



Center for  
**AFRICAN STUDIES**

Research Report  
2010



**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

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# About the Center

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## ■ 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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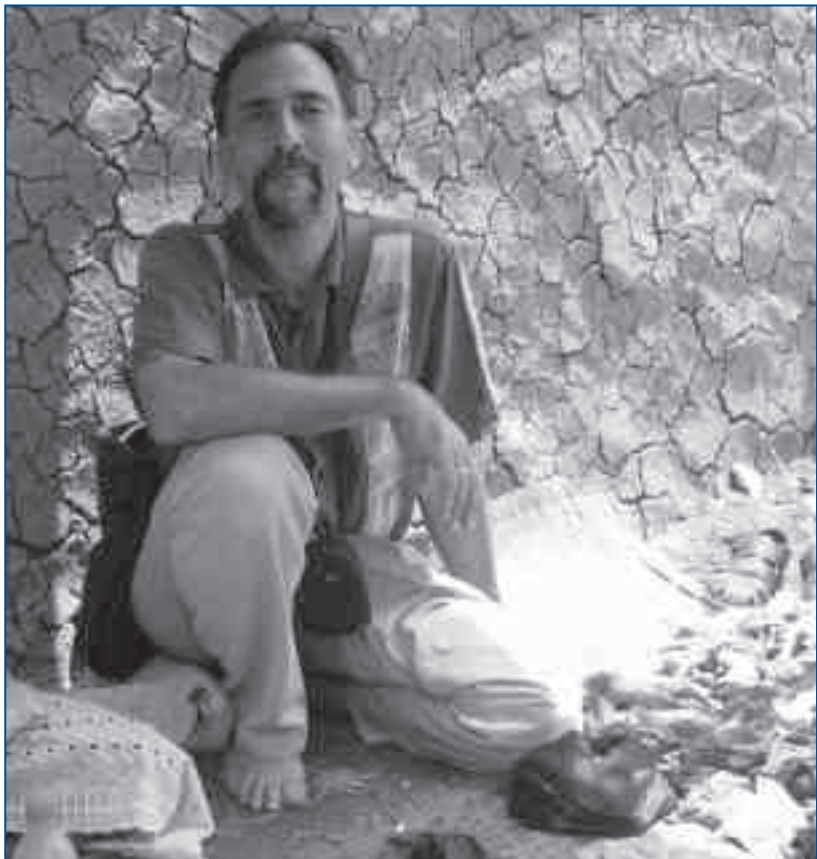
## From the Director

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We are very pleased to present the University of Florida's Center for African Studies (CAS) Research for 2010. The pages that follow detail the extraordinary diversity and the depth of work on Africa being carried out at UF. Our faculty and graduate students are actively engaged in carrying out research on the ground and spanning the continent, from Cape Town to Algiers and from the Horn of Africa to its westernmost point in Dakar.

Cumulatively, this work is marked by three characteristics that reflect CAS's mission and philosophy. It is, first of all, work that is directly engaged with the continent and its peoples, both in terms of the subjects of study but also and most importantly in an understanding of the central need for collaborative engagement with our colleagues in Africa in identifying key questions, and in the search for answers. Secondly, while our faculty and students are most often rooted in disciplines and well-armed with the particular tools that these disciplines have developed, there is a high degree of inter-disciplinarity in the work presented here. A key function of CAS is to bring together scholars from a variety of perspectives to address important issues, and we are thus particularly pleased with the dynamism of our various interdisciplinary working groups, in such diverse areas as natural resource management, governance and development, Islam and Muslim societies, health and society, cultures and the arts, or the dynamics of language change. Finally, we believe that the work reported here reflects our understanding of the important connections between research and training. The many linkages you will find between the faculty and student reports spring from the belief that, as a unit in a major research university, our mission must be to both produce new knowledge about the world and its challenges, and to train and prepare a new generation of scholars to address those issues.

We are pleased to acknowledge the support we receive from various sources and the collaborations this support makes possible. Most notably in 2010



CAS was once again designated and received funding as a Title VI National Resource Center for African Studies, one of only 12 around the country. The over \$2.6 million this grant brings over four years will both help us to continue our work and fund many of our students through Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. In addition, various grants from HED and other sources make possible collaborative partnerships across southern Africa; our participation in the African Politics and Power Programme presents opportunities for collaboration with institutions in Europe and Africa; and a State

Department Grant to support the "Trans-Saharan Elections Project" links CAS to partners in six countries across the Sahel. In 2010 our exciting new MDP degree, jointly offered with the Center for Latin American Studies, took in its first class.

We trust you will enjoy reading about the varied and important research being carried out by our faculty and graduate students. For more information about CAS, and our various activities and opportunities, please consult our website at [www.africa.ufl.edu](http://www.africa.ufl.edu).

*Leonardo A. Villalón  
Director, Center for African Studies*

## Climate Change and the Dynamics of Local Discourse in Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania

**CHARLES BWENGE**

This summer I embarked on a new research project as part of a large NSF-funded project on Local Knowledge and Climate Change Adaptation Project (LKCCAP) led by Dr. Thomas Smucker (Ohio University) and Prof. Pak Munishi (Sokoine University of Agriculture). Concentrating on Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania, the study seeks to explore the dynamics of local knowledge within the climate change adaptation project particularly as it relates to such aspects as interdependence, inequality, and local institutional settings. In this regard, my main responsibility is to explore how such dynamics manifest in the local discourse. I and the other team members spent May and June in the field, during which we were able to conduct household survey in four districts: Same, Mwanga, Rombo, and Moshi Rural from which Mwanga was selected as a site for detailed qualitative work scheduled for 2011 through 2012.

Although local knowledge is not exclusively a verbalized phenomenon, a significant portion of it manifests well in the day-to-day discourse.

Of particular interest in the case of Tanzania is the interaction between local (ethnic) languages (in which a significant portion of indigenous knowledge is embedded), a national language, Kiswahili (the major medium of formal national discourse) and the global discourse, which is partially dominated by English medium. Since climate and its related changes are considered as an environmental universal, I am interested in observing the flow of climate change discourse from the global level through the national level to the local setting and the linguistic forms that are adopted (linguistic change) in



the process presumably reflecting the dynamics of local knowledge.

Preliminary observations already indicate some interesting phenomena regarding the concept of ‘climate change’ itself. In order to capture the globally conceptualized climate change, climate change experts use the term “*mabadiliko ya tabianchi*” in Swahili-medium discourse in order to distinguish it from “*mabadiliko ya hali ya bewa*” which translates as “weather change.” But in the village-level discourse, not being aware of “*tabianchi*,” the *wananchi* (the masses) still cling to “*hali ya bewa*” (literally, the condition of the air) to refer to both “climate” and “weather”. To the villagers, the distinction between the

two seems less important as is the topocultural setting. While geographers would privilege a three-zoning segmentation (i.e., high, middle, and low), locals privilege a two-zoning system (i.e., ‘*mlimani*’ and ‘*tambarare*’ literally translated highland and lowland respectively). I anticipate that the results of this study will demonstrate the importance of local discourse within a broader agenda of local knowledge and climate change adaptation.

*Charles Bwenge is an assistant professor of African sociolinguistics in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and the Center for African Studies where he coordinates the Program in African languages (PAL).*

## Architectural Designs for East Africa

**DONNA COHEN**



In Tanzania I consulted with the American NGO “Africa Schoolhouse” which is building schools in the Sukuma village of Ntulya, known in the region as a healing village. The village has requested a Health Post (Kituo cha Afya) and community Resource Center (Kituo cha Elimu). I met with the community and with the construction crew to discuss ideas for the two new buildings. Local building materials include earth brick, which is fired in rice-husk fueled kilns, and thatch for roofs. Thatch has become scarce and expensive, and the Tanzanian government doesn’t approve of thatch roofs for larger public buildings, so our building proposals considered maximum use of brick without thatch. With guidance from Peter Rich, a South African architect who lectured at UF in fall 2009, and structural engineer John

Ochsendorf from MIT, we developed the building design using a low-tech brick vault roof system which can be constructed by both men and women on site.

I also visited the small town of Rugerero, Rwanda, to study the possibility for a new Health Clinic building. I was introduced to the town, a survivor’s village, by members of the UF AIM for Africa program led by Jill Sonke. The government of Rwanda is committed to staffing and maintaining new health clinics throughout the country. There is much work to be done before a new building could become a reality, but there is great potential due to the availability of local building materials and an enthusiastic labor force.

Finally, I visited the University of Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, and met with professors and students at the Faculty of Architecture. Addis Ababa is a booming urban environment, and

the school of architecture is growing in order to increase the number of design professionals needed for this rapid expansion. I began collaboration with architect Fasil Ghiorghis on a joint design studio project which will involve students from University of Addis Ababa and UF.

All of the research compiled during these trips has been incorporated into the seminar I am now teaching, “Topics in African Architecture,” which is open to graduate students in all disciplines.

Our work in Ntulya and Moshi Tanzania was exhibited at Florida International University in the spring, in an exhibit entitled “Resource: Design in East Africa, recent work of Armstrong + Cohen Architecture” .

*Donna Cohen is associate professor in the School of Architecture. Her research was made possible by funding from a UF Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Grant.*

## New Threads: Textile Diasporas at the Harn Museum of Art

### SUSAN COOKSEY

In preparation for an exhibition on African textiles at the Harn Museum, “Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas”, which will explore the interplay of aesthetics, technologies, and socio-cultural factors that have affected the movement of textiles, I have engaged UF faculty and students who travelled to Mali, Nigeria and Ghana to collect and study textiles. Their research will be incorporated into the exhibition’s catalogue and other interpretive materials. Art work they procured will be presented in the exhibition and added to the Harn’s collection.

Robin Poynor (Art History) will be writing about the prominence of woven textiles used in performances in the context of lavish second burial ceremonies, or *ako*, based on his research in Owo, Nigeria. Poynor has contributed several textiles he collected in Nigeria to the museum and three will be used in the exhibition. Victoria Rovine (Art History) travelled to Timbuctou and commissioned a sacred woman’s garment, or *tillbi*, from master embroiderer Baba Djitteye. She also travelled to Bamako in early 2010 on behalf of the Harn, to collect other samples of textiles and garments. Rovine has also conducted research recently in Mali on a type of garment known as “Ghana Boy” which have embroidered images derived from mid-20th century popular culture. A “Ghana Boy” tunic she collected will be loaned to the exhibition.

Jordan Fenton (doctoral candidate, Art History) recently returned from Calabar, Nigeria, where he conducted his fieldwork on Ekpe. He procured a masquerade ensemble, including full body costume, and accoutrements, from



prominent mask-maker. Ekpenyong Bassey Nsa. To complement this ensemble with its highly innovative design and materials, he also collected an ensemble of chiefly dress that reflects a more canonical aesthetic, but also blends globally inspired elements.

Courtney Micots, who recently completed her doctorate in art history, researched Fante Asafo flags, which will be featured in the exhibition, collected cloth commemorating President Obama’s visit to Ghana, and also helped negotiate a commission of two *kente* cloths from master weaver Samuel Cophie of Bonwire. Chris Richards (a doctoral candidate, Art History) has done preliminary research on textiles and fashion in Ghana in 2009 and 2010. He documented globalized fashion trends, including the fusion of historically important textile genres with new design elements, and witnessed the impact of the Obama visit on textile production. He also interviewed Samuel Cophie about the cloths he created for the museum, including a *kente* designed to honor

President Clinton, and a new design with appliqué *adinkra* patterns. MacKenzie Moon Ryan, whose preliminary doctoral fieldwork in Tanzania intensified her interest in the kanga and kitenge cloth histories, will contribute her essay on the global sources of kanga design and production. She is also assisting with interpretation of examples from the Harn’s collection.

The collaborative efforts of these faculty and students, with contributions from scholars at outside institutions, will culminate in the exhibition and catalogue that will be used to enhance curricula across many university disciplines. The addition to the Harn’s African collection of historically and aesthetically significant examples of textiles will be an enduring legacy for the Museum and for the university community. The exhibition will open February 8, 2011 and run until May 8, 2011.

*Susan Cooksey is Curator of African Art at the Samuel P. Harn Museum and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies.*



## Emergency Medicine Development for Africa

### ELIZABETH DEVOS



This year I have had the privilege to participate in the development of Emergency Medicine as a medical specialty in two distinct projects in Ethiopia and Ghana. After several years of positioning stakeholders in the Ministry of Health, Addis Ababa Regional Health Bureau, Addis Ababa University, and the Black Lion Hospital, the first official specialty training program began in Ethiopia in November 2010. Similarly in Ghana, Emergency Medicine is gaining recognition as an important component of the healthcare delivery system and one important player is the Ghana Ambulance Service.

Since 2007, I have been fortunate to participate in various continuing education programs and healthcare summits for emergency medicine in Ethiopia. In 2009, I was invited to continue to participate in the educational foundation for the fledgling department of Emergency Medicine at the Black Lion Teaching Hospital (BLH) in Addis Ababa. Alongside the University of Wisconsin, the American International Healthcare Alliance and People to People (an Ethiopian Diaspora healthcare organization) we developed curriculum for faculty specialty training in the US and Ethiopia for 4 attending physicians at BLH, as well as local training for resident and attending physicians, nurses and pre-hospital care workers in Addis. The ongoing curriculum allows for joint research and quality improvement measures within the newly formed Emergency Department. In November 2010, I return to Addis to kick off the Emergency Ultrasound training program along with faculty

from the University of Wisconsin and the Black Lion Hospital.

For Ghana, my role has been mostly that of a facilitator. The University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville is hosting Dr. Ahmed Zakariah, director of the Ghana National Ambulance Service in a 6-week observational position in the Department of Emergency Medicine. In addition to learning about the administrative and patient care roles of specialized emergency physicians, Dr. Zakariah has had the opportunity to conduct interviews with Emergency Medical Services in Jacksonville and surrounding areas in order to learn about the training and dispatch procedures for pre-hospital personnel. Together, we will utilize this data to develop a strategy to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the ambulance service.

In November 2009, the African Federation for Emergency Medicine was established and both Ethiopia and Ghana are important players in the development of specialized emergency physicians and other emergency healthcare personnel. As the continent faces the rise of road traffic injuries and non-communicable diseases alongside the battles with infectious diseases, emergency medicine offers a strategy for efficient management and stabilization of acute illness and injury in Africa. I look forward to the continued opportunity to participate in the ongoing development, quality assurance and improvement and clinical research as the specialty of Emergency Medicine develops in Ethiopia, Ghana and throughout Africa.

*Elizabeth DeVos, MD, MPH, FACEP, is the Director of International Emergency Medicine and assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine in UF's College of Medicine in Jacksonville. She received funding from the American International Health Alliance. Dr. Zakariah's visit was made possible through a West African Research Association (WARA) Research Fellowship.*



## Documenting Endangered Languages in Africa

**JAMES ESSEGBEY**



The world's languages are disappearing at an alarming rate and it has been estimated that between 60 to 90 percent of them may be at risk of extinction within the next hundred years. Since the 1990's linguists and anthropologists, assisted by various funding agencies, have been galvanized into working towards documenting these languages before they disappear. I continue to work on the documentation of Nyagbo, a language spoken in the South Eastern part of Ghana, which the people themselves call Tutrugbu.

A crucial ingredient for successful documentation on the continent is equipping people with the necessary skills to carry out documentation. In summer 2010, I was a resource person for the Summer School on Documentary Linguistics in West Africa, which was held at the University of Education in Winneba, Ghana. The school was organized by Dr. Felix Ameka from Leiden University, the Netherlands, and funded by the Endangered Languages Documentation Program (ELDP) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. It aimed at providing further training and skills in the theory and practice of language documentation to 20 participants in universities in Ghana, Benin

Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Senegal, who were selected from participants from an earlier school held in the summer of 2008. They received training in documentation of specialized vocabulary and cultural knowledge as well as audio and video recording.

One issue that keeps coming up among Africanists working on language documentation is whether the situation in Africa is so different from other regions as to warrant an Africa-specific strategies for documenting languages on the continent. For instance, do colonial languages play as central a role in language endangerment as they do in places like Australia and the Americas? Some researchers have argued that in the African context, endangerment is caused by regional rather than colonial languages. Another issue concerns what to represent in the writing system. For instance, should one represent inflections on words even when speakers no longer do so in speech?

In order to address these and other issues, we organized a workshop on Africa's Response to Language Endangerment at the University of Florida in December 2010. The workshop was sponsored by the Center for African Studies with additional support from the Office of Research, France-Florida Research Institute, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and the Linguistics Department. Invited participants included 12 specialists from Africa, Europe, Australia, Canada, and the United States working on various aspects of language documentation in Africa.

*James Essegbey is assistant professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. His documentation of Nyagbo project has been funded by the National Science Foundation and a CLAS Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Award.*

# Graphing a Movement (R)Evolution: An Archival Study of Faustin Linyekula, Germaine Acogny, and Beatrice Kombe

JOAN FROSCH

“Perhaps my body is my only true country.”

- Faustin Linyekula (“Movement (R)Evolution Africa: A Story of an Art Form in Four Acts”)

Over the last decade a wave of experimental choreographers in and of Africa have re-imaged African pasts and present, and configured a new landscape of contemporary performance. The artists whose works and words have contoured this landscape have not only contributed to the dynamic interplay of the arts and globalization but have cleared a space for performance in advancing human aspirations in the 21st century. Among these artists are experimentalists Faustin Linyekula, Germaine Acogny, and Béatrice Kombé (1974-2007), to whom the work is dedicated. This research will position these choreographers not only as artists, but as philosophers and historians, who have—through the body—theorized love, historicized absence and loss, interrogated war, problematized memory, and challenged the wearisome persistence of the ontological specters of essentialism. Their practices have also contributed to the splintering of prevalently held views of experimental dance as a mostly “Western” and mostly white domain of artistic production. Indeed, the study of these artists’ investigational dialogues with contemporary life has the potential to situate African experimentalism as a wellspring of 21st century knowledge and innovation.

In contrast to their growing continental and global presence, African experimental choreographers rarely have been acknowledged in the English language literature to date. However, the movement they have engendered has evoked enthusiastic aesthetic responses from a growing number of global artists. I am one. From 2004 to 2007, I directed and produced the documentary feature “Movement (R)Evolution Africa: A Story of an Art Form in Four Acts.” Featured artists of the film have used the film to educate their audiences and students, and it has been screened in over 200 international festival



screenings and television broadcasts to date. Documentary Education Resources published the film for international distribution in 2009. Yet the film’s vast archives of primary materials, housed in the University of Florida Belknap Collection for the Performing Arts, has yet to be theorized. The one-of-a-kind archival data include: interviews with artists, artists’ public presentations, rehearsals, and public performances of choreography, among other categories, other artists’ writings and resources, including reviews and dramaturgies.

The goal of the research is to address the significant historical gap in the literature on African experimental dance practices. Using the diverse lenses of Linyekula, Acogny, and Kombé’s pedagogy, creative practices, and theoretical discussions, I intend to mine the archive’s 123 hours of primary

materials to create an interdisciplinary and integrated path of theory, art, and culture in a forward movement toward our shared future - a path quickened and inspired by the contributions of African experimental choreographers. In so doing, the research proposes the first full-length English-language study theorizing the burgeoning contemporary African dance movement.

*Joan Frosch is professor of dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance, Co-Director of the Center for World Arts, and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. The documentary, “Movement (R)Evolution Africa: A Story of an Art Form in Four Acts”, was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Center for African Studies, the Harn Museum of Art, the University of Florida Center for Performing Arts, and the UF Fine Arts Scholarship Enhancement Fund.*

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

**ABE GOLDMAN**



Together with faculty and graduate students from several departments, I've been involved for the last several years in an interdisciplinary multi-institutional project, supported by NSF funding, that examines the impacts of parks in Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, and Namibia. The parks and landscapes around them span ecologic and demographic gradients from mid-altitude forests to semiarid savannas and very densely to relatively sparsely populated regions.

My own research has focused mainly on Kibale National Park (KNP) in western Uganda, and the densely populated landscape around it (300+ per sq km). I've done fieldwork there since 2004, together with UF professors Michael Binford and Jane Southworth, graduate students Joel Hartter, Amy Panikowski, Karen Kirner, and Katherine Mullan, and several

Ugandan and other collaborators.

Among our recent findings are that, despite the park's "fortress" characteristics, and the animal hazards faced by many farmers, most people in our sample within 5 km of KNP feel that they benefit from the park, and a surprisingly small proportion cite negative impacts. The benefits most noted are forms of ecosystem services (improved climate, etc.) rather than direct economic benefits (employment, income). Resource restrictions and expulsion were not widely cited by our respondents, but crop raiding is important in some (but not all) locations. 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 boundary. We believe that important explanatory factors for these responses include that the large majority of current residents migrated to the area after the park (or forest reserve) had been established, and that the area around

the park has been so thoroughly domesticated. Similar conditions are likely also to be true for other mid-altitude forests in East Africa.

Among our other recent findings are that the unprotected small forests and wetlands outside KNP are declining rapidly with extraction and agricultural conversion. This is one of several indications that in the absence of at least moderately effective enforcement of park boundaries, Kibale forest would likely disappear. Agricultural land use continues to intensify in our survey locations, but productivity is almost universally declining. In addition to roads and other infrastructure, the presence of the park has led to the establishment of a number of new women's craft groups throughout the area, which have generated small but important enhancements to women's incomes.

The broader project includes Tarangire National Park in northern Tanzania; Chobe in northern Botswana; and Bwabwata and Mudumu in northeastern Namibia. Collaborators include Brian Child (Geography, UF), numerous UF graduate students, and colleagues at the Universities of Colorado and North Carolina. Our comparative findings are that: (a) the areas around savanna and forest parks have had different dynamics and trajectories of change; and (b) differences in both the content and stability of national-level conservation policies have led to quite different outcomes, especially in attitudes to parks and the impacts of parks on livelihoods and risks.

*Abe Goldman is associate professor of geography at the University of Florida and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. His research and that of the others involved in this project has been supported by the National Science Foundation, Human and Social Dynamics program.*

## Love, Death, and History in West Africa

### SEAN HANRETTA

My current research focuses on two distinct projects. The first explores the convergence of Muslim reformers and British colonial officials (and later Ghanaian officials) in conceptualizing a close link between modernization and the proper performance of rituals. Covering most of the twentieth century in both northern and southern Gold Coast/Ghana, the project traces the intersection of efforts by Muslim scholars, ritual and community leaders and younger, insurgent preachers to define the correct practice of weddings and funerals and to elaborate a distinction between what was properly Islamic and what was merely customary. Struggles between chiefs and religious leaders over the control of patronage affected how these rituals were inserted into administrative bureaucracies (such as through marriage certificates or the allocation of public cemeteries), making death and marriage subject to struggles for local power. Changing social and economic conditions connected mostly to urbanization, commoditization of labor and the migration of workers onto cocoa farms, all put strains on existing forms of ritual practice and created new opportunities for young men in particular to challenge accepted authorities. Popular support thus developed for the new ways of thinking about rituals being circulated and enabled by reformists and administrators. After independence the Ghanaian government moved away from close involvement in Muslim affairs, preferring instead to mobilize clients through community leaders. This further allowed reformist preachers and new social actors to reshape rituals even as the expanding rhetoric of African underdevelopment and need for modernization placed very specific values on cultural norms.



The second project looks at the social and political significance of African history teaching and research within West Africa itself from the 1960s to the present. It explores the changing role of West African university history departments in shaping the major concerns and empirical discoveries of the field, while also examining the impact of those departments on their surroundings. Key historians who became political figures (Adu Boahen, Gbagbo, Adame Ba Konaré) or major public intellectuals (Ajayi, Diop) are explored alongside the more diffuse influence of teaching and participation in civil society. The research is intended to test hypotheses about the links between the changing fates of West African universities and the trajectories of the field as a whole, and of the actual utility of a “usable past.” Using basic techniques of prosopography, I have traced the trends in publishing by historians based in West Africa (both

West African nationals and expatriates) from 1960 to the present in major English- and French-language journals, in landmark edited volumes and in key monographic series. This has provided the framework for a group of collective biographies of the less well-known members of the research networks. The next phase of the project involves collecting local histories—oral and published—from the history departments at the targeted universities.

*Sean Hanretta is assistant professor of history and an affiliate with the Center for African Studies.*

## 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 Somalia 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 three-year project (now in year two) 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 traditional 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 six weeks in London and Manchester in the United Kingdom meeting many of the thousands of Bravanese who live there and talking with them about their language. Together, we collected many oral stories and hundreds of specialized vocabulary. Working with native speakers and other scholars, I have also been able to finalize a written orthography for Chimiini that will be used for reading and other literacy materials, as well as the dictionary. Coming up with a practical orthography was not an easy task, particularly because many Bravanese are literate in many languages, including



Arabic, Somali, English, and Swahili. We had to balance many factors so that the writing system could capture the important contrasts in Chimiini, while at the same time not create confusion with these other familiar writing systems. Next year I will spend my summer in Mombasa, Kenya, where many Bravanese remain closely connected to their culture. There I hope to assess whether or not the language is being passed on to the next generation and to collect much more culturally-relevant linguistic data.

*Brent Henderson is assistant professor in the Department of Linguistics and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. His research was made possible by a three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities through a joint NSF/NEH program for documenting endangered languages.*

## A Cultural Festival in the Senegal River Valley: Reinventing Local Traditions for Returning Migrants

**ABDOULAYE KANE**

The organization of cultural festivals in the villages of the Senegal River Valley has become a major priority of Haalpulaar hometown associations based in Europe and the United States.

This is an apparently surprising turn for associations that have traditionally occupied themselves with development initiatives aimed at bringing concrete improvements of living conditions experienced in the Haalpulaar immigrants' home villages. Yet conversations I had with leaders of such associations in France and the United States indicate their conviction that cultural festivals can in fact play an integral role in strategies aimed at development of their home villages. In 2008, I participated in one such cultural festival held in the village of Thilogne, where I acquired an interesting perspective on the nature of the stakes, players, discourses, cultural performances, and artisanal exhibitions that bring these events to life as development initiatives.

It is striking to observe that the cultural practices being performed during the festivals tend to be of little relevance to contemporary village life. Rather, they constitute a recreation of particular traditions, customs, and performances that their creators perceive will be admired by returning migrants, visiting urbanites and tourists as an exotic reflection of a lost cultural past. One fascinating example of such reinvention of tradition is the cultural practice of *Thiayde*, a carefully choreographed event whereby processions of young women engage in ritual competition for husbands. According to one informant, Aminata, age 54, and a resident of Thilogne, Thiayde competitions were held between groups of women from neighborhoods between which there existed friendly rivalries. Such friendly inter-neighborhood rivalries were sustained by the frequency with which men from each of the neighborhoods took



wives from the other.

The Thiayde featured peaceful yet lively confrontations between young women on both sides, each with the objective of getting their own men to marry within their own neighborhoods, while luring as many men as possible from other neighborhoods to marry there as well. The women of each neighborhood spend countless hours preparing, crafting praise songs they use to promote themselves and lyrical diatribes used to target women of the opposite camp. Thiayde were often organized around the *Taske*, a Muslim feast celebrating Abraham's sacrifice. To begin the Thiayde competition during *Taske*, the groups of women would leave their neighborhoods around 5:00 pm and walk slowly toward the center of the village, each with a lead vocal carefully selected for her excellent voice. While walking, they begin singing their praise songs, following with the lyrical diatribes upon their encounter with their rival groups. The rival groups meet at around 7:00 pm at the center of the village, surrounded by spectators who listen carefully to the raucous proceedings. The Thiayde conclude with each side inevitably claiming victory, as their members disperse and straggle

back to their respective neighborhoods.

"The Thiayde is not practiced anymore by the younger generation," lamented Aminata, who is charged with organizing the Thiayde during the cultural festival. "For our generation and those preceding it, participation in the Thiayde was a rite of passage for young women who had yet to be married. We would spend all year creating songs, and throughout the months leading up to *Taske*, carefully consider the types of clothes and jewelry we planned to wear for the competition," she added. Now women of the younger generation put on their finest clothes and jewelry to watch their men compete on the soccer field. For these women Thiayde is a relic reserved for the cultural festivals that take place every two years. In their new incarnation as part of a reinvented tradition, Thiayde songs have been adapted to the new circumstances, often in the form of praise songs honoring successful migrants, the hometown associations, and the village as a whole.

*Abdoulaye Kane is assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Center for African Studies.*

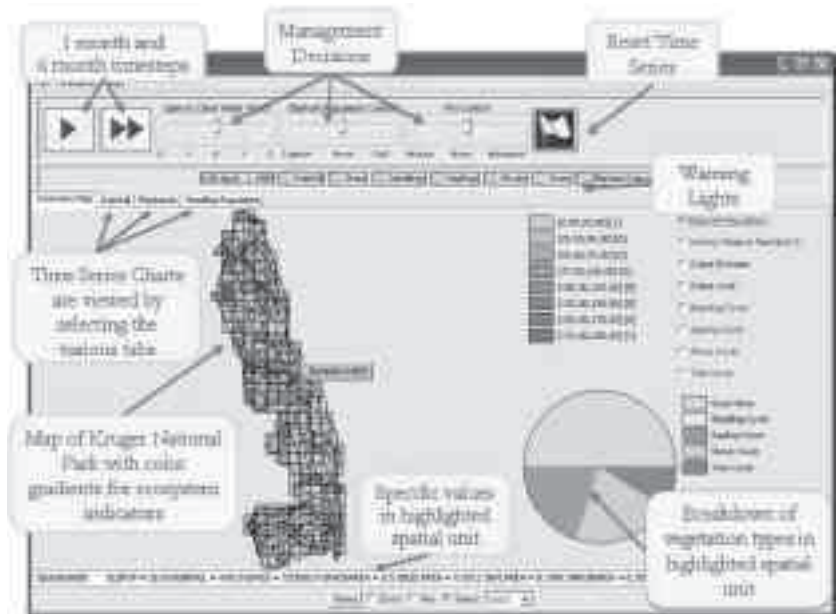
# Taming Wicked Problems: Ecosystem Modeling for Adaptive Management of Rivers and Elephants

**GREG KIKER**

All of my projects in southern Africa deal with complex environmental challenges that integrate people, their decision processes and the tools needed to help them to explore and address these dilemmas.

The first project involves modeling the ecological effects of water withdrawals from the Crocodile River, which forms the southern boundary of the Kruger National Park in South Africa. Nathan Wangusi, my Ph.D student, received a Rotary Fellowship to spend one year in South Africa to develop his ecological models in cooperation with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, water management authorities and the Kruger National Park. Nathan is working with my Questions and Decisions (QnD) model system to provide computer game-style tools to integrate ecosystem processes, management, economics and socio-political factors into a user-friendly model framework. We are developing a QnD game version to integrate hydrological simulations from a South African model (Acru2000) with ecological classifications to simulate the effects of water abstractions from the Crocodile River.

The second project is the development of an elephant and vegetation model for ecological management of elephant population control scenarios within savanna ecosystems. Elephant and vegetation management in southern Africa has been described as a “wicked” problem where solutions defy simplistic notions and problem contexts continually shift with evolving expectations and adaptive learning. While the southern African scientific community has assembled a strong, multi-disciplinary information base for elephant biology and management, full integration of these diverse sectors for analysis and management has not yet been realized. An integral part of adaptive management is the use of computational models to inform and adjust management responses to thresholds of potential concern (TPCs). My QnD:EleSim model utilizes elephant/vegetation algorithms developed by ecologists to simulate landscape-scale tree-grass competition and growth with agent-based implementation of spatially-



explicit, elephant populations.

Additional research activities in southern Africa have established research links with the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC) at the University of Botswana through the NSF-IGERT program (Adaptive Management: Wise Use of Water, Wetlands & Watersheds). Anna Cathey, a Ph.D student whose committee I co-chair, is conducting research into water resource modeling and uncertainty analysis in the Okavango River Basin and Delta. We were able to leverage this initial collaboration into a larger grant from NASA to explore climate change and its effects on land use in the greater Okavango, Kwandu and Zambezi River basins. This new research grant headed by Jane Southworth in the Dept. of Geography is providing research support for two additional Masters students (Sanjiv Jagtap and Gloria Perez-Falcon) to study

vegetation modeling and land use change in the tri-basin area. This research uses both simple (QnD) and complex (SAVANNA) models to explore ecosystem resilience and uncertainty.



*Greg Kiker is assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. He specializes in the development of ecological and hydrological models for adaptive environmental decision-making. Funding for this research is provided by NASA.*



# Zambia-China Engagement: The Role of Government in Regulating Foreign Investments

**AGNES LESLIE**

I spent part of summer 2010 guest lecturing at the University of Zambia in the gender studies department and conducting research on the Zambia-China relationship. My visit to Zambia was two-fold. I organized and led a workshop on Women's Empowerment: Problems and Challenges and in conjunction with the gender studies department in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and various women's organizations. The workshop was attended by Member of Parliament, Regina Musokotwane, the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Vincent Chanda, the Director of the Institute of Economic and Social Research, Professor Mubiana Macwan'gi, faculty from various departments, women's organizations and graduate students. Presentations at the workshop included experiences of a female member of parliament in running for parliamentary election, research reports on the challenges female MPs undergo when they run for election, and research analyzing the experiences of women's groups from Botswana and South Africa and what lessons these could provide for women's groups in Zambia.

I also continued researching the impact of Chinese investments on the Zambian economy, workers' conditions, and the environment. Chinese investment in Zambia has grown rapidly since the 1990s when the Zambian government began to privatize its state-controlled enterprises. I spent time touring some of the Chinese-funded industries, studying their impact and conducting in-depth interviews with members of parliament, University of Zambia professors and students, businesses, the media, various government ministries and workers. I also conducted interviews with officials at the Chinese embassy. The embassy officials agreed that some of the problems encoun-



tered by the Chinese in their interactions with Zambians were due to the inadequate preparation and education of the Chinese investors. Some of the investors lacked proper training in human relations and were coming from working environments in China that condoned human rights violations.

The complaints against Chinese investors included failure to adhere to environmental safety standards and workers' protection provisions, casualization of labor to avoid paying benefits, non-adherence to minimum wage requirements, rampant arbitrary dismissals, requiring Zambian employees to work odd hours to avoid paying transport allowances and requiring employees to work without protective gear in dangerous environments. There have been several reports of accidents and deaths in Chinese operated companies. In 2005, 51 people were killed in a Chinese-operated mine. In 2009, five miners including a Chinese national were killed in a Chinese-owned coal mine, due to illegal mining operations under unsafe conditions. An examination of workers' complaints recorded at the Ministry of Labor and Social Services showed an average of 10 complaints against Chinese companies each month from July 2008

to July 2009. The government has closed some manufacturing premises due to their unsafe environments.

The findings point to weakness in government regulation of investors and suggests the need for stronger laws and policies in order to protect Zambian workers and improve their work environments. There is also need for greater involvement of parliament in order to promote stronger laws and regulations and find ways of holding investors accountable. In addition, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security needs to be strengthened to have more staff to ensure that the policies are being implemented. The Zambian government has not been effective in defining the roles of external foreign companies in development and implementing laws and policies which would adequately benefit the country and safeguard the health, security and economic rights of the Zambian workers. Of the people interviewed 31 percent felt that the Chinese investment had a positive impact on the economy. More than 65 percent of the members of parliament felt that the Chinese investments had impacted the Zambian society negatively.

*Agnes Leslie is senior lecturer and director of outreach in the Center for African Studies.*

## Voting Behavior, MP Campaign Strategies, & Political Clientelism in Ghana

**STAFFAN I. LINDBERG**



ments, political clientelism and the role Members of Parliament in Ghana. The project also draws on recently collected survey and interview data (also from Ghana). Together the data includes four rounds of surveys with citizens in 10 strategically selected constituencies (out of the Ghana's 230 at present), three rounds of surveys with Members of Parliament, two years of participant observation in Parliament of Ghana, and some 200+ in-depth interviews with MPs, clerks of Parliament, journalists, ministers, scholars, and citizens in Ghana. The time period covered by the data is from 1996 to 2009.

It is too early to tell what the main results will be of the comprehensive analysis but earlier work suggests that political clientelism expands during the early phases of democratization until the costs reach a tipping point for politicians, who then turn to producing collective goods via political policy making in order to economize with scarce resources in their private disposal that can be used for reelection (election campaigning).

*Staffan I. Lindberg is associate professor in the Department of Political Science and the Center for African Studies. He is currently the Research Director for World Values Survey Sweden, Research Fellow at Quality of Government Institute and associate professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.*

This past year, Dr. Lindberg has been writing up results from fieldwork carried out in 2008 and 2009 on voting behavior, MPs' campaign strategies, and political clientelism in Ghana. Several working papers that have come out of this work have been posted as working papers by the African Power and Politics-program ([www.institutions-africa.org](http://www.institutions-africa.org)), as well as by the Quality of Government Institute ([www.qog.pol.gu.se](http://www.qog.pol.gu.se)). Two of these working papers are co-authored with Keith R. Weghorst, a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science.

Dr. Lindberg is now working on a larger project on political clientelism and democratization. The project pulls together findings from his earlier publications on election campaign funding, voting behavior and voter align-

## Dakar's Linguistic Landscape

**FIONA McLAUGHLIN**

As part of my ongoing research on urban Wolof I spent some time in Dakar, Senegal, this summer documenting what has come to be known as the “linguistic landscape,” namely written language in the public sphere, which includes official signage, graffiti, advertising, and the like. Linguistic landscape is a relatively new yet thriving avenue of research within sociolinguistics, and its interest lies what it can reveal about language hierarchies, language vitality or endangerment, the economic value of particular languages, and the political power or lack thereof associated with any given language. In my own research I am particularly interested in the relationship between the linguistic landscape and the spoken environment in Dakar, and in what kinds of literacies make it into the public



sphere and what kinds remain private.

I documented Dakar's linguistic landscape at the end of my fieldwork by setting out early in the morning so that I could photograph the city before the streets got too crowded. I worked my way from one of the residential neighborhoods not far from the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, though the Fass, Gueule Tapée and Medina neighborhoods towards downtown, then out towards the port of Dakar.

Dakar's linguistic landscape is



characterized by digraphia, or writing in two scripts, namely Roman and Arabic, but as Calvet (1994) pointed out in *Les voix de la ville*, there is no straightforward, one-to-one relationship between language and script. Arabic, for example, can appear in the Arabic or Roman script, as can Wolof, and even French occasionally appears in the Arabic script. With regard to Arabic, Wolof and French, my documentation confirms Calvet's early observations, but there are also some new additions to Dakar's linguistic landscape, namely English, which appears to be written invariably in the Roman script, appearing much more frequently than when Calvet's study was conducted, and Chinese, written in Chinese characters and the Roman script.

French is the domain of most officialdom and much advertising and political graffiti, thus it dominates in the written environment whereas Wolof dominates in the spoken environment. Wolof has, however, moved more centrally into the advertising sector and many products and services are advertised bilingually in billboards

and posters whereas in the past only informal advertising was in Wolof. Religious graffiti tend to be written in Wolof or Arabic, and English appears primarily in graffiti that takes hip-hop as its sphere of reference. Chinese businesses often have bilingual signs advertising their businesses and goods in both Chinese and French.

What is striking about the Dakar linguistic landscape, and what I suspect might be true for other African capitals where the vernacular is not the official language, is how different it is from the spoken environment. So far, I think that the most significant aspects of the written environment are the less formal ones, and that when considered along with other contexts, such as text messaging, in which new literacies are emerging, we can begin to piece together an understanding of the relationship of written to spoken language in Dakar.

*Fiona McLaughlin is associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and the Department of Linguistics. This research was supported by an award from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Humanities Research Fund.*

## Epigenetic Alterations and Stress Among New Mothers and Infants in the Democratic Republic of Congo: A Biocultural Look at the Intergenerational Effects of War

**CONNIE MULLIGAN**



Our ability to successfully adapt to a constantly changing environment and increasingly complex stressors is one of the ways in which we are distinctively human. There is growing evidence there may be an intermediate mechanism that mediates between the rapidly changing environment and our slowly evolving genome, i.e. epigenetic alterations. A new project based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and conducted by UF's Department of Anthropology will investigate epigenetic alterations (chemical modifications to the genome that do not change the underlying DNA sequence, but do affect gene expression) as a possible pathway to developmental plasticity and

adaptation. Professors Connie Mulligan, Lance Gravlee, and Alyson Young and doctoral student Nikki D'Errico will examine epigenetics and socio-cultural measures of stress in one of the most stressful environments today: the eastern DRC, where war has raged for 14 years. This war and the related political-economic instability have far-reaching consequences as a result of widespread material deprivation, increased exposure to psychosocial stressors, and direct physical violence, including systematic rape warfare. Biological samples will be collected and oral history interviews will be conducted with a group of Congolese mothers and newborns to test whether epigenetic alterations mediate the effects of maternal exposure to stressors on fetal development and neonatal health.

The proposed study is the first to investigate epigenetic alterations in humans as a means of modifying gene expression in offspring as a result of trauma to the mother. The idea that violence and stress exposure can create abrupt changes in gene expression in offspring has immediate relevance to global public health issues. This research has the potential to dramatically transform the ways in which we think of adaptation and evolution as well as informing policies to address societal problems. The proposed biocultural approach integrates sophisticated genetic and ethnographic data and emphasizes the strengths of research conducted in a four-field anthropology department.

*Connie Mulligan is professor of anthropology and associate director of the UF Genetics Institute.*

# A Community-Based Approach to Sustainable Development

**ESTHER OBONYO**



I visited South Africa in July 2010 to collect case study material from a sustainable development project being undertaken by the Universities of Venda and Virginia. The project is mainly directed at addressing problems at the village level in the Venda region of the Limpopo Province. I was particularly interested in understanding the successes, failures, and ethical dilemmas encountered throughout project execution as the valuable lessons learnt can inform projects being undertaken in other developing countries.

The project team used photovoice and message boards to promote community engagement. The photovoice technique combines photography with social action. In the Limpopo Province, it was used to gather information on different levels of access to potable water. The technique was successfully used in 2008 and 2009 selected parts of the Limpopo Province (Tshapasha and Tshibvumo) to capture views from different age groups (children, young adults and older people). In follow-up activities, additional needs and changes in requirements have also been collected for use in the design of new

projects. Message boards were put up in nearby schools as part of the community engagement strategy. The use of the board is linked to an educational program directed at teaching the children to respect water and existing projects. The children are then encouraged to create posters summarizing the lessons they have learnt for display on the message boards which forms part of the outreach to a broader audience. The message boards can also be used by community members for brainstorming and sharing ideas.

Another initiative was directed at providing clean water using a slow sand filtering system. Slow sand filters use biological processes to clean the water without using chemicals or electricity. The system in Tshapasha triggered a community problem. The quantity of water being dispensed was not enough. An assessment of the situation revealed that a low water pressure was at the root of the quantity issue. To address this, the project team elevated the tank. Another issue that emerged was that the 1m of sand that was supposed to be there was missing. The filters had not formed the biological layer that is required for the filtration process.

Further work in the area of water supply has started assessing the feasibility of implementing point of use filtration using ceramic water filters. Ceramic filtration is based on the use of porous ceramic (fired clay) to filter microbes or other contaminants from drinking water. The work done so far has focused on assessing the feasibility of setting up a factory for producing ceramic pot-style filters. If successful it would

result in cheaper filters. It will also provide employment for the local people.

The project team also wanted to assess the feasibility of using Moringa plants as a strategy for addressing malnutrition. The Moringa leaves are rich in minerals, all the essential amino acids, proteins as well as Vitamin A, B and C. The tree can also be used for the generation of biofuels. The project team was not able to test the nutritional benefits of the tree. As soon as the trees planted at Tshapasha sprung up, livestock in the community ate all the leaves.



*Esther Obonyo is assistant professor in UF's ME Rinker School of Building Construction and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies.*

## Researching Vector-borne Disease Control in Kenya

### BERNARD OKECH

Mosquito transmitted diseases (VBD), such as malaria are a major health problem in Kenya. It is estimated that about 34,000 deaths occur each year in Kenya due to malaria alone, the main casualties being children under five, pregnant women and HIV infected persons. The Kenyan government has made serious efforts to fight malaria transmission through the provision of subsidized medicines at local health centers, distribution of free insecticide treated bed nets, and lately, with support from the US governments' Presidents Malaria Initiative (PMI), indoor residual spraying of insecticides. These three malaria management methods are bearing fruit as seen in the reducing cases of malaria in many areas around the country. However, sustainability is and will remain a major challenge because the Kenya government relies on donor support to fund these malaria interventions (medicines, bed nets and insecticides). My research in Kenya advocates malaria management practices that do not have a huge price tag, that are sustainable and usable widely and routinely within households once they are adopted by communities. Over the last 7 years, working with Kenyan collaborators, we developed a model demonstration field site within a rice agro-ecosystem (Mwea Tebere) in central Kenya for parasite control studies. In this area, we conducted a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey that collected data from approximately 400 households; we were able to show a significant correlation between removal of stagnant water and clearing of bushes (also called environmental management) in and around households and the reduction of indoor resting malaria mosquito densities. This finding is very significant in terms of understanding malaria reduction in Mwea because the fewer mosquitoes rest inside houses the lower the risk of contracting malaria. The power of environmental management at a household level on malaria control needs to be emphasized; My research is investigating innovative 'grass roots' methods to scale up environmental management methods of mosquito control to the county and district level in Kenya as a sustainable addition to the progressive achievements seen in malaria control in Kenya.



In Kenya, current estimates of malaria deaths are at 34,000 according to the Division of Malaria Control reports. The primary strategy to prevent the malaria transmission is through treatment of cases, scaling up use of insecticide treated bed nets (ITN), and indoor residual sprays (IRS). The latter strategy focuses mainly on reducing the population of malaria mosquitoes to lower the risk of transmission. In Kenya, there is a limited human resource capacity at the sub-national and county levels to assess the efficacy of such intervention in diverse epidemiological settings. This inadequacy impacts negatively monitoring and evaluation capacity which has downstream effects on data flow between district, provincial and national teams and is a major stumbling block to the success of malaria control activities. I collaborate with the Ministry of Health in Kenya in developing a training program to meet the need for malaria control monitoring and evaluation at the district level. This district-level training of malaria control personnel is critical for the overall success and sustainability of operational malaria

control in the Kenya. Trained personnel will support scaling up IRS in different epidemiological settings and provide the missing links at the county level for M&E of malaria control in Kenya. Local government agencies have committed to this training program and plan to include it in their national malaria control strategy so as to increase sustainability in the management, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation capacity for malaria control in Kenya.



*Bernard Okech is Research Assistant Professor of Environmental and Global Health in the College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida. He is affiliated with the Emerging Pathogens Institute and the Center for African Studies.*

## Islam and Islamism in Ethiopia & the Horn of Africa

TERJE ØSTEBØ



The year 2010 was spent on my ongoing research on Islamism in Ethiopia/Horn of Africa. Being appointed to the Center for African Studies & Department of Religion in August 2010, and therefore being in a transitional phase, my work has had the form of several smaller projects, all related to contemporary Islam in the Horn of Africa. The first was a study of Salafism in Bale, Ethiopia, expanding my initial research for my PhD dissertation. The study discusses the trajectory of the early Salafi movement in that region, paying attention to the role of agents of change, in the form of an emerging class of local merchants and graduates returning from Islamic universities in Saudi Arabia during the 1960s. This is going to be published as a journal article in Africa in 2011.

Secondly, I was commissioned by the International Law and Policy Institute (Norway) to write a report on Islamism in the Horn of Africa. The

report entitled “Islamism in the Horn of Africa: Assessing Ideologies, Actors, and Objectives” (report no 5/2010) was published in June 2010. Drawing on my own fieldwork experiences/findings and reviewing the available literature, the report analyzes recent developments, with regard to Islamist movements in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan. It surveys the main actors, discusses the trajectories over the last decades, and seeks to present a more nuanced picture of this highly dynamic and heterogeneous phenomenon.

Thirdly, I co-organized (together with Patrick Desplat, University of Cologne) a workshop on Islam in contemporary Ethiopia at the University of Bergen, Norway, which was co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies, University of Florida. The workshop was called “Transforming Identities and New Representations of Islam in Contemporary Ethiopia,” and

saw the participation of 12 scholars from various parts of the world. The focus was on changes with regard to Muslim communities in post-1991 Ethiopia, and the papers dealt with intra-religious dynamics within these Muslim communities, Islam in Ethiopian public and political spheres, and shed light on Islam in Ethiopia in relation to the geopolitical discourses in the wider Horn of Africa.

Lastly, I have started preparing a larger project called Religion and Ethnicity in Ethiopia. The project takes Islam and Oromo ethno-nationalism in eastern Ethiopia as a point of departure and seeks to forward suggestions on how to conceptualize the relationship between religious and ethnic identities in relation to boundary-making and conflicts. The project is funded by the Norwegian Non-fiction Writers and Translation Association and will begin in 2011.



*Terje Østebø is assistant professor in the Department of Religion and the Center for African Studies. His research and teaching are devoted to Islam in Africa with a particular focus on East Africa/Horn of Africa.*

## Yoruba Influences in Florida

**ROBIN POYNOR**



My current research traces the impact of African thought and African example on populations in Florida. My original research in Nigeria into the arts of the Yoruba-speaking peoples focused on arts used in leadership context and in religion. Those studies are the basis for my explorations into the arts and visual environments created in the United States (and especially Florida) by those who have converted to Yoruba *orisha* veneration.

Part of my research addresses the visual environments created by Yoruba Americans living in Alachua County, particularly Baba Onabamiero Ogunleye of Archer. Ogunleye lived in Oyotunji in South Carolina for nine years, where he was initiated into the Yoruba religion. Later, after settling in Archer, he traveled to Oshogbo, Nigeria, to be initiated as a *babalawo*. His mentor in Nigeria travels to Archer to preside over initiations. I have investigated not only Ogunleye's sculpture but also the visual environment the creates in shrines and altars. Of particular interest to me is the development over time of the altar to the *orisha* Ogun, who was exceptionally important in

the region of Nigeria where I did earlier research. I have examined other shrines to Ogun both in North Florida and in South Florida for comparative purposes.

Further research explores the Orisha Gardens in Central Florida maintained by the Ifa Foundation of North and Latin America. Philip Neimark is of Jewish heritage, but he converted to Yoruba religion by way of Cuban Santeria in Miami. He practiced as a *babalawo* in Chicago for many years and then practiced in Indiana before relocating to Florida. His wife Vassa is of Greek descent, and she too converted to *orisha* veneration. The two formed the foundation in order to reach out to people around the world who are seeking spiritual guidance through the Yoruba religion. The Ola Olu retreat in a rural area not far from the Ocala National Forest, is filled with sculptural forms from Nigeria and elsewhere as well as objects created by Iyanifa Vassa. Initiates from around the world come to Ola Olu to be initiated.

I have signed a contract with the University Press of Florida for a book tentatively titled *Africa in Florida* that will address 500 years of African presence in Florida, beginning with Juan Garrido, a conquistador of African descent who accompanied Ponce de Leon on his initial voyage in 1513. The book, co-edited with Amanda Carlson of the University of Hartford, will include essays by a range of scholars from the United States, England and Mexico. One of my chapters on the art of Ogunleye is co-authored by Ade Ofunniyin, a recent UF PhD in Anthropology. Another chapter addresses the

visual environment of Ola Olu. The publication of the book will be in time for the 500th anniversary of the arrival of explorers of African descent in 1513. I am also working on a comparative study of Ogun Altars in Florida which may be published in a journal that plans a special issue on "Ritual Arts of the Black Atlantic."



*Robin Poynor is professor of art history in the School of Art and Art History and has been affiliated with the Center for African Studies since 1978.*



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Kenya: Where Health and Development Meet

### **RICHARD RHEINGANS**

For the past 4 years my research team has been working on a series of projects related to water, sanitation and hygiene in Kenya, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Mali. Much of our work in Kenya focuses on understanding the impact of school-based water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) on health and educational outcomes. Poor WASH conditions can result in exposure to diarrheal pathogens and intestinal parasites, leading to illness, absenteeism and poor educational performance. The driving question is whether and how school-level improvements can reverse these patterns without broader community interventions.

The project is based in rural areas of Nyanza Province in western Kenya and is done in collaboration with Great Lakes University of Kisumu and CARE. It is designed to generate knowledge on effectiveness and sustainability and to use the information to influence policy and practice at a national level. The project includes a randomized trial to measure health and educational impacts, along with qualitative and contextual assessments of a wide range of issues including menstrual management for girls, anal cleansing, and interactions between communities and schools.

Preliminary results demonstrate that, as expected, girls are more affected by poor WASH conditions in schools and at home. This effect is predominantly among girls in poorer or marginalized households. Similarly, improvements in school WASH primarily benefit girls and not boys. Data from the trial also show that school-based interventions can be effective in changing water treatment behaviors among households within the community. This diffusion effect is strongest among poor households, suggesting that school-based interventions can partially offset social and economic-induced disparities in drinking water quality.

One of the greatest challenges for improving school WASH relates to maintain clean latrines, ensuring soap for handwashing, and treating water for drinking. While government policies require these, schools lack the necessary resources and there is seldom a system of accountability to ensure conditions are sustained. Our current work is exploring different models for that, which combine community-based accountability with improvements in school capacity for sustaining

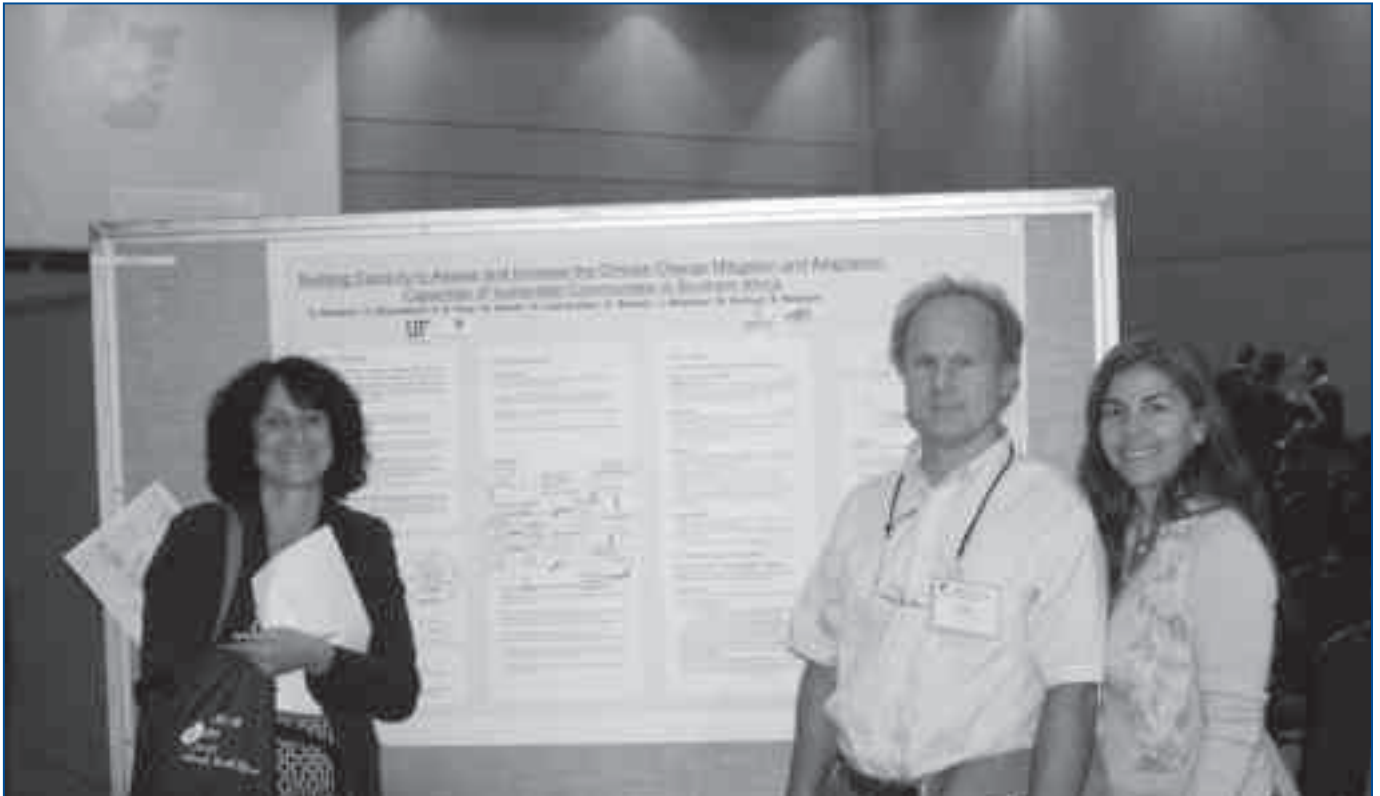


In addition to the schools project, we also work with our partners in western Kenya to explore the mechanisms for creating disparities in household drinking water quality and sanitation. This work explores specific sources of contamination and behavioral risk factors, but also explores the role of social norms and neighbors in creating disparities.

*Richard Rheingans is associate professor in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Environmental and Global Health. Funding for the projects in Kenya is from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Global Water Challenge.*

## Higher Education and Climate Change Research in Southern Africa

**CLAUDIA ROMERO & FRANCIS E. PUTZ**



Since our sojourn in Grahamstown in 2009 as visiting professors in the Department of Environmental Sciences, we have been busy running workshops related to our Higher Education for Development (HED) proposal on climate change adaptation and mitigation research, on which we collaborate with Grenville Barnes (UF SFRC). On this theme, the HED team from 3 southern African countries representing the Polytechnic of Namibia, the University of Namibia, the University of Botswana, and Rhodes University presented a poster at UF's conference "Bridging Conservation and Development in Latin America and Africa: Changing Contexts, Changing Strategies,"

held in January 2010.

Claudia presented a version of the 10-year strategic plan in the HED meeting in Washington, D.C. She also presented the plan's final version at the II APEDIA (Academic Partnership for Environment and Development Innovations in Africa) meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, which centered on building the case for the importance of higher education for development, and thus for climate change adaptation and mitigation. This presentation emphasized the interdisciplinary, case-study centered, and collaborative approach implemented by TCD.

We plan to return next summer to Rhodes University in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa with support from the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program. The Fulbright program also supported the visit of a doctoral candidate from Rhodes Univer-

sity, Matt McConnachie, who demonstrated advanced econometric modeling skills for his research on evaluation of the Working for Water program.

Overall, Claudia and Jack remain very much involved in collaborative research and training efforts in South Africa and Namibia related to the broad themes of higher education, ecosystem management, payments for environmental services, and biodiversity conservation.

*Claudia Romero is courtesy assistant professor and Francis E. Putz is professor of biology and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies.*

## Viewing Africa through Clothing: Research and Collaboration

**VICTORIA L. ROVINE**



As I write this brief description of my past year's research, I am in Oxford (UK) to participate in a conference called *Fashion: Exploring Critical Issues*. The conference attendees represent countries throughout Europe, Asia, the Americas, and elsewhere. This is an unusual conference for me, because I am accustomed to being the only person at such gatherings who studies Africa; an interesting if sometimes lonely position! This time, a second paper on Africa appeared among the seventy-five at the conference, presented by a professor of textile design from Nigeria. Our two papers stand out because they are focused on clothing histories and innovations outside the orbit of Western fashion. My presentation on the role of historical and contemporary dress in the expression of African identities opened a completely new field for most of the participants; most experts in fashion studies know nothing of Africa's vibrant fashion scenes. The response to my paper was both

gratifying and frustrating, as audience members expressed appreciation for the work of the designers, and amazement at this vibrant artistic production that takes place without recognition from the mainstream international fashion press and scholars of fashion. Such conferences convince me that this work makes an important contribution to several fields, including African Studies, art history, and fashion studies.

In the past year, I have continued to conduct research and publish on several aspects of Africa's presence in global fashion markets. I traveled to Senegal and Mali in summer 2010, where I interviewed numerous designers and continued my exploration of the markets for fashion in West Africa. During the same trip, I presented a paper at a symposium on the changing images of Africa in India and France, from the colonial era to the present. That event was held at the Université de Cergy-Pontoise, outside Paris. While in Paris, I also attended two Africa-focused fashion shows, one at the Embassy of the Côte d'Ivoire

(a celebration of the 50th anniversary of independence) and the other at a community center in one of the city's chicest districts. Both were extremely well attended—the enthusiasm for Africa's leading designers extends well beyond their countries of origin.

This research was largely funded by the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, where I am guest-curating an exhibition on Africa's roles in global fashion trends. The exhibition will address clothing creativity in Africa through the work of contemporary African designers, innovations in "traditional" dress styles, and the influence of African forms on the Western designers. Through these three elements, the exhibition will use dress to analyze the construction of ideas about African identities both by and for African audiences, and about Africa for European audiences. In addition, two articles from this research were published in the past year, along with a chapter in an edited volume on contemporary African fashion.



*Victoria L. Rovine is associate professor in the Center for African Studies and the School of Art and Art History. She received funding support from the Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Art and Art History/College of Fine Arts, and the Center for African Studies.*

## Debating Islam: Ethnicity, Belonging and Muslim Politics in Mauritania

**ZEKERIA OULD AHMED SALEM**

In my book manuscript in progress, “Islam, Politics and Social Transformations in Contemporary Mauritania,” I am exploring some of the various ways in which religion, personhood and social hierarchies play a role in political mobilization among the *Haratin*, a demographically important, black, and Arabic-speaking national group. Arab-Berber Moors make up the majority of the population in Mauritania, and refer to themselves as *bidhân* (Whites) even though more than half of them are, in fact, *Haratin*, that is black Moors of servile or slave origin.

More specifically, I look at the ways in which individuals claiming a servile origin strive to carve out a place for themselves and their community in the multiethnic nation of Mauritania by various means, including—but not limited to—Islamic revival and radicalism. Many individuals and activist groups of the *Haratin* community tend to label their individual or collective actions as a “fight against slavery,” a stigma as well as a vestige of a historical institution that is still entrenched in Mauritanian social hierarchies. This is further complicated by the fact that such hierarchies are at times sanctioned by local interpretations of Islamic law.

I am studying three aspects of this complex topic: First, I am reconstructing the endless debate on Islam and slavery in the Mauritanian public sphere as it appears in the discourse of political and social movements, and especially when this debate features an Islamic argumentation. Paradoxically, this debate is becoming even more tense in recent times, as the *Haratin* community has been progressively emancipated.

Secondly, I am examining aspects of



Muslim family law, ethnicity and politics in the light of some cases that have recently come before the judicial system in Mauritania, and involving cases in which some “prestigious” families have brought cases against young married couples from different social and racial backgrounds. In doing so, these families have tried to force the couples to divorce by invoking *sharia* law provisions regarding the ambiguous and controversial notion of *kefâa* (equality), that in their view should prevent in particular the marriage between a “noble” woman and a man whose origin is “tarnished” by a servile status. I explore how the judicial system in Mauritania, which is supposed to be based on *sharia* law, deals with this type of claim. I reconstruct the ways in which conflicting arguments grounded in the same *sharia* provisions are elaborated by the various persons and institutions involved in these trials. I examine also the final outcomes of these officially judicial processes, but which are

simultaneous highly controversial political and religious issues.

The final and third aspect of this work is a case study of the large numbers of *Haratin* who have recently become imams of mosques in the country. In particular, I present the life stories of two of these imams, which I recently recorded, and which serve to illustrate the entanglement of debates about Islamic leadership at a grassroots level and the question of legitimacy as a religious leader, as well as overlapping issues of citizenship, human rights and belonging in modern-day Muslim Africa.

*Zekeria Ould Ahmed Salem is professor of political science at the University of Nouakchott, Mauritania, and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at CAS for 2010-2011.*

## History, Trauma, and Revitalization in Haya Villages of Tanzania

**PETER SCHMIDT**

After an absence of several decades from my original research site in NW Tanzania, I returned in 2008 to visit several of the Haya villages where I once studied oral traditions and the history of iron technology. The first place I revisited was Katuruka, where local oral traditions said King Rugomora Mahe (1650-75) had built a large iron tower to the heavens. Marked by an ancient shrine tree called *Kaiija* (the place of the forge), this sacred place dates back to 500 BC—the earliest date for iron working in East, Central, or southern Africa. To my surprise, the ancient memorial was a stump. I also came to learn that whole families and lineages had perished in the HIV/AIDS epidemic that first swept through this part of eastern Africa.

What struck me was that fewer elders above age 65 were living when compared to four decades earlier. Several remaining elders asked that I return to the village to assist them in documenting what remained of their oral histories and oral traditions. They also wanted help with restoring their ancient shrines and other places documented by archaeology, hoping to make them a cultural heritage destination for employment of youth who now leave the village to seek opportunity elsewhere. Collaborative research initiated by the community provided an extraordinary opportunity to understand what changes had gripped Haya villages over the last 40 years.

I returned in October 2009 with support from a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad fellowship to launch oral tradition research. Village elders conducted the interviews, with digital recording transcribed by villagers, and the transcriptions (and video recordings) contributing to a permanent village archive.

Censuses conducted in two villages shed more light on the impact of HIV/AIDS, showing that the proportion of males to females over age 65 has declined significantly over the last thirty years. The 1978 Tanzania census shows .97 male to each female, while at the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in 1988 this ratio had dropped to .54 to 1, an enormous change; today a ratio of .54 to 1 prevails



in Katuruka village. Thus, a disproportionate number of males in their forties and fifties died during the height of the epidemic. This demographic shift has severely interrupted the transmission of oral traditions. Where there was once encyclopedic knowledge held by some skilled keepers of history forty years ago, there is now only skeletal knowledge held by elders.

A second collaboration focused on development of a village museum and an interpretative tour conducted by youth trained in the oral traditions. The community constructed a *buchwankwanzi* house (photo), the spirit house in King Rugomora's burial estate built in the style of an *omushonge* house. *Buchwankwanzi* opened in June as a site museum, replete with archaeological exhibits of the excavations conducted on-site in 1970 as well as displays of iron working equipment and a photo exhibit of

iron smelting and forging.

Additional research shows a precipitous decline in fertility of village farms resulting from the sale of cattle for quick money upon the untimely deaths of parents and other family. This has removed manure as a key element in once prosperous Haya farming. Perhaps the most poignant index to change is the revitalization of spirit mediumship—the traditional Bacwezi cult—in the face of what is viewed as the failure of Christian churches to provide help during times of stress and affliction. For the first time since World War II, practitioners are emerging in both villages and suburban settings, with some providing reinvented “traditional” solutions to the stresses that infuse daily life.

*Peter Schmidt is professor of anthropology and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. He received funding for this project from a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad fellowship.*

## Documenting Nalu: An Atlantic Language on the Coast of Guinea, West Africa

**FRANK SEIDEL**



In the coming two years I will document the language and the culture to retain a record of Nalu, an extremely under-documented Atlantic language of Guinea. 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. I plan to produce a detailed dictionary, annotated audio and audiovisual data of texts from different genres, cultural activities etc., an orthography, and a grammatical sketch.

In both countries 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. Encompassing this situation is Soso, the dominant lingua franca of the region, with speakers both 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. At least, most sources that mention the topic claim that Nalu in Guinea Bissau is fast disappearing. A point that severely

aggravates the language shift situation mentioned above is the inexistent administrative support. 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 alphabetization, 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 actually speak the language still. Numbers vary between 6000-25000. Be that as it may, any numbers given are hard to interpret speakerwise, because the criteria for entering someone as Nalu into the count are generally not given. Thus, if one takes into account that, except on the Tristão islands, most of the younger generation of 'ethnic' Nalu are first language speakers of Soso and have, at best, passive competence in Nalu, the actual number of speakers is most likely a lot lower than estimated. Nevertheless, on the Tristão archipelago which still is an infrastructurally and economically somewhat marginalized area, the language is still used as an intraethnic means of communication and also transmitted to some extent to the younger generation. Thus, although the number of speakers may be quite small and dwindling, a meaningful study of this language is at present still possible.

*Frank Seidel is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Center for African Studies. The project is funded by the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London and material will be archived with the Endangered Languages Archives (ELAR) at SOAS.*

## Cotton Sector Reforms in West and Central Africa

### RENATA SERRA

It has been a productive and eventful year for all researchers involved in the project on Cotton Sector Reforms in West and Central Africa, which is part of the wider Africa Power and Politics Programme (APP), of which the Center for African Studies is an institutional partner. As coordinator of four country teams as well as lead researcher of the Mali team, I have certainly been very busy. In March, we expanded our research to Cameroon and welcome our new collaborators from the national *Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement* (IRAD). They join our teams based at research institutes in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali.

In May, I convened our annual meeting in Niamey, Niger with the invaluable help of our host institution, also an APP partner, LASDEL (*Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local*). Besides exchanging preliminary findings and planning the work ahead, we had the unique opportunity to participate in four days of training in a qualitative and collaborative research methodology called ECRIS, which has helped reinforce the teams' capacities. In July, I went to Mali to start the second phase of fieldwork, where I interviewed main stakeholders in the capital, Bamako, and visited two villages in the Kita cotton region, meeting with farmer cooperatives and discussing changes since last year and the emergence of new solutions. At the end of September, I attended a meeting at the Overseas Development Institute in London with other researchers working on cotton sector reforms; and then proceeded on to Paris, to present our preliminary findings to both the Consortium Advisory Group



and the Management Board of the APP Program. Meanwhile, fieldwork in our four countries is ongoing, with the goal to capture the key phases of the current agricultural year.

Our four countries, which are among the largest African cotton exporters, have been involved to a different degree in reforming their cotton sectors, historically characterized by a state monopoly. Their distinct responses to donors' pressures for reforms and to internal governance challenges represent a very interesting setting for conducting a comparative analysis of how key elements in a country's political economy affect policy processes and outcomes in vital economic sectors. Our findings show that political and social realities, as well as past experiences in dealing with specific economic challenges, affect cotton sector performance more than the formal market structure in itself (monopoly or liberalized market). Potential explanatory factors include: nature of the democratic state, patterns of rent distribution, the political weight of farmer unions, the relationship between union leaders and

their base, and the ability of farmer cooperatives to solve collection action problems.

Our objective is to analyze in a systematic and rigorous way the role of these factors in order to shed better light on the actual forces behind different degrees of market performance and arrive at a finer explanation of what is happening on the ground. Our ambition is to engage ongoing policy debates, in West Africa and beyond, with policy recommendations that take better account of local dynamics and their potential for affecting outcomes in key productive sectors.

*Renata Serra is a lecturer in the Center for African Studies. Funding for this research project, which is part of the Africa Power and Politics Programme ([www.institutions-africa.org](http://www.institutions-africa.org)), is provided by the UK Department for International Development and the Advisory Board of Irish Aid.*

## AIM forAfrica: Rwanda

**JILL SONKE**



The UF Center for the Arts in Healthcare's AIM for Africa initiatives create cultural bridges between the arts and healthcare in the U.S. and African nations. In May and June of 2010, a team of 19 CAHRE faculty and students, along with several health and arts professionals from Florida and beyond traveled to Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue work begun in 2009. CAHRE is a part of a consortium of NGO's working together in Rwanda to improve quality of life in genocide survivor villages. The consortium includes the Rwanda Red Cross, the Barefoot Artists, Engineers without Borders, Jefferson Health, and the Rwandan Village Concept Project.

The primary goals of the 2011 initiative were: 1) to provide relevant education to healthcare professionals and lay healthcare providers in the Rugegero Survivor Village and surrounding region; 2) to use theatre and the visual arts to enhance health literacy and community engagement in the Rugegero region; 3) to use the arts to enhance familiarity with and utilization of health services in the Rugegero region; 4) to use the arts as a needs assessment tool to explore relevant social issues; and 5) to create sustainable economic opportunities for individuals and communities through vocational arts training.

The CAHRE team, under the leadership of Jill Sonke and Cindy Nelly, continued work in the Rugegero genocide survivor village and two

regional health clinics, expanded work into a small village adjacent to Rugegero that is home to a community of 91 people of Twa descent, created a bicycle taxi co-op project with an emphasis on health education in the town of Gisenyi, presented regional Home-Based Life Saving Skills training programs, and conducted needs assessments in the Twa village and in Goma, DRC. CAHRE nurses conducted health assessments, trainings, and provided healthcare to address immediate needs, while artists installed health education murals at local clinics, presented health education theatre performances in area schools, and provided vocational arts training in local co-ops, villages, and clinics. The health and health education projects focused primarily on nutrition, hygiene, HIV prevention, family planning, and malaria prevention.

Upon return to Florida, team members created Rwanda Sustainable Families, an economic assistance program, to aid villagers

in the Rubavu district in starting small businesses and put their children through school. Thus far, 15 families have been part of the program, starting businesses selling vegetables and goats. Additionally, members of the CAHRE team are creating a public art exhibit including photography, handicrafts, and artwork created by the children of the Rugegero and Twa village expressing their views on peace and unity. The exhibit will be presented in the fall of 2010.

The AIM for Africa Rwanda & DRC project will continue through 2011 as CAHRE hosts the East-Central Africa Arts & Health Forum in Kigali, undertakes extended residencies in Rugegero and the Twa village as well as in the DRC, and launches a longitudinal study assessing the impact of its programs on healthcare utilization in the Rugegero region. For more information, see [www.arts.ufl.edu/CAHRE/aimrwanda.asp](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/CAHRE/aimrwanda.asp)



*Jill Sonke is Director of the Center for the Arts in Healthcare Research and Education (CAHRE) and Assistant Director of the Shands Arts in Medicine program.*



## The New Malian Literary Landscape

### ALIOUNE SOW



This year I made two visits to Mali to pursue my research on Malian letters since the onset of political democratization in 1991. During my first trip, I worked in Bamako, the capital city, and then traveled to the Kayes region in the western part of the country to conduct interviews with activists from the Agence Malienne des Expulsés about migrant issues. In particular, I was able to investigate a new theatrical repertoire, which is created and performed by former illegal migrants willing to communicate, and indeed problematize, their own experience. This popular dramaturgy points to new theatrical practices, and translates, in unexpected forms and language, the obsessions and fears but also the success related to the Malian experience of migration. They raise unexamined questions of genre and performance, place and settings, testifying to the innovativeness and dynamics of local cultural practices.

In Bamako, I also pursued my research on life narratives and memoirs and more precisely prison narratives written by former political prisoners of the Moussa Traoré military regime. These texts are part of a larger group of narratives published at an impressive rate since the onset of democratization, and which include memoirs written by former military officers as well as by ordinary citizens willing to testify about the military regime. During this first trip I interviewed Amadou Traoré, one of the most important political figures in postcolonial Mali, who is a former political prisoner and now publisher. I also worked with Ibrahima Touré, a Malian director, who has just finished an adaptation of Ibrahima Ly's prison narrative *Toiles d'araignée*.

I continued with this research during my second trip to Bamako, which coincided with the country's celebration of 50 years independence. While looking at the role of life narratives and memoirs

during moments of commemoration and how they relate to official practices of memory, I pursued my interviews with other political prisoners such as Bakary Koniba and Seydou Badian Kouyaté. I also spent time in the national archives looking at the relationship between Malian politics and literary practices and met with other actors involved with the literary scene such as editors and publishers.

This research is part of a larger project which examines the developments that have been brought to the Malian literary domain since the fall of the Moussa Traoré military regime in 1991. Some of these developments include: the complex modes of local rehabilitation of literary figures such as Fily Dabo Sissoko, Yambo Ouologuem and Ahmed Thiam; the rediscovery and sensitive dissemination of the militant poetry from the northern regions at a moment of great political anxiety within this particular zone; and the unexpected orientations of the Malian novel. All of these literary initiatives, discoveries and changes are unmistakable signs of a desire to reconstruct and solidify a national literary history devastated by 23 years of military regime.

*Alioune Sow is assistant professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures and the Center for African Studies. This research was made possible by funding from the Center for African Studies.*

## Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report (SABER)

### ANITA SPRING

In the past decade, I have been interested in understanding and analyzing the African business environment, starting with the 1995 African Entrepreneurship Conference and the subsequent book *African Entrepreneurship: Theory and Reality* (with Barbara McDade) and followed by a 2009 special issue of the *Journal of African Business*, as well as other publications. I have continued to do research on related topics including a ten-country study that considered African business people, both women and men, at various levels of economic and business activities. I interviewed business owners, managers, and workers of small to medium to large-scale formal-sector companies, and described and modeled the factors that helped and hindered business success, sustainability, and upward mobility. I also researched informal-sector, small-scale economic activities (e.g., agriculture, local manufacturing, retail sales and vending) that are engaged in by large numbers of people in every African county. As a result, I delineated the entrepreneurship landscape from bottom to top based on interviews, case materials, and surveys.

The Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report (SABER) project grows out of this interest, and commences in fall 2010 for a four-year period. As project director, along with Dr. Robert Rolfe, Professor of Marketing at the University of South Carolina, this research project is different from my previous work, and focuses on producing an annual report that is comprehensive and



straightforward. It will analyze business indicators and conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa by region and specific countries. It aims to produce a concise package about African business conditions to assist several client groups ranging from business people and business consultants, to policy and decision makers, to the academic community of faculty and students who are located in the United States, Africa, and elsewhere. It focuses on major economic, social and political events and indicators of the sub-continent, initially considering the twenty largest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. As an annual report, it will consider factors in the past year that have shaped

the economic and political environment of the region and particular countries.

SABER will include data on and evaluation of indicators and their implications for economic growth; foreign direct investment and trade; political stability; business regulation; labor and employment; gender issues in business; ease of doing business; trade organizations and policies; Millennium Development Goals; telecommunications and infrastructure; and health initiatives and epidemics as they impact economic indicators.

An added feature will be the linkages to African universities and business schools. An advisory group of African scholars from business colleges in Africa will comprise a Council of African Scholars to review the reports. And each year, one of the scholars will be in short-term residence at UF to provide guidance and give seminars and lectures.

*Anita Spring is professor emerita, Department of Anthropology and Center for African Studies. Funding for this project is by Department of Education's Title VI grants through the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) and the Center for African Studies (CAS). Other project funding is from the CIBER at the Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina.*



# Malaria: Movement, Modeling, and Mapping

**ANDREW TATEM**



The recent increases in funding for malaria control in sub-Saharan Africa have resulted in the majority of countries scaling up control efforts substantially, and some countries even considering eliminating the disease. To monitor the effects that this increased investment and control is having, and to help countries decide on whether to target elimination in the short term, a strong quantitative evidence base is required. This year, my research has been focused on continuing to help to build this evidence base and provide quantitative, policy-relevant guidance on the feasibility of malaria elimination and the effects of control.

Through my continued work with the Malaria Atlas Project (MAP, [www.map.ox.ac.uk](http://www.map.ox.ac.uk)), we have built up a global database of nearly 30,000 community prevalence surveys, the majority of which were undertaken in Africa. Using Bayesian geosta-

tistics, we constructed the first global evidence-based map of *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria transmission intensity in 50 years, and used it to derive detailed estimates of populations at risk, clinical case numbers and commodity needs that are now widely used in the policy domain. An unexpected obstacle in calculating estimates of populations at risk from our malaria maps, was the poor quality of existing population distribution mapping for the majority of African countries. This prompted me to initiate and the launch the AfriPop population mapping project ([www.afriipop.org](http://www.afriipop.org)) this year, which is based at UF. The project aims to produce detailed and freely-available population distribution maps for the whole of Africa, and the early versions of East African datasets have been downloaded hundreds of times, finding usage by multiple organizations, including the World Bank, United Nations agencies, USAID, the CDC, the Red Cross, Medecins sans Frontieres and many other humanitarian organizations.

Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has also enabled UF colleague David Smith (Biology and EPI) and I to utilize the MAP malaria maps, in combination with mathematical models, to develop quantitative methods for malaria elimination planning. In collaboration with the Government of Zanzibar and the Clinton Foundation, this year we helped to conduct the first malaria elimination feasibility assessment of its kind, focused on the islands of Zanzibar. With 21 million records on cell phone usage across Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania, we were able to use novel methods to quantify human

movement patterns and estimate rates of malaria importation to the islands. The report is now serving as a model for other countries considering malaria elimination, and we are now working with the World Health Organization to update their guidelines.

Finally, through successful Africa-related grant applications, I have begun working on a multi-insti-



tution collaborative project focused on intensive studies of malaria epidemiology in Uganda, the historical epidemiology of cholera globally, and the role of air travel in the spread of insect-borne diseases to and from Africa.

*Andrew Tatem is assistant professor in the Emerging Pathogens Institute and Department of Geography. He is also a research associate of the Centre for Geographic Medicine, Nairobi, Kenya. His research was made possible by grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Frederick Weiner-Anspach Foundation, the Transport Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, International Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research Program, the UF Research Opportunity Seed Fund, the RAPIDD program of the Science & Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, and the Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health.*

## Use of Critical Consciousness Theory to Explore Counselor Effectiveness During Disaster Response

**CIRECIE WEST-OLATUNJI**

Building upon the foundation of global collaboration and scholarship that was laid two years ago, I was able to revisit schools and agencies in South Africa and Botswana. My research project focused on culture-centered disaster counseling and explored the impact of an international immersion experience on counselor competence.

The four week clinical outreach began with an international conference at the University of Botswana (UB) in Gaborone, where mental health stakeholders shared their perspectives on “Providing Culturally Competent Counseling Services in Trauma-affected Communities.” Approximately, 75 graduate counseling students, faculty, and counseling practitioners were in attendance. Throughout the conference, the UB students shared their struggles in counselor development, giving meaning to the words “cultural discontinuity.” Most narratives focused on how difficult it is for counselors to connect with their clients who often didn’t return. However, in general, their training was very similar to that in the U.S. Of significance, one of our team members remarked, “There should be a Botswana theory of counseling instead of only importing Western theories that don’t fit the culture.”

A nationally representative team of ten professional counselors and counselor educators were invited to participate the outreach experience. To more fully understand the southern African cultural contexts and the nature of HIV-AIDS related trauma, the clinical outreach team immersed themselves in the local milieu through both planned excursions to Robben Island, Soweto, and other landmarks, and by invited outings, like visiting the village of Molepolole with



teachers met at the conference. The immersion began at the Lesedi Village where the team experienced the history of South Africa through music, dance, and storytelling.

The bulk of the experience focused on connecting to individuals and community agencies through client-centered, community-based counseling, responding adaptively where and when needs arose. One agency was ready with a case presentation and manuscript they had written and requested consultation and supervision. Another agency that was visited, Sithandi Zingane, (translated as “We love the children”) provides care and support for orphaned children. While the clinical team brought considerable breadth and depth of counseling experience to the sites visited in South Africa and Botswana, an equally important emphasis was placed on their own growth, both personal and professional.

Preliminary analysis of the data suggests that the participants’ articulate increased cultural competence, critical thinking around sociopolitical context, and enhanced self-awareness related to personal bias. Early outcomes of the study have been disseminated at conferences and invited lectures in Romania, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and China. One paper is currently under review with a international peer-reviewed journal, other manuscripts are in progress. A FEO application has been submitted to the university to dedicate time to writing a textbook that articulates an emergent model of culture-centered disaster counseling that is built upon my outreach efforts in southern Africa and elsewhere.

*Cirecie West-Olatunji is associate professor in the School of Human Development and Organizational Studies in Education in the College of Education. She received support from the Center for African Studies for this research.*

## Remembering Colonial Times: an Algerian Oral History

### KHADIDJA ARFI

Last year, I wrote a paper on Algerian remembrance and thoughts of the word *harki*, a loaded word that has strong associations with collaborators and the war of independence. I decided to go beyond that theme and for my dissertation investigate the Algerian colonial past through the postcolonial memory focusing on the people of Dellys. Such an approach allows me to get beyond the specific time of the war of resistance by using people's testimonies, through storytelling, myths, songs, prayers and many other venues by using oral traditions and oral histories in analyzing social phenomena during colonialism.

This summer I spent more than three months engaged in my dissertation fieldwork in the port town of Dellys, Algeria, and its surrounding villages. Located 100 km northwest of Algiers, Dellys is famous for its strategic position, being inhabited for several millennia by various civilizations –Berber, Roman, Vandal, Arab, and French. Despite its historical legacy, cultural diversity, economy and environment, in the last fifteen years Dellys has been neglected and classified as a hub of terrorism, which makes it an excellent case study for postcolonial memory of colonialism.

No matter how I prepared intellectually by reading books on memory and colonialism, postcolonial theory and oral history, when I sat listening to many of the great people of Dellys, we were able to construct unique narratives of a rich and complex life in colonial Algeria. Thanks to an exceptional net of connections, I had close to 100 formal and informal interviews. Eighty personal interviews were conducted with elderly men and women in the town of Dellys and surrounding villages. Though such dialogues, the participants told narratives by digging into their memories and using their landscape to construct these historical narratives.

Being of Dellysian parents, I knew that during my fieldwork I would be obliged to fulfill my social obligations, embracing both advantages and disadvantages. Such events allowed me to



participate in local social life without jeopardizing my data collection. Every moment I spent is part of my fieldwork. I am grateful to the Dellysians for embracing me, trusting me with stories that, for some, have been in their chests for a long time, and for thanking me for my interest in their words and lives.

The data I collected is very significant. It responds to the limitations of many writings that neglect the context and voices of the indigenous population. In my experience, space, remembrance, and human connections are intertwined with gender, religion, class, tradition, and modernity in ways that are inseparable but independently significant. They represent memories of a life embedded within the casbah, gardens, or villages in relation to kinship and community. They construct emotional moments in memory in recalling *colon*, *harki* or *mujahid* as symbols of their colonial

interaction.

The narratives tell the personal experiences of the interviewees, weaving a complex picture of the area in past and present. Thanks to my exceptional narrators, soon the stories from Dellys will flow in the river of human history to settle on its banks as an everlasting *shaahid* or trace.



*Khadija Arfi is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology. She received support for her research from a CAS pre-dissertation research grant and the John M. Goggin Award.*

## Marketing Opportunities and Constraints in the East Usambaras, Tanzania

**RENEE BULLOCK**

Creating effective strategies to alleviate poverty and conserve biodiversity in tropical countries has become a critical issue in economic development efforts. It is difficult to establish protected areas to manage resources at landscape level and greater attention has focused on how to conserve remaining biodiversity while supporting rural development needs. The East Usambaras, located in northeast Tanzania, are similar to many tropical regions that contain unique ecosystems. The mountains are characterized by a mosaic of land use patterns, including agriculture and montane rainforests that support some of the highest species biodiversity in the world.

Within this setting, smallholder subsistence farmers grow many common food crops, including maize and cassava. Additionally, in the uplands, significant cash crops include spices that are grown in agroforestry systems. Native trees create shade for growing the “queen of spices”—cardamom. Cardamom is intensely aromatic and used in curries; in European countries the spice is used to flavor sweet pastries. For farmers in the East Usambaras cardamom thus holds potential as a high value export crop. In fact, the government promoted cardamom as a market strategy to alleviate poverty by producing for high value niche markets. My research has investigated cardamom cultivation and other land issues that are paramount to understanding how to address conservation priorities in the area: farmer’s land use practices and markets.

Cardamom production has been criticized as a leading cause of deforestation. Although it is grown under native trees in agroforestry systems, production is estimated to last only 13



years. At this point, yields decline and so do farmers’ incomes. Farmers then convert their agroforestry systems to grow crops that enjoy full sunlight, such as food crops. But in so doing, the biodiversity value of their farm is lost: native trees are removed. In 2009 I developed profitability models for farmers’ land use practices. In short, conversion is lucrative and farmers incur high opportunity costs if they do not convert. I returned this summer to examine markets for the crops in these systems. My research assistant and I travelled by motorbike and camped in villages to interview farmers and intermediaries in rural and urban areas. We used a value chain analysis approach, which describes the full range of activities from production to final consumers. Our research revealed that there are significant constraints to farmers getting their crops into high value export markets, including weak institutions and low capital.

Identifying market inefficiencies is useful to develop strategies to improve market based approaches that generate incentives to conserve agroforestry systems. For example, organic certification emphasizes quality standards and encourages sustainable agricultural practices.

Conducting research in this corner of the world has taken me off the beaten track to an area I may not have otherwise visited. My field experiences have been adventurous and taught me many lessons, especially the value of communication. My ability to communicate in Swahili because of the FLAS fellowship has helped tremendously in facilitating professional relationships, and more importantly, getting to know the farmers with whom I work.

*Renee Bullock is a PhD student in geography and a former FLAS fellow in Swahili (2008-2010).*

# Epigenetic Alterations and Stress Among New Mothers and Infants in the Democratic Republic of Congo

**NICOLE C. D'ERRICO**



The new field of Fetal Origins suggests that the quality of the intrauterine environment in which a fetus is programmed has great implications for the health of the child. Researchers are beginning to document the health effects of the passage of stress hormones from mother to fetus. Still, many important questions about the biological mechanisms for such transmission remain largely unknown.

This summer, with support from the Center for African Studies and in collaboration with Dr. Connie Mulligan, I began the first epigenetic study to take place in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This study is the first of its kind to analyze how the stress of 14 years of war in the eastern provinces of the DRC might produce epigenetic alterations among mothers and babies. This is particularly relevant in the context of eastern DRC, where systematic rape warfare is being used as a tool of war by soldiers operating in the region.

For this biocultural study, I took

semi-structured interviews, perinatal trauma surveys and biological samples from 25 women giving birth at the HEAL Africa hospital in Goma, eastern DRC, during July and August. Maternal blood, umbilical cord blood (a proxy for infant blood) and placental samples were taken from all participants. From these samples we will measure stress



hormones, biological markers of inflammation and epigenetic alterations. The interview and survey data and will provide the contextual details necessary to begin to understand how mundane stressors and other traumatic exposures of war such as sexual violence, map onto

patterns of epigenetic changes, stress and inflammation in mother-infant dyads.

During the course of the study, our partner doctors on the ground in Goma were capacitated to do basic DNA extraction and placental biopsies. We will continue to work with them during the analysis and further data collection for this study. The Mulligan lab donated several pieces of genetic equipment for the small molecular genetics laboratory that we set up at HEAL Africa for this study. We have plans to present the first round of findings to the community as soon as analysis is complete. Finally, this study will be expanded upon for my dissertation research, beginning in 2012. It is our hope that we produce conclusions which will not only expand our understanding of how adversity in the intrauterine environment affects birth outcomes and child health, but which will be relevant for policy makers and public health stakeholders in the DRC.

*Nicole D'Errico is a graduate student in medical anthropology and epidemiology. She is a FLAS fellow for Swahili (2009-11).*

## Masquerade and Local Knowledge in Urban Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria

**JORDAN A. FENTON**

From 2009-2010, I completed 12 months of fieldwork in Nigeria for my dissertation. This experience built upon two previous trips during the summer months of 2008 and 2009. During my time in Calabar, I studied six masquerade societies and a local writing system known as *nsibidi*—a secret pictographic and performed and gestured indigenous language primarily used today by the Ekpe/Mgbe secret society, popularly known as leopard societies. My research explores notions of secrecy, power, knowledge, and agency through the local use of masquerade performance, rituals, and *nsibidi* to begin to understand what role secret societies play in postcolonial Calabar.

There are six major masquerade societies comprised of numerous factions throughout Calabar, each major type has its own distinctive masquerades, musical rhythms, and age range. Three have deep rooted histories for the indigenous populations of Calabar, while the remaining three are more recent. Part of my research was to examine how the more recent masquerade societies developed and were influenced by the more historic examples. This was done by comparing ritual,



performance, and initiation structures as well as conducting a systematic evaluation of symbolic elements and iconography. The analysis reveals that these recent masquerade societies were shaped by local and regional forces and influence, while the ritual structure and iconography were influenced by the previous societies, however the meanings and



uses were re-contextualized.

Another part of my project was to learn *nsibidi* and understand its artistry, contemporary function, and larger meaning in contemporary Calabar. Having been initiated into Ekpe during my first trip in 2008, as I returned to Calabar during subsequent trips, I continued my initiation through the different levels of the society, which included the learning of esoteric lore and *nsibidi*. As my research progressed, I began to learn that meanings and interpretations are not fixed, but personal and different from elder to elder or member to member. I was careful to learn from known masters of *nsibidi* since knowledge depends on levels of initiation. Still to my surprise, explanations were individualized and in some cases completely different from one master to the next. However, once this script becomes performed by way of gesture during *nsibidi* challenges to

establish power in Ekpe rituals and ceremonies, the language becomes more unified, but still quite irregular as member constantly invent different gestures of existing signs in order to confuse their challengers to demonstrate their agency.

The broader aspects of my research resonate with the concerns related to the social workings of ‘traditional’ culture in urban settings, the processes of change and adaptability of visual culture, and the multiplicity of meanings of local knowledge.

*Jordan A. Fenton is a doctoral candidate in the School of Art and Art History. His research in 2009-2010 was made possible by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. Previously, he received two summer Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) grants to study the Ejagham language in Calabar, Nigeria during 2008 and 2009.*



# The Role of the Environment in the Forest Livelihood Decisions of Malawian Villagers

**JOHN DUDLEY FORT**

I am conducting research to discover to what extent the environment enters into the livelihood decisions of Malawians living along the border of the Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve. My research builds upon a 2008 dataset entitled, “The coproduction of land use and livelihoods in Malawi.” That project used quarterly surveys to measure household incomes from a suite of livelihood activities, including those which involve the forest. My project adds a qualitative dimension to the dataset by seeking the reasons behind forest livelihood decisions. Whereas the 2008 work quantified how much households earned from particular forest livelihoods, my work seeks to understand why those households decide to pursue or not



pursue those same activities.

My project is focused on three villages along the base of the Mulanje Mountain. Mulanje is a 3,000 meter massif which rises impressively from the plains below. The mountain has a 600 km<sup>2</sup> forest reserve which contains ecologically important species such as the

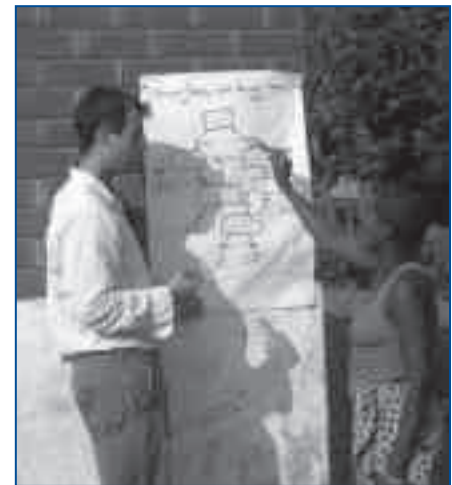


Mulanje Cedar (*Widdringtonia whytei*) and several miombo hardwoods (*Brachystegia sp.*). The mountain and its forest provide valuable environmental services to the surrounding communities; it is the source of 15 rivers and it is one of the few remaining sites at which to harvest firewood. The forest also serves as an important source for building materials and is a renowned location for harvesting traditional medicine.

As with many forests in Africa and around the world, the Mulanje Forest faces increased usage from rising populations along its boundaries. My research is designed to shed light on this usage by investigating local people’s decisions to use the forest from the perspectives of the users themselves. Specifically, I am curious to know how and to what extent concepts of “the environment” enter into the forest usage decisions of the people living around the mountain. The method I am using to understand these decisions is called Ethnographic Decision Tree Modeling. Based on the data collected from in-depth interviews, my research assistants and I will construct tree models for the decision to pursue or not pursue four different forest livelihood activities. These models will then be tested and revised using questionnaires administered to a larger sample of respondents from the same three villages. Once validated, these models will be analyzed for decision

criteria related to the environment.

At the end of our data collection period my research team will share our results with our research communities in order to allow them to see their forest use in a larger context. These results will also be shared with local NGOs and environmental policymakers. It is hoped that by generating insight into the ways in which forest users think about the environment this research will inform policies and programs which seek to conserve the forest and improve the standard of living among those people who rely on the forest for their livelihoods.



*John Fort is a masters student in the School of Natural Resources. This research is funded by a Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Field Research Grant.*

## Elephant Community Ecology in Botswana

**TIMOTHY FULLMAN**

My research looks at the impact of African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) on other large herbivores in Botswana. Southern Africa is home to the world's largest population of African elephants. While this natural treasure serves as the basis for a booming tourism industry, generating jobs and revenue for local communities, the 200,000+ population of elephants are also a source of human-wildlife conflict and preliminary research suggests elephants are affecting other large mammals, threatening the area's ecological integrity. There is a dire need to understand the impact of increasing densities of elephants on species diversity. My project investigates the applicability of the Intermediate Disturbance Hypothesis to elephants and other large mammals 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 the influence of elephants on other species will enable more effective management decisions in an



area where biodiversity conservation is essential for economic growth and local livelihoods.

I first visited Botswana in 2008 while conducting my master's research on elephant utilization of trees in Chobe National Park. This summer, I returned to Botswana for two months to begin my dissertation research. This built upon work I started in 2008 to consider habitat use by large herbivores. This field season I worked



in both Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve testing and refining methods for analyzing species interactions and habitat use under varying densities of elephants. Large herbivore groups were spatially located during two types of game drives. Long drives were conducted over large spatial extents to provide analysis of habitat use at a large spatial scale but at a short temporal scale at any single location. Short drives were conducted over a smaller spatial extent that was driven repeatedly every hour to provide a picture of how habitat occupancy changes over time, allowing me to consider a longer time scale but a small spatial scale.

The information collected will be combined with GIS and remote sensing land cover data from other graduate students in our research group to create predictive habitat maps for large mammals in the dry season. Pairing this with our group's climate modeling will show how

predicted changes in the environment around Chobe National Park may influence the wildlife species that live there, informing management decisions by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

*Timothy Fullman is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography. He has received support for his research from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Conservation Fund, QSE3 IGERT Travel Grant, NASA Climate Change Research Grant, UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Travel Grant, and a Department of Geography Travel Grant.*

## Minority Language Promotion in Senegal and Mauritania: The Case of Pulaar

**JOHN HAMES**

A network of activists who reside in or have migrated from the Fuuta Tooro region of Northern Senegal and Southern Mauritania has adopted literacy classes, forms of entertainment and journalism in order to address perceived threats to the Pulaar language emanating from its minority status in those countries. Some of these activists become recognized in the Pulaar community as *ngenndiyankoobe*, a Pulaar word that translates as “patriots” or “nationalists.” Their activism is part of a brand of transnational social activism that might provide scholars with a new understanding of attempts by ethnic minorities in Africa to address the grievances associated with cultural and linguistic marginalization.

The Jeanne and Hunt Davis Pre-Dissertation Grant enabled me to spend the summer in Senegal and Mauritania in order to learn more about this phenomenon. Thanks to the hospitality of great hosts and friends, I had the opportunity to make contacts with over a dozen associations involved in the promotion of Pulaar and had over 30 interviews and informal discussions with Pulaar activists. My activities included frequent visits to the office of Lewlewal Group, a Pulaar-language media company that is working on beginning radio broadcasts in Senegal and operates an online news site. Other efforts included everything from conversations with mainstream journalists about the pressures of Pulaar activists’ demands on their work, to meetings with *Pelle Pinal e Bambaare* (Associations for Culture and Development) such as that established by the residents of the village of Sori Male, Mauritania, which conducts regular



Pulaar classes taught by members of the community, and has trained a cadre of skilled theater performers whose acts often deal with important social issues.

I am now completing an in-depth fieldwork report that addresses several themes discerned from what I observed and what I was told during my trip. One of the most important of these themes is understanding how current Pulaar activists situate their roles within what some of them view as a tradition of Pulaar-related activism, which is often portrayed as beginning with a group of Pulaar-speaking intellectuals back in the 1950s and 1960s who saw promotion of education in African languages as essential to the project of liberation from European domination. The report also grapples with the considerable degree of contestation I found within the Pulaar activist community in Senegal and Mauritania over who has rightfully earned a place among the *ngenndiyankoobe*, and the criteria by which that is determined. While some with whom I spoke this summer were very passionate about the need for those promoting Pulaar to assume such behaviors as speaking the

language in a way that does not betray influences of other languages, and wearing particular styles of clothes, others scoffed at such attitudes and saw them as ways of unfairly claiming a monopoly on representation of the Pulaar cause.

In addition, I found that assumptions about what makes a creditable Pulaar activist or *ngenndiyanke*, can underlie the grievances expressed in power struggles where positions of influence that involve use of the language are at stake, as seen in the case of one former TV personality whose removal from her position was believed by some to be justified by a supposed lack of depth in her Pulaar, as well as her closeness to members of other ethnic groups. I expect that exploration of these and other themes in my fieldwork report will, sometime in the next few months, begin developing into a bona fide master’s thesis.

*John Hames is a master’s student in the Department of Anthropology. He received funding for his research from a 2010 Hunt and Jeanne Davis pre-dissertation research grant as well as summer FLAS from CAS to study advanced Pulaar. His research interests in the Pulaar community began to develop when he was in the Gambia, where he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 2005 to 2007.*

## Heritage Tourism: Implications for the Preservation of Traditional Haya Architecture in NW Tanzania

**RACHEL IANNELLI**

Located in Katuruka village are a suite of sacred sites of great antiquity that are currently being restored and revitalized. These restorative activities are crucial in order to present properly to visitors the shrines and other landscape features that are of great historical significance. This summer I set out to investigate how the construction and use of traditional *omushonge* houses of large circular design constructed of wood, elephant grass, woven bark fiber and thatch can appeal to a growing heritage tourism sector in Kagera Region, Tanzania, while simultaneously avoiding negative questions of authenticity.

During my first visit to Katuruka village the previous year, I assisted in the documentation of the construction of an *omushonge* spirit house honoring the Bacwezi ancestor Mugasha. This attraction has been recently enhanced further by the reconstruction of another *omushonge* style spirit house in the old royal palace compound. Both of these structures have been reconstructed from the accounts of elder informants who had personally witnessed the original structures in the past. Thus, while they are reconstructions, the authenticity of form is beyond reproach. Using the Katuruka *omushonge* shrines as my investigatory setting, I surveyed visiting tourists to gauge their reaction to this traditional architectural style. I found that *omushonge* architecture is an element of local culture that has great appeal to visitors. Thus tourist preferences articulated at the Katuruka site could form a foundation for recommendations pertaining to further development of traditional architecture at heritage sites.

A second component of my research was to document ethnographically the cultural meanings associated with traditional *omushonge* domestic structures. In order to do this I conducted interviews with thirteen individuals who maintain traditional *omushonge* houses and six residents of *ekibanda*, rectangular, style homes for purposes of comparison. The interviews covered issues including the biographical history of each house and an explanation of interior space use. I used a compass and laser range finder to measure



internal and external dimensions of all architectural elements and documented each photographically. Residents provided valuable information regarding the symbolic meanings of many structural elements of *omushonge*, although the significance of these elements varies widely. When informants were asked how *omushonge* style houses differ from that of *ekibanda* style houses opinions were unanimously in favor of the traditional *omushonge* style residence. The reasons include the ability to maintain a comfortable interior temperature, a floor plan more suited to family cohesion, as well as veneration for the ancestors

which are thought generally to be more accessible in *omushonge* structures.

Indeed tourism has a role to play in historic preservation and revitalization at a local level. In order to promote economic decisions that simultaneously enhance the cultural well-being of local communities, it is my aim to provide empirical evidence that will encourage the authentic representation of traditional Haya architecture.

*Rachel Iannelli is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Her research was funded by a summer 2010 UF Center for Business and Economic Research (CIBER) grant and a contribution from the Foundation for African Prehistory and Archaeology.*

# Institutional Reforms to Strengthen Gender Outcomes through Improved Rural Services Delivery

**JILLIAN JENSEN**

For the past year, I have had the opportunity to carry out research with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on the gender outcomes of investments in agricultural development projects under the U.S. government's assistance framework, the President's Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA). Since its launch in 2002, IEHA has been USAID's primary delivery mechanism for support to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), which targets six percent annual growth in the agricultural sector of signatory countries. The expected outcomes of this targeted goal are improved rural incomes and reductions in poverty and hunger. As USAID prepared to launch its new global food security initiative, Feed the Future (FTF), it sought to gather lessons on the gender outcomes achieved under IEHA. These lessons would be used to guide the design of FTF agricultural programs and projects to improve gender integration and strengthen gender outcomes.

My involvement included participating in building the conceptual framework and methodology for a multi-country program assessment. This leveraged my disciplinary background from UF in agricultural economics, farming systems, and political science. Combining gender analysis with the agricultural value chain analytical framework proved to be the most sensitive and effective tool for identifying and weighing up the various constraints limiting gender equity. This was evident when comparing the results from three country field studies – Mali,



Mozambique, and Uganda – where a mix of institutional reform approaches was required to address binding constraints up and down the value chain.

My experience working with USAID has had a tremendous influence on how I approach and communicate my research to increase its value and uptake by international development organizations. Bridging the distance between theory and praxis is a challenge that I believe all young scholars must face, in particular, those who aspire to careers outside academia. I find this to be especially true when trying to operationalize what is essentially a conceptual device like gender in common development tools such as logical frameworks and monitoring and evaluation plans. The theoretical critique represented by gender quickly drifts in practice to targeting resource distribution to women. Changing the 'rules of the game' faced by women remains a much more difficult task.

I have taken this experience into my ongoing dissertation work on the governance of public sector irrigation services in

Swaziland. Here, I am problematizing the integration of local institutions, specifically a traditional authority system, into the governance of a large irrigation scheme designed to facilitate the increased participation of smallhold farmers in commercialized agriculture. I am investigating the effects of this integration on the overall performance and sustainability of the service delivery chain through the prism of accountability relations. In so doing I am building upon continuing work by the World Bank on approaches to strengthening rural services delivery to improve rural development outcomes. From a theoretical perspective, I am also contributing to the debate over whether traditional authorities, as a potential source of clientelistic behaviors, strengthen or weak development outcomes.

*Jillian Jensen is a doctoral student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, Interdisciplinary Ecology Program. She is a research fellow in the NSF-IGERT program on Adaptive Management of Water, Wetlands, and Watersheds, housed in the Center for Environmental Policy. Her major discipline is political science.*

## Archaeology and Stone Tool Technology during Early State Development in Northern Ethiopia

**LUCAS R. MARTINDALE JOHNSON**



Recent archaeological investigation in Eastern Tigray, Ethiopia, addresses issues of indigenous influence on early state development during the pre-Aksumite period (ca. 800 BC- 440 BC). This multi-scalar and multi-method research team headed by Cathy D'Andrea from Simon Fraser University directs attention to a local archaeological community at the site of Mezber. A broad research goal is to excavate and document the range of ancient behaviors (e.g. food production, animal management, stone tool technology, etc.) of the local inhabitants during a time of incipient social complexity so as to assess what social/environmental mechanism(s) may have contributed to state formation in this area.

Since 2006 the Eastern Tigray Archaeological Project (ETAP) has surveyed large portions of the Eastern Tigray area in Ethiopia, but has only begun to systematically excavate one site.

Although excavations are just scratching the surface of cultural deposits, the project has recovered a wealth of data that show a wide variety of social behaviors were present during this ancient time in Ethiopia and the pre-history of the Horn of Africa.

My goal during the summer of 2010 was to continue the analysis of lithic or stone tool technology recovered from the architecture at Mezber. Past research of lithic material focused on surface and poorly contextualized cultural deposits, so the opportunity to conduct a contextual analysis of the lithic materials was very exciting. Working with Dr. Steven Brandt from the Department of Anthropology at UF, my research addressed which stone tool types were present in the assemblage and which tool types were underrepresented. After cataloguing many of the artifacts, we have begun to understand that assemblages from Mezber show a wealth of raw material variation as well as some tool type standardization. Currently, over 5,000 stone artifacts have been recovered and

the analysis is only in its second year. It is anticipated that artifact typologies for this area will continue to be revised and modified to fit what local variation existed among the ancient inhabitants of Mezber.

During the month I was in northern Ethiopia much of my time was spent analyzing artifacts in a dimly lit hotel room with calipers, scales, and data sheets. This is the less sexy, although critical, side of archaeological fieldwork. We did, however, visit the site of Mezber, which is plowed and cultivated during the growing season. The site is protected during this period from surface disturbances. In going to this site and surrounding areas via 4x4 and on foot, you establish a sense for how the landscape isolates as well as expands your vision. These valleys have steep extreme slopes, which limit mobility, but also have been populated for tens of thousands of years, which expose the wealth of local and foreign knowledge, resource management, and power.

Fieldwork in this area of Africa has shown me that rugged landscapes are not inhospitable places to live and grow. The people of Eastern Tigray, Ethiopia, today are truly a humble and welcoming people as I am sure they were in the ancient past.



*Lucas R. Martindale Johnson is a doctoral student in anthropology and received funding for this research from a CAS summer pre-dissertation research grant.*

## Rebels, Rulers, and Refugees: Post-Conflict Governments in Action in Burundi

**CARA E. JONES**

I have worked in the Great Lakes region for the past four years and have spent the past three summers in the Central African nation of Burundi. The country is frequently listed as the world's poorest, and recently ended its decades-old civil war (1993-2009). The time spent here has allowed me to witness Burundi's transition to democracy firsthand.

Burundi embarked on its second set of democratic elections following negotiations between numerous rebel factions and the military in 2005. Contacts I made on a trip in 2008, funded by the Center for African Studies, allowed me to participate in these elections personally. I acted as an international observer for COSOME (la coalition de la société civile pour le observation et le monitoring des elections) as a side project while conducting research for my dissertation. While this work was tremendously illuminating regarding the election and the political tension surrounding it--there were serious questions as to how many participants would ultimately play a part in the five-election cycle--my project focuses on the party in power on a grander scale. My thesis focuses on the changes from rebel movement to state government following civil wars, and specifically, the ruling CNDD-FDD (Council Nationale pour la defense de la democratie-Force du defense de la democratie).

Research in the social sciences has just begun to delve deeper into the inner workings, organizations, and structures of rebel movements, or to put it simply, what makes them "tick." I gathered preliminary evidence on the formation and development of the movement, interviewing participants from those who joined the rebellion early and as foot-soldiers, to politicians who joined



during peace talks in the early 2000s. It was fascinating to be able to gather data on this murky topic and to trace the political infancy and adolescence of the movement. During this summer trip, I conducted 47 interviews, with plans to conduct approximately 300 more over this academic year while in Burundi on a Fulbright-Hays fellowship.

My ability to conduct interviews is due in part to my study under the University of Florida's Center for African Studies Title VI language programs. I studied four years of Kiswahili, the lingua franca of East Africa and one of the official languages of the East African Community (of which Burundi has been a member since 2007). Because of the influence of Swahili traders along Lake Tanganyika and porous borders with Tanzania and East Congo, a fair number of Burundians speak Kiswahili, especially former rebels, who often spent large periods of time as refugees in Tanzania,

Congo, or Kenya. This skill has been especially useful in "breaking the ice" with notoriously wary Burundians and has contributed to a more fruitful research experience. I look forward to enhancing these skills on many return fieldwork trips to Burundi and the Great Lakes and hope that the skills I developed through working with the Center for African Studies can add to the larger body of knowledge on the region.

*Cara E. Jones is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. She has received research funding from the Dept. of Political Science and is a 2010 recipient of a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award. She was also a FLAS fellow for Swahili (2006-2008).*

## Fairtrade South Africa (FTSA)

**ALISON KETTER**



I am currently conducting dissertation fieldwork in the Western Cape, Northern Cape, and Limpopo Provinces of South Africa. My research focuses on how policy transformations within Fairtrade South Africa (FTSA) affect farm owner and worker livelihoods, impact land and agrarian policy in South Africa, and reshape the global Fairtrade consortium.

Fairtrade is an international economic initiative that aims to empower marginalized producers across the global south through the promotion of equitable production, distribution and consumption practices. Based on a “trade-not-aid” approach to sustainable development, Fairtrade was officially launched on a worldwide scale in 1997. It is now a widespread template for agrarian reform, encompassing over 50 producer states in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

My study focuses on FTSA’s implementation of South-South alternative trade, the process whereby agricultural goods that are produced in South Africa are also marketed and sold there, rather than being exported to the global north. FTSA hopes to expand the label domestically in order to: 1) unseat the accepted Fairtrade practice of marketing certified goods only in the global north, thus allowing the global south greater autonomy over the construction of their own socioeconomic models; 2) increase the sales of Fairtrade goods so that more smallholders and farm laborers will reap the benefits; and 3) lessen the carbon footprint of Fairtrade certified goods. Still, this new policy brings to the fore numerous questions about market access for emerging black farmers, Fairtrade’s ability to reconfigure the inherited terms of economic privilege in rural communities,

and new opportunities for alliance and interdependence between South Africa and other leading southern states.

In order to conduct this research, I am meeting with a range of actors including farm workers, land beneficiary farmers, established commercial farmers, FTSA personnel, government agents, global Fairtrade personnel, etc. I am studying how these policy transformations develop and their tangible and intangible consequences primarily through the lens of four vineyards, but also through that of numerous other relevant stakeholders.

*Alison Ketter is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology. Her research is funded by Fulbright IIE and the National Science Foundation. She was a 2007-08 and 2008-09 FLAS fellow in Swahili. She was also a 2010 Summer FLAS Fellow in Afrikaans, for which she attended the Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (SCALI).*



# The “Business” of State-Building: The Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on State Development in Equatorial Guinea

## JOSEPH KRAUS

My research lies at the intersection of several fields of study: political science, African studies, political economy, and international business. Using the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects of multinational oil companies as a jumping off point, I have explored the complex nature of Equatoguinean politics and analyzed the impacts that CSR projects can have in a highly authoritarian oil-rich developing country.

Oil companies operating in Equatorial Guinea have initiated two particularly interesting public-private partnerships with the government to improve the country’s education and health systems. These projects – which focus on malaria eradication and revamping the educational system – are scalable to the national level, increasing their potential to impact the lives of ordinary Equatoguineans. Given the temporary nature of the companies’ involvement in the country, they have made state capacity strengthening a key objective of their efforts in order to increase the chances of project sustainability.

Equatorial Guinea is a dynamic, fascinating, and contradictory country. Ranked as one of the richest countries in the world per capita, the majority of the country’s 650,000 citizens continue to languish in poverty. Meanwhile, a relatively small minority of politically connected elite monopolize the spoils of the country’s annual oil revenues, which totaled \$6 billion in 2008). Over the past two decades, this small country (the size of Maryland) enjoyed one of the fastest average annual economic growth rates in the world (20%+). While the government has slowly begun to invest in education and health, it continues to focus disproportionately on infrastructure, not people, and corruption and political patronage remain persistent problems.

All of this makes Equatorial Guinea a challenging and salient place for companies to invest in social projects, and for PhD students to conduct research. The CSR projects are beset by challenges related to corruption, lack of human capacity, weak state institutions, and a rigid hierarchical political structure. Despite these obstacles, the projects have made notable progress



in their efforts to improve social services. The malaria project, for instance, succeeded in reducing the prevalence of malaria infections in children age two to five from 42% in 2004 to 18% in 2008, and contributed to a 64% reduction in deaths in children under the age of five. The education project has outfitted 54 model schools with a new curriculum, pedagogy, and newly trained teachers. In April 2010, the project graduated its first class of 982 teachers from its new teacher-training institute.

Conducting research in Equatorial Guinea comes with its rewards and challenges. Despite the difficult political and economic realities they must endure, Equatoguineans celebrate life. Yet the very real pressures under which Equatoguineans live are ever present. I experienced first-hand a small piece of the daily intimidation and fear that confront Equatoguineans when

I was detained by security forces for five hours while attempting to speak with locals about my research. I was released and hope to defend my dissertation in the fall of 2010.

*Joseph Kraus is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. His research was funded in part by the Center for International Business Education & Research (CIBER) at the University of Florida, the UF Center for African Studies, the UF Department of Political Science, and the Jeanne & Hunt Davis Fund.*

## Religious Influence on Political Belief and Behavior in Kenya

**STEPHEN LICHTY**



As a doctoral candidate in political science at the University of Florida, I am a Fulbright-Hays Fellow conducting dissertation research that examines religious influence on political belief and behavior in Kenya. In the last two years, the Center for African Studies provided funding for two trips to Kenya, which facilitated pre-dissertation research and testing of my research design. These experiences provided crucial insight in developing an effective methodological strategy to explore how the highly religious Kenyan society engages with the political process.

The scholarly literature addresses the more public role of the church in Kenya's ongoing democratization struggle, but an understanding is lacking of the internal and more personal influence that religious institutions play in the development of church members' political attitudes and actions. Using nine churches and several para-church organizations as my primary case studies, my dissertation centers on a qualitative investigation of the inner characteristics of church life, pastoral theological training, political messages embedded in sermons, and the syncretism of traditional African spiritualities.

One of the most important political events

in Kenya's history occurred in August 2010. In a nation-wide referendum, Kenya adopted a new constitution (passing 67% to 33%). The referendum was a divisive issue among the churches and provided an excellent case for studying the influence between pulpit and pew. With the help of eight short-term research assistants, I managed to observe what 40 churches were saying before and after the referendum. We also conducted short interviews with 200 members in these churches. With 75% of Kenya being Christian (according to recently released census figures), a good portion voted against the wishes of several prominent religious leaders.

In diving into the political behavior of Kenya, I also discovered that there really isn't the concept of "political belief" here. Kenyans struggle to articulate a well-defined political ideology or view, forcing my research assistant and I to go back to the drawing board to develop a better approach at getting at their political views. We have even had to hash out the definition of "political" and in the process I've learned much about the inner psyche of Kenyans.

While most of my research has been focused in the capital city of Nairobi, I made two visits into Nyanza and Central Provinces to get a sense of the political atmosphere in rural churches. On numerous occasions I have also visited churches in the low-income urban areas surrounding Nairobi. Small churches from various denominational backgrounds dot these vast urban landscapes, providing hope and encouragement to a population characterized by unemployment,

poverty, and unhygienic living conditions. Church members in these settings expressed frustration and cynicism with the current political situation, but unfortunately they often lack the empowerment necessary to challenge the status quo.

My dissertation committee chair commented once that conducting dissertation field research would be one of the most rewarding experiences in my scholarly career. Four months into this adventure, I can only concur and look forward to the remaining six months I have in the field.

*Steven Lichty is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. His research in Kenya is funded with a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award. He was a FLAS fellow in Kiswahili and Arabic (2006-08).*

## Arabic Script as Active Agent in Senegalese Visual Culture

**EUGENIA (GENIA) S. MARTINEZ**



As a Ph.D. candidate in art history, my specific area of interest is Islamic visual expression in Senegal and the centrality of Arabic script in this expression of faith. During summer 2010, I spent two months in Dakar where I met with a number of artist-calligraphers. These artists are addressing the importance of developing local traditions of Arabic calligraphy to replace the often low-quality of products that are widely available from China, Dubai, and elsewhere in the eastern Islamic world.

Throughout my coursework and two visits to Dakar, I have found that the role of Arabic writing in everyday life is prominent, despite – or perhaps because of – the fact that it is not the spoken language of the region. Dakar is a culturally and linguistically complex metropolis in which the Arabic script that diffused throughout the region via trans-Saharan trade is taking on a life of its own within the visual landscape, at once modern and steeped in history and time-honored demonstrations of faith. Though Dakar was never a part of the historic trans-Saharan trade networks, today it serves as a modern cultural and commercial hub, drawing populations from throughout Muslim West Africa, the Maghrib, and beyond.

In Senegal, the most ubiquitous

presence of Arabic writing is also ironically the most invisible, and comes in the form of *gris-gris*, or protective amulets that most people wear around their waists, necks, and/or upper arms underneath their clothes. Another way that Arabic serves a talismanic function in Senegalese culture is within the spectacle of traditional wrestling, or *lamb ji*. Here, rather than being invisible, wrestlers' accumulations of many types of *gris-gris*, including amulets, huge jugs of *safara* (writing water), and white tunics inscribed with Arabic writing and *khawatim* (magic squares) are all central to the spectacle within the arena and the intimidation tactics among the athletes.

Finally, many of the same spiritually protective functions of Arabic script, particularly Qur'an and religious poetry passages, are retained in the calligraphic fine art work of many of the artists I have begun to work with in Dakar, including Yelimane Fall, Abdoul Aziz Fall (called Dabakh), Hady Kane, Samba Ly, Moustapha Seck, and Pape Ibrahima Ndoye. This short visit, partially funded by the Center for African Studies, allowed me to conduct initial interviews with artists and document some of their works. To further prepare for field research in Senegal, I have studied both Arabic and Wolof, supported by FLAS fellowships in summer 2008 and academic years 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011. Furthermore, I took additional Arabic courses at the Arabic Language Institute of Fez, in Fez, Morocco in summer 2009. The next stage of my project will be to conduct long-term research in Senegal, focusing on Dakar, to document the variety of artists working with Arabic calligraphy in Senegal, reception of their works in the public sphere, and aspects of personal and collective religious expression contained

and projected through their works beyond the literal words depicted on surfaces. In other words, the question is not only "What do the words say?" but also, "What does how the words look say?"



*Eugenia (Genia) S. Martinez is a doctoral candidate in art history. Her coursework has been supported by FLAS fellowships in both Arabic and Wolof since summer 2008.*

## Governance and Sustainability of Wildlife in Logging Concessions in northern Republic of the Congo (ROC)

**GERMAIN A. MAVAH**

I spent last summer 2010 in Ngombé forest management unit adjacent to Odzala-Kokoua National Park (OKNP) in northern ROC. In this area, several peripheral influences contribute to reduced wildlife populations and so conservation efforts are still needed.

Ngombé forest management unit is the largest forest concession in northern Congo with a size of 1,159,643 hectares, and it is currently allocated to the second largest logging company in ROC. And OKNP is the largest Park in ROC with about 1,360,000 hectares, created in 1935. It is one of the few sites left in Africa with a forest habitat and mammal population so rich and relatively intact. It contains very high populations of mammals including forest elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, bongo, buffalo and leopard.

To reduce threats to wildlife and encourage sustainable management practices in the OKNP buffer zone, a collaborative effort was introduced by the Ministry of Forest Economy, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the logging company Industrielle Forestiere de Ouessou (IFO) in 2005. This is a new partnership in this area regarding conservation strategies. Although local communities have been involved in the process of zoning of traditional territories, I am concerned that their participation in conservation innovations remains passive, and this study is seeking to find out why.

Thus, during summer 2010, I collected data which concerned governance and sustainability of wildlife in logging concessions adjacent to the national park in northern ROC. I have investigated potential factors likely to influence the participation of local people in wildlife management strategies. This



participation is subject to several factors such as the value wildlife for local people, its contribution to their income, their recognition of threats, potential solutions, or obstacles to success of management initiatives and formal wildlife regulations as well as their memberships and their willingness to participate in collective action and the level of social trust and cohesion in the community. All these factors influence local behavior in regards to the use of a given resource such as wildlife in northern of ROC.

Fieldwork in this area has been demanding and satisfying. As a researcher, my hope is that my work contributes to better understandings of why local people are passive in wildlife management strategies. I do believe that this study is a starting point to communicate between local communities, conservation NGOs, private companies and the Congolese Government.

*Germain A. Mavah is a MSc student in Interdisciplinary Ecology. His research was funded in part through the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) and Center for African Studies. He is currently a Beinecke African Conservation Scholar.*

# Risk, Perception, Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Niger and Tanzania

**SARAH LINDLEY MCKUNE**



This summer I returned to Niger to investigate the feasibility of my desired research. I spent much of 2005-2007 in the area around Tanout in eastern Niger evaluating a British Red Cross Cash Distribution Project. The experience – collecting livelihood data from 359 households, plus focus groups and key informant interviews in 19 communities – sparked my interest in understanding how climate change is being perceived and my subsequent desire to initiate doctoral studies. My research plan had been to return to Niger in fall of 2010 and to build upon the livelihood research that I conducted after the 2004-05 food crisis. Niger is coming out of another food crisis now, thus I wanted to capture and compare perspectives on climate change surrounding these two distinct environmental shocks. However, the security situation in Niger has deteriorated since 2005, and insecurity, particularly in the pastoral zone, left me wondering about the feasibility of the research. Thus, I returned to Niger to meet with researchers at LASDEL, a research institute in Niamey, to look into the possibility of collaborating.

The results were fantastic. I found two doctoral students interested in

pastoralism who were keen to collaborate. We spent a week hashing out theoretical and logistical components of a potential project, and I came home and started writing proposals for funding.

Our research project is investigating how populations of varying degrees of pastoralism in Niger are interpreting and responding to perceived risk of climate change, and how those reactions are affecting their vulnerability and resilience. The project will replicate household interviews conducted in 2005, following the 2004-05 food crisis. The current food crisis will serve as a second environmental shock around which discussions of climate change and perceived risks will be assessed. Data points from 2005 and 2010 will facilitate analysis of adaptations and coping mechanisms and the impact of those actions on vulnerability and resilience over time. The project includes key informant interviews, focus groups, household interviews, and child growth and health measures. I have just returned from Niger, having spent two weeks pilot testing and revising the research instruments in Tanout. And although the logistics of working in rural Niger are challenging, data collection has officially begun!

Once data collection in Niger is

complete, a small-scale version of the project is planned in Tanzania, to test the appropriateness and usefulness of indicators of pastoral resilience and vulnerability across multiple contexts. A workshop will be held in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi to discuss findings from the project as well as methodologies for risk assessment and vulnerability analysis.



*Sarah McKune is an interdisciplinary ecology doctoral candidate in the School of Natural Resources & Environment (SNRE). She is an IGERT Fellow (Adaptive Management of Water, Wetlands, and Watersheds) and was a FLAS fellow for Arabic in 2009-10. She recently secured research funding through Colorado State University Livestock-Climate Change CRSP, a USAID project.*

## The Impact of Chobe National Park on Rural Livelihoods and Conservation Behaviors – Chobe District, Botswana

**BOTHEPA MOSETLHI**



Contemporary natural resource management is marked by discourses that attempt to build positive relationships and synergies between conservation and development with such concepts as co-management and stakeholder participation, particularly the involvement of local people in resource governance and benefit sharing attracting significant attention. The present study is trying to unravel the extent to which these goals are realized by focusing on the influence of Chobe National Park on people's livelihoods and the effect this has on their conservation practices. My interest in the study area and population has been spurred by my familiarity with Chobe District as a biodiversity endowed area yet one where poverty and dependency are still the order of the day. The area teems with diverse natural habitats and wildlife

species, among them the Chobe River System which feeds in to Victoria Falls and mega-fauna mammalian species including elephant, hippo, buffalo, lion, leopard and several ungulate species. A remarkable feature is the park's elephant population which constitutes the largest and least molested herd in the world, and which has grown from about 45,500 in the 1980s to 151,000 at present. Altogether these resources designate the Chobe region the second most important wildlife and tourism area in Botswana after the Okavango Delta. Given the position of the tourism industry in Botswana as the second engine of economic growth after diamonds, it follows therefore to ask: Do the highly acclaimed tourism-related benefits of the protected resources trickle down to the household level?

It became apparent from the exploratory research I carried out in summer 2008 that there is significant growth in tourism based economies and employment related benefits in Chobe while on the other hand there numerous adverse effects: mainly elephant property damages, predation, human life endangerment and the overshadowing of conservation on the agricultural potential and non-tourism land-based economies of the area. These insights helped to shape my on-going PhD research work which is grounded on the theories of empowerment and social exchange and set out to determine: 1) if the park is resulting in positive and significant livelihood effects, 2) if there is an equitable distribution of the livelihood effects of the park amongst people – or if there is a

dichotomy of “winners and losers,” 3) factors underlying the nature and distribution of the livelihood effects of the park, and 4) if there is correlation between livelihood effects of the park and conservation behaviors.

Detailed collection of data to answer these questions was completed in July 2010. Within the hinterland of Chobe National Park, three settlements (Kasane, Kachikau and Parakarungu) were sampled with household surveys and key informant interviews conducted. The sampling of the settlements was based on differences in level of economic development or urbanity, proximity to the park, and length of community conservation programs/projects. Most of the settlements in the study area have a rural setting except for the emerging urban area of Kasane and Kasungula which is the tourism hub of the district.

*Bothepta Mosekli is a doctoral candidate in Interdisciplinary Ecology & a Fulbright Alumni. Her PhD training was supported by Fulbright from 2005-07 and thereafter by her employer, University of Botswana. She received summer pre-dissertation funding from Tropical Conservation & Development and NSF Parks Project*

# Transboundary Protected Area Management and Community-Based Ecotourism Development in southwestern Botswana

**NAOMI MOSWETE**

I spent three months in Botswana pursuing my research on stakeholder perspectives and support for Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP), a transboundary conservation area with a dual ownership between Botswana and South Africa. KTP is renowned for being the first formally declared transboundary protected area in Southern Africa. My work also covered residents' perceptions about park-based community tourism in the Kalahari region. I worked in nine villages: Ncaang, Ukhwi, Zutshwa and Tshane in Kgalagadi North, and Khawa, Struizendam, Bokspits, Tsabong and Kang in the south. Four of these villages are located within Wildlife Management Areas or the KTP buffer zone. Mixed research inquiries were used to collect data for this research. I interviewed 18 national and local public sector representatives who included local authorities (village chiefs, village groups, extension workers). About 740 household surveys were conducted within the nine villages adjacent to KTP. Other information sources used included the country's national archives, policy documents and official government reports, and tourism statistics.

I also participated in workshops as well as collected extra information from the Botswana Tourism Authority and Department of Tourism. This research is one of the first inquiries conducted in Botswana's remote Kgalagadi region, where issues that pertain to common property and multiple-use rangeland management and community tourism development are important. Lack of alternative livelihoods has put strains on the limited resources of the area. Thus, alternative livelihoods are highly needed among communities flanking the KTP. I found that community ecotourism development in the Kgalagadi region is generally low as many individuals are not engaged in tourism-related projects. Self-employment in tourism-related commerce is minimal across the region, with people involved in the accommodation sector. Craftmaking with ostrich eggshells and hides and skin was also highlighted as a common activity among the San/Bushmen communities. A



handful of villages were engaged in joint venture safari hunting activities. Park-based community ecotourism was perceived as an activity with the potential to generate socio-economic benefits to rural people, and that was highly recognized and appreciated as an essential livelihood option. However, local residents obtained only minimal benefits from the KTP.

Despite low or lack of park benefits to adjacent communities, the public sector officials demonstrated strong attitudes toward KTP as a transfrontier protected area and support for park-based ecotourism activities. Generally, the study discovered a low level of local participation in park-based conservation activities and lack of collaboration between the KTP authority and residents. Even though local residents were left out in all park programs and activities, they still held very strong general conservation

attitudes toward and support for the KTP as a transboundary area.

*Naomi Moswete just completed her doctoral studies from the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management, supervised by Dr. Brijesh Thapa. She is a lecturer in the Department of Environmental Science, University of Botswana. Her research was made possible by funding from Kellogg Foundation via Leadership Initiatives for Southern Africa.*

## A Comparative Perspective of Elite Capture of Community Conservation Programs in Namibia and Zimbabwe

**SHYLOCK MUYENGWA**



My research seeks to understand why community wildlife management programs fail to deliver communal goods and services to the poor. I am interested in how and why such well intentioned projects and interventions, targeting the marginalized and disenfranchised populations, end up benefiting local elites such as chiefs, local headmen and other traditional or religious leaders, committee members, and their immediate relatives.

In summer of 2009, I was awarded an African Power and Politics grant to travel to Namibia and Zimbabwe to undertake my preliminary dissertation work. My initial interests were broader governance issues. I initially intended to understand how the macro, meso, and micro level interface in CBNRM, the distribution of authority, and the effects of process of the melding of modern and traditional institutions on performance

of CBNRM programs in Namibia and Zimbabwe.

I worked in five communities in Namibia with the support of a local NGO. I conducted interviews and surveys on a bigger project, working closely with five conservancy communities in the Caprivi Region; Kwando, Mashi, Balyerwa, Wuparo, and Sobbe. I attended meetings to provide feedback to management on the governance issues based on the larger survey we had conducted in these areas. Inequity was a major issue and elite control was also widespread in most of these communities.

In Zimbabwe, I spent two weeks working with the CAMPFIRE Association. I reviewed project documents, workshop proceedings, and consultancy reports. I also traveled to Masoka, where I was able to conduct interviews, participate in meetings and community activities, and review minutes and proceedings at their local

office. Masoka community was one of the CAMPFIRE pioneers that accepted the idea in late 1980's and promoted its proliferation across the country, region, and internationally. I managed to interview former committee members and the traditional leaders. Finally, I conducted some informal discussions with community members, teachers, nurses, and village heads. The 1980-1990's acclamations of deliberative democracy, formalized rule, equity, and enthusiasm and hope in CAMPFIRE were no longer evident. The program had become so centralized with the traditional leadership exerting much influence and appropriating most benefits.

My research experience was worthwhile. It helped me to narrow my research interest from broader governance interests to understanding micro governance processes. In summer of 2011, I will conduct a comparative case study in selected communities in Namibia and Zimbabwe, to understand mechanisms through which elites capture community-based programs and non-elite strategies for alternative representation.

*Shylock Muyengwa is a doctoral student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment and managing editor for the African Studies Quarterly. This research was made possible by Africa Power and Politics (APPP) program, which is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member. Further support was provided by Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) pre-dissertation research grant and Dr. Brian Child.*

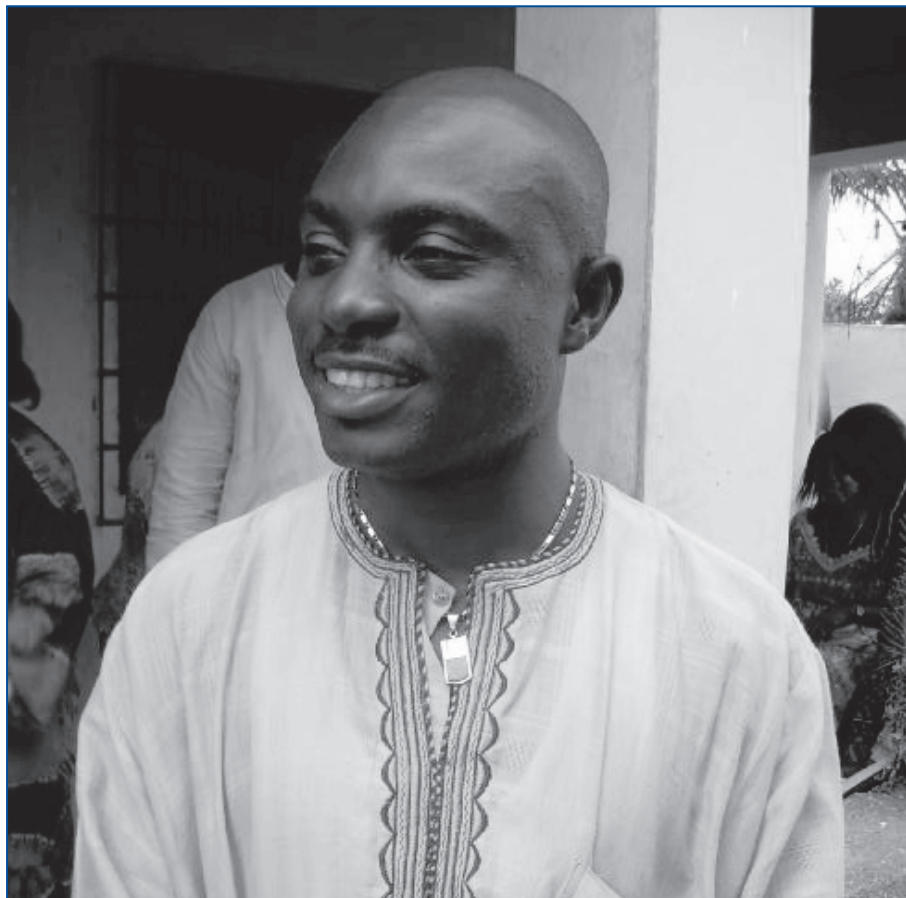


## Performing Adzomanyi: Religious-Cultural Expression among the Anlo-Ewe of Ghana

**SAMUEL ELIKEM NYAMUAME**

Traditional music and dance are among the cultural legacies that preserve the history of the Anlo-Ewe, who are located in the southeastern corner of the Volta region of Ghana. Musical performance in Ghana generally, and among the Anlo people in particular, is organized and practiced as an integral part of everyday life. The Anlo-Ewe people's rich musical tradition has been the subject of study from the time of their migration from Dahomey, now the Republic of Benin, until their present settlement in Ghana. The research that has been conducted focuses on recreational and social music as well as the amateur and national dance companies. Since there is ample research on social and recreational music, my research is geared towards an examination of religious music and dance traditions.

For the past three years, I have been researching a highly complex religious music and dance performance called *Yeve* among the people in Ave-Dakpa who are considered Anlo-Ewes. *Yeve* is a religious cult associated with the god of thunder, which also has a historical relation to the Yoruba *Shango*. Considered as a suite, I examined seven different movements that made up the musical performance. I studied the songs, dance, and the various drumming associated with rituals and performance in general. In the summer of 2010, I went to Ghana again to research another religious aspect of music, dance and song in the central part of the Anlo State called Lashibi-Anloga. The music is called *Adzomanyi* and performed mostly by older folks. Historically, *Adzomanyi* served as a powerful force of resistance during the colonial period by helping to maintain customs, values, and morality within the Anlo State. The success of this



resistance to the colonial administration and the lasting existence of the *Adzomanyi* group is due to the religious significance of ritual music performances through the language of the drum, the dance movements and the theme of the songs.

During my research over the summer, I investigated three aspects of *Adzomanyi* music that work together to give a holistic interpretation of how the performance of *Adzomanyi* serves as a safe medium for religious and political expression. The three aspects are: *Vugbe* (the drum language or texts and their meaning, and the text that angers and sets the deities to rebel), *Atsiadodo* (different

dance styles that interpret the songs and the drum text that conforms with it and its association with the divinities), and *Hamekoko/Hatsiatsia* (song performances that praise and reveal the power of deities). Though it is challenging to research complex rituals and religious musical traditions, I hope my research and findings contribute significantly to the religious music discourse in ethnomusicology as well as African-related disciplines in the arts and religion.

*Samuel Elikem Kwame Nyamuame is a doctoral fellow in ethnomusicology in the School of Music. Part of this research was funded by a Center for African Studies summer pre-dissertation grant.*

## Gender Equality in International Aid: The Case of Norwegian-Funded Development Projects in Ethiopia

**MARIT TOLO ØSTEBØ**



During the last decade gender equality and women's rights have become key foci in international development aid, and a main concern in the 'Millennium effort' to eradicate poverty. Being at the international forefront regarding legislation and practical policy related to gender equality, this is also reflected in Norwegian aid policies. In January 2008, Norway's first White Paper on women's rights and gender equality in international development was presented. Together with the 2007 Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation, this document accounts for one of the most ambitious donor strategies on gender politics to date.

The overall aim of my present research project is to explore conceptualisations of gender equality among various actors involved in two

Norwegian-funded development projects in the Oromia Regional State of Ethiopia. In my study I explore the concept 'gender equality' and how it is translated into development practice. This includes a focus on how local communities perceive and experience project activities addressing gender equality and women's rights. My study also has a particular focus on local gender norms, institutions and practices with relevance to women's rights. This implies a focus on the dynamics between conceptualizations situated within global development and human rights discourses, on the one hand, and local discourses, perceptions and practices on the other.

With empirical focus on development agents, organisations and development aid 'recipients'-my study is a multi-sited study. The following four levels have been identified as "field-work sites": 1) international and national (Norwegian) aid policy 2) Norwegian back-donors 3)

implementing organizations in Ethiopia 4) local community / target population in Ethiopia. Interviews at the level of Norwegian back-donors were conducted during spring 2010 and currently I am working on analysing the aid policies. Fieldwork in Ethiopia will be conducted during fall 2010 and spring/summer 2011.

The present study is a prolongation of research conducted as part of my MPh degree in International Health at the Centre for International Health at the University of Bergen, Norway. In addition to research experience, I have also been engaged in development and aid related projects in Ethiopia from 2000-2007.



*Marit Tolo Østebø is a doctoral candidate at the University of Bergen, Norway, and holds a courtesy appointment at the Center for African Studies. Her study is part of a larger research project titled "Gender in Poverty Reduction: Critical Explorations of Norwegian Aid Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights," developed by a interdisciplinary group of scholars based at the University of Bergen, Christian Michelsen Institute, Bergen University College and Haraldsplass Deaconess University College, Norway. The project is funded by the Norwegian Research Council.*

## Designing Identities in Accra, Ghana

### CHRISTOPHER RICHARDS



During August 2010, I returned to Ghana to continue my research on the contemporary Ghanaian fashion industry. I spent two weeks traversing the capital city of Accra, interviewing designers, visiting their boutiques and workshops, and interviewing the designers' clientele. This trip solidified what I discovered last summer: Ghana has a vibrant, innovative, and culturally significant fashion industry, which reflects crucial aspects of Ghanaian identities.

Last summer I attended Ghana's 3rd Annual Ghana Fashion Weekend and was dazzled by the breadth of imagination and innovation exhibited by Ghanaian designers. I interviewed one of Ghana's leading designers, Kofi Ansah, as well as the CEO of the Exopa Modeling Agency and organizer of Ghana Fashion Weekend, Sima Ibrahim. This first trip demonstrated Accra was a viable location for my research and allowed me to acquaint myself with the established Ghanaian designers and their fashion labels. This summer, I utilized my preliminary research and my knowledge of European fashion to write and publish

an article addressing the visual exchanges between Western and African designers.

Building on connections from my previous trip in the summer of 2009, I returned to Accra, Ghana in August 2010 to conduct additional interviews and to elucidate the cultural significance of Ghanaian high fashion. During my brief two-week trip, I was fortunate to interview six additional designers. Their garments ranged from elegant cocktail dresses fashioned from strips of *batakari* cloth, to business casual tunics embroidered with *adinkra* symbols



and representations of Anansi the spider's web. All of the garments I photographed were a visual mélange of influences: fabrics from Europe, America, and West Africa, mixed with both local and international styles of tailoring. As I conducted interviews with both the designers and their clientele, the clothing's significance began to take shape. Ghanaian high fashion garments visually affirm what it means to be a

cosmopolitan Ghanaian, an individual expressing their global identity while attempting to maintain a connection to their cultural roots. This postulation will be strengthened with evidence as I expand my research through additional interviews of the designers' clientele.

My research thus far has been a fantastic adventure. I've learned the value of being patient and well dressed in the field! I plan to return to Ghana in the summer of 2011 to finalize my research and explore the Ghanaian fashion industry's historical antecedents. I hope my work will illustrate the importance of fashion, specifically Ghanaian high fashion, as a vehicle for understanding crucial concepts of individual's identity, and how these concepts have changed over time. Additionally, my research will attest to the importance of contemporary non-Western high fashion, indirectly asserting its creativity and viability.



*Christopher Richards is a doctoral candidate in the School of Art and Art History. His research was partially supported by a CAS summer pre-dissertation award. He is a FLAS fellow in Akan (2010-11).*

## Acacia-Ant Defenders in Kenya: What Are the Costs and Where Do They Matter?

**KATHLEEN P. RUDOLPH**



Whistling-thorn acacia (*Acacia drepanolobium*) is a common savanna tree in Kenya. Its name stems from the whistling sound produced when breezes blow over holes in the bulbous thorns that fill its branches. The creators of these holes are tiny ant defenders that set up residence inside thorns, feed on tree sap and in exchange, provide very effective defense against herbivory by some of the world's largest mammals - giraffe, elephants, and other browsers. On the surface the interaction seems beneficial for both the trees and the ants but - how much do trees pay for this protective service? Do trees without ant defenders actually grow better than trees without competitive grass? Does where a tree lives change the dynamics of these interactions? These questions motivated the research I conducted this summer at the Mpala Research Centre in Laikipia, Kenya.

Ecological interactions between species fall along a continuum from negative - one or both interactors is negatively affected (e.g. predation and

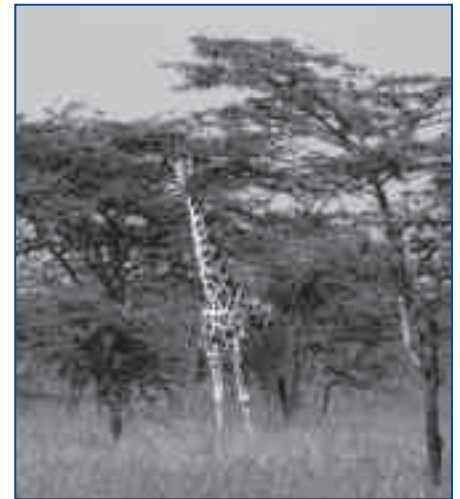
competition) - to positive - one or both interactors benefit (e.g. facilitation and mutualism). These two interaction types are most often studied in isolation with negative interactions historically receiving much more attention. Growing interest in positive interactions has produced many studies exploring the type and strength of benefits but which largely ignore the costs of these partnerships. In the rare case that the costs of mutualism are measured, they lack context with the costs of negative interactions like competition. Without this comparison of costs, it remains unclear how the net effects of multiple interactions influence individual organisms and if the labels placed on species relationships are accurate (e.g. mutualist vs. competitor).

Using *Acacia drepanolobium* as a focal species, I am able to explore how the costs of resident ant defenders of the tree ("mutualists") compare with the cost of grass ("competitors"). Fully factorial manipulations of ant and grass absence were implemented last summer and this summer I was able to begin measuring



treatment effects on tree growth and reproduction. This experiment also allows me to test how comparative costs change with different ant defender species and

across an environmental gradient. With the help of three UF undergraduates, I was able to quantify differences between sites along the gradient. Data collected in 2010 suggests that for some measures of growth, the presence of ant partners actually costs trees more in growth



than the presence of grass competitors. It also appears that location and ant partner species affect the comparative difference between competitors and mutualists. More time and measurement will be required to fully parse treatment differences but these initial findings will help guide my further research on costs and consequences of plant-ant defense.

*Kathleen P. Rudolph is a PhD candidate in the Department of Biology. Her research was partially funded by a CAS summer pre-dissertation award.*

## Kanga: A Culturally Embedded Swahili Textile

### MACKENZIE MOON RYAN

*Kanga* are colorful, machine-produced, printed textiles worn widely by women in many parts of East Africa. These rectangular-shaped textiles measure about 66" x 44" and are sold in pairs. Most often worn as wrap garments, one *kanga* is worn around the body and the second is used as a head or shoulder covering. Generally *kanga* feature bright colors of ink printed on white, factory-produced cotton cloth. The design of each adheres to a basic structure: central motif surrounded by a wide, continuous graphic border. *Kanga* most often display a proverb or phrase in Swahili, framed just below the central motif. These phrases can take many forms, and while on research, I collected a small sample of *kanga* from the shops on Uhuru Street in Dar es Salaam. One textile displays the well-known proverb, "The village rooster doesn't crow in the city." Another exhibits the blessing, "God's love is eternal." A further example is most certainly a pointed communication: "Your meddling is my gain."

*Kanga* central motifs and border designs vary considerably, but generally speaking, they all possess a striking graphic sensibility. Bold colors and outlines are privileged, careful shading or gradual tonal variances are almost never present. Everyday items such as plants, animals, and other domestic objects regularly feature on *kanga*. Some *kanga* are also commemorative in theme, while others display abstract geometric patterns, which at times resemble flora or paisley-like prints. Aspirational expressions also frequent *kanga*, such ships, airplanes, and buildings.

But what makes these inexpensive and widely available textiles so fascinating are their myriad of uses. As a uniquely Swahili textile, *kanga* are culturally embedded in everyday life and used to mark transitional moments in Swahili women's lives. For example, *kanga* are commonly used to swaddle newborns and shroud the dead. While on research, one new mother shared that local hospitals insist expectant parents bring new *kanga* to welcome their child into the world. *Kanga* are commonly given as wedding gifts and also worn to celebrate upcoming nuptials. Additionally, women



wear this textile as everyday clothing, at times making use of particular Swahili phrases. Through the wearing of carefully selected *kanga* phrases, women are able to communicate beyond the bounds of polite society, making this textile a significant player in social and gender relations.

A relatively new function of the *kanga* textile is its use in tailored clothing. While in Dar es Salaam I attended Swahili Fashion Week. Now in its third year, this three-day showcase gives new and established East African designers a platform to highlight their work. I had the opportunity to speak with a few designers during this research trip, including Ailinda Sawe of Afrika Sana and Kemi Kalikawe of Naledi Designs. Both these designers create high fashion looks for the runway as well as accept clothing commissions and sell readymade designs, all tailored in part from *kanga*. This most recent development in the

ongoing story of this dynamic textile demonstrates that this dissertation project is both called for and timely. By examining both shifting and enduring functions of *kanga*, my research strives to show how women have defined themselves within Swahili society throughout the past century.

*Mackenzie Moon Ryan is a third year PhD student in African art history. In November 2010, Mackenzie completed a pre-dissertation research trip to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Through the generous support of Madelyn M. Lockhart Summer Research Travel Fund and UF Office of Research, Mackenzie was able to lay the groundwork for her dissertation project.*

## Community Resilience in the Eastern Cape, South Africa

### SAM SCHRAMSKI

Are communities in the Eastern Cape resilient to climate change and déagrarianization? How does access to water fit into the equation? I spent the past summer investigating these questions for my preliminary dissertation research in the south-easternmost part of the African continent. In the intervening time I have learned how truly complex and deceptive a focus on two trends (decreased water access and increased dependency on households without strong agricultural skills) can be, and also how helpful participatory research can be when trying to tease apart problems at the community level.

The Eastern Cape is the epitome of many of the inequities evident in South Africa: it is home to a unique subtropical thicket biome, and yet much of its rural lands are considered degraded; it possesses active urban centers, and yet suffers from some of the country's worst levels of un- and underemployment; it stands adjacent to hundreds of kilometers of ocean and yet many of its municipalities suffer from depleted fresh water stocks. While the socio-ecological conditions of the province do not appear to be encouraging, how exactly communities are responding to stressors at the moment, and will continue to in the future, is not well understood.

I initially hoped to see how water access and governance could be understood in rural and semirural Eastern Cape communities using a coupled human-natural or socio-ecological framework in order to more fully understand various kinds of stressors. What I found after carrying out many interviews and questionnaires was that water access was only a minute concern for most households, and that even in a region of the world that is predicted to be



significantly affected by climate change, other worries were more pressing. Also, while the possibility of drought was on the minds of many in even the most rural communities I visited, people were far more concerned about disease and limited sources of household income.

Lack of water in the form of drought may be an underlying symptom of increased aridity in the region, and the changing nature of what it means to be engaging in “rural” work may also be present but not be central to the concerns of community members. In the end agrarian systems are perceived of very differently in this part of the world, so the question of how adaptive communities like the ones I looked at are appears to be tricky to answer but nonetheless important to explore. The next step in my research is to develop a participatory research index that can be used to gauge capabilities of dealing with future events, and in so doing bridge basic and applied

science in addressing what constitutes vulnerability, resilience and adaptation in a dynamic region in southern Africa.

*Sam Schramski is an interdisciplinary ecology doctoral student in the School of Natural Resources & Environment (SNRE) and an NSF IGERT-AM3 fellow.*

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

**AMY SCHWARTZOTT**

My research investigates the local and global impact of contemporary Mozambican artists who use recycled materials as artistic media. The transformation of recycled materials into art by artists reflects a nexus of environmental, economic and culturally-related issues that reflect Mozambique's distinct history and how artists utilize recycled materials to create uniquely Mozambican art. My investigation focuses on determining how and why Mozambican artists use recycled materials to create their art and how the use of these materials relate to broader themes of recycling, visual culture and post-conflict resolution theory. I investigate artists who use natural and urban refuse, as well as artists involved with the Christian Council of Mozambique's (CCM) program *Transformação de Armas em Enxadas/ Transforming Arms into Plowshares (TAE)*, who transform decommissioned weapons from the Mozambican civil war into assemblage art.

For the past two summers I have completed pre-dissertation research in Maputo, Mozambique's capital. Maputo is a compelling case study site because of its large number of artists using various recycled materials and its strong network of arts organizations. My previous research focused on broadening my network of contemporary Mozambican artists and strengthening ties with arts organizations and cultural groups to enrich my investigation. This year I have begun intensive fieldwork for my dissertation research and will spend 2010-2011 in Maputo continuing my research on contemporary Mozambican arts.

Shortly after my arrival in Maputo this year food riots took place. Popularly referred to as the "situação," these events underscored for me the importance of my research. The expressive arts of contemporary Mozambican artists reveal important social and political issues. Through my research, I hope to continue a dialogue with Mozambican artists regarding their important messages through their use of innovative media. Although I have been in Maputo only a short time, I am grateful to have been able to take part in a few important artistic events connected to my



research. I was asked to participate in the selection process of an exhibition of Mozambican artists for the United States Embassy that included several established and emerging Mozambican artists. I also helped in the organization of an exhibition produced by CCM's TAE project and artists' collective Nucleo de Arte.



This exhibition invited a wide range of artists from Nucleo de Arte to create art from weapons, and was organized in conjunction with the commemoration of Mozambican peace from the civil war on October

4th.

I also participated in a workshop at Nucleo de Arte organized by artists to teach children about making art from recycled materials. I feel fortunate to have been invited to take part in these varied and innovative cultural events and hope my investigation continues to develop as I explore the visual arts of Mozambique.

*Amy Schwartzott is a doctoral candidate in the School of Art and Art History. She received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award to complete her dissertation research in Mozambique in 2010-2011.*

## The Medieval East African Diaspora

**NOAH ISAIAH SIMS**



I came to the University of Florida with a strong interest in studying various aspects of the Medieval East African Diaspora and the impact that Islam has had on the east African coast in terms of the rise of the Swahili as a culture and civilization. In summer 2010, I made tangible progress on my research through a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) language and cultural immersion grant to study Kiswahili in Tanzania. I was able to make connections with scholars and community leaders, and associate myself with the archives in the coastal cities of Dar es Salaam, Kilwa, and Bagamoyo along with the Island of Zanzibar.

It is one thing to be on vacation in Tanzania, but to actually be involved with the people and their culture is entirely different. I made it my mission to be

immersed in the latter. What I found to be of high interest was that the people of Tanzania, and I suppose all throughout East Africa, were very welcoming. However, there is a large difference between being welcomed as a tourist/guest and as a friend. There is a culture of tourism that is provided to and promoted by the majority of visitors and then there is the culture of real life, which is obvious but still unnoticed by many. I was shocked to hear, witness, and be subjected to this, but it gave me an even deeper understanding and appreciation for the vast complexities that exist within Swahili culture. I was able to identify the multiple socio-cultural layers constructed by the people and I hope to be able to peel back those layers in an attempt to look into the past; one that is too often overlooked.

My research requires a multi-faceted, interdisciplinary approach combining anthropology, history, and archaeology

and having the chance to situate myself culturally in East Africa was critical due to the nature of my project.

In the near future, I plan to return to Tanzania to conduct archaeological fieldwork in the northwest part of the country. In November 2010, I presented a paper on Islamic colonization at the American Anthropological Association (AAA) meeting. I will be using the information that I was able to gather this summer along with research I have done for my MA thesis to discuss an aspect of Islam in Africa that is rarely addressed. I see a bright and very interesting future of research ahead of me in the dynamic culturally heterogeneous area of the world that is the East African Coast.

*Noah Isaiah Sims is a master's student in the Department of Anthropology. He was a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) fellow in Swahili during summer 2010 and is a FLAS fellow in Arabic (2010-11).*



# Soil, Vegetation and Land Use Heterogeneity in the Okavango Delta, northwestern Botswana

**CAROLINE G. STAUB**

The Okavango region, located in northwestern Botswana in the center of the vast tropical African savanna, is of great socio-economic and environmental importance. Located in the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Boundary Conservation Area (KAZA), one of the largest transfrontier parks in Africa, it also features the Okavango Delta, a wetland of international importance and a RAMSAR protected area since 1997. Northern Botswana's protected areas, Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve, currently host the largest population of African elephants on the continent. The area supports many communities by providing a diversity of livelihood activities including pastoral grazing, controlled hunting and wildlife conservation for both biodiversity and tourism purposes. The commercialization of the arable and livestock industries in the early 1970's, whereby ranches were demarcated and land was fenced, resulted in environmental threats though the intensification and restriction of both livestock and wildlife in small areas.

This summer, I conducted a pilot study for my doctoral research in northwestern Botswana. I collected soil samples and vegetation profiles in protected areas and on pastoral grazing lands. My research focuses on understanding the mosaic of natural resources that occurs as a result of interactions between soil, vegetation and land use types in dryland systems. I am interested in examining the availability and distribution of vital resources in my study area. Nutrients and water are essential to wildlife as well as livestock, which are directly linked to economic returns and local livelihoods worldwide, and especially in southern Africa. The vegetation in northern Botswana is being modified by



fire, extensive herding and anthropogenic activity such as clearing woodland for agriculture, fuel wood collection and construction materials in pastoral areas. Meanwhile, wildlife movement restrictions in protected areas have resulted in home-range reductions for migratory species such as the African elephant, which is also a source of concern with respect to habitat modification. African savannas have been experiencing rapid changes in response to climate and/or land use over the past century, and are vulnerable to future change. These changes may have profound effects on the ability of local people to use natural resources including growing crops, herding cattle, and exploiting wildlife.

I will use recently developed geophysical mapping techniques to produce high quality, high resolution geographic information on current soil, vegetation and land-use interactions. I want my research to provide landholders

with a better understanding of the local patterns of natural resources, in the hope that it will contribute to conservation strategies that are better adapted to local livelihoods in the region.

*Caroline G. Staub is a master's student in the Department of Geography. She received funding from UF's Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program, the Department of Geography, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.*

## Market Reforms and Local Realities: The Case of the Malian Cotton Sector

**VERONIQUE THERIAULT**



In March 2010, I had the opportunity to go back to Mali to further explore the interaction between local realities and cotton sector performance. This second phase of field research builds on the work done during summer 2009, by investigating the issues and concerns related with the ongoing reforms. Given that Mali is one of the latest African countries to reform its cotton sector, many studies have previously examined the relationship between market structure (i.e., monopoly versus competitive market) and cotton performance (i.e., farm gate prices and production). However, little research has analyzed the interaction between local realities and cotton reform success. My research contributes to the literature by providing deeper insights on how the internal challenges facing the cotton sector, such as farmer indebtedness, delays in farmer payments, and increase in input costs, influence cotton farmer production decisions and market reform success.

The Malian cotton sector has traditionally been vertically integrated. Indeed, a parastatal monopoly is responsible for providing inputs on credit to farmers; purchasing all cotton at the harvest at a fixed pan territorial price; and transporting, processing, and selling all production on the international market.

Despite relative past success, the Malian cotton sector has recently faced important internal (i.e., large financial deficits) and external (i.e., low world prices) challenges that ultimately led to major reforms.

As a way to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the Malian cotton sector, market-oriented reforms that aim to privatize and liberalize some segments of the sector have been undertaken. For instance, the parastatal monopoly has centralized its activities toward cotton processing and marketing; has withdrawn from the provision of public goods, such as literacy and extension services; and will be soon privatized into local monopolies. Under the reforms, former village associations have also been transformed into cotton producer cooperatives (CPCs), where membership can be, in theory, selective. However, it appears that exclusion is not such an easy option in reality.



During this second phase of fieldwork, I examined the issues related with the joint liability program prevailing in the CPCs, in order to better understand how local realities affect repayment rates, and therefore, indebtedness. Under the joint liability framework, members of a CPC are jointly liable for each others' loans. If certain members are unable to pay back their loans, contribution from solvent members will make up

the difference. Although the exclusion of insolvent cotton growers from a cooperative seems a *priori* a solution, the strength of the social relations prevailing in villages might prevent it from happening. One objective of my research is, therefore, to analyze how local realities, through social and economic status and linkages, influence both the performance of the farmer (individual's capability and willingness to repay) and the cooperative (withdrawal of the performing farmers facing low profit margin due to other members' insolvency). In conjunction with the African Power and Politics (APP) Malian team, I conducted individual interviews with the main stakeholders involved in the Malian cotton sector at the village and national levels. Moreover, focus groups with cotton producers were also conducted in order to shed light on how credit and inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides, are managed inside the CPCs. From my fieldwork, I have learned that the success of the cotton reforms largely depends on the ability to work closely with the local realities.

*Veronique Theriault is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Food and Resource Economics. This research is part of the cotton sector reform project coordinated by Dr. Renata Serra (CAS) and is part of the broader project on African Power and Politics Programme (APPP). The APPP is funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to a consortium of which CAS is a member.*

## Voters and the Political Opposition in Africa

### KEITH R. WEGHORST

A common explanation of why ruling parties in Africa rarely lose election points to how clientelism can circumvent democratic accountability and keep unhappy voters from supporting the opposition. Opposition parties face tremendous barriers to attaining modest gains in power in government, and even more in ousting the ruling party. Under what circumstances do opposition parties effectively challenge incumbent governments? This question motivates an ongoing research project I am conducting in Tanzania that explores how opposition parties win (or fail to win) power from the dominant Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and what drives such success - failures of the governing party, success of the opposition, or both.

During the summer of 2010, I conducted a survey in Dar es Salaam that studied how voters make decisions over political parties. The survey included over 900 respondents and explored how the political performance of incumbent and opposition parties impacts which party citizens said they would support in the October 2010 elections. Do voters support the opposition because of poor economic policies of the incumbent party? Or do critical voters simply choose the incumbent in exchange for a gift? If opposition parties could offer these private goods, would a voter change their party?

The survey employed new techniques that improve the quality of data about political competition. In Tanzania's dominant party regime, citizens might "self-censor" and be dishonest about issues like taking cash for their votes or supporting violence by the political opposition. I conducted a survey experiment with students at the University of Dar es Salaam in 2009 and found this to be the case. When asked directly if political violence was acceptable for the opposition, about two of every five of individuals agreed. When using less obtrusive question formats—particularly one called a "list experiment"—support was closer to 90% for respondents. The survey conducted in 2010 expanded the use of this technique across Dar es



Salaam.

In October, I am conducted a second round of the survey in Dar es Salaam and (pending research clearance) in Zanzibar. In Zanzibar, the same political parties compete but have been more successful than in the mainland. In a July referendum, Zanzibari voters chose to bring opposition CUF into a power-sharing government with the CCM after the October elections. During the summer of 2010, I conducted extensive qualitative research with political leaders and headed a referendum observation mission on Pemba, Zanzibar's second largest island.

The October survey round compared what strategies work for courting support for the opposition. It implements an important control across the two cases, as the parties themselves are constant between

Dar and Zanzibar. While it remains to be seen what the outcome of the 2010 elections will be, this survey will provide critical insight into political competition that is so fundamental to the development of democracy in Africa.



*Keith R. Weghorst is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. He received funding from a CAS summer pre-dissertation grant, the Department of Political Science, the American Political Science Association, and the International Law and Policy Institute.*

## State Bureaucrats or Social Leaders? Conflicts in the Implementation of Morocco's Islamic Education Curriculum

**ANN WITULSKI**



Public education is perhaps the most obvious and, at the same time, the most understudied mechanism linking state and society. In my dissertation, I examine a conflict in Morocco over the content of an Islamic education curriculum between state bureaucrats, religious leaders, Islamic education teachers and education inspectors. This topic is interesting for several reasons. First, it problematizes the assumption that the state is a coherent, integrated body by illustrating intra-state dissent and conflict. Second, by identifying the main actors and their positions in this conflict, it illustrates important cleavages in Moroccan society. Third, it provides ethnographic data on the content of an Islamic education curriculum in one of the most liberal Arab states. Finally, because the curriculum reform was part of a larger restructuring of religious agencies in response to the Casablanca bombings

in 2003, it provides a case study on the day-to-day impact and unintended consequences of state responses to violent attacks.

I will be doing the fieldwork for this research from November 2010 to October 2011 in Fez. Through interviews and archival data, I will identify the main actors, their positions and important events that allowed the curriculum reform to occur. Through discourse analysis of the final curriculum, I will evaluate which actors' preferences were incorporated and whose were ignored.

Past fieldwork in Fez was extremely important in guiding me to select this dissertation topic. While studying Arabic in Fez on a FLAS fellowship during the summer of 2008, I lived with a Moroccan woman and her family. The woman was an Islamic education teacher at a local elementary school, and she spoke frequently of the reform to the curriculum, all the training that she was required to do, and ways that she felt

the curriculum could be improved. Our informal conversations later guided me to pursue my current dissertation topic.

During the summer of 2009, I spent three months doing pre-dissertation fieldwork with funding through collaboration with Herbert Kitschelt of Duke University and from the UF Political Science Department. During this time, I experimented with survey research, gained experience interviewing in French, and developed a number of contacts with Islamic education teachers, local political party leaders and journalists.

After completing the dissertation, I hope to expand the project to a comparative study of Islamic education reforms in North Africa and the Middle East.

*Ann Witulski is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. She is currently a Boren Fellow for 2010-11 and a former FLAS fellow in Arabic (2007-2009).*

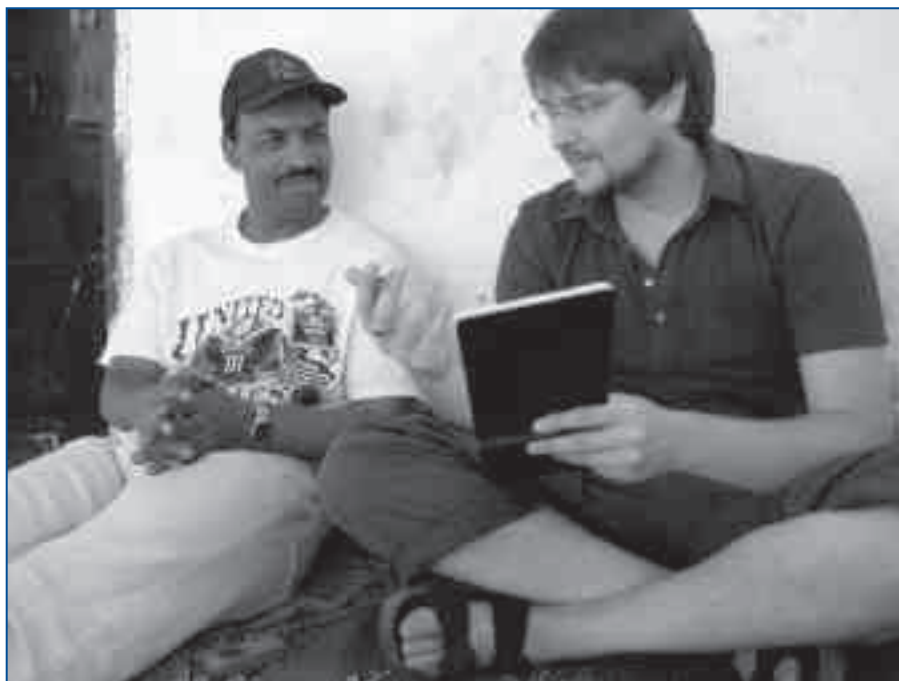
## Moroccan Islam(s): Debating Religious Authority Through Ritual and Musical Performance

### CHRISTOPHER WITULSKI

Since 2005 I have been spending time in Morocco researching the music of the Gnawa, a previously enslaved population from the south of the country. With each passing trip to North Africa, I am able to further prod the complexities of the relationship between these people, their religion, Sufism, Islam, rituals, and popular music. The ritual music of the Gnawa, unlike that of most Sufi groups in the region, has two parallel goals. It not only attempts to create a bridge between the individual and the divine – it also engages spirits (*mluk*, owner), asking them to participate in the ceremony by capturing, or possessing, adepts. The blessings from these spirits rest upon the house and the family of those who are possessed (or *maskun*, lived within). Questions remain unanswered, however, as orthodox groups and everyday Moroccans ask about these *mluk*: are they syncretic Muslim/African spiritual figures, as the Gnawa say, or are they *jinn*s, troublesome demons aiming to separate Muslims from Allah?

When this contentious set of beliefs is conflated with the already tenuous position of music within the Islamic world, criticisms and religious struggles between brotherhoods and other organizations percolate to the surface. Simultaneously, however, groups like the 'Aissawa, a Sufi path originating in 18th century Meknes, adopt Gnawa songs, and even spirits, placing them within their own ritual practices.

This past summer I was able to return to Fez and investigate the theological, social, and economic relationships between these different religious organizations. By examining the motivations that drove 'Aissawa and other Sufi groups to include Gnawa material in their rituals and theological worldviews,



I worked to unravel small corners of the densely woven Moroccan cultural “web.” As a nation renowned for “hybridity,” social relations in Morocco fall upon innumerable parallel and intersecting axis, with race, belief, and language, three that implicate the Gnawa directly, proving to be a few of the most prominent.



During this trip, I had the opportunity to work closely with a diverse range of musical and ritual leaders including Abderrahim Abd ar-Rzaq and Gaga, both Gnawa *maalems*, Adil and

Abdullah Yaqubi, 'Aissawa *muqaddems* from two different groups, and two members of a Hamadcha brotherhood, Abderrahim al-Marrakechi and Fredrick Calmus. These individuals welcomed me into their lives and social circles, teaching me to play and sing their music while spending countless hours humoring my questions about rituals, beliefs, society, and Islam as they appear in Fez and Morocco.

*Christopher Witulski is a doctoral candidate in ethnomusicology. He has received funding from UF's Alumni fellowship program, a CAS summer pre-dissertation grant, and as a FLAS fellow in Arabic (summer of 2007).*

## PURC in Sub-Saharan Africa: Recent Initiatives in Leadership Development, Telecommunications, Utility Policy and Regulation

### SANFORD BERG



The Public Utility Research Center (PURC) at the University of Florida, an internationally recognized academic center, has spent many years working with African utilities to help enhance understanding of issues confronting public utilities and regulatory agencies. PURC concentrates its studies on energy, telecommunications and water sectors and has had impacted at least 2,331 infrastructure professionals from 143 nations through conferences, seminars and other training programs. Some of PURC's latest projects center around leadership development, telecommunications, utility policy and regulation.

PURC's telecommunications seminar, "Competitive Analysis in Telecoms: Current and Future Markets," was given by PURC Director Mark Jamison to the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) on July 22, 2010 in Kampala, Uganda. Participants analyzed the financial condition of telecom operators, assessed the intensity of market competition, developed remedies for weak competition and designed policies to facilitate competition in emerging broadband markets through examining case studies and other examples. Thirty regulatory professionals from the UCC, the telecom industry in Uganda and

regulatory agencies from Kenya and Tanzania attended the seminar.

Mark Jamison (PURC Director) and Araceli Castañeda (PURC Assistant Director) delivered a leadership development workshop, "Executive Leadership, Strategic Planning and Organizational Development in Utilities Regulation," on July 20-21 in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop was hosted by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and participants learned how knowing strengths and limitations, preparing the organization for its work, and managing the external environment is essential to effective executive leadership. Through case studies, personal and organizational assessment, and action plans, the participants learned about assessing an organization's health, distinguishing between technical and adaptive challenges, adapting leadership approaches to current



situations, involving others in the work of leadership, and challenging conventional wisdom. Twenty-seven regulatory professionals from seven different nations attended the workshop.

PURC's two-week training programs, held in December 2009 and March 2010, was specifically designed for the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency. The program focused on electricity market design, financial analysis, designing economic incentives, and establishing prices. The 69 participants, including commissioners and staff from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and

Uganda, examined cases to determine the financial condition of an electric utility, separating regulatory from non-regulatory costs, restructuring an electricity market, designing prices, and benchmarking to encourage efficiency, along with numerous exercises.

In addition to technical topics such as demand forecasting, ratio analysis and cost of service studies, the



participants examined how to better understand stakeholder objectives, how to manage relationships when working on controversial issues, and how to communicate with the press. The course was delivered by PURC Director Mark Jamison, PURC Director of Energy Studies Ted Kury, and PURC Senior Fellow Raj Barua in conjunction with Professor Anton Eberhard of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. For more information about PURC programs and events, visit [www.purc.ufl.edu](http://www.purc.ufl.edu).

*Dr. Sanford (Sandy) V. Berg is the PURC Director of Water Studies and a Distinguished Service Professor of Economics.*

## Transforming CBNRM Education in Southern Africa

**BRIAN CHILD, GRENVILLE BARNES, SANDRA RUSSO, BRIJESH THAPA**

The objective of this project is to bring together scholars and practitioners into a community of practice to develop curricular materials to support community based natural resource management (CBNRM). This will enable southern African education institutions to provide training at several levels: undergraduate, graduate, and short courses for practitioners and policy-makers.

Southern Africa is leading a new conservation paradigm called the “Sustainable Use Approach.” Moving away from fortress preservation, the essence of this approach is that if wild resources are valuable and if local people own and can benefit from them, then there is a high likelihood that these resources will create jobs and economic growth and will therefore be conserved by the people living with them. There has been a considerable investment in this approach by national governments, donor agencies and local people and, interestingly, wildlife in southern Africa has increased since the 1970s whereas it has declined steeply or precipitously in West and East Africa respectively.

However, the intellectual logic and practical implementation tools behind this approach remain largely in a knowledge network of committed scholar practitioners and in the form of oral and grey literature. The project brings this knowledge network together with scholars, and particularly young scholars from African institutions, to document this knowledge and set it out in a format that can be used for educating students at many levels.

The first step was to hold two workshops in Pretoria and Kruger to strengthen and broaden this community of practice, to ascertain educational needs



in the region, and outline the materials needed to match these needs. Our priority is now to write four text books that each form the basis of a separate course, with the intention that each course can be used for participants ranging from field practitioners to university students and high level officials. The first book “Foundations of CBNRM” will be a general text. The second book will bring together principles and lessons relating to the economic management of wild resources, tourism, and livelihoods. The third book introduces the complexities of governance and management, ranging from national distributional political economy and policy to the micro-governance of local communities. The fourth book emphasizes pedagogical approaches, including participatory learning, action research and collaborative adaptive management and technology development.

In Spring 2011, we are planning to bring young faculty from our key partners – University of Botswana, Sokoine Agricultural University in Tanzania, the

Polytechnic of Namibia, and at least two other partners – to UF to co-teach “foundations of CBNRM.” These visiting faculty members will test the draft textbook, adapt it to local circumstances by developing teaching manuals, and will provide a 2-week summer course for practitioners in southern Africa as part of their training. This project is a natural outcome of the interdisciplinary research that a number of our students, many of whom are featured in this report, conduct on CBNRM in Africa.

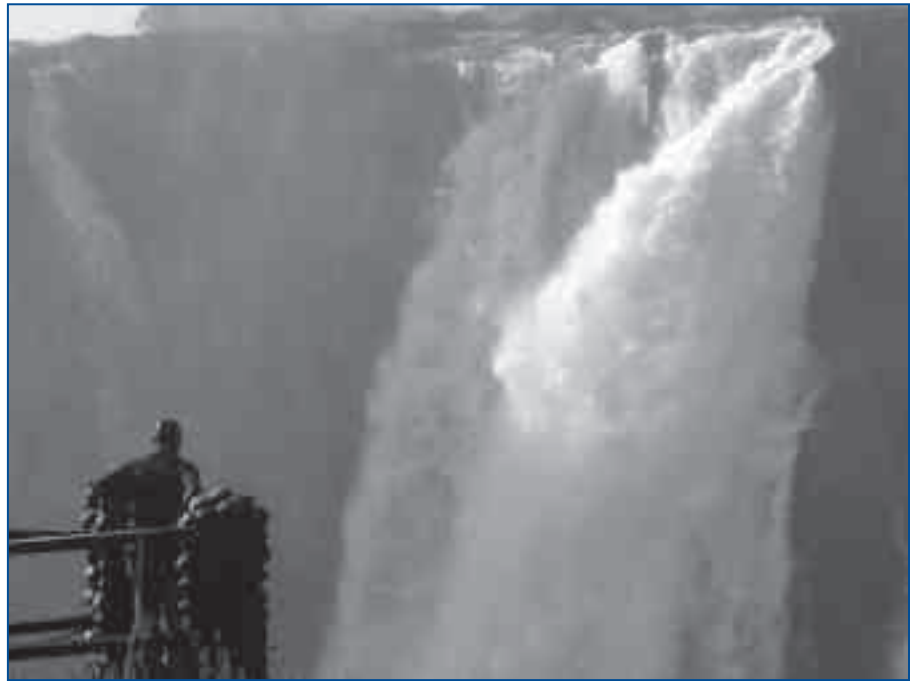
*Brian Child is associate professor in the Department of Geography and the Center for African Studies. This project is managed through Higher Education for Development (HED) with a three-year funding award of \$600,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).*

# Zambia Tourism Demand Survey

**BRIJESH THAPA, BRIAN CHILD, PATRICIA MUPETA, GREGORY PARENT**

Zambia has distinctive tourism resources – unique natural features, beautiful landscapes, historical and cultural attractions, places of ethnographic interest, and excellent recreational opportunities that need to be sustainably developed and promoted. However, it also faces immense competition for tourists from other destinations in east and southern African countries with better tourism infrastructure and international brand name recognition. For Zambia to realize its potential, it must diversify its current tourism product beyond its traditional hubs. In addition to the negative environmental impacts due to high concentration of visitors in a few destinations, it is paramount for visitor dispersal to other regions to provide a diverse mix of tourism opportunities, thereby enhancing the countrywide product and distributing economic benefit to regional and local economies. However, visitors are only likely to visit new regions if the destinations have quality setting attributes, attractions, and suitable infrastructure.

One of the destinations that is currently underdeveloped but has the capacity to substantially increase its international, regional and domestic visitors is Kafue National Park (KNP). KNP is the second largest national park in the world with limiting factors such as infrastructure, physical (e.g., roads) and tourism. However, in order to further develop, package and promote the park and its surrounding regions, it is important to assess the viability of tourism growth from a 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.

The purpose of this project is to conduct a survey of current visitors to Zambia with respect to demand assessment for the greater KNP area. Although there have been a few studies that have assessed nature-based tourism from a demand and supply perspectives, they have all been based on a countrywide standpoint. This study proposes to examine demand based on current visitors that have visited the KNP area and/or those that have visited other national parks. Visitors will encompass international, regional and domestic tourists. This study will provide baseline information needed to position the region relative to other regions in the country. The study will also analyze determinants of demand to aid policy makers and the tourism industry to improve the identification of potential new markets, as well as provide and

improve the tourism opportunities that play a key role in a tourists choice in their trip selection. Additionally, it will assist in the development of comprehensive marketing strategies to showcase the greater KNP region.

The project team has been formulated based on their respective background, knowledge and expertise. This project is led by Brijesh Thapa, Director of UF Center for Tourism Research and Development. In addition, the team constitutes of Brian Child (Geography/CAS), Patricia Mupeta (Natural Resources and Environment) and Gregory Parent (Geography).

*Brijesh Thapa is associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management and Director of UF's Center for Tourism Research and Development. The project is managed through U.S. Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service with funding in 2010-2011 from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation.*



## Partnership to Strengthen Teaching, Research, and Faculty Development in Tourism Management in South Africa

**BRIJESH THAPA, SANDRA RUSSO, LORI PENNINGTON-GRAY**

South Africa is the dominant tourism market on the African continent. Tourism is a very important industry for the economy, which has largely focused on the core products such as parks, wildlife, nature and culture. In the last two decades, the product mix has been diversified to incorporate marine and coastal areas, rural communities and townships, events, urban centers, and meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions. The market is largely comprised of visitors from Africa and the Middle East. However, international markets are increasing and there are indications of continued growth in the future. Also, the government expects to increase international arrivals to 10 million by 2010. Given the projected increases in visitors, the potential to expand this sector to generate more income, employment and other benefits are enormous, considering the current level of tourism development.

However, tourism growth is dependent on a number of factors, notably, developing a trained and skilled labor force. 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 Technology (TUT) in Tshwane, South Africa have formulated a partnership to strengthen its teaching, research, service and faculty development initiatives in tourism management.

In Year 1, the teaching and curriculum needs will be 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, event management, airport and aviation management (currently these degree programs are not offered on the African continent); and c) develop vocational and executive training certificate programs in tourism. Also, a more concerted effort will be highlighted to target and enroll disadvantaged populations to the Department of Tourism at TUT. In Year 2, based on a strategic visioning meeting with faculty and industry stakeholders, a Center for Sustainable Tourism will be established with active



industry engagement (advisory board) 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.

In Year 3, faculty development will be emphasized with regards to enhancing capacity as well as collaborative initiatives in tourism



research with the project team and select UF faculty. The facilitation of collaborative initiatives in research partnerships will be sustained during and post-completion of the project. Also, professional development opportunities will be offered to current TUT faculty through a short exchange program with UF. Currently, the majority

of the objectives for Years 1 and 2 have been met. In addition, various spin-off research projects have been conducted.

The project team has been formulated based on their respective background, knowledge and expertise from within and outside UF, which will be instrumental in accomplishing the objectives and strengthening the partnership between UF and TUT. This project is led by Brijesh Thapa, Director of UF Center for Tourism Research and Development along with Sandra Russo (International Center), and Lori Pennington-Gray (Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management).

*Brijesh Thapa is an associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management. The partnership is managed through Higher Education for Development with funding of \$250,000 from the U.S. Agency for International Development through 2011.*

## 2010 FIFA World Cup: Resident and Visitor Perspectives

**BRIJESH THAPA, MATTHEW WALKER, KYRIAKI KAPLANIDOU, HEATHER GIBSON**



Since the 2000 Sydney Olympics, there has been a shift in conventional thinking about the various impacts that the Games have on host countries – with the primary focus now on the legacies of mega sporting events. While some attention is still given to economic and infrastructural legacies, a growing body of research shows that the long-term outcomes may be primarily social, with contributions to the social infrastructure at both the local and national levels. For the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, the South African government has a developmental agenda, part of which is predicated on “nation building.” Sport has long been associated with building national spirit and generating patriotism.

Understanding the social legacies of a mega-event necessitates a focus on the residents of a nation. In particular, there is a need in such a study for a longitudinal approach, particularly to assess the change in the resident’s perceptions associated with a mega-sports event. This research has multiple phases with the primary goal of identifying the social legacies

(e.g. identity, social capital, and tourism) associated with the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. This focus will help to inform local and national level policy to facilitate the Nation Building goals of South Africa. Data were collected three months prior to the event in mid June 2010, while a follow up will be conducted in January 2011. The sample constituted of residents from five host cities (Pretoria, Nelspruit, Polokwane, Johannesburg, and Rustenburg).

Within this context, the nine host cities attracted an abundance of visitors and created impressions in tourists’ minds about the South African tourism product. Given the importance of the event for the South African Tourism Brand, an additional objective was to evaluate destination and event image perceptions and tourism behaviors of spectators in order to assess the impact of such an event in a country’s tourism development. Data were collected among visitors at all



the nine host cities (Pretoria, Nelspruit, Polokwane, Johannesburg, Rustenburg, Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Bloemfontein) during the World Cup™ which will provide a major source of information about visitor profiles, market segmentation, perceptions and

experiences. Such information would be a useful tool with respect to marketing initiatives to attract additional visitors following the event.

This project is conducted in partnership between the University of Florida (UF) and Tshwane University



of Technology (TUT) in Pretoria, South Africa. The team from the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management at UF is led by Brijesh Thapa, Director of UF Center for Tourism Research and Development along with Matthew Walker, Kyriaki Kaplanidou, and Heather Gibson. The TUT team is led by Sue Geldenhuys along with Willie Coetzee.

*Brijesh Thapa is associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management and Director of UF's Center for Tourism Research and Development. The project (\$130,000) has been largely funded the Office of Research, Innovation and Partnership at TUT along with several South African host cities.*

## Understanding and Predicting the Impact of Climate Variability and Climate Change on Land Use and Land Cover Change in Southern Africa

**JANE SOUTHWORTH, BRIAN CHILD, ERIC KEYS, MICHAEL BINFORD, PETER WAYLEN, YOULIANG QUI, GREG KIKER, RAFA MUNDOZ-CARPENA**

This project asks: “how does climate variability and climate change influence land use and land cover change as it works through socio-economic institutions?” To answer this question, the project develops a temporally and spatially multiscale understanding of the relationships between land-cover and land-use change (LCLUC) and climatic shifts in three watersheds that lie in four southern African nations. We hypothesize that socio-economic institutions are the main instruments of human adaptation to climate variability and change, and that the observable outcomes of institutional adaptations are seen in the spatial and material expression of LCLUC. This study will test the resilience of the socio-ecological systems of southern Africa, enhance the use of remote sensing, and provide models for climate scenario planning.

As an ongoing portion of this project, in summer 2010 two UF faculty (Brian Child and Erik Keys) and six UF students (Jessica Steele, Erin Bunting, Jing Sun, Shylock Muyengwa, Patricia Mupeta, Keilani Jacquot) worked in four communities in Botswana and Namibia. Working in teams their objective was to assess livelihoods and how these might respond to impending climate change. They surveyed individual households to determine their production and consumption, what shocks they were concerned about, and how they were responding to them.

While numerical analysis is still underway,



early results from a wildlife-reliant community are fascinating. Although everyone appears to be agricultural, only 8% of the household economy derives from agriculture, and people purchase well over half their food from stores in the nearby town. Jobs



in tourism, and specifically hunting, are enabling more than half of the 62 families in this village to reach a stage where they do not report hunger in the household. However, if hunting is banned, many families will regress into a position of hunger. Hunting earns the village over \$200,000 annually from some 110 animals, employs many people, and funds the transport people use to get into town. The second serious threat to the community is HIV/AIDS. The

primary mechanism for moving out of poverty, defined as families who report hunger, is employment. The loss of family members is traumatizing this village on a personal level, and because many deaths are wage earners the loss of wage income drops families back into hunger.

At a more conceptual level, what is interesting is how little reliance is placed on agriculture in this community, and how therefore climate change is largely nullified. This traditional-looking village is moving rapidly into the wage and retail economy, and the real threats are the vagaries of government policy on the economy (e.g. a much discussed hunting ban) and disease in the form of HIV/AIDS. Additional field seasons and research visits are planned for fall 2010, spring and summer 2011.

*Jane Southworth is associate professor in the Department of Geography. This project is funded by an \$870,000 grant from NASA through 2012.*

## African Power & Politics Programme



Since 2007 the Center for African Studies has participated as an institutional partner (the only one in North America) in the African Power and Politics Programme (APPP). This 5 year program of research and policy engagement is led by the Overseas Development Institute (London), and other partners in France, Ghana, Niger, Uganda and the UK, including:

- Centre for Democratic Development, Accra, Ghana
- Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL), Niamey, Niger and Parakou, Benin
- Development Research and Training, Kampala, Uganda
- Centre Norbert Elias, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marseille, France
- Institute for Development Studies, Brighton, UK

The APP consortium is dedicated to “discovering institutions that work for poor people”. That means exploring the kinds of political, economic and social arrangements that, if adopted, would enable countries of sub-Saharan Africa to make faster progress towards development and the elimination of extreme poverty. APPP thus aims to identify ways of ordering politics and regulating power and authority that might work better than those now in place, on the basis of a careful and critical look at what has worked well in Africa itself in the recent and not-so-recent past.

The program’s objectives combine research with research-training, organizational capacity strengthening and policy development, and aims to do the research in ways that recognize the substantial, if often underrated, resources for collective problem-solving that are to be found in African societies.

The APP Programme is organized

around six current “research streams,” focusing on varied empirical issues. Two research projects are currently led by UF faculty. Renata Serra directs one of two substreams of the “Business and Politics” stream, on the theme of “Institutions, Power, and Norms in African Cotton Sector Reforms.” Leonardo Villalón is co-director, with Mahaman Tidjani Alou of LASDEL, of the stream on “Formalizing Schooling: Religion and Education Reform in the Sahel.” In addition, several other UF faculty and eight PhD students have had research funded through the APPP. The photo on this page shows the participants at a June 2010 meeting of the religion and education research stream at LASDEL in Niger.

*APPP is funded by the UK Department for International Development and the Advisory Board of Irish Aid.*

## Bridging Research and Practice: Building a New Study Abroad Model in Southern Africa

**TODD LEEDY, GRENVILLE BARNES, BRIAN CHILD, & SANDRA RUSSO**

In late May – early June, PI Leedy and co-PIs Barnes and Child spent two weeks in Botswana, meeting with a wide variety of university, government, NGO, and private sector representatives to build upon existing relationships and forge new linkages that will support the creation of a new field practicum for graduate students from University of Florida, University of Botswana (UB), and potentially world-wide. UF and UB have become part of a global network of Masters in Development Practice (MDP) degree-granting institutions, a network built with seed funding from the MacArthur Foundation. The students in these programs form one natural constituency for the field practicum as it develops with full institutional partnership between UF and UB.

The UF team met with senior administrators and representatives of potential collaborating units on the main UB campus in Gaborone. These discussions made it clear to the UF team that UB has made substantial institutional commitments to ensuring that the partnership is symbiotic and sustainable. For example, UB has committed to significantly expanding the Okavango Research Center (ORC) accommodation facilities at its Maun campus. The UF team met multiple times with the UB Dean of Graduate Studies to work on detailed budgeting, instructional commitments, and in-country orientation. Upon arrival in 2011, UF participants will spend their first week in Gaborone at the Botswana College of Agriculture (BCA), joining the UB participants for an intensive week of orientation including guest lectures and visits to various relevant government agencies and NGO offices. For weeks two through seven, participants will be based at ORC in Maun and complete six one week field training and research modules. This will be followed by 2-4 week individual or small student team attachments to a variety of possible university, local government, private-sector or community entities. Discussions with senior administrators and research staff at the UB Maun campus helped to identify possible instructional



staff for the UF-UB practicum, as well as the need for expanded administrative capacity at ORC in order to undertake sustainable training programs for UF-UB and other potential institutions/clients.

The UF team also met with potential coordinating government agencies and non-governmental organizations in Gaborone to assess potential collaborative activities (e.g. attachment of UF-UB program students, staff training through participation in UF-UB program, use of monitoring data, etc.). Meetings with these organizations made it clear to the team that the imminent establishment of the field practicum would be broadly well-received for a number of reasons. First, because we plan to work in a defined set of communities annually, student training projects will generate a set of longitudinal data that can be used to monitor rural livelihoods and plan effective interventions. Second, there is a clear demand within in

various organizations for the type of training experience that the UF-UB program will offer. This provides a potential secondary constituency for the program, allowing for the possibility of students working in teams with active practitioners or the establishment of separate field practicum for local agency and organization staff. Meetings with similar bodies in Maun to assess potential collaborative activities (e.g. attachment of UF-UB program students, staff training through participation in UF-UB program, use of monitoring data, etc.) highlighted how a sustained student training program could also impact rural livelihoods by providing actionable data to community-based organizations and their private sector partners.

*Todd Leedy is associate director of the Center for African Studies. This project is supported by a two-year award of \$100,000 from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.*

## Master's Program in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP)



In June, 2009, the University of Florida received an award of approximately \$1 million from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to start up a new Masters degree in Development Practice (MDP). This is part of a global initiative designed to educate a new generation of development practitioners and MDP programs are now in place or under development at 22 universities worldwide, most of these with funding from the MacArthur Foundation. Other MDP programs in Africa are located at the University of Botswana, the Universite Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Senegal) and the University of Ibadan (Nigeria). The MDP at UF is administered jointly through the Center for African Studies and Center for Latin American Studies.

The UF-MDP was designed by an interdisciplinary group of faculty from seven different colleges across campus. The 51-credit, five semester (including summer) MDP curriculum spans the social, natural, and health sciences and includes interdisciplinary management skills that will enable students coming out of the program to be much better prepared to deal with the complex array of contemporary development challenges. Coursework includes a Global Classroom in which MDP students from around the world participate and discuss development topics ranging from sustainable energy to food security to climate change to project management and foreign aid. This course is coordinated by the Earth Institute at Columbia University which

also serves as the Secretariat for the global MDP network. In addition, MDP students at UF also take courses in Health and Development, Economics, Ecological Principles for Development Professionals, Natural Resource Management and Innovation Systems, Communication and Leadership Skills, Conservation and Development Entrepreneurship, and Development Administration.

The MDP degree bridges scholarship and practice and includes a three month summer practicum which can be carried out in Africa or Latin America. One option is the field school in Botswana which is comprised of seven weeks in the field followed by an attachment where students work with communities or local partners on a specific development project. This field school is a collaboration with the MDP program at the University of Botswana and the Okavango Research Center (ORC)

The first cohort of 11 MDP students began this Fall (2010) and is comprised of two Africans, a Colombian/American and eight Americans. Four of these students completed their undergraduate degree at UF and the cohort as a whole has diverse academic backgrounds, including agriculture, history, international relations, environmental education, sociology and psychology, and community sciences. The first two MDP scholarships were awarded to Greyson Nyamoga from Tanzania and Tshubangu ("Tshi Tshi") Kalala from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Greyson is a lecturer at the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania and has also worked for the Tanzanian

government and as a loan officer for FINCA in Tanzania. Tshi Tshi has worked as a consultant, researcher and volunteer for several different organizations in war-torn areas of the DRC, including the World Food Program, Heal Africa, Doctors without Borders, and International Crisis Group.

Currently the Program is co-directed by Brian Child (Geography/African Studies) and Grenville Barnes (SFRC) with Marianne Schmink (Latin American Studies) as graduate coordinator. Program coordinator, Sheila Onzere, was hired in October 2009 and the first of two new faculty positions was filled by Rick Rheingans in July, 2010. Sheila is completing a PhD at Iowa State in sustainable food systems and Rick is a specialist in health and development and was previously an Associate Professor at Emory University. We are in the process of searching for the second MDP faculty position in development administration and expect to hire the successful candidate by July, 2011.

*For more details on the MDP see <http://www.africa.ufl.edu/mdp/index.html>*

## The Trans-Saharan Elections Project

**LEONARDO A. VILLALÓN & DANIEL A. SMITH**

The need for “regular free and fair elections to institutionalize legitimate authority of representative government as well as democratic change of governments” is enshrined as a basic principle of the African Union in its African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The frequency of elections has indeed increased dramatically in Africa since the arrival of the “Third Wave” of democratic change in 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, and are now held with some regularity. The reiterated processes of elections has, in turn, 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 choices of electoral systems, the importance of the larger institutional infrastructure and the rules of game, the role of social and political organizations in elections, and the management of the mechanics of electoral processes.

Over a two-year period (2010-12), the UF “Trans-Saharan Elections Project” will sponsor a series of exchanges and seminars that will 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, to comparatively examine the challenges and issues involved in ensuring electoral freedom, fairness, and transparency. The project, co-directed by Leonardo A. Villalón and Daniel A. Smith, is funded by a grant through the



U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

A key goal will be to share experiences, so as to shape understanding and knowledge, and thus to contribute to discussions which will have real and substantive impact in the Trans-Saharan countries. On the US side, the exposure to electoral issues in a set of African countries that are otherwise strikingly different is intended to provide a more nuanced understanding among American professionals about the challenges and promises of electoral democracy in Africa. The six target countries present a highly interesting set of cases. All are relatively poor countries, and primarily Muslim, but with a broad range of experiences in elections and democracy: Senegal and Mali are frequently described as democracies today; Niger has experimented rather tumultuously with establishing democracy; Burkina Faso has experienced a very cautious political opening, without democratic transition; and Mauritania and Chad each have had

challenging histories and more limited experiences with elections.

In conjunction with partner institutions in each of the six countries, project activities over two years will bring six Elections Fellows from each of these countries to the US, to participate in two comprehensive learning programs on elections. Moving from the University of Florida in Gainesville, to the state capital of Tallahassee, and then on to Washington, the programs will comparatively examine electoral processes at local, state and national levels. They will draw on visits to organizations and presentations by a broad range of professionals involved in elections: academics, government officials, civic groups, consultants, and media. In return, two delegations of Americans, representing these various constituencies, will visit the six African countries to learn more about their experiences and to share insights more broadly. The project will, in addition, produce a website and other materials to serve as important research

resources for both faculty and graduate students working on these understudied countries.

The West African partner organizations with which we will collaborate in setting up the project include:

The West African Research Center (Senegal)

[www.warc-croa.org](http://www.warc-croa.org)

WARC is the overseas center for the West African Research Association, managed in conjunction with the Senegal-based Association de Recherche Ouest Africain, and a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). The Center thus has a strong network of ties across West Africa, as well as extensive experience organizing programs in Dakar. WARC will serve as the first point of contact and will host the orientation sessions for the American delegations.

Centre Pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (Burkina Faso)

[cgd-igd.org](http://cgd-igd.org)

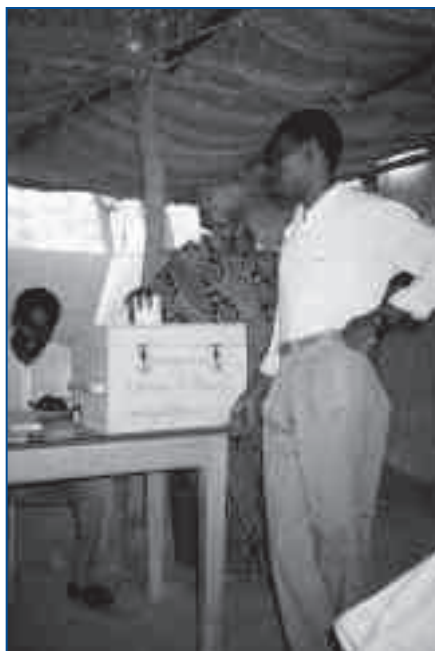
The CGD, led by a well-known Burkinabé Political Scientist, is one of the most respected research and democratic advocacy organizations in the region. It undertakes a wide range of activities in partnership with local as well as international organizations, including projects on electoral administration and monitoring. Final sessions of the US delegation visits will be held at CGD.

EISA-Chad Country Office (Chad)

[www.eisa.org.za/EISA/chad.htm](http://www.eisa.org.za/EISA/chad.htm)

EISA (formerly Electoral Institute of Southern Africa) is an international network with country offices in six African countries, including Chad. EISA's mission is to "promote credible elections and democratic governance in Africa,"

and the Chad office has been extensively in projects involving the training of elections observers.



Reseau Appui au Processus Electoral au Mali (Mali)

APEM is an organized network of 49 NGOs working directly to support the transparency and legitimacy of the electoral process in Mali. Created in 1996, on the eve of the contested 1997 elections (the second in the country's democratic history), APEM has continued to play a central role in national discussions about the electoral process in Mali. Its activities have included extensive programs of citizen education, training of election observers, and working with political parties on fraud prevention.

Université de Nouakchott, Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Economiques (Mauritania)

The Faculty of Law and Economics of the University of Nouakchott, which is in the process of planning the establishment

of a working group on the organization, administration and analysis of elections.

LASDEL, Laboratoire E'Etudes et Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (Niger)

[www.lasdel.net](http://www.lasdel.net)

LASDEL is an independent organization working in various domains of applied social science research. It has emerged as one of the most important social science research organizations in the Francophone West African region. LASDEL has recently begun to work in the field of elections, and hosted an international conference on the "Electoral Processes in Africa" in September 2010.

Mouvement Citoyen (Senegal)

[www.mouvementcitoyen.sn](http://www.mouvementcitoyen.sn)

Mouvement Citoyen is a dynamic civil society organization, founded in 2002 by a noted Senegalese democratic activist, and quickly attracting significant national and international attention for its activities in the field of citizenship training, democracy promotion, and working with the media. The Mouvement has a particular mission to work with youth and women, and in promoting the participation of women in electoral processes.

*Leonardo Villalón is associate professor of political science and director of the Center for African Studies. Daniel Smith is professor of political science and an affiliate with the Center for African Studies.*



# African Studies Quarterly

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■ The Center for African Studies founded the African Studies Quarterly (ASQ) as a way 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 disciplines. As an electronic journal, we welcome submissions that are of a time-sensitive nature. To qualify for consideration, submissions must meet the scholarship standards within the appropriate discipline and be of interest to an interdisciplinary readership.

The ASQ undertakes two kinds of publications. Many previous issues contain articles from a wide range of authors and focusing on diverse topics. The ASQ also publishes Special Issues that focus on a specific theme. The most recent Special Issue is entitled: *Between Exit and Voice: Informality and the Spaces of Popular Agency*, guest edited by Ilda Lindell of Stockholm University. It includes six articles on the following topics: urban youth vendors and top-down policy changes in Zambia; trash collection in Addis Ababa; changing relations between organized women market traders and rulers in Ghana; informalization processes driven by layoffs, casualization, and outsourcing in the South Africa's industrial heartland; strategies for the collective organization of informal workers, "informalization from above," and "informalization from below," in South Africa; and the complexity for collective organizing, of informal labor in the construction sector in Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Cape Town, and Nepal.

An editorial committee composed of graduate students in African Studies who hail from Africa and the U.S. as well as other countries and represent a wide range of disciplines conducts the initial review of submitted manuscripts. Those submissions accepted for consideration are then sent to at least two external reviewers. ASQ expects the content of all manuscripts to be original and that the article has not been submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere. Therefore, authors should include a statement in their submission declaring that the manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication by another journal. The final publication depends on the quality of the manuscript, the associated peer review process, and the number of manuscripts which have already been accepted. 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](http://www.africa.ufl.edu/asq) or email [africanstudiesquarterly@gmail.com](mailto:africanstudiesquarterly@gmail.com).**

# Academic Year & Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships

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- 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 including the Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (SCALI). Summer fellowships cover tuition at the host institution and provide a stipend of \$2,500.

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

# 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

familiarity with the proposed field site and the capability to carry out the proposed work.

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

The Center for African Studies has recently established a fund with the goal of creating an endowment of at least \$30,000, so as to generate the revenue for

an annual award to help a student carry out pre-dissertation research in Africa. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, we (and future generations of UF Africanist students!) would be very grateful. 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 Leonardo Villalón (CAS director) at [villalon@afrika.ufl.edu](mailto:villalon@afrika.ufl.edu) or 352-392-2183**



**Please Return To:**

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**My Gift is For:**

Alumni and Faculty Pre-Dissertation Travel Award – 013799

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**Thank you for your support!**

The University of Florida Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by the law.

# Thanks to Our Donors

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## **MADELYN M. LOCKHART**

Graduate Research Award



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

## **JEANNE & HUNT DAVIS**

Graduate Research Award



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

## African Studies Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Award

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

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

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

Dr. Charles Bwenge  
Dr. Paul A. Chadik & Dr. Charlotte A. Chadik  
Dr. William L. Conwill & Faye V. Harrison, Ph.D.  
Dr. R. Hunt Davis, Jr. & Mrs. Jeanne G. Davis  
Dr. Stephen A. Emerson & Mrs. Angela B. Emerson  
Professor Joan D. Frosch  
Dr. Abraham C. Goldman & Dr. Judith F. Breiner  
Dr. Jacob U. Gordon & Dr. Barbara McDade Gordon  
Dr. Robert D. Holt & Mrs. Lynne Weissmann Holt  
Dr. Abdoulaye Kane  
Mr. Michael R. Kohlhaas & Dr. Jane Southworth  
Dr. Michael R. Leslie & Dr. Agnes N. Leslie  
Dr. Staffan Lindberg & Mrs. Wynie Lindberg  
Mr. Peter Malanchuk & Mrs. Iona R. Malanchuk  
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Dr. James E. Meier & Dr. Asha M. Brunings  
Mr. John J. Mulligan & Dr. Connie J. Mulligan  
Dr. Susan O'Brien & Dr. Katrina Z. Schwartz  
Dr. Daniel Reboussin & Dr. Ann Glaowasky  
Dr. Sandra L. Russo  
Dr. Richard Saunders  
Dr. Marianne Schmink  
Dr. Renata Serra  
Dr. Scot. E. Smith & Ms. Susan E Cooksey  
Hon. Emerson Thompson, Jr. & Hon. Geraldine Thompson  
Dr. Leonardo Villalon & Dr. Fiona McLaughlin  
Mr. Marlon A. Watson  
Mr. Chris White  
Dr. Luise S. White

## The Center Would Like to Thank

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