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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

ABE GOLDMAN



It is a great pleasure to present the University of Florida's Center for African Studies 2015-16 Research Report. We're extremely gratified with the continuing growth in the scope and diversity of research on Africa carried out by faculty and students at UF, as well as the increasing number of students and faculty involved in Africa-related teaching and research. With their efforts and involvement, CAS has become one of the largest and most diverse academic centers for African Studies in the US and in the world.

In 2014, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida. This year's report includes a second installment of former Center Director and Emeritus Professor Hunt Davis' review of highlights of the Center's history over that half century.

The research summaries in this report represent a sample of some of the scope of work on Africa being carried out at the University of Florida. Our faculty and graduate students as well as visiting scholars are involved in research that spans the continent geographically and ranges

from multiple areas of the humanities to the natural sciences, conservation, and health; from aspects of political, social, economic, and linguistic change to the human and environmental impacts in Africa of climate change, disease, and globalization.

In particular, this year's report includes summaries of research on biology, ecology, and geology in several areas of Africa (see reports by Blackburn, Foster, McCleery, Palmer, Shirk, and Stanton); interdisciplinary social and climatological research on climate change in Africa (reports by Matyas, McKune, Serra; and Turientine); health issues and medical practice (Abramowitz, Devos, and Pulliam); social and political change in the Sahelian region (Elischer, Villalón, Burgen, Eizenga, Hames, and Kane) as well as numerous other topics and areas of focus. All of these represent only a selection of the full scope of research and applied work being carried out at UF.

A major objective of CAS is to bring together these and other scholars from numerous backgrounds and perspectives to identify and address questions of intellectual and applied significance. We've

been particularly pleased by the involvement of researchers in professional schools – including among others architecture, public health, medicine, veterinary science, agriculture, forestry, law, journalism, and education – together with those from the social and natural sciences and humanities, in cross-disciplinary research on and in Africa. The Center has also consistently supported collaboration with colleagues throughout Africa.

CAS continued its strong commitment to the Masters in Development Practice (MDP) degree, offered jointly with the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. MDP admitted its sixth class in 2015, and many of the MDP students have been or plan to be involved in development efforts in Africa.

Finally, UF's Program in African Languages, which is closely linked to CAS as well as to UF's Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC), hosted a fifth summer of intensive African language instruction through the African Languages Initiative. Students from UF and numerous other universities received innovative immersive instruction in six African languages.

We are very pleased to acknowledge the support we receive from various sources. Most notably, CAS was again granted funding as a Title VI National Resource Center for African Studies in 2014, one of only ten in the country. This grant helps us continue many of our programs and supports students through Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. We are also extremely grateful for the consistent support for the Center from the University of Florida, particularly the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Office of Research, the International Center, and the Office of the Provost. Numerous individual donors, listed later in the report continue to support our activities and students and help us to prepare scholars and researchers who have deep understanding of and commitment to African peoples, societies, and environments.

CAS AT FIFTY: THE SECOND 25 YEARS

HUNT DAVIS

The Center's second quarter century began with the first Director to be appointed from outside UF, when the Peter Schmidt, an archaeologist, became Director in 1988. The Center's 1990 program review noted that the faculty ranks numbered about 100, thanks to a significant number of new faculty lines being filled by African specialists. As a result, the African curriculum consisted of 120 full African content courses and 160 additional courses with substantial content. The nearly decade old Department of African Languages and Literatures offered courses in four African languages through the third year and four additional languages were available on an on-demand basis. The most important developments in the core curriculum were a new Ph.D. program in African history, with the hiring of Steve Feierman, John Mason, and Barbara Cooper, and a doctoral program in African archaeology, with Schmidt, Steve Brandt, and Terry Childs. The library collection numbered some 80,000 volumes and now included special collections such as the George Fortune collection. New institutional linkages with the University of Dar es Salaam, centered on student and faculty exchanges, and Makerere University, with a focus on environmental sciences, law, and libraries, further testified to the Center's growth. The Center also enhanced its national visibility by serving as the host institution for the 1995 Annual ASA Meeting held in Orlando.

The 1990s witnessed a further growth and diversification of the Center, along with changes in its administration and the makeup of the faculty. In 1995, Ronald Cohen replaced Peter Schmidt as interim Director but fell ill and Goran Hyden stepped in until the appointment of political scientist Michael Chege as Director in 1996. The Assistant Director was anthropologist Catherine VerEecke, while the Outreach Director was political scientist Agnes Ngoma Leslie. Among the appointments in this period were: P.K. Nair ('87, Forest Resources & Conservation), Michael Leslie ('88, Journalism), Abe Goldman

('89, Geography), Barbara McDade ('90, Geography), Joan Frosch ('95, Theater & Dance), and Luise White ('98, History).

The growth and diversification of the faculty also led to new directions in research along with the continuation of longer established research programs. The topics of the Center's annual Carter Conference/Lecture Series during the '90s reflected these trends. The 1994 topic, "Transition in South Africa," dealt with a long-standing concern of Africanist scholars, that of apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa. The 1995 Carter Conference dealt with a newer scholarly



concern, that of addressing the various dimensions of "Entrepreneurship in Africa." In 1999, faculty members from the Center for Wetlands and the Department of Zoology organized a series of Carter Lectures on the theme of "Aquatic Conservation and Management in Africa." A similar growth and diversification took place in the doctoral program. Overall, UF awarded 92 PhDs based on African-related dissertations between 1990-2001.

Further enhancing the growth of African Studies at UF was the opening of the Harn Museum of Art in 1990, with one of its focal areas being African art and incorporating the already existing African art collection. The African art specialization

was enhanced with the appointment of Rebecca Nagy, an Ethiopian art history specialist, as director in 2002. A second development in the arts, this one in the performing arts, was the launch of the African Artist in Residence Program in 1995, beginning with Ghanaian master drummer Godwin Agbeli, and the Agbededi Africa performance company. This in turn eventually led to a permanent faculty position with the appointment of Mohamed DaCosta. A further major development was the launch of the on-line, open-access, peer-reviewed *African Studies Quarterly* (ASQ) in 1997.

The presence of the Harn and the performing arts program enhanced an already strong outreach program. For example, DaCosta took performances to the schools as part of the K-12 program. The Center conducted annual teacher summer institutes along with workshops over the course of the year. At the postsecondary level it ran faculty development workshops, sponsored regional Africanist conferences, and supported regional Africanists' research projects through its long-running Research Affiliates Program. The Outreach Program also worked with the business community through events such as a workshop on "Doing Business with Africa." The Center continued through the subsequent years to conduct an active outreach program to a wide range of audiences by drawing on the deep African resources of the university.

The new century brought further significant changes to UF African Studies. In 2002, political scientist Leonardo Villalón arrived at UF as the new Center director, joining an existing administrative staff with historian Todd Leedy as assistant director, Agnes Leslie as outreach director, and Corinna Greene as office manager. The African language program saw replacement appointments in Yoruba (Akintunde Akinoyemi, '01) and Akan (James Essegbey, '04) leading to six regularly taught African languages. The appointment of an African languages coordinator (Charles Bwenge, '04) and lecturers further solidified UF's commitment to teaching African languages.

Other significant appointments were in English (Apollo Amoko, '03), anthropology (Brenda Chalfin, '01), geography (Brian Child, '04), and history (Sue O'Brien, '03). The library collection under the guidance of Africana bibliographers Peter Malanchuk and Dan Reboussin, had grown to 120,000 volumes and 500 periodicals.

Villalón's appointment led to an expanded interest in West Africa, especially the Sahelian countries. One outgrowth was the establishment of the Sahel Research Group in 2012, which has thrived as a focal point for faculty and graduate student research. In addition to Villalón, the SRG includes linguist Fiona McLaughlin (appointed '02), economist Renata Serra ('04), anthropologist Abdoulaye Kane ('04), comparative literature specialist Alioune Sow ('04), Sarah McKune ('13) in public and environmental health, and political scientist Sebastian Elischer ('15).

The Carter Lectures and Conferences again reflected the faculty's research and teaching interests. South Africa continued to be an area of interest, as indicated by the 2006 topic commemorating the centenary of Gwen Carter's birth, "Law, Politics, and Society in South Africa: The Politics of Inequality Then and Now." The strength of our African language program led to the 2009 conference "African Creative Expressions: Mother Tongue and Other Tongues." The wars and violence that seemed so much part of the political landscape led to 2005's "States of Violence: The Conduct of War in Africa." The 2004 Carter Conference on "Movement (R) evolution: Contemporary African Dance" signified the established African performing arts program, while the strengthened African art history program led to the 2007 "African Visual Cultures: Crossing Disciplines, Crossing Regions" in conjunction with UF's hosting of the ACASA Triennial Symposium on African Art at the Harn Museum.

The Center's developing research and teaching focus on environmental and conservation issues led to the 2010 Carter

Conference, "Bridging Conservation and Development in Latin America and Africa: Changing Contexts, Changing Strategies," which was a joint endeavor with the UF Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program and the Center for Latin American Studies. The collaboration among these programs had the previous year led to UF being selected as one of the two US universities to receive a MacArthur Foundation award to establish a master's programs in Sustainable Development Practice (MDPs). The Center's growing involvement with UF's Emerging Pathogens Institute and the Department of Environmental and Global Health provided further cross-fertilization for its concern with environmental and conservation issues.

The tenth director, Abe Goldman, was appointed in 2011 to lead a center with a stable administrative core and a sound funding basis from the university as well as external grants, with continuing Title VI funding but also ongoing faculty grants from USAID, NSF, the Gates Foundation, and NASA among others. The size of the faculty had continued to expand, with 108 Africanist faculty in 41 departments and schools across 13 colleges as well as the library, etc. Academic year instruction was available in seven African languages, and in 2011 the Center launched the externally funded intensive summer African Language Initiative teaching two languages, a number that had expanded to eight by 2016 in the renamed African Flagship Language Initiative. Among the newly appointed faculty were anthropologist Alyson Young ('08) and Terje Østebø in religion ('11).

One of the new research and training directions undertaken by the Center was the development of innovative programs around thematic interdisciplinary



working groups of faculty and students. These groups hosted conferences and speakers and held workshops. For example, the 2012 Carter Conference on "Health and Development in Africa" and the 2015 Conference on "Schools of Architecture and Africa: Connecting Disciplines in Design and Development" both emerged from the relevant working groups.

The University recognized the institutional importance of African Studies in its Preeminence Initiative launched in 2013 to bolster UF's effort to become an international leader in more than two dozen areas, including health, agriculture, computing and education. Preeminent senior positions were allocated to African Studies related disciplines for interdisciplinary work in the general area of "Public Health and Social Change in Africa." The first of the appointments was historian Nancy Hunt ('15), who joins the 105 Africanist faculty members in 45 departments and schools across the university. An additional search is underway in spring 2016, as the search for a new director to join the ongoing administrative team of Leedy, Leslie, and administrative coordinator Ikeade Akinyemi. The Center heads into its third quarter century in an excellent position to continue building expertise, growing capacity, and disseminating knowledge for African Studies at UF, regionally, nationally, and globally in a new era.

Hunt Davis Jr. is professor emeritus of history and a former director of CAS.

FACULTY REPORTS

SHARON ABRAMOWITZ

Improving the Humanitarian Response to the West African Ebola Epidemic

DAVID BLACKBURN

Diversity and Evolution of African Amphibians and Reptiles

STEVEN BRANDT

An Undergraduate Study Abroad Program in Stone Age Archaeology

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Developing Tools and Human Resources for Emergency Care in Africa

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Memory, Memoirs and Theater

LEONARDO VILLALÓN

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

LUISE WHITE

Fighting and Writing: the Rhodesian Army at War and Post-War

IMPROVING THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE WEST AFRICAN EBOLA EPIDEMIC

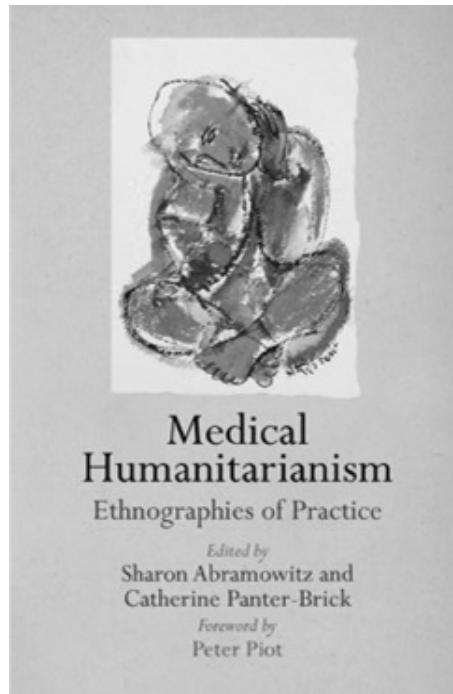
SHARON ABRAMOWITZ

Since establishing the Emergency Ebola Anthropology Initiative in 2014-2015, which brought together international social science experts to inform the Ebola response, Professor Abramowitz has played an important role in bringing together UN, humanitarian, and academic partners to establish a permanent social science platform for humanitarian response. This project is well underway, and she anticipates that the platform will launch in late 2016. For her work advocating for the use of anthropology in the global Ebola response, Abramowitz was awarded the American Anthropological Association Executive Director's Award in 2015.

To directly inform lessons learned from the West African Ebola epidemic, Abramowitz has served in a variety of consulting roles during 2014-2015 with the World Health Organization, Save the Children, and UNICEF. In these activities, Abramowitz has played a leading role advocating for the use of community-based epidemic prevention and response strategies, assessing the contributions of Community Care Center (CCC) models, and for advocating for the prioritization of mental health and psychosocial needs in post-epidemic recovery interventions.

She has also published, or is in the process of publishing, a series of interdisciplinary qualitatively-based Ebola-related research publications in journals like *The Lancet*, *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, *Global Public Health*, *Critical African Studies*, and *Health Communications*. She is also currently leading a collaborative effort to systematically review community-based responses to epidemic and pandemic events.

Abramowitz is the principal investigator of a new University of Florida-based initiative called *The Ebola 100 Project* (www.ebola100project.net). This project, which has partnered with academic, research, and NGO institutions like the American Anthropological Association, the Institute Pasteur, Dalhousie University, the



US Marine Corps, Liberia's Platform for Peace and Dialogue, and the NGO Restless Development aims to collect and publish interviews with humanitarian actors across the Ebola response in order to ascertain humanitarian experiences working in emergency epidemic events in West Africa. Abramowitz took a lead role mentoring 75 undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Florida by providing them with direct research opportunities through the Center for African Studies' Health in African Working Group conducting primary research on both the *The Ebola 100 Project* and the systematic review process.

Abramowitz, with co-editor Catherine Panter Brick at Yale University, also welcomed the publication of her edited volume entitled *Medical Humanitarianism, Ethnographies of Practice* with University of Pennsylvania Press in 2015. This book, along with recent related publications on medical humanitarianism in the journals of *Social Science and Medicine* and *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, seeks to establish a

specific field for medical anthropological and science and technology studies (STS) inquiry into medical humanitarian practice.

Continuing her pre-Ebola research agenda focused on humanitarianism and gender-based violence, Abramowitz is submitting an NSF proposal to comparatively analyze the histories and presents of gender-based violence in Rwanda and Liberia with Jennie Burnet at Georgia State University. The goal of this research is to develop a comparative framework for empirically examining and theorizing how patterns of gender violence and gendered protections are shaped by historical and contemporary conditions in diverse contexts.

Sharon Abramowitz is assistant professor of anthropology & African studies.

DIVERSITY AND EVOLUTION AFRICAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

DAVID BLACKBURN



Our knowledge of the diversity of small animals in Africa is woefully incomplete.

Over the past decade, my research group has conducted field research in multiple African countries, with a special focus around the Congo Basin. Funding from the US National Science Foundation supports much of our fieldwork and investigations of species diversity, evolution, and biogeography. To date, we have described more than a dozen new species of frogs from Cameroon and Nigeria based on our field research. We are especially interested in the evolutionary history of these animals and how their origins and distributions are related to Africa's long history of climatic and geological change.

In December 2015, we described six new species of African clawed frog from West and Central Africa. This work made use of scientific collections made over thirteen years. To differentiate these very similar looking frogs, we integrated information from their internal and external anatomy, genetics, mating calls, and even their parasites. Documenting these species and their respective distributions is important for understanding the complicated evolutionary history of hybridization in this group as well as thinking forward towards conservation management.

The new frontier for our field research is Angola, which covers an important transition zone between southern

and central Africa. While we have made great strides in understanding the diversity and evolution of species in both regions, the area in Angola where these faunas meet and interact remains largely unexplored. Our current funding from the JRS Biodiversity Foundation supports the digitization of scientific collections of amphibians and reptiles from both Angola and Namibia.

We are using these data, which will soon be freely available to the scientific community, to document the baseline of what is known for Angolan species. This knowledge in turn informs our work with the National Institute of Biodiversity and Conservation Areas (INBAC) within Angola's Ministry of Environment. We are working with INBAC to conduct collaborative field surveys during which we are sampling both new and historically important sites. We have conducted several field trips over the past three years, including

to Iona and Cangandala National Parks and the Chimalavera Nature Reserve. We expect to include UF undergraduate and graduate students in upcoming field research in Angola.

Dave Blackburn is associate curator of herpetology in the Florida Museum of Natural History



UF IN ETHIOPIA: AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN STONE AGE ARCHAEOLOGY

STEVE BRANDT

In Spring 2015 UF's Department of Anthropology, Center for African Studies and International Center provided the opportunity for six undergraduates to earn 14 credit hours while participating in ongoing archaeological research in the beautiful highlands of Southwestern Ethiopia. "UF in Ethiopia" offers students the chance to learn archaeological methods at Mochena Borago, a large ~70m wide rock shelter that contains deposits documenting more than 50,000 years of human activities.

Unlike previous field seasons when project personnel were housed at a tented camp on the western slopes of 3000m high Mt. Damota, the 2015 field group commuted 30 minutes each way from the comfortable confines of a hotel in the nearby city of Sodo to Mochena Borago. The undergraduate students worked side by side with professional archaeologists and graduate students from Ethiopia's Wolaita Sodo University, the Ethiopian Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage, Canada's Simon Fraser University and UF in testing a theory that Ethiopia's SW Highlands were a major environmental and cultural refugium for anatomically modern hunter-gatherers during the cold and arid climatic periods of the Late Pleistocene (125-12,000 years ago).

Previous field groups, including archaeologists and geomorphologists from the University of Cologne – our former university partner - focused upon excavating the northern part of the shelter where they exposed ~2m of deposits containing large numbers of obsidian stone artifacts and rare animal bones radiocarbon dated to ~53,000 (the limit of radiocarbon dating) to 36,000 years ago. However, a hard volcanic layer at the bottom of the trenches prevented them from uncovering older deposits necessary for testing the project's refugium theory. Furthermore, some team members thought this hard layer



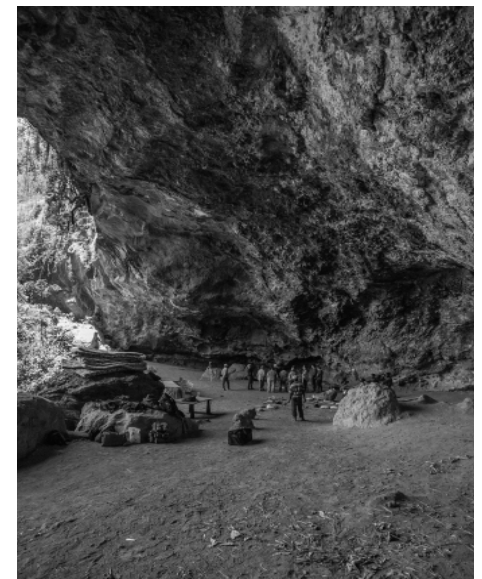
was the shelter's natural bedrock, meaning Mochena Borago could never yield deposits much older than 53,000 years ago.

In 2014 test excavations on the southern side of the shelter, much to our surprise, revealed archaeological deposits older than 50,000 years but without this hard volcanic layer. Therefore the 2015 field season concentrated upon the southern area of the site where team members expanded the 2014 trenches to expose archaeological deposits more than 2m deeper than the 2014 excavations, and therefore considerably older than 50,000 years. In addition to the stone artifacts found the previous season, the 2015 season yielded a broader array of lithic tools, including large tools made of basalt rather than obsidian - apparently the first of their kind from Ethiopia.

The Refugium Theory calls for such an increase in stone artifact variability, but the 2015 sample is too small to make any valid statistical comparisons. Consequently the 2016 "UF in Ethiopia" field season, scheduled for February and March 2016 and including six UF undergraduates, will continue to focus upon the southern area of Mochena Borago. And

if 2015 and previous field seasons are any indicator, the 2016 UF undergraduates will experience one of the greatest adventures of their life, no matter what their excavations may uncover.

Steven Brandt is associate professor of anthropology.



DEVELOPING TOOLS AND HUMAN RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY CARE IN AFRICA

ELIZABETH DeVOS

Medical student funding for this ultrasound phantom project funded by the UF Medical Student Research Program (MSRP). Sub-Saharan Africa faces a disproportionate burden of acute illness and injury and few facilities are appropriately staffed and equipped to provide resuscitation and stabilization in a coordinated manner. While there are challenges in implementation due to lack of consensus on metrics for regionally appropriate evaluation and lack of coordinated advocacy, emergency care is gaining recognition as a means for providing important and efficient secondary prevention and also providing a mechanism to obtain surveillance data necessary to improve primary prevention. Slowly, Ministries of Health, universities, and other organizations are embracing the concept of integrated prioritization and early resuscitation and stabilization of acutely ill and injured patients by specialty trained emergency care practitioners to improve outcomes for all ranges of patients—from medical to surgical to pediatric to obstetric.

In the past year, I have had the fortune to serve as a faculty member for Rwanda's first emergency medicine specialist training program coordinated by the sidHARTe Rwanda (Systems Improvement at District Hospitals and Regional Training for Emergency Care) and the Human Resources for Health programs implemented by Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and Brown University in coordination with the Rwandan Ministry of Health. In addition to providing daily clinical supervision and implementing curriculum for the country's first physicians in training for specialty designation in emergency medicine, I served on committees developing hospital and national policy for the treatment of emergency conditions at the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali and in Rwanda.

Teaching daily in Kigali exposed the need for additional low-cost simulation

materials for teaching procedural skills in Rwanda and other low-resource settings. Specifically, we needed improved models for teaching the use of point of care ultrasound—a low-cost means for rapid assessment of many emergent conditions and also improved ability to provide adequate intravenous access. After returning from Kigali, I worked with Matthew Earle, a UF College of Medicine second-year student, and Dr. Giuliano DePortu, a UF emergency physician with expertise in point of care ultrasound to develop an improved training model for ultrasound guided catheter placement. Our goal was to produce a low-cost model that would allow easy preparation as needed for skills training labs without requiring refrigeration that would also be durable enough to withstand local ambient temperatures and multiple classroom uses. Mr. Earle tested several compounds to improve upon previously described low-cost teaching models utilizing gelatin or perishable components such as deli meat used to simulate human tissue and blood vessels. An agar-agar model was compared to human tissue and gelatin models and evaluated for durability and in various ways for likeness to human tissue utilizing ultrasound in the simulation lab. The optimum model is described in “Agar Ultrasound Phantoms for Low-Cost Training without

Refrigeration,” a manuscript accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the *African Journal of Emergency Medicine*. We look forward to continuing to develop opportunities for UF medical students, residents, fellows and faculty to participate in the development of emergency care for Africa by engaging in research and educational projects to meet such local needs.

The Rwandan Emergency Care Association was established this year, and I continue to serve as a mentor for the country's first professional organization representing physicians, nurses and pre-hospital care providers involved in emergency services. The organization joined the African Federation for emergency Medicine this summer and looks forward to developing services for Rwandan practitioners and others in the region. RECA anticipates their first continuing education congress in 2016. I continue to actively participate in the educational endeavors of the African Federation for Emergency Medicine and the Rwandan Emergency Care Association.

Elizabeth DeVos is assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine. She is also director of international emergency medicine education as well as director of international education programs for the College of Medicine.



INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS AND STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY IN THE SAHEL

SEBASTIAN ELISCHER



More often than not African states are described as too weak to influence the daily affairs of their citizens. However, in recent years a variety of political scientists has successfully shown that weak statehood does not stand in the way of providing specific state functions. My project builds on these recent findings. It examines how particularly weak African states try to influence the religious practices of their citizens. The project traces the emergence and path-dependence of institutions that regulate access to Friday prayer mosques in Mauritania, Niger, Mali and Chad between independence and today. All four are francophone Muslim countries and all four display a weak aggregate level of statehood. The project is particularly interested in the relationship between the state and Salafi communities, i.e. whether and how Sahel states have regulated access to their religious sphere.

I spent the last two years conducting extensive field research in all four countries. During these stays I conducted archival research in conjunction with semi-structured interviews of Salafi and

Sufi clerics, high-ranking civil servants, Sahel politicians and academics in all four countries. This has provided me with new and unique findings into the diverse political dynamics of an understudied African sub-region.

At this stage there are several important interim findings, which I have published in a recent issue of *African Affairs* and which I hope to publish in a number of follow-up articles over the coming months. First, I find a number of Sahel states – Niger and Chad – restrict access to their Friday prayer mosques with the help of informal procedures. Between independence and the early 1990s Sahel governments created national Islamic associations and provided them with the informal mandate to confine the building of Friday prayer mosques to the Sufi brotherhoods. The liberalization of Africa's political landscape led to a readjustment of these regulations. The construction of Salafi Friday prayer mosques is now tied to a number of informal criteria. Second, informal religious control emerges in weak states in which political and religious elites have a vested interest in controlling the religious sphere. As Sahel populations are among the most religious societies on Earth, any kind of state intervention in religious life is likely

to provoke tensions. Informal institutions are inconspicuous and as such difficult to detect. Third, informal religious control has a visible effect on the modus operandi of Sahel communities. In countries without regulatory mechanism (Mali and Mauritania) some domestic Salafi communities got involved in party politics and turned into powerful political actors. Other domestic groups referred to violence to promote their doctrinal goals. In countries with regulatory mechanisms (Niger and Chad) domestic Salafi groups remained politically inactive and refrained from jihadi violence.

In the summer of 2016 I intend to conduct additional field research in Kenya and Uganda. These two countries serve as important contrasting cases. Both are Anglophone Muslim minority countries and will provide additional insights under which conditions weak states try and manage Salafi activity.

Sebastian Elischer is assistant professor of political science. Funding for this research provided by the Gerda Henkel Foundation and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



ASSEMBLING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

DAVID FOSTER



Defining the arrangement of continents through time and the processes that brought disparate subcontinents and island chains together is essential not only to understand the history of planet Earth, but also the evolution of complex life, past climates and non-renewable resource occurrence. Like all other continents, Africa was sutured together by tectonic plate collisions of older separate continents, a process that is similar to the current collision of the Indian subcontinent with Asia. Continental collisions that formed Africa also formed the supercontinent of Gondwana encompassing Africa about 500 million years ago. At that time, the suture zones were the locations of mountain ranges that rivaled the Alpine-Himalayan chain today. Remnants of these ancient mountain ranges cross Africa in roughly north-south and east-west trending belts where their deeply eroded roots are

discerned. In some places the mountain roots are strikingly obvious in the landscape because the faults within them control the locations of modern faults, such as those that bound the Rift Valley.

One of the ancient suture zones, known as the Damara belt is located in northern Namibia. Rock structures within this belt are exceptionally well preserved and exposed in the Namib Desert. Our research in Namibia is focused on studying the Damara belt to better understand the plate tectonic processes that assembled southern Africa at the center of the Gondwana supercontinent.

In the field we measure the orientations of the folds and faults that formed during deformation of the rock layers before and during continental collisions. This allows us to reconstruct past tectonic stress fields that resulted from plates moving relative to one another, either orthogonally or at some oblique angle. In

the lab, measuring the chemical compositions of minerals formed in the rocks when they were deep within earth tell us pressures and temperatures experienced by deformed rocks during mountain building episodes. We also measure the uranium and lead isotopes of the mineral zircon in crystallized magmas and recrystallized solid rocks to determine when they were hot and when they deformed. This “forensic” information allows us to reconstruct the history of mountain building in different areas of the Damara belt, and subsequently determine the sequence of collisions between southern Africa (the Kalahari continent), central Africa (Congo continent) and southern South America (Rio de la Plata continent).

Zircon grains in sedimentary rocks of the Damara belt allow us to trace the provenance of detritus that originally formed the rocks that were caught up and deformed between the subcontinents. By measuring the ages and compositions of many zircons throughout the Damara belt we gain clues to answer other questions including if the Congo continent was ever near the Kalahari continent before Gondwana formed. The combination of these approaches is providing us with information on a larger scale about the Earth’s supercontinent tectonic cycles.

Our research was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Australian Research Council. A new NSF proposal is currently in review to continue the research for three years. Our previous research teams have included scientists and students from the University of Namibia, researchers from Australia and Germany, and graduate and undergraduate students from UF. If our proposal is funded, the research team will include new collaborators from Utah State and Montana State Universities and provide graduate and undergraduate research projects.

David Foster is professor of geological sciences.

STUCK IN TRANSIT: NARRATIVES OF YOUNG SENEGALESE EMIGRANTS EN ROUTE TO EUROPE

ABDOULAYE KANE



My research is concerned with the different ways the mobility of the poor is restricted by a global migration that focusses on securitization, allowing western governments to engage on violations of human rights of migrants.

As a result, these immigration and border control policies are responsible in both increasing the risks and costs of crossing European borders, creating a very lucrative market for smugglers and traffickers.

The research examines how the change in global migration over the past three decades combined with both the externalization of European borders and the continuing outsourcing of border control to transit and sending countries has resulted in a continuous migration crisis in both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The first major crisis happened in 2005-06 with the rush to Spain by young Africans using traditional boats to the Canary Islands. The

large number of clandestine migrants arriving in the Canary Islands combined with the dramatic images of dead bodies floating in the Atlantic or washing off the African Coast attracted the attention of the western media for a long period of time.

The same amount of attention is also given to the experience of risky border crossing from North African countries to Italy with its records of death in the Mediterranean Sea described by some as a “liquid cemetery.” Less discussed is the experience of thousands of young Africans in countries of transit and their hope and fear of crossing borders, their countless stories of harsh conditions of travel and of life in transit countries like Morocco, and Turkey and Greece. My research focusses on the narrative of travel and failed and/or successful border crossings by young Senegalese emigrants and the prospect of staying, continuing, and returning. Although

we include cases of both successful crossing and hopeless return to home, we are mainly interested in the extended life experience of the young Senegalese in places where they were envisioning staying only temporarily.

Abdoulaye Kane is associate professor of anthropology and African studies.

RACING ON THE RAND: A HISTORY OF TOWNSHIP CYCLING IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1920-60

TODD H. LEEDY

The past decade has seen both a rise in the prominence of professional bicycle racing within South Africa as well as a newfound awareness of South African riders among international road racing fans. Beginning with the corporate sponsored Barloworld Team to Darryl Impey's donning of the Tour de France yellow jersey (first ever South African rider) to the most recent excitement over the success of MTN-Qubheka team (comprised of South African, African, and European professionals), South Africa is now well known in the global road racing community. The mountain biking world had SA in its sights for somewhat longer, with perhaps the world's toughest mountain bike stage race (ABSA Cape Epic) and a number of other multi-day races drawing international racers for many years. So are the first 15 years of the 21st century poised to become the beginning of a 'golden age' of bicycle racing in South Africa? Quite possibly if sponsorship and participation maintain current trajectories. Much less is known however, either in South Africa - and certainly beyond - of how its modern bicycle racing scene reached this stage.

The little historical writing to date on earlier eras of bicycle racing in South Africa remains a monotone affair: it is entirely focused upon white racers, their clubs, and their events. From Laurens Meintjes (world champion in 1893) to the expansion of road racing in South Africa during the post-WWII decades, with only a few exceptions African racers simply do not feature in the narrative. Yet by the early 1950s major corporate mining operations included bicycle racing among their sponsored leisure activities for mineworkers and several even funded construction of racing tracks. In the 1970s, African riders, and indeed complete teams, competed at some of the largest racing events in South Africa despite the restrictions imposed by apartheid legislation. The popularity of track racing even



led municipal authorities to construct a velodrome in Soweto.

However, in brief accounts where they do feature, both the pool of talented racers and the many urban Africans who enthusiastically followed the sport seem to emerge fully formed on the scene. But in no sport do athletes reach a national or international level of competitiveness in such a short period. Nor does the sporting public immediately offer demonstrable widespread support. This project argues that bicycle racing among urban African populations already commanded widespread attention by the early 1930s, and indeed in some areas as early as the immediately post-WWI years. Materials from a number of key newspapers and magazines already allows tracing a number of elements: the types of racing events and venues for African riders; the emergence of separate teams/clubs and, consequently, sport governing bodies; the small business and corporate marketing of cycling equipment and accessories; the use of cycling images to advertise non-cycling consumer products; and role of bicycle racing in state/municipal efforts at social engineering

through sport in urban locations. Together, these streams of analysis point to an earlier 'golden age' of bicycle racing in South Africa, one organized or supported by entirely African participants, and one that existed largely outside the purview of both the white cycling community and the broader white sporting public.

At present, there is absolutely no published academic literature on the history of bicycle racing in South Africa, or for that matter, on the continent more broadly. Yet racing lies at the intersection of three broad historical fields: sport/leisure, urban, and labor. A nuanced historical treatment will reveal how individuals and communities created vibrant social spaces around sport during decades of intensifying segregation and apartheid. The study will likewise illustrate the ways in which municipal authorities as well as mining companies sought to utilize this sport for purposes of control and productivity.

Todd Leedy is senior lecturer and associate director of the Center for African Studies.

THE IMPACT OF FEMALE MPs ON THE ZAMBIAN PARLIAMENT

AGNES LESLIE



This past summer I embarked on a new three-year research project on Women and Policymaking in Zambia, funded by a Fulbright Fellowship. I am studying the Zambian female members of parliament's participation in policymaking and their impact on parliament. The research is divided into three phases. In the first phase I am researching the participation of the female MPs in the current session. I have interviewed female MPs to find out how they participate and how they are perceived by other MPs. At present there are 24 women out of 157, representing 13.9 percent of the Zambian parliament. Zambia is one of the countries, which does not have a quota system, which accounts for fewer women in parliament and makes it more challenging to increase their number in parliament. The country will have its general election next year. The second phase of the research will be to study women's preparation and participation in the election, and their campaigns and performance during the election year. The objective is to study and compare women's challenges in campaigning to their male counterparts. This will include financial, social and cultural challenges, and how they

impact female candidates. In the third year I plan to study how female MPs are trained in policymaking after they are elected.

Last summer I interviewed some members of parliament to find out their challenges and successes in the current parliamentary session. These included the Minister of Gender and Child Development, Hon. Professor Nkandu Luo; Minister of Tourism and Arts, Hon. Jean Kapata; and the Chair for the Committee on Legal Affairs, Governance, Human Rights, Gender Matters and Child Affairs, Hon. Jacob Jack Mwiimbi. All the MPs interviewed shared that female MPs face tougher challenges when campaigning and fundraising. Prof. Luo who is popular in her constituency said that she has found that what works against her is her high level of education. A former University of Zambia professor of microbiology and immunology, she said she sometimes draws negative attitudes from both men and women because she is very assertive in the way she likes to get things done and dresses, for which she stated: "I do not apologize." In a previous parliamentary session, she was asked to leave the chambers because some male members said her

dress was "too short." She said although such attitudes may persist she enjoys overwhelming support in her constituency. Hon. Jean Kapata reported that one of the major challenges women face when they participate in politics is campaign financing. Hon. Mweetwa asserted that without a quota system Zambia will continue to lag behind in having more female MPs due to the financial and social and cultural challenges they face.

One of the highlights of the current session was the bill on gender equity and equality. It is one of the major bills that are intended to improve gender relations and gender policies in the country

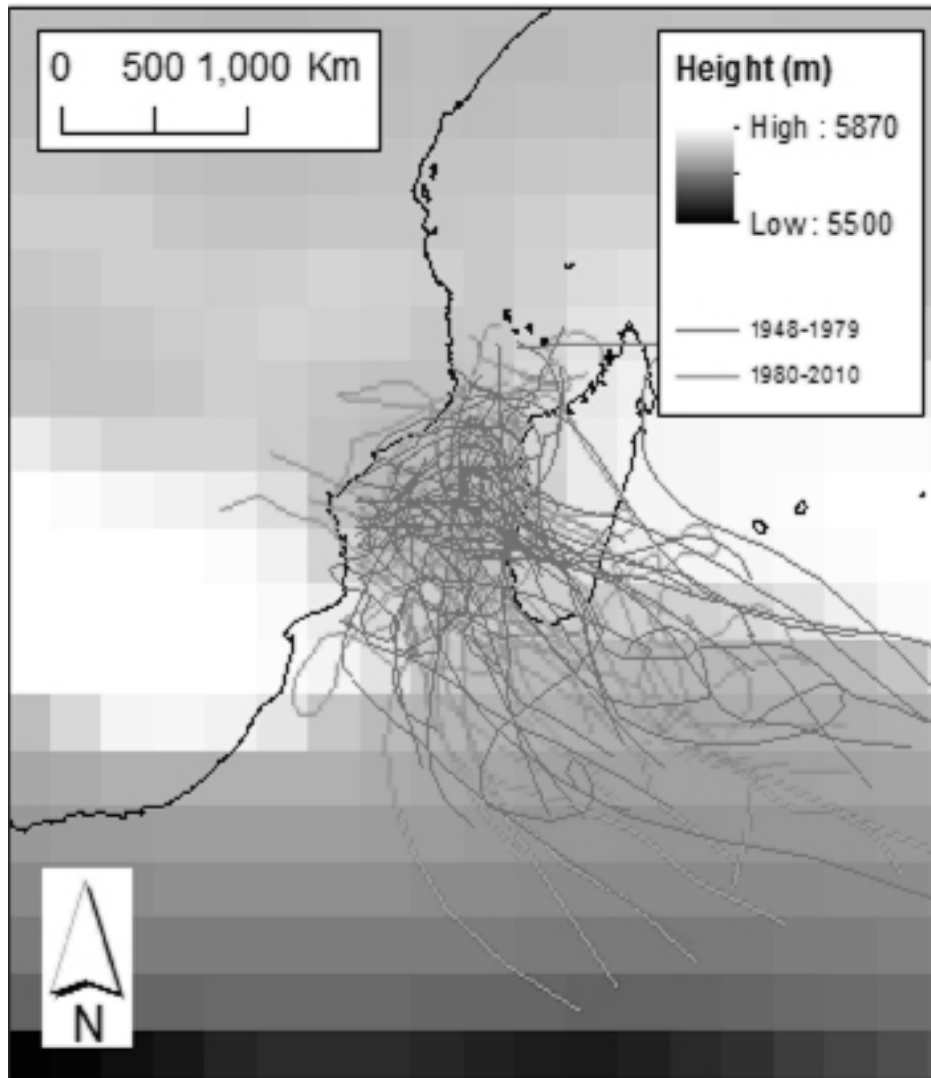
I also spent time researching the activities of the organizations that work with women to assist in increasing their numbers in elected office. The Zambia Women's Lobby Group is the main organization that trains and works with women to get them elected in local and national positions such as councilors and members of parliament.

The other objective of my project is to engage the faculty and students in the University of Zambia's gender department in monitoring the activities of female candidates for government office. I held a workshop with young Zambians from various organizations to discuss the status of women and to encourage and broaden the exchange between academics, activists and female politicians.

Agnes Ngoma Leslie is a senior lecturer and outreach director of the Center for African Studies. Her research is funded by a Fulbright Fellowship.

TROPICAL CYCLONES IN THE MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL AND RAINFALL PATTERNS OVER MOZAMBIQUE

CORENE MATYAS



In January 2015, my research on tropical cyclone formation and motion in the Mozambique Channel 1948-2010 was published in the *International Journal of Climatology*. Results show that 94 tropical cyclones formed in the channel, with approximately 50% making landfall. Formation frequency varied under different phases of the three atmospheric teleconnections: Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), Southern Annular Mode (SAM), and

Indian Ocean Subtropical Dipole (IOSD). Findings differed when the study period was divided into half, suggesting that inclusion of data prior to 1979 be interpreted cautiously. During the second period, formation tended to occur in the northern (southern) portion of the channel when the IOSD and SAM were negative (positive). The MJO and SAM were associated with differences in atmospheric moisture, while the MJO and IOSD were associated with track curvature. The El Niño Southern

Oscillation had the largest effect on mid-troposphere pressure patterns that help steer tropical cyclones. Landfall occurred most frequently when the MJO helped provide the vorticity necessary to generate a disturbance. These relationships can be useful for forecasting tropical cyclone formation and landfall probabilities for Mozambique and Madagascar for storms forming within the channel.

A paper just published in *Applied Geography* by Julie Silva (University of Maryland), myself, and Benedito Cunguara (Michigan State University) explores how rainfall variability and extreme rainfall events may be related to changes in income for rural subsistence farmers across Mozambique. We examined rainfall patterns, agriculture, and income occurring between national surveys of socio-economic data in 2005 and 2008. We utilized rainfall estimates detected by the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission and other satellites to develop a 16-year monthly rainfall climatology and determined the percentage of normal rainfall received at each of 665 villages in each study month of the growing season. We sectioned Mozambique into eight rainfall regions based on being impacted by tropical cyclones, floods from non-tropical cyclone rainfall, rainfall deficits, and the receipt of relatively normal rainfall. We then related these weather patterns to changes in inequality and polarization. Contrary to generally accepted view that weather shocks exacerbate existing income and power disparities within societies, we find evidence that inequality and polarization can decline in the aftermath of an extreme event, and increase even where the weather is relatively good.

Corene Matyas is associate professor of geography. These projects are funded by grants from the National Science Foundation.

CONSERVING WILDLIFE IN THE RAPIDLY CHANGING LANDSCAPES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

ROBERT McCLEERY

I have been working to conserve wildlife in Southern Africa since 1994 when I served as an ecologist in Swaziland for the United States Peace Corps. Currently, I have three major research efforts in the region that are all focused on areas of high endemism and rapid human growth (biological hotspots). Along with four of my PhD students we are working with group of colleagues from the University of Swaziland, the University of Venda, the Organization for Tropical Studies and UF to improve our understanding of how land-use changes (agriculture, settlement, urbanization, etc.) alter wildlife communities and ultimately impact human wellbeing. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this National Science Foundation funded research aims to understand: 1) what are the drivers of land-use changes; 2) how does land-use change influence biodiversity; 3) how do changes in biodiversity alter ecosystem services (e.g. pollination, pest control, disease resistance, seed dispersal); and 4) what is relationship between human well-being and ecosystem services. This work is critically important to developing regions of the world where landscapes are rapidly altered without an understanding of the actual consequences.

We are also working to address an apparent African elephant conservation paradox in southern Africa. The conservation of elephants is essential for the health and functioning of savannas, but successful conservation and protection of elephants can lead to declines in the health and functioning of African savannas. This paradox has led to a contentious debate on the best way to manage African elephants that are declining in some regions of Africa and locally over abundant in others. Africa's savanna elephants are well studied but ecological data are rarely used to shape policies for their management and conservation. We are collecting data to understand how different level of elephant activity change the



biodiversity and ecosystem functions within the savanna system. Our goal is to use this work to create a consensus among ecologists and to insure ecological data is used to find the proper balance between elephant populations and the health of diminishing African savannas. Our research will be used to help inform the management of elephants in Kruger Park and Swaziland.

In Swaziland we have placed a considerable amount of time and effort into establishing a research and monitoring program throughout protected areas in the Kingdom. These protected areas are some of the last refuges for endemic wildlife and plants found throughout the region. Working with a local NGO (All Out Africa, Inc.), we developed a research and monitoring plan that allows Swazi researchers and land managers to detect changes in the plant and animal communities as they respond to pressure from development, poaching, climate change and different management practices.

Finally, we are working to understand what causes the outbreaks of human diseases that are harbored in wild animals in some areas of Africa but not others. Some of the world's deadliest diseases and greatest global health challenges include bat-hosted viruses in the family Filoviridae, such as Ebola (*Ebolavirus* spp.) and Marburg (*Marburg marburgvirus*). There is an urgent need to understand what conditions lead to the "spill-over" of these bat-hosted pathogens to human populations and where these events are likely to occur in the future. The bat species that host these filoviruses have large geographic distributions, but spill-over does not occur evenly throughout their ranges. Biodiversity, human population density, and anthropogenic disturbance are broadly considered the primary drivers of zoonotic spill-over events, yet the influence of these factors has not been tested for filoviruses across regions of recent outbreaks. Along with my graduate student we are making good progress toward identifying understand which factors have the greatest influence on these spillover events

Bob McCleery is associate professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Funding for these projects provided by the National Science Foundation, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Bat Conservation International, the Ford Foundation, and the Rutherford Foundation.

GOING BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN GHANA

BARBARA McDADE GORDON

I want to thank the Center for African Studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for partial funding to attend the First Biennial Conference of the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, October 13-17.

Scholars from throughout the African Continent, Europe, the United Kingdom, the Americas, Caribbean, and Asia attended the first ever event. The opening ceremony featured several keynote speakers: former Nigerian president Olusugun Obasanjo, renowned geographer Akin Mabogunje, ASAA president Lungisile Ntsebeza (University of Cape Town), and professor Toyin Falola (University of Texas-Austin).

On the panel, “African Diaspora,” I presented the results of empirical research conducted in Ghana during my sabbatical last year. The paper was entitled, “Going Back to the Future: The African Diaspora in Ghana.” The research looks at the experiences of members of the African Diaspora who express the feeling of “returning” to Africa although most had never been to the Continent. A common theme was that moving to Africa connected them with a historical/cultural past which was

denied them through the experience of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. It is estimated that 3,000 residents from North America and the Caribbean live in Ghana. My field work included interviews with respondents from the U.S., Canada, Trinidad, and Jamaica who moved to Ghana permanently. They ranged in age from 21 to over 60, and have lived in Ghana from 6 months to over 30 years. Most had favorable experiences although they cautioned that Diasporans considering immigrating to Africa should inform themselves and prepare to adjust to differences in cultures and living conditions. Most reported that they felt their quality of life was the same or better than in their origin countries. I plan to expand my research to include Diasporans in Ghana from regions other than the Americas; and, eventually, to those living in other African countries.

Barbara McDade Gordon is associate professor of geography.

ASAA
AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA (ASAA)

Theme:
AFRICAN STUDIES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: Past, Present & Future

Conference Dates:			
Opening Ceremony	Plenary Session	Parallel Session	Visit to OOOPL/Departure
14/10/15	15/10/15	16/10/15	17/10/15

Venue: **UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN**, Ibadan, Nigeria
Time: **10:00am**

Chairman
PROF. AKIN MABOGUNJE, CDR, CFR, MNOM

Keynote Speaker I
HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, OCFR
Former President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Keynote Speaker II
PROF. TOYIN FALOLA, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Austin, USA

ASAA President
PROF. LUNGISILE NTSEBEZA
University of Cape Town, South Africa

OPENING CEREMONY/PLENARY SESSION	PARALLEL SESSION
Venue: International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan Date: Wed, 14th October, 2015 Time: 10:00am	Venue: Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan Date: 14th-16th October, 2015 Time: 9:00am-6:00p

Host
Professor Dele Layiwola, Ph.D.
Director, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan

Chief Host
Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole, M.Ed. & Ph.D.
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.



DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE, LOCALLY TAILORED, GENDERED CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES

SARAH MCKUNE



Climate information services (CIS) have been shown to improve households' abilities to mitigate the negative impact of climate change through effective adaptation. Despite the fact that over 50% of the world's farmers are women and overwhelming research showing the value of CIS, women and other vulnerable populations often do not receive appropriate CIS. As part of a broader project to effectively integrate gender into programs that address the impact of climate change on food security around the world, Sarah McKune

has worked with Sandra Russo (UF) and Jim Hansen (Columbia University) since 2012 to lead an interdisciplinary team investigating how gender impacts the efficacy of CIS. With associated research in four countries (India, Nepal, Kenya, and Senegal), the UF team, including numerous graduate students, has worked in Senegal to investigate how consideration of gender within CIS may change what information is delivered, to whom, and by what mechanism, and consequently, what innovative gendered approaches

look like in that specific context.

In 2014–2015 the team's research in Kenya and Senegal reinforced the understanding that communities receiving CIS are changing their on-farm practices to incorporate the use of climate smart agricultural practices (CSA) and investigated the effect of these changes on food security. Research also sought to understand how empowerment, as locally constructed, may be affecting food security, via its impact on receipt of climate information services. The results indicate that programs to support CIS improved farmer uptake of CSA, and appeared to improve household food security. The findings also underscored the need for locally tailored gendered CIS, so in the summer of 2015, the team conducted a feasibility study in Senegal to investigate the use of health clinics and health care workers as effective sources and channels of climate information designed to target women. The results indicated that health care workers and health clinics were settings where women typically seek information and trust the source. The team is currently working with the National Meteorological Organization in Senegal (ANACIM) to investigate the effectiveness of rural radios in disseminating CIS and plans to explore how best to couple rural radio usage with the use of health care workers and clinics to improve women's uptake of CIS.

Sarah McKune is the director of public health programs in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. She has received funding through the CGIAR's research program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security to support this research since 2012.

ISLAM AND POLITICS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND BEYOND

TERJE ØSTEBØ



Due to my new role as the director of the Center for Global Islamic Studies, my time to do research has been somewhat limited. Much of my research in 2015 has been devoted to parallel projects, all dealing with religion and politics in the context of Ethiopia. While this is a continuation of my interest in Islam in the Horn of Africa, it has moved in the direction of investigating Islamic reformist views on democracy, secularism and the role of religion in the public. Obviously, this also includes looking at how the state has reacted and acted in relation to this. The major project has been looking at representation of the Muslim Brotherhood in Ethiopia. While the movement has no concrete and formal presence in the country, it is present through individuals and groups of individuals attracted to the Muslim Brotherhood's ideas, becoming crucial for what I have called a "Muslim Politics of Recognition." This research has been carried out through my engagement in the International Law and Policy Institute (Oslo, Norway), and funded by Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre. The

outcome of the project so far been a report and a brief – posted online – while two journal submitted for publication/being in the making. Parallel to this, I have finalized a research project on African Salafism, surveying both common trends and local variations for Salafi movements and groups across the continent. In particular, the focuses here have been on the issue of ritual purity and piety within Salafi religious reform, and what I call "The Politicization or Religious Purity." This project is in relation to my role as a guest editor for a special issue on Salafism in Africa for the journal *Islamic Africa*. Lastly, I have worked on the relationship between religious and ethnic identities in the context of the Horn of Africa. I have through this research project tried to forward new conceptual approaches on how to understand the formation, maintenance, and power of such identities. This will appear as part of the Wiley-Blackwell *Companion to Material Religion* (2015).

In addition to this, I have been actively engaged in policy-advising for entities such as the US Department of State, the US Embassy in Addis Ababa, and the

EU Mission to Ethiopia. I have in 2015 published a report and a brief, a piece for *The Horn of Africa Bulletin*, and a journal article in *Islamic Africa*.

Terje Østebø is associate professor of religion and African Studies as well as director of the Center for Global Islamic Studies.



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL CHANGE ON EAST AFRICA'S SAVANNA ECOSYSTEMS

TODD PALMER



As the “birthplace” of humankind, the East African landscape almost universally touches a chord within the human heart.

Vast savannas, expansive skies and plains teeming with primordial herds captivate the attention, inspire the mind and intimate a sense of connectedness with our ancient origins. Unfortunately, like many of the world’s wild areas, these extraordinary landscapes are increasingly imperiled. Human activities are rapidly transforming East Africa’s wild areas, and work in our lab is focused on understanding the consequences of these changes for ecological communities and processes.

Our research is staged in Laikipia, Kenya, and currently encompasses three broad themes – the consequences of large mammal declines and extinctions for African rangelands, the impact of biological invasions on savanna communities, and the ecology and evolution of cooperative interactions among species—called “mutualisms”—and the consequences of their disruption. In this report we discuss our work on the effects of mammal extinction

on African savannas; we’ll be back in future years to talk more about the other two research themes.

In contemporary time, thousands of species have gone extinct and tens of thousands of local populations have been extirpated as a consequence of human activities. Although we sometimes possess detailed knowledge about their causes, we know much less about the consequences of these extinctions for ecological systems. Even in cases where extinctions result from the targeting of particular species (e.g., through trophy hunting), the effects of these extinctions can reverberate through food webs, yielding surprising consequences for community structure and ecosystem function.

At the Mpala Research Centre in central Kenya, our work centers on a long-term experiment, established in 2008 by Jake Goheen, Rob Pringle and Todd Palmer. Dubbed UHURU, for “Ungulate Herbivory Under Rainfall Uncertainty,” the experiment comprises four treatments, each applied to nine replicate 1-ha plots. The treatments exclude successively smaller-bodied subsets

of the large-herbivore fauna using electrified fencing, thereby simulating a process of size-biased extinction. Megaherbivore-exclusion fences exclude only elephants and giraffes; mesoherbivore-exclusion fences exclude all species larger than ~40kg (including eight species of bovids and equids, along with elephants and giraffes); total-exclusion fences exclude all herbivores larger than ~5kg (the diminutive dik-dik, along with all larger species). For comparison with these fenced plots, we have a set of unfenced control plots that is accessible to all species. The 36 total plots are distributed across a natural rainfall gradient, enabling us to study how the strength and direction of herbivores’ effects depend on climate; similarly, the longitudinal dataset from this experiment will enable us to assess the impacts of droughts and other environmental fluctuations.

From these studies, we have learned (among other things) that herbivores of different sizes play important and complementary functional roles in controlling invasive woody shrubs; that climatic stress (and drought in particular) mediates the strength of herbivore impacts on plant populations; and that large carnivores like leopards and African wild dogs make savanna tree communities less thorny by altering the foraging patterns of impala. Ongoing projects include research by M.Sc. student Travis Guy, who has been investigating how the loss of large mammals indirectly influences communities of pollinators by affecting the composition and abundance of flowering plants. University of Florida undergraduate students have also participated in this research during Summer A session through the “Field Ecology in Africa” program, run through the UF International Center and directed by Todd Palmer.

Todd Palmer is associate professor of

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS AND INCREASING CAPACITY IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE DYNAMICS

JULIET PULLIAM



Mathematics and simulation are essential tools in infectious disease control, enabling decision-makers to explore control policies before implementing them, interpret trends, and predict emerging threats. The ICI3D Program, a collaboration between the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute and the South African Centre for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (SACEMA), provides intensive training in these methods to students and researchers from the US and Africa and aims to cultivate an international network of researchers from diverse backgrounds. The program comprises two distinct but overlapping International Clinics on Infectious Disease Dynamics and Data and a complementary research scholars exchange program.

The Clinic on the Meaningful Modeling of Epidemiological Data (MMED), held at the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences in South Africa, targets quantitative scientists, including mathematicians, statisticians, and infectious disease epidemiologists. Participants engage with meaningful questions about infectious disease dynamics by integrating mathematical models with epidemiological data. Participants learn to use data to inform the construction of the simplest or clearest models appropriate to answer a given question, rather than on the development of complex mathematical models unrelated to data.

The Clinic on Dynamic Approaches to Infectious Disease Data (DAIDD), hosted by the University of Florida, targets public health researchers and population biologists interested in studying infectious diseases. Instruction focuses on how the complex dynamics of pathogen transmission influence study design and data collection for addressing problems in infectious disease research. Participants develop written research proposals for their systems of interest and receive guidance in seeking out the resources necessary for carrying out their proposed research.

The International Disease Dynamics and Data Research Scholars Program (I3D) funds scholars to spend 6 weeks working on an approved research project at the ICI3D faculty member's home institution. The exchange program allows I3D scholars from Africa to work with ICI3D faculty at North American institutions and American I3D scholars to work with ICI3D faculty at African institutions.

Since the ICI3D program's inception in 2012, the MMED and DAIDD clinics have provided training to 126 participants, 111 based at African institutions and 64 from US institutions. During this time, 17 UF participants from 10 departments and degree programs have attended the MMED and/or DAIDD clinics. In addition, a total of six I3D Scholars from the US, Uganda, Swaziland, Tanzania have completed research exchanges.

Three I3D Scholars completed their exchanges since the last report. Welile Sikhondze, an MS student in the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town, was supervised by Dr. Travis Porco, an ICI3D faculty member based at the University of California – San Francisco

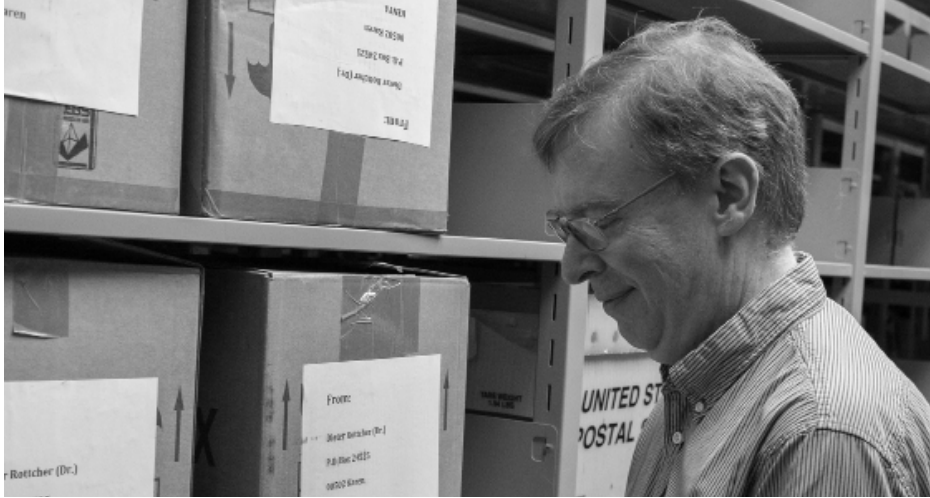
(UCSF). Welile completed a project focused on modeling the impact of novel diagnostic methods on tuberculosis incidence. Roger Ying, a researcher at UNAIDS in Geneva, Switzerland, was supervised by Brian Williams of SACEMA. Roger completed a project developing improved modeling tools for use by public health officials to inform decision-making for HIV-related policies. Joseph Nondi, a researcher at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in the United Republic of Tanzania, was supervised by Dr. Jonathan Dushoff of McMaster University. Joseph completed a project focused on care and treatment of pediatric HIV in Tanzania.

The fourth annual DAIDD clinic was held in December 2015, and the seventh annual MMED clinic will be held in Cape Town in June 2016. More information on the ICI3D Program, including application information for the MMED and DAIDD clinics, is available at <http://www.ici3d.org>.

Juliet Pulliam is assistant professor in the Department of Biology and Emerging Pathogens Institute and the director of the ICI3D Program. The ICI3D Program is supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health.

ORIGINS OF COLLECTING AFRICAN STUDIES AT THE UF GEORGE A. SMATHERS LIBRARIES

DANIEL REBOUSSIN



This summer I undertook primary research in the University Archives investigating the history of UF's African Studies collections with the goal of learning more about UF Libraries' participation in the Farmington Plan. My predecessor Peter Malanchuk recalled that UF collected Sierra Leone publications under this 1954 federal Public Law 480 "Food for Peace" program, but he didn't know why the Libraries had selected this small West African country. Reading published works along with original and digitized manuscripts, I conducted interviews with retired librarians and former CAS directors. This work uncovered details of the origin of African Studies library collecting at UF, giving a better appreciation of the diverse collections under my curation.

Formal UF ties to the Caribbean date from 1930, preceding institutional interest in Africa. Stanley West (Library Director, 1946-1967) traveled frequently in the Caribbean and chaired the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Farmington Plan Sub-Committee on Latin America. In 1960, he responded to an "African Interest Questionnaire" from the ARL Joint Committee on African Resources, stating UF interest was "an extension of our Caribbean program." One archival

document shows he sent this form to a Jamaican librarian, who completed it for him! Despite repeatedly expressing interest to the ARL Farmington legacy committee, the Libraries showed slight success in collecting Sierra Leonean materials. West complained to the Graduate Dean in 1964: "it is so hard to establish any permanent relationships with the book stores and government agencies in these countries."

Even before moving to Gainesville in 1905, many Caribbean students studied at Florida's Land Grant agricultural college because both regions share similar environmental challenges. Florida's economy depends on supporting the agricultural production of African species (ninety percent of the state's pasture grasses come from Africa, for example) while mitigating diseases and exotic invasive pests originating on the continent. Today, both the Latin American and African National Resource Centers (NRCs) emphasize UF's unique strengths in tropical life sciences. Interdisciplinary tropical conservation and development programs grew out of projects in the Amazon, but have since supported extensive collaboration across both Latin America and Africa. The Libraries provide access to interdisciplinary research publications relating to both regions, with

extensive manuscript collections documenting over 80 years of wildlife conservation programs in Africa.

Director West's complaint may have been well timed. That year political science professor Manning J. Dauer, along with faculty including Irving R. Wershow (a linguist with federal government experience who later served as CAS director) successfully proposed African Studies NRC funding from the federal Title VI program. Just one year earlier, the Libraries hired Barry C. Bloomfield, a librarian at the London School of Economics who later headed Asian Studies collections at the School of Oriental and African Studies, India Office Library and Records (now at the UK National Archives), and British Library. Emeritus Social Sciences Bibliographer Ray Jones recalls Bloomfield bringing new levels of collecting knowledge to the Libraries, supported by Dr. Margaret Goggin, then head of Public Services (later acting Director of Libraries, 1967-1968), along with bookstore owner Irving Kallman, both of whom had extensive experience collecting foreign materials. Former CAS Director Hunt Davis notes that Dauer's powerful support was a key early component in the Center's success, helping to garner library resources that faculty and students needed to pursue excellent teaching, learning, and research in African Studies.

Daniel Reboussin is African studies curator at the George A. Smathers Libraries. African studies library acquisitions are supported by the CAS Title VI grant in collaboration with UF Libraries.

DOCUMENTATION OF TWO WEST AFRICAN ATLANTIC LANGUAGES

FRANK SEIDEL

Starting in 2010 I started out to document the Guinean language Nalu as a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for African Studies, funded by the Endangered Languages Documentation Project (ELDP) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. When the project finished in 2012, I was able to secure a second documentation project for Baga Mandori, a neighbouring Mel language. Thus I was able to continue my research activities at the Center for African Studies as a Visiting Research Fellow, thanks to the generous funding of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Readers of previous reports will know that the two projects I led focused on the production of annotated audio-visual language data. These data are made available in form of language archives which are hosted at the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR) at SOAS. Local versions of these archives will be made available at the University of Florida Languages Archive

(TUFLA). It is my conviction that these language data will be highly valuable to future linguists as it widens our worldwide pool of language data. Reliable data on the world's languages is, in contrast to the abundance of highly elaborate language models of purported general relevance, quite scarce. In fact, research on Baga Mandori already calls the principle of phonology free syntax further into question. I have also collaborated with Guillaume Segerer, from the Centre National de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Paris to include the dictionaries of these two languages into his digital reference lexicon RefLex.

Apart from the linguistic outcomes several ethnographic documentary films emerged out of the work on Nalu. Some of these films have been shown at ethnographic film festivals and international conferences. Martin Gruber (University of Bremen, Germany), the ethnographic filmmaker with whom I collaborated on these films, and myself are currently working on producing an English festival version

of another one of these films. We hope to have this ready by early 2016.

Finally, I would like to add that time my research has fed into teaching activities, such as the Language Documentation Track developed at the Department of Linguistics, and the organization of international workshops centered on problems of documentary linguistics, e.g. 'Creating and designing documentary linguistic outcomes' held in the spring of 2015 at the Center for African Studies.

All in all, as my time in academia nears its inevitable end, I am quite pleased with the outcomes of my work. This would, however, not have been possible without the support of several people (too numerous to name here) and I would like to thank everybody at the Center for African Studies, the Department of Linguistics, and the Department of Anthropology for all their support. Without them none of what I did at the University of Florida would have been possible. They made my final years in academia extremely pleasurable and fulfilling. I will be ever thankful.

Frank Seidel is a post-doctoral research fellow in the Center for African Studies.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN SENEGAL

RENATA SERRA

My 2014-15 project, titled “Development and Climate Change in the African Sahel,” has been an exciting and novel opportunity that allowed me to both venture into a new area of research and forge new institutional collaborations overseas. Furthermore, I had the pleasure to work with a great group of resourceful and energetic graduate students.

The project is first and foremost an exchange program between three Master in Development Practice programs – based at UF, Sciences Po in Paris and the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar – which I initiated to encourage wider cooperation between students and faculty working on similar development-related themes across three continents. In particular, my objective was to focus participants’ attention to the multiple and cross-cutting environmental, demographic and development challenges playing out in one of the most vulnerable areas of the world. Although the African Sahel has come to the world’s attention through the media coverage of recent security and political crises, including the coups d’états in Mali (2012) and in Burkina Faso (2015) and a series of bloody terroristic attacks, this region does not usually represent a priority area for development programs and actors. If anything, the recent crises have discouraged development actors and limited the effectiveness and coverage of existing interventions. What is missing is a comprehensive and compelling understanding of the deep inter-connections between the multiple social, economic, environmental, demographic and political dimensions underlying the crises, across different domains and spaces.

The exchange program saw the participation of 2-3 students from each university, who then worked during the academic year in small groups on one particular theme, giving presentations at our workshops and external conferences. Collaboration across institutions and

continents was facilitated by three team meetings: at UF in September 2014, at Sciences Po during UF Spring break in 2015 and at UCAD in May 2015. The participation of other colleagues at each of these institutions was central for making these encounters valuable and enriching student experiences through lectures, seminars and field visits. In particular, I would like to mention Sarah McKune and Leo Villalón at UF, Aly Mbaye and Ibrahima Barry at UCAD, and Kate Vivian at Sciences Po.

The trip to Senegal was particularly meaningful. There, we exchanged with other students and faculty at UCAD, and met with several development consultants and organizations. We also visited two rural development projects near the town of Thiès, which represent innovative solutions by local rural population to adapt to the increasing negative effects of climate change. One project leverages wind energy to action pumps for field irrigation and enhance farmers’ yields; while the other has involved the excavation of large reservoirs in the fields for collecting run-off water during the rainy season, thus obviating to the problems of soil erosion.

The yearlong series of encounters and reflections sparked also the idea for a collaborative paper between myself and Sarah McKune (Public Health, UF). The paper titled “Innovative approaches to climate change: Climate information services in Senegal” aims to apply insights from recent empirical economics studies on cognitive processes and behavior under

uncertainty to explain why climate information services may not have led to the expected uptake of climate smart practices in rural Kaffrine, Senegal, despite the innovative approaches adopted. I presented a preliminary version of the paper at the 3rd International Conference on Sustainable Development Practice at Columbia University in September 2015. We hope to secure funding for further fieldwork and data collection so to be able to better test our hypotheses and identify a solid basis for lasting and effective solutions on the ground.

Renata Serra is lecturer in the Center of African Studies, advisor for the UF Master in Development Practice program, and member of the Sahel Research Group. The Development and Climate Change in the Sahel project was funded by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the Center for African Studies, and the Sahel Research Group.



MEMORY, MEMOIRS, AND THEATER

ALIOUNE SOW

I have pursued my research on local memory practices and discourses in Mali. It includes an examination of selected public ceremonies, commemorations, celebrations and sites of memory, to understand better the politics of memory that have emerged since the political transition of 1991. More specifically, I have looked at the impact of political changes on the Malian literary field and the resulting distinctive relation between narration, narrative and democratization. There are several axes informing this study, starting with the analyzes of processes of rehabilitation of literary figures such as Fily Dabo Sissoko, Mandy Sidibé and Alkali Kaba, as well as the resurgence of literary forms such as the epic in the public sphere. The second one focuses on recently published memoirs. I investigate these literary forms and practices, which have proliferated since the political transition, as means of challenging the official and institutionalized transitional and truth seeking processes such as the “conférence nationale,” the public trial and prosecution of former dignitaries of the military regime, mechanisms of amnesty granting, and past human rights abuse reports. The aim of the study is to trace and describe the specific conditions and dynamics of the revival of memoirs, to isolate distinctive local literary processes and comment on the configurations, methods and modalities of writing. Emphasizing the religious context in which these texts are situated, the study underlines the singular modes of testimony and confession developed in these narratives.

In addition to my research on memoirs, I have also pursued my work on Malian popular theatre and its relation to the production of discourses on migration. Focusing specifically on testimonial theater, I examine the relationship between theatrical forms, activism and social movements in Bamako. The plays analyzed are varied and include Habib Dembélé's stand up comedies, the production of the international group *Blonba*, and the hybrid genre written and performed by illegal migrants



deported from Europe or North Africa. At issue here are the theater practitioners' engagement with dominant discourses on migration and their attempts to redefine key terms such as “mobility,” to generate alternative meanings of migration, readjust its interpretation to travel and adventure in order to claim new legitimacy. Part of this research was conducted in collaboration with Cécile Canut (Paris-Descartes) who directed the project “Les mots de la direction.” It led to several publications including co-edited special issues of *Les Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines* and *Etudes Littéraires Africaines*.

As director of the France Florida Research Institute, I would like to mention the 2015-2016 annual research project, dedicated to science-fiction and climate change funded by the cultural services of the French Embassy in Washington, DC and co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies among other units on campus. The aim of the project “Imagining Climate Change,” organized with Terry Harpold from the English Department, is to bring into conversation French, American and African scientists, science fiction writers, and filmmakers to initiate an interdisciplinary dialogue on the imperatives of climate change, and stimulate scholarship on the topic. The ambition of the project is to emphasize the key role played by

cultural forms in the understanding of local and transnational imaginaries of climate change. Two colloquia brought together science fiction writers such as Jean-Marc Ligny, Nathaniel Rich, Yann Quero, Tobias Buckell, Jeff Vandermeer, scholars such as Christian Chelebourg. Kenyan filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu will also visit UF to present *Pumzi*, and discuss her new animation projects.

Alioune Sow is associate professor in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. He also directs the France-Florida Research Institute.

POLITICAL REFORM, SOCIAL CHANGE, AND STABILITY IN THE AFRICAN SAHEL

LEONARDO A. VILLALÓN

Long on the margins of both policy and academic discussions, recent events have brought new attention to the little-studied countries of the West African Sahel. This research project, funded by a grant from the Minerva Research Initiative, analyses the factors affecting political stability in the six Francophone countries—Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad—stretching across this arid region of West Africa. Collectively these are among the least developed countries in the world, and they present some of the most significant governance challenges anywhere. While several have been in many ways successful laboratories for democracy in Muslim societies, more recent developments following the NATO intervention to remove the Qaddafi regime in Libya have produced destabilizing pressures across the region. Since this project began in 2012, the Sahel has been rocked by the overthrow of governments in Mali and Burkina Faso, the proliferation of an assortment of Islamist *jihadi* groups active across the region, and very tenuous political situations in other countries.

The overarching goal of the research project is to understand the points of vulnerability as well as sources of resilience in the region, and to examine the variations in these factors among the six countries. The project undertakes this via an analytic framework that examines the interactive and reciprocal effects of institutional reform on social change, in an iterative process of “micro-transitions” that cumulatively build to potentially more substantial transformations in state capacity, and that hence shape the prospects for stability or instability.

As with virtually all of Africa, the Sahelian states were directly affected by the intense pressures for political reform in the name of “democracy” of the early 1990s. While their initial responses were quite varied, all were obliged to undertake

significant liberalization, reflected primarily in consequently reduced state capacity to shape and control social forces. As a result, in all six countries significant social transformations were set in motion, and their political systems today are still in many ways being shaped by those forces. The collapse of Mali as the project began in 2012, however, followed by the French-led international intervention to attempt to restore the country’s territorial integrity and route the jihadi groups that had benefited from the power vacuum, also set in motion new dynamics affecting the entire region. These have significantly complicated the analysis.

In each of the six countries, the interactive processes of institutional reform and social change that were carried out in the name of democratization led to our initial grouping of the six countries into three pairs on the basis of an observed outcome on the democracy dimension in the two decades from 1991-2011: Senegal and Mali (democracies); Chad and Burkina Faso (electoral authoritarian regimes) and Niger and Mauritania (unstable efforts at democratization). Our research in the first part of the project—underlined by developments in the region—clearly demonstrated that the processes and patterns of democratization do intersect with processes of building resilient state institutions, but in complex ways that are in the end independent of the outcome on the democracy dimension. Within each of our pairs, then, we identified one country where the two decades



of political debates on reform appears to have strengthened state structures and another where it had not done so, despite similarities in terms of the democracy variable. The relative resilience of the state in Burkina Faso during the tumultuous period of political transition in 2014-15 following the collapse of the 27-year regime of Blaise Compaoré would seem to support this observation.

As P.I. on the Minerva grant I have led the project, but the majority of the field research is being carried out by three UF Ph.D. students in political science: Mamadou Bodian, Ibrahim Yahya Ibrahim, and Daniel Eizenga. With the completion of the fieldwork in mid-2016, each of the research associates will have carried out intensive fieldwork in a different set of three of the six countries, collectively representing some 46 months of fieldwork in the entire region. Team meetings in the region, visiting scholars at UF, and workshops and other activities are helping us to further develop the comparative focus of our analysis.

Leonardo Villalón is professor of political science and African studies. He is Dean of the UF International Center and former director of the CAS.

FIGHTING AND WRITING: THE RHODESIAN ARMY AT WAR AND POST-WAR

LUISE WHITE

The white minority of Rhodesia (before 1964 Southern Rhodesia and after 1980 Zimbabwe) took its own independence from Britain rather than begin the orderly processes of majority rule and decolonization in 1965. A few years later Rhodesia began its counter-insurgency against the two guerrilla armies that sought to liberate the country. This counter-insurgency involved what was perhaps the most onerous conscription of anywhere in the world after 1945: by 1976, men 18-35 served for two years after which they were liable for reserve duty of 190 days a year at six week intervals. Rhodesia lost the war, and the minority rule of the nation, but not without a fight that has been mythologized by its supporters and its soldiers. In the years since 1980, and most especially since the years since 2000, former soldiers have memorialized their service, and the nation that no longer exists, in memoirs and monuments.



The memoirs have become a cottage industry for veterans of the Rhodesian forces. They do not all tell a story of military might and the small, brave nation fighting for its survival against guerrillas trained by communists in Eastern Europe. Instead they record all the ambivalence and anxieties of young men who are unsure of their claim to belong in Africa and who are willing to serve their country but only if they can go abroad for university after that. I have had a book project on the Rhodesian Army at war in the works for many years; what I had written was based on these memoirs and material from the Rhodesian Army papers that were briefly available (2003-07) in a now-defunct private museum in Britain. The more I read and wrote, however, the more I thought this project should be on the Rhodesian Army at war and in the post-war, looking not only at how white soldiers fought but how they memorialized, in words and constructions,

memorialized in Zimbabwe. I had the good fortune to go around these grounds with Steve Davis (UF PhD, 2010 and now an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky) and it is his photograph that I use.

Luise White is professor of history.

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INVESTING IN HOME: MIGRATION, RETURN, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SENEGAL RIVER VALLEY

BENJAMIN BURGEN

The rural towns of the Senegal River Valley rise out of a dusty landscape dotted with acacia trees. Brightly painted mosques and spacious concrete family compounds distinguish the region from the rest of rural Senegal and stand as monuments to the region's history of transnational connections. The high concentration of schools, health clinics, and other public infrastructure attest to the sustained investment and involvement of migrants through formally organized hometown associations and their collaborations with NGO and state partners. Despite their remote locations these towns are thriving hubs of transnational networks and anchors of culture and identity for people who have scattered across the globe yet remain connected to their rural hometowns. My current research investigates migrants' motivations in maintaining these links.

This project is a multi-sited case study. Currently, I am performing ethnographic research in a small town in Senegal which is representative of the situation across the wider Senegal River Valley region. That is, it is a town where migrants

frequently send remittances, invest in, and participate in development-oriented activities. This will be followed by further ethnographic research among migrants from the focus town residing in Dakar and in Paris to create a frame of analysis which encompasses primary points along the migration circuit. This will enable me to highlight the networks and connections which allow migrants to stay actively involved in their hometowns.

Xenophobia, tightened border controls, and increasing state scrutiny of foreign workers across the Global North have made it more difficult for Senegal River Valley migrants to gain access to employment and acceptance abroad. At the same time, remittances and investments at home are widely celebrated and increasingly provide migrants with status and recognition as traditional agropastoral livelihoods have become less viable. My research aims to identify and contextualize the factors motivating individual migrants' ongoing commitments to home.

Today a culture of migration pervades the rural Senegal River Valley wherein references to migration pervade

everyday life and the act of migrating abroad is seen as a solution to a wide range of common problems. Despite the prevalence of migration and the longstanding existence of migrant communities abroad, links to family, friends, and community at home appear to remain strong. These links are reinforced through remittances, investment, visits, and frequent communication. In these towns migrants often return to retire after years working abroad, and multi-generational households welcome home nieces and nephews on summer holiday from school in France. Through the availability of cellphones and increasing internet access, migrants and those at home can stay informed of and involved in each other's daily lives.

Today, the rural towns of the Senegal River Valley are weathering environmental challenges and changes in the structure of the global economy while supporting a rapidly growing population largely by relying on an organized and increasingly diversified global network of migrants who continue to recognize their rural towns of origin as the epicenters of their social, political, and long-term economic lives. This fact has shaped the choice of a multi-sited research method, beginning in a representative rural town followed by Dakar and Paris.

Research across these three locations will allow me to learn about and compare the range of perspectives and experiences. My subsequent analysis will aim to build an ethnography which contextualizes the various ways in which migrant life continues to be socially, politically, and economically grounded in the rural Senegal River Valley and to provide potential answers to the question of why migrants from this region so often invest in and return to their hometown.

Benjamin Burgen is a PhD candidate in anthropology and former FLAS fellow (Wolof, 2010-12). Funding for his research provided by a



REGIME STABILITY, POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION, AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION IN THE SAHEL

DANIEL EIZENGA

Today, virtually all African regimes participate in the core rituals of democracy through the political institutions of multi-party elections. However, the degree of substantive political competition varies noticeably from country to country. As was the case in much of sub-Saharan Africa, the countries of the Francophone Sahel embarked on liberalizing political transitions during the 1990s. Yet, the outcomes of these transition differ greatly within the sub-region where some countries became more democratic, others staunchly authoritarian, and still others experienced regime breakdown.

During eighteen consecutive months (June 2014 – December 2015) I conducted fieldwork split between Burkina Faso, Chad, and Senegal, seeking to explain differences in the political trajectories of these three countries.

Sahelian countries face endemic structural challenges to political stability. Taken together they are considered amongst the least developed countries on earth. Their regimes struggle to control demographic change, drug and arms trafficking, and in some cases deep social cleavages. More recently, significant pressures on regime stability emerged as a result of the 2011 fall of the Qaddafi regime in Libya, the rise of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, the 2012 state collapse in Mali, and the spread of Boko Haram. Given these challenges, how have certain regimes remained stable and engaged in political liberalization, while in others regimes broke down or became increasingly authoritarian?

My dissertation examines how regimes respond to social pressures resulting in political liberalization in certain cases, but the persistence of authoritarian practices in others. Through a comparative framework and fieldwork in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Senegal, my research seeks to systematically analyze the interactive and reciprocal effects of institutional reform and social pressures on each country's political development and



how these effects shape the prospects for political stability in each case.

This past year, I completed my research in N'Djamena, Chad where I worked alongside a team of university student researchers based at a local civil society organization, *Le Comité de Suivi de l'Appel à la Paix et à la Réconciliation* (CSAPR). I then returned to Dakar, Senegal where I conducted numerous interviews with elite actors to better understand differences in the country's institutional development and state-society relations. Finally, I arrived in Burkina Faso a little more than one month before the former presidential guard led a coup—which ultimately failed—against the transitional government only three weeks before presidential and legislative elections were scheduled to take place in October 2015.

While the results of my dissertation research remain preliminary, the hundreds of interviews I have conducted and documents I have collected across the three countries suggest that three important factors—civil-military relations, the

development of civil liberties, and political party institutions—can help to explain differences in the political trajectories of these three countries and perhaps others. 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.

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

BENIN EARTHEN SCULPTURES IN OLOKUN WORSHIP: ACTIVATION THROUGH MATERIALS

NDUBUISI EZELUOMBA



My research examines the materials used in the creation and activation of Olokun earthen sculptures and pottery, and considers the symbolism embodied in the materials used. Many shrines contain sculptures made of soil sourced from termite mounds and capped anthill towers, and Olokun clay pots. An analysis of the processes involved in the construction reveals a complexity of rituals that gives the objects their relevance as potent religious icons. This is achieved in part through the application of different substances and mixtures to activate them for use in the shrines.

The importance of Olokun sculptures and pottery, therefore, lies in their transmuted state through special materials as religious objects.

Communal shrines for Olokun are created in some towns south of Benin City, but shrines are also created for individuals, especially in individual homes of wealthy or eminent religious personalities in the urban centers and some rural areas. These include the shrines at the palace of the Queen Mother, the wives of the Oba, and those of certain chiefs and outstanding priests or religious officials. I have chosen

several examples from shrines of powerful individuals within the city as well as some from outlying areas to illustrate points I want to make in my eventual dissertation. I have ascertained through conducting interviews that the meaning of these objects are in part determined by the materials used in their construction. Complex rituals surround the process of transforming Olokun sculpture. These too involve a variety of materials.

Supported by a CAS conference travel award, I participated in the 6th International Conference on the Image held at the University of California – Berkeley in October 2015. At the conference, I presented an aspect of this fascinating research. My paper was titled, “The Earthen Sculptures of Olokun in Benin Religious Worship: Another Look at the Images.” I examine these Olokun earthen sculpture and other objects as constituents of the visual culture of Benin. Due to mainstream art history obsession with the bronze, ivory and wood sculpture of Benin, it is easy to pass this equally significant sculpture (earthen sculpture) constructed and used in the worship of Olokun – the most important deity in the religious pantheon of the people.

Ndubuisi Ezeluomba is a PhD student in art history.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICA: LEARNING THROUGH COLLABORATIVE CONSULTING

JESSICA HORWOOD



As part of the requirements for a Masters in Sustainable Development Practice, students spend 10-12 weeks overseas undertaking a field practicum. I spent my summer in Cape Town, South Africa participating in a program called EESA—Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in South Africa. The program has been running for sixteen years and is currently based out of UP's Warrington Business School.

EESA brings together students from three US-based universities and a university in Cape Town. The students are trained to be small business consultants, and work through a framework called “process consulting.” This form of consulting is most appropriate for working with limited knowledge in an unfamiliar context. It is based on the assumption that client themselves have the capability to address their own challenges; they just need some external assistance and guidance to facilitate the solutions.

The student consultants are taught to analyze the businesses through a tool called the Supporting Emerging Enterprises (SEE) model. The SEE model focuses on three layers of the business and how they are interconnected: the core, the internal operations and the external relationships. This generates a holistic understanding of

the business.

Each consulting group is assigned two small businesses. All of the businesses selected have been in operation for at least one year and are chosen from a broad range of sectors including hair salons, mobile boutiques, electrical companies and graphic designers. The businesses are analyzed by the consulting groups to identify core strategic weaknesses. Deliverables are then produced, in collaboration with the entrepreneur to address these strategic issues. Each deliverable must be implemented by the end of the six-week time frame. The deliverables vary, based on the specific needs of the businesses. Most include capacity building in areas of bookkeeping, marketing and sales, among others.

One of the weaknesses of EESA that was identified over the years is that there is no follow up with clients after the six week program ends. This means that it has been impossible to track the impact of EESA or where the persistent problems lie with regards to the entrepreneurs. Recognizing this, I spent an additional three weeks in Cape Town in an effort to assess and strengthen EESA's impact. I sought to follow up with clients and gain feedback on their experiences with the

program. I then implemented a bi-annual tracking system including all of the former clients that could be located. Their contact information was compiled in an internet based database so they can be tracked in the future. Phone interviews were conducted with 34 former clients to assess the state of their business including key business performance indicators such as revenue, profit, number of employees and bookkeeping system.

Preliminary results of the interviews conducted revealed that there were a number of intangible benefits of EESA that were not directly related to strengthening or growing the small business. For example, many of the entrepreneurs spoke of feeling a new sense of motivation to grow their business and strengthen their networks. They also spoke of the benefits of collaborating with others to generate new ideas for their business which they did not previously have the opportunity to explore. Working directly with a consulting group allowed them to explore new areas of opportunity and orient their business, rather than just focusing on the day-to-day operations of business as usual.

The feedback also indicated a need for the South African government to invest in other similar programs. Entrepreneurs need on-the-ground, relevant advice and training as well as access to networks. Currently, there are no such programs, despite the government's recognition that small enterprise development is needed to build South Africa's economy. If EESA could be scaled up, so that more entrepreneurs have access to such services, there would likely be a higher start-up success rate in South Africa, and more resilient economy.

Jessica Horwood is a second year MDP student. Her field practicum was supported by the Center for African Studies and the

IMAGINING FUTURE CITIES IN AFRICA: SUSTAINABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS IN THE SAHEL

RUGIYATU KANE

My first year as a Masters in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) student was highly defined by my engagement in the Development, Security and Climate Change in the Sahel Exchange Program between the University of Florida, Sciences Po and University of Cheikh Anta Diop.

It all started in the Fall of 2014, during the Demography and the Challenge of Social Change in the African Sahel Symposium which explored topics that I was deeply interested and gave me the opportunity to interact with other MDP students from Dakar and Paris. My decision to partner with Désiré Zongo from Sciences Po would begin my year-long collaborative research on urban challenges and sustainable housing in the Sahel.

Countries in the Sahel are some of the most affected by climate change, but resilience building strategies tend to focus on rural areas where people have commonly been identified as being most vulnerable. However, social, economic and environmental changes are causing these same people to migrate towards cities. Our work was particularly interested in seeing how these cities may respond through the housing sector. This is because, according to UN Habitat, the housing sector is the single most efficient sector that can, without extra costs, address climate change mitigation and make environmentally friendly affordable housing strategies opportune and crucial.

Using our cultural backgrounds to our advantage, we initially chose Dakar and Ouagadougou as two cities in the Sahel to focus on and find solutions. Our trip to Paris in March, 2015 allowed us to present our work at Sciences Po and receive critical feedback in order to improve our research. Realizing that more opportunities for sustainable housing would exist for new cities rather than currently existing ones, we



therefore decided to shift our research direction and present our final policy recommendations for future urban areas instead. The use of technology such as video-calling and file-sharing played an important role as we further developed our topic from a distance and wrote our paper.

During our next meeting in Dakar, Senegal in May, 2015 Désiré and I had the opportunity to meet with actors on the ground. We interviewed the architect Jean Charles Tall on sustainable architecture in Senegal and socio-cultural perceptions on the use of natural materials in an era of modernization. We also visited an urban clay construction in Dakar, but most notably the Voute Nubienne office, a natural materials housing construction organization, in Thiès. This visit was very informative on the environmental impact of Nubian vault houses and gave us the opportunity to see first-hand one of the construction models we highlight in our paper. We presented our progress up to that point

at the University of Cheikh Anta Diop and received instrumental comments and questions from a diverse audience of professors, students, and development practitioners and representatives from NGOs and the Senegalese government.

The culmination of our year-long collaboration was my presentation of our final paper at the International Conference on Sustainable Development in New York, in September, 2015. We hope to have our policy brief disseminated in one of the OECD Sahel and West Africa Club publications in which we make tangible recommendations on promoting sustainable housing in urban areas of the Sahel.

Rugiyatu Kane is a second-year student in the Masters in Sustainable Development Practice Program. Support for this project was provided by the France-Florida Research Institute, the Sahel Research Group, the Center for African Studies, and the UF International Center.

THE FEMINIZATION OF RURAL SPACE: EXPLORING DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE, POWER AND THE STATE IN KENYA

CHESNEY McOMBER



In many rural communities in Africa, particularly where patriarchal structures are strong, women often access and interact with the state through the men in their households. However, what happens when men leave the home and exit the community? How are these resources delivered and accessed? In the last twenty years, demographic changes influenced by the very gendered impacts of exogenous shocks—such as climate change and disease—have led to a feminization of rural space. Weather variability caused by climate change has made agricultural livelihoods difficult to maintain and, as such, many men have consequently moved to urban areas in search of alternative income sources. This has been especially true in western Kenya, where climate change has intensified a gendered demographic shift already underway due to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS within the region. This feminization of rural villages has meant that women have had to adapt to new ways of engaging with the state and benefiting from state resources. Where the state fails to provide these services, the women of

these communities must develop their own strategies for accessing and developing their own means for collecting information, income, and protection.

This study explored this demographic change, and its political implications, based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Nyando, Kenya. The field research was conducted between March and June of 2015 as part of a broader dissertation study conducted over the course of fifteen months in Kenya (Nyando and Laikipia) and Morocco (Abda-Doukkala). The methodology relies upon the triangulation of life history interviews, key informant interviews with local officials, qualitative household surveys and focus group discussions.

Initial findings from this research demonstrate that, rather than engaging with the state for such services, they choose to opt into other means of informal political spaces to access resources such as security, food, and income. This engagement is seen in women's groups which are organically formed and maintained by women. Women's networks within the village and

their engagement with other ethnic groups outside of their community will be important in navigating this demographic and social change that is occurring. As one woman explained, "There is a big change. Women have a lot of freedom these days. The groups have helped a lot—the trainings have helped a lot. Women were just indoors, they didn't have freedom because there were no groups, so they were just in their homes." It is in these groups where women share ideas about how to solve real issues, largely pertaining to development in their community. At the most basic level, women are concerned with earning enough money to support their families and send their children to school. They want their families and their assets to remain safe in times of insecurity. When the state does not provide these services, women must find alternative ways of accessing them. Women's groups seem to be the avenue for doing so in Nyando.

While this has been an ethnographic case study for initial exploration of women's access to and utilization of state resources where men are absent, more research is needed in this area. Further research must rigorously explore how state services travel from source to end-user between households where men are present and those where men are absent. These gendered power dynamics are fluid, and the social structures that dictate the rules of civic participation may not reflect this fluidity. How they adjust and respond as women become more involved in women's groups, and more civically engaged in political issues of the village in the coming years will be interesting to see and understand.

Chesney McOmber is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science and former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2010-12). This paper was presented at the 2015 African Studies Association Annual Meeting in San Diego with the support of a Center for African Studies travel grant.

DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN AND SURVIVAL: A TALE OF TWO TRANSITIONS IN GHANA

EMILY M. PUKUMA



My current research project is a study of why democratic institutions survive in some contexts and temporal periods but break down in others. While many scholars argue that British colonialism is conducive to later democratization, outcomes remain highly uneven across former British colonies. My project specifies four types of British colonial rule through combinations of two dimensions of the historical experience. Each of the four colonial types is hypothesized to condition the prospects for democratic survival in the post-colonial period by shaping democratic experience, strength of state-society links, and administrative development.

In this past year, part of this research took me to Ghana, which serves as an important test of a colonial theory in Africa given its comparatively auspicious start. The Gold Coast served as Britain's model African colony from 1946 to 1957 as progressive reforms guided the path toward Independence under a popularly-elected nationalist party. Indeed, post-WWII

reforms included the first African majority legislature and were initiated partly because the British deemed the Gold Coast to be the most politically advanced of the African dependencies, a 'model colony' ready for orderly and constitutional progress toward self-government. The Gold Coast did not exhibit the racial problems typically associated with colonies of white settlement, it was relatively prosperous from cocoa, and it enjoyed significant reserves. The colony did not suffer from centripetal ethnic conflicts, but had largely resolved these issues through negotiation and election. Rather, it enjoyed a mass-based independence movement led by a charismatic leader, Kwame Nkrumah, which pushed for early self-government and was greeted after 1951 with relative British acquiescence. Despite the country's enviable position, Nkrumah's government had within the first few years of Independence passed legislation that severely restricted political activities and fused party and state. Given its auspicious start, this research asks why Ghana's democracy

transformed into a one-party state after three years of independence?

From March – November 2015, I conducted dissertation research at the National Archives of Ghana in Accra as well as several of its regional branches in Cape Coast, Kumasi and Tamale. During this time, I served as a Research Affiliate at the Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and studied Hausa with a tutor in one of Accra's Hausa-speaking neighborhoods, Sabon Zongo. I conducted archival research in order to examine the dynamics of power transfer associated with decolonization and independence as an important generation of political power structures. The striking feature of Ghanaian colonial history is that its early nationalists were not the ones to inherit the independent state; rather, this group was bypassed twice for this coveted position, first by the traditional rulers and second by Nkrumah's commoner's party. Thus, the debates over the shape of the nation stemmed most predominantly from an elite vs. a popular nationalism, though the former was activated through alliances with groups with diverse lenses including regionalism, ethnicity, and religion in addition to class. Despite electoral successes between 1951 and 1957, Nkrumah's government was unable to consolidate its authority over the population while embracing democratic processes.

I plan to compare this breakdown with a more lasting democratic episode in Ghana's history by asking why Nkrumah's democratic regime in 1957, a centerpiece of successful political institutional transfer from British colonialism, succumb to authoritarian pressures whereas Rawlings's democratic transition in 1992, though heavily guided by an authoritarian arm, resulted in stabilized democratization.

Emily Pukuma is a doctoral candidate in political science. Funding for her research was provided by the David L. Boren Fellowship, Institute for International Education.

THE THREAT OF HABITAT FRAGMENTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE TO CHAMELEONS IN TANZANIA

PHILIP SHIRK



With their prehistoric look, reptilian skin, independently-moving eyes, unbelievably long tongues, and array of colors and horns, chameleons evoke strong opinions in humans. Some people seem to innately fear chameleons, while others are intrinsically drawn to them (as you might guess, I'm in the latter group). This added attention from humans has distinct benefits and disadvantages. Although the international attention increases awareness for conservation efforts, it also fuels a surprisingly large international trade in chameleons as pets. My research is intended to get a better understanding of the factors influencing chameleon populations. In addition to providing insight into their basic biology, this information is valuable for chameleon conservation efforts.

Like most plant and animal species, chameleons face a combination of threats. In addition to collection for the international pet trade, people put pressure

on chameleon populations by removing and fragmenting natural habitats and by contributing to climate change. Habitat loss obviously decreases population sizes, but in practice the effects of habitat loss are often exacerbated by the effects of habitat fragmentation. For example, population sizes in a fragmented landscape may decline because of the increase in edge habitat (which tends to benefit common, generalist species at the expense of rarer, more specialized species) or because subpopulations are isolated (which can decrease genetic diversity and increase the chance of local extinction). Furthermore, climate change is expected to have particularly dire impacts on lizards living in tropical regions. Even though the climate is warming more slowly in the tropics than in temperate regions, tropical species have evolved very narrow thermal tolerances, making them more sensitive to warming than temperate species.

I spent the 2014-2015 academic

year as a Boren Fellow in Tanzania. In addition to studying Swahili, I conducted research on chameleons in the Eastern Arc Mountains – a global biodiversity hotspot and home to many rare chameleon species. To quantify the impact of habitat fragmentation on chameleon populations, I estimated population densities in a highly fragmented landscape. I also began assessing chameleon thermal preferences and tolerances, which are known to relate to climate change vulnerability. As I continue my research, I'll be expanding my data collection to include more chameleon species and more landscapes in the Eastern Arc Mountains.

In addition to conducting scientific research, I hope to positively influence chameleon conservation efforts through my interactions with people living in the areas where chameleons actually occur. I'm guessing that you, like me, are more fascinated by chameleons than scared of them. But this isn't the case for most Tanzanians, who generally consider chameleons bad and dangerous. Even my technician this past year was scared to touch a chameleon. But as he learned more about chameleon biology and their ecological role, his fear slowly subsided and was replaced by fascination. To help others make this transition, I gave a presentation at several local schools to emphasize the interesting biology and important ecological roles of the bugs and critters that people so often hate and fear for no apparent reason.

Philip Shirk is a PhD candidate in biology. His research is funded by the Department of Biology, the Boren Fellowship, and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

SPECIES INTERACTIONS AND BIRD COMMUNITY STRUCTURE UNDER SHRUB ENCROACHMENT

RICHARD STANTON



Shrub encroachment in savannas is a global conservation challenge, radically restructuring animal communities and putting the services they provide to rural communities at risk. My research is determining how shrub encroachment affects savanna animal communities, both globally and in Swaziland. I am using a meta-analysis of shrub encroachment studies worldwide and intensive bird surveys across shrub-encroachment and land-use gradients in Swaziland's Lowveld savanna to do this. I will also be building upon this work with a field experiment to determine drivers of the changes seen in my synthetic and observational work.

I have found that shrub encroachment effects on animal community structure—the number of species plus their relative and absolute abundances—are reasonably well-described but we have paid little attention to what mechanisms are generating this pattern. Shrub encroachment increases the amount of temporally stable cover, which should change the costs and

benefits of savanna habitat for predators and prey alike.

I found that shrub encroachment in Swaziland's Lowveld savanna was associated with an increase in several predatory birds that prey on other bird species at all life stages. This was accompanied by changes in the dietary groups represented in the bird community, which were more evenly-distributed because seed-eating birds declined whilst fruit and nectar-feeding birds increased. Diet is the major way birds exert their effects on ecosystems, providing services to rural communities, so understanding shifts in the feeding groups in savanna bird communities is of conservation as well as theoretical interest.

I am going to determine the extent to which changes in predatory bird abundance are causing changes in the prey bird community using a field experiment. I will accomplish this by enriching visual and auditory cues of predatory birds across a shrub encroachment gradient and observing how the behavior and abundance of prey species respond to the addition of this “public information” about risks and benefits of choosing open versus shrub-encroached savanna.

I will be studying how anti-predator behavior within and among several closely-related species of seed eaters and fruit eaters. This work will determine if behavioral strategies can predict which species flourish with shrub encroachment and which species flounder. I expect that behavioral flexibility will be key; species that exhibit appropriate anti-predator behaviors across all levels of shrub cover will do better than species with behaviors only suited to one cover regime.

Shrub cover is the most tractable target of management for biodiversity and ecosystem services although predator-prey interactions may prove to be the major driver of bird community structure in African savannas. I am exploring options for a multiscale shrub thinning experiment

intended to determine how to most efficiently allocate thinning efforts for vertebrate diversity. This will link the mechanisms of community assembly identified in my research and the work of colleagues to practical prescriptions for managing shrub encroachment in rural communities.

Richard Stanton is a PhD candidate in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment. This project has been funded by the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Center for African Studies, and Drs. McCleery and Fletcher in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES IN SENEGAL AND TANZANIA

WHITNEY M. TURIENTINE



My fieldwork this past summer 2015 took me to both Senegal and Tanzania. In both countries, I worked with the CGIAR's research program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CAAFS) to investigate how gender impacted access to climate information services. This summer fieldwork allowed me to complete the required field practicum component of my degree program, Master's in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP).

The two weeks I spent in Senegal directly informed my more in-depth study in northern Tanzania. While in Senegal, I—along with my colleagues from Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar) and Sciences Po (Paris)—travelled to multiple sites within

the country to learn how certain projects and initiatives were looking at food security in the context of climate change in the Sahel. In the capital, Dakar, a meeting with Ousmane Ndiaye at the Senegalese Meteorological Services (ANACIM) proved absolutely essential to understanding how indigenous, climate knowledge and scientific knowledge could be integrated in projects like the one in Tanzania! Visits to farms in Thiès provided even greater insight into how farmers in one of the world's driest regions utilize climate information and myriad agricultural strategies to produce viable yields.

After the two weeks in Senegal, I spent the rest of the summer in and around Arusha, Longido, and Dar es Salaam,

Tanzania. Although I based myself mainly out of Arusha, the bulk of my fieldwork took place in the heart of Maasailand in Longido. I initially had thought that I would be conducting focus groups with pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to identify challenges to accessing climate information via services like SMS, radio, etc. Once I arrived in Longido it was clear that my plans had to change immediately (like most of our initial research plans)! After further discussion with CCAFS partners on the ground, I learned that assessing recent climate trainings for agricultural extension agents from a gendered perspective was a high priority and I began in earnest to track down the extensionists from Longido.

With the help of some of the best four-wheel drivers/interpreters/field assistants, I was able to conduct semi-structured interviews with almost all of the agriculture extension agents in Longido who recently received climate training. These interviews, along with meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Tanzanian Meteorological Agency (TMA), form the basis of my final report that I will be submitting to both CCAFS and the UF MDP program. Already, some of my findings and suggestions from this summer are informing the upcoming climate trainings of extension agents in Tanzania. I was also fortunate enough to present some of this summer's findings at this year's International Conference on Sustainable Development at Columbia University in September.

Whitney Turientine is a second-year MDP student and former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2013-15). Support for this project provided the Center for African Studies, the Sahel Research Group, the UF International Center, and the MacArthur Foundation.

COLLABORATIVE REPORTS

**IRVING CHAN GOMEZ
TZVIATKO CHIDEROV
WHITNEY TURTIENTINE
RUGIYATU KANE
MAMYCOR NDIONE**

MDP Exchange Program: Development in the Sahel

**RENATA SERRA
SARAH McKUNE
LEONARDO VILLALÓN
ABDOULAYE KANE
FIONA McLAUGHLIN
SEBASTIAN ELISCHER
ALIOUNE SOW**

Sahel Research Group

MDP EXCHANGE PROGRAM: DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAHEL

IRVINGCHANGOMEZ, TZVIATKOCHIDEROV, RUGIYATUKANE, MAMYCORNDIONE, & WHITNEYTURIENTINE



We had the opportunity to be part of the MDP exchange program for sustainable development in the Sahel, a year-long collaboration between students and faculty from the Masters in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) programs of the University of Florida (Gainesville, USA), Sciences Po (Paris, France), and Cheikh Anta Diop University (Dakar, Senegal).

The program took off with the “Demography and the Challenge of Social Change in the African Sahel” symposium in the fall of 2014 at the University of Florida. After brainstorming sessions about areas of interest and expertise, we partnered to work in three different collaborative projects that explored the impact of climate change in the Sahel from different perspectives: sustainable housing and sustainable cities, the use of technology as a tool for climate change adaptation, and the gender dimensions of food security.

Discussions with advisors, experts, and faculty members helped us mold our initial ideas into final concepts. In March 2015 our teams presented to faculty and students at Sciences Po and received critical

feedback on ways to improve our research; and in May 2015 we met again in Dakar, Senegal, where we had the opportunity to visit multiple field sites and meet with professionals working in these issues and see, first-hand, how certain projects and initiatives relevant to the areas of our research were looking at climate change in the Sahel. Before the end of our visit in Senegal, we presented our progress and received instrumental feedback from a diverse audience of professors, students, development practitioners, and representatives from NGOs and the Senegalese government.

Throughout the year, we had the opportunity to not only work with and learn from students from around the world, but also to create lasting friendships, grow our professional network, and experience how solutions are being already implemented in the field. We learned and experienced how synergies can be used positively to integrate different disciplines in order to tackle development issues from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Moreover, this program helped one of our team members, Whitney Turientine, to have a better understanding

of how indigenous and scientific climate knowledge could be integrated as part of climate information, which was important for a more in-depth study carried in northern Tanzania to assess the gender dimensions of climate information services.

As a final step in this year-long collaboration, we also had the opportunity to present our research at the International Conference on Sustainable Development at Columbia University in September 2015. It was a true honor to play a role in a conference focused on these key issues, at such an important year for sustainable development.

Irving Chan Gomez, Whitney Turientine, and Rugiyatu Kane are second-year MDP students in the at the University of Florida. Tzviatko Chiderov and Mamycor Ndione are MDP from Sciences Po and Cheikh Anta Diop University, respectively. Support for this project was provided by the France-Florida Research Institute, the Sahel Research Group, the Center for African Studies, and the International Center.

THE SAHEL RESEARCH GROUP

LEONARDO VILLALÓN, SEBASTIAN ELISCHER, ABDOULAYE KANE, SARAH MCKUNE, FIONA McLAUGHLIN, RENATA SERRA & ALIOUNE SOW

The Sahel Research Group at the University of Florida represents a unique 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, language, culture, and intellectual production in the region. A number of PhD students from various disciplines and with research focus on the Sahel are 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, in recent years, placed significant additional pressures and posed new challenges to governments in the region.

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 weekly "Sahel Seminar" meetings provide an ongoing opportunity to present findings and to share perspectives and analyses on developments in the region. Other activities included the periodic organization of workshops and symposia, and the sponsorship of talks and presentations. More information on these activities, and descriptions of the range of specific research projects by group members can be found on our website at: <http://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 clinical assistant professor of public health. Fiona McLaughlin is associate professor and chair of the Department of Linguistics. Renata Serra is lecturer in African studies. Alioune Sow is associate professor of French and African studies.



AFRICAN STUDIES Q U A R T E R L Y

FOUNDATION

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

ASQ undertakes two kinds of publications. Most issues contain articles from a wide range of authors on diverse topics, as in Volumes 15

- Nigeria, Afrocentricism, and Conflict Resolution: After Five Decades—How Far, How Well?
- The Okada War in Urban Ghana: A Polemic Issue or Policy Mismatch?
- My Name Will Not Be Lost: Cosmopolitan Temporality and Reclaimed History in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s “The Headstrong Historian”
- To Cut and Run: Donor Approaches to Male Circumcision in Southern Africa
- The Rise and Fall of the Rwanda-Uganda Alliance (1981-1999)

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

REVIEW PROCESS

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

FLAS FELLOWSHIPS

ACADEMIC YEAR & SUMMER FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

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

Fellowships are offered for any one of the regularly taught languages (**Akan, Amharic, Arabic, Portuguese, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu**).

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

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

For more information, including application deadlines, please visit www.africa.ufl.edu/graduatestudies/flas.

AFRICAN STUDIES FACULTY & ALUMNI PRE-DISSERTATION AWARD

MADELYN M. LOCKHART

Graduate Research Award



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

JEANNE & HUNT DAVIS

Graduate Research Award



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

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

The African Studies Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Award now has over \$25,000 in commitments and is moving toward the goal of \$30,000, which will provide an endowment to support for graduate students. Please see the following page for more information about this fund and how you can contribute.

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

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

ANONYMOUS

CHARLES BWENGE

SUSAN COOKSEY

ABRAHAM C. GOLDMAN

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SANDRA L. RUSSO

RENATA SERRA

JANE SOUTHWORTH

LEONARDO A. VILLALÓN

LUISE S. WHITE

CONTRIBUTE TO GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ON AFRICA AT UF

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

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

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

[HTTP://AFRICA.UFL.EDU/MAKE-A-GIFT](http://AFRICA.UFL.EDU/MAKE-A-GIFT)

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

THE CENTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK

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