

Conferences address contemporary trans-Saharan issues

Scholars from the US and abroad will convene at Northwestern in April for successive conferences that focus on the current situation in the trans-Saharan region.

The first conference, on April 10, has been organized by PAS director Rachel Riedl and institutional partners at Sciences Po in Paris as part of the ongoing research project “Security, Governance, and Policy in the Sahel.” Conference activities will include three panels:

- Identification, Inclusion, and Exclusion: Citizenship and the Politics of ID Cards in West Africa
- Identification, Surveillance, and Vigilantism: Citizenship and the Politics of Self-Defense in the Sahel Region
- Policies and Politics of Intervention

International presenters include Roland Marchal, Richard Banégas, Kamina Diallo, and Romand Da Cunha Dupuy (Sciences Po); Claude Mbowou (Panthéon-Sorbonne); and Catherine Gegout (University of Nottingham). Northwestern participants include Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa director Zekeria Ahmed Salem and Will Reno (political science). The conference will also include a screening of the documentary *Koglweogo Land* and discussion with Burkinabe filmmaker Ismaël Compaore.

The second conference, “Saharan Futures: Migrations, Identities, and Economies,” will be hosted on April 11–12 by Northwestern’s Program of African Studies, ISITA, and Middle

East and North African Studies Program.

Bridging the disconnect between North African and sub-Saharan specialists,



“Saharan Futures” will bring together experts on the movements of people, ideas, and resources within and across borders. Presenters and discussants will analyze political logics, citizen mobilizations, economic strategies, and legal infrastructure as both constraints and opportunities for growth and security across the region.

The conference will open at the Block Museum of Art with a keynote by historian Ann McDougall (University of Alberta) and an evening reception on Thursday; Friday events include morning and afternoon panels at PAS followed by a policy discussion at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. These events complement the concurrent Block Museum exhibition *Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture, and Exchange across Medieval Saharan Africa*.

Inside

<i>PAS</i> stories	3
<i>Viewpoints</i>	7
<i>ISITA</i> news	10
<i>Community news</i>	12

From the director



This year the Program of African Studies has had incredible opportunities to reflect on research and disseminate new perspectives on Africa's role in global trade, production, idea exchange, and migration. Our partnership with Northwestern's Block Museum on the exhibit

Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time is a shining example, one that demonstrates the vitality of PAS's core mission: to generate and share knowledge while connecting our local and global Africanist communities.

The opening of *Caravans of Gold* drew a record crowd of more than 2,000 visitors and brought together the museum partners from Nigeria, Mali, and Senegal who had been working for years with Block associate director of curatorial affairs Kathleen Bickford Berzock. Northwestern is where they could connect, exchange perspectives on and react to the work, and plan future collaborations. This demonstrates how our local hub's activity reverberates internationally.

PAS's exhibit-related outreach is bringing a recentered perspective on African studies to Evanston and Chicago-area primary and secondary school students (see story on facing page). By providing curriculum materials and teacher kits, arranging school visits, and bringing archaeologists from Mali into the schools, we are reaching our local community through engaged learning. When young people learn that Africa has long been at the center of the global history of production and exchange, they gain a foundation for their future understanding of the complexity of our interwoven world.

In collaboration with the Block, the Refugee Knowledge Hub, the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa, the Middle East and North African Studies Program, and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs (CCGA), PAS is coordinating research and public events that center on questions of migration. Last February's "Nations of Migrants" event at the Block was an evening of dialogue exploring the experiences of refugees in the US, Chicago, and Evanston and interrogating the legal, social, political, and human implications of crossing borders. This April's academic conference "Saharan Futures" (see story on page 1) will be followed by a CCGA policy discussion of migration, economic flows, and security across the Sahara, connecting south to north. Performances, readings, and film screenings held in collaboration with PAS's Avant-Garde Africa Research Cluster will also take up themes of migration, fragmentation, and translation.

The power of *Caravans of Gold* lies in recentering the place of Africa within medieval history. PAS works toward a contemporary recentering of Africa—in our research mission, in institutional environments, and the imaginings and understandings of the broader public.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. B. Riedl". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rachel B. Riedl

Local students gain new perspectives on medieval Africa

by Amy Settergren

PAS's winter-quarter K-12 student outreach programs centered on *Caravans of Gold*, the Block Museum's groundbreaking exhibition that brings alive the story of medieval Africa and the Saharan trade. Through student field trips, school visits, and curriculum guides for teachers, PAS aimed to make Africa's centrality to the global medieval world a focus for perspectives on Africa and African history.

In early February the Block and PAS hosted Evanston Township High School's social studies faculty for an on-site professional development session and tour of the museum. Thirty-three teachers viewed the objects and artifacts in preparation for field trips with their students this spring. In addition to touring *Caravans*, teachers viewed Isaac Julien's *The Leopard (Western Union: Small Boats)*, a video installation in the Block's Alsdorf Gallery that connects the exhibition's themes of movement and exchange to contemporary discourse around migration and globalization.

Fifty-eight students and four teachers from Niles North High School visited campus in late February to see *Caravans* and attend a series of talks. Organized by Pankaj Sharma, a 2016 recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching and a long-standing PAS outreach partner, the visit began with a presentation by Northwestern University Libraries geospatial and data analyst Kelsey Rydland, who showed how different map projections can distort the relative size and shape of the globe, minimizing Africa's geographic proportions vis-à-vis the global north. He explained how any map, far from being a neutral depiction, represents its maker's intentional choices.

The students were divided into three groups to take turns viewing the video and exhibition and touring the Herskovits Library. In the museum, each group was accompanied by a Northwestern undergraduate docent specially trained to engage the students in an interactive experience. Herskovits Library tours were led by anthropology graduate students Patrick Mbullo and Dela Kuma and history graduate student Chernoh Bah, who shared how their respective upbringings in Kenya, Ghana, and Sierra Leone related to



their current academic interests.

Also in February, for the third year in a row, Dawes Elementary School in Evanston invited the Herskovits Library and PAS to participate in its Black History Month celebration. PAS and the library curated a display of books and objects related to Saharan trade that was visited by about 360 pupils in 18 classes. Each class listened to a short presentation on medieval Saharan Africa and examined material culture kits created by PAS and the Block to support *Caravans* outreach. Students were able to handle objects recently acquired in markets in Morocco, Mali, and Nigeria that evoked some aspect of Saharan trade, including "gold" necklaces, beads, a Qur'anic writing board, a small leather camel, and a chunk of salt.

PAS also continued its outreach partnership with Chicago's Newberry Library. Evan Mwangi (English) led a seminar on African (and global) responses to Joseph Conrad's 1899 novella *Heart of Darkness*. The seminar expanded PAS's work with the Newberry beyond social studies teachers: participants included 25 high school English teachers whose classes incorporate Conrad's work. Mwangi led a discussion of the text and provided resources and suggestions for including more African voices and perspectives in their reading. PAS will work with the Herskovits Library to incorporate Mwangi's recommendations into a library guide, and make them widely available to educators.

Online exhibit highlights national airlines of newly independent African states

by Rachel Cole

Making its debut this spring is *Independence in the Air: African Aviation in the 1960s*, an online exhibit that looks at the history and creation of African national airlines in the era of decolonization. Viewable at libraries.nyu/independenceintheair, the exhibit draws on reports, timetables, and passenger ephemera from Northwestern's Transportation Library and the Herskovits Library of African Studies.



As nations throughout Africa won their independence in the 1960s, the creation of national airlines soon followed. These airlines not only connected regions underserved by rail and road infrastructure; they were powerful symbols domestically and on the world stage, bearing the flags of Africa's newly independent nations and connoting national identity,

economic expansion, modernity, and technological advancement.

Commercial passenger aviation in Africa dates to the 1920s, when Air France, Britain's Imperial Airways, and Germany's Lufthansa first added major African cities to their routes. African-owned passenger airlines emerged in the 1930s with South African Airways and in the '40s with Ethiopian Airlines, Liberian National Airways, and Egyptian airline Misrair. Through the '50s and into the '60s, however,

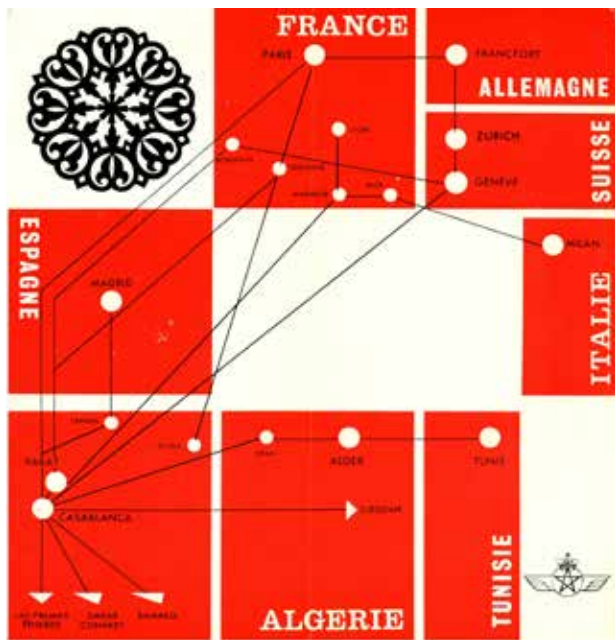
much of the African continent continued to be served by overseas operators, including British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC), Sabena Belgian Airlines, Pan American World Airways (Pan Am), and Trans-World Airlines (TWA). In some cases, European colonial governments formed multinational airline operators, including Central African Airways, East African Airways, and West African Airways.

The founding of national airlines often went hand in hand with gaining independence, as many new African nations launched their flag carrier in their first year or shortly thereafter. This was the case in Ghana, which withdrew from the former West African Airways Corporation in 1957, the same year the country became independent. Ghana Airways was founded the following year, originally

in partnership with BOAC; by 1961 the airline was entirely government owned. In a 1964 speech, Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah spoke for all Ghanaians: "Naturally it increases our self-confidence to observe our own people helping to control the intricate mechanisms involved in the functioning of our airways services, and we certainly experience a glow of pride in seeing our flag flying on planes and ships traveling to other countries."

Newly independent nations proudly displayed their flags for both domestic and international travelers, emblazoned on the uniforms of their airline personnel and the exteriors and interiors of planes. Symbols, colors, and other representations of national identity ran through the branding systems of Air Mali, Ghana Airways, Ethiopian Airlines, East African Airways, and other carriers, as seen in the exhibit's timetables, route maps, menus, annual reports, and other published material and ephemera.

Airlines also expanded their service networks during this period, as documented in their route maps. Route maps published in airlines' annual reports were designed for those with business interests in the airlines' routes and profits; when included in passenger ephemera, the maps often featured bold, imaginative graphics that informed the traveler, promoted destinations, and inspired a desire to fly. Featured in the exhibit is a 1961 Sudan Airways route map from the Transportation Library's George M. Foster Timetable Collection. Formed



in 1946, Sudan Airways was among the first national airlines founded in Africa. The route map illustrates the growth of an airline that began with service between Sudan and Eritrea and 15 years later would encompass a network reaching as far north as London, to Aden and Beirut in the east, to Entebbe in the south, and to Geneina in the west.

Like route maps, airline timetables served a utilitarian purpose—giving travelers practical information—while also suggesting the glamour of air travel, promoting destinations near and far, and building the airline’s identity and brand. Replete with details about baggage allowances, passport requirements, fares for children and students, rules for stopovers and

connections, and prohibited articles, these timetables offer insight into the travel experience of the time.

National pride rose not only when flag-carrying fleets first took off but also when the airlines began to visibly Africanize their operations at every level: Africans were actively recruited, trained, and offered apprenticeships to become flight attendants, engineers, pilots, salespeople, and executives. This trend was seen not just in the national airlines created in the 1960s but also in African airlines established decades earlier by independent nations, such as Ethiopian Airlines. Included in the exhibit is that airline’s 25th anniversary brochure from 1970, which states: “Ethiopianisation at the fastest possible rate compatible with the needs of a modern airline has always been an integral part of the airline’s policy.”

By the end of the 1960s, more than 70 African airlines were in operation, reflecting rapid growth from the beginning of the decade. More airlines were founded in subsequent years as independence spread on the continent, including Air Zimbabwe in 1980. This growth proved unsustainable in many cases, however, with financial, political, and operational instabilities leading to transformation, merger, or cessation of services by some airlines in the following years. Ethiopian Airlines, for one, is still a shining example of commercial and operational success, flying to 125 destinations around the world.

Rachel Cole is the reference librarian in Northwestern’s Transportation Library.

Jean Frances Herskovits (1935–2019)

A pioneer in decolonizing African history scholarship, Jean Frances Herskovits died February 5 at her home in New York City. She was born in Evanston in 1935, the only child of anthropologists Melville J. and Frances S. Herskovits. She received a BA in history from Swarthmore College in 1956 and a doctorate from Oxford University



in 1960, at a time when her dissertation topic—liberated African returnees to Nigeria—and use of oral methodology in her research were considered unconventional. She was supported and advised by scholars Kenneth Kirkwood and Thomas Hodgkin, both instrumental in establishing African studies at Oxford, and renowned Nigerian historians Kenneth O. Dike and J. F. A. Ajayi. Her dissertation was published in 1965 as *A Preface to Modern Nigeria: The “Sierra Leoneans” in Yoruba, 1830–1890*, under the name Jean Herskovits Kopytoff.

A 1958 trip for dissertation research would be the first of Herskovits’s frequent visits to Nigeria. Returning at least once a year, she was described by one Nigerian leader as a well-disguised Nigerian. She wrote extensively and consulted for foundations, corporations, and the World Bank and testified at US Senate and Congressional committee

hearings on Nigeria and US Africa policy. In 1998 she became a founding trustee of the Shehu Shagari World Institute for Leadership and Good Governance. She also held various positions in Nigeria, including director of the United Bank for Africa (1998–2005) and member of Conoco Phillips’ Nigeria Advisory Council (2001–08). In 2009 she became a founding trustee of the Danjuma Foundation, an independent philanthropic organization in Nigeria, taking particular interest in its education projects.

Herskovits published many articles on Nigerian affairs for journals and US and Nigerian newspapers. She was also involved in southern African issues, participating in the anti-apartheid movement and conducting research on the kingdom of Lesotho. She collaborated with the late Joseph N. Garba, a former president of the United Nations General Assembly, on a study of regional defense issues among southern African nations.

Herskovits held faculty positions at Brown University, Swarthmore, and City College of the City of New York before joining the history department of the State University of New York at Purchase in 1977, where she taught for nearly 40 years. She is survived by her husband, John Corry; three daughters; and six grandchildren. She donated her personal papers to New York Public Library’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

On sharing research findings with Mali's Manantali community

by Dolores Koenig

In late January, as Evanston froze, I was sitting in the dusty meeting room of Bamafele commune in far southwest Mali, listening to local villagers comment on my research team's work.

In 2016, before I retired as professor of anthropology at American University and moved to Evanston, I received a National Science Foundation grant to study the people resettled by the construction of the Manantali Dam in 1986–87. The goal was to see how their lives had changed in the 30 years since—and to what extent this was attributable to changes in Mali's economy and politics rather than the resettlement. I worked with five scholars from Mali's Institut des Sciences Humaines: Tiéman Diarra, Moussa Sow, N'gna Traoré, Rokia Traoré, and Kama Dembélé. Through intermittent field research from 2016 to 2018, we gathered data from households that had been studied since the 1980s, as well as from others, on topics of major interest: the town of Manantali's growth, new educational institutions, and agricultural production.

Our final major activity was presenting provisional results to interested groups in Manantali. The biggest challenge was deciding what to present; there was too much information to be comprehensive. Not wanting to bore audiences already familiar with the region, we decided on 20-minute presentations, with a similar amount of time for comments and questions. Each presenter chose a topic: an overview of local institutions (Diarra), agriculture (Dembélé), nonagricultural activities (Koenig), women's roles (R. Traoré), and political decentralization (N. Traoré).

We met first with about 25 representatives of local government, national government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. Some presentations stressed the inadequacy of services; government representatives did not disagree but in turn cited errors committed before they arrived and inadequate funding. Participants also provided complementary information where our data were incomplete.

The next day we met with two representatives from each resettlement and autochthonous village in our sample—about 60 people. Although the audience included people of various ages, discussion was dominated by the senior men and one senior woman, who used this forum to present their many ongoing complaints. The lack of good roads and of telephone and

electricity connections frustrated the minority of those who had resettled upstream from the dam. Everyone stressed the lack of gardening areas, the high cost of electricity connections, and the need for more agricultural land and inputs.

These presentations were challenging, as they were neither standard academic presentations nor comprehensive reports. Nevertheless, audiences appreciated our sharing results with them. I especially valued villagers' comments that they found our information to be accurate.



Dolores Koenig (anthropology PhD '77) studies displacement caused by development in West Africa and Asia.

How a fellowship influenced my development plans in Kenya

by Jeremy Riro

Before leaving Kenya to participate in the summer 2018 Mandela Washington Fellowship at Northwestern, I promised my team back home at Fie-Consult that I would return with new insights aligned with our firm's philosophy: that a sustainable economic development model for Africa should be anchored on knowledgeable entrepreneurs operating in a vibrant ecosystem of transferable skills and business development support.

In Kenya, there are more than 7 million MSMEs—micro, small, and medium enterprises. As of 2016, these

created 81 percent of the country's jobs and contributed about 33 percent to the annual GDP. Unfortunately, most MSMEs do not survive beyond three years due to lack of knowledge and business development support.

After graduating with my finance degree, I had a burning passion to support MSMEs in my country and across Africa—to bridge the skill and knowledge gaps—so they could grow beyond their local markets. Most small businesses, however, could not afford the type of consulting services offered at my former employer; they ended up failing for the reasons cited. After discovering this, I quit my management consulting job and started Fie-Consult to offer customized training and business development services to MSMEs and startups in Kenya and beyond.

Fie-Consult is a Nairobi-based strategy consulting and investment advisory firm that helps entrepreneurs create, manage, and expand their businesses across sub-Saharan Africa. We structure innovative operational processes that improve efficiency and maximize profits for our clients. We also develop competitive and sustainable long-term strategies for entrepreneurs, support them in implementing growth plans, and offer investment advisory services for raising external capital.

In the past three years we have completed more than 76 engagements with startups, high-growth businesses, social enterprises, and NGOs in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, and South Africa. We have also collaborated with development partners and local organizations to implement entrepreneurship programs. Thus far we have trained more than 1,600 entrepreneurs, yet we have barely scratched the surface of the work that needs to be done.

I often thought about this huge knowledge gap during our course at Northwestern. As I listened to professors break down complex business theories into simple and practical concepts, I remembered the many entrepreneurs who do not have access to such knowledge. The more my mind was enriched in class, on visits to Chicago, and during other socio-cultural interactions in the US, the more I knew I needed to do something bigger back home.

Northwestern gave me world-class training in leadership and entrepreneurship, as well as a strong network of 24 fellow young leaders from across Africa. Now sufficiently empowered, I look forward to empowering at least 1,000 more entrepreneurs annually through knowledge transfer and business development support. I dream that in five years we shall have completely transformed the entrepreneurship landscape in Africa.

*Former Mandela Washington fellow
Jeremy Riro lives and works in Nairobi.*



The author (far left) with his Mandela Washington Fellowship cohort

Reflections on *Caravans of Gold*

by Matthew Francis Rarey

Eager to see an exhibition tackle the history of trans-Saharan exchange, I had been anticipating *Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time* for some time. Apparently I was not alone. Walking through the Block Museum's packed galleries at the opening celebration in January, I ran into a who's who of Africanist art historians intermingling with a non-specialist public genuinely interested in the material history of medieval western Africa. When two visitors overheard me and a colleague nerding out over something I had never expected to see in person—the Tada figure (pictured)—they came over to join the conversation. The exchange reminded me that for attracting new audiences to African art history, nothing beats a well-done exhibition.

The convergence of people in the galleries struck me as appropriate for a show about migration, movement, and cultural convergence. One cannot overstate the diplomatic, logistical, and curatorial accomplishment that is *Caravans of Gold*. Exhibition curator Kathleen Bickford Berzock said as much in her opening address. She alluded to the difficulty—and necessity—of forming mutually beneficial partnerships with the Nigerian, Moroccan, and Malian institutions whose loans—all superb, in some cases unique—are now in the US for the first time. But *Caravans of Gold*'s real curatorial innovation is its response to a long-held prejudice of mine: that exhibiting medieval West African history is all but impossible in a museum space, given the lack of surviving materials. In her address, Berzock rightly insisted on scholars' responsibility to tell the complex, nuanced stories that must be told, even when materials are scant. In this sense, the exhibition's biggest success may be a display case filled with bits of ceramic and small wisps of cloth, whose survival testifies to the vibrancy of exchange centers in medieval Mali. Such fragments, despite their visual banality, demand our attention.

Later that evening, in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Mouriikeba Kouyate's *kora* music set the stage for celebratory speeches and performances. Gus Casely-Hayford, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, spoke of the wonder that must have been 14th-century Mali during Mansa Musa's reign. Northwestern provost



Seated figure, possibly Ife, from Tada, Nigeria, late 13th–14th century. Nigerian National Commission for Museums and Monuments, 79.R18.

Jonathan Holloway gave a nuanced, searing speech about the problematic, and often contradictory, place of Africa in the minds of those forced to leave it (lest we forget that the treasures showcased in *Caravans of Gold* engendered the jealousy of Europeans for centuries afterward). What struck me most were two poetic recitations, one of them in the original Arabic, of travelers' descriptions of medieval Mali. Six centuries later, in times rife with displacement and uncertainty, glorifying Africa while reading Arabic is not a neutral gesture—and as *Caravans of Gold* insists, neither are the histories we choose to tell.

PAS visiting scholar Matthew Francis Rarey teaches art history of the Black Atlantic world at Oberlin College.



ISITA welcomes visiting scholar from Senegal

Anthropologist and historian **Abdourahmane Seck** of Senegal's Université Gaston Berger (UGB) is spending eight weeks at Northwestern this spring. Seck's research focuses on Islam in contemporary Senegal, diaspora and migration, and Muslim youth. His 2010 monograph *La Question Musulmane au Sénégal: Essai d'Anthropologie d'une nouvelle*

modernité (Paris: Karthala) investigated the surprising ways in which Senegalese society is inventing its own political and religious modernity. Seck's coedited volumes include *Etat, Islam et Société au Sénégal: Un air de nouveau temps?* (Karthala, 2015) and *Mémoires de routes et corps: Figures et discours de migrants* (Riveneuve éditions, 2015). At UGB, in addition to teaching in the Faculty of Civilizations, Religions, Arts, and Communications, Seck is deputy director of the Laboratory for Analysis of Societies and Powers/Africa-Diasporas and coordinator of the Observatory of African Diasporas.

New project to focus on Islamic arts

ISITA is formalizing plans for a multi-disciplinary initiative that will examine and increase awareness of artistic traditions that are among the most

profound yet remarkably accessible aspects of Africa's Islamic heritage. From calligraphy to clothing, music to mosque architecture, poetry and the psalmody of the Qur'an to pottery, painting, weaving, and digital media, these arts embody combinations of African Islamic cosmologies, talismanic sciences, metaphysics, mythology, material cultures, ethics, histories, and much more. They point to deeper understandings of the history, politics, socioeconomics, values, worldviews, personal experiences, and philosophies of the artists and their communities. While these artistic traditions are vital and popular on the continent and abroad, they are relatively understudied and underappreciated in the academy.



A new project will focus on African Islamic artistic traditions such as those represented in calligrapher Ahmed Salem Ahmedou's 2018 artwork (above), which features ISITA's full name in an Arabic script traditionally used by Tuareg writers.

Collaborative translation project gets under way

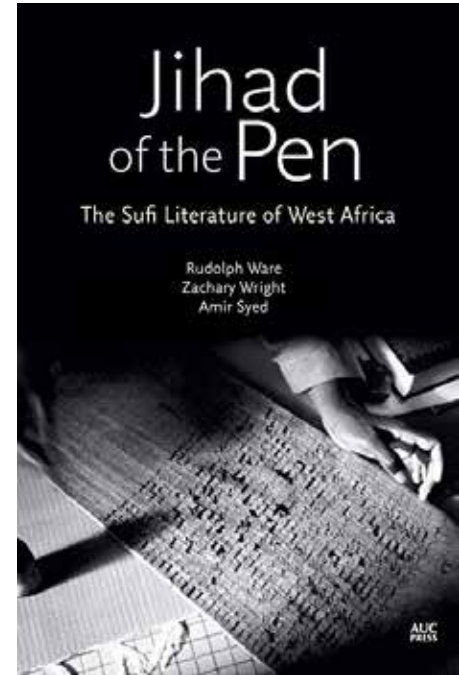
ISITA has teamed with Bruce Hall (history, University of California, Berkeley) and Bernard Salvaing (Université de Nantes) to organize a multiyear workshop series designed to bring together scholars who can translate and edit Arabic and Ajami texts from Africa for publication. For the first workshop, to be held in Nantes in June, more than 20 scholars will convene to discuss texts that address African responses to European colonial occupation in West Africa. By the start of the workshop, each participant will have prepared a draft translation to be shared with the other participants. The organizers intend to publish the texts, accompanied by annotation and introduction to their historical context. Two follow-up workshops are planned—one at the University of California, Berkeley, in 2020, and the other hosted by ISITA at Northwestern in 2021.

Book based on ISITA project is published

In *Jihad of the Pen: The Sufi Literature of West Africa*, published in December by American University in Cairo Press, coeditors Rudolph Ware, Zachary Wright (history PhD '10), and Amir Syed bring together, translate, and contextualize major writings by four West African Sufi scholars: Uthman b. Fudi (d. 1817), Umar Tal (d. 1864), Ahmad Bamba (d. 1927), and Ibrahim Niassé (d. 1975). The volume had its genesis in ISITA's 2005–08 “Constituting Bodies of Islamic Knowledge” project that was supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

ISITA and Harvard to cosponsor conference

ISITA and the Alwaleed Professorship of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society at Harvard Divinity School are cosponsoring the September 19–21 conference “Africa, Globalization, and the Muslim Worlds.” To be held at Harvard, the conference is a follow-up to the “Islam in Global Africa” conference ISITA organized at Northwestern in April 2018. Coconvened by ISITA director Zekeria Ahmed Salem and Harvard Divinity School’s Ousmane Kane, the conference will investigate the interplay between the religious, political, and social experiences of African Muslims and the transformations of Islamic Africa in a globalized world.





Community news

Teju Adesida (performance studies PhD '13) gave a performance as part of the "Nation of Migrants" event at the Block Museum of Art in February.

Douglas A. Anthony (history PhD '96), international studies program chair and professor of history at Franklin and Marshall College, wrote the article "Decolonization, Race, and Region in Nigeria: Northernization Revisited," published in the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 51 (2018).

Articles by three faculty members appear in *Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time*, the volume edited by **Kathleen Bickford Berzock** (Block Museum) and published last December: "Uncertain Fragments: A Divination" by **Chris Abani** (English); "Saharan Crossing: The Realities of Migration Today" by **Galya Ben-Arieh** (political science); and "Views from Afar: Reading Trans-Saharan Trade through Arabic Accounts" by **Robert Launay** (anthropology).

Keith Breckenridge (history PhD '95), professor of history and deputy director of the University of the Witwatersrand Institute for Social and Economic Research, authored the article "The Failure of the 'Single Source of Truth about Kenyans': The NDRS, Collateral Mysteries, and the Safaricom Monopoly," published in *African Studies* 78 (2019).

Johanna Cole (anthropology PhD '67) joined other visiting dignitaries and exhibition partners in speaking at an event prior to the January 26 opening of the Block Museum's *Caravans of Gold* exhibition. A video of their comments is available on Northwestern's YouTube channel.

Andrew Dillon (Global Poverty Research Lab, Kellogg School of Management and Buffett Institute for Global Affairs) and **Lori Beaman** (economics) coauthored "Diffusion of Agricultural Information within Social Networks: Evidence from Composting in Mali," published in the *Journal of Development Economics* 133 (2018). Dillon also coauthored the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* article "Nutrient Production and Dietary Macro- and Micronutrient Gaps: Evidence from an Agriculture-Nutrition Randomized Control Trial," published online last October.

Miklos Gosztonyi (political science PhD '16) has been appointed a conflict analyst by the Norwegian Refugee Council in South Sudan. In addition to supporting humanitarian policy and advocacy efforts, he is supplying in-depth context and conflict analysis to the council's Protection Cluster to help inform its strategic decision-making and operational planning.

Sean Hanretta (history) contributed the chapter "Formal Care: Bureaucracy and Muslim Religious Identity in the Gold Coast/Ghana" to *Religion, Media, and Marginality in Modern Africa*, edited by Felicitas Becker, Joel Cabrita, and Marie Rodet and published by Ohio University Press. He also wrote the chapter "The River of Salvation Flows through Africa: Blyden, Armattoo, and the Redemption of the Culture Concept," appearing in *Indigenous Visions: Rediscovering the World of Franz Boas*, edited by Isaiah Wilner and Ned Blackhawk and published by Yale University Press. Both books were issued last year.

Pamela Khanakwa (history PhD '11), lecturer in Makerere University's department of history, archaeology, and heritage studies, wrote the article "Reinventing Imbalu and Forcible Circumcision: Gisu Political Identity and the Fight for Mbale in Late Colonial Uganda," published in the *Journal of African History* 9 (2018).

Jahara "Franky" Matisek (political science PhD '18) presented the paper "Peeling Back the Onion of Security Force Assistance Patron-Client Disconnects" at last December's Peace Research Institute conference in Oslo. Matisek is an assistant professor in the US Air Force Academy's military and strategic studies department and a 2018-19 nonresident fellow of the Modern War Institute at West Point.

Former PAS artist-in-residence

Femi Odugbemi received the Nigeria Film Society's Movie Rock of Fame Award at last December's Zuma Film Festival in Abuja, Nigeria.

PAS visiting scholar **Matthew Francis Rarey** gave the presentation "Leave No Mark: Blackness Inviolable, 1700-1731" at Amherst College's department of religion in February.

Will Reno (political science) authored the chapter "The Dilemmas of Security Assistance to a Failed State: Lessons from Somalia" in the book *Before Military Intervention: Upstream Stabilisation in Theory and Practice*, edited by Timothy Clack and Robert Johnson and published this year by Palgrave Macmillan. He contributed the chapter "Hybrid Warfare: The End of Conventional Wars in the 21st Century?" to the book *Military Strategy, Joint Operations, and Airpower*, edited by Ryan Burke, Michael Fowler, and Kevin McCaskey and published in 2018 by Georgetown University Press. Reno also presented the paper "Tactics without Strategy: Security Force Assistance to Antiterrorist Groups in Very Weak States" at last December's Peace Research Institute conference in Oslo.

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

In January and February, PAS visiting scholar **Naaborko Sackeyfio-Lenoch** traveled to the African studies centers at the University of North Carolina and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to give presentations related to her project on the Arts Council of Ghana and its transnational cultural policy.

Rhiannon Stephens (history PhD '07), associate professor of history at Columbia University, authored two journal articles: "Poverty's Pasts: A Case for Longue Durée Studies" in the *Journal of African History* 59 (2018) and "Bereft, Selfish, and Hungry: Greater Luhya Concepts of the Poor in Precolonial East Africa" in *American Historical Review* 123 (2018).

Rachel Sweet (political science PhD '17) will join the University of Notre Dame's political science department as an assistant professor this fall. Sweet was a postdoctoral Academy Scholar at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs in fall 2018.

Lynn M. Thomas (history MA '93) authored the article "Consumer Culture and 'Black Is Beautiful' in Apartheid South Africa and Early Postcolonial Kenya," appearing in *African Studies* 78 (2019). Thomas is a professor of history and adjunct professor in the departments of women and sexuality studies and of anthropology at the University of Washington.

Marlous van Waijenburg (history PhD '17), assistant professor of economics at the University of Michigan, coauthored the article "Africa Rising? A Historical Perspective," published in *African Affairs* 117 (2018). Another article she coauthored, "The African Model: Asia's Path May Not Work, but There Is an Alternative," was published in *African Arguments* in January.

Larry W. Yarak (history PhD '83), emeritus professor at Texas A&M University, coauthored the article "A Tale of Two 'Returnee' Communities in the Gold Coast and Ghana: Accra's Tabon and Elmina's Ex-Soldiers, 1830s to the Present," published in the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 51 (2018).

Swahili Corner



On my travels in East Africa to conduct research, I've had many humbling (and often comical) experiences when trying to communicate. I have learned that language is never just about the words; rather, language learning is a process of making sense of cultures, building bridges, and recognizing all that we have in common despite our differences.

With my blonde hair, pale complexion, and numerous bird tattoos, it is readily apparent to my Ugandan hosts that I am indeed a *mzungu*. They are surprised to see their national bird—the crested crane—tattooed on

my arm; they are often even more surprised when they hear me, because I can speak about local and regional politics, history, culture, and traditions.

Of course, the more you learn, the more you learn there's a lot you don't know. During exploratory research in Kampala in 2016, I realized I would need to learn Kiswahili to continue developing relationships with refugees and asylum seekers. While I was able to communicate in my native English or in French whenever either was my interlocutor's second or third language, I needed to learn the regional lingua franca. *Ndio!*

I am grateful that I could study this year with Swahili professor Peter Mwangi. Although my language skills are not yet to the level where I could successfully conduct independent research, I know I can meaningfully connect with Swahili speakers. I am better at picking up the nuances of expressing oneself in ways that differ from typical American communication. For example, I know not to begin a conversation by saying I feel "bad," "sad," or "angry." Developing relationships involves levels of interaction. Welcoming and warmly greeting one another must come before any mention of negativity or sensitive subjects.

I am excited to return to Uganda this summer and resume my dissertation research—this time with a foundation in Swahili that will allow me to continue learning about and connecting with people, whether we're discussing local politics or the crane on my arm.

—Christa Charbonneau Kuntzelman, political science PhD student

New titles added to Working Papers series

Nigerian Marriage Advice Booklets: 1962–2009

by Elisha P. Renne

PAS Working Paper No. 25

Working with 152 marriage-advice booklets from Nigeria obtained between 1988 and 2010, University of Michigan professor emerita Elisha Renne explores the genre's themes, authors, and changing modes of production over a nearly 50-year span.

"Professional Sentimentalists": Internecine Conflicts in the Emergent Gold Coast

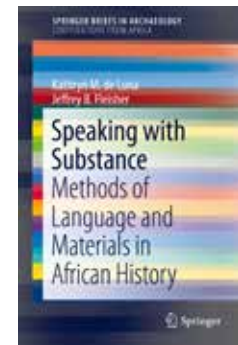
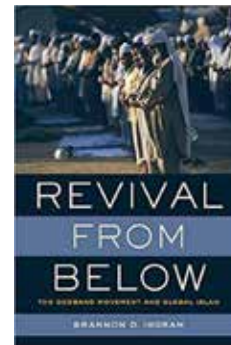
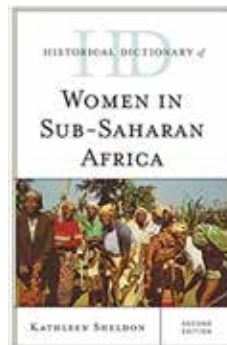
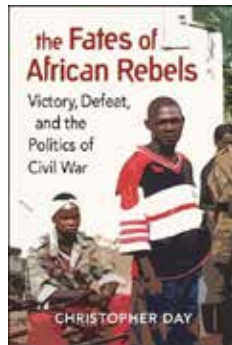
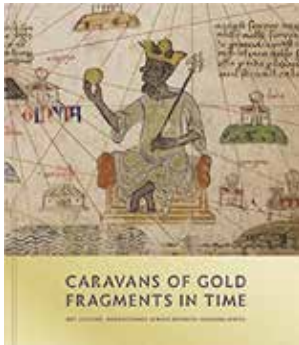
by Kofi Takyi Asante

PAS Working Paper No. 26

Examining conflictual relationships among British members of the Gold Coast administration, Kofi Asante (sociology PhD '16) adds to the literature that problematizes earlier notions of colonialism by highlighting tensions and contradictions inherent in colonial governance structures.

PAS Working Papers are available online from the PAS website and Northwestern University Libraries' Arch repository (arch.library.northwestern.edu).

New books by Northwestern Africanists



Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time
Editor **Kathleen Bickford Berzock** (Block Museum) presents a volume celebrating the Block Museum's 2019 exhibit *Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time*. It draws on the latest archaeological discoveries and art historical research to construct a compelling look at medieval trans-Saharan exchange and its legacy, with 18 contributors from diverse disciplines presenting case studies. This richly illustrated work offers irrefutable evidence of Africa's key role in medieval history and promotes a new understanding of the past and the present. *Published by Princeton University Press in association with the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art.*

The Fates of African Rebels: Victory, Defeat, and the Politics of Civil War
Christopher Day (political science PhD '12) investigates the relationship between rebel groups and regime politics in Africa, addressing the following questions: What determines the outcome for rebels in contemporary African civil wars? How are "victory"

and "defeat" measured? How do the answers to these questions affect policymaking regarding ongoing armed conflict? *Published by Lynne Rienner.*

Historical Dictionary of Women in Sub-Saharan Africa

Kathleen Sheldon (history MA '77) has published an updated and expanded edition of this historical dictionary, which shared the 2018 African Studies Association/Africana Librarians Council Conover-Porter Award. This second edition contains a chronology, an introduction, appendixes, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 700 cross-referenced entries on individual African women in history, politics, religion, and the arts; on important events, organizations, and publications; and on topics important to women in general and to African women in particular. *Published by Rowman & Littlefield.*

Revival from Below: The Deoband Movement and Global Islam

Religious studies faculty member **Brannon D. Ingram** reorients our

understanding of one of the most influential Muslim revivalist movements of the last two centuries. The Deoband movement quickly spread from colonial India to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and even the United Kingdom and South Africa; yet Deoband's connections to the Taliban have dominated the attention it has received from scholars and policymakers. Ingram's nuanced account of this global religious network offers an important corrective, stressing the need to understand the complex modalities through which Deoband spread beyond South Asia. *Published by University of California Press.*

Speaking with Substance: Methods of Language and Materials in African History

Kathryn M. de Luna (history PhD '08) and coauthor Jeffrey B. Fleisher approach African oral history through interdisciplinary historical reconstructions based on archaeological and linguistic data, locating the analysis in the process of interdisciplinary teamwork. *Published by SpringerNature.*

Events calendar

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

For updates, check the PAS website: northwestern.edu/african-studies.

APRIL

3 noon–1 p.m.

“Producing Senegal: Social Processes and the Study of Islam,” **Abdourahmane Seck** (ISITA visiting scholar; Université Gaston-Berger, Senegal)

4–6 “African Studies Now:

Decolonizing the Field”

AfriSem Conference

Keynote address by **Robtel Neajai Pailey** (international development, Oxford University), April 6, 3:30–5 p.m., Block Museum, 40 Arts Circle Drive

10 “Security, Governance, and Policy in the Sahel” Conference

11–12 “Saharan Futures: Migration, Identities, and Economies” Conference

Keynote address by **Ann McDougall** (history and classics, University of Alberta), April 11, 5–6:30 p.m., Block Museum

17 noon–1 p.m.

“Making Markets: Experiments from Rural Mali,” **Andrew Dillon** (Global Poverty Research Lab)

24 6–7:30 p.m.

“From the Field: International Archaeologists in Conversation,” **Abidemi Babatunde Babalola, Mamadou Cissé, Mamadi Dembélé, Abdallah Fili, Ron Messier, and Sam Nixon**. Block Museum

26 5:30–7 p.m.

Myers Symposium Keynote

“Trans-Saharan Exchange and the Global Medieval,” **Susan Keech McIntosh** (anthropology, Rice University). Block Museum

MAY

1 noon–1 p.m.

“Interpreting Muslim-Christian Relations in Light of *Awqaf* in Kenya since 1900,” **S. Athuman Chembea** (philosophy and religious studies, Bomet University College, Kenya)

3 ISITA Book Development Workshop

8 noon–1 p.m.

“Xenophobia’s Contours during an Ebola Epidemic: Proximity and the Targeting of Peul Migrants in Senegal,” **Ato Kwamena Onoma** (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa)

15 noon–1 p.m.

“To Invoke the Invisible: Islam, Spiritual Mediation, and Social Change in the Sahara,” **Erin Pettigrew** (history, New York University Abu Dhabi); cosponsored by ISITA and the Health and Healing Research Cluster

22 noon–1 p.m.

“Deep Knowledge: Ways of Knowing in Ifa and Tijani Sufism, Two West African Intellectual Traditions,” **Oludamini Ogunnaike** (religious studies, College of William and Mary)

JUNE

5 noon–1 p.m.

“ID Wars: Struggling for Citizenship in Côte d’Ivoire,” **Richard Banégas** (PAS visiting scholar; Sciences Po)

6 4:30–6:30 p.m.

PAS end-of-year picnic at the home of Rachel Riedl

Northwestern

Program of African Studies

620 Library Place

Evanston, Illinois 60208-4110 USA

Phone 847-491-7323

Fax 847-491-3739

african-studies@northwestern.edu

northwestern.edu/african-studies

Rachel Beatty Riedl, *PAS Director*

Meagan Keefe, *PAS Associate Director*

Zekeria Ahmed Salem, *ISITA Director*

Rebecca Shereikis, *ISITA Associate Director*

Kelly Coffey, *Business Coordinator*

LaRay Denzer, *Newsletter Editor*

Amy Settergren, *Outreach Coordinator*

Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh, *Program Assistant*

©2019 Northwestern University. All rights reserved.
Produced by Global Marketing and Communications.
4-19/125/RM-KP/2848