

ISITA welcomes new director

by Rebecca Shereikis, ISITA associate director



Zekeria Ahmed Salem

Northwestern University has appointed political scientist Zekeria Ahmed Salem as director of the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa. A specialist in Islam and Muslim politics in Africa in comparative perspective, Salem engages critical debates about religion and politics, focusing on interconnections between state and religious authority, identity politics, Islamic knowledge,

and political power in contemporary African societies.

On becoming ISITA director and succeeding 2016–17 interim director Robert Launay (anthropology), Salem said, “I look forward to building on the institute’s accomplishments and its impressive international network to continue and expand the tremendous work started by John Hunwick and his successors, notably Muhammad Sani Umar, and by the ISITA staff.” He plans to expand ISITA’s scope of inquiry to open new avenues of research, collaboration, resource mobilization, curriculum

development, and outreach.

Salem holds an MA in philosophy and anthropology from the University of Nouakchott and an MPhil and PhD in political science from Sciences Po Lyon. He taught political science and African studies for nearly two decades at the University of Nouakchott. In addition,

he has held numerous visiting positions in Europe and the US, including as a 2010–11 Fulbright visiting scholar at the University of Florida.

Salem’s 2013 monograph *Prêcher dans le Désert: Islam, Politique et Changement Social en Mauritanie* examines major transformations that shaped a new public sphere and changed cultural life in Mauritania. This study chronicles the evolution of Mauritania’s Islamist subcultures and political trends after independence in 1960 to the present, exploring how state authorities failed in their attempt to use Islam as a uniting force in a multiethnic and highly hierarchical society. Based on more than 20 years of fieldwork, archival research, close readings of Islamic doctrinal texts and fatwas, and life history collections, Salem’s research reveals how Mauritanian Muslims across social strata shape their political and religious lives through engagement with available bodies of religious knowledge. He emphasizes the role of imams of slave descent and antislavery activists from the Arabic-speaking *Hârâtîn* group (people from slave backgrounds) in promoting or critiquing social norms that affect social hierarchies and the legacy of slavery in the country. Moving beyond a narrow conception of the political, the book explores the intersections of religion and religious thought with social change. (See Alexander Stille’s review in the November 23, 2017, issue of the *New York Review of Books*.)

In other publications, Salem has examined Islamic preachers in urban settings, elections in Senegal and Mauritania, and lawyers and politics. He explored Mauritania as a “frontier state” in the 2004 Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa symposium *Les trajectoires d’un état-frontière: espaces, évolution politique et transformations sociales en Mauritanie*. In addition, he has contributed numerous chapters to edited collections and published articles in multiple African studies journals. His ongoing work includes the forthcoming *Historical Dictionary of Mauritania* with coauthor Antonio Pazzanita and research projects on new forms of Sufism, public debates over blasphemy, and Muslim public intellectuals in African societies.

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Workshop explores study and curation of African manuscript culture

by Charles Stewart and Rebecca Shereikis

Last August, ISITA and several cosponsors presented “Working with African Arabic-Script Manuscripts,” a unique workshop designed to enhance understanding of Africa’s manuscript culture while also supporting African curators’ efforts to preserve and make their collections accessible.

The workshop’s nearly three dozen participants—including an international team of instructors; US- and Africa-based curators of African collections; and students, faculty, and librarians from US universities—took part in lectures, demonstrations, hands-on sessions, calligraphy instruction, and site visits to Chicago libraries. An external evaluation by participants captured the overwhelming enthusiasm for the event, making it one of ISITA’s most successful projects in recent years.

The workshop was conceived as a curricular development project under the US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant to PAS and its consortium partner, the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). An additional sponsor, the University of Hamburg’s Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC), contributed several instructors. The workshop also had Chicago-area programmatic support from the American Islamic College, the Field Museum of Natural History, the



“Working with African Arabic-Script Manuscripts” workshop organizers and participants at ISITA’s Northwestern home base

Newberry Library, and the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute. The organizing committee consisted of Charles Stewart and Rebecca Shereikis (ISITA); Mauro Nobili, Laila Hussein Moustafa, and Maimouna Barro (UIUC); and Dmitry Bondarev (Hamburg).

Thanks to support from Germany’s Gerda Henkel Stiftung, seven manuscript specialists (including one calligrapher) representing libraries in Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zanzibar traveled to Evanston for the workshop. In addition to presenting on their collections, African participants served as adjunct instructors for US

attendees in hands-on examinations of selected manuscripts from the Herskovits Library’s collection.

The African curators enriched the curriculum through their diverse perspectives and deep knowledge of Islamic sciences, specific manuscript cultures, and African languages written in Arabic script (*ajami*). The curators, in turn, took away resources, tools, and international connections that will help support their collections; they particularly appreciated the networking opportunities the workshop provided. Souleymane Gaye, conservator at Dakar’s Institut Fondamental d’Afrique Noire, said, “We [conservators] have African colleagues who

live nearby, but we've never had the occasion to meet. Everyone [at different manuscript collections] proceeds in their own manner, and there is no standardization. We need meetings like this to exchange ideas. No one has a monopoly on knowledge. We each have something to give—and it becomes a win-win for everyone.”

The workshop had two parts: the first three days focused on US librarians and researchers' needs, and the final three days centered on the African curators' concerns. Bridging the two sessions was a day of field visits to Chicago institutions specializing in manuscript conservation.

Several innovations set the workshop apart from recent Islamic manuscript workshops. First was its exclusive focus on African manuscripts, an area of the Muslim world often neglected in manuscript studies, and within that culture the special attention given to *ajami* texts, which constitute roughly 13 percent of all extant manuscripts in West Africa. “So little information about *ajami* manuscript traditions exists in most disciplines,” remarked one participant, “[and] there remains an enormous gap that a workshop like this more than ably fills.”

A second innovative feature was the presentation of the Arabic Manuscript Management System, an open-access online cataloguing



ISITA workshop participants practicing classical and West African calligraphy

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Manuscript workshop

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system that now includes over 30,000 West African manuscript citations, to which African curators were invited to link their collections for easier access by researchers and greater accuracy in cataloging.

“The lectures and exercises really were outstanding,” noted Matthew Steele, a PhD student at Harvard Divinity School. “From the regional focus to the breadth of topics, I can’t think of another workshop that covers as much ground or focuses as deeply on Islamic Africa. I learned an enormous amount from participating.”

Yet another innovation was the inclusion of hands-on calligraphy instruction, cochaired by Paris-based calligrapher Nuria Garcia Masip and Mauritanian calligrapher Mohameden Ahmedou, which focused on both

classical and West African styles. This component underscored the spiritual significance of “the Word” during a week that focused on the materiality of manuscripts. One curator observed that the calligraphy instruction was “an eye-opener for some of us who hitherto did not pay much attention to this aspect of the Islamic manuscript culture.” In collaboration with the American Islamic College of Chicago, Masip and Ahmedou delivered a lecture at the college on calligraphic traditions, followed by a three-day course open to the public.

African and US participants agreed that this exchange should continue and plan to repeat the workshop, preferably in Africa, in two years’ time. African curators hope to establish an association of fellow curators at home

and across the continent. Chapane Mutiua (Eduardo Mondlane University) remarked: “These manuscripts are part of our [national] identity. We have to know about them, share them . . . we have to create expertise. That is why it was very important to me to come to this workshop, and I confess I have learned a lot! My [challenge] now is how can I replicate this training in Mozambique so that we can have a group of interested [people] start working with manuscripts. The future of the field in Mozambique depends on what we can do in Mozambique.”

Charles Stewart is professor emeritus of history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and former ISITA director of programing. Rebecca Sherekis is ISITA associate director.

ISITA LAUNCHES NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ISLAM IN AFRICA SYMPOSIUM SERIES

The series will bring leading scholars of Islamic thought in Africa to Northwestern for moderated discussions of their recently published books. Three symposia are scheduled for the winter and spring quarters.

January 31: “Rethinking Timbuktu”

Ousmane Kane (Harvard University), author of *Beyond Timbuktu: An Intellectual History of Muslim West Africa*; and Charles Stewart (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), editor of *Arabic Literature of Africa V: The Writings of Mauritania and the Western Sahara*. Discussant: Robert Launay (anthropology).

March 7: “Sharia Politics in Nigeria”

Sarah Eltantawi (Evergreen State College), author of *Sharia on Trial: Stoning and the Islamic Revolution in Northern Nigeria*; and Brandon Kendhammer (Ohio University), author of *Muslims Talking Politics: Islam, Democracy, and Law in Northern Nigeria*. Discussant: Brannon Ingram (religious studies).

April 4: “Jihad and Its Enemies in Africa”

Lamin Sanneh (Yale Divinity School), author of *Beyond Jihad: The Pacifist Tradition in West African Islam*; and Alexander Thurston (Georgetown University), author of *Boko Haram: The History of an African Jihadist Movement*. Discussant: Robert Launay (anthropology).

PAS welcomes new Africanist graduate students

Omoyemi Ajisebutu (comparative literary studies) received her BA in English literature from the Tai Solarin University of Education in Nigeria and her MA in English with a concentration in literature from New Mexico Highlands University. Her interests include African feminist theory, West African literature, and traditional gender narratives in southwestern Nigerian orality.

Chernoh Alpha M. Bah (history) holds a BA in history and sociology and a diploma in African studies from the University of Sierra Leone's Fourah Bay College. He worked in West Africa as a journalist, political activist, and writer and is the author of two books: *The Ebola Outbreak in West Africa: Corporate Gangsters, Multinationals, and Rogue Politicians* (Africanist Press, 2015) and *Neocolonialism in West Africa: A Collection of Articles and Essays* (iUniverse, 2014). His current research focuses on the history of medicine and medical experimentation in colonial West Africa.

Rashayla Marie Brown (performance studies) holds a BA in sociology and African American studies from Yale University and a BFA in photography and video from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her interests include religious studies, postcolonial theory, queer studies, cultural studies, the intersections of avant-garde performance art and popular culture, modernism in visual art, and decolonization of the art historical canon.

Raja Ben Hammed Dorval (French) received her BA from the University of Tunis and her MA in linguistics and language policy from Manouba University in Tunisia. She is interested in the comparative study of African francophone literatures, especially in the Maghreb, regarding questions of the liminal space occupied by immigrant identities and imaginaries. She also studies the relationship between the postcolonial francophone tradition and Arabic literary production in North Africa.

Esther Ginestet (history) undertook her undergraduate and graduate studies at Sciences Po in Paris as an exchange student from the University of Nairobi. Her MA thesis focused on the history of race, ethnicity, and nation building in modern Uganda. Her broader research interests include African history (with an emphasis on East African history), ethnicity, migration policy, nationalism, and state-building processes.

Bright Gyamfi (history) earned his BA in history and political science at the University of Notre Dame, where a fellowship from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies enabled him to conduct archival research in Ghana, the UK, Trinidad and Tobago, and the US. After completing his undergraduate degree, he earned an MSc in African studies at the University of Oxford. His research focuses on West African intellectual history, nationalism, Pan-Africanism, and institutes of African studies.

Lamin Keita (political science) worked as a journalist for Citizen FM Radio in the Gambia until then President Yahya Jammeh shut it down, along with other independent media outlets, in the early 2000s. After receiving political asylum in the United States, Keita completed his associate's degree at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and then joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison political science department. His research interests include the history of Islamic institutions and the differential entrenchment of Islamic radical jihadism in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in Mali.

Michell Nicole Miller (performance studies) holds an MA in theater and performance studies from Washington University in St. Louis and a BA in English language and literature with a concentration in poetry writing from the University of Virginia. Her research interests include the black female body, birth justice, traditional birthing practices, black midwifery, and Afrodiasporic ritual and performances of the feminine divine.

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Northwestern well represented at annual ASA meeting

The 2017 annual meeting of the African Studies Association convened in Chicago November 16–18, marking its 60th anniversary. The meeting’s theme was “Institutions: Creativity and Resilience in Africa.” It offered an opportunity to reflect on ASA’s role in institutionalizing the study of Africa in the United States, contributing to national policy, and building dialogue and exchange with Africa-based scholars and institutions.

Many Northwestern scholars participated in various capacities at the meeting. Amy Settergren (PAS outreach coordinator) cochaired the local arrangements committee, whose members included Rebecca Shereikis (ISITA associate director) and LaRay Denzer (PAS publications editor) and which sponsored panels on “African Studies and Chicago: Contestations, Continuity, and Dynamism” and “Genocide and Ethical Agency in Africa” and roundtables on “Refugee and Immigration Issues” and “Youth Activism in Chicago, Johannesburg, and Cairo.” Faculty member Evan Mwangi (English) chaired the program subcommittee for the literature panels.

Faculty participants included Will Reno (PAS director and political science), who chaired the roundtable “State and Nation Building in Somaliland in Turbulent Times.” Rachel Riedl (political science) and Gwyneth McClendon (Harvard University) copresented the paper “Christian Influences on Political Behavior.” Helen Tilley (history) presented “Plural Worlds: Law and Therapeutics in Colonial Nigeria and Beyond,” and department colleague Sean Hanretta (history) presented “Defining Islam: Goods, Movement, and Ritual in Colonial Ghana” and served as a discussant on the panel “Intellectual History from the Margins.” Noelle Sullivan (anthropology) and Ramah McKay (University of Pennsylvania) copresented “South-South Encounters in Global Health: Privilege within Imaginaries of ‘Africa,’” and Galya Ben-Arieh (political science and Center for Forced Migration Studies) participated in the roundtable “Immigrants and Refugees in the Era of Trump and Austerity.” Richard Joseph (political science) participated in two roundtables: “US-African Relations in the Era of Trump” and “The Pan-Africanist Career of Willard Johnson: Scholar, Activist,

African American Genealogist.” David Schoenbrun (history) chaired “Vansina Dialogues Part I: Crafting Earlier African Pasts,” a roundtable sponsored by the journal *History in Africa*; and Adia Benton (anthropology) was a discussant for the panel “Consuming, Volunteering, and Still ‘Developing’ Africa: Grounding Humanitarian Sentiment and the Political Economy of North-South Relations.”

Other faculty who presented papers were Caroline Bledsoe (anthropology), “Joseph H. Greenberg (Northwestern PhD, 1940) and His Mentor: Struggles over an Anthropology Dissertation Topic in Northern Nigeria and the Beginning of the End of Herskovits’s Comparative Laboratory Scheme”; Martha Wilfahrt (political science), “The Effects of French and British Colonial Institutions on Contemporary Outcomes in Africa”; and Zachary Wright (liberal arts), “Islam and Negritude: Shaykh Ibrahim Niassé and President Leopold Senghor on the Question of Black Racial Distinction.”

PAS graduate students also presented papers and chaired panels. Andrea Rosengarten (history) chaired the panel “Intellectual History from the Margins” and presented a paper, “Reconsidering Leadership, Linguistic Change, and Indigeneity in the Northern Cape Colony Borderlands, ca. 1870–1900.” Other paper presenters included Caitlin Monroe (history), “Akiki Nyabongo and the Search for a Teachable Ugandan Past, 1932–62”; Colin Bos (history), “Africans and Global Intellectual History: John Augustus Abayomi Cole, German Orientalism, and African Science, 1884–98”; Raevin Jimenez (history), “Girls Doing What They Like: Female Sexual Autonomy, Political Economic Transformation, and the Invention of Traditional Patriarchy among Nguni Speakers of South Africa”; Rachel Taylor (history), “Displaying Cosmopolitanism, Delaying Marriage: Nyamwezi Men in Early-20th-Century East Africa”; Marco Bocchese (political science), “Beyond Ratification: Predicting State Compliance with the ICC Treaty Obligations”; and David Michael Peyton Jr. (political science), “Defending Your Land: Violent Property Defense and Institutional Choice in Urban Africa.” Susanna Sacks (English) chaired the panel “‘Word!’ Institution and Language over Time” and presented the paper “Poetry in Action: Evans Mwarire’s ‘This Flag,’ Networked Protest,

and the Hashtag as Collective Poetry.” Jessica Pouchet (anthropology) chaired the panel “Exploring the Life Cycle: Anthropological Approaches to Birth, Death, and Marriage” and presented “For Subsistence or for Profit? Moral Economy, Environmental Governance, and the Everyday Institutionalization of Economic Categories.”

Other PAS-affiliated scholars also participated. Esmeralda M. Kale (Herskovits Library) chaired several committees and participated in the roundtable “Africana Resources: Past, Present, Future,” sponsored by the Africana Librarians Council. Postdoctoral fellow Erin Moore (Buffet Institute for Global Studies) chaired two panels: “Sex Panics in Southern and Eastern Africa” and “Author Meets Critic: George Paul Meiu’s *Ethno-erotic Economies: Sexuality, Money, and Belonging in Kenya*” (sponsored by the Queer African Studies Association); Moore also presented a paper, “Pulling Teeth: On Sex Panics and Seductive Economies in Urban Uganda.” Retired Swahili professor Richard Lepine presented the paper “East African Swahili-Language Films vs. Nollywood/Ghallywood Swahili Dubs” and was a discussant on the panel “Music, Performance, and Everyday Forms of Self-Styling.”

Amy Settergren (PAS outreach coordinator) helped to organize the ASA Teachers Workshop designed for K-12 educators. At the workshop, Florence Mugambi (Herskovits Library) introduced participants to the Herskovits Library’s resources; Prexy Nesbitt (Columbia College) outlined a proposed summer trip for educators to South Africa; Erik Ponder (University Libraries), Evanston Township High School teacher Aaron Becker, and Settergren presented material related to teaching South Africa through a focus on contemporary Johannesburg; and Annie Zean Dunbar (Center for Forced Migration Studies) discussed strategies for teaching about refugees, forced migration, and African immigration. There was also a report on a Chicago school’s recent trip to Ghana that emphasized the theme of social justice.

New graduate students

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Sarah Moore (political science) holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of New Mexico and is interested in comparative politics.

Patrick Mbullo Owuor (anthropology) is interested in information systems (business informatics) and computing in the social sciences, arts, and humanities. He was coauthor of a chapter on “Potentials of Digital Assistive Technology and Special Education in Kenya” in *Sustainable ICT Adoption and Integration for Socioeconomic Development* (IGI Global, 2017).

Mariam Taher (anthropology) is interested in the everyday experience of representations of the state in public space, specifically how people articulate these experiences in terms of language use, power dynamics, and gender.

Panofsky awardees report on their research experiences

As recipients of Hans E. Panofsky Awards conferred by PAS, the following graduate students pursued predissertation fieldwork or archival research in Africa during summer 2017.

Rita Dela Kuma (anthropology) spent four weeks conducting ethno-archaeological fieldwork in Amedeka, Ghana, for her dissertation project on the daily food practices and global entanglements of the Atlantic-era West African coast from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Her work will augment the few archaeological food studies in West Africa by providing comparative ceramic and botanical data on the processes of changing food traditions.

Jahara “Franky” Matissek (political science) conducted field research in Ethiopia, Senegal, Rwanda, and Uganda for his dissertation on “African States with Strong Militaries.” Through interviews with government and military officials in each country, he identified various relationship mechanisms that have enabled their respective militaries to become “bureaucratic enclaves.” Theoretically, such efficiency should not exist within these patrimonial states; yet their military organizations appear to be well run and are highly capable in peacekeeping operations. His findings indicate how other African countries might restructure their militaries without risking military coups.

Caitlin Monroe (history) spent the summer in Uganda researching colonial education initiatives and their impact on the teaching and learning of historical knowledge in western Uganda. She interviewed residents of Kampala and Fort Portal about their experience in colonial schools and collected archival documents, including old syllabi and course plans from Makerere University and Mountains of the Moon University. Her dissertation project examines 19th- and 20th-century struggles over historical knowledge in western Uganda’s educational spaces as a window into broader debates about gendered expertise, the colonial encounter, and intellectual histories of ethnic and national thought.

Bennie Niles (African American studies) traveled to Johannesburg to do research on South African runner Caster Semenya and the dispute surrounding Semenya’s eligibility for women’s sports. He interviewed local sports fans and professionals to understand how they viewed the international controversies over the runner. He also examined the gender archives at the University of the Witwatersrand. In addition to contributing to biographical studies of Semenya, this research explores how apartheid has shaped, and continues to shape, ideas of race, gender, and sexuality in South Africa.

Andrea Rosengarten (history) did research in Namibia and South Africa, where she collected oral history interviews and examined primary source documents in each country’s national archives. Her project contextualizes apartheid-era debates over fluid Nama and “Coloured” racial and ethnic identities within broader 19th- and 20th-century Nama responses to German and South African colonial settlement projects. This includes the period when Nama-speaking communities creatively interpreted the boundaries of race and ethnicity to organize against colonial violence and land dispossession.

Moussa Seck (French and Italian) conducted historical research in Senegal and took a three-week intensive course in Arabic. He consulted records in the archives of the National Library in Dakar and in the online Murid library daaraykamil.com. In addition, he interviewed two local Murid religious leaders.

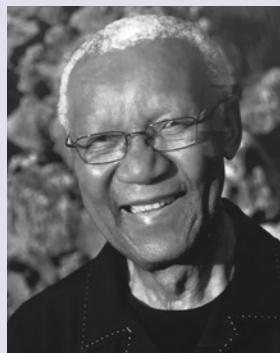
Gorgui Ibrahima Tall (French and Italian) spent more than six weeks in northern Mali, where he immersed himself in Bambara communities and deepened his knowledge of the language. He traveled around Bambara griot communities to record traditional songs and interview griot performers about the composition of their songs, when they were created, where they came from, and why they were conceived. He collected 120 different songs.

Mlondolozzi “Mlondi” Zondi (performance studies) conducted research on contemporary art and performance in South Africa, focusing on how artists mine the archives and embodied repertoires of slavery, colonialism, and apartheid, insisting on their contemporary afterlife in South Africa. In addition to visits to the Wits University archives, the archives of the Slave Lodge in Cape Town, and Johannesburg’s Maboneng Precinct, he attended the JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience in Durban and the Cape Town Fringe Festival. He expects to present his research findings at upcoming conferences in Columbus, Atlanta, and Chicago.

Herskovits Library receives Kunene archives

by LaRay Denzer

The Herskovits Library recently received a 36-box collection of papers from the archives of the late activist, scholar, poet, playwright, author, linguist, and translator Daniel P. Kunene (1923–2016).



Kunene was professor emeritus of African languages and literature at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he taught for 33 years. A native of Edenville, South Africa, he received a BA in 1949 and an MA in 1951 from the University of South Africa and, 10 years later, a PhD from the University of Cape Town, where he taught until 1963. That year he was forced to leave South Africa and seek political asylum in the US. He

remained in exile for 33 years, not returning to South Africa until 1993—three years after Nelson Mandela was released from prison—for a family reunion and a celebratory tour hosted by the country’s universities.

In addition to teaching African languages and literature at UW–Madison, he taught at the University of London; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. He also conducted extensive research in Lesotho, the Netherlands, and Zambia. Altogether he published 16 books and monographs in English and Sesotho, as well as hundreds of other publications. He was also a prolific composer of songs and music, which are archived at the UW–Madison Mills Music Library. The UW–Madison Archives’ Oral History Project houses 15 hours of interviews covering Kunene’s career and interests.

During his long and productive career, Kunene received many accolades, including honorary doctorates from the University of South Africa (1999) and the University of Cape Town (2013) and the Sol T. Plaatje Translation Award from the English Academy of Southern Africa (2011).

His adopted hometown of Madison remembers him for his generosity, lyrical voice, and cultural commitment. He was a WORT radio host and a lively public intellectual who contributed to local newspapers and publications. From the beginning of his career, he believed that “it is our duty as poets to raise our voices and let compassion live.”

Kunene’s personal papers, now being organized by the Northwestern Libraries’ archival processing unit, cover his multifaceted scholarship, correspondence, and antiapartheid activism in South Africa and the US.

Femi Odugbemi illuminates Nollywood's multiple narratives

Following is a collective essay by undergraduate students in the fall writing seminar African Politics through Literature and Film, taught by Martha Wilfahrt. The coauthors are Ezinna Adiele, Sannah Boyd, Rodrigo Castillo Perez, Siobhan Ihenacho, Symone Jackson, Rasa Kerelis, Jana Kim, Jacob Montgomery, Benjamin Nober, Anna Petraskova, Jamarielle Ransom-Marks, Tejas Sekhar, Jamila Wilson, Janelle Yanez, and Syed Zulqadar.

Since it began in 1992, Nollywood has become the world's second-largest film industry, producing up to 1,500 movies per year. In October, Nigerian director Femi Odugbemi visited Northwestern to screen some of his films at the Block Museum of Art and to speak with our seminar class. Discussing his personal approach to filmmaking and his perspective on Nollywood, Odugbemi stressed that the industry's popularity rests on its multiple storylines and the honesty of its storytelling. After seeing his work, we were struck by three prevailing narratives: the tension between westernization and modernity, the importance of maintaining traditions, and the nature of urban inequality. For global audiences—including ourselves—these narratives provide insight into Nigerian and African people's daily struggles.

Westernization and modernity

Odugbemi's films comment on the effects of modernization and Western influences in Nigeria. For Odugbemi, westernization is the willing adoption of Western cultures and values, whereas modernization is an expansion of access to technology and resources that give Nigeria the ability to participate in global markets. In *Bariga Boy*, Odugbemi highlights how art can be a platform to critique both Western and traditional customs in Nigeria. We also see this theme in his emphasis of the importance of education in Nigerian society in *Gidi Blues*. Scenes showing the main characters visiting schoolchildren in the informal settlement of Makoko illustrate the opportunities and promise of Western education, but they also illuminate the costs of modernization, seen by the juxtaposition of the poor with the upper and middle classes.

Maintaining tradition

A common theme of Nollywood films is the struggle to maintain culture while adapting to a changing world. During our discussion, Odugbemi emphasized the importance of

preserving tradition—including religion, language, and other customs—as a means of cultivating identity and building a foundation on which a country can grow. By valuing their traditions and backgrounds, citizens give back to their countries—an idea valorized in *Gidi Blues*, whose heroine, Nkem, volunteers at Makoko Primary School. But the film also captures the way traditional values are threatened in a modernizing society.

“Odugbemi’s belief in the importance that younger generations engage with and embrace their culture also resonated deeply with us.”

Odugbemi uses the characters of Carmen and her parents to illustrate the clash of traditional ideals with progressive ones: though Carmen projects an image of the ideal Christian girl, she secretly lives a life that violates her parents' religious morals. While Odugbemi emphasized the positive results of maintaining traditions, his films show how upholding those traditions can also limit people. A more optimistic view of these tensions can be found in his documentary *Oui Voodoo*, set in the Republic of Benin and detailing a journalist's struggle to balance his Catholic faith with traditional voodoo beliefs.

Urban inequalities

We were also struck by the prevailing theme in Odugbemi's films of urban inequalities. Elites are often portrayed as unaware of the social and wealth disparities between them and the urban poor. In *Gidi Blues*, Akin is an unemployed yet wealthy young man who enjoys a luxurious lifestyle financed



Femi Odugbemi (third from right) with (from left) PAS staff members Amy Settergren, Rebecca Shereikis, and LaRay Denzer; former Northwestern faculty member Virginia DeLancey; and Ivan Albertson and Esmeralda Kale of Northwestern Libraries

by his mother. His awareness of socioeconomic disparities changes after he falls in love with a volunteer who teaches poor children. One day she brings Akin to Makoko, where he is shocked by how people there live, challenging his pre-conceptions about urban poverty. Odugbemi’s documentary *Makoko*, about the same community, underscores this stark divide, revealing that the government rarely fulfills its promise of funding to poor schools.

A different perspective

Although many of our impressions about Odugbemi’s work come from American perspectives, two of us in the seminar are of Nigerian descent and found it easier to navigate the narratives conveyed in Nollywood films. As Nigerian Americans, we were able to connect our relatives to characters in Nollywood films, which made the viewing experience highly personal.

Odugbemi’s belief in the importance that younger generations engage with and embrace their culture also resonated deeply with us. This was particularly compelling because as

Nigerian Americans, our main gateway to learning about our culture is often through our parents and relatives. As part of the Nigerian diaspora, we feel it is important to keep our cultural traditions alive.

During a lunch hosted by the African Students Association, Odugbemi inquired, “What would you all, as Africans who grew up in America, be interested in seeing in Nollywood films?” We responded that we wanted to see films that accurately portray what it’s like to grow up in a world where African culture is dominant. We agreed with Odugbemi that “the exchange of different cultures makes the world richer.” Along with our fellow students who were less familiar with Nollywood and Nigerian culture, we as Nigerian Americans gained new insights through the films into the tensions within modern Nigerian culture.

Curator Esmeralda Kale reports on travels and recent acquisitions and activities

Travels in South Africa and Scotland

Last fall my colleague Shoshanah Seidman and I attended the South African Book Fair during South Africa's National Book Week (September 4–10). We arrived in time to attend the opening ceremony and hear the keynote address by South African novelist, poet, and playwright Zakes Mda, who discussed the power of writing and learning in a language that is meaningful to the writer and student. We also attended panels on the legacy of Steve Biko, the writing of Jay Naidoo, and the intersection of literary culture and democracy.

While in Johannesburg, we spent a day at the FNB JoburgArtFair, Africa's leading art fair focused on contemporary art from the continent and diaspora. And I couldn't resist going to the University of Johannesburg for the Edible Book Festival, a collaboration between the UJ Library and the School of Tourism and Hospitality that appealed to a wide audience. (Have you ever thought of representing your favorite book as a meal? The contestants didn't disappoint us.)

I then went on to Edinburgh to attend the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa annual conference, this year on the theme "Document to Digital: How Does Digitization Aid African Research?" and held at the National Library of Scotland.

Recent acquisitions

James W. Fernandez Papers: Last spring I spent an afternoon at the University of Chicago with Northwestern alumnus James Fernandez (anthropology PhD '62), who had prepared the last six boxes of his personal archives for donation to the Herskovits Library. Fernandez did extensive ethnographic research in Africa, Atlantic Fringe Europe, and northern Spain. His papers include his field notes on the ethnography of the Bitwe of Burundi; the Fang in Equatorial Guinea, southern Cameroon, and northern Gabon; and other ethnographic materials of the religious imagination in Africa.

John Ralph Willis Papers: A noted scholar of West African history and Islamic law, the late Princeton University professor John Ralph Willis was a longtime member of the Near Eastern studies department who served stints as director of Princeton's African American studies program and as an African studies interdepartmental committee member. Willis was the founder and original editor of *Slavery and Abolition: A Journal of Comparative Studies* and a fellow of the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City. In addition, he was an editor for and adviser to the Cass Library of African Studies, a publishing venture focused on the history and culture of Africa. His archives will be a valuable source for students and scholars interested in Africa and the Middle East.

Daniel P. Kunene Papers: In September my colleague Gene Kannenberg Jr. and I went to Madison, Wisconsin, to pick up the papers of poet-activist Daniel P. Kunene. It was an honor to meet his son Sipho Kunene, who showed us his father's home office and helped us pack the collection into the van. (See story on page 9.)

Slides from the University of Wisconsin–Madison African Studies Center: On the recommendation and with the assistance of Sean Hanretta (history), the Herskovits Library received some 7,000 35 mm slides, previously owned by the UW African Studies Center, that had been taken by scholars during their fieldwork in various countries. Just a few of the subjects represented in this collection are pottery, village life, farming, festivals, and other aspects of everyday life—an invaluable resource for teaching about Africa. These collections have been placed in storage until they can be processed and made available for use.



On a visit to the Herskovits Library last fall, Northwestern provost Jonathan Holloway (left) and president Morton Schapiro (right) explored a display of new acquisitions and rare materials. Welcoming the guests were (from left) dean of libraries Sarah Pritchard, African studies librarian Florence Mugambi, public services manager Crystal Martin, and Herskovits Library curator Esmeralda Kale.

Outreach

Instructor Michael Wairungu recently conducted several of his Swahili language classes at the Herskovits Library, where librarian Florence Mugambi guided students through a display of objects from the Africa's Response to Obama collection, along with Swahili posters, samples from the Winterton Collection of East African Photographs, books in Swahili, and Kenyan and Tanzanian cookbooks. The students also learned about the vast collection of language-related materials from East Africa.

One of the most engaging discussions was over a *khanga* textile bearing the Swahili phrase *Hongera Barack Obama* (Congratulations Barack Obama). Undergraduate Blake Gallagher said that he learned “not only about Obama but also interesting things about Kenyan culture, such as the many uses of *khanga*—from carrying babies to signifying respect when you enter your friend’s house to sending passive-aggressive messages to your neighbors. Swahili goes beyond the classroom. It shows us a whole new culture and ways of thinking.”

ASA preconference workshop

The day before the November 16–18 African Studies Association meeting in Chicago, the Herskovits Library teamed up with Chicago’s Center for Research Libraries and the Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College to conduct a workshop on the importance of print and digitized primary source materials in the research process. Designed especially for new graduate students, the workshop featured hands-on interaction with informational texts, diaries, maps, photographs, and other unedited historical documents, facilitated by Esmeralda Kale (Herskovits Library) and Araba Dawson-Andoh (Ohio University); presentations by CRL collections and services vice president James Simon and CBMR librarian Melanie Zeck; and research consultations with African studies librarian Florence Mugambi (Herskovits Library).

Community news

Belated congratulations to **Priscilla Adipa** (sociology), who obtained her PhD last June. Her dissertation was titled “Engaging Spaces, Engaged Audiences: The Sociospatial Context of Cultural Experiences in Art Galleries and Art Museums,” and Wendy Griswold was her adviser. Adipa recently joined the faculty of the International University of Grand Bassam in Côte d’Ivoire.

Karen Alter (political science) spoke at the American Academy in Berlin on “The Future of International Law in an Age of #Trump” in October. The talk can be seen at facebook.com/AmericanAcademyBerlin.

Chernoh Alpha M. Bah (history graduate student) contributed the chapter “Eurocentric Epistemology: Questioning the Narrative on the Epidemic’s Origins” in *Understanding West Africa’s Ebola Epidemic: Towards a Political Economy*, edited by Ibrahim Abdullah and Ismail Rashid (Zed Books, 2017).

Adia Benton (anthropology) was coauthor of the article “Temporality and Positive Living in the Age of HIV/AIDS: A Multi-sited Ethnography” (*Current Anthropology* 58 (2017): 454–476) that received the Clark Taylor Prize, awarded by the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group of the American Anthropological Association.

Abdeta Dribssa Beyene (political science PhD ’17) currently serves as associate director of the Institute for Advanced Research in Addis Ababa. Previously, he was chief of staff of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission pursuant to the Agreement to Resolve the Conflict in South Sudan.

LaRay Denzer (PAS) made a presentation at “Uncommon Connections: Aesthetics, Anthro/History, Health: A Symposium in Honor of Elisha Renne’s Scholarship” at the University of Michigan’s African American and African studies department in October.

Valerie Freeland (political science PhD ’15) has been appointed visiting assistant professor in the University of British Columbia at Okanagan’s philosophy, politics, and economics department.

Wendy Griswold (sociology) has been named a National Humanities Center fellow for 2017–18.

Karen Tranberg Hansen (professor emerita, anthropology) presented the paper “Servants and Politics in Late-Colonial Zambia” at the September conference “Beyond the Home: New Histories of Domestic Servants” at the University of Oxford.

Marina E. Henke (political science) published several articles during 2017: “Why Did France Intervene in Mali in 2013? Examining the Role of Intervention Entrepreneurs” in *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal* 23(3): 307–323; “The Politics of Diplomacy: How the United States Builds Multilateral Military Coalitions” in *International Studies Quarterly* 61(2): 410–424; and “UN Fatalities 1948–2015: A New Dataset” in *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, accessible at sagepub.co.uk/journals.

Richard Joseph (political science) gave the keynote address at the 12th African Economic Conference, held in early December in Addis Ababa. Speaking to the conference theme of “Governance for Structural Transformation,” he underscored why bold policy changes must emanate from Africa, saying that “this is the time for relative autonomy in dealing with policy issues.”

Pamela Khanakwa (history PhD ’11), a member of the 2017–18 cohort of University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars in Ann Arbor, is working on turning her dissertation into a book manuscript titled “Bagisu Men Don’t Cry: Imbalu and the Construction of Masculinities in Uganda.” She is a lecturer in the history, archaeology, and heritage studies department at Makerere University, Kampala.

Moses Khisa (political science PhD '17) has been appointed assistant professor in North Carolina State University's political science department.

Kate Klein (former PAS associate director) has been appointed deputy director of Northwestern's Center for Global Health at the Feinberg School of Medicine. She is responsible for the development, oversight, and management of the center's international education in clinical medicine and research opportunities for Feinberg students.

Jahara "Franky" Matissek (political science graduate student) and coauthor Ian Bertram's essay "The Death of American Conventional Warfare: It's the Political Willpower, Stupid" received honorable mention in a writing competition on the topic of strategy sponsored by *The Bridge*, the journal of the eponymous nonprofit organization. It can be accessed at thestrategybridge.org. Matissek also published two recent articles: "American Civil-Military Relations since George Washington: Has Donald Trump Changed the Dynamic?" in *Outlines of Global Transformations: Politics, Economics, Law* 10(3) 2017: 54-67; and "Shades of Gray Deterrence: Issues of Fighting in the Gray Zone" in the *Journal of Strategic Security* 10(3) 2017: 1-26.

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

Mshai Mwangola (performance studies PhD '09) has been appointed a Bellagio Centre arts and literary art fellow for a performance project titled "Khanga Conversations: Exploring Kenya's Historical, Political, and Sociocultural Realities through Its 'National Cloth.'" She is taking a sabbatical from the African Leadership Center in Nairobi in order to be in residence in Bellagio, Italy, during March and April and hopes to move her "Khanga Conversations" script into staging.

Will Reno (PAS director and political science) published "Fictional States and Atomized Public Spheres: A Non-Western Approach to Fragility" in *Daedalus* 146 (fall 2017): 139-151. Last November he participated in the workshop "Peace and Stability in a Post-Civil War Context: Nigeria's Lessons and the International Community" at the National Defence College in Abuja.

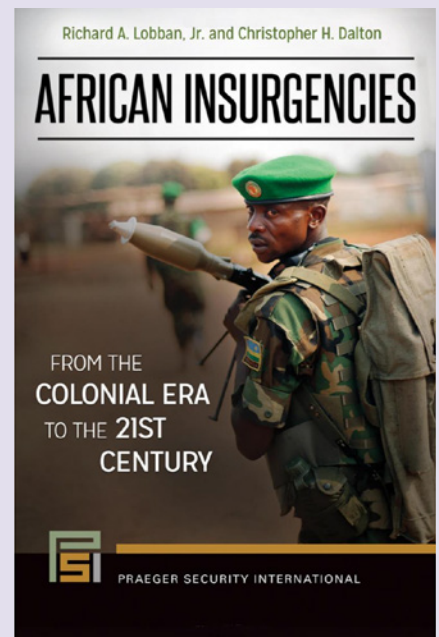
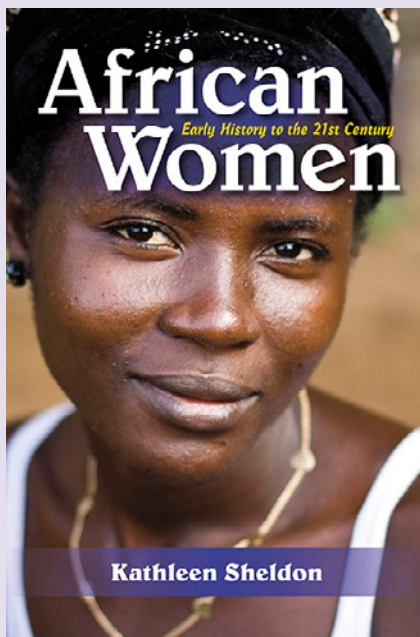
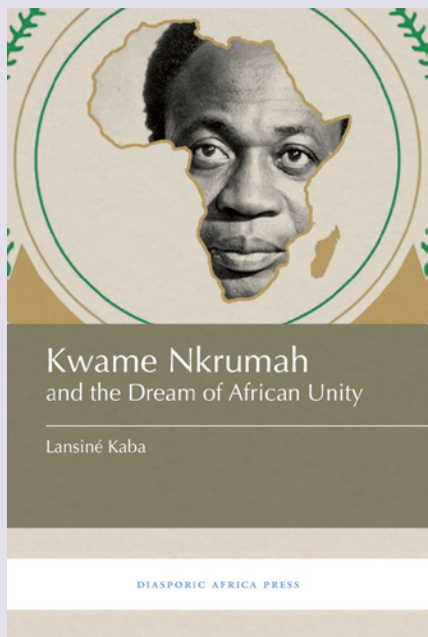
Rachel Riedl (political science) was on the Carter Center's team for international election observation during last October's presidential and legislative elections in Liberia. This was the fourth Liberian election that the Carter Center observed.

Amy Swanson (theatre and drama graduate student) presented the paper "Danse l'Afrique Danse! 2016: The Making of an 'African Contemporary Dance' Canon" at last October's Dance Studies Association conference at Ohio State University.

Rachel Sweet (political science PhD '17) has accepted a two-year post-doctoral appointment at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Marcia Lynne Tiede (University Libraries) presented the paper "Ethnicité et éducation coloniale en AOF: ethnographies d'étudiants et images de communauté de soi" at the Mande Studies Association's 10th international conference, held last August at the International University of Grand Bassam in Côte d'Ivoire.

Sera Young (anthropology) and multiple coauthors published the article "Advancing Human Capabilities for Water Security: A Relational Approach" in the journal *Water Security*, accessible at doi.org/10.1016/j.wasec.2017.07.001



New books by PAS alumni

Lansiné Kaba (history PhD '72)

Kwame Nkrumah and the Dream of African Unity
(Diasporic Africa Press)

In this study, Kaba interrogates two epic phases of Kwame Nkrumah's struggle for the independence of Ghana and the unity of the African continent. These two tasks were promethean in scope—perhaps beyond the capacity of a single leader—yet Nkrumah dared to accomplish them and thus deserves a place among the great world leaders of his time. In examining the origins of Nkrumah's dream and the effort required for its realization, the author reflects on the difficulties of implementing a policy of regrouping independent states into a continental body.

Kathleen Sheldon (history BA '72)

African Women: Early History to the 21st Century
(Indiana University Press)

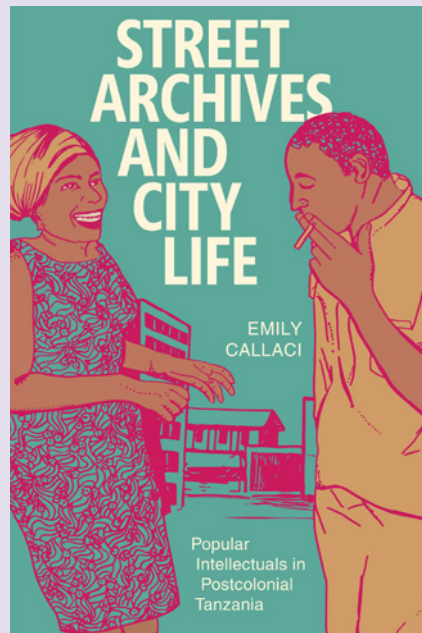
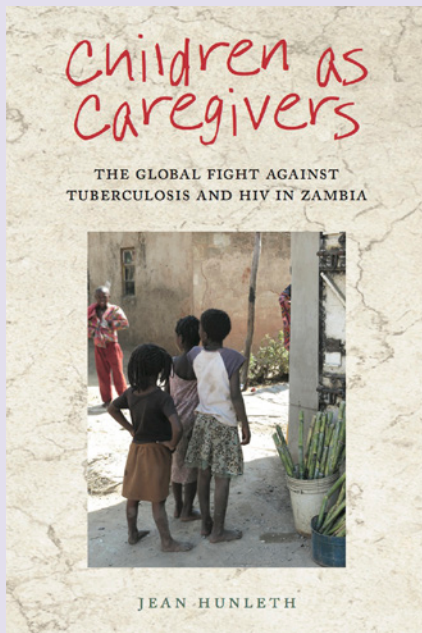
Sheldon reassesses African women's history by pulling together the mass of historical studies published since the 1970s. *African Women* offers a comprehensive survey

of women's sociocultural and political achievements from before the time of records to the present day, using narrative underscored with rich case studies and biographies that highlight women's roles in family life, religion, economics, politics, slavery, resistance, health, education, and modern development.

Richard A. Lobban Jr. (anthropology PhD '73)
and Christopher H. Dalton

African Insurgencies: From the Colonial Era to the 21st Century
(Praeger Security International)

This work offers a continent-wide comparative analysis of ethnic, political, and colonially based insurgencies. It examines the causes, tactics, outcomes, and key individuals of African insurgent events and assesses a range of foreseeable outcomes in Africa's multiple regions of continuing political instability since colonialism to the present. Lobban and Dalton survey ongoing security conflicts (e.g., Libya and South Sudan) and compare the successes and failures of



nations in dealing with internal conflicts. In addition, the study assesses prospects for inclusive democracies to combat insurgencies as well as strategies for prevention to create more stable environments.

Jean Hunleth (anthropology PhD '11)

Children as Caregivers: The Global Fight against Tuberculosis and HIV in Zambia

(Rutgers University Press)

This work focuses on children's hitherto unacknowledged caregiving in the tuberculosis and HIV epidemic in Zambia, where the two diseases resulted in a large number of children who had suffered the illness or the death of one or both parents. *Children as Caregivers* examines how well-intentioned practitioners fail to realize that children assume active caregiving roles when their guardians become seriously ill and demonstrates why understanding children's care is crucial for global health policy. Hunleth makes visible the caregiving work of children through ethnographic methods and listening to the voices of the young as well as adults.

Emily Callaci (history PhD '12)

Street Archives and City Life: Popular Intellectuals in Postcolonial Tanzania

(Duke University Press)

Callaci's book maps a new terrain of political and cultural production in mid- to late-20th-century Tanzanian urban landscapes. While the Tanzanian ruling party (TANU) adopted a policy of rural socialism known as Ujamaa between 1967 and 1985, an influx of youth migrants to Dar es Salaam generated innovative urbanisms by producing and circulating "street archives." These urban intellectuals neither supported nor contested TANU's anti-city philosophy; instead they navigated the complexities of living in unplanned African cities during economic crisis and social transformation through popular texts that included women's Christian advice literature, newspaper columns, self-published pulp fiction novellas, and song lyrics. Thus these texts reveal how youth migrants and urban intellectuals in Dar es Salaam fashioned an urban revolution: a collective ethos of contemporary African citizenship.

Opportunities for research support through PAS

Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

Summer FLAS fellowships provide funding to current Northwestern undergraduate and graduate students to pursue intensive summer study of an African language. Students may study any less commonly taught language—defined as any modern foreign language other than Spanish, German, or French—used in Africa as participants in an eligible US- or overseas-based summer intensive language program. Summer FLAS fellowships provide up to \$5,000 for program tuition and required fees and a \$2,500 stipend for living and travel expenses. For more information on eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit africanstudies.northwestern.edu/funding/flas. Deadline to apply: February 1.

African Research Leadership Awards

These grants are awarded to enable students to develop, manage, and complete projects examining issues in African studies that relate to the students' academic interests and programs of study. The project may meet the research/immersion experience requirement of the African studies adjunct major or be an extension of relevant research completed in a previous course. All first-, second-, and third-year Northwestern undergraduates in any department or school are eligible to apply. Preference is given to African studies adjunct majors, minors, and undergraduate Africa seminar (Afrilogue) participants. Grants of varying amounts up to \$4,000 are awarded. Deadline to apply: April 15.

Hans E. Panofsky Predissertation Research Awards

Established to honor the late curator emeritus of the Herskovits Library, these awards support Northwestern graduate students planning to do predissertation fieldwork or archival research in Africa. These awards are normally granted for work during the summer, but exceptions may be made. Deadline to apply: February 28.

Morris Goodman Awards

These awards provide approximately \$2,000 for graduate students in their second year of study or later to study an African language not taught at Northwestern. Applicants must submit letters that describe their language-study and research and plans, justify the need for language training, and specify how the training will be completed. If tutoring is proposed, information about the tutor is required, including a curriculum vitae and documentation of visa status for remuneration purposes. For other types of language study, students must provide such information as the strengths of the program, the syllabus, and evaluations. Awards are granted on a rolling basis.

Guyer-Virmani Award

Established to honor former PAS director Jane Guyer and former associate director Akbar Virmani, these one-time awards allow students to travel to archives and participate in conferences. They are conferred to PAS graduate students in their third year or later, particularly students who have completed predissertation research and already received a Panofsky Award. Awards are normally in the range of \$200 to \$400 and are granted on a rolling basis.

Working Groups Awards

PAS will provide up to \$5,000 to fund a graduate-student working group—a small community of scholars, including at least one faculty member, who regularly come together around a common research interest in African studies. Groups vary in their approaches and goals; activities may include lecture series, discussions of empirical and theoretical works, collaborative research, and production of a working paper series. Applications must include a two-page description of the group's purpose, plans, and a budget. Deadline to apply: May 2.

John Hunwick Research Fund

Honoring the late professor emeritus whose work made significant contributions to scholarship about Muslim societies in West Africa, this endowment supports research by Northwestern faculty and graduate students on Islam in Africa. Awards are given annually and may be used to fund travel to an archive or library or to conduct field research; to fund expenses associated with a graduate student's presenting a paper related to Islam and Africa at a conference; or to organize the visit of a scholar of Islam and Africa to Northwestern to give a lecture, visit a class, or interact with students. Applications must include a two- to three-page proposal detailing research, conference participation, or plans for a visiting speaker, along with a detailed budget and curriculum vitae. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis.

PAS Travel Awards

Available to all PAS graduate students, these awards contribute \$250 toward the costs of participating in an Africa-related conference, usually to present a paper. The application must be submitted before the conference, but the funds may not be received until after the event, depending on the University payroll cycle. Awards are granted on a rolling basis.

Complete application instructions for all awards can be found at northwestern.edu/african-studies/graduate-studies/awards.html. If you have questions, please call 847-491-7323 or email african-studies@northwestern.edu. All award decisions (excluding FLAS) are made by the PAS Executive Committee.



Northwestern undergraduate Sam Rudnick (top right) with members of his study abroad cohort in Tanzania

Swahili Corner

The summer after my junior year at Northwestern, I studied abroad in Arusha, Tanzania. Every day presented a new challenge, an opportunity to learn and engage in something unique. The unexpected became expected. From rides on overflowing *daladala* (minibuses) to efforts to speak Swahili in the produce market, my horizons were constantly expanded.

One reason I chose the program was that as a premed student I wanted to learn about an unfamiliar health system and to participate in collaborative field research. I am so glad I did not submit to the belief that studying abroad would be a feasibility struggle. The program enhanced my premed experience, and I learned about myself as a person in an entirely new way. Researching public health topics made me think critically—not just about potential solutions but also about public health as a possible career choice.

I also chose the program because I wanted to travel to East Africa. I envisioned a culture and language so vastly different from my own. Through working and living closely with Tanzanians—having conversations during research or over *ugali* (a flour-based Swahili food) and playing pick-up soccer games—I was immersed in their culture. Swahili language became a tool of social value, distancing me from being a tourist. Through this, I formed long-lasting relationships and had unforgettable experiences that I hope every undergraduate can share. —*Samuel Benjamin Rudnick (Weinberg '18)*

Events calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at PAS, 620 Library Place, Evanston. See the PAS website for updates.

JANUARY

17 noon–1:15 p.m.

ISITA Seminar. “How to Get Away with Blasphemy: The Politics of Religious Offense in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania,” **Zekeria Ahmed Salem** (ISITA director and political science).

24 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Stalled Democracy, Incomplete Transition: South Africa and the African National Congress at a Crossroads,” **Erik Ponder** (University Libraries).

29 through February 3

Contemporary Performance in South Africa Festival. Featuring performance works by South African artists, along with workshops, talkbacks, and panels with artists and scholars. For details, see communication.northwestern.edu/departments/performancestudies/performances.

31 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Investigating New Models of Civil-Military Relations in Africa,” **Will Reno** (PAS director and political science).

31 4–6 p.m.

ISITA Perspectives Series. “Rethinking Timbuktu,” **Ousmane Oumar Kane** (Harvard Divinity School) and **Charles Stewart** (history, University of Illinois).

FEBRUARY

7 noon–1:15 p.m.

“‘Take Him and Tell Him to Be Circumcised’: Moral Order and Respectability in Early Postcolonial Uganda,” **Pamela Khanakwa** (history, archaeology, and heritage studies, Makerere University).

14 noon–1:15 p.m.

ISITA Seminar. “The Taste of Prayer: Making Sense of Sufi Devotional Practice in Niger,” **Adeline Masquelier** (anthropology, Tulane University).

21 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Embracing Happenstance: An Academic Journey,” **Sandra Greene** (history, Cornell University).

22 5–7 p.m.

“Considering Early Caribbean Queerness: Constructions of Gender, Sexuality, and Family in 19th-Century Trinidad,” **Rosamond King** (English, Brooklyn College).

28 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Breadlosers: Nollywood, State Television, and the Stakes of Masculine Melodrama,” **Matthew H. Brown** (African languages and literature, University of Wisconsin–Madison).

28 5–7 p.m.

“Outside the Temple: Love and Sexuality in James Baldwin’s *The Fire Next Time* and ‘To Crush a Serpent,’” **Dagmawi Woubshet** (English, University of Pennsylvania).

MARCH

7 noon–1:15 p.m.

ISITA Seminar. “Philosophical Sufism in the Sokoto Caliphate: The Case of Shaykh Dan Tafa,” **Oludamini Ogunnaike** (religious studies, College of William and Mary).

7 4–6 p.m.

ISITA Perspectives Series. “Sharia Politics in Contemporary Nigeria,” **Sarah Eltantawi** (comparative religion, Evergreen State College) and **Brandon Kendhammer** (political science, Ohio University).

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
www.northwestern.edu/african-studies

Will Reno, *Director*
Meagan Keefe, *Associate Director*
Kelly Coffey, *Business Coordinator*
LaRay Denzer, *Newsletter Editor*
Amy Settergren, *Outreach Coordinator*
Rebecca Shereikis, *ISITA Associate Director*
Tiffany Williams-Cobleigh, *Program Assistant*

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