malindi Police Post, the site of the last skirmish of the Revolution.

My methodology has included archival work at numerous archives, intensive

interviews with people who played a role in the revolution, and informal discussions at a local *baraza*. I have asked open-ended questions about the individual's role in planning and implementation, as well as specific questions addressing various rumors and theories about the revolution. Finally, I am inquiring about the identity of the different actors as well as the reasons revolutionaries give for why they participated in the revolution. I have spoken with one of the last living members of the "Committee of 14," the group of mostly *vibarna* (day laborers) who have been credited with leading the revolution as well as a former policeman who researched and wrote a report in 1980 on the Revolution for Aboud Jumbe, the second President of Zanzibar. Equally ground-breaking are conversations with several of the Comrades of the Umma Party who had received military training in Cuba in 1962, and who formed the beret-wearing group of rebels saying "*Vanceremos!*" in the early days of the Revolution. Their attire and use of Spanish led to inaccurate western media coverage which speculated that the revolution was Cuban-sponsored and led.

Finally, I have also been part of a local *baraza* with an unusual political mixture of people, including a former member of the Police Mobile Force whose armory was attacked as the first target of the Revolution, as well as a Principle Secretary in the current government. Additionally, through an archival newspaper article and contacts in Uganda, I have located a

previously unknown wife of Ugandan Field Marshall John Okello, who was the initial face and voice of the Zanzibar Revolution. Therefore, after Zanzibar, I am heading to a remote village in northern Uganda to meet this wife, as well as other friends of Okello, to find out more about this revolutionary leader whose desire for power got him unceremoniously deported from Zanzibar only two months after the Revolution.

The opposing narratives of the Revolution that are regularly debated in blogs and *barazas* each entail factual details as well as conspiratorial imaginings. In my dissertation, I will deconstruct the narratives, situating and analyzing both the actualities and the roots of the conspiracies. At this juncture, it seems that what actually happened was that there were many separate plans that came together at the last minute, with various groups of people joining in when it began to appear that the government was actually toppled with much more speed and ease than almost anyone imagined was possible.

*Ann Lee Grimstad is a doctoral candidate in history. Research funding provided by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship.*



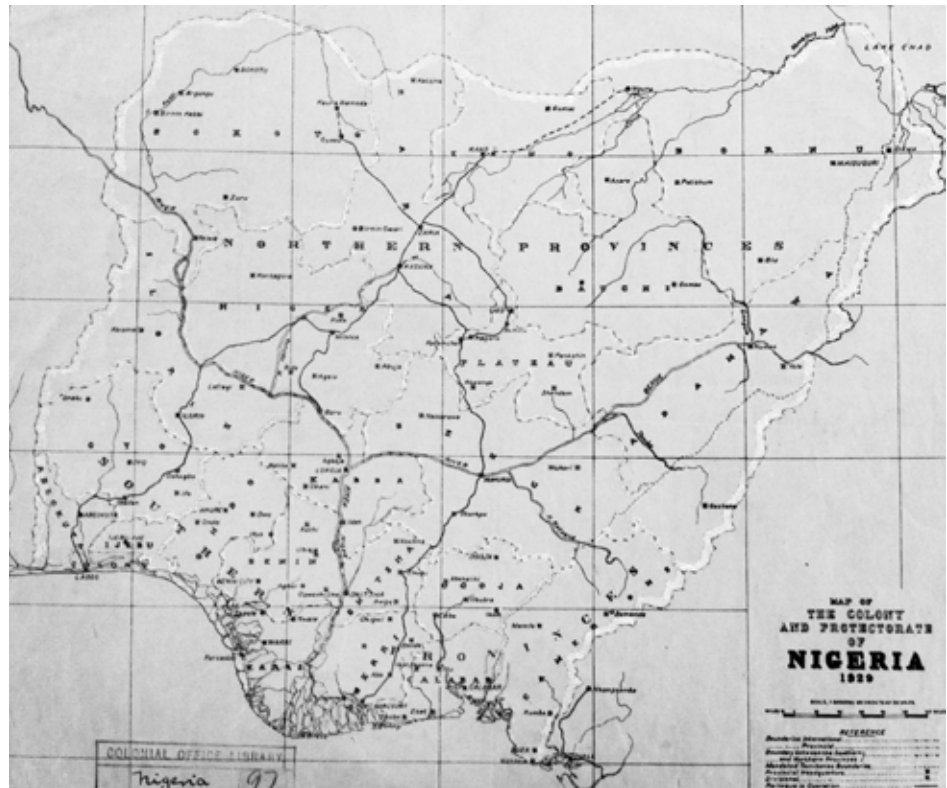
# Democratization and Colonial Legacies in Nigeria

EMILY HAUSER

Nigeria has experienced a tumultuous regime history - undergoing civil war, multiple regime transitions, and facing violent insurrections in the far south and north and episodic violence in Middle Belt. The central question of my research is why has Nigeria seen so many regime changes, both military coups and democratic transitions? What particular challenges does the country's history with variations of indirect rule present for post-colonial democratic institution-building?

This past summer, I spent six weeks conducting pre-dissertation research concerning colonialism in Nigeria at the UK National Archives. This pre-dissertation research allowed me to piece together administrative and political decisions from the top-level perspective of the British colonial administration. Some influential decisions include the 1914 amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates, Lord Lugard's initiation of policies of indirect rule and their subsequent variations across sub-national units, top-down administrative decisions to establish administrative regions, and the increasing autonomy granted to these units from the 1940s through Independence in 1960. This research included an analysis of Nigerian Government Gazettes, Original Correspondence, Colonial Reports, Native Administration policies, Blue Books of Statistics, and Administrative Maps. I used these resources to begin tracing the evolution of colonial period political and administrative systems, integration of Nigerians into these, and changes in the cleavage structures among domestic groups. Continued research will explore how these political developments affect democratic consolidation in the country.

Though the Nigerian polity has since 1960 undergone a number of administrative, political and constitutional changes, including moving from a three-region federation to 36 states, replacing a parliamentary system with a presidential one, and a series of constitutional changes



designed to ameliorate challenges associated with politically salient cleavages, decisions about political institutional designs made during the colonial era remain influential and often hotly contested. For example, a number of conferences have been scheduled in the upcoming year to reflect on the centennial of the 1914 amalgamation of the North and South. Nigeria's unity and efforts to consolidate democratic institutions are crucial contemporary issues.

This research in the UK National Archives provided a solid footing for continued dissertation research in the Nigerian National Archives next year. I was able to identify gaps in colonial administrative record which should be available via national, regional and local documentation of events and policies in Nigeria. While conducting research in the UK, I also spent several days a week studying intermediate/advanced Hausa at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) with Hausa linguist, Dr. Philip Jaggard. I hope to use this language knowledge in the field next year

during my dissertation research.

*Emily Hauser is a doctoral candidate in political science and former FLAS fellow (Hausa, summer 2012 & 2013). Funding for her research was provided by the UF Office of Research, the Center for African Studies, and Department of Political Science.*

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# The Legacies of Democratic Experiments in Africa: Ghana's Democratic Trajectory in Comparative Perspective

NICHOLAS KNOWLTON



More than two decades have passed since the end of the Cold War, yet in many ways the world continues to experience its consequences. As many countries, including those in Africa, lost support from their previous Soviet allies, and as future financial assistance became further conditional upon measures of good governance and democracy, many regimes were compelled to both liberalize and democratize in order to survive. Within Africa, such conditions were all the more significant, as many regimes were confronted with poor economic conditions held over from the previous decade. As a result of the increased difficulty of maintaining an authoritarian status quo, no fewer than twenty-eight African countries undertook “experiments” with democracy during the critical period between 1990 and 1994.

However, in spite of the democratic upsurge, instances of coups, crises, and institutional stagnation continued to challenge the democratic gains made during the inaugural period. By 2009, only half of the states previously experiencing such democratic openings could still be listed as nominally democratic, while only six could be widely considered as liberal democracies.

As comparisons of these countries' democratic paths reveal a striking disparity between aspirations and outcomes of democracy, such comparisons also reveal the puzzling case of one country experiencing an inauspicious democratic transition, yet maintaining what many would regard as a liberal democratic state

in Africa. How is it that Ghana, a country possessing many conditions unfavorable to democracy at the time of its democratic opening—including questionable inaugural elections, a dominating presidential system, and an uneven playing field between government and opposition parties—nevertheless managed to follow a steadfast path of democratization? Whereas all other countries with similar inaugural conditions have since produced widely recognized systems of mixed, or otherwise non-democratic rule, what factors explain why Ghana took a different path?

In answering this puzzle, my project investigates Ghana's political history after the Cold War and argues for the case of Ghana as indicative of a larger phenomenon when explaining contemporary democracy in Africa. In positing Ghana as a paradigmatic example of a “democratic trajectory,” the insights gathered from this analysis promise to assist in explaining the variation of regimes occurring in Africa after the Cold War. In short, my project assesses for variation among three factors present at the time of each country's democratic opening: strength of political opposition, relative state power, and foreign aid. Furthermore, this research also considers executive decision-making and the manner in which leaders of these democratizing countries chose to either tolerate democratic expansion (such as acknowledging the structural challenges to maintaining authoritarian rule) or to repress democratic demands through noting their privileged position with respect to the previously

identified factors. In other words, while domestic and international conditions structured the sets of choices for leaders during and following each democratic opening, each leader's perceived chances of maximizing their authority—whether democratically or otherwise—ultimately determined whether a given country would proceed along a democratic or non-democratic trajectory.

During my eight months of field research in Ghana, I have collected data through elite interviews among a variety of in-country experts within academia, government, and civil society, as well as through local archival and academic resources. Through these processes I have obtained the necessary information and data for my research that not only serves to identify the factors accounting for Ghana's particular trajectory of democracy, but additionally serves to test the comparability of such factors against the experiences of the twenty-seven other countries included in this dissertation.

*Nicholas Knowlton is a PhD candidate in political science. Funding for his dissertation field research, including foreign language training in Twi, was provided by the David L Boren Fellowship Program.*



# Investigating Gender Equity within Climate Information Services: Insights from Kenya

CHESNEY McOMBER

Changes in climate are posing many challenges for poor farmers in developing countries. Among those farmers most vulnerable to the environmental and economic shocks associated with climate change are women. Gender differences in agricultural responsibilities as well as access and control of resources present obstacles to adaptation and, thus, enhances women's vulnerability to climate change. With limited resources to respond to and recover from environmental shocks, farmers are dependent upon accurate and timely climate information to maximize their crop production in the new reality of changing temperatures and rainfall patterns. Those with access to climate information are better equipped to respond and adapt to the changing climate. Unfortunately, not all farmers have equal access to climate information. Despite recent initiatives by international donors as well as national level policy makers to promote the dissemination of climate information through Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), it is unclear that these initiatives have been beneficial to the most vulnerable farmers. This summer, I was able to conduct a study in Kenya seeking to explore these climate impacts and adaptation strategies with a focus on the communication of climate information to farmers. The overall purpose of this summer research was to understand social inclusivity and vulnerability within climate information services.

This summer research was part of a broader project analyzing social inequity within climate information services under the CGIAR's research program for Climate Change and Food Security (CCAFS), building upon previous research conducted in South Asia in February and led by a team of UF faculty, post-doctoral research



associates, and graduate students (Sandra Russo, Sarah McKune, Wendy-lin Bartels, Amy Panikowski, Smrittee Panta and myself). Our goal was to locate the gender gaps, by which women were excluded from the flows of climate information, and identify entry points minimize inequities limiting women's ability to access and utilize climate information. The research consisted of several interviews at the institutional level, exploring a particular climate information program called *Agromet*, which was facilitated by CCAFS and implemented by a local agricultural research institute in Nairobi over the course of the past year. Among those interviewed were representatives from the Ministry of Environment, the Kenyan Meteorological Department, the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute, the Ministry of Agriculture, and from local radio stations. We also conducted focus groups with farmers from Makuene, located in the eastern province of Kenya.

Remedying gender inequities first requires understanding in what ways those inequities become obstacles to accessing

information. The qualitative data collected from farmer focus groups provided important information as to why climate information has not been equally attainable for all. Focus group discussions led to an exploration of not only gender inequity but social inequity more broadly. Institutional interviews revealed gaps in communication between various stakeholders within *Agromet* as well as an absence of feedback loops which would allow for multi-level communication and assessment of climate information services from various stakeholders. Ultimately, in analyzing where inequities or areas of social marginalization occur at each stage of the communication transmission (from creation, to packaging, to delivery and utilization), we were able to identify where development policies could be useful in improving gender equity within climate information services.

*Chesney McOmber is a PhD student in political science and former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2010-12).*



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# Supporting Democracy: Preparing Malawi for 2014

ANNA K. MWABA

My current research analyzes the role of regional international organizations in encouraging democratic consolidation in their member states. Free and fair elections are central to the strengthening of democracy, especially for developing countries. As a result, election assistance has been a continued priority for international organizations over the last two decades. Good governance is necessary for addressing other development concerns, specifically, the improvement of health, education and financial sectors. However, the question that remains is whether or not these organizations have actually had an influence on the level of democracy in these countries and how.

This past summer, as pre-dissertation research, I interned with the United Nations Development Programme's Malawi Country Office (UNDP) and was placed on the Electoral Assistance Project. The aim of this project is to provide technical expertise and financial support to the duty-bearers of democracy in Malawi for the years 2013-2016, mainly the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) and the Center for Multiparty Democracy (CMD). This timeframe allows for the development of programs prior to an election and opportunities for the strengthening of the institutional capacity of these domestic organizations. For example, during my time there I was involved in the electoral budget finalization, meetings between political parties as they debated proposed changes to the Political Parties Act and the management of civic and voter education - done in partnership with the European Union (EU), National Democratic Institute (NDI), and National Initiative for Civic Education in Malawi (NICE). I was also exposed to many of the challenges that come with preparing for elections, such as communication issues that arise when dealing with a large number

of stakeholders, funding challenges for particular projects, and perceptions of the international community on the part of the citizenry.

During my time at the UNDP, I realized that the number of participants in election assistance and election observation has steadily risen over the years. Specifically, more regional organizations,



like the African Union and Southern African Development Community, in the case of Malawi, are sending in technical assistants, offering workshops for electoral commissions and creating opportunities for electoral commissioners to monitor other elections in the region. These activities are in addition to having observers present at the elections. This development highlights the importance of understanding the role of these regional actors and if their increased participation is enhancing the legitimacy of the electoral process. Current research does not isolate their effect, as they are often considered to be ineffective or mere instruments of the more powerful

countries in the region. But the reality, as I observed, suggests a degree of professionalization and autonomy that warrants closer analysis.

This experience allowed me to make connections with those involved in the electoral process, ranging from members of the donor community to those being trained to handle voter registration. I hope to return to monitor the elections in May 2014 and use this experience to further investigate the effect of election monitoring in ensuring the freedom and fairness of the electoral process. Being able to assess if there is any variation amongst the different districts will help in answering this question. Going into their fifth multiparty election, Malawi allows for closer examination of the effect of external actors on the democratization process. I am hoping that this case will allow for a better understanding of the relationship between regional international organizations and domestic politics in Africa.

*Anna Kapambwe Mwaba is a PhD student in political science. This research was supported by a Madelyn M. Lockhart Pre-dissertation Travel Grant, the UF Office of Research, the Department of Political Science, and the Center for African Studies.*

# The Use of Insults/Intemperate Language in Political Discourse in Ghana: a Critical Discourse Analysis

EMMANUEL A. OFORI

The focus of my research hinges on the realization of insults in Ghanaian political discussions and its social implications. In recent years, politics in Ghana has become characterized by personal attacks, vilifications, bickering, and insults. There have been calls from civil societies, leaders of political parties, chiefs, opinion leaders, and the clergy to put a stop to this alien practice, which is infiltrating into Ghanaian political discourse. Various attempts have been made to stop the politics of insults in Ghana. This is spearheaded by Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) that releases a weekly report to the general public shaming politicians who are involved in politics of insults. If a country could go to the extent of shaming politicians involved in politics of insults then it shows how deeply the issue of intemperate language has taken an entrenched position in Ghanaian political discussions.

Insults in politics have reached an all time high in recent political discussions, a phenomenon that is not Ghanaian. This prompts the question when and how did the political arena in Ghana become a space for insults and counter insults? Many have attributed this infamous development to the proliferation of broadcast media and believe to have a major role to play in the recent surge of insults. This research therefore seeks to analyze the recent development of insults in Ghanaian political discussions.

My summer 2013 research trip to Ghana offered me the opportunity to collate preliminary data for this research. I collected data from both radio and television stations, and newspapers. I also got the opportunity to interact with the Deputy Director of Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), Mr. Sulemana Braimah, who updated me on the progress of

‘shaming politicians project’ and promised to release some of their data to me. In addition, I established contacts with the Ghana Media Commission (GMC), Ghana News Agency (GNA), and Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA), and some private newspapers, such as The Daily Guide, The Informer and The Democrat. The most fascinating of all, is that, I visited



the Parliament House of Ghana and interacted with some members of Parliament to get their take on politics of insults.

This trip undoubtedly has had a significant impact on my Ph.D. dissertation. It has given me a needed direction and focus. Some of the topics and areas that I will be exploring in my dissertation are 1) tracing political discourse in Ghana from independence to the era of ‘pink sheets’; 2) inter-party political insults; 3) intra-party political insults; and 4) insults between and among politicians and others-religious leaders, media, civil society, and chiefs. I will also discuss how critical discourse analysis exposes inequalities of insults in public political discourse in Ghana, naturalization

of insults in the media, and the potentially serious social implications of insults.

*Emmanuel Amo Ofori is a PhD student in linguistics and graduate teaching assistant for Akan/Twi. This research was supported by the Jeanne & Hunt Davis Travel Fund, the UF Office of Research, and the Center for African Studies.*

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# Woven Livelihoods: Women Crafters and Protected Areas in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

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AMY PANIKOWSKI

From late April through June, I continued my fieldwork on the east coast of South Africa working with Zulu women and crafting materials. Every May, the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and Umlalazi Nature Reserve (every other May) allow women to harvest *Juncus kraussii*, a high quality reed mainly used for crafting bridal sleeping mats and traditional beer strainers. These items are valued in Zulu culture for their utilitarian properties as well as their cultural heritage. I interviewed individual crafters and crafting groups, most of which were women, about their harvesting and use of *J. kraussii*. Gaining insight into this economic opportunity for a vulnerable population contributes to the limited social research in and around these protected areas. In addition to this harvest, I also interviewed women who harvest iKhwani, which is like *J. kraussii* but found in open-access wetlands within KwaZulu-Natal. I focused my research on Mbongolwane Wetland, near Eshowe.

In South Africa, women head almost half of all households because of historical patterns of patriarchy, apartheid, macro-economic conditions, and HIV/AIDS. Economic opportunities for women are often limited and there is constant turnover in small business enterprises because of HIV/AIDS and a reduced number of younger women with adequate skill sets. Further, older women tend to be the primary caregivers for the sick and for their orphaned grandchildren or even take on other orphans in the community. Female-headed households are more likely to take



on the financial, emotional, and physical responsibilities of sustaining those in the household unit. As a result, the need to find alternative economic opportunities is greater in this population and can compromise their ability to support conservation of protected areas.

First, I traveled to Umlalazi Nature Reserve at Mtunzini where I had the opportunity to meet with the community outreach manager. UNR was not harvesting this year because not enough salt had washed over the reserve which results in less of the reed. The adjacent communities and their authorities work with the reserve to determine the management of the reed harvest. Next, I traveled to St. Lucia, the tourist town and entry point into the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa's first World Heritage Site. Here, the organization of the harvest is much more rigid and any Zulu may have access to harvest. The tent communities for the women were across the road from one of the gate entrances, out of sight of the main road leading to the town. Women will pay 55Rand/day to enter and harvest as much as they can carry. The harvesting areas are much bigger here and the size of the reeds enables women to make the large mats for wedding

ceremonies. My final stop was to interview women around Mbongolwane Wetland. I quickly got a sense of how harvesting from this wetland works – seemingly no rules on harvesting by community members and those who come from afar.

After spending time in these areas, I have a better grasp of the interactions between the protected areas, open-access areas, and interacting community members. I hope my dissertation will uncover issues relevant to protected areas managers, policymakers and practitioners who intend to work with crafter groups to improve their capacity. My experience meeting these crafters reinforced my desire to work with people living around and/or utilizing resources in protected areas.

*Amy Panikowski is a doctoral candidate in geography. Funding provided by the UF Office of Research and the Center for African Studies.*





# “We Have Always Been Fashionable” – The Significance of Fashion in Accra, Ghana (1953-2013)

CHRISTOPHER RICHARDS

After spending six months in Accra, Ghana during 2012, I have had the privilege of writing and researching my dissertation for the past academic year, with a completion date set for Spring 2014. My dissertation has dramatically shifted in focus since its initial inception, broadening in scope to include the earliest documentation of Accra’s fashion culture as recorded in the popular newspapers *The Daily Graphic* and *The Sunday Mirror*. As my dissertation will establish, a vibrant and complex fashion culture existed in Accra by 1953, consisting of two, co-existing spheres of fashion: one focused on imported, European fashions, the other on distinctly Ghanaian fashions. Both spheres of fashion were enthusiastically documented and debated in *The Daily Graphic* and *The Sunday Mirror*, with contributors tracking the latest trends in both European and Ghanaian fashion. One particularly fascinating example chronicled the rise and fall of an expressive style of kaba, known locally as “the Jaguar.”

Following Ghana’s independence, a third sphere of fashion emerged, manifested by garments that were European in style, but Ghanaian in their material. The introduction of this third category of hybrid fashions is evidenced by the creations of fashion designer Juliana Norteye, known popularly by her clothing label, “Chez Julie.” Norteye trained as a fashion designer in Paris during the late 1950s, returning to Accra in 1961. Norteye created garments that transformed established styles of Ghanaian dress and indigenous textiles into garments that reflected the desire of Accra’s elite to assert their cosmopolitan, yet distinctly Ghanaian identities. One of her most significant garments, which Norteye referred to as the “Akwadzan,” transformed the dress practice of wearing a wrapped cloth into a tailored garment that could easily be slipped over one’s head.

Following Norteye’s innovative

designs, my dissertation chronicles the presence, and absence, of Accra’s fashion culture throughout the subsequent decades. Due to the ephemeral and capricious nature of fashion, I have chosen to rely on the recollections of individuals, augmented by newspaper articles, to document the ebbs and flows of Accra’s fashion. I highlight the careers of several established designers,



such as Kofi Ansah and Joyce Ababio, who were part of a generation of Ghanaians who revitalized Accra’s fashion culture during the 1990s. Ansah was educated at the Chelsea School of Art and returned to Ghana in 1992, unveiling his groundbreaking “Blue Zone” collection in Accra. The collection consisted of denim garments printed with a botanical pattern derived from the archives of the British wax print company, ABC Textiles.

My dissertation concludes with a survey of Accra’s emerging fashion designers, including the brands Christie Brown, Ajepomaa Design Gallery, PISTIS,

and Aya Morrison, exploring how this younger generation of designers has collectively reinvigorated wax print fabric as a preferred material for contemporary Ghanaian fashion. Just as the designs of Chez Julie encapsulated elite Ghanaians’ desires to express their cosmopolitan, yet distinctly Ghanaian identities, by blending wax print fabric with European silhouettes, Accra’s contemporary designers are able to invoke similar sentiments for a younger generation. My dissertation ultimately attests to the paramount role of fashion in Accra and its ability to serve as an indicator of important cultural, social, and political shifts.

In addition to completing my dissertation, I have continued my collaboration with the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, developing an exhibition based on my dissertation research. The exhibition, *Kabas and Couture: Contemporary Ghanaian Fashion*, will include garments from Juliana Norteye and an assortment of garments from Accra’s emerging designers. The exhibition is scheduled to open in Spring 2015.

*Christopher Richards is a PhD candidate in art history and a former FLAS fellow (Akan/Twi, 2010-2012). He is currently funded by a School of Art & Art History Alumni Fellowship.*

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# The Life and Death of Medieval Ethiopian Priests: a Bioarchaeological and Osteological Investigation of Mummies from Caves in Northern Ethiopia

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ABIYOT SEIFU



In the summer 2013, I was able to travel to Yemirhane Kirstos (YK) and Melke Tsedik (MT) in Ethiopia for three months field research. During an archaeological survey, I discovered thousands of remarkably well-preserved mummified bodies of priests and other unidentified individuals inside the medieval cave monasteries of YK and MT in Ethiopia. Scholars have long known that clergy were purposely mummified and laid to rest since the 4th century CE, but who these mummified individuals were, why they were selected for mummification, what roles they played in Ethiopian society, and what specific methods were used in the mummification process, are virtually unknown. This is due to: 1) the absence of scientific studies of previously discovered mummies; 2) very limited archaeological excavations of medieval sites; 3) an over-dependence by historians upon the heavily biased writings of the Royal Chronicles; and 4) lack of detailed research on the oral traditions of clergy and the farming

communities they presided over. Previously unknown to scientists, the YK and MT mummies were interred sometime between the 12th and 16th centuries according to local oral traditions and limited monastic documents. Therefore, they offer an unprecedented opportunity to conduct systematic inventories and detailed bioarchaeological, DNA, osteological and forensic analyses of Ethiopian mummies.

The primary input for my dissertation is generated from the preparation of site map, inventories of the mummies, osteometric measurements of 56 skulls, archaeological excavation in Debre Guad Sellasse cave monastery, deciphered geez texts wrapped around the mummies, and oral traditions. Preliminary result of the nonmetric signatures extracted from the skulls in YK indicates that the mummified remains might have African ancestral origin, as opposed to the legendary oral traditions, which claim most of the remains were came from Europe and Middle East.

I was also able to conduct archaeological survey of three sites namely MT, Debre Guad Sellasse, and Tseha Michael. Dr. Steven Brandt (UF Anthropology) was able to accompany me to the first cave monastery, where we had to walk down 836 curved stairs to reach to the bottom of the hill, where the cave monastery is found. The MT cave serves as a depository for hundreds of previously unreported and extremely well preserved mummified bodies of priests.

I was able to carry out archaeological test excavation in Debre Guad Sellasse cave monastery mainly due to the expansion process. It provides the opportunity to see the primary orientation of the graves, and spatial arrangement of the tombs and mummies. Tseha Michael was the largest and deepest cave in the area formed along the Jamma escarpment. Unknown people used this cave in the past. Evidence of

ancient settlement such as archaeological remains large granaries, mummified bodies, and faunal remains are scattered inside the cave.

I hope to return to Ethiopia in summer 2014 to continue my research: Who specifically were these mummified clergies? What roles did they play in Ethiopian society before they died? Were all priests mummified, and if not why were only some selected? Who and why were the adults and children interred with the clergy? What specific methods were used in the mummification process and who performed them?

I am hoping the results of this research will shed considerable light on the historical archaeology of medieval Ethiopia, and especially the role of EOC priests in medieval society. It will create a first-of-its-kind database for future studies of Ethiopian historic mummies and skeletons. The study will also help Ethiopian agencies to nominate Yemirhane Kirstos monastery as a World Heritage Site.

*Abiyot Seifu is a doctoral candidate in anthropology. Funding for this research was provided by the UF Graduate School, the Department of Anthropology, the Office of Research, and the Center for African Studies.*

# Adapting Hospital Outreach to Direct Village Needs In Kitgum, Uganda

DANIEL STIRLING

My Master of Sustainable Development summer practicum was spent in Kitgum District, Northern Uganda. The flat, dense shrub land was green with the summer rains. This is the area where the now infamous Joseph Kony led the LRA in a 20 year war against the Ugandan government, trapping Acholi communities in the middle. Villagers have only returned to their lands in the last five years and some only as recently as two months ago have been able to afford the move from the satellite Internally Displaced Peoples Camps (IDPCs).

Many Acholi villages are painstakingly reclaiming neglected crop lands with only hand hoes and a few ox-drawn plows. Sorghum, millet, peanuts and a local bitter green called “bo” are the main staples. Those who have been back longer also earn income from cotton, sesame, cassava and teak wood cash crops. Protein comes from a robust supply of chickens, pigeons, goats and occasionally one of the cattle. Wealthier households have pigs, ducks and turkey. Earthen bricks fired in handmade kilns are a steady cottage industry during these rebuilding years.

I worked with St. Joseph’s Hospital, a non-profit hospital serving the Kitgum district and surrounding areas as far as South Sudan ([www.sjhkitgum.org](http://www.sjhkitgum.org)) and the Dr. Grau Albert Valencian Community Foundation, a Spanish NGO founded after the death of the first medical



superintendent of the hospital. My research was directly aimed at providing information to identify the community needs defining a new village outreach program staffed by the hospital and sponsored by the foundation. I surveyed and lived in six villages within the St. Joseph catchment area specifically chosen for the lack of past NGO intervention. I designed the survey instrument utilizing Focus on Opportunity, Access and Motivation (FOAM) methodologies often used in water and sanitation surveys and expanding them to malarial, diarrheal and maternal health issues. Getting to the hospital is no easy task as it can take a full day walk or a week’s income for taxi fare. Indeed, many people sleep on the concrete hospital patios to be close to loved ones or before making the next day’s journey home.

The village level knowledge of health risks and preventative measures is strong in most areas, which will allow us to tailor future education programs at specific knowledge gaps. My research identified access to and affordability of life saving goods such as mosquito nets, water cleansing tablets and oral rehydration packets as a much larger problem than health knowledge. I am now developing

project proposals for the foundation that include selling subsidized mosquito nets during the hospital’s vaccine campaigns and creating/training in-village nutrition experts. Both programs are designed to rely on the hospital’s expert workers and create village ownership of their own health outcomes.

Decades spent in IDPCs have greatly spread preventable disease knowledge and health seeking behaviors across the entire region. The Ugandan government and the international community have provided multiple borehole wells in each village providing easier access to relatively clean ground water. Years of fallow fields have made the harvests bountiful. These points are praised by the local leaders for the betterment of their communities but agricultural profits come slow as reclaiming fertile land can take years. This will not be easy work but the people of Kitgum District are not looking for a handout rather a helping hand up as they rebuild their communities.

*Daniel Stirling is a second year student in the Masters Degree in Sustainable Development Program. Funding provided by the MacArthur Foundation.*





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# Human Health Risks Linked to Irrigation with Treated Wastewater and Analysis of Gender Roles in Agriculture in Oued Souhil, Tunisia

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RAINA S. ZANTOUT

Improving the quality of treated wastewater as well as access to and availability of agricultural extension services could benefit farmers' health in Tunisia. Farmers in the Oued Souhil region of northeastern Tunisia have been irrigating with treated wastewater since the 1970s. The majority of these farmers use treated wastewater because of its availability; rainwater is unreliable, and ground water is considered contaminated. Wide-ranging literature has illustrated that treated wastewater presents human health risks that impact farmers, their families and consumers at varying levels. Farmers are especially at risk for contracting illnesses due to their direct contact with the water. In the first ever research of its kind in Tunisia, baseline surveys and a focus group discussion were carried out to assess farmers' knowledge of human health risks linked to irrigation with treated wastewater in Oued Souhil. The culmination of this research was a health and hygiene education and awareness workshop. It is critical to note that, at the time of this research, "treated wastewater" in Oued Souhil still appeared brown and had a foul smell.

The preliminary results of data collected reveal that 31% of farmers do not associate any health risks with treated wastewater. Farmers who reported an associated health risk primarily mentioned skin infections. Knowledge of risk for skin infections was acquired through either first-hand experience or word-of-mouth. There appear to be no extension services available for farmers advising them about the human health risks associated with treated wastewater. Due to several reasons, including lack of knowledge about health risks, the majority of farmers reported not using any precautionary measures while irrigating (i.e. boots, gloves and long pants).

During the workshop, farmers' health risks alongside recommended

precautionary measures were discussed. A survey conducted at the end of this workshop showed that all participants understood the health risks, and 89% of them would begin to use boots and gloves while irrigating. Follow-up surveys are recommended for 2014 in order to determine the long-term impact of this workshop.

Gender roles in agriculture were also addressed through baseline surveys and the focus group discussion, which was hosted only for women. Not surprisingly, undocumented and unpaid female agricultural and household labor were observed. Daily time poverty for women in this region ranged from 30 minutes to five hours and consisted mainly of collecting drinking water and hand-washing laundry. Many women lacked access to motorized modes of transportation, relying instead on walking and cycling everywhere. Transportation and other time constraints limit women's access to agricultural extension services.

Many women, however, acquired their farmland through either inheritance or purchase, suggesting no limitations on their land rights. Additionally, many farmers reported a high degree of female decision-making power in the household, including input to manage the family budget. These preliminary results indicate that while Tunisian women still battle issues related to time, information, and employment, they do enjoy land rights and a higher degree of decision-making than most other Arab nations. The implications of this data were presented at the Comparative and International Education Society conference in October 2013, and can be used to support other reports that suggest the importance of incorporating gender roles in development programs in the Middle East and North Africa.

The preliminary results of this research also suggest the need for improved



wastewater treatment. Some farmers reported concern about the associated animal health risks. Ultimately, best wastewater treatment, together with the use of precautionary measures and agricultural extension services, could minimize health risks for farmers. I give many thanks to the farmers in the Oued Souhil region of Tunisia, without whom this research would have been impossible.

*Raina Zantout is a second-year student in the Master of Sustainable Development Practice program and a FLAS fellow (Arabic, 2013-14). Funding for this project provided by the MacArthur Foundation.*

# Research for “Kongo across the Waters” Exhibition and Publication

SUSAN COOKSEY, ROBIN POYNOR, HEIN VANHEE & CARLEE FORBES

On October 22, 2013, the exhibition “Kongo across the Waters,” opened at the Harn Museum of Art. From October 2012 to October 2013, Robin Poynor, Susan Cooksey and Hein Vanhee (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren Belgium) and Carlee Forbes, (UF doctoral student in Art History) continued their research on Kongo art and culture and its influence on America for the exhibition and accompanying publication by the same title.

Poynor worked intensively with scholars in Louisiana, exploring the Kongo roots of Voodoo and American music. Poynor’s work with Ryan Gray, an archaeologist at the University of New Orleans, resulted in his essay on a rosary belonging to a Central African man whose remains were excavated in the oldest cemetery in New Orleans, dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A re-interment ceremony for the remains will occur in conjunction with the travel of the exhibition to the New Orleans Museum of Art in 2015. The rosary is also on display in the exhibition. Poynor also traveled to New Orleans in September 2013 to produce a film investigating musical traditions with ethnomusicologist Freddi Williams-Evans. For another section of the film, Susan Cooksey worked with filmmaker Houston Wells and University of Florida students who direct and participate in the Florida Invitational Step Show. The film is currently on view in the exhibition. Carlee Forbes did research on textiles and ivories for the publication and exhibition didactics. She also helped with exhibition design including the composition of a photographic montage based on her research on African American art.

In fall 2013, Cooksey travelled to Charleston, SC to investigate archaeological artifacts from the site of Dean Hall plantation that have cross marks linking them to



Kongo cosmograms. She also interviewed coiled grass basketmakers who continue a 300 year tradition linked to Kongo basketmaking and worked with Dale Rosengarten of the College of Charleston whose work focuses on African roots of Gullah baskets.

Hein Vanhee made three visits to Gainesville in 2012-13 in preparation for the installation of the exhibition and continued research for the book. Together, the curators looked at African American cemeteries, yard shows, carving traditions and ceramics. In Belgium, Vanhee mined archives in the Royal Museum for Central Africa and worked with other scholars to investigate the histories of objects in the collection, find archival images from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He located music clips from Kongo that visitors can hear in the exhibition as they view related musical instruments. Vanhee delved into Kongo commerce and cultural exchanges in Africa and the Atlantic world, along with historian Jelmer Vos (Old Dominion University). Their co-authored article appears in the publication.

Rebecca Nagy, director of the

Harn Museum was also able to secure an additional venue for the exhibition at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Museum in Atlanta, Georgia from May through September 2014. Afterwards, the exhibition will travel to the Princeton University Museum of Art and then to the New Orleans Museum of Art, completing its tour in May 2015. The curators have also planned the annual Gwendolen M. Carter Conference for February 21- 22, 2014 that expanded on the theme of the exhibition by exploring Kongo influences in the Caribbean and South America.

*Research by the curators was supported by the Office of the Provost, the International Center, the Center for African Studies, the College of Fine Arts, the School of Art and Art History, and contributions from private donors.*

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# African Languages Initiative (AFLI) Domestic Intensive Summer Program 2013

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AKINTUNDE AKINYEMI, CHARLES BWENGE & JAMES ESSEGBEY

The Center for African Studies (CAS) in collaboration with the Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures (LLC) at the University of Florida hosted the AFLI Domestic Intensive summer program for the third time on behalf of the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Structured as an 8-week intensive language program, the program successfully ran from June 6 to August 2 of 2013 under the co-directorship of Dr. Akintunde Akinyemi and Dr. Charles Bwenge. As was in the previous two summers, the 2013 AFLI program was another success story regarding the UF mission that has long recognized and diligently addressed the need for foreign language education by establishing strong foreign language programs which matches well with the AFLI's central mission: "to assist Americans acquire high proficiency in specific African languages in order to strengthen the United States' intellectual and economic competitiveness and enhance international cooperation for economic,

humanitarian, and national security."

The AFLI program is designed to focus on two main levels of proficiency, that is, enabling students at ACTFL's novice level (ILR 0/0+) to move to the intermediate level (ILR 1/1+) and those at intermediate level to advanced level (ILR 2/2+). In this regard, it prepares Boren scholars/fellows for an overseas immersion fall semester and other students for advanced training at their home institutions. Boren's overseas program includes a semester abroad of training in a critical African language, a life-changing cultural exposure, and real-world business experience. The overseas component focuses on enabling participants to reach further proficiency in the chosen African language. A total of six languages were offered in the AFLI 2013. These included Akan/Twi (beginning), Hausa (beginning & intermediate), Swahili (beginning & intermediate), Wolof (beginning), Yoruba (beginning & intermediate) and Zulu (beginning & intermediate). The program attracted 36 students from various universities across the country, 24 of whom

were Boren-funded and 12 were Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS)-funded. We extend our sincere appreciation to all institutions that enabled these students to achieve their educational goals. We were also lucky to have a dynamic and professional team of 10 instructors from various institutions including University of Georgia, Michigan State University, University of Mississippi, and University of Wisconsin.

In addition to the 4-hour morning classroom instruction (Monday-Friday), students participated in practicing their languages at the 2-hour afternoon conversational sessions (Monday – Thursday) which were facilitated by native speakers. Also, language groups participated in turn in preparing and serving meals for every Wednesday's dinner - popularly known as "Africa Eats Night." It was pleasing to see high levels of enthusiasm, motivation, and spirit of cooperation and *umoya* from all participants: students, instructors, conversational facilitators, host families (Saturday visitations), and CAS staff. Indeed, every participant played their part well and in the end it was another success story. We thank them all.

*Akintunde Akinyemi is associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC) and CAS affiliate faculty. Charles Bwenge is senior lecturer & Coordinator, UF Program in African Languages. James Essegbey is associate professor in LLC and CAS affiliate faculty.*





# Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report (SABER)

ANITA SPRING, ROBERT ROLFE, LEVY ODERA, YANG JIAO & FLETCHER CROWE

In May 2013, Dr. Spring presented the preliminary release of SABER, 2012-13 at the Plenary Session of the International Academy of African Business and Development in Accra Ghana. SABER 2012-13 is the second volume in the series that provides business information at a ready glance for the 19 largest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Each Regional Summary and Country Report highlight current features using six topics: Political Stability, Economic Growth, Trade and Agriculture, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Doing Business, Business Culture and Stock Markets, Infrastructure (Construction, Energy, Telecommunications, etc.), and Health and Social Aspects. Influences on countries and sub-regions from domestic and international entities, companies, investors, and governments are evaluated. Appendix A provides a comprehensive statistical index with quantitative and qualitative tables that have been constructed by Dr. Spring and Levy Odera on FDI and trade, political and legal aspects, agricultural and commodity production and sales, ease of doing business rankings, financial markets, and social, gender, health, and education variables. These data help to discern and evaluate the implications of business deals, FDI, imports and exports, business enablers and constraints, and political stability, as well as development assistance and business investments by African, Chinese, American, European, and other countries and businesses.

What is new in SABER 2012-2013? Although SABER 2011 contained information on China's FDI, SABER 2012-2013 has examined the subject in greater depth in terms of exports and imports to African countries, as well as in terms of infrastructure contracts for building construction (housing, stadiums, government buildings, and offices) energy (electricity and wind power), mining, telecommunications,

road, railways, ports, and airports construction, as well as joint ventures for airlines.

New statistical tables and data have been added on total values of imports and exports by commodity with U. S. and China; health data; telecommunications and internet bandwidth, democracy indices, and stock exchanges indices. In response to outside reviewers, a Summary of Business Culture has been added covering greetings, business meetings, titles and business cards, time, communication, bargaining and negotiation, gift giving, women and gender issues, tipping, personal space, eye contact, business dress code, and practices to avoid. A series of tables have been developed using the literature and personal experiences of SABER's authors and colleagues. The tables will subsequently be put on the

website so that readers can provide data for countries of which they are knowledgeable.

SABER 2012-13 is online at <http://warrington.ufl.edu/ciber/publications/saber.asp> and <http://web.africa.ufl.edu/>

*Anita Spring is professor emeritus of anthropology at University of Florida. Robert Rolfe is professor of international business at University of South Carolina. Funding for this project is by USED Title VI grants through the Center for African Studies and the Centers for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) at Warrington College of Business (UF) and the Moore School of Business (USC).*

## SABER Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report: 2012-2013



## AFRICAN STUDIES Q U A R T E R L Y

### FOUNDATION

The Center for African Studies founded the African Studies Quarterly (ASQ) in 1997 to promote research on Africa beyond that undertaken by University of Florida faculty and graduate students. It is an interdisciplinary, fully refereed, online open access journal dedicated to publishing the finest scholarship relating to the African continent. ASQ invites the submissions of original manuscripts on full range of topics related to Africa in all areas. To qualify for consideration, submissions must meet the scholarship standards within the appropriate discipline and be of interest to an interdisciplinary readership. As an electronic journal, we welcome submissions that are of a time-sensitive nature.

ASQ undertakes two kinds of publications. Most issues contain articles from a wide range of authors on diverse topics, as in Volumes 13 & 14:

- Ethiopia's Role in South Sudan's March to Independence, 1955-1991
- Hip Hop as Social Commentary in Accra and Dar es Salaam
- Securing Reform? Power Sharing and Civil-Security Relations in Kenya and Zimbabwe
- Becoming Local Citizens: Senegalese Female Migrants and Agrarian Clientelism in The Gambia
- Sons of the Soil and Conquerors Who Came on Foot: The Historical Construction of a West African Border Region

ASQ also publishes "At Issue" commentaries as well as special issues that focus on a specific theme, as with volume 11/2&3 guest edited by Ilda Lindell of Stockholm University titled "Between Exit and Voice: Informality and the Spaces of Popular Agency."

### REVIEW PROCESS

An internal editorial committee - composed of graduate students in African Studies across a wide range of disciplines - conducts the internal review of submitted manuscripts that are original and not submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere. Final publication depends on the quality of the manuscript and the associated external peer review process. For submission guidelines, matters related to the ASQ style, how to contact the ASQ, and other issues, potential authors should consult the ASQ website: [www.africa.ufl.edu/asq](http://www.africa.ufl.edu/asq) or contact the managing editor: [africanstudiesquarterly@gmail.com](mailto:africanstudiesquarterly@gmail.com)

# FLAS FELLOWSHIPS

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## ACADEMIC YEAR & SUMMER FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

The University of Florida's Center for African Studies anticipates awarding Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for the academic year. These fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) under Title VI of the U.S. Higher Education Act and are awarded to students combining graduate work in any academic discipline with African area and language studies.

Fellowships are offered for any one of the regularly taught languages (**Akan, Amharic, Arabic, Portuguese, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu**) as well as for other African languages for which instruction can be arranged.

Academic year fellowships provide a stipend of \$15,000 and cover the cost of tuition and fees (12 credits per semester). Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and be admitted to a graduate program at the University of Florida.

Summer fellowships provide students with an opportunity to undertake intensive African language study in any USED approved program. Summer fellowships cover tuition at the host institution and provide a stipend of \$2,500.

***For more information, including application deadlines, please visit [www.africa.ufl.edu/graduatestudies/flas](http://www.africa.ufl.edu/graduatestudies/flas).***



# THANKS TO OUR DONORS

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## **MADELYN M. LOCKHART**

### Graduate Research Award



In 2004, Dr. Madelyn Lockhart, professor emeritus of economics and a former Dean of the Graduate School, established an endowment to support an annual award for graduate students doing pre-dissertation research in Africa.

## **JEANNE & HUNT DAVIS**

### Graduate Research Award



In 2004, Dr. R. Hunt Davis, professor emeritus in History and a former director of the Center for African Studies, and his wife, Jeanne, established an endowment to support graduate students doing pre-dissertation research in Africa.

## African Studies Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Award

The generous contributions from Jeanne & Hunt Davis and Dr. Lockhart has made it possible for the Center to provide support for graduate students each summer doing fieldwork in Africa. In an effort to expand our capability for supporting graduate students, Dr. Davis has taken the lead in helping CAS work toward establishing an additional endowment.

The African Studies Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Award now has over \$20,000 in commitments and is moving toward the goal of \$30,000, which will provide more support for graduate students. Please see the following page for more information about this fund and how you can contribute.

The Center would like to thank the following individuals who have contributed to our various funds in the past year (with an extra special thanks to those who are working to build the Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Fund).

**ANONYMOUS**

**JOE K. AMOAKO**

**CHARLES BWENGE**

**PAUL A. CHADIK**

**SUSAN COOKSEY**

**ABRAHAM C. GOLDMAN**

**BARBARA McDADE-GORDON**

**MUSSA IDRIS**

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**LEONARDO A. VILLALON**

**LUISE S. WHITE**

# CONTRIBUTE TO GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ON AFRICA AT UF

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**FUNDS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS TO TRAVEL AND CARRY OUT RESEARCH IN AFRICA ARE IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY, ESPECIALLY IN THESE TRYING ECONOMIC TIMES!**

Beyond their training at UF, field research in Africa is absolutely essential for students to write the kinds of dissertations on which they will be able to base successful careers, whether in academia, government, NGOs, or the private sector. The major dissertation research awards for Africa are limited in number and increasingly competitive. In order for Ph.D. candidates to be competitive for these awards they must demonstrate a strong familiarity with the proposed field site and the capability to carry out the proposed work.

As a result, preliminary summer research trips to lay the groundwork for dissertation fieldwork are invaluable for making students competitive for national awards for dissertation funding. Helping our students launch their professional careers in this way is one of our top priorities at the Center for African Studies.

The Center for African Studies has recently established a fund with the goal of creating an endowment of at least \$30,000, so as to generate the revenue for an annual award to help a student carry out pre-dissertation research in Africa. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, we (and future generations of UF Africanist students!) would be very grateful. For instructions, please visit our website:

<http://africa.ufl.edu/about/make-a-gift/>

If you are a UF employee and would like to contribute via payroll deduction, please contact CAS for assistance.

***If you have any questions or would like more information—please contact Abraham Goldman (CAS director) at [agoldmn@ufl.edu](mailto:agoldmn@ufl.edu) or 352-392-2183***

## THE CENTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Anna Mwaba for coordinating this project, the students and faculty who contributed reports and photographs, and Luca Brunozzi for the design and layout of this report. Cover photos by Chesney McOmber and Amy Panikowski.





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