

Rachel Beatty Riedl appointed PAS director

by Meagan Keefe

Rachel Beatty Riedl, associate professor of political science at Northwestern, has been appointed director of the Program of African Studies. A member of the political science and core African studies faculty since 2010, she is a faculty fellow affiliated with Northwestern's Global Politics and Religion Research Group, Comparative Historical Social Sciences Program, and Program on Equality, Development, and Globalization Studies. In addition, she is the current director of the French Interdisciplinary Group. She has been an active member of the PAS community, serving on the program's executive committee and as coordinator of the Africa Seminar (Afrisem).

Riedl received her PhD from Princeton University in 2008. Her research focuses on institutional development in new African democracies, local governance, and decentralization; authoritarian regime legacies; and the interface of religion and politics. She analyzes why more than 20 African nations still maintain democratic constitutions despite conditions that challenge democracy, such as low levels of economic development, ethnic heterogeneity, and weak state institutions. She is author of the award-winning book *Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and many articles in academic journals, including the *Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *African Affairs*, and *Studies in Comparative International Development*.

Prior to coming to Northwestern, Riedl held fellowships at the University of Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Yale Program on Democracy, and she was a Faculty Fulbright Scholar at the research center Les Afriques dans le Monde at Sciences Po Bordeaux.



She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has conducted policy analysis for USAID, the World Bank, the State Department, the Carter Center, and other organizations on issues concerning governance reforms, elections, democratic representation, and identity politics. Most recently she served with the Carter

Center Election Monitoring Mission in Liberia.

In her new capacity as PAS director, Riedl looks forward to continuing her work with the PAS community in Evanston and the greater Chicago area as well as with PAS alumni and longtime collaborators around the world.

“It’s an exciting time to serve as director of PAS, in large part because of the strength and dynamism of our faculty engaged in research pertaining to Africa, the University’s global vision, and the program’s notable historic and contemporary foundations.”

—Rachel Beatty Riedl

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Reflections on my six years as PAS director

by Will Reno

As the summer ended, I handed off the directorship of the Program of African Studies to Rachel Beatty Riedl, my esteemed colleague in the political science department.

I am pleased that Rachel is inheriting the gains from many triumphs during my six-year tenure as director: considerable growth in faculty; increases in external funding through the Title VI, Young African Leaders Initiative, and Fulbright programs, among others; a revitalized Swahili program; and a growing culture of outside donations. Since 2012 PAS has enjoyed a healthy flow of graduate students from the African continent (despite funding decreases) and regular extended visits by African Fulbright scholars. This past spring we were honored to host the emir of Kano, a world-renowned traditional and economic leader, with historic family links to PAS.

Meanwhile, our Africanist graduate students, including many from the continent, have continued to carry out Melville Herskovits's original dream of developing research collaborations and building linkages between African and US scholars and institutions.

The key to these and other accomplishments has been PAS's excellent staff: associate director Meagan Keefe and her predecessor, Kate Klein; Rebecca Shereikis, associate director of the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa; business coordinator Kelly Coffey; program assistant Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh and her predecessor, Matt Pietrus; publications editor LaRay Denzer; and outreach coordinator Amy Settergren. All have kept PAS activities running smoothly.

I am proud to state that in the last six years Northwestern has hired at least a dozen new faculty members—across several schools and the Block Museum—who offer courses or pursue research on Africa. Two of these new

faculty, Chris Udry (economics) and Dean Karlan (economics and finance), have established research labs that mentor undergraduate and graduate students engaged in important research at Northwestern and in Africa. Noelle Sullivan (anthropology and global health studies), Jeff Rice (political science), and the incoming PAS director herself are among the many faculty who have helped create student research and experiential-learning opportunities in countless ways. PAS funds both graduate and undergraduate students through Panofsky, Goodman, and African Leadership Awards, but our faculty are pivotal in encouraging and advising our students.

Last year, Zekeria Ahmed Salem joined us from Mauritania as the new director of ISITA. During his first year,

he arranged a series of new book presentations by global scholars on the topic of Islam and Africa and also arranged the visit of Muhammad Sanusi II, the current emir of Kano and previously the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, who spoke to large audiences at the Kellogg Global Hub and Harris Hall. PAS hopes to continue to work with the emir

on future projects.

From my vantage point as outgoing director, I see future energy and opportunities for African studies in health and law. The growing interaction between PAS and two schools on Northwestern's Chicago campus—the Feinberg School of Medicine and Pritzker School of Law—complements the University's strategic plan as well as the interests of student and faculty scholars. In my own field of political science, there is a new dynamism in the study of urbanization and the social impact of rapid economic change, divergences in consolidated democracies, and, in some instances, the challenges of state collapse. Projects focusing on Islam in

“It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as director. But after six years, it is time for the fresh perspective and different interests a new leader brings.”

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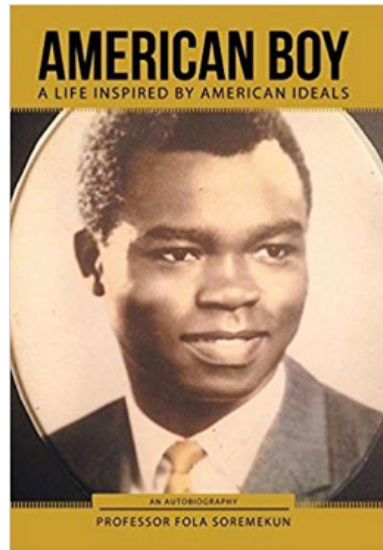
On reading alumnus Fola Soremekun's story

by LaRay Denzer

Fola Soremekun was one of three students to obtain PhDs in African history from Northwestern University in 1965. The other two were Samuel Nwankwo Nwabara, who became director of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka, and Joseph E. Harris, who pioneered the study of the African diaspora. Only two Northwestern alumni had worked on African topics before them: Hannah Abeodu Bowen Jones (1962) and John Eric Peterson (1963).

Born in Abeokuta in western Nigeria in 1934, Soremekun developed an admiration for the United States as a secondary school student who loved jazz, cowboy movies, and the nationalist ideas of Nnamdi Azikiwe, founder of the *West African Pilot*, a Nigerian newspaper. Wishing to follow Azikiwe's example of studying in the US, Soremekun built a network of friends and relatives—many of whom were Methodists (his uncle was the bishop of the Nigerian Methodist Church)—who helped him secure admission to Tabor College, an obscure Mennonite Brethren college in Hillsboro, Kansas. In 1956 he embarked for the US on a cargo boat.

After a year in Kansas, Soremekun transferred to Illinois Wesleyan University, then matriculated as a graduate student in Northwestern's history department in 1960. He remarked that at Northwestern "there existed no overarching context with regard to the approach to African history. There was not even an acceptable history book regarding Africa." At that time Africa was taught from the perspective of European imperialism by Franklin Scott or by visiting professors Roland Oliver (1961–62) and Jan Vansina (1962–63). Plenty of African orientation, however, was offered by Melville J. Herskovits and the Program of African Studies, and Soremekun and his colleagues participated in many stimulating discussions about African nationalism, apartheid



in South Africa, the Congo crisis, and the US civil rights movement. Beyond PAS, Soremekun was attracted to the speeches of Malcolm X, the writings of James Baldwin, and jazz (he wrote program notes for a record company). A staunch Methodist, he decided to conduct his dissertation research on the missionary movement in Angola after the Portuguese colonial government expelled Protestant missionaries, many of them Methodist, from Angola.

His PhD in hand by 1965, he taught for two years in American universities before joining John Omer-Cooper, historian of South Africa, in the history

department at the newly established University of Zambia. On the way to central Africa, he and his African American wife, Elizabeth, visited England for the first time. He wasn't impressed: "London was dark and grimy, and it was always raining. The streets were narrow and congested. Everything was so tight. . . . So, this was once the center of the empire on which the sun never set?" From there they proceeded to Nigeria for a family reunion and then to Lusaka, where he taught for seven years. He returned to Nigeria in 1974 to pursue better opportunities at the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University).

For the next decade Soremekun flourished as Nigerian and other scholars developed an assertive African orientation in their disciplines. He published *Angola: The Road to Independence* (University of Ife Press, 1983) and furthered Ife's linkage with Bahia (Brazil) and Pierre Verger, the French scholar and practitioner of Yoruba religion. He became a founding member of the Lusophone Area Studies Association. Economic conditions in Nigeria led to his decision in 1983 to relocate to the US. Ironically, he left Ife just as another Northwestern alumnus, Wande Abimbola (MA linguistics 1966), became the university's vice chancellor.

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PAS hosts YALI fellows for fifth consecutive summer

by Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh

For the fifth summer in a row, PAS implemented the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the flagship program of the US State Department's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Fellows are African leaders aged 25–35 who are competitively selected to receive intensive professional development in the United States. This past summer, 700 Mandela Washington fellows, divided into 25-member cohorts, were hosted at US universities across the country.

The Northwestern cohort completed six weeks of academic coursework and participated in company site visits, networking, cultural activities, and community service. For the second year, PAS partnered with the Kellogg School of Management in administering the fellowship's academic component.

The 25 fellows were business owners and entrepreneurs notable for the high caliber of their efforts to promote positive change in their home countries. Fellows had launched social impact ventures that are increasing mental health awareness and support in Uganda, assisting low-income poultry farmers in Kenya, and deploying drones to deliver medical testing and supplies to remote villages in Malawi. Others were running for-profit ventures that supply renewable energy in Uganda and emissions testing in Zimbabwe.

The fellows devoted the first Saturday of their stay to the Chicago Cares Serve-a-thon. Over the weeks that followed, they provided mentoring to high school students in Evanston's Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.) youth entrepreneurship summer program. In all, the fellows completed Evanston- and Chicago-based community service totaling nearly 450 hours.

While the Mandela Washington fellows are physically at Northwestern for only six weeks, the impact they leave behind—and the impact Northwestern and Chicago leave on them—is substantial. For instance, the high school students in

Y.O.U.'s summer program impressed the fellows with their motivation and entrepreneurial spirit; the students, in turn, used feedback from the fellows to develop and present business ideas in a competition with cash prizes.

Many fellows reported that before they received their YALI acceptance letters, they were familiar with the Kellogg name but had never heard of Northwestern. By the end of their six weeks here, however, all 25 fellows proudly proclaimed that “purple blood” now runs in their veins.



Outreach program expands community interest in Africa

by Amy Settergren

The PAS outreach program, sponsored by a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant, worked with Northwestern and community partners to host field trips, seminars, and workshops for Chicago-area K-12 teachers and students during the spring and summer.

In March PAS joined with Northwestern's Middle East and North African Studies Program to bring three Evanston Township High School classes to campus for a day of learning about social justice and global education. Presenters included history graduate student Bright Gyamfi and MENA founder and director Brian Edwards. On April 12 three dozen students and teachers from Skokie's Niles North High School spent the day exploring the Herskovits Library and participating in interactive lectures by English graduate student Delali Kumavie and global health studies faculty member Noelle Sullivan. The students, mostly sophomores, learned about career opportunities and urban culture on the continent and grappled with the ethics of voluntourism and the structural forces that support it.

Fifth-grade teacher Andrea Bell-Myers of Brass Community School in Kenosha, Wisconsin, led the final field trip of the spring, bringing 25 10-year-olds to Northwestern to learn about the Herskovits Library's Arabic Manuscripts from West Africa collection. Bell-Myers taught her students about the long history of scholarship and writing in Africa (including in Arabic and Ajami), dispelling stereotypes of Africa as a place without education or writing. The fifth-graders' visit included a campus tour led by University archivist Kevin Leonard. Herskovits librarian Florence Mugambi spoke about growing up and going to school in Kenya, and ISITA associate director Rebecca Sherekis spoke on the history of Islam and Arabic in West Africa. Arabic professor Ragy Mikhaeel offered a mini Arabic lesson, which gave the students practice in writing and speaking Arabic greetings. The day culminated in the class viewing West African Arabic manuscripts from the library's collection and presenting their own homemade manuscript to the library. Each student had created a page, writing messages with a quill pen and ink. The library has added this special gift to its collection of rare materials.

In April PAS sponsored a two-week residency by the South African poetry and performance group *Lingua Franca*, coordinated by PAS and English graduate student Susanna Sacks. In addition to many on-campus activities with Northwestern students and two major public performances, the group partnered with the PAS outreach program to visit area schools. They visited a South African history seminar at Columbia College Chicago and performed for middle school students at Gale Elementary School in nearby Rogers Park. They also spent a day touring the West Side of Chicago, collaborating on the development of resources to teach South Africa and Chicago comparative history.

Also in April, history professor Jonathon Glassman gave a three-hour seminar, "The Swahili Coast and the Indian Ocean: Some Lessons in World History" for 25 area high school teachers as part of Chicago's Newberry Library Teacher Consortium Seminar series. Glassman's history department colleague Sean Hanretta and English department faculty member Evan Mwangi will give seminars in 2018-19.

This summer PAS participated in Northeastern Illinois University's African Summer Institute for Teachers (AFSI) for the fourth year. As before, the teachers spent one day of the three-week institute on Northwestern's campus exploring the Herskovits Library with Florence Mugambi. This year the AFSI teachers also visited the Block Museum, where curatorial affairs associate director Kathleen Bickford Berzock spoke on the upcoming *Caravans of Gold* exhibit and the centrality of Africa and the trans-Saharan trade to the global medieval world. Also making presentations were PAS outreach coordinator Amy Settergren and anthropology lecturer and associate director of fellowships Stephen Hill. The institute ended with the 21 teachers presenting African studies lesson plans for use in classes this coming year. PAS is now collecting and editing these materials to disseminate to a wider audience.

Fulbright predeparture orientation held at Northwestern

PAS and Northwestern’s Office of the Vice President for International Relations cohosted a July 10–13 State Department–sponsored predeparture orientation for more than 150 scholars, students, and English teaching assistants (ETAs) who have received Fulbright grants for study in sub-Saharan Africa. This year marks the first time that orientations were held outside of Washington, DC, in partnership with universities.

“Hosting the orientation is an opportunity for Northwestern to engage a broader academic community, to make connections with the next generation of scholars working on international issues, and to draw attention to the important resources available here,” said Kim Rapp, assistant vice president for international relations. In addition to administrative details related to their grants, the orientation gave participants practical information about living, teaching, and researching in Africa. Caitlin Monroe,

a third-year doctoral student in the Department of History, is one of 58 Fulbright student researchers who participated in the orientation, alongside 62 Fulbright scholars—typically college and university faculty and administrators, professionals, artists, journalists, scientists, lawyers, and independent scholars—and 26 Fulbright alumni. The group also included 28 Africa-bound ETAs, who arrived two days early to take part in an intensive teacher training workshop as well.

Monroe is one of hundreds of Northwestern students and alumni with Fulbright awards to their names. For more than a decade, Northwestern has been among a handful of universities to appear on every “top producing” Fulbright US Student Program list published by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The Fulbright competition at Northwestern is administered through the Office of Fellowships.

The Fulbright Program

In 1945, US senator J. William Fulbright (D-Arkansas) introduced a bill that called for the use of surplus war property to fund the “promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in . . . education, culture, and science.” On August 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed the bill into law, and Congress created the Fulbright Program.

The program fosters bilateral relationships in which citizens and governments of other countries work with the US to set joint priorities. The world has been transformed since the program was founded, but the principle of international partnership remains at the core of the Fulbright mission.

Sudans Studies Association meets at PAS

PAS hosted the Sudans Studies Association’s 37th annual conference last May, providing a forum for SSA members to explore the conference theme: “The Conflicts in the Sudans: Regional Contexts and Beyond.” Eleven panels examined aspects of North and South Sudanese history, language, music, identity, and education; information technology and development; war crimes; forced

urbanization; riparian geopolitics of the Nile waters; new regionalism and civil war; Islam and the state; and new scholarship on the 1924 revolt of the White Flag Society. Attendees included SSA president Souad T. Ali, president-elect and program chair Lako Tongun, executive director Abdullahi A. Gallab, secretary Bakry Elmendi, cofounder Richard Lobban, and past president and Northwestern

alumna Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, whose address, “Melville Herskovits and the Place of the Two Sudan(s) in African Studies and the African Diaspora,” will be published as part of the PAS Working Papers Series. Also presenting a keynote was Benaiah Yongo-Bure (Kettering University), “Poor Economic Policies and the Wars in the Sudan(s).”

In memoriam

Ronald Cohen (1930–2018)

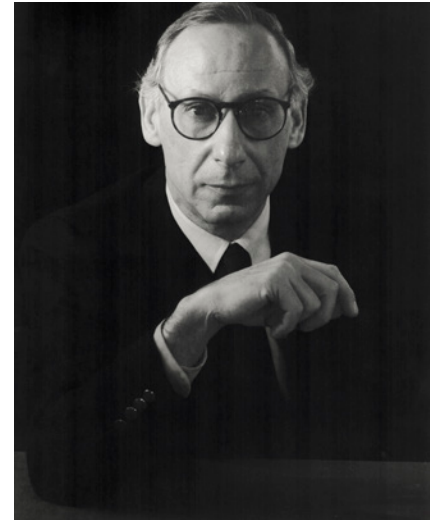
Ronald Cohen, former professor of anthropology at Northwestern, died May 25 in Micanopy, Florida. The following remembrance was composed by his former student Dolores Koenig (PhD 1977), professor emerita of anthropology at the American University in Washington, DC, in collaboration with her fellow alumnae Deborah Pellow (PhD 1974), professor of anthropology at Syracuse University, and Della McMillan (PhD 1983), associate research scientist in anthropology at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

A native of Canada, Ronald Cohen joined Northwestern in 1963 and spent nearly two decades on the faculty, pursuing his interests in political anthropology and publishing extensively. From 1982 to 1994 he was a prominent member of both the anthropology department and the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida, Gainesville. His major works included *The Kanuri of Bornu* (1967) and *Dominance and Defiance* (1971). He also coedited many volumes, including *Comparative Political Systems* (with J. Middleton, 1967), *From Tribe to Nation in Africa* (with J. Middleton, 1971), *Handbook of Method in Cultural Anthropology* (with R. Narroll, 1971), *Hierarchy and Society* (with G. Britan, 1980), *State Formation and Political Legitimacy* (with J. Toland, 1988), and *Human Rights and Governance in Africa* (with G. Hyden, 1993).

Ron worked widely with students both in and outside anthropology. Although known for his work in political anthropology, he also encouraged new currents in anthropology, including gender studies. His book *Dominance and Defiance*, on marriage among the Bornu, was animated by the question of how a society could remain stable despite high divorce rates. The research led him to consider both men and women as actors with culturally constructed perspectives on marriage and divorce.

Able to nurture talent and encourage students to believe in themselves, Ron mentored his women students effectively. I wrote my dissertation on women and work in Cameroon, and Deborah wrote hers on women in Accra. She recalls that no matter where he was, Ron would read graduate student work carefully and respond with comments. Though somewhat overwhelmed by his comments on my dissertation, I followed his recommendations and realized that my work became better. Della thanks him for being a firm guide and gentle editor.

Ron's interest in the political was linked to an interest in the changes he saw within African societies as they met the challenges of independence. He encouraged his students to study these societies and the people in them as they were; this included developing new understandings of ethnicity and moving from villages to urban areas for research on workplaces and formal organizations. *Hierarchy and Society*, which turned to political and economic anthropology to help understand



contemporary bureaucracies, has been especially helpful to me as a development anthropologist.

Another major strength was his commitment to rigorous and systematic methodology in anthropological research and analysis, clearly seen in his *Handbook of Method in Cultural Anthropology*. Deborah remembers that Ron spoke proudly of himself as an unreconstructed positivist. He also encouraged his students to do comparative work, with the goal of building anthropological theory. My own approach to anthropology and African studies remains strongly influenced by his insistence on strong and clear methodology.

In 1982, a few years after I finished my PhD and even before Della did, Ron moved to the University of Florida, where he spent the remainder of his academic life and guided a new generation of students. Those of us at Northwestern remember a wonderful man who cherished his Canadian roots and his beloved Pointe au Baril community there, as well as a great scholar who encouraged a generation of Africanist researchers and teachers.

In memoriam

Barbara Harrell-Bond (1932–2018)

The following remembrance of Barbara Harrell-Bond, who died in Oxford, England, in July, was submitted by Galya Ben-Arieh, founding director of Northwestern’s Center for Forced Migration Studies (CFMS). Harrell-Bond had become Ben-Arieh’s adviser, mentor, and close friend following the 2011 Northwestern University conference “Human Rights in Transit: Issues of Forced Migration,” at which Harrell-Bond was the keynote presenter.



Barbara Harrell-Bond (second from left) and Galya Ben-Arieh (far left) with “Human Rights in Transit” conference participants Molly Barstow and Fiona McKinnon in 2011

When I met Barbara, she was, as she liked to say, in her “third retirement,” directing the Fahamu Refugee Programme and fighting the cessation of refugee status for Rwandan refugees. Over the next seven years she was an integral part of the CFMS, coleading the Summer Institute, participating in workshops, and collaborating across the globe on advocacy for the rights and dignity of refugees. Each year she and I met with a group of CFMS interns to work together at the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees Annual Consultations with NGOs, and we traveled together to regional meetings such as the Asian Pacific Refugee Rights Network.

A pioneer in the field of refugee and forced migration studies, Barbara founded the Refugee Studies Center at the University of Oxford in 1982 and directed it until 1996. In 2005 she was awarded the Order of the British Empire for “services to refugee and forced migration studies.” In her work and scholarship as a refugee advocate and legal anthropologist, she contributed to a rights-based approach to refugee protection with the belief that no one can empower people, only they can empower themselves. She founded the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration and the Southern Refugee

Legal Aid Network; contributed to the founding of refugee and forced migration centers and projects in Uganda, Egypt, South Africa, and the UK; and inspired a generation of scholars, practitioners, and refugees to question the “humanitarian industry” and advocate for rights-based protection. Her ongoing legacies include the refugeelegalaidinformation.org website and the legal aid-focused newsletter *Rights in Exile*, which expand the capacity of legal assistance for refugees around the world.

Conference highlights global dimensions of Islam in Africa

By Rebecca Shereikis

Scholars from across the US and around the world convened at Northwestern on April 23–24 for ISITA's conference "Islam in Global Africa: African Muslims in the World, Muslim Worlds in Africa." The highlight was a keynote address by Emir Muhammad Sanusi II of Kano, one of Africa's most influential Muslim leaders and former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Bringing Sanusi to campus supported ISITA's mission of engaging influential African Muslim thinkers and practitioners, according to ISITA director Zekeriah Ahmed Salem (political science). Sanusi's unique combination of expertise—in the economic sector and as a religious authority—created ample opportunities for ISITA to collaborate with other campus units.

Sanusi spoke to Kellogg School of Management faculty and students about Africa's economic prospects, with a discussion moderated by Kellogg faculty member Kara Palamounain. The Africa Business Club organized the event as part of Mosaic Week, a celebration of Kellogg's diversity, and hosted a private luncheon and discussion with Sanusi after the talk, which was held in the Kellogg Global Hub.

Later that day, before a packed house in Harris Hall, Sanusi delivered the conference keynote address,

"Islamic Authority in Global Africa." His reflections were grounded in the daily challenges and opportunities he faces as an Islamic authority in multicultural, multireligious Nigeria. He addressed the relationship between economic development and Muslim family law, the undervaluing of literacy in Arabic and Hausa by Nigeria's educational sector, the importance of girls' education, and the difficulties that arise when Western governments and NGOs impose their agendas on northern Nigerian society. "If I seek to bring change," Sanusi concluded, "if I seek to get people to question...tradition, it has to be within the framework of seeking change while maintaining authenticity, however it is defined."

Sanusi also toured the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies. "I feel at home here," he remarked, referencing his father's and grandfather's visits to Northwestern in the early 1960s as members of official delegations from northern Nigeria. Photographs of those visits were on display as part of a special exhibit on the Kano emirate prepared by the Herskovits staff. Sanusi said he was "proud to be following in those footsteps and that tradition."

Over two days of panels, the conference explored how local, regional, and global encounters, narratives, and exchanges shape what it means to

be African and Muslim in a variety of contexts. A panel on Islamic education included papers on early-20th-century Franco-Muslim *médersas* in North and West Africa (Samuel Anderson, UCLA); the intellectual networks linking Sudanese jurists with legal institutions across the Islamic world (Matthew Steele, Harvard University); and the contributions of Islamic NGOs to higher education in contemporary Ghana (Mohammed Hafiz, University of Ghana).

A second panel considered the experiences of diaspora communities, including American youth of Senegalese origin who are sent back to Senegal for religious education (Hannah Hoechner, University of Antwerp); Senegalese migrant women in Morocco who insinuate themselves into, and transform, historically male networks of Sufi pilgrimage and transnational brotherhood (Emma McGlennen, Johns Hopkins University); and leaders of the Nigerian Islamic Association of Chicago who have established rituals, ceremonies, and services to meet the sociocultural and religious needs of their members (Misbahudeen Ahmed-Rufai, Malcolm X College).

How local and global dynamics shape politics was the third panel's focus, with papers exploring how biographies of Muslim women anti-apartheid activists in South Africa

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Emir Muhammad Sanusi II of Kano (center) toured the Herskovits Library during his visit to Northwestern to attend last April's ISITA conference on "Islam in Global Africa." Pictured with the emir are (from left) Hassan Mahmud, Rebecca Shereikis, LaRay Denzer, Gene Kannenberg Jr., Sadiyya Sanusi, Zekeria Ahmed Salem, Adrian Randolph, Florence Mugambi, Crystal Martin, Amy Settergren, and Esmeralda Kale.



Perspectives symposium series resumes

The ISITA Perspectives symposium series resumes on November 26, with two authors in conversation about their recent books on the intersection of Islamic education, youth, class, and gender in different contexts. Join us for a dialog between Hannah Hoechner (University of Antwerp), author of *Quranic Schools in Northern Nigeria: Everyday Experiences of Youth, Faith, and Poverty* (International African Library, 2018) and Shenila Khoja-Moolji (Bowdoin College), author of *Forging the Ideal Educated Girl: The Production of Desirable Subjects in Muslim South Asia* (University of California Press, 2018).

reveal the complex relationship between the "ideal" (or normative doctrine) and the "real" (or everyday practice) (Gadija Ahjum, University of Cape Town); the efforts of Ghana's national chief imam to promote religious coexistence at the local and global levels (Ousman Kobo, Ohio State University); how the minority Muslim population in Angola articulates its religious faith in a global context of increasing Islamophobia (Kim Searcy, Loyola University Chicago); and the process of "brokerage" by which East African Muslim preachers negotiate universalist claims in specific social environments (Felicita Becker, Gent University).

The final panel probed further the relationship between global currents and local contexts, with papers on Sunni Muslims' use of Hausa religious poetry to combat the spread of Shia Islam in Kano since the 1979 Iranian Revolution (Kabiru Haruna Isa, Bayero University); historicizing the *takfir* (pronouncement that someone is an

unbeliever) discourse used by contemporary West African jihādi-salafi movements in the context of debates over who was a Muslim in 19th- and 20th-century Hausaland and Bornu (Abdulbasit Kassim, Rice University); how the presence of an Indian Muslim movement—the Ahmadiyya—in Nigeria fostered transnational debates about the nature of political authority in the era of Nigeria's decolonization (Shobana Shankar, Stony Brook University); and the global spread of the Tijaniyya sufi order through digital technologies and how this challenges one of the most enduring practices of Sufism throughout history: the training of disciples in the physical presence of the shaykh (Zachary Wright, Northwestern University in Qatar).

Both the conference and the keynote were well attended by Northwestern faculty and students, as well as by scholars from other Chicago-area institutions and members of Chicago's Muslim community.

ISITA commissions original calligraphic art



Mauritanian calligrapher Mohameden Ahmed Salem Ahmedou has designed and presented to ISITA an original artwork (above) featuring ISITA's full name in Arabic. The letters are handwritten in the *Sūqī* script traditionally used by Tuareg writers and by other groups in the eastern Middle Niger region. The unique style of wall decoration found in the Mauritanian town of Oulata inspired the design of the border. Oualatan women, exclusively, paint exterior and interior walls with natural clay colors mixed with Arabic gum in designs that include nets, wreaths, crowns, and decorative ribbons.

Ahmedou adapts motifs from wall decoration for use in books, art panels, and other domains to revive these motifs and give them wider exposure. "I try to combine decorative elements in new ways that look different from what was customary, without losing the essence and the special appearance that distinguishes the Oulata decorations," says Ahmedou.

A self-taught calligrapher and Arabic manuscript researcher based in Noukachott, Ahmedou also helps oversee his family's distinctive collection of manuscripts—the Library of Muhammadin 'Abd as-Samad—in Trarza, Mauritania. He has completed several decorated copies of the Holy Qur'an, including the Mauritanian Mushaf (the first Mauritanian printed copy of Qur'an), with a cover and extensive decorations inventively adapted from wall art.

Committed to reviving the calligraphic traditions of West Africa, Ahmedou and other calligraphers have founded the Mauritanian Association of Arabic Calligraphy and Ornamentation to promote these arts—the first of its kind in Mauritania.

Ahmedou was one of the curators who took part in ISITA's August 2017 workshop "Working with African Arabic Script Manuscripts," where he also offered instruction in calligraphy.

Recent publications

Selected papers from the 2016 ISITA conference "Sacred Words, the Changing Meanings in Textual Cultures of Islamic Africa," organized in honor of John O. Hunwick, have been published in the journal *Islamic Africa*.

"Ajamization of Islam in Africa," a special issue of *Islamic Africa* (volume 8, nos. 1-2) edited by Fallou Ngom and Mustapha Hashim Kurfi, includes papers by Mustapha Hashim Kurfi, Nikolai Dobronravin, Alfa Mamadou Diallo Lélouma, Bernard Salvaing, Darya Ogorodnikova, Sara Fani, and Adday Hernández.

"From Texts to Meanings: Close Reading of the Textual Cultures of Islamic Africa," a special issue of *Islamic Africa* (volume 9, no. 1) edited by Charles Stewart and Amir Syed, includes papers by Stephanie Zehnle, Paul Naylor, Jeremy Dell, and Zachary Wright and a report by Erin Pettigrew on ISITA's August 2017 workshop "Working with African Arabic Script Manuscripts."

Exhibit highlights noteworthy women of PAS

The 10 highly accomplished Program of African Studies alumnae profiled below were the focus of a spring exhibit in the Herskovits Library curated by librarian Florence Mugambi with research and media assistant Gene Kannenberg Jr. and PAS publications editor LaRay Denzer.

Mabel Murphy Smythe-Haith (1918–2006) (MA economics 1940) earned her PhD in labor economics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1942. After a varied career in higher education and civil rights work, she was appointed US ambassador to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea in 1977, becoming only the second African American woman to be named a US ambassador. In 1981 she began a four-year stint on the Northwestern faculty, holding the Melville J. Herskovits Chair in African Studies and serving as associate director of PAS. She and her husband, Hugh H. Smythe, a 1945 Northwestern alumnus and also an ambassador, coauthored *The New Nigerian Elite* (1960). Her many distinctions included the Northwestern Alumna of the Year Award (1983) and the American Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural Award (1989).

Ruth Simms Hamilton (1937–2003) (PhD sociology 1966) began a 35-year teaching career at Michigan State University in 1968. Founder and core faculty member of MSU's African Studies Center, she pioneered the study of African urbanization and was a founder, and later director, of MSU's multidisciplinary African Diaspora Research Project. She was the coauthor (with Tony Hodges) of *African Affairs Institutions and Public Education in the United States: A Report to the Ford Foundation* (1984) and editor of *Routes of Passage: Rethinking the African Diaspora* (2003). Michigan State University Press established the Ruth Simms Hamilton African Diaspora Series in her honor.

Johnnetta Betsch Cole (PhD anthropology 1967) taught at various universities before becoming Spelman College's first African American woman president (1987–97). She later became president of Bennett College for Women (2002–07) and most recently was director of the National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC (2009–17). As of this fall, her many accolades—among them 40 honorary degrees and numerous awards—include a 2018 Northwestern Alumni Service Medal.

Jean Fox O'Barr (PhD political science 1970) founded and directed the Women's Studies Program at Duke University (1983–2001) and cofounded Duke's Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture. She was an editor for *SIGNS: Women in Culture and Society*, a leading international journal in women's studies, and has written or cowritten nearly a hundred books, book chapters, and articles. In 2000, a year before her retirement from full-time service on the faculty, the Lee/Ewing Foundation established the Jean Fox O'Barr Professorship in Women's Studies at Duke in her honor.

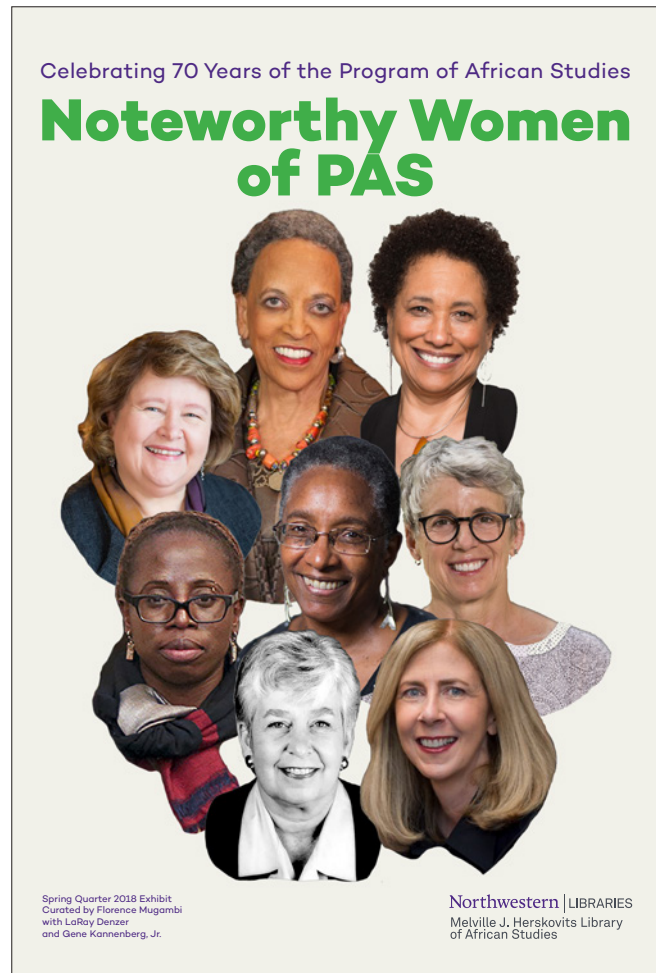
Cheryl Johnson-Odim (PhD history 1978) is a historian, poet, and activist who has taught at several universities: Northwestern, where she was assistant director of PAS from 1980 to 1985; Columbia College Chicago, where she rose to the rank of dean; and Dominican University, where she was provost until recently. She has served on many local and national boards of directors, including the board of the African Studies Association, and currently chairs the Higher Learning Commission, headquartered in Chicago. Among her many publications is the 1997 biography *For Women and the Nation: Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti of Nigeria*, which she coauthored with Nina Emma Mba, a pioneer in the field of Nigerian women's history.

Sandra Elaine Greene (PhD history 1981) is the Stephen '59 and Madeline '60 Anbinder Professor of African History at Cornell University. Her research has ranged from the study of gender and ethnic relations in West Africa to the role of religious beliefs, warfare, and the experience of slavery in the lives of 18th- and 19th-century Ghanaians. She was president of the African Studies Association in 1998. Her most recent book is *Slave Owners of West Africa: Decision-making in the Age of Abolition* (2017).

Jean E. Ensminger (PhD economics 1984), the Edie and Lew Wasserman Professor of Social Science at the California Institute of Technology, is known for her scholarship at the interface of economics, political science, development, and anthropology. She is a past president of the Society for Economic Anthropology and was coprincipal investigator (with human evolutionary biologist Joseph Henrich) on the Roots of Human Sociality, a multiyear project that examined the coevolution of market institutions and prosocial norms of fairness, trust, and cooperation. Her current research analyzes corruption in development and decentralized governments.

Jean Allman (PhD history 1987) is the J. H. Hexter Professor of History and director of the Center for the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis and is the current president of the African Studies Association. She is the coauthor (with John Parker) of *The History of a West African God* (2005) and (with Victoria Tashjian) of *"I Will Not Eat Stone": A Woman's History of Colonial Asante* (2000).

Aili Mari Tripp (PhD political science 1990) is the Wangari Maathai Professor of Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies and chair of the gender and women's studies department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was president of the African Studies Association in 2012 and vice president of the American Political Science Association. Her publications have focused on women's movements in Africa, transnational feminism, and African politics (especially in Uganda and Tanzania). Her numerous awards and honors include the African Studies Association Public Service Award (2014).

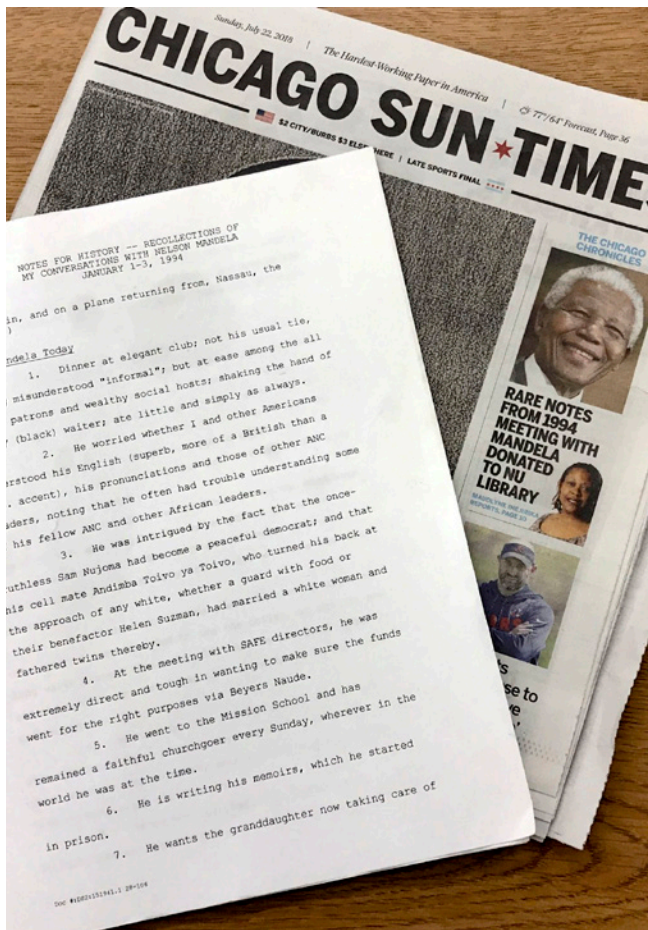


Top row from left: Aili Mari Tripp, Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Cheryl Johnson-Odim; center row from left: Ilda Nathalie Joelle Etoké, Sandra Elaine Greene, Jean Allman; bottom row from left: Jean Fox O'Barr, Jean E. Ensminger

Ilda Nathalie Joelle Etoké (PhD French 2006) is associate professor of French and Africana studies and chair of the French department at Connecticut College. She specializes in Africana film, literature, and philosophy. Her book *Melancholia africana, l'indispensable dépassement de la condition noire* (2010) won the Caribbean Philosophical Association's 2012 Franz Fanon Prize. She is producer of the documentary film *Afro Diasporic French Identities*, which examines race, ethnicity, and citizenship in France.

Notes on recent donations

by Esmeralda Kale, George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator of the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies



When Northwestern Pritzker School of Law professor Juliet Sorensen presented her gift to the Herskovits Library earlier this year, I was almost lost for words. The gift was a never-before-seen eight-page document titled “Notes for History,” written by her late father, Ted Sorensen. The document contains her father’s reflections on his meetings with Nelson Mandela in 1993 and 1994 and offers insight into the array of topics uppermost on the South African political landscape at that time. Ted Sorensen was a longtime adviser to and speechwriter for President John F. Kennedy who later cochaired the South Africa Free Election Fund, an organization that raised more than \$6.5 for South African voter education. Northwestern alumna Maudlyne Ihejirika (MSJ 1987) wrote about the gift of the Sorensen manuscript in the July 22 issue of the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Last spring, when Sonjia Luhman Olstad called and then emailed me to inquire if her Aunt Lydia’s souvenirs of a trip to Africa might be of interest to the Herskovits Library, my curiosity was piqued. A day trip to Caledonia, Illinois, would be required. When I arrived at Sonjia’s home, on the kitchen table was a zebra-skin scrapbook that she and her husband, Jim, had newly found among her late mother’s possessions. It was the type of primary source material that any librarian would love: a fully documented account of Lydia Luhman Pederson’s 1953 trip from Cape Town to Cairo, including a complete itinerary, ticket stubs, receipts, postcards, letters, and photographs. Pederson, who died in 1993, was an independent businesswoman who traveled extensively through Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In addition to the scrapbook, I left Caledonia with artifacts that Sonjia and Jim had brought back from their 1967 travels in Nigeria.



Lydia Luhman Pederson's scrapbook of her 1953 travels through Africa

Other recent donations include an expansive collection of Cameroonian posters, government documents, and serials, deposited by Mark W. Delancey (University of South Carolina); two framed silkscreened prints of drawings by archeologist John Cavallo that depict some of the world's oldest spiritual images—ancient rock paintings created by the Sandawe shamans of central Tanzania and the San shamans of Southern Africa—deposited by 1966 alumnus Robert Avery; the East African research archive of 1971 alumnus Edward Steinhart (Texas Tech University), containing field interview transcripts and tapes, Mau Mau ephemera and police photos, maps, slides, papers on hunting and conservation in Kenya, and more; and an archive of materials on Ghana—including Ewe-language materials, bibliographies, photographs, and interviews—donated by 1981 alumna Sandra Elaine Greene (Cornell University).

Soremekun's story

continued from page 3

Life back in the US proved more difficult than anticipated. Like other economic immigrants, Soremekun endured a long spell of part-time employment and adjunct teaching to make ends meet. Finally, in 1992 he was hired full-time at Citrus College, a community college in Glendora, California, where he remained until his retirement 20 years later.

During those years in Glendora, Soremekun and his family dreamed of setting up a model school in Gembu, a remote town on Nigeria's Mandilla Plateau in Taraba State. With the help of former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, relatives at home and abroad, and Soremekun's Citrus College colleagues and friends, land was acquired, blueprints were prepared, construction materials bought, and curricula developed. In 2005 the foundation stone of the Highlands Education International School was laid, and after 2012 the Soremekuns moved to Gembu to supervise the school.

The subtitle of Soremekun's autobiography, *American Boy: A Life Inspired by American Ideals* (Westbow Press, 2018), speaks to Soremekun's abiding belief in core American values and opportunity. However, it is also a life inspired by Nigerian ideals and Yoruba values, resonating with the long tradition of Nigerian Christian and educational activities harking back to the founding of his hometown, Abeokuta, in 1830.



VIEWPOINT

The importance of the Fulbright experience

by Cheryl Johnson-Odim

As part of a safari that I recently took, I visited the Serengeti and the Ngongoro Caldera, some of the most beautiful places in the world. There I saw an ecosystem that inspired an epiphany about the interconnectedness of living things. I observed how the free animals—as different as they were—the waters, and the vegetation were all interdependent. And I began to appreciate the interdependence of the whole world in not just an intellectual but a visceral way.

“The [Fulbright] program was meant to put that interpersonal interaction—historically solely in the hands of the government and the military—into the hands of the American people. It was the people who were meant to represent themselves in various areas of the world.”

When I came back I had a conversation with a friend who had returned from an international conference in Uruguay. She said that one of the speakers commented on the US presidential election, saying, “Everyone in the world should be able to vote for president of the United States.” The audience laughed, of course, but it was a laughter riddled with irony that acknowledged how the US president has an incredible effect on the entire world.

I share these two stories to set the stage for why, in this historical moment, the Fulbright program is so important. From its founding, the program was intended to create people-to-people interaction across countries, cultures, religions, and so-called races through the deployment of academics, artists, journalists, and other educational and cultural workers—interaction that augments the general channels of ambassadors, other government workers, and

the military. The program was meant to put that interpersonal interaction—historically solely in the hands of the government and the military—into the hands of the American people. It was the *people* who were meant to represent *themselves* in various areas of the world.

Because we have so little interaction with “others,” how we imagine who they are is often based on what we are told by our political leadership, what the media report (with “others” getting coverage only when there’s a problem), or what we see on screens. Among the great privileges of receiving a Fulbright grant is the opportunity to travel and get to know people who are different from you, through their own lens.

I know from experience that nothing will give you as much insight into yourself as getting to know people who are in some ways different from you. Even more important is the cultural interaction that allows us to see how similar we are, at a human level, to those we think of as different from us. Although we may look different, speak different languages, or worship differently, we are all basically the same as human beings. For instance, people everywhere construct living abodes for pretty much the same purposes: finding shelter, gathering as a family, preparing food, storing meager or many possessions, deriving aesthetic pleasure. People on every continent engage in artistic practices, designing, painting, and decorating their living abodes, even in the poorest of places. People everywhere reproduce themselves: They love their children, sacrifice for them, and try to make their children’s lives better, however they define that better. People everywhere strive to educate their children in their own traditions as well as in whatever knowledge they think will give their children a better life. People everywhere design and create activities to entertain themselves, whether through storytelling, music, dance, or other ways. People everywhere have humor, things that make them smile or laugh out loud. People everywhere love each other, operating by rules that show that love.

While we may implement them differently, the fundamentals of life are the same. Wherever you go, keep your eyes, minds, and hearts open: Look for those fundamental

things we share as human beings, and try to recognize them in what may seem strange to you. I am not saying that everything is relative and fine as long as it is a justified cultural practice. We do eventually judge some things. But we must understand the roots of cultural practices, their underlying rationale, even to make change. We must be able to see these practices as they are seen by the people who live them. We cannot march in and make change without their permission, their participation—and, in fact, their leadership.

The Fulbright program is meant to facilitate not only making connections but also grasping the global interdependence of everything on Earth. We may pretend that we can coexist without intermingling—but we cannot. At various times in history, our country has attempted to practice isolationism. But it has never, ever worked to our advantage—never! Without working with the rest of the world on today's most pressing issues—such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, and resource utilization—and seemingly intractable problems—like those between Palestine and Israel—the United States can be neither safe nor prosperous.

This is where Fulbrighters come in. The program promotes engaging the world in a healthy dialogue through which we can work together to secure peace, security, and prosperity; make exchanges for the common good; and achieve understanding and knowledge that can be widely shared and passed on from one generation to the next. Fulbrighters are charged to go forth, to help us to develop a citizenry that understands the need for international cooperation. That, I think, is what the Fulbright experience is meant to be.

Cheryl Johnson-Odim is provost emerita of Dominican University and a former associate director of PAS (1980–85). For a brief overview of her career, see page 12.

Reflections

continued from page 2

Africa—a major research area—reach back almost to the very foundation of PAS, with collaborative programs in universities in the Sudan and Nigeria; these are at the center of PAS today. Popular culture in and emanating from Africa is another area that engages our faculty and students. It is impossible to list the full range of research being done at Northwestern, but these are some highlights.

As director I was able to help build relationships with Africa-based colleagues and institutions, especially with CODESRIA, the Centre for Basic Research in Kampala, and the Institute for Advanced Research in Addis Ababa. I was fortunate to hood 19 PhD students and to continue publishing.

In sum, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as director. But after six years, it is time for the fresh perspective and different interests a new leader brings. I look forward to working with—and learning from—Rachel as my involvement with PAS continues.

PAS welcomes new Swahili instructor, two visiting scholars



Peter Mwangi joins the African studies faculty as instructor of Swahili. He holds a BA in Swahili from Kenya's Moi University and three

advanced degrees—an MEd in educational administration, an MA in applied linguistics, and a PhD in higher education and student affairs—from Ohio University. His current research examines the impact of LCTLs—less commonly taught languages—on the internationalization of higher education in the US. Previously, Mwangi taught Swahili at the University of Kansas, Ohio University, Indiana University, the University of Oregon, and the University of Virginia.



Visiting scholar **Matthew Rarey** is an assistant professor of art history at Oberlin College whose research focuses on the impact of

African artists and ideas in diasporic contexts. He is especially interested in assemblage and ephemeral aesthetics, conceptions of enslavement and its visual representation, and the development of Afro-Atlantic religious arts. He has contributed chapters to the edited volumes *African Heritage and Memories of Slavery in Brazil and the South Atlantic World* (Cambria Press, 2015) and *Theorizing Visual Studies* (Routledge, 2012). While at PAS he will continue work on a book manuscript that investigates the history of *bolsas de mandinga*, small protective pouches with cross-cultural origins in West Africa that took on new forms and histories as they spread across the black Atlantic world over the past four centuries. Among his other projects is a study of the relationship between cartography and maroon settlements in 18th-century Brazil.



Visiting scholar **Naaborko Sackeyfio-Lenoch** is an associate professor at Dartmouth College who specializes in 20th-century

Ghanaian and West African history. She is author of *The Politics of Chieftaincy: Authority and Property in Colonial Ghana, 1920–50* (Rochester, 2014), as well as many articles published in the *International Journal of African History Studies*, *History in Africa*, *International Review of Social History*, and the *Journal of West African History*, among others. Sackeyfio-Lenoch has been awarded a Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies for the 2018–19 year. While at PAS she will continue writing a book manuscript about the history of Ghana's role in the global and cultural politics of the Cold War and independence eras.

Send your news updates to laray.denzer@northwestern.edu so that PAS can share word with the Africanist community at Northwestern and beyond.

Karen Alter (political science and law) wrote a recent *Washington Post Monkey Cage* blog post, “Trump’s tariffs aren’t the biggest trade problem. Will China step up to protect the WTO?”

Former ISITA preceptor and visiting scholar **Margot Badran** edited the May 2018 special issue of *Samyukto: A Journal of Gender and Culture* on Islamic feminism.

Adia Benton (anthropology) received a 2018 W Award (Weinberg College Research Innovation Grant) that provides seed funding for her project “Predicting Crises: Ebola and the Culture(s) of Epidemiological Modeling.” Her opinion piece “Why we should be cautious about the ‘game-changer’ Ebola vaccine” was published online by *Al Jazeera* in May.

Alumnus **Marco Bocchese** published the article “Jus Pro Bello: The Impact of International Prosecutions on War Continuation” in *Washington International Law Journal* 27 (2018): 645–682.

PAS alumna **Johnnetta Betsch Cole** received a 2018 Northwestern Alumni Medal in recognition of her career achievements and public service (see profile on page 12).

Former PAS visiting scholar **Kayode Fayemi** was recently elected governor of Ekiti State, Nigeria, for a second time, having run as a candidate of the ruling All Progressives Party. He last held the office in 2010–14.

Karen Tranberg Hansen (anthropology emerita) presented the paper “Fashion Practices and Livelihoods: Perspectives from Zambia” at last April’s Africa: Development + Architecture + Design seminar series at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen.

Former visiting Fulbright scholar **Etiido Effiong Inyang** (graphic design and visual communication, University of Port Harcourt) published “Echoes of Secession: The Hero, the Rebel, and the Rhetoric of Might in Nigerian Civil War Pictorial Propaganda” in *African Studies Quarterly* 17(3), 2017: 1–20.

Alumnus **Buddhika Jayamaha** was one of five coauthors of “Combat High: America’s Addiction to War,” a forum discussion published in the June issue of *Harper’s Magazine*. He and alumnus Jahara “Franky” Matisek cowrote the article “Hybrid War: Attacking the ‘Civil’ in Civil Society” that ran in April in *WAR ROOM*, the online journal of the United States Army War College. Jayamaha’s spy thriller *Glasshouse: A Novel* was released by Skyhorse Publishing in 2016.

Robert Launay (anthropology) spent much of the spring and summer in Europe. He was at London’s School of Oriental and African Studies in April as a discussant on a panel examining Belgian scholar Hannah Hoehchner’s new book *Quranic Schools in Northern Nigeria: Everyday Experiences of Youth, Faith, and Poverty*. In May he gave the lecture “Contextualizing Piety Movements: Islam in West Africa and Beyond” at the Bologna-based Foundation for Religious Sciences in Italy. In Germany in June and July, he gave a talk on Islamic education in Africa, “Writing Boards and Blackboards,” at the University of Bayreuth and was a discussant and presented a paper at the University of Gottingen’s “Private Pieties” conference.

Alumnus **Jahara “Franky” Matisek** and **Will Reno** (political science) coauthored the article “A New Era of Insurgent Recruitment: Have ‘New’ Civil Wars Changed the Dynamic?” in *Civil Wars* 20:2 (2018), 1–21.

Former PAS artist in residence **Femi Odugbemi** accepted an invitation to join the Hollywood-based Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Jessica Pouchet expects to spend the academic year at Northwestern after completing her PhD in anthropology this fall. She received a National Science Foundation postdoctoral research fellowship for “A Spatial-Historical Analysis of Agricultural and Protected Land,” a project in connection with her research on Tanzania. Next year she will take up an appointment as the C. Graydon and Mary E. Rogers Faculty Fellow at Bucknell University.

Will Reno (political science) published the article “The Politics of Security Assistance in the Horn of Africa” in *Defence Studies* 18:3 (2018), 1–16.

Rachel Beatty Riedl (political science and PAS director) contributed the chapter “Institutional Legacies: Understanding Multiparty Politics in Historical Perspective” in *Institutions and Democracy in Africa: How the Rules of the Game Shape Political Development*, edited by Nic Cheeseman (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Zekeria Ahmed Salem (political science and ISITA director) contributed the chapter “Politics of the Haratin Social Movement in Mauritania (1978–2014)” in the recently published volume *Social Currents in North Africa: Culture and Governance after the Arab Spring*, edited by Osama Abi-Mershed. He gave an invited presentation in Paris at last February’s French Development Agency conference, “Gouverner l’Afrique saharo-sahélienne,” and was a panelist at the Chai Wai Series presentation “Recent Instances of Political Violence in West Africa,” organized by the

Continued on back page

International and Area Studies Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in April.

Noelle Sullivan (anthropology and global health studies) was named a Charles Deering McCormick Distinguished Lecturer by the Office of the Provost in recognition of her commitment to undergraduate teaching and research. She has supervised numerous honors theses and independent research projects, served as a mentor for GlobeMed and Project Rishi, and invited students into her own research projects.

Helen Tilley (history) organized “Global Medical Cultures, Properties, and Laws,” an international workshop that featured papers under consideration for publication in a special issue of the History of Science Society’s journal, *Osiris*.

PAS congratulates new PhDs

Six students in African studies successfully defended their dissertations (titles and advisers noted) and were awarded doctoral degrees in 2017–18.

Marco Bocchese, “Justice Cooperatives: Explaining State Attitudes toward the International Criminal Court” (Will Reno, adviser). Bocchese is an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Buddhika Jayamaha, “Combatants Inside and Out” (Will Reno, adviser). Jayamaha is a postdoctoral fellow in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and is pursuing research on food security, big data, and the detection of network disruptions.

Raevin Jimenez, “Rites of Reproduction: Tradition, Political Ethics, Gender, and Generation among Nguni-Speakers of Southern Africa, 8th–19th Century CE” (David

Schoenbrun, adviser). Jimenez has accepted a tenure-track position in the history department at Susquehanna University.

Jahara “Franky” Matisek, “The Development of Strong Militaries in Africa: The Role of History and Institutions” (Will Reno, adviser). Matisek is an assistant professor in the military and strategic studies department at the US Air Force Academy.

Leila Tayeb, “Sonic Upheavals: Music in Libya, 2011–17” (D. Soyini Madison, adviser). Tayeb has been appointed Stanford H. Taylor Postdoctoral Associate in Music and Islam in the Contemporary World at Cornell University.

Rachel Taylor, “Crafting Cosmopolitanism: Nyamwezi Male Labor, Acquisition, and Honor, c. 1750–1914” (David Schoenbrun, adviser).

Graduate students awarded support for research and training

Recipients of the **Hans E. Panofsky Predissertation Research Awards**, which provide up to \$2,000 for short-term visits to prospective field sites and research institutions in Africa, were Eddine Bouyahi (political science), Mitch Edwards (history), Bright Gyamfi (history), Lamin Keita (political science), Andrew Wooyoung Kim (anthropology), Rita Dela Kuma (anthropology), F. Delali Yawa Kumavie (English), Isaac Ginsberg Miller (African American studies), Julissa Muñoz (human development and social policy), Moritz Nagel (history), and Salih Nur (political science).

Morris Goodman Awards, providing up to \$3,000 for the study of an African language not taught at Northwestern, were granted to Bright Gyamfi (history), Rita Dela Kuma (anthropology), Lamin Keita (political science), Moussa Seck (French and Italian), and Gorgui Ibou Tall (French and Italian).

A **PAS travel grant** was awarded to Scott Newman (comparative literary studies).

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