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ABOUT THE CENTER

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

Founded in 1964, the Center for African Studies at UF has been continuously designated a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center for Africa for over 30 years. It is currently one of only 10 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.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BRENDA CHALFIN

It's been another exciting year at the University of Florida's Center for African Studies. Our calendar is full of events, visits from African scholars, new partnerships, and on-going discussions and exchanges about African issues across the continent and the wider world.

CAS is based UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Our ties and commitments extend across the UF campus and include the College of Education, College of Design, Construction and Planning, College of the Arts, College of Journalism, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Public Health and Health Professions, Veterinary Medicine, and UF Health. The Center's weekly *Baraza*, annual conferences, working groups, and student workshops attest to our many cross-cutting concerns. Spanning from Design to Infectious Disease, Soil Science to Political Science, Architecture to Environmental Health, Literature to Literacy, Climate Change to Comic Art, CAS programming thrives on collaboration across the university and the input of Africa-based researchers and institutional networks. Marking our long-standing place at UF, a historical marker commemorating over 50 years of African Studies at UF was installed on the Grinter lawn in January 2018.

Among this year's programming highlights was the weeklong visit of Ghanaian performance artist, Elisabeth Efua Sutherland. CAS also helped sponsor a symposium organized by UF Library on the latest trends in primate research and habitat conservation in Central Africa featuring the library's Campbell collection and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. The Center hosted the Southeast Africanist Network (SEAN-SERSAS) annual conference bringing scholars and students from colleges and universities across the region to our campus. The active schedule of CAS's Text-Image working group included the 2018 Carter Conference focusing on the Papa Mfumu'eto Congo comics collection. Covering a wide-array of themes and involving speakers from the US and abroad, the Center's numerous *Baraza* talks stimulated discussion and raised new questions from both seasoned scholars and a diverse audience of students and community members.

Bringing depth and significance to all of

these activities, are the wide-ranging research engagements of Center for African Studies faculty and affiliated graduate and undergraduate students. Demonstrating sustained investment in knowledge-building and dissemination, CAS faculty contribute to scholarly and policy-debates and on-the-ground interventions. This report highlights a selection of the many UF faculty involved in the study of Africa. Numbering over 100, UF faculty affiliated with CAS regularly garner national and international recognition for their research efforts. They publish in top-ranked journals, share findings at major conferences, brief policy-makers, work closely with African institutions and colleagues, all while actively bringing their research and collaborations into classrooms and coursework on campus. The interests and expertise of CAS faculty is marked by both breadth and interdisciplinary synergies. The Sahel, Horn of Africa, South Africa, West Africa, and Central Africa/Great Lakes Region are recurring areas of research engagement. As the projects showcased in this report demonstrate, thematic emphases include Religion, Politics and State-Processes, Food Security and Health, Migration and Development, Environment and Ecology, Languages and Humanities. Indicative of UF's recognition of CAS faculty contributions, as the university goes through a major expansion of faculty ranks, the recruitment of Africanists continues apace. We are welcoming new Africa-specialists in Political Science, Anthropology, Global Health, and Criminology and look forward to their participation in the life of the Center.

Like our faculty, the many students – both graduate and undergraduate - affiliated with CAS are also actively engaged in Africa-focused research. Some students work with the impressive collections of African materials on the UF campus, such as the substantial Africana library and holdings at the Harn and Florida Museum of Natural History. Others make the most of opportunities for research and study on the African continent, whether for short-term study abroad or longer term in the pursuit of knowledge and skills toward masters and doctoral degrees. This year's report showcases an array of student research experiences. They

address numerous topics across the continent and spanning numerous disciplines and research methods: nationalism and political reform in Tanzania, electoral politics in Chad, migration and development in Senegal, climate change and land-use in Swaziland, combating gender-based in South Africa, the built environment in Ghana, and corporate social responsibility in Uganda. Graduate students associated with CAS benefit from the generous Jeanne & Hunt Davis and Madelyn Lockhart Endowments supporting pre-dissertation field research. Our PhD students earn prestigious national grants and awards and fellowships such as Fulbright, Fulbright Hays, National Science Foundation, National Geographic, and Boren fellowships.

UF undergraduates also participate in hands-on research in Africa, often working side-by-side faculty and graduate students. These opportunities are made possible by Research Tutorial Abroad program, which supports faculty-led research experiences in Africa dedicated to experiential learning for UF's talented undergraduate population. CAS also receives dedicated support for undergraduate research from the College of Liberal Arts and Science and UF's International Center. In the past year, undergraduate students accompanied UF Linguistics professor James Essegbey to Ghana to document the endangered language of Animere in the Ghana-Togo Mountain area. Students in the School of Theatre and Dance accompanied senior lecturer Mohamed DaCosta to Conakry, Guinea. University Scholar and history major Josh Karg traveled to Nigeria with UF History professor Susan O'Brien to study sports and politics. Their research findings and the life-changing personal experiences that came along with them are recounted in the reports that follow.

Building on past success, undergraduate research programs are in the works for Summer 2018 with plans for research tutorials in Senegal, Morocco, Rwanda and Kenya. In the meantime, with CAS support, UF undergraduates studying abroad in Ethiopia with Anthropology associate professor Steven Brandt are capping off their Archeological Field School with laboratory analysis at the National Museum in Addis Ababa. This is all in addition to the many

undergraduate study abroad opportunities in Africa offered by UF, including semester, summer and multi-week programs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda. CAS associate director Todd Leedy takes students on a 3-week trip to South Africa on alternate summers.

Drawing on associate professor Brian Child's long experience working in parks across the region, the Geography Department is launching a new set of summer courses based at South Africa's Kruger National Park. All of these programs attest to the value of field-based learning for UF students whatever their major.

Contributing to CAS research strengths and deepening our student and faculty engagement with African issues, African language study is a core element of the CAS program. This year we celebrated 50 years of African Languages at UF. We have a dedicated faculty with expertise in African languages, linguistics, and literatures cutting across multiple academic departments and disciplines. During the academic year we regularly offer Akan, Amharic, Arabic, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu through UF's Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC). UF's strength in African languages contribute to its standing as the host institution for the federally-funded African Flagship Languages Initiative (AFLI). Based at CAS, this 8-week intensive summer language program serves students from academic institutions across the country, providing immersive instruction in six African languages in addition to French and Portuguese.

CAS research commitments extend to its support for Masters in Development Practice (MDP) program, jointly sponsored with the Center for Latin American Studies. MDP admitted its eighth class in 2017. Rising numbers of students are involved in development efforts in Africa and/or come from the continent. As part of their degree, MDP students are complete summer practicums involving research and hands-on engagement with development organizations and issues. This report showcases the experiences of two MDP students who are actively involved in the life of the center.

All of these endeavors build on partnerships with African and Africa-focused institutions and colleagues. We sustain a long-standing exchange program with Tanzania's University of Dar es Salaam and host UDSM scholars for extended stays each year while UF students study at Dar. Other African partners are Uganda's Makerere University, West Africa Research Center (WARC) in Senegal, LASDEL (Laboratoire d'Etudes

et de Recherche sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local) in Niger. Based on many ties and collaboration across UF faculty and departments, this year we launched a formal partnership with the University of Ghana. Bridging the gap between academe and policy, CAS is involved in collaborations with Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Sahel and West Africa Club through the research endeavors of visiting faculty member, Olivier Walther. Likewise, the Center regularly invites speakers from numerous governmental and non-governmental agencies, from the International Crisis Group to AFRICOM.

The success of these partnerships and activities rely on the involvement of the many Working Groups based at CAS. Bringing together faculty, students, and experts from beyond UF, thematic clusters include Social Change and Development, Natural Resource Management, Architecture in Africa, Text/Image Studies, Migration and Mobility, the Sahel Research Group, Africa and China, and Islam in Africa. Generating academic publications, research collaborations, and invaluable professional networks, each Working Group regularly hosts conferences, workshops, and research-sharing sessions open to the entirety of the UF community.

Adding to our impacts well beyond our campus, this year we launched a digital format monthly electronic African Business Update focusing on commerce, technology and innovation in Africa's ten largest economies. Electronically distributed to an extensive subscriber base, it makes the latest news about business conditions and opportunities across the continent widely available. As feature elsewhere in this report, we are pleased to also celebrate 20 years of publishing the first open-access journal in its field, the *African Studies Quarterly*.

To help accomplish all of this, we are pleased to acknowledge the support we receive from various sources. Most notably, one of only ten in the country, CAS was again recognized as a Title VI National Resource Center for African Studies for 2014-2018. The grant funding that comes with his award sustains many of our programs and student learning through Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships dedicated to African language study. We are also extremely grateful for the on-going support for CAS from the University of Florida's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of Research, International Center, Graduate School, and

Office of the Provost. Numerous individual donors support our activities and help us prepare scholars and researchers who have deep understanding of and commitment to African cultures, societies, and environments. CAS maintains a broad network of alumni who extend the impact of our educational endeavors and remain a central source of support.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the Center for Africa Studies at UF or would like to share news or updates. I invite you to subscribe to our weekly news bulletins and social media accounts: ufcasbulletin@gmail.com

Twitter: [@africa_uf](https://twitter.com/africa_uf)

Website: africa.ufl.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UFAfricanStudies

African Business Update: abucasreport@gmail.com

Brenda Chalfin

Director of UF Center for African Studies

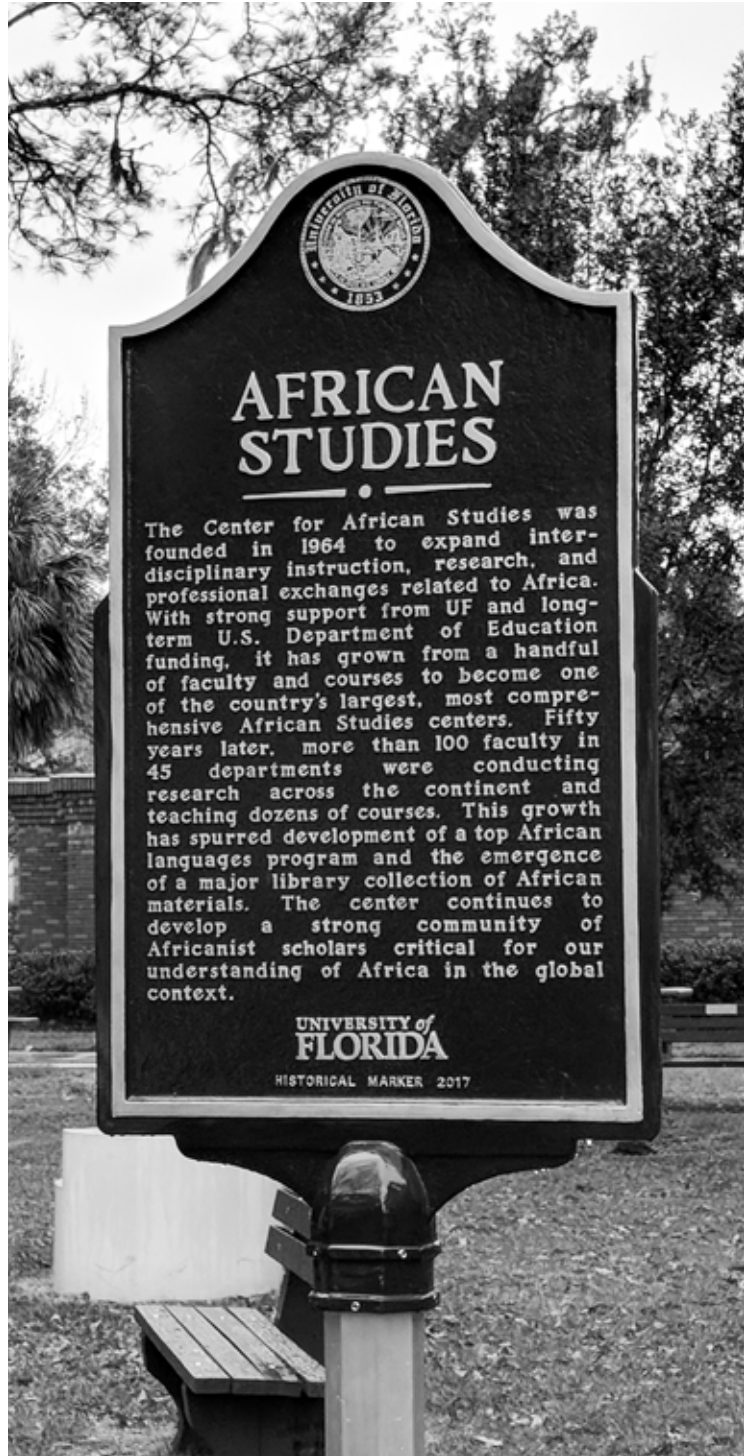
Professor of Anthropology



Photo: Prof. Kodzo Gavua, Dean of Faculty of Arts, University of Ghana and CAS Director Brenda Chalfin, Plaza of the Americas, University of Florida. November 2017. Photo courtesy of Mustapha Mohamed.

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

On Friday January 12, the Center for African Studies celebrated the unveiling of the Historical Marker located on Grinter Lawn. Despite the rain, the event drew a large crowd that gathered around the historical marker to watch it be unveiled by Brenda Chalfin, Todd Leedy, and Hunt Davis. The marker was made in collaboration, with Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig to thank for the idea, Hunt Davis and Todd Leedy to thank for the text, and Joe Kays of research communications responsible for overseeing the production and installation.



PROGRAM IN AFRICAN LANGUAGE (PAL) AT FIFTY

CHARLES BWENGE

The effort to establish African language programs began with the very inception of the Center for African Studies (CAS) in 1964. It solidified further with the elevation of the Center to a full-fledged Title VI federally funded graduate level program in 1976. It reached a further elevation with the establishment of the Department of African & Asian Languages and Literatures (AALL) in 1982 in which African languages were taught until 2008 when the University restructured its regionally-based language departments to create the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC).

The Program in African Languages (PAL) grew from one-language (Swahili) in 1967 to a three-languages (Swahili, Arabic, & Yoruba) in 1982, and fourth added (Akan) by the late 1980s. UF then offered Shona throughout the 1990s, with Amharic and Xhosa subsequently added then followed by Wolof in 2003.

Today as we celebrate 50 years of its existence, PAL is one of the most comprehensive and dynamic programs in the US with a total of seven languages (Akan, Amharic, Arabic, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu). Each is offered at three levels of proficiency (i.e., beginning, intermediate, and advanced), coordinated by an African language specialist, and taught by professionally trained, experienced and dedicated staff that include tenured and non-tenured faculty as well as graduate teaching assistants. Some of our GTAs have gone on to university teaching positions and departmental/program leadership in the US as well as in Africa.

PAL's strength has been crucial element part of UF's designation as both a National Resource Center (NRC) and recipient of Foreign Language & Area Study (FLAS) Fellowships. The program's strength also saw UF awarded a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad (GPA) for Yoruba over three consecutive cycles (2005-2007; 2008-2011; and 2013-2016) during which over 100 students from various universities in

the US participated in a 8-week advanced language and cultural immersion summer program in Nigeria. The same strength has enabled UF each year since 2011 to host the African Flagship Languages Initiative (AFLI) domestic intensive summer program that prepares Boren fellows and scholars for their overseas program. In addition to Boren fellows and scholars, AFLI also serves FLAS Fellows. As of summer 2017, some 265 students from various US universities studied African languages at AFLI.

Through the CAS Outreach program, PAL also introduced African language and culture – Swahili - to area high school students through the JAMBO summer program (2005-2015). A total of 170 students from various high schools in Alachua County participated in the program. Beginning in 2017, with support from the Center for African Studies, PAL extended beginning Swahili (SWA 1130/1131) courses to nearby Santa Fe College. Additionally, partnering with SFC's College for Kids program, we initiated a new summer program for middle school students in Alachua County – *Around Africa in Eight Days* - introducing them to the basics of Africa's cultural, natural, and linguistic landscapes. 15 students participated in the first summer.

PAL has cooperated and collaborated well with other programs to advance the teaching and researching in African languages, literature, cultures as well as language pedagogy. It is one the founding members of the Southeastern African Languages & Literature Forum (SEALLF). PAL has continued to be an active partner of African Language Teachers Association (ALTA).

Celebrating 50 years would not happen without our great students (past and current) who have brought in the program their enormous interest, curiosity, and hardworking; our great CAS Directors over these years as well as AALL/LLC Chairs for their unquestionable tremendous support, and the great team of instructional staff both faculty and graduate student teaching assistants who have brought in the program unwavering commitment and professionalism. An anniversary like this one is a moment for meditation and reflection. The PAL 50th anniversary, therefore, provides us an opportunity to envision a bright future, a future of sustainable growth.

Charles Bwenge is coordinator of the Program in African Languages and senior lecturer in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.



ASQ AT TWENTY

TODD LEEDY



In 2017 the *African Studies Quarterly* celebrated 20 years of publication. Founded as the first open access journal in African Studies, ASQ remains committed to the timely publication of peer-reviewed research on Africa. Attuned to the possibilities that an explosive growth in web-based applications might bring to academic publishing in the mid-nineties, several graduate students approached CAS Director Michael Chege with an idea that many thought unrealistic at the time: publishing a fully online multi-disciplinary journal that could be accessed for free by anyone with a web connection.

Chege took this idea forward to the Dean of UF College of Liberal Arts & Sciences who agreed to provide office space, computing support and a half-time graduate assistantship. Twenty years later, we remain immensely grateful for continuing support from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. The founding editorial staff consisted of Chege as editor, supported by fellow political science prof Errol Henderson and CAS office manager Carol Lauriault who supplied her red-ink expertise at the copyedit stage. Christopher Johnson and Richard Marcus became the first managing editors, supported by other graduate students (Kristin Jacobson, Andrew Lyons, Victoria Michener, and Janet Puhalla) who provided both internal review of submissions as well as technical support. Issues for the first several volumes remained small, typically 2-3 articles with 5-10 book reviews. Janet Puhalla remembers: “During the first few issues it seemed like feast or famine. Would we

have submissions? And could we get everything done on time to make a quarterly deadline?” One strategy to more quickly raise the profile of the young journal would be through production of targeted special issues. The first (Vol. 1:3) - “Crisis in the Great Lakes” - featured pieces by Rene Lemarchand, Thomas Turner, Will Reno, and Tony Waters.

A multi-disciplinary focus probably compounded the early growing pains faced by any new journal. Perhaps less anticipated however, many scholars remained reluctant to publish in an online-only medium despite ASQ’s standing as a fully peer-reviewed and indexed journal. What seems ubiquitous as we approach 2020 really did challenge the academic publishing status quo in the last years of the 20th century. Relatively small numbers of unsolicited submissions created an editorial culture of working very closely, and at times patiently, with some authors to bring their work to a publishable standard. This culture flourished under subsequent editors Leonardo Villalón, then Hunt Davis, and continues still despite dramatic increases in rates of submission.

For more than a decade, ASQ appeared in HTML format only. The transition to an increasingly popular PDF-based format would wait until staff felt that bandwidth availability for scholars and students at most African tertiary institutions had improved enough to have a negligible impact on access. Richard Marcus remembers: “We spent a lot of time early on discussing format. It wasn’t just about trying to produce a high quality, peer-reviewed publication online,

it was about the technology. We wanted it to be low bandwidth for accessibility. Even in the U.S. internet was still through dial up...our African colleagues generally only had dial up access paying by the minute.” Today, abstracts remain available in HTML to avoid excess data consumption for those using cellular modems. After twenty years, ASQ is still available free of charge to anyone with a web connection. We maintain this “gold standard” of open access on the front end as well - authors are never charged to publish in ASQ.

Over the first 20 years, ASQ published with a wide range of scholars, many well-known to the African Studies community, such as Korwa Adar, Florence Bernault, Mbye Cham, Gracia Clark, Joost Fontein, Karen Hansen, Goran Hyden, Abiola Irele, Sean Jacobs, John Janzen, Lauren MacLean, D.A. Masolo, Ali Mazrui, Moses Ochonu, Elliot Skinner, Scott Taylor, Aili Tripp, and Kwasi Wiredu. Today, scholars based at institutions in Africa comprise some 60 (yes, sixty!) percent of ASQ’s published authors each year.

As ASQ moves into its third decade with a new editorial board structure, one of the continued benefits of housing a journal at a Center with such a long history of producing a broad range of graduate expertise is that our entire senior editorial staff and advisory board hold PhDs from the University of Florida. Go Gators!

Todd H. Leedy is associate director of the Center for African Studies and editor of the African Studies Quarterly. He has worked with ASQ in various roles since 1999.

SAHEL RESEARCH GROUP

LEONARDO VILLALÓN, SEBASTIAN ELISCHER, ABDOULAYE KANE, SARAH MCKUNE, FIONA MCLAUGHLIN, RENATA SERRA, BENJAMIN SOARES, ALIOUNE SOW & OLIVIER WALTHER

The Sahel Research Group at the University of Florida represents a collaborative effort to understand the political, social, economic and cultural dynamics of the countries of the West African Sahel. The group brings together a highly interdisciplinary set of faculty members with expertise in a wide array of topics: politics, religion, migration and diaspora, social dynamics, health, agriculture, climate change, economics, geography, language, culture, and intellectual production in the region. A number of PhD students from various disciplines and with research focus on the Sahel are also key contributors to the group's efforts and activities.

Our core interest is in the six Francophone countries of the region—Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. We are also interested in developments in neighboring countries, to the north and south, whose dynamics frequently intersect with those of the Sahel. Collectively the Sahelian countries represent some of the least developed countries on earth—the four landlocked states are regularly among the very bottom in the UNDP's annual Human Development Index

rankings. The fragile ecology of the region is particularly vulnerable to climate variation, with serious consequences for human livelihoods and wellbeing. Global religious trends and geopolitical events have placed significant additional pressures and posed new challenges to governments in the region in recent years. Indeed, the Malian crisis since 2012 and its regional consequences, including the proliferation of violent extremist organizations, have brought new and complicating attention to the region by outside actors.

Yet there are also other dynamics in the face of this difficult context: vibrant civil societies continue to struggle to build and strengthen democratic institutions, social structures maintain often striking resilience while adapting to new contexts, and there are strong and trans-regional intellectual debates on religion, human rights, culture and social change. Our goal is to build on the diversity of training, expertise and backgrounds among Sahel Research Group members to better understand the full complexity of both the difficulties and the possibilities of the region. We have a strong commitment to engaging and working with colleagues and partner institutions in the countries of the Sahel, and to this end we have been fortunate to host

a number of visiting scholars and frequent guests from the region.

Our regular "Sahel Seminar" series provide an ongoing opportunity to invite guests and to share perspectives and analyses on developments in the region. In February 2017 we organized the annual CAS Carter Conference, "On the Edge: What Future for the African Sahel?" from which a major publication on the region is forthcoming. We were especially pleased in 2017 to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) of the OECD in Paris. The initial phase of our collaboration involves a project to examine urbanization in border areas and women's trade networks at the local and regional scale. The two-year program involves research activities and policy initiatives aiming at facilitating exchange among researchers, policy-makers and civil society.

More information on these activities, and descriptions of the range of specific research projects by group members can be found on our website at: sahelresearch.africa.ufl.edu



Leonardo Villalón is professor of political science and dean of the UF International Center. Sebastian Elischer is assistant professor of political science. Abdoulaye Kane is associate professor of anthropology and African studies. Sarah McKune is assistant professor of Global Health and African studies. Fiona McLaughlin is professor of linguistics. Renata Serra is senior lecturer in African studies. Benjamin Soares is professor of religion and director of the Center for Global Islamic Studies. Alioune Sow is associate professor of French and African studies. Olivier Walther is visiting associate professor of geography.

UF IN ETHIOPIA: UNDERGRADUATE PERSPECTIVES

OLIVIA N. ALLEN, AMELIA I. BLANTON, KRISTIEANNA L. CLASEN, JHATAI D. DAYNUAL, KAITLYN N. FARNELL, AYELEN L. GARCIA-RUDNICK, PETER M. GIANELLI, MACKENZIE GOODE, MELODY E. MULLALY & TAYLOR SMITH

From January through mid-March 2017 we participated in the 2017 UF in Ethiopia study abroad program sponsored by UF's International Center, Department of Anthropology and the Center for African Studies. The main goal of the program was to give undergraduate students the opportunity to earn college credit for learning archaeological field methods while participating in excavations at Mochena Borago, a large rock shelter in the SW Ethiopian highlands containing deposits spanning more than 50,000 years.

Now in its ninth year, the UF in Ethiopia program has been an integral part of the long-term Southwest Ethiopia Archaeological Project (SWEAP) which is focused upon obtaining archaeological, chronological, and paleoenvironmental data that can be used to test a theory that the highlands of SW Ethiopia were a cultural and environmental refugium for hunter-gatherers prior to their dispersal through and out of Africa some 60,000 years ago. Directed by Dr. Steven Brandt of UF's Department of Anthropology, other field participants included Dr. Augusto Oyuelo-Caycedo, and graduate student Benjamin Smith. Professional archaeologists, botanists and students from Addis Ababa University, Stony Brook University and the University of Frankfurt as well as Ethiopian government representatives also contributed their expertise and training to the project.

Prior to traveling to Ethiopia, we spent part of the last three weeks of January at UF learning about Ethiopian culture, history and archaeology through readings and lectures. The majority of those three weeks however involved lectures and hands-on training in lithic technology and analysis in preparation for the thousands of obsidian artifacts we would be digging up at Mochena Borago. The last few days of January were spent buying equipment, getting vaccinations and making other preparations for the trip.

We finally arrived in Addis Ababa, then spent the next 5 days at the Ethiopian National Museum. On the first day we were taken on a tour of the archaeological and paleontological collections followed by a visit to the Museum

exhibition building. The next few days were spent at a Museum lab where we used the knowledge we had gained in January to wash, sort, and identify thousands of stone artifacts excavated in 2015 from a quarry site in the Rift Valley. However, analyzing these artifacts proved to be much more challenging as they were much smaller and more difficult to classify. But it did give us a good idea of what we would be finding at Mochena Borago.

On February 9th the students flew to Arba Minch in SW Ethiopia where we met government representative Ato Abraham, and a mini-bus and driver that drove us 2 hours north to the Nega International Hotel in the city of Sodo, the regional capital of Wolaita and our base of operations. Except for weekends, we would have breakfast, pack up our equipment and personal belongings, and drive 30-40 minutes up the western side of Damota Volcano until we reached our destination of Mochena Borago rockshelter, a Late Pleistocene rock shelter ~8 km northwest of Sodo.

The focus of the 2017 field season was to continue excavations in the MB5 area where previous research had revealed deposits more than 50,000 years old. We were initially divided up by Dr. Brandt into 5 teams of 2 students each where usually one student would dig a 1m² unit while the other filled out forms on computer tablets. Most of the teams dug in and around the N41 trench where previous field seasons had revealed a large carapace-shaped stone slab that appeared to have finger-like markings on it. Our excavations were to later reveal this stone to be much bigger than expected - about 1m x .75m. Toward the end of the field season excavations in this area also uncovered what looked like a stone mortar. Both of these were left *in situ* - in the ground - so they could be taken out next season when there would be more time to dig them out more carefully. Excavations also took place at the southern end of Area MB5 in an attempt to trace the location of a major geological event that cut through the shelters sediments tens if not hundreds of thousands of years ago.

In addition to excavating, some of the students learned how to use the electronic Total Station for accurate mapping of all artifacts and

features, while others volunteered to go with the archaeo-botanists to collect tree limbs so they could be cut into thin sections and used to create a wood identification database from which to identify the types of wood being used to make fires.

On March 15 the field season came to an end and we flew back to Addis Ababa to spend a few more days at the Museum before the program completely ended and we all went our separate ways - some returning home, others traveling around Ethiopia, and some traveling to other Eastern African countries.

Ethiopia was the first taste of Africa for all except one of the students, and for most if not all it was a life-changing experience. There were many life lessons, but a few of the most memorable were: 1) how important patience is for maintaining one's wellbeing, whether you are dealing with stifling bureaucracies or having to reach new levels of tolerance for your fellow program students; 2) the realization of how essential it is to find true friendship. There is something about being thrust into a new and very different culture that creates camaraderie and an understanding of one's place in the community; 3) how beautiful the earth is and how critical it is to maintain that beauty. The many hikes we went on made us realize the fragile nature of the world we live in; 4) the need to venture outside one's comfort zone. Even though some of the activities we engaged in made us physically and mentally exhausted to the point that we were ready to quit, our incredibly hard working and resilient Ethiopian colleagues also forced us to push ourselves even harder and to discover inner strengths we never knew we had; and 5) It also taught us how to create opportunities for ourselves, as opposed to waiting for them to arise.

In the end, the UF in Ethiopia program helped us better understand what we were, and what we could be...



FACULTY REPORTS

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HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN NIAMEY AND NIGER: YOUNG PEOPLE'S HOPE FOR THEIR PRESENT AND FUTURE

RANDALL CANTRELL



Niger has unprecedented demographics: the average citizen's age is 14.8 years; the fertility rate is 7.8 children per woman; and though the infant mortality rate is decreasing, 1 in 4 children die before the age of 5. One strategy for families in the villages is to choose a male to migrate to the capital (or elsewhere) in hopes of earning a living to save toward a dowry while also sending money back to the family in the village. The reality is these young men arrive in Niamey with nowhere to live, no job, and little money to survive on. It takes time, hard work, and a little good fortune for them to begin to make progress toward their goals. Therefore, our objective was to explore the new life encountered by young Nigerien males who migrate from their village to the capital city of Niamey.

We chose five of the poorer neighborhoods in Niamey where young people are known to live and work. We randomly approached males who appeared to be in their

twenties and asked if they would participate in our study. We conducted a total of 22 interviews during a 15 day period. The questions were from a semi-structured interview guide where all respondents were provided the same prompts.

The average age of respondents was 25, and they had lived in Niamey for about 6 years with either friends or family they met (or on the street next to their vending stand). They relocated about once a year. They typically were selling some sort of inexpensive item alongside the road (tea, coffee, flip flops, etc.). They were earning just enough to make ends meet and sending a small amount back to their family in the village. If they were frugal, there actually was a small amount left toward saving for a dowry (\$25/yr). They thought about their future regarding marriage, family, and their country, but they could not imagine one day being a person who impacts the development of their community or country.

The government has an underrepresented (voiceless) majority on its hands, and that majority demands to be heard. It

would seem to behoove the government to seriously implement an advisory commission comprising young people from all sectors of Niger, especially from the poorer working class. This sector does not seem to feel empowered enough to effect meaningful positive change in its future, and that is not only demoralizing but also poses a potential risk to Niger's future.

If young people could be incorporated into the political voice of the government such that they feel empowered, they might become more of a productive component of society. Sometimes the mere feeling of knowing you are "part of the team" is sufficient to cause you to "come to practice and work hard" until your opportunity arises. Otherwise, it is easy to become disillusioned with a sense of abandonment and drift apart from the goals of the team.

Randall Cantrell is assistant professor in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences. This project was made possible through a University of Florida International Center Global Fellows Award.

HARN MUSEUM DIRECTOR, CURATOR, UF FACULTY AND ALUMNI AT THE ACASA 17TH TRIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM IN GHANA

SUSAN COOKSEY

In August 2017, Rebecca Nagy (director, Harn Museum of Art) and Susan Cooksey (curator of African Art) participated in the spectacularly successful 17th Triennial Symposium of the Art Council of the African Studies Association at the University of Ghana, Legon. The Center for African Studies generously supported their travel to Ghana for the week-long conference. The conference made history as ACASA's first to be held in Africa. With a record number of African and European participants for the largely American organization, a rich offering of panels over four days beginning with Museum Day at the National Museum of Ghana, brilliant events including museum and gallery receptions, artist studio tours and guided tours to Cape Coast and Elmina, all capped by the eclectic *Chale Wote* art festival in the old Jamestown neighborhood of Accra. The symposium afforded a wealth of opportunities for engagement with artists, scholars and museum professionals as it immersed conferees in Ghana's dynamic art scene. Nagy and Cooksey chaired a roundtable organized with the help of Alissa Jordan (UF PhD, 2017) who served as the discussant. Titled "Creative Coalescing: Artists of KNUST and Ghana's Contemporary Art Revolution" it focused on the impact of KNUST's new art curriculum and innovative teaching methods on contemporary art in Ghana. Participants included several art faculty, alumni and graduate students of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Several other UF Africanist faculty and alumni attended the conference as well, including Brenda Chalfin (director, CAS), Carlee Forbes (UF MA, 2013), Christopher Richards (UF PhD, 2014), Courtney Micots (UF PhD, 2010), Ndubuisi Ezeloumba (UF PhD, 2017), Jordan Fenton (UF PhD, 2012), and Prita Meier (UF BA, 1997).



Forbes organized the panel "Localizing the Foreign" that featured her paper based on research on Congolese colonial era art "Foreign Tastes, Local Styles: Situating Voania Muba within the Colonial Context." Richards presented a paper based on his research on South African fashion, "Knitting Histories: The Cultural Significance of Ma Xhosa by Laduma's Fashions." Micots organized a stimulating panel "Sustainability and Art in Africa" and curated a stunning exhibition on Ghanaian Fancy Dress masquerades for the premier contemporary art gallery in Ghana, Gallery 1957 in Accra. The reception for the exhibition was one of the highlights of the conference's social events. Ndubuisi Ezeloumba presented the paper "Power behind the Throne, Images of the Queen Mother Iyoba in Benin Art." As ACASA's Treasurer, Jordan Fenton organized the finances of the conference and participated in the roundtable "Futures Directions of the Field." He also presented a paper, "Individual Agency in Traditional-Based Arts: Masquerade as an Artistic Transformation" for the panel he chaired, "New Perspectives on Performance in Africa." Prita Meier's paper was based on her research on Swahili Coast arts, "Mobilities of Ivory Oliphants: Shared Object Cultures in Central Africa and the Swahili Coast."

When not presenting, curating or administering, UF's alumni spent time together

traversing the city of Accra. As an expert on Ghanaian fashion and textiles, Christopher Richards took his colleagues to the top fashion brands and introduced them to Accra's best batik artists. Rebecca Nagy and Susan Cooksey facilitated visits to various galleries and artists' studios. It was an intellectually rejuvenating experience and a reminder that UF's cohort of African art historians are active, engaged, and an important part of the international African art community. As one eminent scholar quipped: "here comes the UF mafia."

Jokes aside, the ACASA conference demonstrated the lasting strength of UF's African art history department; graduates from the program are recognized as innovators in the field and as important and collaborative contributors. As the alumni continue to engage in important and groundbreaking research, the legacy of UF's African art history department will grow. It only seems appropriate to conclude with a Ghanaian proverb, one which all of UF's graduates and current/former faculty seem to inherently follow: *wamma wo yonko anntwa anko a, wonntwa nnuru* (If you don't let your neighbor reach his destination, you will not reach yours).

Susan Cooksey is Curator of African Art at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE EDUCATION IN AFRICA

ELIZABETH DeVOS

My work in the last year includes continuing to advocate for the specialty of Emergency Medicine in Africa to ensure that anyone with an acute illness or injury may find skilled treatment when arriving at an emergency center. In August 2016, I was invited to lecture on “Models of Training in Emergency Care,” at the first Rwandan Emergency Care Association (RECA) national congress. We discussed the variety of models for working with national governments, ministries of health, universities and private hospitals to determine locally appropriate training programs and schemes for ongoing human resource retention and remuneration once emergency care providers are established. We discussed the challenges of ensuring that newly trained providers will find jobs with pay commensurate to their training context of the government or private hospital ability to pay, retention of skilled workers, and assessing the level of training that should be provided in district and national hospitals and a variety of other factors during the session.

During the meeting, I was honored with an award for “Outstanding Support to the Development of the Rwanda Emergency Care Association.” The conference, attended by physicians, nurses, and ambulance personnel from the region as well as Europe, North America, and Southeast Asia was a smashing success. So much so, that RECA was chosen to host the African Congress on Emergency Medicine in Kigali in November 2018. This year will be dedicated to cultivating a robust scientific program as RECA hosts over 1000 emergency care specialists from all over the globe just months after graduating the first class of Emergency Medicine specialist physicians. RECA also hosts an “Emergency Medicine in the Tropics” course for health professions students from Europe and North America to introduce them to the medical system in Rwanda and to specific medical conditions unique in presentation to East

Africa. I provided two lectures for the course and Andrew Martin MD, a senior EM resident from UF Jacksonville travelled to Kigali in April 2017 to participate in point-of-care ultrasound training at the national teaching hospital.

Ongoing work with the African Federation of Emergency Medicine facilitated my participation in the *African Journal of Emergency Medicine's* Author Assist program. Through the initiative, experienced authors are paired with authors of a manuscript submitted to the journal to develop ideas to fully published peer-reviewed works. In December 2016, I worked with a team of Ethiopian pharmacy faculty from Gondar University, including the PI, Getnet Adinew. Together, we published, “Poisoning cases and their management in emergency centres of government hospitals in northwest Ethiopia” in the *African Journal of Emergency Medicine* in June 2017. It was a privilege to mentor the team of Ethiopians in describing the epidemiology of acute care visits for poisoning.

This retrospective review provided insights to differences in epidemiology in the North Gondar Zone versus other studies in Ethiopia. The incidence of intentional poisoning appears to be higher than that of prior studies in Addis Ababa with up

to 1% of Emergency Department visits related to poisoning whether intentional or unintentional. Women accounted for 60% of the poisonings reviewed and young people 15-24 years old accounted for 55% of these presentations. Organophosphate and bleaching agent poisonings comprised most cases (35% and 25% respectively). While patient management is generally appropriate, clinicians lack specific treatment guidelines and protocols that could improve management. This study identified opportunities for improvement in standardized management. Further, the study identifies that young women are at highest risk of self-harm. Increasing public awareness of safe handling of chemicals and medications as well as improving access to mental health services were also identified as opportunities to optimize outcomes by practicing primary prevention.

Elizabeth DeVos is the director of Global Health Education Programs for the UF College of Medicine and associate professor of emergency medicine at UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville where she is medical director of International Emergency Medicine Education.



REFLECTIONS ON THE AFRICA YEARBOOK

SEBASTIAN ELISCHER

Between 2014 and 2017 I served as co-editor of the *Africa Yearbook*.

Published by Brill the *Africa Yearbook* covers all major domestic political developments, the foreign policy and socio-economic trends in sub-Saharan Africa. After three years of overseeing the West Africa section, my tenure as co-editor came to an end in October. In the following I provide some insights about the publication and into my personal editorial experiences over the years.

Africa Yearbook serves as a scholarly resource for scholars, policymakers and the broader public. Written by country experts, the individual chapters analyze the most important political and economic events. No other publication regularly provides country-specific and contemporary insights. Since 2015, it has also been possible to buy a compilation of the chapters, covering the whole timespan for selected countries.

The visibility of the Yearbook has increased quite significantly since the publication of the first volume thirteen years ago. Almost all academic libraries in North America and Europe subscribe to it. In 2012 the Yearbook won the African Studies Association's Conover-Porter Book Award. Scholars researching event data are the most frequent users, but it is also intended as a reference tool for diplomats, people active in development cooperation and NGOs. The Yearbook is also useful for students, or anyone wanting to learn more about contemporary developments in Africa.

The production of the Yearbook is an international endeavor. In 2017 it received generous support from four academic institutions: The UF Centre for African Studies, the German Institute for Global and Area Studies, the Nordic Africa Institute (Sweden), and the African Studies Centre (Netherlands).

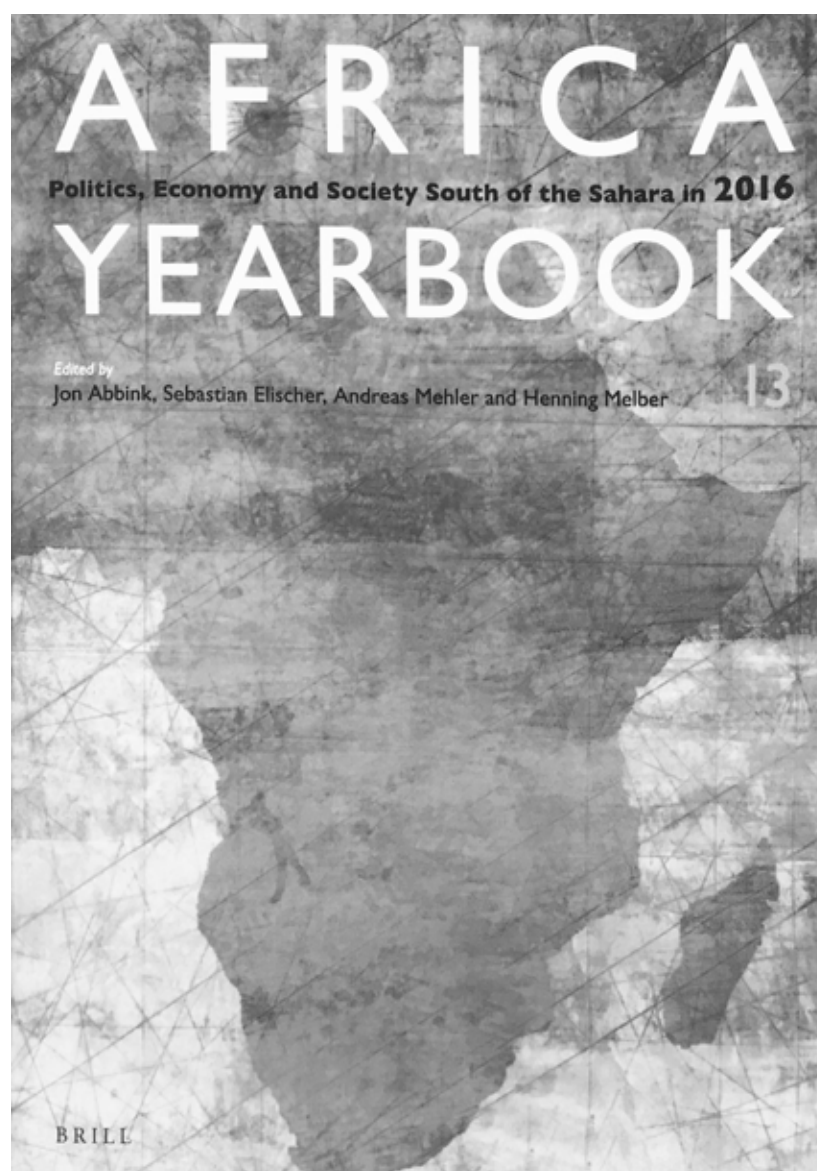
Contributing to the Yearbook offers scholars the opportunity to join a network of researchers from across the globe. Our authors came from North America, Europe, Africa. Some are very senior, others only

recently finished their PhD. It is probably the most diverse group of scholars I have worked with.

Editing the Yearbook takes a lot of time and makes for very long evenings. Many authors have been trained in education systems outside the anglophone world and the editorial work can take much time. But reading through so many country chapters significantly improved my own understanding of the political and economic complexity of the African continent.

It was an honor to be part of this exciting international and multidisciplinary project. The production of the 14th volume is well under way and I look forward to receiving my copy in October 2018.

Sebastian Elischer is assistant professor of political science.



DOCUMENTING AN ENDANGERED LANGUAGE: ANIMERE

JAMES ESSEGBEY

During summer 2017, I traveled with four undergraduate students to Nkwanta in the northern part of the Volta Region of Ghana to do document Animere. The trip was funded by a Research Tutorial Abroad (RTA) grant from the Center for African Studies. Animere is one of 15 languages located in the hills of the Ghana-Togo border, from which they got the name Ghana-Togo Mountain (GTM) languages. It is the most endangered of the GTM languages with less than 30 speakers all of whom are over 50 years old, and is no longer being transmitted to children. All Animere speakers also speak Adele, another GTM language, and Akan, the regional dominant language. Many speak several other languages in the region. The Animere situation is particularly interesting in that rather than shift to the dominant regional language, as happens in most language endangerment situations in Africa, they are shifting to Adele. During our time in Nkwanta, the students worked with 2 native speakers of Animere (Papa Peter and Mathias) and a language consultant (Ernest Nniakyire) to segment, transcribe and translate parts of conversations and storytelling sessions which were recorded in 2013 by Bryan Gelles, a UF graduate student.

Following that, we traveled to Kecheibe, the hometown of the Animere people to record them performing their traditional songs and dances. This was very important because the language situation became known to us when the elders of the community approached Andrew Ring, who was then working on bible translation in the area, and told him that their language was disappearing; their children did not speak it and they, the old people who could speak it, were dying. They wanted help to revitalize the language. According to Andrew Ring, the elders lamented that “they did not have anyone to sing their songs.” The trip provided an opportunity for the students to conduct research and experience the daily living conditions and social life in a contemporary African society. They are currently working on an Animere reader, which contains illustrated folk tales and transcripts of the songs which we recorded in Kecheibe. The reader will be presented to the community with copies of their songs and dances.

The trip with the students was followed by a Summer School in Language Documentation and Data Management in Winneba, which is in the southwestern part of Ghana, between Accra and Cape Coast. I organized the school with my

colleague Fiona McLaughlin, and Felix Ameka at Leiden University, with funding from the NSF Documenting Endangered Languages program. With support of faculty from the United States, Europe, and Africa, we brought together graduate students and junior faculty in West Africa and their counterparts in the United States to share the knowledge and skills associated with current methods and practices of language documentation. Participants worked with 5 native speakers of Animere to produce a basic documentation of the language. My eventual plan is to undertake a major effort to document Animere before it disappears.

James Essegbey is associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.



HISTORY, THEORY AND THE CONGO

NANCY ROSE HUNT

Year Two at the University of Florida, and I find myself still amazed by the wide range of marvelous scholars, congenial atmosphere, and remarkable resources in African Studies, including precious monies to co-organize a Carter Conference.

I spent much of this past year organizing activities and research around the Papa Mfumu'eto Papers, now owned by Special Collections in the Smathers Library. An exhibition or two and a multi-authored catalog will result from 2020 on about this comic-based sequential art work in Lingala, produced in Kinshasa's streets over 20 years from the mid-1980s. I also spent time spearheading a new book series with Achille Mbembe and Juan Obarrio that will feature best new work in African studies and beyond; the first books in this Duke University Press' *Theory in Forms* series will appear in 2019. I also benefitted from hosting scholarly visits by Natasha Sakolsky, Rebecca Hardin, and Katrien Pype during the year.

History & Theory invited me to join a team of scholars in producing essays for a special postcolonial issue. My contribution reviews the methods and concepts I have used in prior research. I will be presenting another paper at Wesleyan University, where *History & Theory* is based, on "ideation" and historical writing. Ideation is a theme inspired by my efforts to grapple with the zany and puzzling sides to Papa Mfumu'eto's comic-based papers as well as new research on vernacular mental health categories across Africa's colonial empires and since. This part of my research will be aided by a Fulbright Expert Award received to spend several weeks between Paris and Niamey in summer 2018 examining shifting diagnostic categories. A top team of Paris-based medicine, health, and STS researchers – Cermes3 – worked with me on assembling the joint Fulbright application, and they are steering contacts and workshops in Paris and Niamey.



I organized a panel at the ASA on “post” aspects to Jan Vansina’s oeuvre and personality, and this took me to his and the Mary Douglas papers at Northwestern over the summer months. This new research became the basis of the five endowed Leclerc Lectures that I gave in the Anthropology Department at Belgium’s chief francophone university, Louvain, in November. The result was a very rough draft for a short book on the history of anthropology in the Congo, from the likes of Mary Douglas, Jan Vansina, and Luc de Heusch, to Johannes Fabian, Filip De Boeck, Katrien Pype, and several more. The intellectual and methodological history of anthropology

embedded in these investigations is just as fascinating as are Congolese terrains and field hierarchies revealed.

Highlight of the year: teaching 22 undergraduates in History how to assemble primary research papers on health, medicine, and racial politics in Africa. Each wrote an original paper, and we journeyed together to the Kingsley Plantation for a stunning lecture about polygamy, labor, and emancipation practices by Professor Emeritus Dan Schafer of Jacksonville. I will be going back, again and again, to this place and potential learning laboratory where Africa and Florida still meet.

Nancy Rose Hunt is professor of history.

SENEGALESE HOMETOWN ASSOCIATIONS' WHATSAPP GROUPS AND THE EFFICACY OF DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTION IN THE SENEGAL RIVER VALLEY

ABDOULAYE KANE

This is a new project building on the Research Tutorial Award by CAS that allowed me to bring three UF undergraduate students to Senegal to do research on the use of new technologies of communication by Senegalese hometown associations and its impact on their development interventions in the Senegal River Valley. I utilized the preliminary research finding to write a NSF proposal to research these Hometown Associations' WhatsApp groups and the new forms of sociality they allow between migrants scattered around the globe and their rural communities in Senegal.

African migrants, as with the many migrants from poor countries, have been particularly interested in maintaining connections with their home countries. More specifically, migrants from the Senegal River Valley have distinguished themselves with the creation of dynamic hometown associations that intervene aggressively to improve the living conditions of sending communities. Previous studies in France have identified more than 400 such hometown

associations in the *Ile de France* region alone. A progressive efficiency in the hometown associations' interventions seems to be in connection to the improvement of communication between migrants coming from the same town and scattered in several destinations as well as their connections to the people in the hometown itself (Dia 2015; Kane 2013).

With a growing access to social media and communication platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Skype, the landscape of connections between these village-based diasporas and their hometowns have changed a great deal, leading to new forms of virtual sociality. Each of these hometowns have their WhatsApp group connecting different and faraway places into one single social-virtual place where village norms of social life are reintroduced and adapted. On a daily basis, hundreds of messages are posted instantaneously by participants and accessible to all at once. They exchange news, share memories, discuss new ideas about development, and raise funds as if in the village public square. The primary research questions are the following: 1) Does the use of new technologies, specifically the Instant Messaging

application, change the landscape of communications between hometown associations and their hometowns? 2) To what extent are any changes brought about by the use of free calling mobile phone applications affecting hometown associations' intervention in local development? 3) How are local hometown events made global through the posting of images and sounds and how does this affect migrants' trust of people managing community projects?

Through ethnographic research, to be conducted in France (Paris region), in the United States (Columbus, New York, and Memphis), in Central Africa (Libreville and Ponte Noire) as well as in the towns of the Senegal River valley (Thilogne, Agnam, Galoya, Ouro Sogui, and Kanel), we plan to follow hometown associations and their transnational connections. We want to uncover the daily practices of communications and their impacts in social, political, economic, and cultural processes in these different settings.

Abdoulaye Kane is associate professor of anthropology and African Studies.



IMPROVING NUTRITION IN CHILDREN UNDER TWO THROUGH INCREASED EGG CONSUMPTION IN BURKINA FASO

SARAH L. MCKUNE

Burkina Faso is burdened by high rates of malnutrition and linear growth stunting in children under five years old. Undernutrition can have significant long term physical, cognitive, and socioeconomic impacts on a child's development, as well as the future economic success of the country. Animal source food (ASF) consumption can improve growth, nutritional status, cognitive development, and health in children. In Burkina Faso, ASF consumption is low, particularly among women and children. Livestock is typically produced for income, gifting, and socio-religious practices, rather than for direct household consumption. Barriers (i.e. cultural beliefs and stigma) prevent the consumption of chicken eggs in Burkina Faso and many other parts of Africa. This study aims to address the challenges to ASF consumption and improve small holder farm (SHF) poultry practices in rural Burkina Faso.

The innovative intervention consists of gifting chickens by religious leaders to children between six and twelve months of age to increase egg consumption. Each child's caregiver will commit to feeding their child one egg a day from the gifted chickens. Children are often the least likely to consume ASF, despite their unique need. Because food allocation inequities often exist, this study design proposes that the child be the true owner of the chickens as well as the beneficiary and recipient of the eggs for consumption. The study is designed to properly test a pilot study conducted in Ethiopia (Omer 2016) that increased the portion of children consuming three or more eggs a week egg from 5% to 70% through gifting of chickens through a religious leader to the children. It involves innovative behavioral change methodology to empower caregivers as poultry producers by improving their access to livestock production resources, providing tools for improved decision making, and enhancing nutrition

based knowledge. SHF production is important in eliminating food insecurities and building resilience to improve nutrition in children under five. This project targets vulnerable populations of smallholders, women and children, and should lead to improvements in poultry production, increased egg consumption by children, improved nutrition, and increased household level resilience.

We will examine if improved poultry inputs through gifting chickens by a religious leader, coupled with integrated

livestock management and nutrition trainings, will lead to higher ASF consumption among children under two in Burkina Faso. This community intervention trial will target families with children ages six to twelve months of age living in rural villages in Burkina Faso.

Sarah McKune is assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Global Health and the Center for African Studies. Project funded by USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems.



EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS IN SOUTH AFRICA

MICHAEL H. MORRIS

The hope for the economic future of Africa is tied to entrepreneurship and its potential for empowerment and transformation. It is with this belief in mind that we launched the Entrepreneurship Empowerment in South Africa (EESA) program twenty years ago. This past August we presented EESA as a model invention program at the annual meetings of the Academy of Management in Atlanta, highlighting key lessons learned over the years.

EESA is a unique partnership involving three American universities (University of Florida, Texas A&M, and University of Colorado) with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. Each year, twenty-eight American and twenty South African students, with four faculty members as mentors, spend seven weeks working in hands-on consulting engagements to help early stage ventures move towards sustainability. Over the years we have worked with more than three hundred entrepreneurs.

The theme for the EESA Program is “in the spirit of Masikhule” which is a Xhosa word meaning “to grow together.” We employ a unique process consulting approach that involves the consultants as partners with the entrepreneurs, working through problems jointly to generate creative and effective solutions. The process approach builds around helping the entrepreneur to see their business as a flow of processes, including a record and bookkeeping process, a selling process, an operating process, a logistics process, a cash flow process, and so forth. It centers on the notion of “teaching a man to fish” rather than “giving a man a fish”.

Student consultants work in teams of six, which are formed to balance backgrounds, skills and experiences. EESA is a rigorous program where each team is assigned to two entrepreneurs and must produce a minimum of four deliverables (problems solved) per entrepreneur. They begin by applying the Supporting Emerging Enterprises (SEE) model, which we have designed over the years as a comprehensive tool for first assessing each business and prioritizing needs. They also work through a number of case studies we have

written that focus on past clients.

The entrepreneurs are based in the townships of Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Blue Downs, Langa, and Philippi, located just outside of Cape Town. Many have been unregistered businesses, but this has changed as the government, recognizing their important potential, has focused more on formalizing these ventures. Most have been in business for about a year. The businesses have included transport companies, small construction firms, restaurants, printers, hair salons, glass replacement, clothing production, funeral homes, tennis shoe washing, a maker of paper, and a maker of spinach-based products, among others.

Most of these entrepreneurs have fallen into what we call the “commodity trap.” They find themselves largely selling a commodity—a product of service that is undifferentiated, where entry barriers are low, there are many competing providers, firms are forced to compete on a price-basis, which results in low margins or losses. The typical entrepreneur is supporting a family and a number of others, and struggles to separate personal from the business needs and to put money back in into the business. They rely on casual employees, family members, and some permanent employees.

A review of deliverables over the years has identified the thirteen most common problems, and the consistency of these issues over time is striking. They include: lack of proper books; entrepreneur doesn’t understand what the numbers are telling her; poor cash flow management; no clear segmentation/targeting of customers; little marketing/a shotgun approach; pricing too low and uniformly; not well-differentiated; operations not systematic—reliance on tacit knowledge, habit, reaction; lack of computer literacy beyond word processing; buying at retail which severely undercuts margins; insufficient reinvestment in business; money to fund front end of jobs/opportunities; and, too busy working in the business to work on the business.

Many other lessons have been learned along the way in terms of what it takes for a program



like EESA to succeed. High engagement levels with the entrepreneurs, and getting students out of their comfort zones and seeing themselves as consultant not students, are critical. So too is the need to focus on developing not just the business but the entrepreneur. The process must generate tailored solutions that move a venture through stages of development. Changing behavior requires client involvement in the solution, as well as use of role models and success examples. The ability to move these clients away from a reliance on winning government tenders is also important. In the end, however, it is all about facilitating sales and increasing margins.

We have seen significant success with the program. About 75% of the entrepreneurs are still in business five years after the engagement and have seen introduction of new products/services, entry into new markets and growth in revenue, employees, operations, and equipment. Perhaps the biggest change is in the entrepreneur’s confidence and how they see themselves as professionals. Our most successful client has gone from one to over forty locations and has launched a franchising model. Another exciting outcome has been the number of South African students that have become professional consultants based on their EESA experience.

Michael H. Morris is clinical professor of marketing in the Warrington School of Business.

AWRA AMBA: A MODEL FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

MARIT TOLO ØSTEBØ

In 2000, Ethiopian Television (ETV) aired a documentary about Awra Amba, a small rural village and weaving cooperative in Northern Ethiopia. Portraying it as a place where women ploughed, men worked in the kitchen and no ‘Harmful Traditional Practices’ existed, the program told the story of a community that radically challenged traditional gendered norms. Awra Amba soon became a model for gender equality not only in Ethiopia, but also beyond. At present, the community attracts close to 10,000 annual visitors, including tourists, representatives from the government and from transnational and international organizations, and experts and beneficiaries of development projects. The community also features in a Finnish-produced interactive educational documentary, “The Awra Amba Experience,” currently marketed as a global learning resource.

Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to conduct research in Awra Amba. In addition to investigating the history of the community and its religious underpinnings, my focus has been on understanding Awra Amba as a model for gender equality and sustainable

development. Awra Amba is only one of several cases I explore in my current book project, which seeks to empirically and theoretically explore the increased use of models in socially engineered development schemes.

Ethiopia is a country which is particularly conducive for a study of models. First, Ethiopia’s development strategy has increasingly been praised by international organizations and donors as a model for other African countries to emulate. Second, the Ethiopian government has, over the last decade, embraced a rhetoric of models. Model farmers, model women, model students, model villages, model districts, model cooperatives – these are just a few examples of models that have become an integrated part of the development discourse in Ethiopia. They are all central tools in Ethiopia’s overall development strategy. But what constitutes a model and what is the relationship between models and reality? Is it possible to identify some key characteristics that cut across different types of models? How does something, someone, a place, a project, a policy idea, or a particular methodology become a model? What happens when

actors, sites or policies gain status as models? Are models as successful as they often are portrayed? And what are the underlying theoretical assumptions behind the use of models? These are just some of the questions that I seek to explore. It is my belief that an analysis of models in the particular Ethiopian context can contribute in advancing our understanding of the use of models in relation to development and social change, not only in Ethiopia but also beyond.

Marit Tolo Østebø is assistant professor of anthropology and a faculty coordinator of the Social Change and Development working group.



RESEARCH ON RELIGION, ETHNICITY, AND CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

TERJE ØSTEBØ

Spring 2017 saw the final output of a research project on Islam, politics, and the question of moderation in Ethiopia which I had worked on for some years. The output was in the form of a journal article co-authored with Walleign Shemsedin and published in the *Journal of Modern African Studies*. I have since then devoted my research time to my larger book project tentatively called *Islaama vs. Amhara: Religion, Ethnicity, and Conflict in Ethiopia*. I was awarded a sabbatical leave for the academic year 2017-18, which have enabled me to devote all my time to this project. Offering an in-depth analysis of the well-known armed insurgency in Ethiopia's region of Bale, the book incorporates religion as a variable, and seeks to situate religion in relation to ethnicity and broader issues relevant for both the formation of identities and so-called identity-based conflicts. It also discusses local factors relevant for understanding the insurgency, as well as relating it to similar movements within the broader context of the Horn. Demonstrating that religion (Islam vs. Christianity) remained an important dimension of the conflict, the book firmly situates this as an integrative part of broader social realities. Interrogating epistemological underpinnings and existing perspectives around religious and ethnic identities, it forward alternative suggestions for how to better theorize around the relationship between religion and ethnicity. A key point here is to recognize the embodied and emplaced nature of human existence, which means that religious and ethnic belonging must be seen in relation to embodied human relations and continuums between a cultural and material world.

I spent a month in Ethiopia doing fieldwork related to this project during summer 2017, and an additional two weeks in Ethiopia in December 2017. Most of the field-work was devoted to interviews of former members of the insurgency



movement, as well as archival studies. I moreover spent three weeks as a guest-researcher at the University of Bergen in fall 2017. I have also been able to share the findings of this book projects a through guest-lecture at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London in spring 2017, at a workshop at the University of Oslo in October 2017, at the African Studies Association's Annual Meeting, and at the American Anthropological Association – both in November 2017.

In addition to this book project, I am working together with a colleague and a UF undergraduate student on a project on mapping violent attacks connected to so-called Islamic extremists in the Horn of Africa. The project uses the ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data) dataset, and examines the period between 2007 and 2017. The project seeks to provide statistical data that will give us a better understanding of the possible increase of religiously-related violent incident in the broader Horn of Africa, and examine the nature and dimensions related to this.

I have moreover continued to be consulted by various government institutions, and participated in a seminar on Countering Violent Extremism in Africa and in the briefing of the incoming U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia, both organized by the U.S. Department of State.

Terje Østebø is an associate professor in the Department of Religion and the Center for African Studies.

MOUNTAIN GORILLA EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS LIBRARIES' WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MANUSCRIPTS

DANIEL REBOUSSIN

Dr. Heather Campbell donated the Bob Campbell Papers to the George A. Smathers Libraries in 2015. Campbell's best-known images brought international recognition to Dian Fossey and her mountain gorilla research at Rwanda's Karisoke Research Center in a January, 1970 *National Geographic* cover story. To commemorate Karisoke's 50th anniversary in September 2017, co-curators Dan Reboussin and Richard Freeman, with graduate student Riley Ravary, teamed up to exhibit "Bob Campbell's Photographs of Dian Fossey's Karisoke Research Center, 1968-1972." The exhibit is also available online.



a Sunbird from the audio, explaining "I can find no song recordings of *Nectarinia stublmanni graueri* in the three main online catalogs of bird sound recordings (British Museum, Macaulay Library at Cornell, and xeno-canto.org)." Campbell's recording now represents this bird's song in an open access database used by field biologists, while citing the full-length recording in UF Digital Collections.

Online access to such extraordinary resources has attracted unusual attention. Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International staff sought a recording of "The Mountain Gorilla," Fossey's 1973 lecture to the *National Geographic Society*. Editors at *National Geographic Magazine* contacted our Special and Area Studies Collections Department to arrange publication of several Campbell photographs for their September 2017 issue. We also permitted British producer *Tigress* to feature Campbell's images in a 3-part *National Geographic Channel* special produced by James Marsh (*Man on Wire*) and narrated by Sigourney Weaver. *Dian Fossey: Secrets in*

the Mist premiered in 171 countries and 45 languages on December 6, 2017.

Also on December 6th, Smathers Libraries with UF co-sponsors the Biodiversity Institute, Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, Department of Anthropology, Florida Museum of Natural History, Tropical Conservation & Development program, Land Use and Environmental Change Institute, Center for African Studies, and International Center hosted Dr. Tara Stoinski, current President, CEO and Chief Scientific Officer for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, and David Watts, Professor of Anthropology at Yale University to present on conservation efforts at Karisoke since Fossey's death in 1985. Watts was Karisoke Research Center director 1986-1987.

These preeminent primatologists' perspectives on mountain gorilla conservation since the early days of Fossey's research highlighted innovative programs to benefit Rwandan communities. Incorporating Campbell's materials into the Libraries' outreach program supports collection accessibility, their use for teaching, research, and ultimately may support improvements in community conservation efforts that are our best chance to secure the survival of the critically endangered mountain gorillas of Rwanda's Virunga Mountains.

Daniel Reboussin is the African Studies curator at the George A. Smathers Libraries. African Studies material collections and digital projects are supported by the CAS Title VI grant in collaboration with the UF Libraries.

ISLAM AND MUSLIM SOCIETIES IN AFRICA

BENJAMIN SOARES

Benjamin Soares, who joined UF in January 2017, specializes in the study of Islam and Muslim societies in Africa with particular emphasis on the social, political, and intellectual dimensions of Islamic religious life in West Africa from the late 19th century to the present. He has worked on several interconnected projects for which he has conducted research in Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Nigeria, and Sudan. In his research, he looks at changing modalities of religious expression and modes of belonging under colonial rule and in the postcolonial period. His approach to the study of Islam and Muslim societies is firmly grounded in an understanding of broader Islamic history and combines anthropological and historical approaches. He devotes considerable attention to Islam within the global context, including connections and exchanges African Muslims have with other regions—colonial powers, the Maghreb, Egypt, the Hijaz, and, in his latest research, Asia—and how these unfold over time. Such research has been by design and of necessity methodologically creative in the use of ethnography, oral history, and the close reading and analysis of textual sources, colonial archives, and various media.

In one of his research projects, he is taking a broad look at modalities of religious expression and their transformations in Mali. In this research project, he focuses on changing religious expression in a world characterized by greater mobility, marked increases in urban economic activities, formal education, and new forms of “modern” knowledge and governmentality since the early 20th century. Beginning with the spread of Islam among non-Muslims, the project reconstructs the careers of those with reputations as Muslim saints, who are largely credited with mass Islamization. In addition, he explores movements of Islamic “reform,” influenced by supra-local movements and intellectual currents, new forms of associational life,

including Islamic associations advocating ethical improvement and/or Islamist agendas, and the trajectories of various charismatic figures. However, he does not limit the focus to Islam. Indeed, he considers waves of the re-enchantment of non-Islamic “tradition,” including new charismatic non-Muslim religious figures, who have called themselves literally “pagan saints” and promise good health, wealth, and success to their predominantly Muslim followers and clients. A major objective of the project is to build analytical tools for understanding the relations between changing modalities of religious

expression, modes of belonging, and social imaginaries.

Some of his other projects focus on Muslim public intellectuals in Africa and Muslim-Christian encounters in West Africa. Among his recent publications are the co-edited volume *Muslim Youth and the 9/11 Generation* (2016) and “Studying Islam and Christianity in Africa: Moving beyond a Bifurcated Field.” *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* (2016).

Benjamin Soares is professor of religion and director of the Center for Global Islamic Studies.

Muslim Youth and the 9/11 Generation

Edited by Adeline Masquelier and Benjamin F. Soares



SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH ADVANCED SEMINAR SERIES

STUDENT ACTIVISM AND RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN SAHELIAN UNIVERSITIES

LEONARDO A. VILLALÓN



University student movements represent a particularly important aspect of the religious dynamism that characterizes the contemporary Sahel. Religiously-based movements, largely but not exclusively Muslim, are now central features of student life across the region. These have overshadowed what remained of the older leftist student movements of the first post-independence decades, as well as the corporatist student unions focused on demands for increased material benefits that proliferated in the years of structural adjustment programs. The striking boom in religious organization at universities is now widely recognized as an important social phenomenon marking the Sahel, and indeed elsewhere in Africa. As one local colleague bemoaned in the course of our research: “Our universities have come to be places of prayer more than places of learning!”

This project builds on and grows out of an earlier extensive research project on political reform, socio-religious change and stability in six Sahelian countries—Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad—carried out with the support of a Minerva Initiative grant from 2012-16. Over the course of that research, student movements on university campuses emerged as distinctly relevant, and meriting closer examination, for several key reasons: 1) they have come to largely dominate university student activism in the

region; 2) they are evolving and in rapid flux, with the trend accelerating in recent years given regional religious tensions and dynamics; 3) they serve as an indicator of new emerging social trends and tendencies in the region; and 4) they are potentially of very significant long-term impact for their influence in shaping the worldviews of a new generation of elites.

Universities in the region are historically highly politicized institutions, and in recent years religiously-based groups on university campuses in each of the six countries have not only increased in number, but simultaneously assumed more active and assertive social and political roles. There are important variations in different national contexts, however, with potentially significant implications. While omnipresent in the region, university-based religious groups are also highly diverse in terms of ideology and orientation, and indeed they are frequently at odds with each other. Conflict and even violence between student groups representing different religious tendencies has become one notable feature of universities across the Sahel. Importantly, while the vast majority of student religious groups and organizations are focused on social issues and religious activities, there are some disturbing indications that student organizations may be feeding some of the most radicalized religious groups in the Sahel. In some ways, student religious groups represent a

microcosm of the religious diversification occurring across Sahelian societies more broadly.

An additional Minerva grant for 2017-18 allowed us to assemble a collaborative research team including colleagues from all six countries to follow up further on this important issue. In addition to UF faculty members Leonardo Villalón (PI) and Benjamin Soares, the team includes: Mamadou Bodian, Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Senegal); Abdoulaye Sounaye, Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey (Niger); Mamadou Lamine Dembélé, Université des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques de Bamako (Mali); Abakar Walar Modou, Université Roi Faïçal de N'Djamena (Chad); Magloire Somé, Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo de Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso); and Elemine ould Mohammed Baba, Université de Nouakchott (Mauritania). An initial workshop at the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar brought the whole team together in October 2017 to begin to examine the contours of this phenomenon in comparative perspective. Following research in all six countries by the country specialists, the team will meet again in late Spring 2018 at the University of Florida at a conference on the topic.

Leonardo Villalón is professor of political science and dean of the UF International Center. He is a former director of the Center for African Studies.

MAPPING BORDERS AND CITIES IN WEST AFRICA

OLIVIER J. WALTHER

Since I joined the Sahel Research Group at the Center for African Studies in July this year, my work has primarily focused on coordinating the 'Cities and Borders' program of the OECD Sahel and West Africa Club. This two-year program is part of a memorandum of understanding signed between the OECD and the University of Florida in March 2017 aiming to reinforce the links between academics, institutions and policy platforms. The purpose of this work is to provide support for regional policies and international strategies in order to better understand the contribution of border cities to regional integration in West Africa.

One of the most exciting parts of this new program is to launch a survey on women's trade networks. Our first goal is to map supply chains in which women producers, traders and consumers have a particular interest, and highlight gender inequalities in market activities. In collaboration with the University of Niamey, we will interview more than 300 male and female traders between Niger, Benin and Nigeria. Our second goal is to identify the institutional actors involved in the promotion of women's business activities in West Africa, their relations and the structural obstacles to their activities. With our colleagues from Chatham House, we want to understand the complexity of the institutional field linked to the economic promotion of women and to identify the gaps between the functioning of women's networks and associated strategies.

In both surveys, interviews will follow a methodological approach based on social network analysis, which looks at the inter-relationships developed among a specific set of policy actors engaged in women empowerment. Data will be collected using a snowballing technique, according to which a number of key individuals are asked to nominate with whom they have been exchanging information related to women's business activities.



Within this collaboration with the OECD, researchers from the UF Sahel Research Group will also deliver a series of policy notes to be published by the OECD in its West African Papers series, based on on-going researches on security, trade and political issues. Thus far, four working papers have been published, including one on jihadist insurgencies by Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim, one on civil-military relations in Niger by Sebastian Elischer, one on political stability and security in Chad by Dan Eizenga, and on the future of warfare in the region that I authored.

The past six months have been busier than ever. Not only did I move from Denmark to Florida and started a new research project but I also edited a book entitled *African Border Disorders* with my colleague William Miles from Northeastern University. The book builds on a workshop organized at the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers last year. It explores the complex relationships that bind states, transnational rebels and extremist organizations on the African continent. Combining network science with geographical analysis, *African Border*

Disorders highlights how the fluid alliances and conflicts between rebels, violent extremist organizations and states shape in large measure regional patterns of violence in Africa. Some of our contributors also examine the spread of Islamist violence around Lake Chad through the lens of the violent Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram, which has evolved from a nationally-oriented militia group, to an internationally networked organization. A couple of concluding chapters explore how violent extremist organizations conceptualize state boundaries and territory and, reciprocally, how do the civil society and the state respond to the rise of transnational organizations.

Olivier J. Walther is visiting associate professor in the Department of Geography. Funding provided by the OECD and Danish Ministry of Higher Education & Science.

STUDENT REPORTS

BENJAMIN BURGEN

The Economics of Migration in Small Town Senegal

JESSICA CASIMIR

Chronic Disease among Informal Caregivers in KwaZulu-Natal

AWA DOUCOURE

The New Public Policy of Higher Education Reform in Senegal

DANIEL EIZENGA

Electoral Authoritarianism in the Francophone Sahel

MAX GELBER

Plenty of Fish in the Sea? Shark Fishing and the Fin Trade in Ghana

VICTORIA GORHAM

State, Society, and Nation-Building in Tanzania

JOSHUA KARG

The Development of Women's Football in Nigeria

BENJAMIN LOWE

Influences on Fisher Adaptations to Climate Change on Lake Tanganyika

SHEILA MAINGI

Combatting Gender-based Violence through Economic Empowerment

FEZILE MTSETFWA

Savanna Conservation in the Face of Climate and Land Use Changes

MARTIN NWODO

Sustainable Development of the Built Environment in Africa

MOSES NYAGO

Ugandan Private Sector Firms, REDD+ and Corporate Social Responsibility

FELICITY TACKEY-OTOO

A Historical Case Study of Tema, Ghana

DENZEL WILLIAMS

Choreography and Dance in Conakry, Guinea

THE ECONOMICS OF MIGRATION IN SMALL TOWN SENEGAL

BENJAMIN BURGEN

In the small Wolof town where I did research people are proud to call themselves farmers. Centuries ago their ancestors settled in the central Senegal River Valley and they have lived off of their crops ever since. But these days no family can make ends meet without some sort of cash infusion. Most rely on men who have migrated abroad, working in France or Italy, to send monthly remittances. This influx of money makes for lively commerce. Each day the morning market bustles with women doing their daily shopping and just as many women sitting behind small tables with something to sell. The market square is lined with workshops and small stores. The place hums with activity and the air is lively with jokes and greetings shouted to passersby.

Households have an equally lively air to them. Large extended families live together in rooms arranged around a central courtyard. Women sit in the shade engaged in daily tasks while keeping an eye on the small children tottering about. Elders sit in the background quietly taking in the scene. But in many cases most of the adult men are missing. Their presence is fleeting, marked by short annual visits and frequent phone calls. Their absences leave the households feeling less than full, but keep the granaries from becoming empty.

The lives of Senegalese migrant men in European cities cannot be understood without first understanding the sociocultural and economic contexts from which they have come. My research is an attempt to foreground the context of home in these men's lives and to show the centrality of their social and economic remittances to life in small town Senegal today.

My research focuses on the economic and social aspects of life in the rural Senegal River Valley. From August 2015 through August 2016 I conducted ethnographic fieldwork. I spent 10 months in a small town which typifies the culture of migration seen throughout the Senegal River Valley. Next I spent 2 months between France and Italy visiting the migrant men whom I had previously met during their trips home to Senegal.

My research questions focused on the ways that people negotiate family finances and social dynamics in this transnational context. I studied the local economy in the Senegal River Valley; the ways that remittances are spent and how this influx of cash has created a new range of economic horizons for some while other money-making possibilities have dried up. I looked at the ways that migrant experiences are interpreted in the small town context and the ways that people are adapting to changing

circumstances and opportunities both at home and abroad.

While my research is an ethnographic case study of one particular town I am hopeful that in my writing the voices of community members and the power of their experiences will come through and enrich discussions of labor mobility from the peaceful regions of the Sahel to destinations abroad. More broadly I hope that my work can help to clarify and better contextualize the current state of transnational labor migration between West Africa and Europe.

Ben Burgen is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology and a former FLAS fellow (Wolof). Portions of this research were funded by a Fulbright-Hays DDRA, the University of Florida Graduate School, the Sabel Research Group, and the Department of Anthropology.



EXAMINING THE PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC DISEASE AMONG INFORMAL CARERS TO AIDS-AFFECTED ORPHANS IN KWAZULU-NATAL

JESSICA CASIMIR

I had the opportunity to travel to Nairobi, Kenya in March 2017 to attend at the Africa Health Agenda International Conference, one of the largest public health gatherings on the continent, in which I presented a systematic review on renal disease and dialysis rationing in South Africa. To continue my initial project, I conducted preliminary fieldwork for my dissertation proposal in the summer of 2017. I was fortunate to receive funding from the Center of African Studies for both these research-related trips. I was situated in Durban for three months to explore the difficulties and obstacles of managing the co-morbidity of HIV/AIDS and renal disease (HIV-associated nephropathy). Additionally, I wanted to examine the role of their caregivers in patient adherence and health outcomes. Shortly following my arrival to Durban, informal interviews and conversations with medical professionals and researchers revealed that due to the socioeconomic climate, many South Africans with HIV-associated nephropathy were often in the advanced stages of AIDS such that conducting a qualitative project would be unfeasible and ethically questionable.

My justification for selecting Durban as the primary research hub for this project is due to the current state of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa. The KwaZulu-Natal province has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the country at nearly 26% compared to the national percentage of 18.9%. Much of the epidemic is concentrated in low-income areas such as townships, informal settlements, and rural expanses with poor infrastructure; in these vicinities of KZN, the prevalence can range from 40% to 60%. Due to being at the epicenter of the disease, Durban is known as an international hub for global health in which there are a multitude of resources directed on combating HIV/AIDS such as research institutes, academic conferences,



prevention campaigns, activist communities, and NGOs.

Due to the vibrant public health community, I received the opportunity to volunteer at the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, a HIV/AIDS clinic that provides a plethora of services and resources to the Valley of a Thousand Hills, a peri-urban/rural area outside of Durban. One of their hallmark programs, the Granny Support Groups, became of great interest to me. Presently, there are an estimated 3.7 million orphans in South Africa, half of whom have lost one or both parents to AIDS with thousands of grandmothers (*gogos*) becoming the primary carers of their grandchildren. Due to a plethora of social problems, they fail to become recognized as legal guardians, hence preventing them from receiving vital resources from the government. To alleviate many of the day-to-day struggles that many of these carers experience, 58 support groups have been installed throughout the Valley of a Thousand Hills. I was tasked to undertake the data analysis of a programme

assessment survey from 2016. From the findings, the data reported that one of the greatest benefits of the program was that the participants observed the reversal of chronic disease, such as hypertension and diabetes. These findings have allowed me to explore a facet of informal caregiving that I had not originally examined. I am interested in further exploring: How does the caregiver strain and burden affect the prevalence and management of chronic disease among older women in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa? I intend to return to Durban in the fall of 2018 for twelve months to conduct the data collection phase for my dissertation project.

Jessica Casimir is a McKnight Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Sociology and Criminology where she is pursuing her PhD in medical sociology. Her project is funded by the Florida Education Fund, the Center for African Studies, the Office of Research, and the Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives.

THE NEW PUBLIC POLICY OF HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM IN SENEGAL

AWA DOUCOURE

My research analyzes the new public policy reforms of higher education in Senegal. These reforms were initiated by the Senegalese government with the goal of developing quality human capital resources capable of having a direct influence on national productivity.

Today, the so-called “demographic dividend” is a dominant issue in the public policies of African countries. By 2050 Africa is projected to reach a threshold of generational renewal, with twice as many people as the current active population on the continent. According to a 2014 study by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development program (NEPAD), the number of young people in Africa will double by 2045. African states are aware that the demographic dividend presents a window of opportunity, a unique and hardly ever renewed potential for economic development. In this context, the implementation of public policies for human capital development is crucial for African countries, which must effectively

control the growth of their population.

In 2014 the Government of Senegal adopted a new national strategy for economic and social development: the *Plan Sénégal Emergent* (PSE). Due to the size of Senegal’s working-age population—estimated in 2013 by the National Agency for Demography and Statistics at 7,728,868, representing more than half (58.2%) of the resident population in Senegal—one of the key priorities of the PSE is the development of human capital. This development of human capital, however, requires a structural and in-depth reform of the higher education sector.

Higher education was introduced in Senegal in the colonial period, with the establishment of the School of Medicine of Dakar in 1918. From independence in 1960, the government has undertaken various efforts to reform and adapt the imported colonial model to the local context, so as to better respond to national needs. However, the failure of various waves of reform, growing unemployment among university graduates, and the increase in the number

of high school graduates (which went from 11,207 in 2003 to 40,942 in 2013—an increase of 365% in 10 years) led to an unprecedented crisis in Senegalese higher education. To face these challenges, Senegal has more recently undertaken a new process of reforms. These reforms are the subject of a sub-sector development strategy set out in two Higher Education and Research Development programs.

My dissertation aims at understanding how the government of Senegal conceptualizes the development of human capital as part of a strategy of economic development, and to analyze the capacity of the state to rethink the role of higher education within the productive process. It analyses how these new public policies are defined, the instruments for implementation, and the role of different actors in this process. It also aims to constitute a theoretical and methodological contribution to the field of public policy analysis in Africa, not yet a full-fledged subfield in Senegalese political science.

My time at the Center for African Studies provided me an opportunity to strengthen my theoretical understanding of public policy and human capital development. As a next step in my research, I plan to conduct interviews with officials from the Ministry of Higher Education who implement the new reforms, teachers and students who participated in the national consultation on the future of higher education in Senegal and the technical and financial resource partner organizations that are financing the reform project.

Awa Doucoure is a doctoral student in political science at the Université Gaston Berger in St. Louis, Senegal. From May 2017 through January 2018 she was a World Bank Robert S. McNamara Visiting Fellow at the Center for African Studies and hosted by the UF Sabel Research Group.



ELECTORAL AUTHORITARIANISM IN THE FRANCOPHONE SAHEL

DANIEL EIZENGA

In recent years political scientists have observed that in some sub-Saharan African countries democracy seems to consolidate despite the initial deficiencies that characterized their early multiparty elections while, in other countries, a restoration of authoritarian politics follows such an opening. Based on extensive fieldwork in three Sahelian African countries, my dissertation, “Surviving Democratization: Electoral Authoritarian Regimes in Burkina Faso, Chad and Senegal,” seeks to explain different regime outcomes in each case. In the dissertation, I advance an original theoretical framework based on different configurations of political institutions, civil-military relations and religious and traditional institutions to better understand how these institutions influence the ability of elites to manage pressures for greater liberalization from civil society and the political opposition.

The literature on democratization in political science has produced an abundance of regime types along the spectrum between democratic and authoritarian rule. Yet, this body of work has, so far, failed to understand a variety of fundamental questions about these ‘electoral authoritarian’ regimes, particularly in the context of sub-Saharan Africa. My dissertation addresses this gap by examining several related questions including: Why are seemingly similar regimes trending in different directions of political liberalization? Why, following the implementation of multiparty elections, do some countries exhibit further institutionalization, while in others an erosion of institutions takes place? How are elections organized in these regimes, and how do politics manifest themselves in response? How do other socio-political institutions react and engage with society in electoral authoritarian contexts?

I employ a comparative approach to examine the interaction of political institutions, civil-military relations, traditional and religious institutions, and civil society to scrutinize how each contributes to the different regime trajectories of Burkina Faso, Chad and Senegal, following their respective implementations of multiparty elections. During this research, I conducted fieldwork in these three countries over eighteen consecutive months (June 2014 – December 2015), with the goal of better understanding differences in their political trajectories, despite their relative and shared stability. The evidence I gathered from hundreds of interviews conducted with political elites, civil society leaders, and other state actors, as well as extensive archival research, indicate that civil-military relations alongside traditional and religious institutions interact with each country’s respective political institutions to manage processes of political liberalization in each case. My dissertation and fieldwork remain indebted to the invaluable advice and support of faculty at the Center for African Studies, contacts in Burkina Faso, Chad and Senegal, and the engaging community of scholars who

compose the Sahel Research Group at the University of Florida.

During the last year, I presented my research at the annual Carter Conference hosted by the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida, at the Univeristé de Québec à Montréal and at the 60th African Studies Association meeting in Chicago. In the fall of 2017, the United States Institute of Peace selected me as the principal investigator for a research project on the regulation of religion at institutes of higher education in Chad as part of their larger research project on the Lake Chad Basin. In 2017, I also received a dissertation writing fellowship from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the spring semester of 2018.

Daniel Eizenga is a PhD candidate in political science and a former FLAS fellow (Arabic). Funding for his dissertation research was provided by the UF Office of Research, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Center for African Studies, the Sahel Research Group, the Department of Political Science and the Minerva Initiative Grant “Political Reform, Social Change, and Stability in the African Sahel.”



PLENTY OF FISH IN THE SEA? SHARK FISHING AND THE FIN TRADE IN GHANA

MAX GELBER

I spent summer 2017 conducting research in the Western Region of Ghana as part of the Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) program. This research was conducted with staff at *Hen Mpoano* (Our Coast), a nonprofit organization in Takoradi, Ghana that provides technical, policy, and extension support to coastal communities, civil society groups, and other stakeholders in fisheries and coastal ecosystem governance.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 highlights the critical role our oceans play in sustaining life on Earth, and calls for leaders around the world to intensify their commitments to protecting and conserving our oceans and marine resources. Part and parcel to ensuring the sustainability of our oceans and seas is protecting its innumerable species. My field practicum project draws much-needed attention to the Elasmobranch species, which include sharks, rays, and skates. The paper focuses predominately on shark species, which play a critical role in the ocean's food chain, and are currently under immense threat.

In Ghana, shark species are targeted and caught as bycatch. Both the targeted

and bycatch shark fisheries provide locally-consumed animal protein, and a source of income for artisanal fishermen. With regards to sharks specifically, meat is harvested for the local market, while fins and other products are destined for the lucrative export market.

Since the 1980s, following China's "reform and opening-up" period, shark fin consumption has grown substantially. High demand for shark fin in China has left global shark populations in peril. Heightened media attention and substantial lobbying from conservation organizations and celebrities has pressured governments to regulate and, in some cases, ban shark fin trading and the gruesome practice of shark finning. These efforts, along with changing tastes among youth and reported health concerns, have resulted in noticeable declines in shark fin consumption in China and elsewhere.

However, new markets and trade routes have emerged for shark fin and other products. At the same time, a significant paucity in fisheries and trade data, especially in developing countries, makes it difficult to assess the true extent of global shark populations and the prevailing trade in shark products. Furthermore, little attention has

been paid to smaller exporting nations, like Ghana, where a burgeoning trade in shark products has emerged to meet changing market demands. Inadequate catch/landings and socioeconomic data, especially at the artisanal level, hamper the ability of government and other key stakeholders to craft and implement sustainable fishery management policies that meets the present and future socioeconomic and environmental challenges presented by the trade.

My research fills in some of the missing pieces to the larger, complex puzzle of the global trade in shark products. Using semi-structured interviews, informal interviews, ethnographic observation, academic literature, grey literature, and international catch data, this research provides key socioeconomic and environmental data on the shark fin trade, and elucidates the complex linkages between actors in the shark fin supply chain, in three fishing communities in Ghana's Western Region: Shama, Dixcove, and Axim. Research findings reveal nuanced information that government and other key stakeholders can use to design and implement better management, conservation, and economic plans and policies with respect to local, national, and international shark fisheries. One such finding is that a number of vulnerable and threatened shark species are caught off the Ghanaian coast, including the Great White, Common Thresher, Hammerhead, and Sand Tiger, and that while shark catches have generally decreased, certain species, like Hammerhead, have almost completely disappeared from fishermen's catches.

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