



Center for

AFRICAN STUDIES

RESEARCH REPORT
2011



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

ABOUT THE CENTER

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

Founded in 1965, 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

We are very pleased to present the University of Florida's Center for African Studies (CAS) 2011 Research Report. The following synopses provide an overview of the diversity and depth 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 music, dance, literature, and the arts to natural sciences and wildlife conservation, and from political, social, and economic change to the human and environmental impacts of disease, climate change, and globalization.

Cumulatively, this research is marked by three characteristics that reflect CAS's mission, philosophy, and context. It is, first of all, work that is directly engaged with the continent and its peoples, both in terms of research topic as well as in recognition of the importance of collaborative engagement with our colleagues in Africa. Secondly, while our faculty and students are rooted in disciplines and the perspectives and methods of these disciplines, most of their work is highly interdisciplinary, as illustrated by the very high proportion of research projects and activities that cross and blend disciplinary approaches. 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. With respect to this goal, we are particularly pleased with the dynamism of our interdisciplinary working groups, which focus on such diverse areas relevant to Africa as natural resource management; governance and development; Islam and Muslim



societies; health and society; cultural heritage management; the arts; and the dynamics of language change. Finally, the work reported here reflects the important interconnections between research and education. The many linkages between the faculty and student reports below reflect the conviction that our mission as part of a major research university involves both producing new knowledge and understanding, and training and preparing a new generation of scholars equipped to address a wide range of issues.

In addition to work by individual and smaller groups of researchers and students, several larger collaborative projects included in this report help illustrate the range of interdisciplinary work at UF and CAS. Our affiliated faculty at the Harn Museum and the School of Art & Art History are preparing a major exhibit of Central African Kongo art in collaboration with the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium. The first edition of the Sub-Saharan Business Environment Report (SABER) was completed in collaboration with the Center for International Business Research and Education (CIBER). Several ongoing projects have examined interconnections among tourism, development, and livelihoods in southern Africa.

A State Department grant supported the "Trans-Saharan Elections Project," which links CAS to partners in six countries across the Sahel. In addition, the new Masters in Development Practice (MDP) degree, jointly offered with the Center for Latin American Studies, took in its second class and hired a new Director.

We are pleased to acknowledge support 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. Funding from this grant helps us to continue our work and to support students through Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. These students span a wide range of departments and colleges, and the language as well as disciplinary training the FLAS fellowships facilitate helps prepare highly skilled and knowledgeable new scholars and researchers who have deep understanding of African societies and environments.

We trust you will enjoy reading about the varied and interesting research being carried out by our faculty and graduate students. For more information about CAS, please visit www.africa.ufl.edu.

Mental Health, Humanitarian Intervention, and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Liberia

SHARON AMBRAMOWITZ

The violence of the Liberian civil war was widely recognized as being particularly devastating for civilian populations, leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands, the commission of numerous atrocities, and the pervasive presence of violence throughout many regions of the country. In the eight years following the conclusion of the civil war, a vast humanitarian effort has been underway to rebuild Liberia – including rebuilding the state and security sectors, promoting democratization, providing health and human services, and creating employment opportunities. However, the status of mental health in West Africa’s post-conflict reconstructions is questionable. Neither medicine nor social service, neither human right nor security matter, and therefore neither fish nor fowl, newly reconstituted state entities and international humanitarian organizations aren’t quite sure how to deal with the unique challenges posed by the mental health sector’s specific needs.

In my research, which is currently being developed into a book entitled *Healing the World: Trauma Healing, Humanitarianism, and Psychosocial Intervention in Liberia*, I examine how healing the trauma of the Liberian civil war became a proxy form of humanitarian intervention that came to substitute for much-needed psychiatric services throughout the country. In my research, I studied the varieties of forms of psychosocial assistance, locally experienced traumas, and national and international mental health policies in order to observe how specific forms of health governance were made available in sectors designated “high priority,” while issues like psychiatry and mental health languished on the back burner for years at a time. Throughout my research, I study how humanitarian organizations used psychosocial interventions, alongside other techniques like public media, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, and human rights trainings to sway the Liberian population to reject war and accept peace. I question



how these interventions came to substitute for much-needed mental health care; and relatedly, how local understandings of mental health, illness, trauma, and insanity were integrated or neglected in contemporary humanitarian practice.

A new trajectory of my research follows gender-based violence interventions in conflict and post-conflict settings across Africa. In this new project, I examine local ethnohistories of gender-based violence, and uncover culturally encoded forms of gender-protection in spaces that are currently dominated by violence and conflict. This research, which began in Liberia but quickly expanded to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, challenges global conventions regarding the role of “culture” and “tradition” in promoting gender violence; and advances an alternative theoretical framework for thinking about the patternings of gender-based

violence, and the utility of the globalized forms of gender-based violence intervention that we find recurring in African conflicts today.

Sharon Abramowitz is assistant professor of anthropology and African Studies.

Queen Sarraounia and the Civilizing Mission: Perspectives on the Politics of Memory

ANTOINETTE TIDJANI ALOU

“What is there in common between the University of Florida, Niger and Jamaica?” is a riddle that Leonardo Villalon proposed to me two years ago on my verandah in Niamey. The answer, which he had found on the University’s website, had everything to do with my family’s itinerary and nothing to do with research. Today, though, the polyvalent answer would be “Sarraounia” (a keyword of my research over the last ten years), Fulbright, and the Center for African Studies.

So, who is Sarraounia? Used generically, Sarraounia (Hausa for “queen” or “female chief”) may designate various functions of female leadership. Among the Azna of Lougou, Bagagi, and elsewhere—predominantly animist until recently—this title refers especially to a female lineage that held noncentralized political and religious authority. But religious authority has long become the only remaining, and contested, prerogative of the Sarraounia. History books, which are far too few, largely ignore the queens, priestesses, and female chiefs of the recent past, thus depriving Niger of powerful national female role models. The function of this peculiar religious, and formerly political, leadership is inscribed in the social, cultural, and political world of the Azna, whose worldview, based on cults of nature and its spirits, recognizes the crucial complementarity of the male and female elements of the cosmos and of society.

In Niger today, the title Sarraounia, generally treated as a name, conjures up images of Sarraounia Mangou, the most famous of the Sarraounias, thanks to her resistance to French domination, led by Captain Paul Voulet, at the head of the Mission Voulet Chanoine. My current research, funded by the Fulbright Senior Scholar Program and hosted by the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida, is a transcultural and multi-genre comparative approach to the reinvention/representation of postcolonial memory examined within a specific, history-inspired cultural constellation, seen



from the perspectives of both the colonized and the colonizer.

This research is taking in a book project entitled: *Queen Sarraounia and the Civilizing Mission. Perspectives on the Politics of Memory*. This work aims at contributing to the general debate on narrative, history writing, myth-making and identity construction in the local and global arenas. It looks specifically at how the historical narrative, imbued with epic intentions, originating in the colonizing as well in the colonized space, explores and expunges the objective of amnesia of an empire’s unacknowledged and silenced violence. The book describes and analyzes what happens when the fires of the counter-project of remembering, in the forms of the novel, the film, and the field (popular and official representation and cultural practices and productions), catch and grow into a constellation of myth and counter-myth as African and French writers, film makers,

and others take up positions on either side of the postcolonial fence in an oppositional creation of heroes/anti-heroes and an intertextual discourse on the meanings of power, knowledge and history. The work brings attention to a deliberately erased page of colonial history of the final years of the 19th century and its postcolonial local and global, narrative and ideological, creative and discursive, rural and urban repercussions and extensions. It focuses on the little-known region of the Nigérien Sahel and foregrounds unexplored arenas of globalization, identity construction, gender, power, and religion.

Antoinette Tidjani Alou is professor of comparative literature at Université Abdou Moumouni, Niger. She is a 2011-12 Fulbright Senior scholar funded by the U.S. Department of State and hosted by the UF Center for African Studies.

Non-State Actors, Public Goods, and Political Accountability in Africa

KATE BALDWIN

My current research analyzes politics in contexts where the state has a limited role in the provision of basic public goods. In many places in the developing world, traditional leaders, NGOs and other non-state actors provide important local public goods. I am interested in understanding the circumstances under which non-state actors are effective in providing local public goods, and the effects their activities have on political accountability, state building and distributive politics. Below, I describe two of my current research projects on these topics.

In Liberia, clan chiefs play a key role in local governance. Interestingly, there is great variation across communities in the mode of selecting clan chiefs. Together with Eric Mvukiyehe at Columbia University, I am conducting a project that investigates whether communities where clan chiefs are selected through participatory processes have more accountable and effective local governance institutions. We identify the effects of participatory processes by taking advantage of a break in the process of selecting clan chiefs in Liberia at the end of the civil war. At the end of the war, local chiefs in some areas were appointed by higher level authorities, while chiefs in other areas were selected by their communities; however, all chiefs who became incapacitated after 2002 were replaced by chiefs selected through participatory processes.

This project draws on rich survey data and outcomes from behavioral games conducted with members of more than 70 clans in Liberia. The surveys and behavioral games were administered in December 2010 and January 2011. The

results show that the participatory selection of chiefs results in more consultation at the community level and increased overall levels of participation. However, it also reduces levels of contributions to local public goods, suggesting chiefs selected by community members may be less effective at enforcing cooperation. We are currently in the process of conducting open-ended interviews with clan chiefs and elders in a smaller number of communities in order to understand why clan chiefs selected



in participatory processes are less effective in enforcing cooperation.

Across Africa, NGOs play an important role in local public goods provision and service delivery, and NGOs are often viewed by donors as an important tool for delivering aid in contexts where governments are corrupt. But do the governmental activities of NGOs have (unintended) consequences on the political engagement of citizens, their evaluations of their elected representatives,

and their ability to hold politicians accountable? Although NGOs' activities could increase participation and create new institutions that counterbalance the state's power, they could also have less salutary effects on civic engagement if they make local governance seem less relevant or if they are captured by the existing political elite.

The major difficulty in evaluating the effects of NGOs' activities is the selection bias in where these organizations choose to work. This project is unique in that it takes advantage of a randomized evaluation of a NGO's poverty alleviation activities in Ghana, which is being run by Dean Karlan and Christopher Udry at Yale University. The project "piggy-backs" on this randomization to do a "secondary experimental analysis" that looks at the impact of the intervention on a new outcome. Specifically, I examine the effect of the NGO's intervention on the breadth of political participation and the ability of voters to turn incumbents out of office during Ghana's most recent local elections (held in December 2010/January 2011). I have done this by combining data on the location of the experimental communities with records obtained from local governments. The results will shed light on whether NGOs increase or decrease political participation, and whether they make it easier or more difficult for citizens to hold their elected representatives accountable.

Kate Baldwin is assistant professor of political science and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.

Out of SW Ethiopia: a Refugium for Late Pleistocene Hunter-Gatherers?

STEVEN BRANDT

During the Spring 2010 and 2011 semesters, thirteen UF anthropology undergraduate majors and two graduate students participated in an ongoing archaeological field project at Moche Borago, a large ~70m wide rock shelter situated on the slopes of a dormant volcanic mountain in southwest Ethiopia. Currently co-directed by Steven A. Brandt of the UF Department of Anthropology and Ralf Vogelsang of the University of Cologne's Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology, the UC Collaborative Research Center/UF Southwestern Ethiopian Archaeological Project (CRC/SWEAP) is focused upon testing the hypothesis that the SW Ethiopian Highlands were a major environmental and cultural refugium for anatomically modern hunter-gatherers dealing with the cold, arid climates of the Last Glacial prior to human migrations across and out of Africa by ~50,000 years ago.

SWEAP first began in 2006 with funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation, but since 2010 has been funded by the Sonderforschungsbereich or SFB (German Science Foundation) as part of a four year multidisciplinary collaborative research initiative centered at the University of Cologne and entitled "Our Way to Europe: Culture-Environment Interaction and Human Mobility in the Late Quaternary." SFB funds cover all field and international travel expenses for UF and German faculty and graduate students, as well as most Ethiopian field and travel expenses of the UF undergraduates.

As in years past, our Spring 2011 field project was based at a tented camp on the western slopes of Mt. Damota 2200m above sea level and five minutes walk from Moche Borago shelter. Field research focused upon exposing more of the shelter's oldest deposits so that we could have a better understanding of the earliest archaeological cultures. We also put in a new test trench that exposed archaeological deposits potentially dating earlier than our previous



excavations. Our new geologist/geomorphologist from the U. of Cologne conducted further research into the shelter's natural and cultural formation processes, and we continued our systematic site survey of surrounding areas. We also mapped and took samples of natural obsidian flows ~ 20km southeast of Moche Borago which we believe may have been the source of most of the raw material used to make the tens of thousands of stone artifacts recovered from our excavations at the shelter.

The 7 UF undergraduates who participated in the Spring 2011 field season received 14 credit hours in African archaeological field methods through the UF International Center's Study Abroad program. They attended course lectures at UF in January and April, and 8 weeks of fieldwork and travel in Ethiopia during February and March. The students spent the

majority of their field time learning how to excavate the rock shelter's very complex natural and human-made deposits dating to ca. 60-40,000 years ago, and to record all stone artifacts and animal remains using Total Stations. They also learned how to conduct systematic archaeological and environmental surveys of the surrounding mountain terrain and neighboring Southern Rift Valley, and discovered Ethiopia's tremendous natural and cultural diversity by visiting national parks and interacting with many of the country's 80 + ethnic groups. Seven UF undergraduates will also attend the Spring 2012 field season.

Steven Brandt is associate professor of anthropology and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for this project is through the German Science Foundation.

Urban Planning and Governmental Proliferation in Ghana's Port City of Tema

BRENDA CHALFIN

My on-going concern with governmental border zones and the structuring of material life motivates a new project I am undertaking in Ghana's port city of Tema, where I was based from June through December 2011. Funded by a Fulbright-Hays Award and the UF Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, my research in Tema addresses the impact of urban planning on public life and spatial ordering in the city. Countering prevailing accounts of African urban cities which emphasize the organic logics of informality, migration and uncontained sprawl, the project seeks insight into the dynamics of African urbanism by taking seriously the reach of governing authorities and their grip on the terms and pace of urban development and the practices and experiences of urban dwellers.

Tema presents a particularly fascinating case of long-range urban planning in Africa. On par with other high modernist urban schemes of the post-war era, from Brasilia and British New towns, to American suburbs and Soviet industrial cities, Tema was established shortly after Ghana gained independence in 1957. The city was the brainchild of Ghana's first president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, and world-renowned urbanist Constantin Doxiadis, who sought to launch Ghana into a fully modern future unhampered by its pre-industrial past or cultural distinctions separating citizens from each other and an emerging global economic ecumene.

My research in Tema combines ethnography, institutional and architectural history and archival research to investigate the governing bodies involved in formulating and implementing strategies of urban management over the city's half century of existence. It is equally concerned with the experiences of Tema's residents as they negotiate the city's tightly conceived and largely preformatted built environment. Given my underlying concern as a political anthropologist with the spectrum of political



possibilities allying the governed and the ungoverned, of particular interest to me are the forms of public life that flourish in the interstices between Tema's highly scripted master plan and residents' own aspirations for success and upward mobility amidst the contingencies of contemporary urban existence.

At the center of my research is the state-owned Tema Development Corporation, an entity that holds nearly exclusive *de jure* control of the city's lands, building codes and development schemes. Resulting in a tenuous ruling coalition, cooperating and competing with TDC in the de facto governance of the city are the Tema Metropolitan Assembly, Tema Traditional Council, and Tema Port Authority. In this overly-ruled yet fractured political landscape, new solutions for urban living arise among both the city's rich and poor, inspiring in turn new forms of urban regulation and contests among the designated agents of urban governance.

This dialectic of urban planning, alter-planning, and replanning is evident across a range of locations and processes, from the conditions of urban sanitation and sewerage, and the layout and use of commercial space, to the practices of residential building and demolition. In short, my research suggests that in the city of Tema, and likely other African urban formations, the ordering and dis-ordering of the urban landscape is an outcome of regulatory profusion as much as lack thereof.

Brenda Chalfin is associate professor of anthropology and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Dr. Chalfin's research in Tema is funded by a 2010-11 Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad grant as well as a Library Enhancement Grant from the UF Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere.

Built Work with Proposals for the Future: Tanzania and Morocco

DONNA COHEN & CLAUDE ARMSTRONG



This year we completed our work for the village of Ntulya, Tanzania (Mwanza region). In response to an initial request from the village of Nytula, the Africa Schoolhouse Project, including the Ntulya School complex and the Health Post (Kituo cha Afya), opened in 2011 and is now in session for 600 children.

All buildings were constructed with a local crew and sustainable materials. The crew trained on-the-job while constructing the 12 school buildings and the Health Post. Bricks were formed and baked on site in low fire kilns fueled by rice husks. As the complex progressed over several years, critical material details and construction techniques were refined. With the project finished, the local crew has gained valuable building skills for future projects.

Our proposed design for the Health Post attempted to introduce vaulted “Guastavino” technology for the roof. Thatch roofs had been common in the area until recently, but

are now usually replaced with imported corrugated metal. A vaulted roof would keep all materials local, vary the forms of the buildings, and advance the skills of the crew. Instead, over the course of the project, the decision was made to roof building in the more usual manner. We continue our design explorations and expect to apply them in the area, to both new and existing structures. Our proposal for “Basket-Roofs of Misungwi” - new roofs designed for the renovation of secondary schools in Mwanza region - is one example of the adaptation.

We also designed a proposal for a neighborhood in the city of Fez, Morocco, which had requested ideas from architects for a series of new buildings to serve both resident artisans and tourists. This proposal centered around the historic Place Lalla Yedouna and included the sensitive renovation of several existing buildings, to answer the request for a major catalyst for artisan development, with spaces for educational

programs, residences, artisan production, shops, restaurants, cafés, and other services.

The Fez proposal led us to further research into the possibility of earth building at a large scale. In August we presented a paper “Rare Earth: MidRise Mud” at the Alvar Aalto Academy in Finland. The paper looks at the possibilities for expanding the use of this sustainable and beautiful building material, and presents the large scale building in Fez.

Donna L. Cohen is associate professor in the School of Architecture and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Claude E. Armstrong is visiting lecturer in the School of Architecture and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for these projects is from: Africa Schoolhouse Foundation, GO! Campaign, Alvar Aalto Academy, UF Center for African Studies, and the UF College of Design, Construction & Planning.

Strengthening the Ghana National Ambulance Service

ELIZABETH DeVOS

During the 2010-2011 year, the Department of Emergency Medicine in the College of Medicine-Jacksonville continued our relationship with the Ghana National Ambulance Service in working to improve access to and the quality of emergency care for the country's citizens. Dr. Ahmed Zakariah, the Director of the Ghana National Ambulance Service, spent 2 months in residence during late 2010 and we presented his experience in the poster presentation "EMS and Emergency Medicine Observation to Improve the Ghana Ambulance Service" at both the December 2010 Duval County Medical Society Poster and Abstract Session and the University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville Advances in Education Poster Session during the April 2011 Medical Education Week.



At the request of the Ministry of Health/Ghana National Ambulance Service, I had the pleasure of travelling to Accra to tour the dispatch center and several ambulance stations as well as providing resuscita-

tion training for approximately 50 Emergency Medical Technicians in the Greater Accra Region. In the coming year, we plan to work to improve dispatch and treatment protocols. Emergency Medicine is in its infancy in Ghana; however, the recently formed African Federation for Emergency Medicine has chosen Ghana to host the first African Congress on Emergency Medicine in Accra in October 2012. I will join Dr. Zakariah as a member of the Local Organizing Committee for the congress.

Further, I continue to work with the twinning program linking Addis Ababa University and the Black Lion Specialty Hospital with the University of Wisconsin, People to People, Inc., and the American International Health Alliance to develop the first Emergency Medicine residency and Pediatric Emergency Medicine fellowship training programs in Ethiopia.

In addition to ongoing physician training, Emergency Nursing and Emergency Medical Technician expertise is being developed through this collaboration. Together, the working group plans to assist in the establishment of the first Ethiopian Emergency Medicine Society in the near future. The working group is also collecting data for quality improvement programs and other clinical research.

Elizabeth DeVos is director of international emergency medicine education, assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville, and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for these activities is from the West African Research Association and the American International Health Alliance.

Preparing Documentary Outputs for an Endangered Community

JAMES ESSEGBEY

This summer I traveled with two actors and one videographer through Twi-speaking (Akan) areas in Ghana to record materials for web-based Beginning, Intermediate, and Business Akan courses. The project is supported by the UF Center for International Business Education & Research (CIBER) and the Center for African Studies. I also took advantage of the time in Ghana to finalize work on *Ekla Tutrugbu*, a reader for speakers of Nyagbo, with help from Kofi Dorvlo (Legon) and Felix Ameka (Leiden).

One important consideration for every language documenter is how to give back to the community, and one exciting part of my project on documenting the language and culture of the Nyagbo was to provide a reader for the speakers. Initially, this looked as easy as transcribing their oral histories, and a number of cultural practices and folk stories which I had recorded, and putting them in the reader. However, finding the right orthography for a language that is undergoing change can be tricky. Considering that spoken language is necessarily different from written one, the question we faced was what exactly to represent. Nyagbo speakers drop a lot of agreement markers when they speak and, initially, we thought that we should include every morpheme that is left out in order not to perpetuate a morphologically “deficient” language system. In Nyagbo, most speakers could not make sense of the full form when they occurred in sentences because, as some said, “that is not how we talk.”

In the end, to ensure the intelligibility of what we had written for the speakers, and main-



tain regularity of structure for the linguist, we produced a reader that had the full form on the left pages and their spoken versions on the right. Before the leaders of the community accepted the reader, we had to deal with issues concerning the oral traditions which we had included in a draft version. As soon as the traditions, which are usually narrated to anyone who visited the area, were seen in print in the draft version, disagreements concerning them heated up to the point where it looked like we were going to have an intra-ethnic conflict on our hands. We were therefore compelled to take them out. By then I had started to despair that the reader would not see its day in print. Thankfully all was resolved and the final version appeared in print in September. We donated a number to the chiefs and schools and gave a quantity to be sold to the community to defray the cost of publishing. I was thrilled

at the beginning of November to receive a call that the reader was going to be launched at a big festival of the Nyagbo - could we send more copies? My gratitude goes to the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research for funding the publication.

James Essegbey is assistant professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.

Parks as Agents of Social and Environmental Change in Eastern and Southern Africa

ABE GOLDMAN

This interdisciplinary multi-institutional project, supported by NSF funding, examines the social and environmental impacts of a sample of parks in four countries – Uganda, Tanzania, Botswana, and Namibia. The parks and landscapes around them span an ecologic gradient from mid-altitude forests to semiarid savannas and a demographic gradient from very densely populated agricultural landscapes to relatively sparsely populated pastoral or low intensity agricultural areas.

My own research has focused mainly on Kibale National Park (KNP) in western Uganda, and the now densely populated landscape around it (with densities averaging about 300 or more per km²). I've done fieldwork there since 2004, together with UF professors Michael Binford and Jane Southworth, graduate students Joel Hartter (now faculty at University of New Hampshire), Amy Panikowski, Karen Kirner, and Katherine Mullan, and several Ugandan and other collaborators.

KNP was a forest reserve for much of the 20th century before becoming a national park, and the area around it has been transformed over that time from a sparsely populated to a densely settled agricultural landscape. We have for several years investigated the history of settlement and the factors that attracted migration to different portions of the area. In summer 2011, we looked in greater detail at the historic movements and interactions among several groups around the park. We found complex and shifting interactions among Batoro, Bakonjo, Bakiga, and others have and played major roles in history of the region. Tensions among some groups opened opportunities for settlement by others at various periods. Mining enterprises to the south of the park also helped bring migrants into the region, as have large tea plantations, which have gone through several cycles of decline and rehabilitation. Many migrant workers subsequently settled near (or sometimes in) the forest reserve. Periods of political instability strongly af-



ected settlement around and within KNP (as well as in other protected areas in Uganda). We are in the process of documenting the ways in which the human and animal ecology of the surrounding landscape has been massively transformed by the influx of agricultural and other migrants, and the shifting political ecology in which the park has been involved in the broader context of social, political, and demographic change in this region and at a national level.

Among our other recent findings are that, despite the park's "fortress conservation" characteristics, and the animal hazards that many farmers face, most people in our sample within five km of KNP say they benefit from the park, and only a small proportion (<1/3) cite the park's negative impacts. The benefits most often noted are forms of ecosystem services (improved climate, etc.) rather than direct economic benefits (employment, income). Crop raiding by park animals is a large

problem in some locations, but resource restrictions and expulsion are not widely cited by our respondents. Contrary to expectations, the patterns of responses do not vary significantly by wealth, gender or ethnicity, but they do vary strongly by distance from the park, with negative assessments concentrated within one km from the boundary. We suggest that these responses are largely due to the fact that the large majority of current residents migrated to the area after the park (or forest reserve) was established, and that the area around the park has been so thoroughly domesticated. These conditions and outcomes are likely also to be true for other mid-altitude tropical forests in East Africa and elsewhere (Hartter & Goldman, 2010).

Abe Goldman is associate professor of geography and interim director of the Center for African Studies. This collaborative project is funded by National Science Foundation's Human and Social Dynamics program.

When an Endangered Language Goes Global: Documenting Chimiini

BRENT HENDERSON



Chimiini was once spoken only in the port city of Brava on the coast of southern Somalia, the northernmost and most isolated of the Swahili “dialects.” Though spoken in Brava for a millenium, the horrors of the ongoing civil war in Somali have caused nearly all speakers of the language to become refugees now living in large international cities like Atlanta, London, and Mombasa. As a result, the unique language and culture of the Bravanese is quickly disappearing. In a multi-year project (now in year three) funded by the NEH through the NSF/NEH program Documenting Endangered Languages program, I am working with Bravanese communities, as well as other scholars, to further document the Chimiini language. This includes writing a reference grammar and dictionary of Chimiini, archiving digital recordings of the language, publishing tra-

ditional stories, personal narratives, and other ethnolinguistic material, and developing web-based materials useful to the community and heritage speakers. It also includes exploring the language from a scientific perspective and bringing out insights that might be interesting for theoretical linguistics.

Last summer I spent seven weeks in Mombasa, Kenya meeting many of the hundreds of Bravanese who live there and talking with them about their language. Together, we collected oral stories, specialized vocabulary about fishing, agriculture, and traditional medicine, and dozens of Chimiini proverbs. I was also able to introduce the orthography we have developed for Chimiini so that hopefully people will be encouraged to write the language more. Though it isn't home, Mombasa is much closer culturally and linguistically to Brava than London or Atlanta. I

was glad to see this has enabled the Wantu wa Miini to maintain their language to a greater extent, even though many of the youths freely mix Chimiini with Swahili in their speech.

The project is now entering a phase of consolidating and finalizing data so that it can be made available to the community. This year we will be depositing the data we have collected into a digital archive for endangered languages and working to complete drafts of a grammar, dictionary, and book of proverbs.

Brent Henderson is assistant professor of linguistics and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for this project is through the NSF/NEH joint program for Documenting Endangered Languages.

The Baraka Tijani: The Structure and Pattern of a Transnational Religious Circuit

ABDOULAYE KANE

I spent this past summer travelling along a transnational religious circuit that has developed over the past two decades, running from Mbour in Senegal to the Parisian suburb of Mantes-la-Jolie, by way of Fes, Morocco. The France-based architects of these religious circuits are followers of the Medina Gounass branch of the Tijani Muslim religious order. Because it is where the founder of the Tijaniyya Sufi Order, Sidi Ahmed Tijani, is buried, the city of Fes has emerged as the focal point for this transnational religious circuit. There is certainly nothing particularly new about the regular flow of Tijani pilgrims from West Africa to Fes. Tijani religious circuits between Morocco and Senegal date back to the end of the 19th century and Senegalese pilgrims to Mecca would often stop in Fes for special *Ziarra* (paying visit to saints, dead or alive) on their way back to Senegal. Tijani family members also travelled to Senegal regularly to pay visits to important Tijani religious authorities, as well as predominantly Tijani cities and villages. What is new, however, is the role of the Tijani diaspora in the expansion of these transnational circuits to their European host countries through the celebration of transnational events that require participants to travel across national borders. My research has focused on two such events.

The first of these is the annual *Ziarra* for which the Baro Family, one of the leading spiritual lineages in Senegal, brought to Fes a delegation of 75 members lead by Cheikh Baro, the Khalif of the Baro family in Mbour, and 30 of the family's followers from France, Italy and Spain. During the past two decades, each year has witnessed an increase in the number of participants in this transnational event. The second transnational event is the *Daha*, a spiritual gathering of Tijani followers from around Europe held annually in Mantes-la-Jolie, France. A five-day retreat marked by prayers, blessings, and fundraising for religious causes and projects, this event is a duplication of the annual *Daha*



that is held in Medina Gounass, Senegal. There, the Medina Gounass branch of the Tijaniyya conduct a two-week spiritual retreat outside the city, in a cleared forest where only men are present. The event held in Mantes-la-Jolie is designed to give to followers who are far away from home a chance to share in the celebration of the *Daha*.

The transnational circuit is completed annually by the return to Mbour of the Senegalese religious leaders, along with Cheikh Baro and his delegation. This year, Cheikh Baro's return in mid-July coincided with the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan (early August). For the occasion, the Cheikh was welcomed at the airport in Dakar by his followers and others who travelled from Mbour to the capital. This annual return, after almost two months of transnational travel, always carries with it an air of triumph. Participa-

tion in the transnational circuit increases the charisma and authority of religious leaders in the eyes of their followers, most of whom have never been out of the country, and who read the annual travels and crossings of national borders as an expansion of their Sufi order to faraway and non-Muslim places.

I have gathered what I believe is a very rich and interesting body of qualitative data, based on which I expect to write two separate articles. My long-term objective is to write a book on this very important subject, contributing to a better understanding of transnational religious practices and their impact on the formation and transmission of religious identities across national borders.

Abdoulaye Kane is associate professor of anthropology and African Studies.

Understanding Why and When Ruling Elites Support Productive Sectors

ANNE METTE KJAER

During the last many months preceding the fall semester of 2011, I spent much time in Uganda doing research as part of the collaborative and multi-institutional “Elites, Production, and Poverty” (EPP) program. The program is funded by the Danish International Aid Agency (Danida) and brings together research institutions and universities in Bangladesh, Denmark, Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda.

The program focuses on the roles of elites in formulating and implementing productive sector initiatives that promote economic growth and reduce poverty. Case studies cover initiatives in agriculture, agro-processing, fisheries, and manufacturing that feature prominently in the respective countries.

My colleagues (from Makerere University and Mukono Christian University) and I have done research on the fisheries sector, the dairy sector and on agricultural extension reform in Uganda. In the spring of 2011, we did a final round of interviews and had a workshop preparing for writing up our results in Kampala. In the fall of 2011, I spent time writing and exchanging research results with colleagues here at the UF Center for African Studies.

One of our main premises in the EPP is that elites support productive sectors when it helps them to remain in power. In countries with competitive clientelism, there are often easier ways to remain in power than to support production. This is because ruling elites are primarily concerned with holding their coalitions together in the short term rather than through long term development.

Uganda is an exemplary case to explore when and why ruling elites support specific productive sectors. When coming to power in 1986, the ruling elite had an explicit vision of transforming the economy from subsistence agriculture to an industrialized economy. And in subsequent years, Uganda enjoyed high growth rates. However, almost three decades later, this growth has not re-



sulted in economic transformation. This is because the ruling elite are increasingly vulnerable and are focusing on holding the ruling coalition together and on winning elections. This means that productive sector policies generally aim at spreading resources thinly or at not hurting strong factions who benefit from the status quo. But even under competitive clientelism, some productive sectors may receive

sustained political support, and the Ugandan fish and dairy sectors illustrate this. Our research explains differences between these sectors with reference to their relation to the ruling coalition.

Anne Mette Kjaer is a visiting scholar in CAS for the fall term of 2011. She is associate professor of political science at Aarhus University (Denmark).

Chinese Investments in Zambia and Senegal: State Collaboration and Worker Confrontation

AGNES LESLIE

In summer 2011, I was awarded a Faculty Enhancement Opportunity (FEO) Award to conduct research in Zambia and Senegal to compare the impact of Chinese enterprises in the two countries. My objective was to study labor relations and the impact of Chinese investments on the local economy. Trade between China and Africa has grown at a rapid rate. Last year China announced that trade with the continent had increased by 45 percent to 114.8 billion dollars. In Zambia, Chinese investments rose to 2 billion dollars in early 2011. Chinese business growth in Zambia has come with criticism of the lack of adherence to international standards for environmental protection and industrial safety for workers. Zambia has experienced the highest number of reported accidents and violations of workers' rights in Chinese managed investments. Although presidential candidates including Frederick Chiluba and Michael Sata threatened to switch to Taiwan if elected president, the country has had a long-standing relationship with China since Zambia's independence in 1964.

Chinese investments in Senegal have produced minimal criticism. Like in Zambia, the state to state projects in Senegal are viewed more positively but there are a lot of small Chinese businesses that are causing friction with the small Senegalese businesses. Much of the criticism is centered on Chinese investors buying up a large portion of the major trading district in Dakar, flooding the market with cheap Chinese goods and displacing local products such as locally manufactured shoes, clothing and artifacts.

In Zambia, I toured small and medium-sized Chinese investments to study their labor relations, adherence to the state conditions of service and the impact of Chinese investment on the local economy. I toured five companies - one medium sized and four small companies. In Senegal, I observed several Chinese investors and their workers and Senegalese business people involved in shoe manufacturing. I conducted interviews and



administered survey questionnaires. My initial observations are that due to the high unemployment in Senegal at 48 percent (191 out of 199 countries) and a large informal sector, the people interviewed were less critical of the Chinese conditions of service. Zambia has 14 percent unemployment (143/199 countries). Zambians are also more conditioned to working in the formal sector which made them compare conditions and be more critical. Also, there is a higher expectation of the role of the state in Zambia, especially with the new government of Michael Sata, as compared to Senegal.

Unlike Zambia, Senegal has not maintained a continuous relationship with China. Senegal became independent in 1960 but only established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China on December 7, 1971. Senegal established diplomatic relations with Taiwan on January 3, 1996, which prompted China to suspend relations with

Senegal six days later. The two countries restored diplomatic relations in 2005. Since then, trade has been rising each year. Last year, Senegal exported products worth 52 million dollars to China. Trade between the two countries has risen by about 30 percent each year and reached 549 million dollars in 2010.



Agnes Ngoma Leslie is senior lecturer and outreach director in the Center for African Studies. A Faculty Enhancement Opportunity (FEO) award from UF funded her research in Zambia and Senegal.

Working Together to Conserve Swaziland's Wildlife Resources

ROBERT McCLEERY

I am working in collaboration with the Swaziland Nation Trust Commission, the University of Swaziland, and All-Out Africa to provide practical research to Swaziland's conservation land managers and to understand how the growing pressures on African savannahs are altering wildlife communities.

As Swaziland's lowveld (dry savannah) becomes increasingly inhospitable to wildlife, the Siphiso valley, running through the heart of the Mlawula Nature Reserve, remains a refuge for the region's biological diversity. The dynamics of wildlife populations in the Siphiso valley, like other Africa savannah systems, are determined by a complex array of interacting biotic and abiotic components. To ensure the long term health of the valley and its wildlife communities, it is imperative that we document and understand how the savannah changes and functions. By monitoring the wildlife communities and biological processes in the Siphiso valley we are beginning to provide valuable information that can be used to make management decisions, not only in Mlawula Nature Reserve but throughout southern Africa. We have recently initiated a long term monitoring program that simultaneously provides data to managers and lends itself to answering complex ecological questions.

In savannah systems, wildlife communities predominantly respond to the production of grass. The factors that drive grass production are rainfall, fire, grazing pressure, and mega-fauna. Our approach to monitoring and research for this project has been to collect both consistent and rigorous data.



We are taking a long term, multi-scaled approach to our efforts in the Siphiso valley. By conducting annual monitoring throughout the valley we will be well positioned to detect and understand when and why wildlife communities change. The information from our program will allow us to understand the influences of poaching, fire, shrub encroachment, and rainfall on small mammals, birds, ungulates, and predators in the Siphiso valley. In the coming years, along with my graduate students and Dr. Monadjem at the University of Swaziland, we are planning on using our monitoring protocol outside of protected areas to understand how different land-uses (grazing, subsistence farming, and development) alter wildlife communities and the ecosystem services they provide.

In addition to our long term monitoring program, we are in various stages of the research process on a number of Swazi-based wildlife studies. We are currently collecting data on the use of trip cameras to identify individual genets, civets, and servals (all mid-sized carnivores). If our methods are successful this technique will allow us to better understand these cryptic mammals.

We are also analyzing data collected over the last 10 years on two rarely study mammals, Egyptian bats and pygmy mice. Finally, we are in the process of publishing our work examining the influences of intensive sugarcane cultivation on wildlife population in and adjacent to plantations in Swaziland.

Our collaborative research efforts in Swaziland have also allowed us to train both aspiring Swazi and American conservation researchers. Each summer I bring a group of University of Florida undergrads on a study abroad program to conduct conservation research in Swaziland. Starting this year our students will be joined by students from the University of Swaziland who will turn their projects into their senior thesis. In the future, as our research and educational activities continue to grow we are looking for ways to develop a permanent research center to accommodate regional and international researchers.

Robert McCleery is assistant professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Partial funding for this work comes from ALL-Out Africa.

African Entrepreneurs: On the Continent and in the Diaspora

BARBARA McDADE GORDON

For over 20 years I have studied the dynamics of entrepreneurship in Africa. This has included field work in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, South Africa, and Senegal. The African entrepreneurial landscape spans the spectrum from informal sector traditional microenterprises to multi-million dollar modern firms headed by college-educated men and women.

My next phase of research looks at entrepreneurship among Africans in the Diaspora – that is, Africans who live and operate their businesses outside the African Continent. My initial foray into this topic took a historical perspective for a paper that I presented to the Southern Conference on African American Studies, “African-American Entrepreneurs as Heroes and Heroines in American History.” The paper began with a profile of Anthony Johnson who is thought to be the first person of African descent to become an entrepreneur in America. He arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1621 with a group of about 20 Africans who came to the New World as indentured servants. It is believed that he was originally from the Angola/Congo region of Africa and was brought to America by Portuguese sailors. This established a context for African entrepreneurship in the Diaspora which I had previously explored in a presentation for the traveling exhibit, “Inside Africa...Diaspora” section, at the University of Florida Museum of Natural History, which examined the disbursement of Africa’s

ethnic populations. I bring this topic to the college classroom in my textbook chapter, “Spatial Organization and Distribution of Economic Activity,” in *Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa*. I have also given lectures to high school students in the Upward Bound Academy at UF.

As part of this next research phase I have begun to collect data on the increase in immigration of Africans to America and their entrepreneurial activities. I will start with gateway cities such as Fort Lauderdale, Houston, and Washington, DC. A workshop at UF on



“Doing Business in Africa” which I co-organized with Dr. Agnes Leslie, was attended by business owners from several countries in Africa including a self-described “African-American” who recently relocated from South Africa and established connections between Chambers of Commerce in the Western Cape and their counterparts in South Florida.

Dr. Anita Spring and I have also been invited to update our research on regional entrepreneurial networks for a book with the working title *New Private Sector Actors in Africa*.



In late 2011, I was proud to work with Dr. Leslie and Kenyan graduate student Nathan Wangusi to create the Dr. Wangari Maathai Garden on campus in honor of the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in environmental sustainability, human rights, and economic development.



Barbara McDade Gordon is associate professor of geography and director of the UF Upward Bound Academy. She is affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.

Islam, Ethnicity, and the State in Ethiopia/Horn of Africa

TERJE ØSTEBØ

As part of my major research project on religion and ethnicity in the Horn of Africa I spent summer 2011 doing fieldwork in Ethiopia. During this time I got the opportunity to talk to numerous former guerilla-fighters engaged in armed struggle against the Ethiopian regimes of the 1960s and 1970s. The project is (so far) focusing on the so-called Somali and Oromo liberation movements struggling for various forms of autonomy. 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 south-eastern parts of Ethiopia. As they emerged in Muslim-dominated areas, a major thesis of the project is that religion (i.e. Islam) has played a more important role than generally assumed. This empirical research documents this importance, and demonstrates that perceived religious prejudices and religiously biased policies were crucial factors in the production and continuation of these movements. It will analyze the reciprocal relations between ethnicity and religion in the formation of these movements, how this was played out in generating and legitimizing their struggles, and how religion and ethnicity produced highly complex inter- and intra-group relations.

The project will also provide a more nuanced understanding of inter-religious relations in Ethiopia/Horn of Africa. In particular, 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. With a focus on both domestic and regional political developments, I will also explore how Ethiopia's Christian heritage has played and continues to play a role in its policies in the Horn. The more general and theoretical objective is to apply the empirical findings to generate new



perspectives on how to conceptualize the relationship between religion and ethnicity, particularly with regard to inter-group conflicts.

Parallel to this, I have also been working on a project related to Islam and politics in contemporary Ethiopia, analyzing the trajectory of the current regime's policy towards the Muslim community in Ethiopia. The data for this was collected during the summer 2011, but draws also from previous research. The project amply demonstrates that the Ethiopian government has changed its policy from monitoring and controlling the Muslim community to increasingly meddling into internal religious affairs – with the aim of promoting a particular state-sanctioned version of Islam. Implicit in this are the attempts to marginalize and stigmatize Islamic groups which are perceived detrimental to political stability. The research moreover points to relevant factors for understand-

ing this, and analyzes how a state-driven dichotomization of the Muslim community is creating highly interesting discourses within Ethiopia.

I have also completed the publication process of my book *Localising Salafism* which was published by Brill (Leiden) in October. In addition I have, together with Patrick Desplat (Cologne University) continued editing a volume on contemporary Islam in Ethiopia. This book focuses on changes with regard to the Muslim communities in post-1991 Ethiopia, including intra-religious dynamics within the Muslim communities, Islam intersected to Ethiopian public and political spheres, and Islam in Ethiopia in relation to the geo-political discourses in the wider Horn of Africa. Our plan is to get this book under contract in 2012.

Terje Østebø is assistant professor of African Studies and religion.

Global Climate Change in the Eastern Cape of South Africa

FRANCIS E. PUTZ & CLAUDIA ROMERO



With support from the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program, Francis E. “Jack” Putz and Claudia Romero from the Department of Biology returned to the Department of Environmental Science (DES) at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa for two months of undergraduate teaching and graduate student mentoring. In addition to Jack’s intensive course on global change, he and Claudia were involved in other on-campus and extension education activities that included students at Graeme College where their 13-year old son Antonio played on the rugby team and learned to speak some Xhosa and more Afrikaans.

Jack and Claudia presented

seminars on the weekly discussions held at DES: Jack on the topic of the bottlenecks and challenges for sustainability, and Claudia on a framework on which to base proper design of evaluation of conservation interventions. One of the high points for them was a guerilla theatre presentation on carbon trading in which Jack portrayed (a bit too effectively) a “Carbon Cowboy” and Claudia the “Informed Critic.” The audience, a group of conservation professionals from the SADC-countries on a 2-week course, were thoroughly engaged in the performance.

Since their 2009 sojourn in Grahamstown as visiting professors at Rhodes, Claudia and Jack have maintained active partnerships with several graduate students, post-

doctoral associates, and faculty at Rhodes. An exchange visit to Gainesville by Rhodes’ Ph.D. candidate Matt McConacchie was intellectually invigorating for all concerned, and did wonders for the cricket prowess at UF.

Francis E. Putz is professor and Claudia Romero is courtesy assistant professor in the Department of Biology. They are affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding was provided by the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program.

Library Research Supporting African Studies Academic Programs

DANIEL A. REBOUSSIN

Preparing a graduate course in library research methods for African Studies, in summer 2011 I surveyed recent ethnographic studies of university student library research behavior to develop a new approach after more than ten years. These studies support my experience that information literacy training improves the research skills of 'Millennial' students, who many wrongly assume are natural experts in everything digital. While students generally come to the university with good general Internet search skills, scholarly work demands a strategic approach and new skills, which we develop together in class. A prepublication draft of the essay in press for *Africa Bibliography* is available in the UF Institutional Repository (IR@UF) at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00000558/>.

The IR@UF supports scholarly communication generally and the *African Studies Quarterly* (ASQ) in particular by providing digital preservation and format migration services over the long term. Last Fall Semester I collaborated with ASQ Editor-in-Chief R. Hunt Davis, Jr. and Dr. Laurie Taylor of the Digital Library Center in responding to a mandate by the U.S. Copyright Office requiring deposit to the Library of Congress of online publications claiming copyright. We established a sustainable workflow for the editorial staff to submit issues to the IR@UF, initiating legal deposit to the Library of Congress when each issue is submitted. The process is detailed in a poster presented to the Florida Association of College and Research Libraries, available at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00103075/>.

Library work supporting

research and teaching on Africa includes selecting and coordinating the digitization of scarce, rare and unique African related materials from Special and Area Studies Collections with support from Title VI. This summer we digitized the J. M. Derscheid Collection (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/derscheid>), consisting of about 1,000 manuscripts, colonial documents and maps relating to Ruanda-Urundi (Rwanda and Burundi) and the Kivu and Oriental



provinces of former Belgian Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo). The collection is complemented by a biography of the collector, which I translated from French: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00000442/>. An early conservation biologist and noted aviculturist, Derscheid co-founded the Institut International pour la Protection de la Nature and continued Carl Akeley's work after the latter's death in 1926 on the slopes of Mt. Mikeno. He compiled the first census of mountain gorillas there, surveyed the boundaries of what would become the Parc National Albert (Africa's first national park), and served as its Secretary-General. He was later Professor of Colonial Law at the Institut des Territoires d'Outre-Mer in Antwerp, Belgium. Derscheid

was executed by the Gestapo in 1944 after his arrest and nearly 3 year imprisonment for resistance activities, including the creation of secret radio codes based on Bantu languages.

Other research materials added this year in open access UF Digital Collections include Onitsha Market Literature (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/onitsha>), highlighting UF holdings of rare Nigerian popular pamphlets. Often compared to dime novels, frequently the authors (including Money Hard and Speedy Eric) served as printers and retailers of their own work. The genre disappeared in 1968 with the destruction of the Onitsha market building and book stalls during the Biafran War. Also digitized were a variety of language primers, books and manuscripts from the George Fortune Collection (see: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/fortune>). Fortune materials in the print collection are available in an author index available online at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00000493>. These include major holdings for Shona, Nguni (Ndebele, Zulu, and Xhosa) and Sotho, the principal Southern Bantu linguistic groups. Published materials listed span the years 1868-1983 and include some 1,800 items in the Library Catalog. The collection includes a significant complement of Central and Eastern Bantu materials as well as West African language materials.

Daniel A. Reboussin is head of African Studies collections at the UF George A. Smathers Libraries and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Digitization of African Studies Collections is supported by the US Department of Education Title VI grant in collaboration with the UF Libraries.

Exploring Health Disparities in Africa

RICHARD RHEINGANS

The introduction of new vaccines have been highlighted as an opportunity to reduce child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions. Donors recently committed billions of dollars to introduce new vaccines for diarrhea and respiratory infections. However the impact of these vaccines depends on the ability of national programs to reach the most vulnerable children. While some countries have succeeded in doing this, others continue to struggle. This year we began a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to examine the patterns and causes of disparities in childhood vaccinations and their effect on the potential benefits of introducing new vaccines. The work considers traditional factors such as geography and socio-economic status, as well as the social and physical mobility of young mothers. In addition to a series of publications, we are hoping that this will lead to a growing partnership of researchers and policy makers to use this information to develop more effective and equitable vaccination strategies.

This was our 5th year of a partnership with CARE, Great Lakes University of Kisumu, and Emory University to examine the effects of school environmental interventions on health and education outcomes in Kenya. This year we published a range of qualitative and quantitative work demonstrating the complexity of effective and sustainable interventions. The first published results of our randomized trial showed that improving water and sanitation can significantly reduce absenteeism for girls. At the same time a series of qualitative studies have demonstrated that effective and sustainable



change in school water and sanitation is challenging – adolescent girls face unique problems around menstrual hygiene management which are not adequately addressed by most programs; interventions often lack basic components like anal cleansing materials; and schools often fail to sustain intervention activities due to the lack of resources and accountability. During the coming year we will continue to work with colleagues in the Ministry of Education to promote policies and practices which target these critical elements. Funding for this project is provided by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Poor water and sanitation are almost synonymous with poverty and marginalization. At the same time, global policy efforts like the Millennium Development Goals do not prioritize improving sanitation for the poor. In fact, global efforts have generally failed to improve sanitation for the poor, especially in urban areas in sub-Saharan Africa. In collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical

Medicine's SHARE Research Consortium and with funding from the UK Department for International Development, we are developing a model to estimate disparities in the health burden associated with poor sanitation and the health benefits of sanitation investment across the economic spectrum in rural and urban areas. We are also working with key policy actors such as UNICEF and WHO to use the results to target investments to the poorest and most vulnerable households.

Richard Rheingans is associate professor in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Environmental & Global Health. Funding for these projects is through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UK Department for International Development.

Clothing, Colonial Expositions, and Images of Africa

VICTORIA ROVINE

I am currently on sabbatical, working toward completion of my book on African fashion design and Africa's influence on Western fashion design. This subject has provided me with opportunities to explore the presence of indigenous fashion design in Africa, documenting how dress innovators have produced new styles outside the orbit of the Western-dominated global fashion system. I have also investigated the many strategies designers use to absorb distinctively local dress practices into their work, in some cases through direct adaptation of textiles or ornaments, in others through conceptual references to local histories and cultures. All of this, as well as my analysis of the constructed images of Africa in Western dress history, brings fashion fully into the study of African visual culture.

During the past year, I have presented papers on new aspects of this project at the Triennial Conference on African Art at UCLA, on a panel that I organized, and as part of a speakers' series at Michigan State University. I have published an article in *African Arts* and an essay in the Harn Museum of Art's wonderful *Africa Interweave* catalogue. In addition, I published a paper on the colonial era exchanges between Africa and France via fashion in *Images Changeantes de l'Inde et de l'Afrique* (L'Harmattan, 2011).

While most of my fashion research has focused on modern and contemporary Africa, using interviews with designers and analysis of recent garments, I am increasingly intrigued by the historical aspects of the interaction between African and Western cultures. More specifically, I hope to return to a longstanding



fascination with the colonial expositions of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as part of my next research project. These events provide rich material for visual analysis; much has been written about European (largely British and French) representations of their African colonies through dioramas, photographs, collections of art and artifacts, and even the importation of African people to create actual "villages" for Western visitors' edification (and entertainment).

What was the impact of these events in Africa? How did African people involved in the expositions respond to the construction of their cultures? For years, I have gathered information on the African side of this exchange wherever I have found it, in archives, museums, works of art and literature. Mali's Archives Nationales contain letters between colonial officials and the artists who sought passage to France

to take part in the potentially lucrative public events. In coming years, as I pursue this interest, I hope to use the expositions' engagement with the visual arts to reveal much more about the African involvement in, and resistance to, the Western construction of the colonies. I have proposed a panel for the 2013 College Art Association conference on the artistic impacts of the expositions, which I hope will lead this research in as yet unimagined directions.

Victoria L. Rovine is associate professor in the Center for African Studies and School of Art & Art History. Funding for this research is provided by a UF Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Grant.

The Restoration of Kanazi Palace in NW Tanzania: First Steps Towards a Sustainable Heritage Tourism

PETER SCHMIDT

I put a new twist to colonial studies during the spring and summer of 2011 while engaged in the restoration of an early 20th century palace in western Tanzania—with the goal to make it an integral part of sustainable heritage tourism in Kagera Region. Built by the Germans in 1905, the Kanazi Palace is distinctive for its grand style, its rural setting, and its blend of German colonial architecture with local architectural style.

German designs were more than architectural, as the King or Mukama of Kihanja kingdom was the most powerful yet the most distant ruler from the German seat of power in Bukoba on Lake Victoria. Located on a high plateau some 70 km away, Kahigi II was enticed to relocate his capital at Kanazi, approximately 20 km south of Bukoba. In return, the Germans built him a palace, made him a major in the German army, and allocated him lands belonging to neighboring kingdoms.

When the Germans capitulated in 1916, Kahigi reacted strongly to a British officer's rebuke and when slapped in public, he retreated to his natal home, where he committed suicide while declaring that he could never serve the British. His kingdom then passed to three successors whose authority was abbreviated by the British until his grandson, Petro Nyarubamba, took the throne in 1958, only to be stripped of his power and governmental support by the new independence government. From that moment, the palace began a steady decline.

Lack of maintenance and funds to replace leaking roofs meant the collapse of most of the stately court building in the 1980s. By 2008



the main palace house was degrading rapidly as rain water poured onto massive mud brick walls. An appeal for assistance came from Kiroyera Tours, a local tour company that focuses on heritage tourism. Collaborating with Mary Kalikawe of Kiroyera, I persuaded the American Embassy to provide emergency stabilization funds to re-roof the court and main house in the summer of 2009. A later grant then made a larger restoration project possible. I returned on a leave of absence in early 2009 to complete the major parts of the restoration of three primary buildings within the palace grounds, reasoning that these were not just “colonial” buildings and icons of foreign domination. Rather these buildings were constructed by, modified by, and often rebuilt by local people with local sensibilities and needs. An important part of modern Tanzanian history unfolded within their walls, making them uniquely Tanzanian and capturing an era in which modernity was introduced and lives became forever different.

Using local craftsmen who identified strongly with Kihanja kingdom, both the prison on the north side and the original home of Kahigi II on the south side of the court required major restoration upon original foundations. The suite of four rooms where Kahigi

first lived had already been allocated for a new museum by King Nyarubamba (who unexpectedly died in December of 2010). Replacement of elegant elephant grass ceilings in the court proper, where the king sat on a raised platform for audiences, was another priority. Most interesting was the discovery of ritual paraphernalia in the back room of Kahigi's first residence—a finding consistent with his traditional religious duties.

A UF summer field school undertook limited archaeological inquiry during the last month of restoration. This led to some very important insights into industrial activity within the palace grounds, the possible location of a modern but traditionally inspired alternative residence for Kahigi II, and the location of the ritual house where he conferred with his advisors and diviners.

Kanazi Palace will act as a central focus for heritage tourism that appeals to a wide range of people—school children, local citizens, and international visitors—helping to sustain local jobs and the vitality of memory about a past that should not be forgotten.

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

Documenting Nalu - an Atlantic Language on the Coast of Guinea, West Africa

FRANK SEIDEL

My postdoctoral research involves a documentary linguistics project on Nalu, a poorly documented and endangered Atlantic language of Guinea, West Africa. Different from 'classic' language documentation aimed at language description, the goal in documentary linguistics is to create a record of natural language in the form of an extensively annotated audio-visual corpus. While a project in documentary linguistics still produces items known from 'traditional' language documentation such as a dictionary, a grammatical sketch, and an orthography, the heart of such a project is a digital corpus of transcribed, translated, annotated and contextualized audio and audio-visual data. The documentation contains recordings of various language events, e.g. descriptive monologues or free ranging conversations, as well as recordings of cultural activities. The different parts of the documentation are connected through an extensive web of cross-references between the transcribed recordings, the dictionary, the grammatical sketch, and the supporting commentary. This apparatus is targeted at making the corpus accessible to and usable for a variety of users, e.g. cultural anthropologists, linguists, historians, community members, interested laymen, and policy makers. The material will be archived with the Endangered Languages Archives (ELAR) at SOAS.

Nalu is spoken on the littorals of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. In Guinea, Nalu speakers primarily live north of the river Nuñez on the Tristão islands, which are part of the prefecture of Boké. Across the border in Guinea-Bissau speakers of Nalu are located around the Cacine



estuary in the Tombali region. It is claimed that ancestors to the contemporary language community entered the current living area around the 14th and 15th centuries.

In both countries where Nalu is spoken, Nalu speakers live in a heterogeneous ethnic and linguistic environment. Not much is known about the exact situation in Guinea Bissau, except maybe that one can reasonably assume that Nalu is spoken in the vicinity of Balanta, Biafada, and Landuma speakers. In Guinea-Conakry, Nalu is spoken as one of many languages in the prefecture of Boké, and Nalu speakers there live together with speakers of Landuma, Balanta, Baga and other languages. Even in the one area that is dominated by Nalu speakers, i.e. the sub-prefecture of Kanfarandé, they are in contact with Balanta, Landuma, and Fulfulde. All encompassing this situation is Soso, the dominant lingua franca of the region, with speakers also in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.

Nowadays, Nalu speakers are shifting towards Soso. To be more precise, the shifting process to the target language Soso is asserted for the Nalu speakers of Guinea and can reasonably be assumed for the speakers living in Guinea-Bissau. Neither in Guinea-Bissau nor in Guinea-Conakry is Nalu considered

to be 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.

Because of the language shift situation it is hard to gauge exactly how many people still speak the language. The numbers given vary between 6,000-25,000. Nevertheless, on the Tristão archipelago which is an infrastructurally and economically somewhat marginalized area, the language is still used as an intra-ethnic means of communication and also transmitted to some extent to the younger generation.



Frank Seidel is visiting postdoctoral research fellow in the Center for African Studies. This project is funded by the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

Governing Cotton Sectors in West and Central Africa

RENATA SERRA

The past year has marked the final phase of fieldwork under the multi-year Cotton Sector Reform Project that I have been coordinating since 2008, as part of the Africa Power and Politics Program with funding from the UK DFID and Irish Aid (www.institutions-africa.org). The country-based research teams collected the last round of quantitative and qualitative data from a sample of cotton farmers in 35 villages across the four countries in which we have been working since 2009: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Mali, also among the most important cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa. The researchers are affiliated with premier research institutes in their respective countries, such as LARES Consultancy Bureau in Benin, the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) in Cameroon and the Institute of Rural Economics (IER) in Mali. Dr Jonathan Kaminski helped me to coordinate and supervise the teams.

The last data collected at village level completes our database containing crucial information on the management of the cotton sector, as seen from below, from the farmers who grow and sell seed cotton, their local representatives in cooperatives unions, and other stakeholders in the village. Such perspectives complement the information previously obtained during interviews with representatives from the government, the cotton companies, the donors, and other actor key stakeholders in the cotton value chain. Fieldwork at this broader, national level helped us to derive a picture of the debate surrounding policy interventions in the

cotton sector, the arguments for and against the proposed measures of liberalization and privatization, and the initiatives put in place to support or resist such interventions. We now possess a rich evidence basis for assessing cotton sector performance in terms that are meaningful to the specific countries' contexts, and analyzing how different countries deal with mounting challenges affecting their cotton sectors and with the multiple pressures to reform. Ultimately, we aim to derive lessons that can inform policy interventions in key productive sectors, which are both sustainable and beneficial to the poor (in line with the broader APPP objectives).



One recent output from our project, a paper titled "Governing Cotton Sectors: An Analysis of Reform Processes in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Mali," presents some lessons from our first comparative analysis. We identify the different and peculiar reform course followed in each country, and locate the main local political and social realities in each country, which have shaped it. We show that these realities were often underestimated when formulating policy prescriptions, thus leading to poor implementation and/or actors' negative reactions, which jeopardized cotton sector performance. When the logic of reform

processes incorporates local realities, as in Burkina Faso until 2006, Cameroon until 2009 and possibly lately in Mali, there is instead better chance for more sustainable and poverty-reducing outcomes.

I presented the paper at two venues this past summer: at the fourth European Conference on African Studies (ECAS4) in Uppsala on June 18th, and at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in Paris on July 28th. Both presentations were well attended and attracted considerable interest. I presented further results at the African Studies Association Meeting, in Washington DC (Nov. 17-20), as part of a panel that I organized on "The Political Economy of African Agriculture."

An analysis of the reforms process in Burkina Faso is now published as APPP Working Paper No. 17, with the title "Endogenous economic reforms and local realities: Cotton policy-making in Burkina Faso" (co-authored with Jonathan Kaminski); while my paper on "Cotton Sector Reform in Mali: Explaining the Puzzle" is forthcoming as APPP WP No. 20. These and other outputs from the project are available from the research publication section of our project site: http://www.institutions-africa.org/publications/research_stream/cotton-sector-reforms.

Renata Serra is lecturer in the Center for African Studies. This research project is part of the Africa Power and Politics Programme (www.institutions-africa.org), with funding from the UK Department for International Development and the Advisory Board of Irish Aid.

An African Re-Immersion

DANIEL SMITH

Thanks to my colleague, Leonardo Villalón, and my wife, Brenda Chalfin, I've had the opportunity once again to don my "Africa hat." In addition to quite literally wearing it in Niger (that's me eating "yellow cake" at the US Ambassador's house on the 4th of July with Florida Circuit Judge, Nikki Clark), I figuratively sported it twice across the Sahel with Leo, and during the fall in Ghana with Brenda and our two kids. Whether spending time in Africa makes one an Africanist, I'll leave to others to decide. But my interactions with activists in six Francophone countries as part of a U.S. State Department grant, and doing research at the Center for Democratic Development in Ghana, allowed me to once again plant my scholarly feet in Africa.

As part of our two-year Trans-Saharan Elections Project funded by the Department of State, Leo and I hosted 15 African visitors and exposed them to the politically charged world of American voting and elections. For three weeks they met with dozens of voting rights activists, elections administrators, elected officials, and scholars in Gainesville, Tallahassee, and Washington, DC. After just the first week, they were ready to comment publicly on the retrenchment of voting rights in Florida. Exposed to the inner workings of the American electoral process, the participants returned to their own countries, satisfied that achieving our standards of voting and elections might be setting the bar too low. Lia Merivaki efficiently orchestrated the organization and logistics of the program, and fellow political science grad students Mamadou Bodian and Dan Eizenga helped along the way.



After our reconnaissance trip in January, Leo and I headed back to Africa during the summer, accompanied by three Americans—a judge, a journalist, and a campaign consultant. Our month-long trek across the Sahel provided us with an opportunity to meet with our participants, partner organizations, and representatives from the US embassies. We also had fruitful discussions with elected officials, judges, journalists, political party operatives, and members of national election commissions. In addition, our small delegation offered at least one major public event in each country, discussing the trials and tribulations of voting and election administration in the US. We even found time for some cultural exchanges, visiting the sacred Tijaniyya Sufi village of Kiota in Niger, watching the catch of the day being hauled in on Mauritania's Atlantic coast, witnessing first-hand the vibrant democratic deliberations of a rural council meeting in Fissel, Senegal, and braving a torrential dust (and then, rain) storm following a hike around Blaise Compaoré's wildlife park in Burkina Faso.

During the fall semester in Ghana, I had the fortune to serve as a Research Associate at the CDD, the country's preeminent think-tank. After a week on the ground, I realized

that the research I had conducted as a Senior Fulbright Scholar a decade earlier on the malapportionment of parliamentary seats and the incidence of invalid ballots was still relevant. The Director of CDD, Professor Gyimah-Boadi, encouraged me to pursue the topics and provided insightful comments as chair of a public lecture I delivered at the University of Ghana. Needless to say, my argument—that in its conscious effort not to be perceived as partisan, the independent Electoral Commission has become obsequious, catering to the demands of political parties, and acceding its constitutional responsibility to guarantee equal representation in Parliament to all Ghanaians and ensure that all ballots are counted equitably—contributed to the ongoing palaver Ghanaians were having during the build-up to the 2012 elections. Though flickering at times, Ghana's electoral maturity as it enters its third decade as a constitutional republic serves as a beacon for the rest of the continent to follow.

Thanks to Brenda and Leo, my interest in African politics has been rekindled. Thanks to the Chair of Political Science, Michael Martinez, I was able to take leave of my teaching and mentoring duties to follow my episodic African passion. And thanks to the enriching experiences in the Sahel and in Ghana, I know I will have new insights into how political institutions shape electoral behavior in my own country.

Daniel A. Smith is professor of political science and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. He is co-PI of the Trans-Saharan Elections Program funded by the U.S. Department of State.

Memoir and Migration in Mali

ALIOUNE SOW



In the past year, I received a UF Faculty Enhancement Opportunity grant to pursue my work on memoirs, life narratives and biographies in Mali. The grant allowed me to pursue my research in Bamako this summer, where I collected narratives, spent time in the National Archives and the National library, and conducted several interviews with Malian authors and politicians. While working on memoirs, I continue my work on the transformations of the Malian literary landscape since democratization but also on the impact of the military power on Malian cultural productions since the coup in 1968. In this regard, I completed a paper on Malian cinema and the question of military power which is forthcoming in the journal *Critical Interventions*.

In February 2011, I co-convoked with Brigitte Weltman Aron, the annual Gwendolen Carter Conference examining the cultures

of memory, the commemorations and celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of African political independences. The conference was multidisciplinary and speakers included the writer Alain Mabanckou, the cinema director Jean-Marie Teno, scholars Gregory Mann, Réda Bensmaïa, Mildred Mortimer, Cécile Canut, Didier Gondola, James Straker, Ken Walibora Waliaula, Antoinette Tidjani Alou, Nicolas Argenti, Florence Bernault, Joana Grabsky and Nnamdi Elleh.

I also pursue my work with the ANR Miprimo, an interdisciplinary research project on migration directed by Cécile Canut from the Université Paris-Descartes and the Ceped. Focusing in particular on literature, my work examines the transformations of Malian theatre practices to respond to local discourses on migration. My research focuses on new initiatives but also on the transformations of conven-

tional practices and genres such as the *koteba* to engage with issues of migration. In June 2011, I presented a conference paper on this topic at the African Theatre Association in the UK.

Finally, my book *Vestiges et vertiges: récits d'enfance dans les littératures africaines* dedicated to childhood narratives in African literatures, was published by Artois Presses Université in May 2011.

Alioune Sow is associate professor in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures. His 2011 research was supported by a UF Faculty Enhancement Opportunity grant.

Is Post-Conflict an Oxymoron?

LUISE WHITE

I have been working on a book-length history of Rhodesian independence and in 2011 was able to do the research on the last chapter, the 1980 elections. Rhodesia (Southern Rhodesia before 1964, Zimbabwe after 1980) had been a semi-colonial hybrid since the early 1920s, and was part of the Central African Federation before its demise in 1964. Whereas the other member states became the African-ruled nations of Malawi and Zambia, Rhodesia's white minority declared a Unilateral Declaration of Independence from Britain in 1965. Rhodesia became the first pariah nation of the decolonizing world: mandatory sanctions were imposed on Rhodesia long before they were required for South Africa (sanctions against Rhodesia were to become the model for the United Nations sanctions of the 1990s against Iraq and former Yugoslav states).

Rhodesian independence soon plunged the country into a prolonged guerrilla war, fought from exile with two guerrilla armies that far outnumbered Rhodesian forces. The armies represented two political parties that had been founded in the early 1960s, Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU) and Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). No army had a decisive military victory, but the attrition on Rhodesia and the neighboring states that housed the guerrillas was enormous. The British organized several conferences to end the war and create a settlement that would bring about majority rule to the country. These were conducted with great flair – in 1975, to give but one example, the warring parties met on a train stopped on the bridge over Victoria Falls, between

the national borders of Rhodesia and Zambia – and no results. A combination of factors in 1979 -- a new



government in Britain and wear and tear on Mozambique and Zambia, which housed ZANU and ZAPU respectively, and the long term effects of sanctions – made some kind of settlement necessary, and a new majority-rule constitution was worked out in the annual Commonwealth heads of state meeting in August. A month later there was a constitutional conference in London - the real task of which was to arrange for, and detail the enforcement of, an end to the war and a ceasefire, which created the conditions for the first one-man, one-vote elections that made Rhodesia Zimbabwe in 1980.

With a small grant from UF's Faculty Enhancement Opportunity program, I spent two weeks in London in 2011 reading newly opened archives and conducting interviews with former election observers about the 1980 election. The conventional account of the

election is contradictory, that there were free and fair elections and that despite widespread intimidation by Mugabe's party, ZANU won by a large margin. My research in London revealed something different, however, that there was a cessation of hostilities but nothing resembling a ceasefire, and that no one observing the ceasefire or the election could discern which political party was intimidating the most people. This suggested to me that two ideas dear to Africanists – the notion of post-conflict societies and that of electoral violence -- might be somewhat flawed. At the end of a civil war, when ex-combatants are known to the civilian population, intimidation is a constant: everyone does it to counter the intimidation of other political parties. What we think of 'post-conflict' is not post at all, but an extension of the earlier conflict. In the same way, the very term 'electoral violence' locates and limits violence to electoral practices, rather than the situation the election was imagined to resolve.

Luise White is professor of history and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Her 2011 research was supported by a UF Faculty Enhancement Opportunity grant.

Detecting Patterns of Disturbance via Landscape-Level Vegetation Analysis within Southern Africa

ERIN BUNTING

For the past two summers, I have had the opportunity to work within the Okavango, Kwando, and Zambezi Catchments of southern Africa studying the impact of climate variability and other forms of disturbance on vegetation.

Environmental cues of phenology are well understood for temperate systems, however less so for dryland ecosystems. The savanna ecosystems of southern Africa are water limited and responsive to rainfall at varying temporal and spatial scales. While precipitation and associated soil moisture are most commonly associated with the variable vegetation pattern, many other biotic and abiotic factors also affect the ecosystem. Such factors include: fire, herbivory, soils, and anthropogenic activity. My research examines the impact of such factors on the vegetation of southern Africa, focusing mainly on the impact of climate variability.

My study region, located in tropical and subtropical southern Africa (the Okavango, Kwando, and upper Zambezi catchments) covers 683,000 km² across Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia. Average annual precipitation ranges from 400-2200 mm/yr. There is a steep north-south precipitation gradient characterized by low precipitation and high variability in the southern semi-arid regions and higher rainfall in the northern portions of the basin. The precipitation regime of the region has undergone great fluctuation, which has been documented in the rainfall data and within environmental histories obtained. Other variables influencing the land cover, while not as dominant as precipitation, still play a large role in the landscape dynamics. Soils are highly



variable across the basins, with differing levels of the key nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus. Additionally, many of the countries have differing policies in regard to burning, but savanna ecosystems are adapted to fire, the regularity of which varies depending on the environmental conditions.

It is my goal to utilize a time series of remotely sensed satellite imagery, precipitation data, livelihood surveys, and field-based vegetation sampling to classify the landscape. Specifically, I look to analyze the determinants of vegetation cover via spatial statistics, classify the vegetation using a rule-based approach that integrates spectral indices, and model the vegetation and climate at the landscape level. Such a study requires extensive field-based and satellite-based data. The satellite data utilized will consist of high and low resolution imagery, so that I can scale up the vegetation classifications and models to the entirety of the three basins. Field-based data is essential for the calibration and validation process, both the vegetation classification techniques and the models require ground truthing.

Two field seasons, which were partially funded by the Center for African Studies, have enabled me to collect sufficient vegetation data. Both training samples and transects were complete across the region,

measuring percentage canopy closure, level of human influence, and discriminating between vegetation type. Research such as mine cannot be completed without ground truthing the satellite images. During summer 2011 in particular, vegetation sampling was concentrated in and around the Caprivi Strip of Namibia, Moremi National Park, and Chobe National Park.

The results of my research look to develop a detailed environmental history for the region. Utilizing a time series of satellite imagery the recent stability of the system, the impact of disturbance, and the overall shift in the vegetated state will be documented. Such information can assist in environmental management, and assess to some degree the impact that humans have had on the system. The overarching objective to my research is to contribute to a broader understanding of the dynamics of human environmental interactions in a semi-arid ecosystem.



Erin L. Bunting is a Ph.D. candidate in geography. Funding for this research provided by: NSF SPICE Fellowship, NASA Land-Cover / Land-Use Change Program Grant, CAS pre-dissertation research award, CLAS travel award, and the UF Office of Research.

Elephant Community Ecology in Southern Africa

TIM FULLMAN

My research looks at how African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) are affecting other large herbivores in southern Africa. As human populations grow, the world's largest population of African elephants is increasingly being confined to protected areas. High densities of elephants within these parks raises concerns of widespread habitat change, affecting other large mammals and threatening the area's ecological integrity. There is a dire need to understand the impact of increasing densities of elephants on species diversity in order to inform effective management strategies.

My dissertation addresses this issue by quantifying patterns of species diversity across a range of elephant densities and analyzing species interactions to investigate biotic mechanisms underlying diversity trends. A better understanding of how elephants are influencing other species will enable managers to protect wildlife and habitats while also allowing conservation to contribute to economic growth and local livelihoods through initiatives like ecotourism.

On previous trips to Botswana in 2008 and 2010, I investigated elephant utilization of trees in Chobe National Park and collected preliminary data on habitat use and interactions of elephants and other large herbivores. Funded in part by the Center for African Studies, I was able to expand my work in 2011, collecting additional data in Chobe National Park, as well as conducting pilot studies in Bwabwata and Mudumu National Parks in the Caprivi Strip of Namibia. These parks offer areas of medium and low elephant densities to complement the moderate and high densities found in



Moremi and Chobe. Working across multiple parks allows me to test for the effects of elephants across a range of densities, helping improve understanding of what concentrations of elephants might promote species diversity, and what constitutes “too many” elephants.

Using a series of game drives, wildlife groups were spatially located using a GPS unit, compass, and laser rangefinder. The data are now being analyzed using spatial statistics to evaluate whether animals are more clumped or dispersed across the landscape than expected by random chance, indicating underlying behavioral interactions. The information collected is also being combined with remotely sensed land cover data to create predictive habitat maps for large mammals in the dry season. Pairing this with our group's climate modeling will show how elephant impacts and predicted changes in the environment around Chobe National Park may influence the wildlife species that live there, informing management decisions by the wildlife departments of Botswana and Namibia.

Southern Africa is home to an impressive display of wild creatures and it is a joy and a privilege to be able to work in this area. There is nothing quite like watching a family of elephants drinking at the river's edge, silhouetted by the setting sun, or seeing a leopard sliding through the bushes on its way to hunt. Experiences like these reinforce my passion to protect the wild places and animals of southern Africa so that future generations can continue to enjoy them. I appreciate the support that the Center for Africa Studies and many other organizations have shown, enabling me to continue my work of learning about and protecting the wildlife of Africa.

Tim Fullman is a Ph.D. candidate in geography and a former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2007-2009). Funding for this research provided by: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Conservation Fund, CAS pre-dissertation research grant, QSE3 IGERT travel grant, CLAS travel grant, Department of Geography travel grant, and the UF Office of Research.

Health Perspectives Among Senegalese Immigrants in Cincinnati, Ohio

JASON HARTZ

Over the past 30 years immigration from West Africa has increased exponentially. For those migrating from Senegal to the United States, New York City was the primary destination. From there communities have developed in other cities around the U.S., such as Cincinnati. The greater Cincinnati area, including the area of Kentucky just across the Ohio River, has seen the development of a small, but vibrant community of West Africans. As a result of the influx of African migrants in the region, businesses catering to their needs have also developed. For the past decade in Cincinnati, a small Africa-centric food landscape has become visible.

For the months of June and July, 2011, I conducted research in Cincinnati at a small African market and the neighboring Senegalese res-



taurant, both owned and operated by the same individual. For the two months that I was there, I located myself, for the most part, in the dining room, interviewing customers and watching the day-to-day activities which took place. My research focused primarily on the development of the West African food landscape and the shifting dietary requirements of the Senegalese population living there. By tapping into a global network of food producers,



shippers, and manufacturers, the owner of a small African market and the adjacent Senegalese restaurant, who formerly worked for a global food distributor, has succeeded in developing a business which caters to the desires of not only the West African community, but also Asian and Caribbean immigrant communities. This small restaurant has managed to create a cuisine which is largely West African, focusing primarily on Senegalese cuisine, but has also hybridized its menu to cater to multi-ethnic tastes. Additionally, they alter the amount and content of each dish depending on the assumed tastes of the customer. For instance, an American customer will receive more meat and less rice, while an African customer will receive more rice and less meat.

Dietary choice is largely dictated by access, which in turn may have very real or possibly harmful effects on the health of the individual. Diabetes, heart disease, hypertension (high blood pressure), and obesity are very real concerns among immigrants traversing the American food landscape. How knowledge about food and dietary choice is obtained and how immigrant populations use this knowledge is important in learning how to assist individuals in coping with and possibly preventing such chronic

diseases. Knowledge acquisition by way of the media, word of mouth, or lived experience has the ability to alter personal decisions in relation to health in diverse ways. For some immigrants the answer may be exercise, for others it may be through the adoption of food avoidance strategies. For many of those Senegalese in Cincinnati which I interviewed, it is apparent that an adherence to a more “traditional” or “authentic” Senegalese diet is the answer, no matter how global that diet may in fact be.



Jason Hartz is master's student in anthropology and a former FLAS fellow (Wolof, summer 2010 and 2010-2011).

Exploring the Intersection of Agriculture and Health Among HIV+ Populations in Western Kenya

ELIHU ISELE

The interaction of microcredit and appropriate technology in Western Kenya could be the next step in improving livelihoods and care of HIV+ farmers. Spending the summer working on the Shamba Maisha (Kiswahili for “Farming Life”) randomized control trial in Western Kenya and gaining an understanding of the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been a valuable experience and built on the interdisciplinary course work of a first year Masters in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) student.

The MDP summer practicum at UF uses the focus of “what is the problem people face in their lives, and what can we (the community and the practitioner) do together to work on solving the problem?” With this in mind I was fortunate to work with Family Aids Care and Education Services (an HIV/AIDS care organization) in Nyanza Province, Kenya on the Shamba Maisha trial. The central question of the Shamba Maisha trial is “what are the effects of microcredit to purchase treadle pumps for people living with HIV/AIDS who are food insecure and taking anti-retroviral treatment?” The changes will be measured by the intermediate outcomes of the farmer’s irrigated agriculture production and income changes, and the final clinical outcomes of their general health (BMI, CD4 count, etc.), transmission behavior risk, and female empowerment.

My summer practicum involved background research, interviews, focus group discussions, and writing measures for Shamba Maisha. I specifically created the agriculture and economic instruments to measure the changes using validated instruments as my starting point. With these tools in mind, I interviewed farmers who were part of the initial Shamba Maisha pilot study, to understand their economic and production pathways.

I also prepared and commissioned four focus group discussions to predict the outcome of the intervention. These discussions were accomplished with the help of Great Lakes University Kisumu and I was



lucky enough to be able to hire two of their trained moderators. This was an experience in capacity building, with a day spent training the moderators in Shamba Maisha and the discussion guide. We headed to rural Migori District, to outlying clinics and held gender-separated discussions at two different clinics. The initial outcomes of the discussions show nutrition in the family would increase as well the opportunity to send children to school. Farmers saw this intervention as positive and understood how it could benefit them.

Finally, I spent about 10 days between Migori and Rongo district hospitals conducting interviews to determine their similarity as control and intervention sites. Community health workers, Ministry of Agriculture, agriculture input suppliers, vegetable wholesalers and retailers, as well as patients who were farmers were all interviewed. The principal investigator and I analyzed the data and deter-

mined that the two sites were similar enough to be used in the trial. I finished my field work by piloting the entire survey instrument of the trial (including health, transmission behavior, stigma, empowerment, agriculture, income, etc.) to ensure that it is culturally appropriate, had good fit, and can be conducted in a reasonable amount of time.

This combination of health and agriculture in an intervention is what makes Shamba Maisha an innovative approach to HIV treatment and care. The MDP summer practicum has given me a better understanding of development research and HIV/AIDS in East Africa. I hope other MDP students can have similar opportunities to work on these important issues in western Kenya.

Elihu Isele is a second-year MDP (Masters in Development Practice) student. Funding provided by a MacArthur Foundation MDP Summer Practicum Grant.

Egyptian Video Art and the Performance of Identity

DAN JAKUBOWSKI

My research explores the recent proliferation of video art in Egypt during the past decade and its special relationship with the changing political realities that shaped Egyptian identity during the 20th and 21st centuries. I believe video as an artistic medium is uniquely suited to charting the social constellations that make up modern Egypt's fraught relationship with nationalist politics, revolution, and modernity as it has unfolded in the country throughout the past century. Since Egypt sought independence from British colonial control in the early 20th century, different conceptions of nationalist, religious, and politically radical identities have been innovated as powerful tools of ontological self-formulation and political expression. These notions of identity have been put to use toward both progressive and reactionary political ends, and their legacies are still felt today as the various movements that compose the popular rebellion of the Arab Spring shift from dismantling the Mubarak regime toward articulating their own program of institutional organization and action.

During the past decade, video artists working in Egypt and abroad used digital technology and new media to represent and critique the momentous transformations in identity that have shaped the nation's present political moment, a moment that has emerged during a period of draconian neo-liberal economic reforms, variegated reactions to an uneven globalization of both culture and capital, and new communications technologies that have radically altered personal subjectivity, social formation, and political organization within Egypt

and across the world.

While I was unable to travel to Egypt during the past summer due to travel restrictions arising from political unrest, the opportunity to study Arabic in Morocco provided me with direct access to another regional manifestation of the Arab Spring. Protests in both Casablanca and Rabat occurred during my time abroad, demanding greater popular representation in government activities and a loosening of power held by the monarchy and its most visible representative, King Mohammed VI. As is to be expected, the conceptions of political, ethnic, gender, and sexual identity that composed Morocco's popular movement differed in both magnitude and internal make-up from those of contemporary Egypt. But both nationally bound movements held a shared investment in the concept of liberal democracy and its necessity at this moment in the history of Arab peoples. Exposure to Morocco's protests provided a dimensionality to my perspective of these political transformations that I would otherwise lack.

In the coming years, I hope to develop these research interests into a dissertation project that places Egyptian video art within the broader, global history of the medium while also investigating different formulations of contemporary Egyptian identity and how each plays into or resists the political project of democracy in Egypt and the Arab world as a whole. Artists such as Doa Aly, Lara Baladi, Hala Elkoussy, Wael Shawky, and Ahmed Basiony have each used video to access and represent the politics of Egyptian identity. And in a critical turn, these artists have also problematized the

notion of identity itself, focusing upon its limitations as an apparatus for political change and suggesting ways forward toward a renewed universal politics. But rather than discard identity altogether as myopic, exclusive, and incommunicable as a resonant basis for action, these artists emphasize the concept's fluid instability. To them, Egyptian identity is an essentially performative process that constantly renews and transforms itself when confronted with new historical realities. I believe that it is within this shared performative mutability that new forms of totality are imagined within the differences of identity politics. Video has been a versatile and easily accessible artistic medium uniquely suited to exploring the temporality of performative identity in contemporary Egypt.



Dan Jakubowski is a Ph.D. candidate in art history and a former FLAS fellow (Arabic, summer 2011).

Giving Up the Gun: Life Post-Rebellion in Central Africa

CARA JONES

As a Fulbright-Hays DDRA awardee, I spent most of 2010-2011 living in central Burundi, conducting field research for my dissertation entitled “Giving up the Gun: Rebel to State Transformations in Africa’s Great Lakes.” While there I conducted over 400 interviews with former rebels, current government officials, and civilians who all played a part in Burundi’s civil war, which lasted (officially) from 1993-2005. The conflict was devastating to all involved, culminating in the displacement of 2 million Burundians, both internal and external refugees, and the deaths of more than 300,000. My research focuses on understanding how the rebels that now hold majority political power, the CNDD-FDD (in French, *Conseil National Pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie*) have transformed themselves from rag-tag soldiers waging an insurgency in the forests to the keepers of national economic, political and social power.

During my time there, I saw the regime under former rebel commander and now President Pierre Nkurunziza win its second election since the war, a move that consolidated their political power, but also spawned interesting new research issues for my work. Although people largely accepted the victory of the CNDD-FDD in the 2010 elections, the fire that electrified their 2005 victory was put out, and replaced with significant post-election violence. People were no longer willing to accept politicians who were unwilling to engage in dialogue with those not of their party. Average citizens expressed their discontent to me in a number of ways, and I



learned of their views by employing a variety of field methods. I conducted interviews, larger focus groups, and was a participant observer in community, church and associational meetings. I also interviewed former rebel foot-soldiers - men and women who had participated as fighters, sometimes when they were children - as to how and why the movement progressed the way it did. I also questioned them about why they joined, why they continued to participate, and what they did after they left the movement.

Over the year in the field, I learned about rebels and rebellion by employing an interdisciplinary lens to my work, that not only included the application of political and economic theories of grievance from my training in the department of political science, but also in anthropological and historical ways of seeing that I was trained in through various courses, interactions and seminars in the Center for African Studies. During my fieldwork, I also utilized my language skills, especially in Swahili, which I learned as a FLAS fellow in the Center for African Studies during my first two years of

graduate school. While my Kiswahili ‘Walimu’ (teachers) at Florida might now have trouble with my dialect (the Burundian version is slightly different than the Standard, tinged with French and Kirundi influences), I know that the depth of my work would not have been possible without it. Often times, the fact that I spoke regional languages made the difference in the level of trust, and therefore, level of information, I received from interviewees. It was also a great way to understand when people were discussing you in a nightclub or restaurant. I was also lucky enough to have had the full support of the Center as I prepared for the dissertation research in my graduate school years I received numerous grants to conduct pre-dissertation research trips and present my findings at disciplinary and area studies conferences.

Cara E. Jones is a Ph.D. Candidate in political science and a former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2006-2008). Funding for her field research provided by a U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant.

Gender Equality in Ethiopia: Concepts, Practices, and Strategies

MARIT TOLO ØSTEBØ

With a particular focus on how gender equality is conceptualised in international and national policies and among rural Oromo women in Ethiopia, my research seeks to explore the dynamics in encounters between diverging notions of gender, gender equality, and women's rights. It also involves a focus on how Norwegian-funded development initiatives that address gender issues are carried out and perceived locally. This year I spent four months in Ethiopia, mainly in rural villages in the Oromia region where I did participant observation and interviewed women, religious leaders, NGO workers, and government bureaucrats.

The preliminary findings of my research are twofold. Whereas the discourse on gender equality at international level and among development bureaucrats at central level in Ethiopia reflects a relatively broad conceptualization of gender equality, characterized by a focus on equal opportunities for men and women in relation to political participation, education, economic participation etc. - the discourse on gender equality at the local level seems to be limited to the following: a) gender equality understood as women's rights with particular focus on gender violence and so-called harmful traditional practices (HTP) and; b) gender equality understood with particular reference to work. The local discourse reflected to some extent a focus on change in gender roles, among others voiced in arguments such as "women should start to plough, and men should start to make injera (local bread)." The dominant understanding of gender equality was however framed as "working together in the field in

order to increase production and get out of poverty."

Public meetings arranged by the government were reported as the main source of information regarding this issue, and comparing the rhetoric on the grass roots level with Ethiopia's newly launched Growth and Transformation plan,



one might conclude that the conceptualization at the local level, rather than reflecting genuine local perceptions, is mirroring what is on the political agenda. Informants kept claiming that "we have accepted" gender equality, to stop practicing female genital cutting (FGC), to use family planning etc. However, when probing deeper into these issues, it became clear that this acceptance was not necessarily genuine nor put into practice, but something people would say because of fear of possible consequences if they raised any kind of opposition.

Secondly, all the Norwegian-

funded organizations that I came in contact with during my fieldwork had a focus on HTP and particularly FGC, indicating that FGC/HTP among these organizations might have become a proxy for work on gender equality. In addition, secular as well as faith-based NGOs and also government institutions propagate and use religious leaders as a key strategy. Hence, my research also ended up focusing on experiences and approaches with regard to religious leaders. Preliminary analysis indicate that even though one may argue for the importance of religious leaders as agents of change, it might be a less fruitful strategy if political-religious dynamics are not taken into consideration.



Marit Tolo Østebø is a doctoral candidate at the University of Bergen (Norway) and a courtesy research associate in the Center for African Studies. This research project is funded by the Norwegian Research Council.

Negotiating the Spaces of Fairtrade in South Africa's Wine Industry

ALISON MONTGOMERY

I began my 14-month doctoral dissertation research in October 2010. This multi-sited research is based in three regions in South Africa's Western Cape Province: Cape Town and two rural wine producing communities, one in the Breede River Valley and one in the Oliphants River Valley. This research focuses on policies flows and transformations within the Fairtrade movement in South Africa, specifically in the wine industry. Globally certifiable since 1997 and in South Africa since 2004, Fairtrade is a trade-not-aid approach to sustainable development that aims to empower producers and workers who have been marginalized by global capitalism.

This project is based on two guiding research questions: 1) How do the various stakeholders within the Fairtrade system influence policy transformation within both Fairtrade and Western Cape agrarian reform efforts; and 2) What do these negotiations and power plays mean for the ways in which policy is implemented and for on-the-ground realities such as business sustainability and farm worker livelihoods?

I worked with a variety of stakeholders in order to address these questions. These stakeholders—whom I have termed “agentic actors” to represent each individual's relative power within the system—include farm owners, managers, and workers; winemakers; Fairtrade International, Fairtrade Africa, and Fairtrade South Africa personnel; NGOs; and government officials.

There are seven primary policy transformations that have occurred over the course of the past year: 1) new fairly-traded certification bodies are being introduced in South Africa, thus challenging



Fairtrade International's power; 2) Fairtrade Network (formerly Fairtrade South Africa) has become increasingly inclusive and aims to represent a broadly-defined fairly-traded family in South Africa; 3) Fairtrade International and Fairtrade Label South Africa have shifted towards a focus on corporate clients that bring in larger license fees, thus generating more income to grow the Fairtrade brand; 4) the additional certification barrier of state-led Black Economic Empowerment compliance for South African producers is being reconsidered; 5) a ban on the export of Fairtrade-certified bulk wine is being considered; 6) environmental standards on pesticide usage on vines are being challenged and reviewed; and 7) Fairtrade is reevaluating who the “owners” of the Fairtrade certificate should be, with serious implications for the future of the movement and power relations within the value chain.

Preliminary findings have shown that workers on Fairtrade certified farms experience better living and working conditions than their non-fairtrade counterparts and feel more a part of decision-making processes both on-farm and within wider trade and agrarian reform

discussions. However, alternative trade paradigms like Fairtrade often fall prey to the same marginalization patterns that define conventional global capitalism, likely because Fairtrade is not revolutionary, but rather uses the free market to provide alternatives to conventional capitalism. I have also found that Fairtrade has not changed paternalistic power relationships at the sites of production, with workers remaining excluded from many business and policy decisions, despite their ownership share. Fairtrade involvement and certification has also not necessarily served to promote transparency or prevent corruption. Lastly, Fairtrade's increasing focus on corporate clients has left existing producers with little guidance or support, which has resulted in the continued marginalization and disillusionment of workers, Fairtrade's intended beneficiaries.

Alison Montgomery is a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology and a former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2007-2009 and Afrikaans, summer 2010). Her research is funded by Fulbright IIE and the National Science Foundation DDIG.

Elite Capture of Community Conservation Programs in Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe

SHYLOCK MUYENGWA

Decentralization and devolution of power to communities to manage and decide on their resources is a mechanism adopted by several countries to conserve locally valuable resources. In southern Africa, this led to the proliferation of community wildlife management programs such as the Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) in Zimbabwe, Conservancies in Namibia, and Wildlife Trusts in Botswana. Elite capture however, is a new threat to this success, with the potential to reverse the conservation ethic gained by local communities in the past two decades. Consequently, community based natural resources management (CBNRM) is faced with a crisis and constant criticism that it is failing to deliver on its promises: development and conservation.

Based on three purposefully selected communities, Sankoyo (Botswana), Wuparo (Namibia) and Masoka (Zimbabwe), the current study investigated the problem of elite capture i.e. increased privatization of conservation benefits by a few individuals (committees, local politicians, religious leaders, and traditional leaders). The research methodology combines primary and secondary data collection using archival documents, interviews, and focus group discussions. I started this research project in 2009, focusing broadly on governance issues surrounding CBNRM initiatives at local level. This summer (2011), I visited my research sites to conduct detailed interviews.

The findings indicate that in Namibia and Zimbabwe, community development projects initially invested in development projects.



Over-time, significant resources have been spent on meetings (sitting allowances), and rents (demanded by chiefs and other local authorities), while the democratic nature of chieftaincy in Sankoyo helps CBNRM perform better. Based on preliminary analysis, the problem of elite capture is attributable to several factors: (a) the design of CBNRM that accommodates and provides 'special privileges' to traditional authority structures; (b) elite discretion over choice of projects; and (c) community boundedness- i.e. localizing investments and recruitment within the community. In some cases communities are likely to be efficient by investing their incomes in urban areas to generate more revenue and also hire skilled 'externals.'

The study recommends training traditional leaders together with committees to enhance equity and fairness in the allocation of CBNRM benefits. In principle, re-engaging traditional leaders in development administration is likely to make them more accountable compared to the current approach where they 'free-ride' and are not

held accountable for project failure. In addition, I also recommend "second-generation" CBNRM that is well-crafted to overcome 21st challenges such as population increase and increased competition over land-use. As one of one my respondents rightly noted: "CBNRM is a good idea, but its needs to catch up with what has been happening in the past 20 years."

Shylock Muyengwa is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) and managing editor for the African Studies Quarterly. This research was funded by: UK Department for International Development (DFID) Africa Power and Politics (APPP) program, UF Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) pre-dissertation research grant, Program for Studies in Tropical Conservation (PSTC) Compton Research Fellowship in Environment and Sustainability grant, Wildlife Conservation Society Research Fellowship, and Dr. Brian Child.

Mining and Community Development in Ghana

COLLINS NUNYONAMEH

The mining industry has seen some tremendous growth over the last three decades, in part due to stable and increasing commodity prices and in part due to institutional reforms directed by the World Bank toward making the industry more attractive in the developing world. Despite the huge expansion, there continues to be a nagging question about the role of the industry in poverty alleviation around the world. The last few years have recorded an enthusiastic response especially at the international level towards dealing with the problems of poverty around mining operations, led by the UN through its Global Compact and through the International Council on Mining and Minerals (ICMM) symbolized most unequivocally in its Community Development Toolkit and 10 Principles. These developments have attracted large scholarly interest over the last decade. Unfortunately, there has been a tendency of concentrating these scholarly efforts on debates about whether or not mining can or does contribute to poverty reduction. Consequently, very little has been done to understand what mining companies are doing to address the development challenges in their operational areas, the nature of these interventions, and/or their impacts on community well-being. This is the task of my research.

I spent the summer of 2011 doing preliminary work at my study sites in Ghana. The trip lasted roughly 3 months and afforded me the opportunity to visit and forge close collaboration with my prospective cases. I had the chance to speak with and interview mining company representatives of 4 companies,



interact with members of multiple communities (about 17 in all), and spent time studying the peculiar cultural ethos of the communities that might be of consequence to my study. The trip proved extremely useful in getting my foot in the door to my actual study. I had always suspected huge difficulties in securing agreements with the mining companies for the study, but nothing of the level I met on the trip. For one particular company, it took approximately 3 months, after traversing the entire corporate structure both at international and country levels, to have an agreement for interviews. So I count the trip a great blessing in sorting this particular hurdle out.

In terms of community development practice, there is strong evidence that all 4 mining companies visited (except one) are heavily involved in calculated activities to address the development concerns of their communities, anchored on explicit policies towards same. The institutional arrangement for managing these activities are largely identical although some appear more elaborate – in terms of human resource commitment and organization- than others. For example, all the companies now have dedicated departments for managing community development activities, some with as many as over 80 employees,

others with as little as 6. For the older companies, this strategy represents a shift away from the era of outsourcing of community development activities, a transition that is still playing out. It does appear that the newer companies are doing better in terms of the number of interventions put in place and there appears some superficial evidence that communities around the new mining companies are generally more satisfied than those around the older ones. The differences in the activities between the old and new companies raise interesting questions that would be explored in my substantive work by using institutional theory.



Collins R. Nunyonameh is a Ph.D. student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE). Support for this research from: the Jeanne and Hunt Davis Graduate Research Fund, CAS pre-dissertation research grant, UF Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) summer research grant, and the UF Office of Research.

Kanga Hits the Runway: Fashion and an East African Textile

MACKENZIE MOON RYAN

The East African textile, kanga, has been culturally embedded since its inception over a century ago. Most recently, this mass-produced, industrially printed textile has made a splash on high fashion runways. My research is documenting these textiles' historical emergence, their transformations in use, and their contemporary social significance in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Born of global networks of trade, kanga textiles feature bold, machine-printed designs on factory-produced cloth. Kanga are defined by their basic design: a central motif surrounded by a wide, continuous graphic border. They also display a proverb or phrase in Swahili, framed just below the central motif. Originally a coastal style, kanga are now worn widely throughout East Africa and are considered bearers of East African culture.

Sold in pairs, kanga are relatively inexpensive and serve as a staple item for many East African households. They are worn as everyday clothing for market women and are used by most women inside their homes. Kanga are also used in transitional moments of women's lives. These textiles feature in wedding celebrations: they are worn at send-offs, gifted at kitchen parties, and are shown off at wedding ceremonies. Kanga also swaddle newborns and shroud the dead, thereby enveloping women in Swahili culture from birth to death.

While residing in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, I have been pursuing a relatively new arena for kanga: the fashion world. Although kanga have long been the staple dress for everyday East African women, kanga are now taking the East African fash-



ion world by storm. I am documenting how kanga textiles are featuring in the emerging Swahili fashion scene. Last year I attended the third annual Swahili Fashion week and saw many designers using kanga in their runway looks. This year, on the occasion of Tanzania's 50th anniversary of independence, the fourth annual Swahili Fashion Week will include 50 designers, an unprecedented amount for this event.

Additionally, I am tracing how kanga are becoming internationally recognized as markers of East African culture through their use in fashion designs. British chain stores like Top Shop and JOY carry trendy dresses made of kanga, and American designer label SUNO has made its fame from its use of kanga textiles. Even Michelle Obama has been seen wearing one of their kanga tops!

From their development in the late nineteenth century and continuing today, kanga have been popular items of dress and culture.

While they maintain their everyday role in women's lives in East Africa, kanga are also making headway into trendy closets around the globe, bringing East African culture along, too.



MacKenzie Moon Ryan is a Ph.D. candidate in art history and former FLAS Fellow (Swahili 2009-2011). Her fieldwork in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania was funded by a School of Art and Art History Alumni Fellowship.

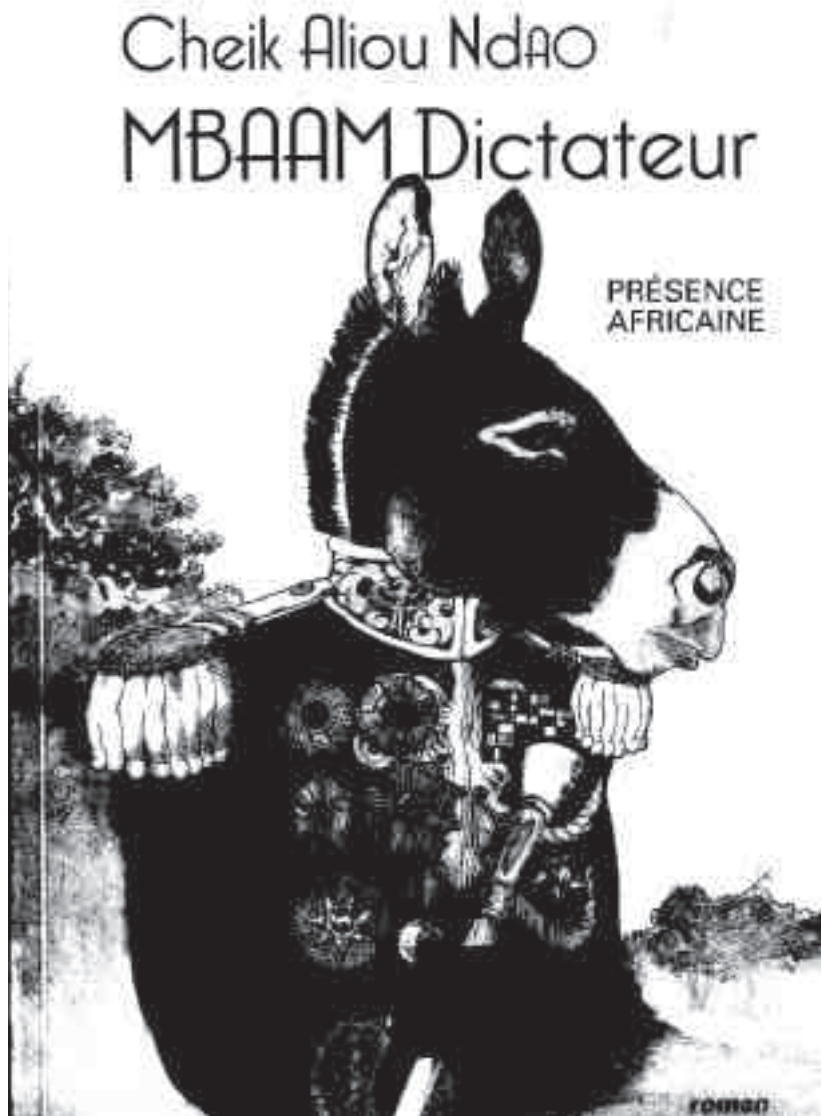
Democracy in the West African Novel

ELHADJI M. SARR

After a 22-year career with the US Department of State at the American Embassy in Dakar, Senegal, where I worked respectively as Cultural Specialist and Political Analyst, I decided to pursue the dream deferred of advanced literary research. The objective of my research is to examine the problematic of democracy and nation-building in the West African novel, in English and French, published in the period 1960 to 2010. This 50-year time frame covers the period that anthologies typically present as going from the euphoria of independence to the disillusionment of the post-independence reality and the current era of democratization. 2010 was a landmark for the 50 years of political independence that most African countries recently celebrated with great panache and, some would add, indecency. The time of literary production highlights the homology between West African novels and the political arena. As a cultural and literary field, West Africa presents a lot of similarities however, the large number of countries and novelists who emerged in the post-colonial period led me to focus on five countries with significant literary production on the themes such as the military and power, governance, one-party state, and civil society disengagement. Among key writers studied are Amadou Kourouma (Cote d'Ivoire), Cheikh Aliou Ndao (Senegal), Ibrahima Ly (Mali), Ayi Kwei Armah (Ghana), Aminata Sow Fall (Senegal), and Chinua Achebe (Nigeria).

Through intertextuality, novels such as Kourouma's *Waiting for the Vote of Wild Beasts*, a real fresco of African dictatorships, will allow us to compare and define the specificity of West African literary production and democratization in relation to other parts of the Continent during this period from the one-party state era of the 60s to the emergence of a stronger civil society and multi-party systems in the early 1990s.

That the novel has reacted to and reflected, to a large extent, dominant political trends is a fact underscored in most thematic



studies in this field. The main contributions of the present research are its traversing of cultural and linguistic boundaries and its focus on the overarching issue of nation-building, identity, and democracy as they have impacted cultural production, textualization, and contestation.

Borrowing the concept of literary field (*champ littéraire*) from Pierre Bourdieu, I will

examine West African societies in reality and fiction and as fields in which the confrontation of forces in the aspiration for democratic change occur.

Elhadji M. Sarr is a Ph.D. candidate at the Université Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis, Senegal and a courtesy research associate in the Center for African Studies.

Weapons and Refuse as Media: The Potent Politics of Recycling in Mozambican Urban Arts

AMY SCHWARTZOTT

Discarded plastic bags, broken door and window frames, styrofoam packing materials, cast off frying pans, bits of scrap metal, spent magazines from a destroyed AK-47: garbage or art? Perhaps both if you are looking at art made from recycled materials in Mozambique. These materials represent detritus from an African post-war urban society which becomes transformed into art by Mozambican artists. My dissertation research investigates Mozambican artists who use recycled materials as media to illuminate important environmental, economic, and cultural issues to determine how and why artists utilize recycled materials to create distinctly Mozambican art. I focus on individual art-



ists using various recycled materials and the Christian Council of Mozambique's NGO project, *Transformação de Armas em Enxadas/Transforming Arms into Plowshares (TAE)*. TAE collects and destroys decommissioned weapons from Mozambican wars, subsequently transforming them into art.

Creating a context for art guides my research methodology in which I investigate the impact of the past lives of recycled materials and the ways in which these lives inscribe meaning as the materials are transformed into art. My research

demonstrates that Mozambican artists recycle both literally and figuratively, creating evocative art while deconstructing Mozambican history.

While artists connected with TAE work as a collective, many individual Mozambican artists use diverse recycled materials in their art. By incorporating these artists in my research, I explore the materiality of recycled objects and the impact of the artworks on both viewer and creator. These artists include Pekiwa, who creates artwork by recycling broken doors and window frames to make commentary on social situations; Sonia, who uses recycled styrofoam to create artworks steeped in Islamic imagery; Zeferino, inspired by African masks, uses cast off pots and pans to update historical African forms by creating them out of recycled materials; Makolwa, whose artworks vibrate with the tension of their materiality, as he links sharp metal nails with the smooth surfaces of discarded chairs and pounded scraps of metal; and Fiel, whose brother was kidnapped into service as a child soldier during the war, creates artworks which focus on the objecthood of the weapons, forcing the viewer to intimately connect to the meaning of the various arms and the intrinsic power of violence within each.

Each of these artists come from vastly different economic, social, and educational backgrounds, yet all create art using recycled materials. Working with these individuals and many others, I explore how and why Mozambican artists use recycled materials in the creation of their art to investigate larger themes related to recycling and its meaning in Mozambique and globally.

My desire to create a contex-

tual framework for recycled materials that become art has expanded my research this year to focus directly on the objects used by artists. This has led to interviews with municipal and national directors, administrators, and consultants of solid waste management, public and private garbage collectors, as well as the owners, operators, and workers at recycling facilities. I have visited solid



waste containers and dump sites where I have interviewed directors, workers, and independent entrepreneurs of the informal sector who buy and sell recycled materials. This allows me to analyze multiple waste streams to determine the course of an object's life before it becomes a media material for a Mozambican artist. Pre-dissertation research in Maputo in the summers of 2008 and 2009 began my engagement with the artists of Mozambique and has consequently expanded, strengthened, and enriched my research.

Amy Schwartzott is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Art and Art History. She recently completed 12 months of research in Mozambique with funding from a Fulbright-Hays DDRA grant. She previously held an Alumni Fellowship from the University of Florida (2006-2010).

Resilience and Social Networks in South Africa's Eastern Cape

SAM SCHRAMSKI

I am spending 2011-12 in South Africa exploring issues of climate change, disease and agrarian change in a post-COP 17 world. The annual climate change conference, held in fall of 2011 in Durban, has been frustratingly lead-footed, yet many calls for action at local and regional levels are being made in Africa, even if national and international bodies cannot agree upon a binding solution.

My own research focuses on this regional level in asking how resilient homesteads in South Africa's rural Eastern Cape province are to the effects of climate change and disease. I'm finding thus far that decreasing reliance upon natural resources appears to be the intervening variable in both cases, a fact that has dramatic policy implications, as well as consequences for the social composition of families and communities.

The Eastern Cape has seen its fair share of flux in recent times. Even after tremendous historical shifts nationally and regionally, the province continues to be the epitome of South African inequality: it is home to many of the former homelands, or Bantustans, of the apartheid era. Degraded land, high rates of HIV/AIDS, and vertiginous unemployment are all key features here. Most homesteads in even the most rural parts of the Eastern Cape, where one might imagine subsistence agriculture to be the norm, survive off of government welfare grants or old-age pensions and very occasional remittance transfers.

Suffice it to say while the social-ecological conditions of the province do not appear to be encouraging, how communities respond to stressors at the moment, and



will continue to in the future, is no simple research subject.

I'm seeking to shed a little light on this complexity in part of the Eastern Cape known as the Wild Coast, largely through an investigation of the number and diversity of rural livelihood assets and whether those predict aspects of resilience to ongoing ecological and social change. I argue that resilient homesteads will demonstrate a high number and diversity of livelihood assets in response to recurrent and nonlinear changes (like climate-related events or disease occurrence) and that said homesteads will exhibit very tight, or cohesive, social networks—bonds that are important whether individuals are trading information, goods or services, or in some cases just money.

My methods have included oral history interviews, participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and action research, and most prominently social network analysis (SNA). These three approaches are meant to unpack the temporal dimensions of resilience: my oral histories focus on livelihood changes in the past, SNA on current developments in homestead exchanges, and PRA on possible future indicators for resilience (or lack thereof). I don't claim to have the oracular vision to unravel the past,

accurately assess the present, and then predict the future completely. As an isiXhosa phrase goes, *Akukho qili linokuzikhoth' emhlana* (there's nobody so smart he can lick his own back!). But I hypothesize that conditions here are shifting.

Some alterations I'm observing speak to all three temporal dimensions, and possibly to the future of rural South Africa at large. Notably, no matter how poor a homestead may appear, it is almost universally dependent upon a government subsidy and fewer natural resources (including livestock and crops) than one might imagine for rural African peasants on other parts of the continent. New kinds of interdependencies, especially in the form of debt and money-lending, are also apparent.

While conceived as research in basic science, I believe that my dissertation will uncover issues strongly relevant to natural resource and regional economic managers and policymakers, who might have had the tendency of thinking of rural peoples too simplistically.

Sam Schramski is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) and a NSF IGERT trainee.

Not So Hidden Treasures: Public Archaeology and Collaboration in Bukoba, Tanzania

NOAH ISAIAH SIMS

During summer I was able to take part in a public archaeology field school in Bukoba, Tanzania. The field school was instrumental in providing me with the tools to conduct competent archaeology, but it also presented me with experiences that I could not have begun to imagine prior to it.

One aspect of public archaeology is that it engages with the community in which the field site is located. However, what surprised me was that I did not have to take the archaeology to the community; the people brought it to me. We had the traditional field methods book and a handy historical archaeology text which provided us with a background to the history of the area and the type of objects we might find. Yet those texts paled in comparison to what I gleaned from the carpenters, who were reconstructing a palace at the same location as the field site, and local elders who knew the land along with the meaning of the objects residing in it.

These people acted as critical collaborators for the project. Many times I would be stopped and taught proper trowel, compass, or line level technique by a carpenter. On other occasions an elder would explain the meaning of a potshard and its use in the past. These were not trained archaeologists, but locals who were invested in the history and culture of their community.

The field school was a six-week affair and at no point were we working in isolation. We were consistently aided by local Tanzanians who had a stake in the histories we were pulling out of the ground. Even though we were the semi-professionals, and the members of the community were not formally



trained, we were steadily learning from the people who aided us. We were granted with an experience in collaboration that many are not privileged with.

I came to Bukoba to gain more insight into the intersections of trade networks that flow from coastal Tanzania into the hinterland. I was searching for connections that coastal Swahili culture may have shared with the culture(s) of the hinterland. Instead I encountered what I believe happens to most anthropologists in the field, what I was not seeking found me. I was able to gain insight into how people remember their own histories, who has stake in remembering, and what it means to remember.

Few hold the knowledge of the history of Bukoba. It is not taught in schools and the average young person would not be able to tell you the significance of the mnemonic devices that make up the names of their cities, streams, and rivers. That is a problem. It relates to the issues surrounding the politics of Swahili identity that play out in coastal Tanzania, where my primary

research interests lie.

How do we fix these problems? How can we bring subaltern histories from the margins? More importantly, how can we prevent them from sliding to the margins in the first place? My experience in Bukoba taught me that collaboration is a critical component of the solution to these answers. If we do not include the informal sets of knowledge with the formal then we will never have a complete whole.



Noah Isaiah Sims is a masters student in anthropology and a FLAS fellow (Arabic, 2010-11 and Swahili, 2011-12). Project support from: Center for African Studies pre-dissertation research grant, UF Office of Graduate and Minority Programs (OGMP) pre-dissertation grant, and the UF Office of Research.

Linking Livelihoods and Land Cover in Southern Africa

JESSICA STEELE

My research looks at savanna ecology, land cover, and human livelihoods in the Okavango Delta region of southern Africa. I am working toward linking village-scale socioeconomic data with regional land cover in northern Botswana and the Caprivi Strip in Namibia. Multiple factors contribute to land cover change in this area including humans, large herbivores, climatic changes, and fire, to name a few. This is of particular concern as people are intricately tied to the landscape through subsistence farming, wild food gathering, natural resource extraction, grazing, and tourism as a primary economic activity. This interconnection necessitates judicious environmental policies and careful discernment in the management of protected areas, hunting, and regional economic growth.

During a previous trip to Botswana and Namibia in 2010,



I worked with a team of graduate students and professors to collect socioeconomic data including livelihood composition and land use practices in seven villages across the region. Our goal was to learn about as many households as possible in each village through semi-structured interviews. Other members of the team conducted focus groups with community members and personal

interviews with village chiefs. We are in the process of analyzing these data, and currently gaining insight into the complex relationships between individual households, institutions, wildlife, and the land.

The next step in my research was to return to this area in May and June of 2011 to collect ecological data, including plot-level vegetation measurements and spectral signatures of key savanna species. I am analyzing satellite imagery, and fieldwork is an absolute necessity when using remote sensing to characterize a landscape. Scientists and managers in this region are concerned about shrub encroachment as a potential threat to species diversity and ecological stability. Thus far using remote sensing to classify the landscape into shrubs, trees, and grasses has not been successful. Accordingly, that fine-scale level of discrimination would be extremely useful in understanding the function of the savanna.

That being the case, in addition to running vegetation transects and completing a training sample sheet at each site, I used a spectroradiometer to measure the spectral signature of key savanna species. The spectroradiometer takes the same measurement as the satellite and I intend to use these signatures to identify species on the imagery. In several cases the images I am using overlap with the villages we sampled, providing an opportunity to make direct links between people and the environment. It is my hope that these datasets will foster the connection of local-scale livelihood strategies and regional environmental change, providing insight into the ways future environmental changes could affect people and social stabil-

ity in this region. I am sincerely grateful for the financial assistance from the Center of African Studies, without which this work would not have been possible.



Jessica Steele is a Ph.D. student in geography. Funding for this research from: NASA Land-Cover / Land-Use Change Program Grant, CAS pre-dissertation research award, QSE3 IGERT Travel Grant, UF CLAS Travel Grant, and the UF Office of Research.

Embodiment, Emplacement, and Lyrical Discourse from Eastlands, Nairobi

ERIK TIMMONS

Why are certain aesthetic choices made in the production of hip hop recordings? Why are certain sound effects (the click-click-boom! of gun shots) and vocal effects (echoing) commonplace in studio productions of hip hop music? What determines which language is spoken, what words are used and which idioms invoked? If hip hop is a global “culture” that has certain identifiable characteristics, how do we measure variation within that culture? In other words, how do artists and producers in the studio make decisions on when to follow generic conventions of global hip hop and when to inflect their productions with an aesthetic which resonates with (imagined) local or national audiences? Finally, how do the decisions made at the site of production mediate social processes happening in local communities?

I spent summer 2011 exploring these questions in relation to a group of musicians from eastern Nairobi. Since the 1990s, this relatively small but influential group of young men has been producing a particular style of revolutionary hip hop songs. Lyrical tropes common to this music include paying homage to fighters in the Mau Mau war, and leaders of black consciousness in the Americas such as Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey and Bob Marley. The artists continually reference “struggle,” “unity” and “revolution” in their lyrics. They revile the powerful and corrupt politicians that let them starve or die of AIDS. They castigate the thugs who steal and rape in their neighborhood. And they constantly situate their voice within the marginalized place from which they come. Above all, these urban poets are avid observers of social inequali-



ties and their music offers a highly stylized voice for moral and political reform.

I visited a number of places which are important sites of sociality for these young men including: the neighborhood *maskani* (public gathering place), the Kenyan National Theatre, live concerts/hip hop events and two recording studios. I made several visits to a community-based organization (CBO) in Dandora which was initiated by a couple of hip hop musicians/activists from the community. Additionally, I began the work of collecting recordings of songs by these musicians then transcribing and translating them.

Towards the end of my stay in Nairobi I was invited to a local studio by a friend and hip hop musician named Judge. Together we wrote and recorded a song with two additional rappers, Kaktus and Ekori. The process of participating in the writing a producing of a song was informative. I intend to return to Nairobi in 2012 to begin fieldwork

for my dissertation. I will continue to explore the sociality of the studio and try to understand what goes into making decisions about poetics and the aesthetics of sound in the making of revolutionary hip hop.



Erik Timmons is a Ph.D. student in anthropology and former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2008-2010 and summer 2010). His research was supported by a CAS summer pre-dissertation research grant and the UF Office of Research.

Towards the Teaching of Kenyan Art & Choral Music in High School Music Education

DUNCAN WAMBUGU

Over the past decades, there has been a tremendous growth in the output of choral art music in Kenya. Art music in this case refers to musical works that are written by African composers (Kenyans in particular) who have been trained in Western classical music styles, and therefore combine Western classical music elements with traditional African music idioms in their compositions. Their music is usually African sounding – based from traditional folk melodies and/or rhythms. As a genre, this type of music in Kenya has tremendously grown in performances, as evidenced at music festivals, church gatherings and National Celebrations. For example, at the National Music Festivals, three classes have been designated for art music for all levels of performers – from nursery school children to university students. These classes range from own composition to adaptation and arrangements of African folk tunes and melodies.

My initial curiosity in Kenyan art music was the performance practices of choral art songs and whether there was a commonly agreed way in which Kenyan choral art songs are performed. This was due to a seemingly similar nature in which most of the choirs performed this genre. However, the growth in compositional output and performances of Kenyan choral art songs within secondary schools raised my curiosity further. Since many of the secondary schools were performing this particular genre of music, I was curious to find out whether there was some educational value that the students were gaining from performing these works. I began asking myself whether the perform-



ers actually knew the composers of the music they were performing, and what about the composers did they actually know. I therefore sought to find out from music teachers and choir directors what they knew of Kenyan composers and their music in the hopes that this knowledge was transferred to the students in order to further understand and interpret the music they are performing.

This past summer, I set out to investigate whether Kenyan art music is taught in secondary school classrooms and rehearsal rooms. I carried out this research during the National Music Festival, held every August, in Kenya. This event, which hosts approximately 90,000 participants through 10 days, was a perfect opportunity to meet and interview music teachers from around the country. I also interviewed selected composers of Kenyan choral art music with a view to gain some insights into the composer's minds and intentions when composing these songs.

As part of my investigations with the help from former students of Kenyatta University, I distributed a questionnaire (n=100) to the music teachers and choir directors of secondary schools. In particular, I was interested in finding out the content teachers taught

regarding Kenyan art music, musical examples used, and how important they regarded Kenyan art music in their classrooms. I also extensively interviewed certain composers of art music. From these interviews, I hope to establish content enough for teachers to use when teaching about Kenyan art music from the composers' perspective.

After carefully analyzing the questionnaires and the composers' interviews, I will be able to make a strong case for the inclusion of Kenyan art music as a specific genre in the Kenyan National Music Curriculum. Further research may be carried out on other mediums of composition and not just choral music, including instrumental art music, solo voice art music and many others. This research will add academic/theoretical knowledge to a rapidly developing practical genre with a view to further understanding Kenyan choral art music.

Duncan Wambugu is a Ph.D. candidate in music education. His research was sponsored by the Madelyn M. Lockhart Research Fund for African Studies, a CAS pre-dissertation research grant, and the UF Office of Research.

Social Networks and Voting in Africa

KEITH WEGHORST

Through surveys I conducted in the summer of 2010 (n=900) and prior to the October elections (n=630), I found that voters in Tanzania—where one party has ruled since independence—were more likely to support opposition candidates if their closest friends and family voted in the same way. This presented an answer to a puzzling question that drives my research: Why then do voters support opposition parties in elections where they have little opportunity to oust the incumbent regime? It appeared that likeness of political preferences within social (family and friend) networks influences opposition voting. But it left unexplained how and why this was the case.

In Zanzibar's 2010 elections, the opposition Civic United Front (CUF) finished 3,000 votes behind the incumbent Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), the best they had done since 1995. This presented a great opportunity to understand why the number of voters that support the opposition rises and falls over time and to assess whether or not changes in people's closest friends and details about those friends—most importantly how they vote—could have attributed to the increase in their electoral support. During the summer of 2011, I conducted further study of the role of networks on voting behavior in Zanzibar, in conjunction with a project carried out with the International Law and Policy Institute (more below!).

One innovation of the study is that it improves our ability to look at a causal relationship between networks and political behavior, by looking how changes in social networks impact vote choice. I also col-



lect data on the density of opposition support across geographical space, allowing me to disentangle the effect of friends and family having various political attitudes from the effect of like-minded people living in one's community. For my dissertation, I am developing a theory of why voters support challengers of a party in power when they have very little chance to win. The key, I argue, lies in how networks change beliefs about the state of the political world. Because voters in Africa often lack credible information about performance indicators and the popularity of a regime, I claim that changes in support for people that they know best signals to them that the opposition has a high level of support and that supporting them will be more than a wasted vote.

The project also was conducted for ILPI and the Good Governance Ministry of Zanzibar, looking at the quality of government and what could be done to improve. For this project, I implemented the citizen survey discussed above and also a survey with members of the House

of Representatives. The results from this portion of the project, which are currently being presented to the Zanzibar government, are aiding in the development of a new anti-corruption and good governance law.

As I work on applications for dissertation research grants, I plan to return to Tanzania in order to complete a survey with members of the Parliament of Tanzania and also with opposition candidates who competed in 2010 and lost. This part of the dissertation reaches to questions similar to those that motivate the citizen survey: why do viable political candidates choose to join the opposition instead of the incumbent party and, when they do, what shapes their success? My research plan calls for me to later to head to Namibia, where I will implement both surveys during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Keith R. Weghorst is a Ph.D. candidate in political science. He received funding from the UF Department of Political Science and the International Law and Policy Institute.

Islamic Education Curriculum Reform Politics in Morocco

ANN WITULSKI

I spent last year doing dissertation fieldwork in Morocco. My research examines the process through which competing actors reform the Islamic education curriculum for the public schools. After three months of further language study in Fez, I did a number of interviews across the country with members of the educational bureaucracy including Islamic education teachers, Ministry of Education employees, and school administrators. I also interviewed members of civil society with an interest in the reforms including politicians, scholars, journalists and the leadership of parent organizations. Finally, I worked in the archives of an Islamist newspaper that provided in-depth coverage of recent reforms. I collected factual-based articles, editorials, and open letters from parent associations and organizations representing teachers and Islamic education inspectors.

The main goal of the fieldwork was to understand the process of how curriculum is reformed in order to identify the ways in which content is politicized. My research addressed questions such as: Who is involved in the writing of new curriculums? What guidelines are they given in this process? Who writes the guidelines? How are conflicts resolved on important committees? How are important groups included in the process? What groups are excluded? In order to understand how this process becomes politicized, I also focus on several other questions such as: What issues come to the national spotlight during such reforms? Who brings these issues to the public's attention? Who provides the platform for such issues to be discussed? When is there a formal response from the bureaucracy to



public discussions? When are public concerns ignored?

In the dissertation, I discuss the “sausage making” of curriculum reform and identify the openings in the process that have allowed political conflicts to influence curriculum design. Then I highlight one aspect that has been particularly important in shaping the curriculum, the conflict between leftists and Islamists. A number of interviewees suggested that the Islamic education curriculum was used by the monarchy to strengthen Islamists in order to counter the influence of the left. The curriculum was one of several means of maintaining factions within the opposition and encouraging infighting so that the opposition did not unite and oppose the monarchy itself. The project thus identifies a heretofore-unrecognized branch of a well-known strategy employed by the monarchy. Interestingly, though, my research also suggests that these

factions, as they gained access to political power through democratization, began employing the same strategies, including the manipulation of Islamic education curriculum, in guiding their relationships with one another.

The Center for African Studies has provided essential support in this research endeavor. As a number of the interviews I conducted were done in Modern Standard Arabic, the project would not have been possible without the two years and one summer of language instruction provided through a FLAS award. In addition, the Center has contributed significantly to my own professional development by supporting my attendance at the African Studies Association annual meeting on several occasions, creating a lively intellectual community through weekly Baraza lectures and SASA student lunches and finally, illuminating the process of journal publication through student opportunities with the Center's online journal, *African Studies Quarterly*.



Ann Witulski is a Ph.D. candidate in political science and a former FLAS fellow (Arabic, 2007-09). Her dissertation fieldwork was funded by a Boren fellowship.

Listening to Changing Narratives and Musical Diversity in Moroccan Gnawa Music

CHRISTOPHER WITULSKI

From November of 2010 to August of 2011, I had the opportunity to conduct my dissertation field research in Fez, Morocco. This was my fourth visit to the country and my fifth to North Africa. While there, I completed language study in the Moroccan dialect of Arabic and intensive ethnographic research with musicians from across the spectrum of *musiqa ruhiyya*, loosely translated as spiritual music. I focused on a population of professional musicians and ritual leaders called the Gnawa, though I also spent considerable time working closely with Sufi musicians and other performers. In each case, I questioned how these professional musicians could constantly negotiate the space between “popular” and “religious,” always adapting to the competing economic and spiritual demands of their public positions. These strategies highlight how the concepts of sacred and secular, popular, even entertainment or ritual, escape simple categorization. Furthermore, each of these members



of Fez’s *musiqa ruhiyya* community is firmly a part of the incessant process of defining and redefining how Islam is, and should be, practiced in everyday life. Through the presentation of specific religious practices on stage and the dissemination of these performed ideologies through



the recording industry and festival circuits, they use their artistry, creativity, spirituality, leadership, and practicality to create and support an idea of what a publicly manifested Islam looks like.

My project centered on the Gnawa, once a population of enslaved sub-Saharan Africans forcibly brought to Morocco through the trans-Saharan slave trade. The ritual activity that comprises the focal point of Gnawa practice involves a spirit possession ceremony, an event led by a group of ritual musicians. After years of marginalization as social, economic, and religious outcasts, their music gained the attention of the parade of American and European artists who came to Morocco (especially Tangier) after World War II and during the civil rights movement in search of ‘oriental’ or African inspiration (the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Bryon Gysin, Randy Weston, Ornette Coleman, etc.). Their music, often described in terms of its bluesy grooves, is now featured across the country in major music festivals and on innumerable world music releases.

The research that I prepared while in Fez questions the ways in which the Gnawa perform constructed narratives of their own history while asking where ritual leaders find space for personal creativity. Representations of these different narratives (briefly “We are African” and “We are Sufi”), which are embedded into the music, depend on performative decisions, on musical style. The questions that performers must ask and answer each time they proceed through a ceremony or public performance reify one or another of these imagined ontologies, foregrounding, for example, African instead of Arab elements of the tradition for international audiences or favoring songs that emphasize a timeless African communal history over those that result from more recent individual creativity.

Additionally, while in Fez I accepted an invitation to perform on the violin with a malhun ensemble, a genre of music that straddles this divide between the pious and entertainment, in the Fez Festival of Sacred Music. I contributed coverage and photography on the entire festival for the View From Fez, a prominent English language news blog, as well as Afropop Worldwide. Currently, I am writing my dissertation, teaching courses in American Popular Music, and preparing a study abroad course to Spain and Morocco that will highlight the role of the arts in healing traditions in Europe and the Islamic world, both historically and today.

Chris Witulski is a Ph.D. candidate in musicology/ethnomusicology, a UF Alumni Fellow, and former FLAS fellow (Arabic, summer 2007).

Information Flows and Perceptions of Resources in the Okavango Delta

DEB WOJCIK

In the semi-arid Okavango Delta region of Botswana, rural livelihoods are inextricably linked with highly variable environmental conditions. The people of the Okavango Delta rely on water resources for consumption, household use, food production, and to sustain wildlife populations essential to local tourism-based livelihoods. While local people have developed strategies to adapt with seasonal precipitation cycles and flood pulsing, global environmental change has the potential to challenge existing strategies and exacerbate livelihood vulnerabilities. This situation is complex and highly uncertain. Data indicates that variability in the overall amount of rainfall has increased, and climate models predict that water resources will decrease in the region over the next several decades. Though impacts are uncertain, these changes to water resources are likely to affect wildlife populations, increasing human-wildlife conflicts and affecting livelihoods connected with community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). Benefits from CBNRM are important to residents of much of the Okavango Delta region. With joint goals of poverty reduction and natural resource conservation, changes in water resources and in turn wildlife populations could greatly impact livelihoods in these communities.

My dissertation research is based on the premise that information is a critical currency for adaptation in rural communities facing this type of uncertainty and change. It is therefore important to understand how information about natural resources flows within rural villages, and how this information is integrated into people's thinking



about the resources. To investigate this, I conducted fieldwork beginning in 2008 in four villages: Khwai, Sankoyo, Gudigwa, and Seronga.

In combination with ethnographic and observational research, I worked closely with local research assistants to conduct social network interviews. Each personal network revealed the connections among members of a respondent's communicative network. To understand how these personal networks overlapped with one another, I combined this personal network data for each village to create whole networks, which revealed village-level communication patterns and allowed for comparison among villages.

Evidence from this study suggests that there are several factors affecting information flows in rural villages. Among the most important is the size of the community. While smaller villages tend to be dense and tightly connected, individuals in larger villages tend to separate themselves into communicative sub-groups. Gender and ethnicity are two important factors determining the composition of these sub-groups and are important variables when considering how to most effectively communicate important environmental messages to all village residents.

While understanding the flows of information is important,

so too is understanding how people in different positions within the communicative network integrate available information into their perceptions about natural resources. I conducted free listing exercises and in-depth interviews in two of the villages to better understand how people view water and wildlife resources. These interviews indicate that people's perceptions are related to their position within their village communicative network, with those in more central positions possessing more comprehensive views of the resources.

In combination, these findings suggest that in order for messages important to adaptation to reach all members of a village, it may be important to adjust communication strategies. Approaches should attempt to address the impacts that community size, gender, and ethnicity may have on how information flows within a village. Communicating directly to sub-groups in larger villages, for example, may be critical to reaching a broader audience for widespread adaptation over time. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to conduct this research, and especially thankful to the residents, research assistants, and local authorities of Khwai, Sankoyo, Gudigwa, and Seronga for their invaluable contributions to the project.

Deb Wojcik is a Ph.D. candidate in Forest Resources and Conservation with a concentration in Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) and a former FLAS fellow (Setswana, summer 2009). She received funding for this research from the NSF IGERT Program on Adaptive Management of Water, Wetlands and Watersheds and the UF TCD Program.

Kongo Across the Waters: a Collaborative Exhibition of the Harn Museum of Art and the RMCA

SUSAN COOKSEY & ROBIN POYNOR

Robin Poynor and Susan Cooksey are planning an exhibition that explores the art and culture of the Kongo peoples of west Central Africa and Kongo cultural connections in the United States. The exhibition will be a collaborative project between the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida and the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium. Cooksey and Poynor will work together with RMCA curators to define the themes of the exhibition, select objects and interpretive materials to be included, and produce the exhibition catalogue. In the last year, Poynor, Cooksey and Harn Museum Director Rebecca Nagy met with Dr. Guido Gryseels, and worked with the RMCA staff in Tervuren, viewing collections and making plans for the exhibition. Poynor, Cooksey and Nagy made a trip to the RMCA in July 2011 and Poynor and Cooksey returned in September 2011 to view objects and discuss the project with RMCA staff.

The proposed exhibition will look at Kongo art in Africa (in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congo Republic, Cabinda, Gabon and Angola) and extend it to address the impact of Central African peoples and ideas—particularly from the Kongo region—in North America, both on culture more broadly and on art and visual culture specifically. The title “Kongo Across the Waters” has multiple meanings, both geographical and spiritual. Crossing the waters occurs as a constant theme in Kongo mythology, in stories of migration and in the conceptual journey towards the land of the ancestors. It also evokes the trans-Atlantic journey of Kongo peoples, and



is reiterated in African American beliefs. To arrive at the relationships between the Kongo coast and North American visual culture the curators will rely on a multi-disciplinary approach involving current research in the fields of history, archaeology, linguistics, musicology, anthropology and art history.

The exhibition will mark a milestone in the history of African presence in the Americas. The first Africans to arrive in what is now the United States, Juan Garrido and Juan Gonzalez Ponce de Leon, came to the Florida shore in April 1513 as free conquistadors who accompanied Juan Ponce de Leon. In 2013 Florida will commemorate 500 years of European presence, marking the arrival of Juan Ponce de Leon and his companions. The proposed exhibition will bring attention to this important historical event and will celebrate the subsequent impact of African cultural traditions in Florida and the United States, especially those of the Kongo peoples. Happily, the exhibition will also coincide with

the publication of Poynor’s book *Africa in Florida*, by the University Press of Florida.

The curators from the Harn Museum and the Royal Museum of Central Africa will collaborate on the selection of objects and archival materials from the RMCA, institutions in the United States, and private collections in Europe and America. Plans for the accompanying catalog include essays on specific themes written by scholars whose research focuses on Kongo culture. The proposed opening of the exhibition is fall 2013 in the Harn Museum’s Gladys Gracy Harn Exhibition Hall. The exhibition will be offered for travel to the RMCA in modified form, and then to major institutions in the United States.

Susan Cooksey is curator of African art at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art. Robin Poynor is professor in the School of Art and Art History. Cooksey and Poynor are both affiliate faculty members in the Center for African Studies.

Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report (SABER) Project

ANITA SPRING, ROBERT ROLFE, GREGORY PARENT, TENENEH TEREFE,
HANNAH MORRIS & EMILY WATKINS

The Sub-Saharan Business Environment Report (SABER), aims to provide business information at a ready glance. It is part of a four-year project funded by the Center for African Studies and the Center for International Business Research and Education (CIBER) at the University of Florida, and the CIBER at the University of South Carolina. SABER's diverse audiences range from academics (faculty and students) to policy makers and business persons (owners, managers, and consultants). We hope the report will also be used in business schools in Africa and elsewhere. SABER aims to provide the most current annual business information from a wide diversity of sources, and quantitative tables prepared by SABER's authors. Print copies are distributed and an electronic version is available online at <http://web.africa.ufl.edu/> and <http://warrington.ufl.edu/ciber/publications/saber.asp>.

SABER considers the 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) with the largest GDPs (Gross Domestic Product, one of the main comparative world indicators) and organizes them into four regions. First, regional summaries highlight and evaluate the major trends. Then illustrative Country Reports review the year's events and data under six categories: Political Stability; Economic Growth and Trade; Foreign Direct Investment (FDI); Business Climate, Financial Markets and Microfinance; Infrastructure and Telecommunications; and Health and Social Aspects. Points given aim to be descriptive and illustrative of 2010-2011 events, rather than all inclusive. The Country Reports summarize the political, economic, and social situation, as well as the many

business deals using information from a multitude of books, articles, news stories, and online sites for the current year.

SABER's comprehensive tables provide data on the main world and local indicators: economic, capital markets, trade, and FDI; import/export and business ease; political freedom & governance; infrastructure and telecommunications; and social aspects and health. We have focused on constructing a set of the most useful country and regional

in this era of globalization within Africa, and with North America, Asia, and Europe.

Anita Spring is professor emeritus of Anthropology. Robert Rolfe is professor of international business at Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina. Gregory Parent is a Ph.D. candidate in geography and a former FLAS fellow (Xhosa, 2009-10). Funding for this project is provided by U.S. Department of Education's Title VI grants through the UF 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).



indicators that can be viewed easily - the information is gleaned from raw data in many publications, databases, and websites.

We aim to distinguish attractive from problematic in terms of business and socio-economic-political conditions. African entrepreneurship ranges from local, to regional, and to global, and from micro/small-scale to large and multinational. FDI and business deals span the globe, as do African exports and imports. We emphasize African links, deals, and exports & imports

Partnership to Strengthen Tourism Management in South Africa

BRIJESH THAPA, SANDRA RUSSO & LORI PENNINGTON-GRAY

Tourism in South Africa is an important industry with demonstrated growth in visitor arrivals in the last decade. The tourism product mix has experienced diversification beyond the traditional core products based on wildlife and natural protected areas to incorporate marine and coastal areas, rural communities and townships, events, urban centers, and meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions. More recently, the country has increased its visibility on an international stage as the successful host of the 2010 FIFA Football World Cup. Leveraged on such sporting events as well as international meetings and conventions, the government expects to increase visitor arrivals to over 10 million in the future to generate income, employment, tax revenues, and entrepreneurial activity.

While growth has been evident, it is vital to maintain and enhance tourism with a sustained strategy for further growth and competitiveness given the potential to strengthen other economic sectors in rural and urban regions. In addition to hard infrastructure projects such as facilities, utilities, transportation networks, etc., it is paramount to simultaneously focus on human resources development in the tourism sector to achieve sustained growth. The overall advancement of qualified, trained and skilled labor force is crucial, given the rate of growth and future trends. Capacity building and institutional development through training is a key component for the vitality and sustainability of the tourism industry in South Africa. In order to address this major need, the University of Florida (UF) and Tshwane University of Tech-



nology (TUT) in Tshwane, South Africa have formulated a three-year partnership to strengthen its teaching, research, service and faculty development initiatives in tourism management.

First, teaching and curriculum needs were accommodated at the Bachelor degree level with respect to the following objectives: a) review and update existing curriculum; b) develop new curriculum in casino management, and aviation management (currently these degree programs are not offered on the African continent, and pending final approval by the government); and c) plan vocational and executive training certificate programs based on the new degree programs - to be developed at a later phase. Second, based on a strategic visioning meeting with faculty and industry stakeholders, a Center for Tourism and Sustainability was established with active industry engagement and partnership. The mission of the Center will be largely to serve tourism destinations and industries through research, training and outreach within the community, province and other regions in southern Africa. Currently, final TUT approval along with financial and human resources

is in process to operationalize the Center.

Third, faculty development has been emphasized with regards to enhancing capacity as well as collaborative initiatives in tourism research with the project team and select UF faculty. Recently, a nationwide study among residents and visitors during the 2010 FIFA World Cup were completed. Currently, a study to examine community conservation, development, and tourism at Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site is being conducted – the site is considered to be the oldest, largest, and most deeply eroded complex meteorite impact structure in the world. The facilitation of collaborative initiatives in research partnerships will be sustained during and post-completion of the project. Fourth, professional development opportunities will be offered to current TUT faculty through a short visit to UF. A TUT faculty visit is expected to occur in early spring 2012. Currently, the majority of the objectives have been accomplished. In addition, various spin-off projects and stakeholder engagement have been conducted.

Brijesh Thapa is the Director of Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute [www.uftourism.org] and a associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management. The partnership project is managed through Higher Education for Development with a three-year funding [\$250,000] from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, D.C.

2010 FIFA Football World Cup: Resident and Visitor Perspectives

BRIJESH THAPA, HEATHER GIBSON, KYRIAKI KAPLANIDOU & MATTHEW WALKER

There has been a shift in conventional thinking about the various impacts that mega sport events have on the host country. The primary focus of hosting such events is now on the post-event legacies. A number of potential legacies have been identified and include upgraded transportation infrastructure, new sporting facilities, economic benefits, renewed national pride, and the potential to enhance the tourism product of a country. The South African government had an explicit development agenda associated with the 2010 FIFA World Cup, part of which is predicated on “nation building.” Sport has long been associated with building national spirit and generating patriotism among the citizens of the host country. However, for the World Cup, understanding the contribution of the event to the tourism legacy is particularly important; part of this understanding is gaining insights into the experiences of the World Cup visitors and South Africa’s residents.

Within this context, the nine host cities featuring ten different stadia staging the World Cup Games attracted many visitors and created impressions in these tourists’ minds about South Africa’s tourism products. Given the importance of the World Cup for the South African Tourism brand, the purpose of the study was to evaluate destination and event image perceptions as well as tourism behaviors of international tourist spectators at all the host cities/sites in order to assess the impacts of such an event on the country’s tourism development. Data were collected among visitors (N=8,422) at all the nine host cities (Pretoria, Nelspruit, Polokwane,



Johannesburg, Rustenburg, Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Bloemfontein) during the World Cup which provided a major source of information about visitor profiles, market segmentation, perceptions and experiences. Such information has utility with respect to marketing initiatives to attract additional visitors following the event.

In addition to visitors, understanding the social legacies of a mega-event also necessitates a focus on the residents. In particular, there was a need for a longitudinal approach, particularly to assess the change in the resident’s perceptions associated with the World Cup event. The research had multiple phases with the primary goal of identifying the social legacies (e.g., identity, social capital, and tourism) associated with the World Cup. The purpose of this specific aspect of the study was to examine the event’s impacts on attitudes, perceptions and experiences of residents from different socio-demographic groups. Specifically, to investigate: (1) Event Legacy, and Support; (2) Quality of Life; (3) Government Support; (4) National and Ethnic Identity; (5) Social Capital; and (6) Nation Building related to hosting the 2010 World Cup. Data were collected three months prior to the event in mid-June 2010 (N=1,759), while a follow up was conducted in April 2011 (N=2030). The sample consti-

tuted of residents from five host cities (Pretoria, Nelspruit, Polokwane, Johannesburg, and Rustenburg). Findings are currently being analyzed with respect to pre-post World Cup Event. Results will help to inform local and national level policy to facilitate the nation building goals of South Africa.

This project was conducted in partnership between the University of Florida (UF) and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in Tshwane/Pretoria, South Africa. The team from the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management at UF was led by Brijesh Thapa along with Heather Gibson, Kyriaki Kaplanidou, and Matthew Walker. The team from the Department of Tourism Management at TUT was led by Sue Geldenhuys along with Willie Coetzee. Nation-wide data collection for both research projects (Residents and Visitors) was coordinated and collected by students and staff members at Tshwane University of Technology.



Brijesh Thapa is the Director of Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute [www.uftourism.org] and an associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management. The project was funded by the Office of Research, Innovation and Partnership at Tshwane University of Technology along with several host cities in South Africa.

MDP Summer Practicum in Botswana

ERICA ODERA, GREYSON NYAMOOGA, TSHIBANGU KALALA, CAMILA PAZOS, GRENVILLE BARNES, BRIAN CHILD, TODD LEEDY, SANDRA RUSSO & DEB WOJCIK

The Master's in Development Practice program is a new degree program focused on training future development practitioners. An overseas practical experience is required to gather experience working across disciplines and with diverse stakeholders in development. In summer 2011, a group of 4 MDP students conducted a team field practicum in Botswana. The first week was spent in Gaborone, attending classes with MDP students from the University of Botswana, establishing a positive relationship within the global MDP network. We participated in their agriculture module and traveled to farms to learn about dryland farming and the challenges and opportunities of agriculture in southern Africa.

Our team then partnered with Sankuyo Tshwaragano Management Trust (STMT), the USAID Southern African Regional Environmental Program (SAREP), and the community of Sankuyo to design a sustainable development management plan for the community. This management plan is a prerequisite for the community to renew their 15-year head lease from the Government of Botswana. UF faculty agreed to supervise completion of the management plan as a means of providing a learning opportunity for MDP students.

The main objective of writing this management plan was to explore commercial sustainable use of natural resources to increase economic value and reduce poverty at the local level. Past management plans for this area focused on natural resource availability and use, with little attention given to the well-being and livelihood of the local people. As MDP students, we know



that development is multi-dimensional and sustainable initiatives require the active participation of the people who will be impacted by the management plan. Analysis of previous livelihood data, online research, meetings with stakeholders in the district capital of Maun, and community meetings provided us with valuable information on the human dimensions of the new management plan.

As part of the process of developing the management plan, we made extensive use of participatory methods. Through this approach we aimed to build capacity for future decision-making regarding Trust activities and natural resource management. We held weekly meetings in the community updating them on our progress and asking for their opinions about preferred commercial strategies and their long-term goals for their community. In one meeting, we conducted a visioning exercise by asking community members to draw/describe what they would like their community to look like in 15 years. This participation process was important for fostering a sense of ownership and understanding of this management plan amongst the community members. In our final presentation of the plan the Chief and community expressed their appreciation and commented favorably on the participatory fashion

of the project.

After the management plan was presented and turned into the government's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), we worked with the neighboring community, Shorobe. Our particular interest was how livelihoods differ between Sankuyo and Shorobe which lie on opposite sides of the Veterinary Cordon Fence. Sankuyo is located inside the fence which restricts their livelihood options to wildlife tourism, while Shorobe which lies outside the fence and is allowed to have livestock. We conducted livelihood surveys and explored the impact of environmental shocks on livelihoods in this community by asking the community to share their perceived biggest threats to livelihoods during a community meeting. Shorobe community was very welcoming and enthusiastic about potential future partnerships with UF MDP.

Our experience in Botswana taught us about the challenges of working in marginalized rural communities, but also made us aware of the many rewards of development practice. The Management Plan was approved in October 2011 and we hope that our efforts will contribute substantially to the long-term economic development and natural resource management in Sankuyo and also serve as a model for other management plans in the area.

Funding for the MDP summer practicum in Botswana was provided by the Center for African Studies, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs - U.S. Department of State, and the MacArthur Foundation.

Tourism Demand Assessment - Kafue National Park, Zambia

BRIJESH THAPA, BRIAN CHILD, GREGORY PARENT & PATRICIA MUPETA

The tourism industry is important for Zambia as the government has recently identified tourism as one of the four major priority sectors along with mining, agriculture, and manufacturing. In Zambia, the tourism industry has largely focused on its core products such as parks, wildlife, nature and culture, which are essentially in direct competition with destinations in the eastern and southern Africa region. However, Zambia is an emerging destination with some aspect of novelty and has distinctive tourism resources – unique natural features and landscapes, historical and cultural attractions, and outdoor recreation opportunities. The single most important attraction is Victoria Falls located on the Zambezi River between Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Victoria Falls is the leading attraction for domestic, regional and international visitors, and typically packaged/promoted along with wildlife-based attractions within and/or outside of Zambia. Since park-based tourism is also a major resource and revenue generator, it is critical to disperse visitors to the national parks within Zambia based on product leveraging and bundling with Victoria Falls. Currently, there are 19 national parks, 35 game management areas, and 3



wildlife sanctuaries. The reliance of tourism in parks and protected areas is strategic given the uniqueness and availability of resources, increased demand from visitors, and accrual of local economic benefits in employment, income and quality of life. This priority is evident in Kafue National Park (KNP) which is currently being developed for tourism, conservation and development activities. Visitor dispersal to KNP will provide a diverse mix of tourism opportunities, thereby enhancing the country-wide product, and distribute economic benefits to regional and local economies.

KNP is the oldest and the largest Zambian park (22,480 square km) which stretches over four provinces. KNP is the second largest park in Africa and the fifth largest in the world. This park is fed by Lunga, Lufupa and Kafue rivers, and is home to 400 species of birds and 55 different species of animals including rare species of

wildlife such as red lechwes, a rare marsh antelope, sable and roan. This diversity of antelope attracts numerous predators like leopards, cheetahs and lions. Although the wildlife and natural amenities are major attractions, the current volume of visitors is low compared to its size and slightly skewed toward domestic visitors. Factors such as lack of quality infrastructure including physical (e.g., roads) and tourism (e.g., visitor services) likely limits major growth in arrivals. Although growth has been demonstrated with respect to arrivals, the park has the capacity to sustain additional visitors. However, in order to further develop, package and promote KNP and its surrounding region, it is important to first assess the viability of tourism growth from supply and demand perspectives. Currently, tourism has not reached its potential but is a major tool to promote and strengthen sustained economic growth and poverty reduction in the



greater KNP area.

This study examined demand based on current visitors that have visited the KNP area and/or those that have visited other national parks. This study is part of a larger project that aims to diversify and strengthen Zambia's tourism product and to alleviate poverty and accrue economic benefits in the greater KNP area. The overall project is based on a triangulation of assessment of demand (visitors), supply (accommodations, tour operators, etc.), and the surrounding communities in the game management areas that are adjacent to KNP. This study was specifically focused on visitor demand, and an assessment was conducted for the greater KNP area based on current visitors (international, regional and domestic tourists - 2,395 tourists interviewed) that have visited the KNP area and/or those that have visited other national parks in Zambia and neighboring Botswana (e.g. Chobe National Park). There were two major aspects to this study. The first component related to market research based on visitor demo-

graphics, travel behaviors, quality of experience, level of satisfaction, and perceptions of national parks. In addition, information about frequency of use level, quality of experience, and satisfaction with KNP was also solicited. The second component focused on trip expenditures, and the estimation of demand change for KNP (willingness to pay/willingness to stay) in response to three major potential improvement projects (i.e. road networks, visitor facilities and services, and natural resources and amenities) in and around KNP.

Overall, this study provided baseline information needed to position KNP relative to other areas within the country and the southern Africa region. The study also analyzed determinants of demand to aid policy makers as well as the tourism industry to identify potential new markets and products, and provide opportunities that play a key role in a tourists' choice in their trip selection. Additionally, it assisted in the development of comprehensive marketing strategies for the greater KNP region and Zambia.

Brijesh Thapa is the Director of Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute [www.uftourism.org] and an associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management. The project is managed through U.S. Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service with funding (\$193,262) from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation, Washington, D.C.

The Trans-Saharan Elections Project (TSEP)

LEONARDO VILLALÓN & DANIEL SMITH

The UF “Trans-Saharan Elections Project,” funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs involves a two-year series of exchanges and seminars that bring together elections specialists from six target countries—Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal—with a wide range of American professionals involved in elections. The goal of the project, co-directed by Leonardo A. Villalón and Daniel A. Smith, is to comparatively examine the challenges and issues involved in ensuring electoral freedom, fairness, and transparency.

The frequency of elections has increased dramatically in Africa since the early 1990s. While the results of the past two decades have been highly mixed, in virtually every country elections have been accepted as the “normal” mode of acceding to public office. The reiterated processes of elections has, however, also produced intense debates about their conduct, and over the years there has been an increased awareness that the need is not just to avoid cheating on election day but to consider much broader issues such as the impact of varying electoral systems, the importance of the larger institutional infrastructure and the rules of game, the role of social and political organizations, and the management of the mechanics of electoral processes. Importantly, these very issues preoccupy many intense American political debates about electoral reform. A key goal of the TSEP project is thus to share experiences, and to stimulate discussions that will have real and substantive impact on our understanding of elections.

The first year of the project has been highly successful in accomplishing these goals. In January 2011, Villalón and Smith traveled to all six participating countries so as to select participants for the first round of seminars in the US. This selection was done collaboratively with representatives of the US Embassy Public Affairs Office in each country and, crucially, our local country partners in the TSEP project. They include:

- CGD, Centre Pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (Burkina Faso)
- EISA-Chad (Chad)
- APEM, Réseau Appui au Processus Electoral au Mali (Mali)
- Université de Nouakchott, Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Economiques (Mauritania)
- LASDEL, Laboratoire E’Etudes et Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (Niger)
- Mouvement Citoyen (Senegal)

The first US-based TSEP program for African visitors took place in May 2011, with 15 elections specialists representing all six countries taking part. Beginning in Gainesville, Florida, the group took part in a series of talks and seminars on the UF campus, met numerous municipal elected officials, and visited institutions involved in managing local elections, including the offices of Alachua County Commissioner of Elections Pam Carpenter. A highlight of this visit was the opportunity for participants to “vote,” using sample ballots and vote scanning machines, as well as to witness the counting and verification procedures.

Moving on to the state level, the group traveled to Florida’s capital in Tallahassee, where they were

received by numerous state officials, including Florida’s Secretary of State Mr. Kurt Browning. The opportunity to engage with key actors involved in the debate about a controversial proposed law (since passed) modifying Florida’s electoral procedures provided a particularly interesting perspective on elections for the African participants. An additional panel discussion on Florida’s experience in the highly contested 2000 presidential elections was also of great interest. From Florida the group traveled to Washington DC, where they had the opportunity to again meet with key institutions involved in US election management at the Federal level. The three weeks culminated with a day-long seminar at the US Department of State, during which participants were able to meet a number of American officials as well as exchange ideas and experiences with two other delegations visiting the US.

From 28 June to 22 July, 2011, an American delegation undertook the planned return visit to the Trans-Saharan region, visiting all six participating countries in what proved to be an intensive and challenging, but also highly successful, trip. In addition to the TSEP co-directors, the delegation was composed of the three other American elections specialists:

- Judge Nikki Ann Clark of the Florida First District Court of Appeals in Tallahassee, where she has served since January 2009. In 2000, Judge Clark was one of the judges who presided over the litigation involving the Bush v. Gore election dispute.
- G. Neil Skene, Jr., a lawyer and former journalist in Tallahassee, with long experience as a journalist covering courts, government and



American politics. Skene served for seven years as president of Congressional Quarterly Inc.

- Roger Austin, a lawyer and Gainesville based political consultant specializing in all areas of state and local electoral campaigns. From 1989 to 1992, he served as the Political Director and Legal Counsel for the Republican Party of Florida.

With the active participation of our partner organizations, as well as with significant input and help from the alumni of our recent US-based program, a diverse set of activities was programmed in each country. In each country there was a major public event in the form of a roundtable on elections involving the US delegation as well as the African alumni from the May program. These discussions were universally marked by a high degree of local interest, evoking much discussion of a very high caliber with frank and stimulating exchanges on difficult and important issues.

In addition to these public events, the program in each country included a series of meetings and exchanges with important actors, institutions and organizations involved in the electoral process. These included, among others: a meeting with the director of the National Bu-

reau of Elections in Chad; meetings with the new Minister of Justice and with the president of the Independent National Electoral Commission in Niger; meetings with the coalition of opposition parties and with the main officers of the current ruling party at their headquarters in Burkina Faso; meetings with the President of the Constitutional Court and with the Minister of Justice in Mali; meetings with the president of the University of Nouakchott and other high officials in Mauritania; meetings with both the coalition of opposition parties and with a deputy to the National Assembly and key supporter of the ruling party and actor in the upcoming highly contested electoral struggle in Senegal.

Various other activities organized by the local hosts immensely enriched the trip and the experience for the American delegation. Highlights included a visit to the town of Kiota in Niger, seat of a very important branch of the Tijaniyya Sufi Muslim order, where the group was received as guests by the most senior members of the religious family. Another highlight was the day-long visit to a rural meeting of elected officials with their constituents in the rural council of Fissel in Senegal, a unique opportunity to see local

democracy in action in West Africa.

Taken as a whole, the activities and meetings of the first year of the TSEP project have been highly effective in helping us achieve key desired outcomes. In events on both sides of the Atlantic, the program has increased understanding of the American electoral system—“warts and all”—among the African specialists, making the important points that democracy and elections are never perfect, require constant vigilance, and can always be improved. Secondly, the American participants came away with a rich and nuanced understanding of the key issues surrounding elections and democratic development in West Africa, including both the challenges and difficulties presented by those contexts as well as the remarkable efforts of individuals and civil society groups in struggling for positive outcomes in each country. We look forward to a successful second round of exchanges in 2012.

Leonardo Villalón is associate professor of political science and former director of the Center for African Studies. Daniel Smith is professor of political science and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.

AFRICAN STUDIES QUARTERLY



FOUNDATION

The Center for African Studies founded the African Studies Quarterly (ASQ) 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 submission of original manuscripts on a 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.

The ASQ undertakes two kinds of publications. Most issues contain articles from a wide range of authors on diverse topics, as in Volume 12, Issue 3:

- “Coal Sector Revitalization, Community Memory, and the Land Question in Nigeria: A Paradox of Economic Diversification”
- “Oil Extraction and the Potential for Domestic Instability in Uganda”
- “Environmental Legacies of Major Events: Solid Waste Management and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Uganda”
- “Women’s Resistance in Cameroon’s Western Grassfields: The Power of Symbols, Superb Organization and Leadership, 1957-1961”
- “Nigeria’s Fourth Republic and the Challenge of a Faltering Democratization.”

The ASQ also publishes Special Issues that focus on a specific theme, as with 11/2&3 guest edited by Ilda Lindell of Stockholm University and titled “Between Exit and Voice: Informality and the Spaces of Popular Agency.”

REVIEW PROCESS

An editorial committee composed of graduate students in African Studies who hail from Africa and the U.S. as well as other countries and from a wide range of disciplines conducts the internal review of submitted manuscripts. Those accepted for consideration are then sent to two external reviewers. ASQ expects all manuscripts to be original and not to have been submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere. Final publication depends on the quality of the manuscript and the associated peer review process. The journal will attempt to publish manuscripts no later than six months after submission. 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 or email africanstudiesquarterly@gmail.com

FLAS FELLOWSHIPS

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, Swahili, Wolof, Xhosa, and Yoruba**) 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.

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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).

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CONTRIBUTE TO GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ON AFRICA AT UF

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 famil-

ilarity 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. The form below can be used for this purpose.

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 or 352-392-2183

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NOTES
