

### Message from Will Reno, PAS director



It has been a pleasure to serve as PAS director over the past year, and I look forward to the year ahead. We are especially pleased to welcome Adia Benton and Sera Young, our new assistant professors in anthropology, and Michael Wairungu, our

new assistant professor of instruction of Swahili.

The Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa has benefited greatly from the services of Sean Hanretta as interim director and Charles Stewart, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as programming director. In April PAS was proud to host ISITA's major international conference "Sacred Word: Changing Meanings in Textual Cultures of Islamic Africa," which was notable for collaboration with the American Islamic College of Chicago. The conference was held in memory of ISITA cofounder John Hunwick.

ISITA also began working with partners at the Center for African Studies of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Department of African Studies and Anthropology of the

University of Birmingham (UK) on a two-year collaboration focusing on Islam in Africa. ISITA is making plans for a summer 2017 training course on working with manuscripts. It will be the first such course in the United States to focus specifically on sub-Saharan African manuscripts.

We also welcomed our third contingent of 25 Mandela Washington Fellows. Drawn from 17 African countries, this year's fellows participated in our business and entrepreneurship program. They especially benefited from the devoted attention of Verinder Syal of McCormick's Farley Center for Entrepreneurship



*Mandela Washington Fellows with US Representative Jan Schakowsky (Illinois)*

and Innovation, who collaborated with them in developing their long-term visions for their businesses and addressed the practicalities of turning these visions into concrete results. PAS is pleased to partner with Verinder and others from the Farley Center, particularly Mike Marasco, in building connections with a new generation of young African leaders who are rapidly shaping the continent. As we build our Mandela Washington Fellowship alumnae base, we are establishing a new network to better link PAS to the continent.

Of course none of these or our other activities would be possible without the substantial efforts of our PAS staff. Meagan Keefe has settled into the position of associate director so quickly that we soon dropped the adjective "new" in front of

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## In memoriam: Mette Shayne

by David Easterbrook

Mette Shayne, longtime francophone bibliographer in the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, died unexpectedly on May 14.

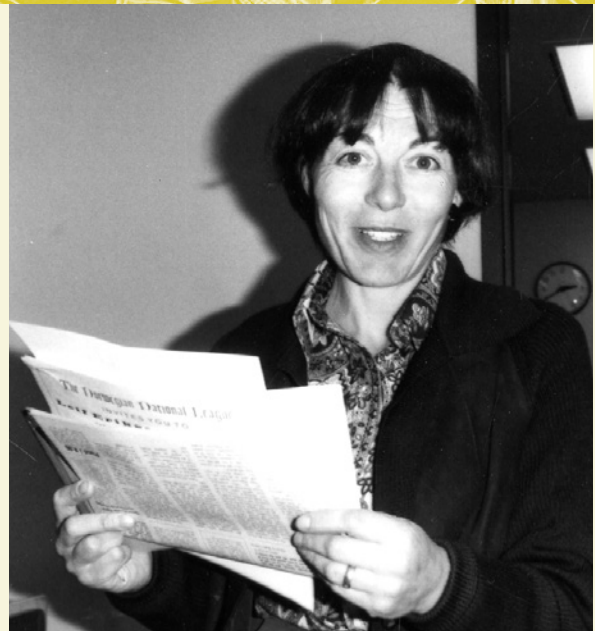
Mette began working at Northwestern University Library in 1961 and continued to serve the Northwestern community until her retirement in 1999.

Shortly after her appointment to the circulation and reference departments, Hans Panofsky, then curator of Africana, noted Mette's skills and decided her fluency in European languages could be put to good use in the Herskovits Library's collection-building efforts. Mette formally began her work in the Herskovits Library in 1964.

Between 1964 and 1999 Mette served generations of Herskovits Library researchers: Northwestern University students, faculty, and staff; visiting scholars from nearby and around the world, in particular Africa; and many Chicago-area residents looking for information about Africa. Her commitment to her work and to providing resources and services to Herskovits Library users is legendary. When she retired, she left a second-to-none collection of francophone Africa materials in the Herskovits Library that will continue to provide a comprehensive and rich resource for generations of researchers to come.

Born and educated in Denmark, Mette studied librarianship there. She met her husband, David, a Chicago native, while he was a Fulbright scholar in Denmark. She accompanied him back to Chicago in 1960. They had three sons: Philip, Adam, and Ralph. Mette always spoke proudly of her sons, their accomplishments, and those of their families and her grandchildren.

Mette strengthened her commitment to Herskovits Library users through her participation in a broad range of activities. She worked in a variety of library outreach efforts with PAS during its first period as a Title VI National Resource Center in the 1970s and 1980s. She participated regionally with such organizations as the International



Visitors Center and such initiatives as the Chicago Area African Studies Seminar (precursor to the present Red Lion Lecture). She was an active participant in inter-institutional cooperation through service in such organizations as the Africana Librarians Council of the African Studies Association and the Cooperative Africana Materials Project of the Center for Research Libraries.

She presented papers at conferences; compiled bibliographies, many of which enhanced access to Herskovits Library resources; and carried out research projects that resulted in publication in *African Book Publishing Record*, *African Research and Documentation*, *PMLA*, and *Research in African Literatures*, among other journals. The central themes of her research were collection building and access.

Of her many bibliographies, Mette was particularly focused on her work in coordinating publication of *African Newspapers Currently Received by American Libraries*. The work was published in the 1970s as a follow-up to discussions at an Africana Librarians Council meeting and revised numerous times over the years. Mette compiled the final edition and saw to its publication in 1999 shortly before she retired. This publication was expanded and updated as AFRINUL, an online union list of African newspapers maintained by the Center for Research Libraries.

Mette also contributed substantially to the success of a number of grant-funded projects in the 1980s and 1990s, notably the Title IIC-funded creation of the online Africana Conference Paper Index. It provided access to conference proceedings in the Herskovits Library and three separate Title VI-funded foreign periodicals projects that added

substantially to the number of francophone newspapers in the Herskovits Library's collections.

For most Northwestern Africanists, remembering Mette includes much more than the accomplishments mentioned above. We remember Mette the person and her commitment to serving us with our research needs and the personal interest she took in us. These transcend all. Her generosity extended well beyond the walls of the library to include hospitality of all kinds, especially to newcomers and visitors, including hosting meals, overnight stays, tours of Chicago, and more. Her follow-up with Northwestern alumni and visiting scholars, often years later, is particularly well known. For me as curator, remembering Mette will include all of what I have stated but especially her unfailing commitment to the goals of the Herskovits Library and the directness and honesty with which she went about their pursuit.

*David L. Easterbrook is the George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator Emeritus, Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies.*

## From the director

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her title. ISITA would not be what it is today without the efforts of another associate director, Rebecca Shereikis. Kelly Coffey, our business manager, masters the intricacies of Northwestern's ever-evolving accounts systems. LaRay Denzer's skills become apparent in the production of our high-quality quarterly newsletter and our working papers. We bid farewell to our program assistant, Matt Pietrus, who seeks a new career in Brooklyn, and welcome Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh as his successor. We are fortunate to count Amy Settergren as our outreach coordinator. All of the staff are especially appreciated for their forbearance and skill in managing our Department of Education Title VI and FLAS grants in partnership with the Center for African Studies at UIUC. These grants support faculty research, curricular development, and new avenues for community outreach while strengthening African language training in African languages for our students.

The coming year has a lot in store. Our fall-quarter programs include a vigorous speaker series, held every Wednesday at noon over lunch. Expect in coming months to see experts in public health in Africa, conflict and peace building, and Nigeria's film industry (Nollywood). The Golden Hope Foundation will host a conference at PAS on "Health Awareness in Africa in the 21st Century," bringing to campus a wide range of speakers—including the keynote speaker, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, undersecretary general and executive director of UN Women.

I look forward to welcoming our Northwestern community members as well as all others—from the wider Chicago area and beyond—who are interested in our activities.



## Symposium attracts young scholars

by Charles Stewart

By focusing on the upcoming generation of scholars, the spring symposium of the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa, held in honor of the late Professor John O. Hunwick, previewed the future of the field of manuscript studies that he was instrumental in founding.

Nearly 50 proposals were submitted by scholars from around the world for “Sacred Word: Changing Meanings in Textual Cultures of Islamic Africa.” From them a Northwestern–University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign committee selected 20 papers representing 12 countries and the youngest cohort of speakers in ISITA history.

The symposium brought to campus an impressive and highly focused set of specialists. About a third of them are based in Europe, a third in Africa, and a third in the United States. With at least one graduate student on almost every panel, the emphasis was on work that is reshaping the field.

Participants were asked to analyze the internal meanings of the textual cultures of Islamic Africa as well as to reflect on the materiality of their texts. They were to pay particular attention to Ajami texts (non-Arabic works written in Arabic script) written in local languages (Hausa, Wolof, Swahili, Yoruba, Songhay, etc.). In both the textual analyses and the study of Ajami texts, participants were to focus on the meaning and the sanctity of the word (in Arabic script) in the lives of African authors and their communities and how that may have changed in recent times.

The symposium led off with two panels on “Manuscript Aesthetics.” “The Arts of Scribes and Calligraphers” panel included papers on Arabic manuscripts from Ethiopia, classical Swahili poetry, Hausa decorative arts, and colophons from Fuuta Jalon (Guinea). “The Significance of Ajami” panel included papers on central and western Sudanic Africa, western Nigeria, Nigeria, and market literature in Nigeria.



Participants in the ISITA symposium panel “The Significance of Ajami”

The last three panels focused on the close reading of texts in the writings of West African reformers al-Hajj `Umar and `Abd Allah dan Fodio, as well as geographical representations in the literature of central Sudanic Africa. Other topics taken up were Hausa poetics, hidden words in Tijani texts, and textual practice in Sudanese Salifism.

Before the meeting concluded, *Islamic Africa* editor Scott Reese asked permission to publish papers, yet another indicator that things had gone well. Two sets of papers were commissioned by the journal, to be curated by Amir Syed (Michigan) and Fallou Ngom (Boston) and projected for publication in 2017. Ngom’s section will focus on Ajami texts, their meaning and materiality. Syed’s will concentrate on the close reading of Arabic texts and implications of the scriptural language found in West African writing. Editors of the *Annual Review of Islam in Africa* (Cape Town) have also expressed interest in publishing additional papers from the symposium.

The final session was held at Chicago’s American Islamic College, a symposium cosponsor. A panel on “The Holy Qur’an” featured speakers on Qur’anic commentary in Wolof (Jeremy Dell, Pennsylvania); an analogous sacred text, the *Dalail al-Khayrat*, by Afis Ayinde Oladosu (Ibadan); and “Power and Embodiment of Qur’anic Sacred Words” by Corinne Fortier (CNRS, Paris). AIC’s Qur’anic specialist Jawad Qureshi was a discussant.

## Collaboration strengthens research, teaching, and outreach on Islam in Africa

Tributes to Professor Hunwick's work came from across the United States, from Europe and Africa, and via video from the al-Furqan Foundation in London. Most moving were the words of Hunwick's widow, Uwa, and children at an evening reception. The Thursday session of papers by Abdel Wedoud Ould Cheikh (Paris), Mauro Nobili (Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Scott Reese (Northern Arizona) was also dedicated to the memory and writings of Professor Hunwick.

This meeting was jointly convened under Title VI sponsorship in partnership with the Center for African Studies of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the American Islamic College in Chicago. Cosponsors on campus included the Buffett Institute for Global Studies, the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the Office for Research, the Department of Religious Studies, and the Department of History.

*Charles Stewart is professor emeritus of history, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and ISITA director of programming.*

Fostering innovative research, teaching, and outreach on Islam in Africa is the goal of a new collaboration between PAS's Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa, the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Department of African Studies and Anthropology (DASA) at the University of Birmingham.

Faculty at the three centers are jointly organizing workshops, curricular development activities, and scholar exchanges for the project "Knowing Each Other: Everyday Religious Encounters, Social Identities, and Tolerance in Nigeria."

The collaboration was launched in 2016 when the University of Birmingham organized its annual Cadbury Fellowship Scheme around the theme "Bodies of Text: Learning to Be Muslim in West Africa." During 10 weeks in residence at Birmingham, five early-career African scholars took part in seminars and discussion groups and developed a research paper on this theme. Their residency culminated in an international conference, held June 30 to July 1 in Birmingham, that explored the practices, disciplines, and debates through which West Africans learn to be Muslim. Charles Stewart, ISITA director of programming, contributed the paper "Comparing Today's Print Libraries with Historic Manuscript Libraries in West Africa," which probed how learning to be Muslim changed in

the region with the introduction of printed texts.

PAS and ISITA will host a follow-up event at Northwestern in spring 2017. It will involve some of the participants in the Birmingham Cadbury conference, along with faculty and graduate students from Northwestern, UIUC, and the University of Birmingham. Encouraging dialogue about the challenges and opportunities involved in teaching about Islam in Africa will be a special focus of this workshop, which will support the development of new curricular materials for use in a variety of educational contexts, drawing from material culture, visual arts, sound, and video.

By joining three African studies centers with established strengths in the study of Islam in Africa and including the Cadbury Fellows from African universities, these activities create a network of scholars on three continents who will be well positioned to undertake further collaborative research and strengthen curricular offerings on this critical topic.

The collaboration is supported by a US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant to the Illinois-Northwestern Consortium for African Studies and by the University of Birmingham through the Cadbury Fund at DASA and the European Research Council (ERC, grant agreement no. 283466).

## Workshops encourage teaching about Africa in local schools

by Amy Settergren

The PAS-CAS Title VI consortium sponsored a series of workshops in spring and summer that aimed to expand teaching capacity about Africa in Chicago-area community colleges and schools. The Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and PAS collaborate in the consortium, which is supported by a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant.

The April workshop “Building Africana Studies in Community Colleges” welcomed five Africanist colleagues from Chicago-area community colleges to the Northwestern campus. It began with a visit to the Herskovits Library and continued at PAS with a roundtable with Prexy Nesbitt (Columbia College), Misbahudeen Ahmed-Rufai (Malcolm X College), and Edward Davis (Malcolm X College) on “The Importance of Africana Studies Today.” They stressed the tradition of activist scholarship in Africana studies and the need for an informed US constituency to influence Africa policy.

Nesbitt noted that when he teaches African liberation struggles, his students often ask, “Why was I not taught this in high school? Why do I only know of Nelson Mandela?” He maintained that community colleges are central to building students’ knowledge about the continent.

Ahmed-Rufai urged that Africana studies curricula teach students about all disciplines’ connection with Africa. He lamented the inadequate funding of Africana studies programs in the City Colleges of Chicago and the danger of their being phased out. Collaborations with four-year institutions like Northwestern can help Chicago-area Africanist scholars and students connect.

The afternoon panel “Using Hip-Hop to Teach African Studies” included presentations by Evan Mwangi (English, Northwestern) and Daniel Davis (Kennedy-King College).

Mwangi looked at the intersections of hip-hop and African studies. He uses hip-hop songs and videos in his (predominately white) African literature classes in multiple ways. The sounds and images are recognizable to his US students and can contextualize the assigned texts. For instance, when he teaches the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya, he uses hip-hop to illustrate contemporary Kenyan discourses about the meaning of the rebellion and current Kenyan politics.

Davis’s presentation, “The Evolution of Black Music,” began with a discussion of the demographics of his classroom, where his students are overwhelmingly African American and can range in age from 18 to 80. He argued for a culturally relevant pedagogy that includes teaching about and through black music, including hip-hop. (Davis’s talk is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WSICZpAiw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WSICZpAiw).) A performance by Pmartt, a Chicago-based hip-hop artist from Cameroon, rounded out the afternoon.

A June workshop cosponsored by PAS and the Herskovits Library drew librarians from Chicago-area colleges, including Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), Malcolm X College, and Oakton Community College. They spent the day in the Herskovits Library learning about the collection, focusing on its extensive web-based resources and digitized collections. They discussed how to make the library accessible to students of Africa beyond Northwestern’s campus.

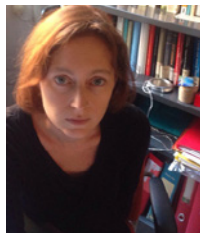
In July a three-week for-credit class was held in conjunction with NEIU’s Africa Summer Institute for Teachers, which is designed to give Chicago and suburban K-12 teachers content knowledge about Africa for use in their classrooms. Northwestern faculty, graduate students, and the PAS outreach coordinator gave presentations on African issues and campus educational resources. PAS and NEIU plan to follow up with institute participants to evaluate the impact of their experience on their teaching and to build a database designed to reach a larger group of Chicago-area educators.

In addition to the symposium and workshops, PAS has partnered with Expanding Lives, a not-for-profit Chicago-based organization dedicated to providing education and leadership experiences to young women in West Africa and the United States. This year four young women, two each from Benin and Niger, experienced a diverse schedule of coursework, cultural activities, and homestays with Chicago families. PAS provided space for courses in computer training, women’s health, English, and leadership development.

*Amy Settergren is PAS outreach coordinator.*

## Visiting scholar Silvia Cristofori

PAS welcomes Italian scholar **Silvia Cristofori** as a fall-quarter visitor.



She is assistant professor of cultural anthropology at Link Campus University (Rome) and

researcher at the Foundation of Religious Sciences, John XXIII (Fscire), Bologna.

Cristofori has conducted research on Pentecostalism in the postgenocide period in Rwanda and the impact of Roman Catholic missionaries on literacy in the interlacustrine region. While at Northwestern she plans to use materials from the Herskovits Library of African Studies for her current project on Nigerian Pentecostal devotional literature.

Cristofori was the organizer of two 2012 international conferences for the UNESCO chair in Religious Pluralism and Peace (Bologna): “The Jasmine Spring: Tunisia, One Year After” (in collaboration with the University of Manouba and the Tunisian School of Politics) and “Forms of Christian Life in Africa.” She has published many articles and book chapters, including “Christianity and New Identities in Buganda during the Scramble for Africa: The Clash of Interpretations of a Conflicting Phase of Globalization” in *The Power of Interpretation: Imagined Authenticity, Appropriated Identity* (K. Hock, ed., University of Rostock, forthcoming).

## Nkweta Kale invested as LeCron Foster Curator

Esmeralda M. Nkweta Kale was invested as the George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator of the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies in a May ceremony presided over by dean of libraries Sarah Pritchard.

Pritchard and Herskovits curator emeritus David Easterbrook reflected on Kale’s contributions to the Africana collection. Richard Joseph, John Evans Professor of International History and Politics, delivered an address, “The Matter of Black Lives: Enduring Significance of the Herskovits Library.”



*From left: Richard Joseph, Sarah Pritchard, Esmeralda Nkweta Kale, and David Easterbrook*

## Herskovits Library reorganizes

This summer Northwestern Libraries shifted the locations of two sets of stack collections: the Herskovits Library of African Studies and the Asian studies holdings. The locations of reading rooms and public study areas did not change.

Consolidation improves access to the materials in the Herskovits Library, which had been scattered throughout the library system. The rapidly growing Asian Studies collection outgrew its space in the lower level of the University Library.

The new locations are  
**Herskovits Library of African Studies:** 5 East, 5 South, and Oak Grove Library Center  
**Asian Studies:** 5 South  
**Humanities:** 4 East, 3 South, and Oak Grove Library Center

Materials transferred to the Oak Grove Library Center usually can be delivered to University Library within one business day.

Please do not hesitate to contact the library staff at [library@northwestern.edu](mailto:library@northwestern.edu) with comments and concerns.



## Visiting scholar Mark Dike DeLancey discusses his recent visit to Western Sahara

I recently took an unexpected three-day trip to the city of Dakhla in Western Sahara in conjunction with a small conference, the “Primera Edición del Forum Socio-Cultural y Económico Marroquí-Español: Las Relaciones Socio-Culturales y Económicas un Puente Para el Desarrollo Entre la Región de Dajla Oued Eddahab y las Islas Canarias.” The conference—and indeed the food, lodging, and transportation costs of all the participants—was funded by a grant from the Moroccan government. Several of the presenters were scholars at universities in Spain and Morocco, while the majority of the Spanish invitees were business investors. The event therefore had a sort of split personality, on the one hand striving for academic respectability and on the other hand hoping to encourage Spanish investment in the area. Ultimately, the investors were displeased at the academic emphasis and resulting lack of focus on the nuts and bolts of how and in what to invest.

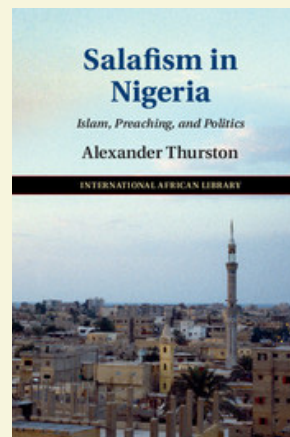
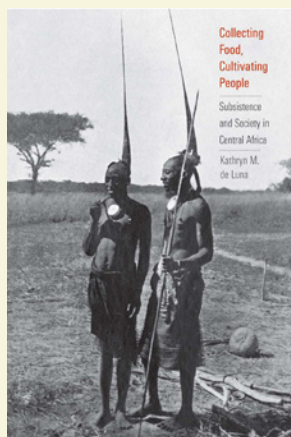
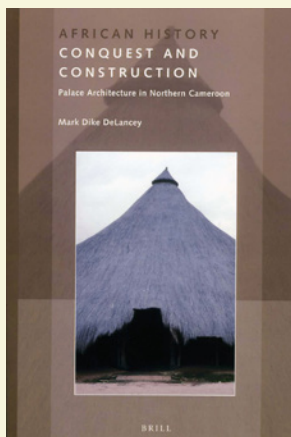
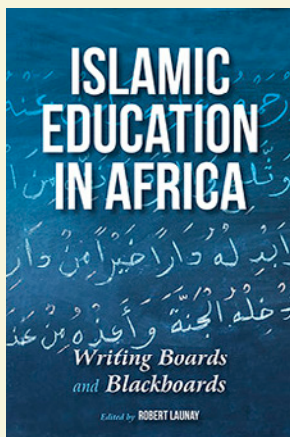
The conference was directly hosted by two organizations. The first, Association Saharienne pour le Développement durable et la promotion de l’Investissement Région Dakhla Oued Eddahab, was led by a dynamic man educated at Texas A&M. The second was Association Seyideti pour le Développement et la Solidarité, a group devoted to the support of Sahraoui women in the area. The opening of the conference and the ensuing feast of camel meat were attended by the heads of numerous other area NGOs, many devoted to helping resettled Sahraoui from the refugee camps.

Beyond the lectures, the conference supervisors provided a small tour of the area to show off its potential. A trip to the port revealed the major economic engine for the area—fishing. The very gentle slope of the land into the waters off the calmer mainland side of the peninsula required a long bridge to attain depths suitable for a port. The port furthermore requires frequent dredging to combat the sand blowing off the peninsula. Another project visited was devoted to aquaculture, and more specifically to farming oysters.

One could eat the fresh products directly from the ocean with a little lime and pepper sauce. A number of young, sunbaked Europeans munching at the tables reminded me that another major draw for Dakhla was its sandy beaches, warm clear water, and consistent wind throughout the year. These qualities make the environs of Dakhla an excellent destination for kite surfers, for whom there are a number of supporting facilities and businesses. One project that I had looked forward to visiting, considering my academic focus on art history, was the artisanat. A beautiful building in the neo-Islamic style that had been recently built downtown by the Moroccan government, the artisanat unfortunately was closed. It seemed that following a recent robbery, the shopkeepers were on strike until the government agreed to install surveillance cameras.

Other sites visited included one of three agricultural projects, two of which are devoted to organic-farmed cherry tomatoes and one to growing melons. The tomato farm that I visited covered 60 hectares with a reported annual production of 100 tons per hectare. Water was being pumped from deep underground. The tomatoes are shipped to Agadir, and from there to France. Once in France, the tomatoes are packaged and shipped throughout Europe, purportedly as far as Russia. The three farms were established by young unemployed college graduates who sought land grants from the Moroccan government. In these cases, as with the conference itself, the Moroccan government appeared eager to provide financial incentives for development, ostensibly as a means of legitimizing its claims to Western Sahara.





## New books by PAS faculty and alumni

**Robert Launay** (anthropology) has edited the book *Islamic Education in Africa: Writing Boards and Blackboards* (Indiana University Press, 2016). The essays address various aspects of the expanding range of educational choices available to Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa. Contributors from the United States, Europe, and Africa evaluate classical Islamic education in Africa from colonial times to the present, including changes in pedagogical methods from sitting to standing, from individual to collective learning, and from recitation to analysis. A new view of the role of Islamic education, especially its politics and controversies in today's age of terrorism, emerges from this broadly comparative volume. For further information see [www.iupress.indiana.edu/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=808098](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?products_id=808098).

**Mark Dike DeLancey** (visiting scholar) has published *Conquest and Construction: Palace Architecture in Northern Cameroon* (Brill, 2016). Northern Cameroon was conquered in the early 19th century by seminomadic Muslim Fulbe forces of the Sokoto caliphate. This study examines palace architecture as political in nature, a response to cultural intersections between the conquerors and the mainly non-Muslim farming communities of the conquered population. For more information see [www.brill.com/products/book/conquest-and-construction](http://www.brill.com/products/book/conquest-and-construction).

Alumna **Kathryn M. de Luna** (director, Georgetown Institute of Global History) has published the book *Collecting Food, Cultivating People: Subsistence and Society in Central Africa* (Yale University Press, 2016) as part of an agrarian studies series edited by James C. Scott. She explores new linguistic evidence and reinterprets published archaeological evidence contradicting popular conceptions that place farming at the heart of political and social change. She contends that political innovation in precolonial African farming societies was actually contingent on developments in hunting, fishing, and foraging.

Alumnus **Alexander Thurston** (Georgetown University School of Foreign Service) has published *Salafism in Nigeria: Islam, Preaching, and Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). The work presents a systematic analysis of curricula taught in Saudi Arabia and how they shape religious scholars' approach to religion and education after they return to Nigeria. This study explores how the canon of Salafism has been used and refined, from Nigeria's return to democracy to the jihadist movement Boko Haram. Information may be found at [www.cambridge.org/au/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/african-government-politics-and-policy](http://www.cambridge.org/au/academic/subjects/politics-international-relations/african-government-politics-and-policy).

## AfriSem conference generates lively discussions

by Susanna Sacks

Participants in “Knowing Africa: The Power of Narrative on a Global Continent,” a national conference hosted by Northwestern’s Africa Seminar (AfriSem) in April, generated lively discussions across traditional regional and period boundaries as they examined the relationship between narrative control, knowledge production, and structures of power.

The conference brought together more than 30 graduate students to explore ways of knowing, narrative construction, identity formation, and other topics.

Vuyiswa Tulelo, consul general in the South African consulate in Chicago, gave a keynote address about the relationship of intellectuals, policy makers, and Africa, stressing the continent’s diversity and the multiple effects of research.

Northwestern graduate students Paul Naylor, Mlonzi Zondi, Jacqueline Pouchet, Scott Newman, Susanna Sachs, and Vanessa Watters served as moderators and discussants for the conference’s seven panels.

The first panel dealt with the relationship between nationhood and memory. M. Victoria Gorham (Florida) presented case studies of museum history in Tanzania and Zanzibar, postulating a relationship between the curation of historical events and the framing of unity in national identity.

Marius Kothor (Iowa) examined the history of a transborder Ewe unification movement. Tebogo Sebeelo (Miami) attributed Botswana’s seemingly inexplicable success following independence to adapting precolonial cultural norms to colonial and postcolonial infrastructure.

The second panel focused on gender, performance, and otherness. Elyan Jeanine Hill (UCLA) examined dance and movement in Ewe ritual performances as a performative remapping of space in the face of trauma. Rita Mookerjee (Florida State) argued for a Ghanaian source in the development of voguing in the United States. Ashley Lynch (Howard) called for a queer aesthetic of resistance to neoliberal systems.

The third panel, on the role of land, development, and migration in contemporary narratives of urbanization, consisted of two papers. Amelie Simons (Northern Arizona) investigated the role of equilibrium and flux narratives and the vulnerability of sub-Saharan urban East Africa to climate change. Denise Lim (Yale) traced how the visual history of Ponte City reflects different qualitative experiences of postcolonial aesthetics in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The fourth panel dealt with media and representation, highlighting the relationship between popular narrative

and identity formation. Paul Banda (West Virginia) looked at Malawi’s postindependence self-positioning in the face of Cold War rhetoric. Boleyn Key (Georgia State) examined colonial rhetoric in 16th- and 17th-century British travel narratives derived from common local mythologies.

The fifth panel considered the effect of transatlanticism and exchange on identity formation and transformation of local meanings. Ana Karina de Morais (California, Santa Cruz) analyzed the production of knowledge by the failed Smithsonian African expedition of 1919–20. Nicolas de Zamaroczy (Southern California) considered the role of European Union support for regionalism in the development of the East African Community project. Raisa “Nell” Parnell (Alabama) examined how Oyotunji African Village forged Yoruba identity in contemporary South Carolina.

The sixth panel stressed the roles of science and religion in community formation. Natália Bueno (Notre Dame) evaluated the influence of Mozambican traditional healing processes on national reconciliation efforts, suggesting they had little overall positive benefits but important personal meaning. Dil Singh Basanti (Northwestern) looked at gateway symbolism in ancient Ethiopia as a portal for reconsidering the role



## New faculty



**Adia Benton** joins the Department of Anthropology as assistant professor specializing in medical anthropology. Before coming to Northwestern she served as assistant professor at Brown University and visiting assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. Her research and teaching focus on cultural practices and the political economy of global health in West Africa,

particularly Sierra Leone. Her book *HIV Exceptionalism: Development through Disease in Sierra Leone* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015) examines how Sierra Leone has reoriented itself as a country suffering from HIV at the expense of other, more pressing health concerns like Ebola. She has published working papers on her HIV research and several recent blog posts on aspects of the Ebola crisis in West Africa. Currently she is preparing two new books: *The Ebola Fieldnotes: Remote Anthropology in a Time of Crisis* and *Citizen Surgeon: Global Surgery and Ideologies of Global Health*.

of death in community and familial structures.

The last panel highlighted themes of narrative and power in military and legal institutions as organizing influences in regions sometimes regarded as lacking state power. Eric Garcia Moral (Barcelona) looked at the role of priests in resistance movements under French colonial rule. Shimelis Mulugeta Kene (McGill) analyzed the rhetoric of Ethiopian antiterrorism law, noting its parallels with earlier anticommunist laws. Jahara “Franky” Matissek (Northwestern) presented ongoing research on the relationship between state security, army size, and armament in sub-Saharan Africa.

The conference was cosponsored by PAS, the Buffett Institute for Global Studies, the Gender and Sexualities Studies Program, and the Graduate School and supported by students and staff from other Northwestern departments and centers.

*Susanna Sacks is a graduate student in the English department and 2015–16 AfriSem coordinator.*



**Michael Wairungu** joins the Program of African Studies as assistant professor of instruction of Swahili. A linguistic anthropologist specializing in multilingualism, language contact, ethnography of communication, and language policy in education, he earned his PhD in anthropology at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Previously, he held a Mellon

Globalization Forum fellowship at Sewanee University and was a Fulbright visiting scholar at Stanford University. His research focuses on urban youth vernaculars and identity in Kenya, particularly the influence of the Sheng dialect on Christian practices. He recently published the article “The Rise of Sheng: A Sociolinguistic Revolution from Below” in *African Youth in Contemporary Literature and Popular Culture* (ed. Vivian Yenika-Agbaw and Lindah Mhando, Routledge, 2014). Currently revising his dissertation for publication, he plans to conduct further research on Sheng among young Kenyans at home and in the diaspora.



**Sera Young** joins the anthropology department as assistant professor. Her work focuses on the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition in low-resource settings, especially East Africa, and draws on her training in medical anthropology, international nutrition, and HIV to take a biocultural approach to understanding how mothers cope to preserve their health and

that of their families. Coauthor of many articles, she has an MA from the University of Amsterdam and a PhD from Cornell University. Her current research concentrates on food security, household-level water insecurity, and pica (the craving and consumption of nonfood items, e.g., charcoal, soil, or clay).

## Community news

Alumna **Jean Allman** (J. H. Dexter Professor in the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis) has been elected vice president of the African Studies Association.

**Marcos Leitao De Almeida** (graduate student, history) has been awarded an International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council to conduct research in Angola, Congo, and Belgium on the sociointellectual history of slavery in the lower Congo between 500 BCE and the 19th century.

**Karen Alter** (political science; codirector, Research Group on Global Capitalism and Law) coauthored an article with Laurence Helfer and James Thuo Gathii, “Backlash against International Courts in West, East, and Southern Africa,” in the *European Journal of International Law* 27 (2016): 293–328. She was interviewed by the *EJIL* editor-in-chief at the European University Institute in August. The interview can be accessed at <http://ejil.org/episode.php?episode=24>.

Alumna **Giulia Barrera** (Italian Directorate General of Archives) has published an article, “The Unhappy End of the Italian Institute for Africa and the Orient (IsIAO) and the Uncertain Future of Its Holdings,” in *Critical Interventions: Journal of African Art History and Visual Culture* 10 (2016): 71–80.

**Mark Dike DeLancey** (PAS visiting scholar) coedited a special issue of *African Arts* on art and patrimony in the Cameroon grassfields (49:2 [2016]).

## Five students receive PhDs

PAS congratulates the following students who successfully defended their PhD dissertations last spring:

**Kofi Takyi Asante** (sociology), “Collusion, Collaboration, and Conflict: The Role of African Merchant Princes in Gold Coast Colonial State Formation”; Bruce Carruthers, adviser. He has joined the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, France, as a research fellow.

**Miklos Gosztonyi** (political science), “Post-Conflict Statebuilding in South Sudan (2005–13): Institutional Layering, SPLM/A Organizational

Structure, and the Historicity of the South Sudanese State”; Will Reno, adviser. He is an instructor in DePaul University’s Peace, Conflict, and Justice Studies program.

**Moses Khisa** (political science), “The Institutional Transformation of Africa’s Personalist Regimes: A Comparative Analysis of Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, and Uganda”; Will Reno, adviser. He is a visiting lecturer in Northwestern’s political science department.

**Nathaniel Mathews** (history), “The Zinjibari Diaspora, 1698–2014: Citizenship, Migration, and

Revolution in Zanzibar, Oman, and the Postwar Indian Ocean”; Jonathon Glassman, adviser. He has been appointed assistant professor in Africana studies at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

**Sally Nuamah** (political science), “The Political Consequences of Education Reform: How School Closures Shape Citizens”; Reuel Rogers, adviser. She became assistant professor of political science at Rutgers University this fall.





## PAS student awardees

More than two dozen students have received PAS awards this year. They include Panofsky Award recipients, who traveled to Africa for predissertation research last summer; Goodman Award recipients, who will be undertaking intensive study of African languages in the next year; African Leadership Research winners, who will receive grants for developing undergraduate research projects relating to African studies; PAS Travel awardees, who will travel to conferences and research sites to further their graduate studies; and recipients of the Guyer/Virman Award for continued research or travel.

Alumna **Valerie Freeland** has published the article “How Not to Be Seen: Highly Vulnerable States and the International Politics of Invisibility” in *Global Governance* 11 (2016): 229–48. For the next academic year she will be the Simons Research Fellow in Dialogue on International Law and Human Security at the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Emerita **Karen Tranberg Hansen** (anthropology) gave a lecture, “The Way We Stay: Domesticity and Desire in Zambia,” to the colloquium on Domestic Orders in the Atlantic World at the Leibnitz University of Hannover, Germany, in April. She also gave the keynote address, “Global Fashion Encounters and Africa: Affective Materialities in Zambia,” at the conference “Dressing Global Bodies: Clothing Cultures, Politics, and Economies in Globalizing Eras, ca. 1600s–1900s” at the University of Alberta, Canada, in July.

Alumnus **Christopher Hayden** has served for seven years as a historian for investigations and prosecutions of human rights violators at the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section of the US Department of Justice. Last spring he was seconded to the UN Mission in Liberia as a temporary political affairs officer, after which he returned to HRSP. At the 2015 ASA annual meeting in San Diego, he participated in a presidential panel on lessons from the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

### Hans E. Panofsky Predissertation Research awardees

Marco Bocchese  
Christa Kunzelman  
Sakhile Matlhare  
Susanna Sacks  
Dilpreet Singh  
Gorgui Ibrahim Tall

### Morris Goodman awardees

Jacob Frazer  
David Peyton

### African Leadership Research awardees

Victoria Koin  
June Odera

### PAS Travel awardees

Kofi Takyi Asante  
Moses Khisa  
Nathaniel Mathews  
Scott Peter Newman  
Sally Nuamah  
Jessica Pouchet  
Susanna Sacks  
Dilpreet Singh  
Leila Tayeb  
Marlous van Waijenburg  
Chelsea Yount-Andre

### Guyer/Virman award

Vanessa Watters

**Marina Henke** (political science) presented the paper “Why Did France Intervene in Chad and Mali? Understanding the Role of Intervention Entrepreneurs” at the colloquium “Regards comparés sur l’État au Sahel” at Sciences Po in Paris in May.

**Richard Joseph** (political science) cochaired a colloquium at the Buffett Institute for Global Studies on “Politics

and Violence in Contemporary Africa” and presented the paper “Enigma of State and Political Order: The Nigerian Experience” at the colloquium “Regards comparés sur l’État au Sahel” at Sciences Po in Paris in May.

**Dolores Koenig** (visiting scholar, Buffett Institute for Global Studies) presented the paper “Conflicting Interests of Residents and Planners

## Community news

in West African Cities” at the African Studies Association conference “Innovation, Transformation, and Sustainable Futures in Africa” in Dakar in June.

**Amanda Logan** (anthropology) has published two articles: “Why Can’t People Feed Themselves? Archaeology as Alternative Archive of Food Security in Banda, Ghana” in *American Anthropologist* 118 (2016) and “An Archaeology of Food Security in Banda, Ghana” in *Archeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association* 27 (2016): 106–119. She also chaired the Africa-themed session “Fire, Food, Farms, and Fortifications: Recent Advances in the Archaeology of Africa” at the 81st Society of American Archaeology Meeting in Orlando.

**Hassan Ndzovu** (ISITA visiting scholar; philosophy and religious studies, Moi University) has published the article “‘Un-Natural,’ ‘Un-African’ and ‘Un-Islamic’: The Three-Pronged Onslaught Undermining Homosexual Freedom” in *Public Religion and the Politics of Homosexuality in Africa*, 78–91 (ed. Adriaan van Klinken and Ezra Chitando, Routledge, 2016). For further information see [www.routledge.com/Public-Religion-and-the-Politics-of-Homosexuality-in-Africa/Klinken-Chitando/p/book/9781472445513](http://www.routledge.com/Public-Religion-and-the-Politics-of-Homosexuality-in-Africa/Klinken-Chitando/p/book/9781472445513).

**Scott Newman** (graduate student, comparative literary studies) presented the paper “Between Haitian and World Literature in Jacques-Stéphen Alexis’s ‘Où va le roman?’” at a Global

Studies and Critical Theory workshop at the University of Bologna. In July he presented the paper “The Death of the African Author and Contemporary Writing by A. Igoni Barrett, Petina Gappah, and Nnedi Okorafor” at the annual Africa Writes festival organized by the Royal African Society at the British Library.

**Jessica Pouchet** (graduate student, anthropology), presented the paper “Innovations for Sustainability: Political Practice in Participatory Conservation” at the African Studies Association conference “Innovation, Transformation, and Sustainable Futures in Africa” in Dakar in June.

**Will Reno** (PAS director and political science) published the article “Lost in Transitions: Civil War Termination in Sub-Saharan Africa” in the *American Historical Review* 120 (2015): 1798–1808. He presented two papers: “Life in a Rough Neighborhood—International Relations from a Horn of Africa Perspective” at the Institute for Advanced Research, Addis Ababa, in April and “Somalia: The Challenges of Security in a Collapsed State” at the conference “Non-State War Economies” at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, in June. He also participated in a retrospective workshop in memory of historian Stephen Ellis, “Linkages between Organized Crime, Governance, and Terrorism in Africa,” at Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Dakar, in April and chaired a panel at the Sciences Po workshop “Regards comparés sur l’État au Sahel” in Paris in May.

## Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh is new PAS program assistant



Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh has joined PAS as program assistant. She has previously worked in the field of community and economic development in Illinois and Missouri, most recently as a community development specialist with the University of Missouri Extension. She also served with the Peace Corps in Rwanda in 2010–12. Williams-Cobleigh earned a master’s degree in sociology as part of the Peace Corps Fellows Program at Western Illinois University. She received undergraduate degrees in international studies and religious studies from Elon University in North Carolina.

**Rachel Beatty Riedl** (political science; Fulbright scholar at Sciences Po Bordeaux) gave the presentation “Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa” in Lisbon, Portugal, in April. She also presented an introductory address at the colloquium “Regards comparés sur l’État au Sahel” at Sciences Po in Paris in May.

**Galya Ruffer** (political science; director of Center for Forced Migration Studies) was awarded a senior fellowship at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University of Duisburg-Essen. She will participate in research on global cooperation in world society, especially issues connected with the Refugee Convention Regime, in the use of refugee status determination in emerging asylum systems.

**Juliet Sorenson** (law) in March went with colleagues from the Feinberg Center for Global Health to Bamako, Mali, to host a UNICEF forum for community-based advocates against female genital mutilation. They then accompanied seven Northwestern law, business, and medical students to Lagos, Nigeria, to conduct key informant interviews and focus groups in slum and informal settlement communities as part of a health and human rights needs assessment. This research, part of the Northwestern Access to Health Project, is supported by Title VI funding from the US Department of Education. Sorenson presented the paper “Myths/Causes/Justifications:

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Perceived and Actual Roles of Islam in FGM Prevalence in Mali” via Skype to the Sciences Po workshop “Regards comparés sur l’État au Sahel” in Paris in May.

**Noelle Sullivan** (anthropology) has two chapters in *Volunteer Economies: The Politics and Ethics of Voluntary Labour in Africa* (ed. Ruth Prince and Hannah Brown, James Currey Press, 2016): “Hosting Gazes: Clinical Volunteer Tourism and Hospital Hospitality in Tanzania” and “Beneath the Spin: Moral Complexity and Rhetorical Simplicity in ‘Global Health’ Volunteering.” For further information see <https://boydellandbrewer.com/volunteer-economies.html>. In addition, Sullivan’s work was featured in a June 1 article by Megan Fu, “Amateurs Play God for World’s Poor,” in the *Daily Beast* ([www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/06/01/amateurs-play-doctor-for-world-s-poor.html](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/06/01/amateurs-play-doctor-for-world-s-poor.html)). In August she participated in the Al Jazeera English television broadcast “Medical Volunteerism,” which can be accessed at <http://stream.aljazeera.com/story/201608012124-0025256>.

**Amy Swanson** (graduate student, theater and drama) presented the paper “Performing Multiplicity: Contemporary African Dance in Neoliberal Economic Conditions” at the African Studies Association conference on “Innovation, Transformation, and Sustainable Futures in Africa” in Dakar in June.

**Marcia Tiede** (area studies cataloger, library) presented the paper “Indigenous Care in Mali, Examples from the Cahiers Ponty” at the Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa “African Medicine Matters: Documenting Encounters in Medical Practice and Healthcare” in Cambridge, UK, in September.

**Helen Tilley** (history) published the article “Medicine, Empires, and Ethics in Colonial Africa,” in the *AMA Journal of Ethics* 10 (2016): 743–53, <http://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/2016/07/mhst1-1607.html>.

**Vanessa Watters** (graduate student, anthropology) presented the paper “Prosperity on the Periphery: Christian Social Welfare in Coastal West Africa” at the African Studies Association UK meeting at Oxford University in September.

## Events calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at PAS, 620 Library Place, Evanston.

### SEPTEMBER

28 noon–1:15 p.m.  
“The Contributions of Fulani Scholars to the Development of Islamic Scholarship in Mali, 18th–19th Centuries,”  
**Mohamed Diagayete**  
(Institut des Hautes Études et de Recherches Islamiques Ahmed Baba)

### OCTOBER

5 noon–1:15 p.m.  
“Vigilantes, Security Institutions, and Regime Longevity: Governing through Arbitrary Intervention in Northern Uganda,” **Rebecca Tapscott** (Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts)

7–8 **Golden Hope Foundation Conference:** “Health Awareness in Africa in the 21st Century”

12 noon–1:15 p.m.  
**Nollywood Speakers Series:** “The Unjust City in Nollywood Cinema: Gentrification and Urban Injustice in Femi Odugbemi’s *Maroko*,” **Paul Ugor** (English, Illinois State)

19 noon–1:30 p.m.  
“A Paradox Otherwise: Ontological Problems and Possibilities along Uganda’s Southern Littoral,” **Jennifer Johnson** (anthropology, Purdue)

26 noon–1:15 p.m.  
**Nollywood Speakers Series:** “Narrating Nollywood, Narrating African Time,”  
**Mary Adekoya** (cinema and media studies, Chicago)

### NOVEMBER

2 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
**Red Lion Lecture:** “Women’s Autonomy in Childbearing: The ‘Obligations’ of Bridewealth Payments,”  
**Francis Dodoo** (sociology and demography, Penn State), Red Lion Pub, 2446 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago

3 2–4 p.m.  
“Nervous States, Reverie, and a Colonial History: Violence and Moods in the Congo,”  
**Nancy Rose Hunt** (history, Michigan)

9 noon–1:15 p.m.  
“Born-Again Demonization of ‘African Tradition,’” **Silvia Cristofori** (politics and international studies, Link Campus University)

16 noon–1:15 p.m.  
“Islamic Fundamentalism from Below in Dakar, Senegal,”  
**Ismaël Moya** (French National Center for Scientific Research)

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