

# FROM WHENCE AND TO WHERE FOR AFRICANIST ANTHROPOLOGY?

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I presented in two sessions at the American Anthropological Association meetings in November 2018. For the Association for Africanist Anthropology (AfAA) I served as President for two terms (2012-2016) I was part of the panel “Tales of Resistance, Resistance, Resilience, and Adaptation: From Whence and to Where for Africanist Anthropology,” recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the AfAA. The focus was on contemporary and collaborative Africanist scholarship on Africa’s changing climates (from shifting environments and production value-chains to shifting governance forms). I gave as examples of field research my policy work for sustainable development in Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Swaziland,

as well as my field work with African entrepreneurs from global to micro in nine countries-Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. As well, I detailed my involvement with the International Academy of African Business and Development, serving as vice-president and president of the Board of Governors, while gaining the opportunity to interview many Africans involved in virtually all business sectors.

The Association for Senior Anthropologists session “Conversations Across the Generations” included my own data, as well as some from the 1984-1990 Russ Bernard and Allan Burns Wenner-Gren funded project,

“Videotape Dialogues on the History of Anthropology.” That project produced 27 tapes including Africanists Elizabeth Colson (whom I worked with in Zambia), Walter Goldschmidt, and J. Clyde Mitchell. I used these data (decisions influencing Anthropological/Africanist careers; theoretical and methodological issues important during their early and later years; continuing relationships with field assistants and associates; and observations about the current state of Anthropology and African Studies) along with my own fieldwork experiences and theoretical and methodological perspectives.

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