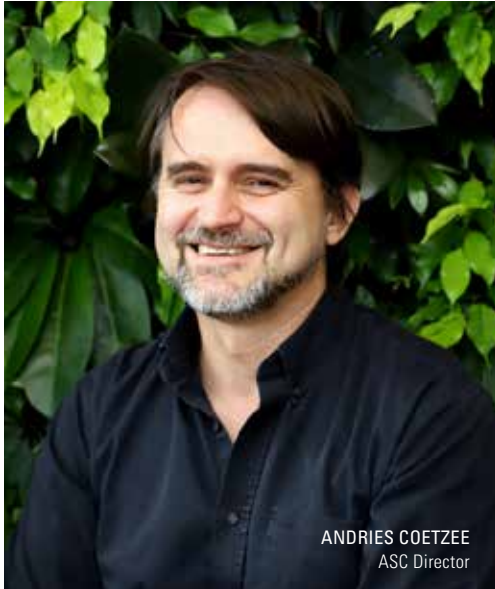




# alliances

AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER • NEWSLETTER 2018 • Issue 10





ANDRIES COETZEE  
ASC Director

## Dear ASC Family,

It is my great pleasure to launch the second decade of the African Studies Center (ASC) at the University of Michigan! Our first decade was filled with exciting developments and opportunities, and we are embarking on our second decade from a position of strength that we could hardly have imagined at our founding in 2008. How far we have come in just ten years is a testament to the unparalleled and continued support we have enjoyed from the Offices of the President and the Provost, and to the dedication of the ASC community comprised of staff, faculty, students, African partners, and Michigan friends. For the role that each of you have played in making ASC a vibrant, diverse community with an exceptionally broad disciplinary reach, I extend my heartfelt thanks.



As I start my tenure as ASC director, I wish to extend a special thank you to **Kelly Askeew**, founding ASC director and tireless advocate for the center and all things Africa. What we are today would not have been without the many

hours that Kelly has committed to the center. Since this is our tenth annual newsletter, I think it is only fitting to dedicate this volume to Kelly in recognition of her contribution to ASC's successful first decade.

Please join me in welcoming **Laura Beny**, professor of law, as the new ASC associate director. Laura is not a newcomer to ASC, having served previously on the ASC Executive Committee. Her research and teaching interests include law and international development, finance and capital markets, enterprise organization, and political economy, with special focus on Africa. In addition to publishing her research in venues such as *American Economic Review*, *American Law and Economics Review*, *Journal of Corporation Law*, and *Harvard Business Law Review*, Laura is also



a public intellectual, and regularly publishes opinion pieces on Africa in various international media, such as *Newsweek International*, *Africa.com*, and *Al Jazeera*. A specialist on Sudan and South Sudan, Laura is co-editor of the book *Sudan's Killing Fields: Political Violence and Fragmentation*, and served as a legal consultant to the

government of South Sudan prior to its independence from Sudan in 2011. ASC will benefit greatly from Laura's breadth of knowledge and experience.

This edition of *Alliances* represents a snapshot of some of the many events organized and sponsored by ASC over the past year, both on campus and on the continent, and highlights some of the work done and awards received by ASC affiliated faculty and students. As the tenth edition of the newsletter, we are also using this as an opportunity to reflect on our first decade, with feature stories on the achievements of each of our main initiatives during this time period.

This past year brought renewed support for our U-M African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) program, with President Mark Schlissel committing to five more years of support for the program. James Holloway, vice provost for Global Engagement and Interdisciplinary Academic Affairs, also pledged to support Ethiopian UMAPS scholars for an additional three years. We are deeply appreciative of this support from the U-M administration. Building on this support and the success of our UMAPS program, much of our work in the coming years will focus on securing external funding to continue this valuable program.

In April, we received the good news that the Carnegie Corporation has awarded ASC a grant of \$20,000 to help support our activities in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Also this summer, **Provost Martin Philbert** visited U-M partners in Ghana, Ethiopia, and South Africa, accompanied by a team of U-M faculty and students. His visit reaffirmed U-M's many existing collaborations on the continent, and represents the start of exciting new collaborative opportunities. Provost Philbert's visit coincided with the 10th anniversary of the historic 2008-visit by then U-M President Mary Sue Coleman that resulted in the founding of ASC, and signals the continued support of the U-M administration for ASC's engagement with African partners.



The many things that ASC does would not be possible without the dedicated ASC team, all of whom deserve more thanks than we can give. This includes the core-ASC team consisting of Sandra Schulze, Cindy Nguyen, and Henrike Florusbosch. We are also supported by the International Institute's Global South Cluster staff, including Gloria Caudill, Raquel Buckley, and Kathy Covert.

This academic year promises to be as packed with Africa-related activities as last year, and I invite you to participate in as many of these as time allows. Best wishes for a productive and interesting 2018-2019 academic year!

Sincerely,

*Andries W Coetzee*

Director, African Studies Center  
Professor, Department of Linguistics

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*Alliances* is published annually by the African Studies Center at the University of Michigan. ASC is a member of the International Institute.

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# THE FIRST DECADE AND Beyond

By Kelly Askew

**F**or three event-filled days spanning March 15-17, 2018, the African Studies Center (ASC) celebrated its 10th anniversary by showcasing the variety and depth of its collaborations with partners across the African continent. *The First Decade and Beyond* symposium began with an alumni roundtable featuring illustrious University of Michigan alumni who live in South Africa and Ghana: Christopher Ameyaw-Akumfi (PhD Zoology, 1976) from Accra, Retha Beerman (LLM, 1996) from

Johannesburg, Jennifer Bisgard (BA Political Science, 1985) from Johannesburg, William Cosby (MBA, 1998) from Johannesburg, George Intsiful (DARCH, 1989) from Kumasi, and Michael Sudarkasa (BA History, 1986) from Johannesburg. The roundtable was introduced by LSA Dean Andrew Martin and moderated by Associate Vice Provost for Global Engagement Amy Conger. Participants shared their experiences working in Africa and how their Michigan education prepared them for successful lives there. They also described how Africa is producing solutions to global problems, from mobile



payments to waste disposal and recycling, to success in overcoming historical racism by diversifying working environments along gender and racial lines (at a faster pace than has been achieved in the US). A keynote address by Michael Sudarkasa followed, entitled, "From Ann Arbor to the World on a Road Less Traveled," which traced his journey from a childhood in Ann Arbor as the son of a U-M faculty member, to playing football alongside Jim Harbaugh at Pioneer High School, to U-M for his undergraduate education, Harvard for his law education, and a life devoted to enhancing business environments in Africa for African entrepreneurs. The LSA Opportunity Hub co-hosted the event and arranged for the alumni to later address smaller groups of students keen to pursue similarly global career paths.

March 16th began with a warm welcome by President Mark Schlissel and a keynote address by President Emerita Mary Sue Coleman, who founded ASC in 2008. Entitled "Ten Years of Building Bridges," her comments emphasized the need for universities to engage with African partners to "find ways to reach out across this vast organization to connect and collaborate. We are always looking for ways to make whole the sum of our parts and truly capitalize on Michigan's academic synergies. That is what led to our establishing—10 years ago—the African Studies Center. We recognized the tremendous potential of bringing together all of this work, finding ways to coordinate and strengthen our teaching and research, and promoting the partnerships we have throughout the continent." A presidential panel followed featuring Presidents Schlissel and Coleman alongside President Ophelia Weeks and President Emeritus Emmet Dennis, both of the University of Liberia, Rector (= President) Uphie Chinje Melo of



**ALUMNI ROUNDTABLE** (L-R): Retha Beerman, Christopher Ameyaw-Akumfi, Jennifer Bisgard, William Cosby, Michael Sudarkasa, and George Intsiful



**LEFT:** Presidential Panel (L-R): U-M President Emeritus James Duderstadt, University of Liberia President Ophelia Weeks, U-M President Mark Schlissel, University of Liberia President Emeritus Emmet Dennis, U-M President Emerita Mary-Sue Coleman, University of Ngaoundéré Rector Uphie Chinje Melo, and U-M Vice Provost for Global Engagement James Holloway.

**OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP:** President Emerita Mary Sue Coleman at the ASC's 10th Anniversary Symposium



the University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon, and U-M President Emeritus James Duderstadt. The panel was moderated by Vice Provost for Global Engagement and Interdisciplinary Academic Affairs James Holloway and explored shared challenges facing higher education in Africa and America, as well as sources of inspiration and innovation.

Moving into the work of the various ASC initiatives, the next panel featured seven alumni of the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) Program representing a variety of disciplines: archaeology, demography, engineering, law, literature, and pharmacognosy. Their many accomplishments prove many times over the value of the program, which brings early-career African faculty to Ann Arbor four-to-six-month-long research residencies as a means of advancing their careers, integrating them into international networks, and catalyzing new collaborations between them and U-M faculty, who volunteer to serve as mentors.

Afternoon panels focused on research collaborations born of the African Heritage and Humanities Initiative (AHHI) and the Ethiopia-Michigan Collaborative Consortium (EMC2). Spanning archaeological and art

historical work in Ghana, opera performance in South Africa, archival preservation efforts in Uganda, the funerary rites of the Asante Queen Mother, and the political urgency for expanded collaborations between Southern and Northern academic nodes, the AHHI panel radically contested notions of humanities research as a solitary pursuit. The EMC2 panel had no less diverse a topical range in highlighting collaborations in computer science, emergency nursing, development of urine-based fertilizer, forestry conservation, post-stroke medical research, and Ethiopian art history. The last day of the symposium featured collaborations in the quantitative social sciences championed by the African Social Research Initiative (ASRI) and alliances in the STEM fields led by the STEM-Africa Initiative. Focusing on joint work in political science, economics and public health, the ASRI panel showcased partnerships between U-M and the University of Cape Town (South Africa), University of Cape Coast (Ghana), Makerere University (Uganda), Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique), and University of Ghana. The STEM-Africa panel, meanwhile, highlighted efforts to combat maternal mortality in Ghana through a partnership between U-M and the University of Ghana (UG), to create more conducive environments for

engineering innovations in Uganda, to build new engineering curricula and expertise at both UG and the University of Liberia, and to forge new STEM partnerships in Cameroon.

A final keynote address was presented by University of Liberia President Emeritus Emmet Dennis on "The Role of a Post-conflict University in Producing the Human Capital Necessary for the Development of a Post-conflict Country," and introduced by former Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Lester Monts. Dinner included much merriment and announcement of the new ASC Director Andries Coetzee who replaces Kelly Askew after her ten years at the helm. May the next ten years see continued growth for these exciting collaborations and the launch of new ones to enrich our understanding not only of Africa but of the world at large and its fundamental interconnectivity. 🌐

# AHHI 10 YEARS OF COLLABORATION

**T**he African Heritage Initiative (AHI), as it was originally called before being renamed African Heritage and

Humanities Initiative (AHHI) in early 2018, grew out of the Heritage Working Group comprised of Kelly Askew, Kevin Gaines, Daniel Herwitz, Lester Monts, and Raymond Silverman. In preparation for then U-M President Mary Sue Coleman's visit to Ghana and South Africa in 2008, a planning committee selected which of the many U-M projects in these countries to include on the presidential itinerary. After the visit, the Heritage Working Group was convened to organize the heritage projects identified and funded through President Coleman's new Africa initiative. AHI was conceived as a broadly distributed set of projects across the humanities and arts, undertaken in partnership with African colleagues and institutions, and reflecting the importance of heritage and its remaking across the continent.

Contributions by  
Naomi André  
Henrike  
Florusbosch  
Jeffrey Heath  
Jeri Hollister  
Judith Irvine  
Barbra Meek  
Elisha Renne  
Raymond  
Silverman  
Derek Peterson



2008

Participants in the inaugural AHI workshop ***Producing, Preserving and Repatriating Digital Cultural Heritage*** wear 3-D glasses to view a 3D VR scene during a presentation by Tom Bray (Converging Technologies Consultant). This initial workshop was held in December 2008 at the International Library of African Music (ILAM) at Rhodes University in South Africa, following discussions in Ann Arbor in May of that year between faculty associated with the newly established African Heritage Initiative and a delegation from the University of Ghana. Twenty-four participants, from two Ghanaian and three South African universities as well as U-M and a number of professional organizations, attended the workshop. Since this first workshop in 2008, AHHI has organized five additional international workshops: *Heritage Matters!*, in Accra, 2009; *The Politics of Heritage*, in Johannesburg, 2011; *Heritage Production in Africa*, in Ann Arbor, and *Archaeology/Heritage*, in and around Accra, both in 2014; and *Language In/As Social Action*, in Cape Town, 2018. AHHI faculty have also been extensively involved in the organization of ten Mellon-funded workshops through an ongoing collaboration between U-M's African Studies Center and the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) at the University of the Witwatersrand.



## 2009

Hoes and hatchets, from photographic documentation of implements as part of a seed grant project focused on developing audio-visual materials to enhance the documentation of Dogon/Bangime languages. As part of its mandate, **AHHI has funded collaborative projects between U-M faculty and colleagues at African institutions through its seed grant program**; once established, these projects are well positioned to attract additional funding. This seed grant project, by Jeffrey Heath (Linguistics), involved identification of flora and fauna, documentary videos, village mapping, and photographic documentation of the region of Mali and Burkina Faso where Dogon/Bangime languages are spoken. The same project later (2013-18) received a National Science Foundation continuation grant. Other projects that received initial funding through AHHI and were subsequently awarded external grants include the project of ASC's founding director Kelly Askew (DAAS and Anthropology) and Paul Conway (School of Information) to digitize the extensive collection of African music recorded by ethnomusicologist and *Voice of America* broadcaster Leo Sarkisian, as well as the El Kurru excavation in northern Sudan, led by Geoff Emberling (Kelsey Museum of Archaeology).

## 2010

UMAPS mentor Naomi André (DAAS, Residential College, and Women's Studies) and UMAPS scholar Brenda Innocentia Mhlambi from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg. A highly productive, multifaceted collaborative relationship between U-M and Wits has developed around the topic of South African opera; one starting point for this collaboration was a 2010 seed grant award to Professor André to work with two South African scholars also studying opera, Professor Mhlambi and Professor Donato Somma, both at Wits. Brenda Innocentia Mhlambi subsequently came to Ann Arbor as a 2012-13 UMAPS scholar, and André, Mhlambi, and Donato published a cluster of articles on "New Voices in Black South African Opera" in *African Studies*. **André and Mhlambi co-presented on their work during ASC's 10th anniversary symposium and are currently collaborating on another joint project**, involving the intellectual legacy of Professor James Stephen Mzilikazi Khumalo and his opera *Princess Magogo*. Many AHHI faculty who have mentored a UMAPS scholar have continued to work with their former mentees on collaborative projects.

## 2012

Photograph of Chief G.O. Kupolati (in white) in his medicine shop, with companions who are wearing a range of wax and fancy print textiles, probably manufactured in Nigeria, or more recently, in China. The photo was used on the "Textile Production and Trade Ascendancies in Nigeria" website documenting the 2012 seed grant project on the history of Nigerian textile company Kaduna Textiles, Ltd, jointly undertaken by Elisha Renne (DAAS) and five colleagues from three different universities in Nigeria. This project also resulted in an exhibition, "Sir Ahmadu Bello & Kaduna Textiles Ltd.," which was on view at Arewa House, Kaduna, in Kaduna State, Nigeria, in November 2012. A version of the exhibit, focused on textile production and trade in Nigeria, was subsequently shown at U-M's DAAS gallery in November 2015. **Many AHHI projects have resulted in exhibitions or are connected to museums**, including a collaboration with the Uganda Museum in Kampala, involving a number of AHHI steering committee members from U-M and internationally, as well as collaborative development of a community heritage center with exhibits of archaeology and local culture at El Kurru in northern Sudan, in conjunction with Geoff Emberling's excavation project there. Other AHHI-funded projects have resulted in films, such as *Vibrancy of Silence* by Frieda Ekotto (DAAS and Romance Languages) and Marthe Djilo Kamga (artist and activist), and a feature-length documentary in the making on the funeral rites of the Asantehemaa, a collaboration between Lester Monts (School of Music, Theater, and Dance), Kwasi Ampene (DAAS), and Anita Afonu, Ghanaian filmmaker.



## 2014

**Participants in the Archaeology/Heritage workshop touring the famous Castle of São Jorge da Mina** near the town of Elmina, Ghana. During this site visit, the Ghanaian and international workshop participants experienced firsthand the contested interpretations of a monument that has meaning for multiple communities, and grappled with the problem of how to present the complex layered histories of this five-hundred-year-old structure. Followed by a tour of Elmina's historic buildings, Asafo (local military) shrines, a Dutch cemetery and the community's Catholic church (which included a small museum), the visit galvanized discussions about whether spaces that have been inscribed as heritage sites, especially the Castle, hold any significance for the residents of the town. Many AHHI and Mellon workshops have included site visits to connect the themes of the presentations and discussions to concrete spaces, situations, and experiences.



## 2015

Documents from the archives in Jinja District, eastern Uganda, are laid out to dry as part of a project to rescue, organize and catalogue this collection. The project resulted in a catalogued collection of more than 18,000 files, some of which had been exposed repeatedly to water. This project, spearheaded by Derek Peterson (DAAS and History), is **one of several archive preservation projects that AHHI has supported over the years, mostly in Uganda** but also in South Sudan and, in the case of the Leo Sarkisian Archive mentioned above, Ann Arbor. Other archive digitization projects funded in whole or in part by AHHI include ongoing projects at Mountains of the Moon University in Fort Portal, western Uganda, which focus on local government archives in the western part of the country. A cataloguing project in Kabale District, southern Uganda, was funded in 2013, and most recently, AHHI has provided support for two Kampala-based projects, namely the digitization of the photographic archive at the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation and a new cataloguing project at the High Court of Uganda, both being undertaken in 2018.



## 2018

U-M Provost Martin Philbert interacting with master brass caster Kofi George Dokyi in Krofrom, Ghana. Ten years after then U-M President Mary Sue Coleman's trip to the continent, **Provost Philbert visited Ghana, Ethiopia, and South Africa to learn about the work that U-M faculty and students are doing there with African partners** to build capacity and explore new ideas. The itinerary included Krofrom in Ghana, where AHHI steering committee member Raymond Silverman (DAAS and History of Art) has collaborated with colleagues from the University of Ghana to research contemporary brass casting in Ghana, the results of which will be showcased in an exhibit for Ghana's National Museum in Accra.





## 2018

Some of the participants in the AHHI workshop *Language In/As Social Action*, organized by Judith Irvine (Anthropology) in collaboration with Ana Deumert (Linguistics, University of Cape Town) and Christopher Stroud (Linguistics, University of the Western Cape). The workshop aimed to bring together South African and U-M scholars working in the broad fields of sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology, and to bring African materials and ideas into broader conversation with those from other parts of the world, and vice versa. Exploring the interconnected themes of race, colonialism, and consequential moments, **the workshop posed important questions about the impact of the colonial encounter on the field of sociolinguistics, the implication of language in the construction and expression of race and, conversely, the role of language in projects of deconstructing privilege.** Much of the discussion was focused on the specific history of and conditions in South Africa, with a clear understanding of the importance of enlarging the framework to make some comparisons that are seldom made, such as with colonial Senegal, Andean South America, and Canada's first nations. One of the participants noted afterwards, "This was one of the most rewarding, stimulating, intellectually awakening events I have ever participated in. It has helped me to understand my research in a totally new way and realize important connections with scholarship (and scholars and situations) that I would not have discovered otherwise."



## 2018

Group picture of participants at the conference *Intellectual and Cultural Life under Conditions of Austerity*, hosted in June 2018 by the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane and by Kaleidoscopio, a social science research unit in Maputo. Twenty papers were presented, and the discussions—in Portuguese and in English—were lively and productive. A special issue for *Africa* focused on the work that universities, galleries, and other institutions have done to curate intellectual life is now in the works. This was the tenth session of the ongoing collaboration between ASC and WiSER at the University of the Witwatersrand, which is funded by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon foundation. **Since 2014, the Mellon grant has enabled the organization of 10 workshops, involving over 300 participants from approximately 40 universities** and more than 10 think-tanks, non-governmental organizations, publishers and other entities. 📄

### COLLABORATIVE FACULTY SEED GRANT, 2018

#### *The Intellectual Legacy of Professor James Stephen Mzilikazi Khumalo*

Naomi André, University of Michigan;  
Thomas Pooley, University of South Africa; and  
Brenda Innocentia Mhlambi and Donato Somma,  
University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

#### *A People's History of the Maasai Mara, Kenya*

Bilal Butt, University of Michigan; and Joseph Muriithi,  
Kenyatta University, Kenya

# 10 years of ASRI



The African Social Research Initiative (ASRI) was established in 2008 to promote advanced social science research and new collaborative networks between University of Michigan faculty, and academic and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, principally in

South Africa and Ghana. Hallmarks of ASRI are multi-method approaches to data collection and analysis, with thematic foci on politics (democratic governance and goods distribution), economics (income dynamics and poverty), and the intersections of gender, health, and development. The cross-fertilization among the thematic foci through shared research agendas and conferences underscores the value of interdisciplinary approaches. This approach together with ASRI's commitment to quantitative training in the social sciences has contributed greatly to the high visibility ASRI enjoys on the U-M campus and among its partner institutions on the African continent.

Since its inception, ASRI has built on, and been informed by, U-M's strengths in quantitative research and its partnerships with university and government research agencies. These predate ASRI's founding and include a research collaboration, established in 1995 and featured in ASC's first newsletter in 2009, with Statistics South Africa and the Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa). Another partnership predating ASRI is the Cape Area Panel Study (CAPS), started in 2002 between U-M's Institute for Social Research (ISR) and two research units at the University of Cape Town (UCT), namely the Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR) and the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU). CAPS follows the lives of a large and representative sample of adolescents in Cape Town, South Africa, as they undergo multiple transitions from adolescence to adulthood. From 2002 to date, there have been five iterations of interviews of the initial sample of 4,750 young adults, along with surveys administered to other members of the households in which they live. The CAPS data, which are publicly available and have been used by researchers all over the world, constitute a significant source for the study of adolescents in post-apartheid South Africa, providing insights on schooling, entry into the labor market, sexual and reproductive health, and familial support. The data also offer important insights in how poverty and inequality are reproduced across generations, which is a problem not unique to South Africa but one that can be well studied there. Besides reinforcing the pre-existing research linkages that U-M

has had with other institutions, ASRI has also been involved with partnerships focused on teaching and capacity building. These include a yearly course hosted by UCT's SALDRU, which has regularly included U-M faculty as co-instructors. This course served as a model for ASRI's summer courses that have been held annually in Ghana since 2011.

## ASRI Courses in Quantitative Methods

Under the auspices of ASRI, two quantitative methods courses were hosted in Ghana in 2018: one on regression models and diagnostics, using the statistical software package R, and another on statistical analysis of demographic, economics, and health datasets, using Stata. With the completion of these two courses, **ASRI has now co-organized fifteen courses on quantitative methods in Ghana since 2001, in partnership with the University of Cape Coast (UCC), the University of Ghana (UG), and the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), with additional support from the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town, both in South Africa.**

Large national surveys on income, employment, health, or public opinion are often underutilized by countries in Africa due to lack of local capacity in statistical analysis. The ASRI courses in Ghana address this issue by providing short-term training in research methods and analysis to government personnel, NGO professionals, and researchers, so that their organizations are able to chart their own policy futures. To date, around 400 participants who have benefitted from these trainings have represented a range of institutions such as the Ghana Statistical Service, the National Health Research Centers (in Navrongo, Dodowa, and Kintampo), universities (UG, UCC, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and

Contributions by  
Rod Alence  
Kofi  
Awusabo-Asare  
Henrike  
Florusbosch  
David Lam  
Cheryl Moyer  
Anne Pitcher  
Sarah Rominski



ASRI steering committee member David Lam addressing participants at the 2018-Stata course, University of Ghana.



Students from U-M and UCC working together to develop facilitator training for a sexual violence prevention program at UCC.

Technology), the Bank of Ghana, and various NGOs. Researchers from other countries, including Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, and Liberia, have also participated in these courses. In addition, ASRI has sponsored several Africa-based researchers who have participated in the courses to receive additional advanced training in statistical analysis at U-M's Institute for Social Research (ISR).

The long-term objective is for the ASRI courses to become self-sustaining, while maintaining affordability for those who would benefit most from the training offered. Towards that goal, the Stata course at UG has by now become institutionalized and largely self-financing. The course is organized and staffed primarily by faculty and staff at UG. The continued need for the training provided is evident in the stable enrollments for both the Stata and R courses, and the positive evaluations the courses receive each time they are offered.

### Seed Grants and Research Partnerships

Part of ASRI's mandate has been to encourage and extend cross-national collaboration among partners through seed grants awarded to collaborative research projects. To date, ASRI has run seven seed grant competitions, supporting research collaborations between U-M faculty and their collaborators at universities on the continent to conduct multidisciplinary and comparative research projects on topics around politics, economics, and health. **Approximately \$170,000 in ASRI seed funding has been awarded to 24 different project teams, representing disciplines as diverse as sociology, education, political science, demography, epidemiology, urban studies, and the policy and health sciences.**

Seed grant projects have yielded numerous publications and co-publications, external research funding, opportunities for students to be involved in research, and resources for researchers interested in quantitative social science research in Africa. Among the many examples of these outcomes are the following:

- Research for an article by Anne Pitcher (DAAS and Political Science) and Sylvia Croese (UCT) (*Urban Studies*, 2017) was funded in part by an ASRI seed grant. This article investigates household satisfaction with a basket of government-provided goods and was based on one of the first public opinion surveys of urban households in Luanda, Angola.
- The Centre for Data Analysis, Archiving, Management and Advocacy (C-DAAMA) resulted in part from a seed grant and additional technical support from the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Science Research (ICPSR). C-DAAMA was established as long-standing ASRI partnership with the University of Cape Coast (UCC) in 2014. The center stores data from studies conducted in Ghana and is linked to ICPSR.
- The PREMAND project (PREventing Maternal And Neonatal Deaths), for which project co-directors Cheryl Moyer (Medical School) and John Williams (Navrongo Health Research Centre) received a \$1.44M USAID grant in 2014, followed from the earlier SANDS (Stillbirth And Neonatal Death Study) project in Northern Ghana that was funded in part by an ASRI seed grant.
- ASRI steering committee member Sarah Rominski (Medical School) and Michelle Munro-Kramer (Nursing School) designed an experiential learning experience for U-M students with previous experience as peer facilitators in a university program aimed at preventing sexual violence on campus by educating students about consent and sexual health. Six U-M students and ten students at the University of Cape Coast (UCC) worked together to develop a facilitator training program as part of the sexual violence prevention program adopted at UCC. This student experience was aligned with another project of Dr. Rominski, partly funded by an ASRI seed grant, to conduct the first campus climate survey measuring sexual assault at a university in sub-Saharan Africa.

“The course has helped change my perception of data analysis as a laborious venture to that of a delightful adventure.” —2018 ASRI quantitative methods course participant

**International Conferences:  
Politics, Health, Economics**

The title of the ASRI panel at ASC's 10th anniversary symposium in March 2018, *Politics, Health, Economics: 10 Years of ASRI Collaborations* aptly sums up the key themes of the four major international conferences organized by ASRI to date:

- *African Social Research Initiative: Inaugural Conference* (Cape Town, South Africa, July 2009): The first of ASRI's conferences had an interdisciplinary focus with panels on measuring change in gender equality; mixed methods research; comparative governance research; and income and poverty dynamics.
- *Access, Accountability, and Equality* (Accra, Ghana, July 2011): The second ASRI conference evaluated development targets and investigated abiding challenges of democratic accountability, equality, and access to health and other social services in Ghana, South Africa, and neighboring countries.
- *Transnational Vulnerabilities in Governance, Employment, Health, and Education* (Ann Arbor, October 2013): ASRI's third conference, and the first to be held on the U-M campus, explored the interrelated themes of governance, public goods provision in health and education, and economic development, making connections between the economic and social vulnerabilities experienced by residents in some of Detroit's most disadvantaged communities and similar spaces in African countries.
- *Breaking the Barriers to Africa's Development* (Accra, Ghana, July 2016): Organized in partnership with the Centre for Social Policy Studies at the University of Ghana, this conference included economists, demographers, sociologists, public health researchers and political scientists from Ghana, South Africa, Mozambique, and the US.



ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Presenters on the ASRI-panel at ASC's 10th anniversary symposium in March 2018: David Lam (Economics) and Kofi Awusabo-Asare (UCC); Elizabeth Nansubuga (Makerere University, former UMAPS scholar); Nkechi Owoo (University of Ghana); Anne Pitcher (Afroamerican and African Studies).

**COLLABORATIVE FACULTY  
SEED GRANT, 2018**

*Female Sex Workers' HIV  
Susceptibility in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

Elizabeth King, University of Michigan; and  
Samrawit Solomon, St Paul's Hospital Millennium  
Medical College, Ethiopia

*Prevalence and Correlates of  
Substance Use among Ugandan Youth*

Massy Mutumba, University of Michigan; and  
Henry Mugerwa, Joint Clinical Research Center,  
Kampala, Uganda

In addition to ASRI's own conferences, ASRI members have played significant roles as key members in the organization

of conferences or panels, such as the 2010 conference *Supporting Election Studies in Africa*. A 2014 workshop in Maputo, Mozambique, on distributive politics sponsored by the American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Mellon Foundation was directed by a five-person team affiliated with ASRI. Finally, ASRI members have participated in a number of Mellon-funded workshops jointly organized by U-M and the University of the Witwatersrand, including most recently *Intellectual and Cultural Life under Conditions of Austerity*, held in Maputo, Mozambique, in June 2018.

In all ASRI projects the guiding principle is that activities contribute to equitable, sustainable, and institutionalized partnerships



Participants in the 2018 R course held at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, co-organized by ASRI and the Centre for Democratic Development-Ghana.

While politics, health, and economics denote the mutual and interlocking research interests of ASRI members, the partnerships have expanded to include other disciplines, such as IT and history. One of the main strengths of ASRI has been its ability to sustain international scholarly partnerships and shared research agendas. ASRI members frequently join forces to apply for external funding for ambitious joint projects. Most recently, for example, Rod Alence (Wits) and Anne Pitcher (U-M), together with Grant Masterson of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa, were awarded a \$300,000 grant by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to study election-related violence in Africa. In all ASRI projects—seed grants, quantitative methods courses, and international conferences—the guiding principle is that activities contribute to equitable, sustainable, and institutionalized partnerships among ASRI and other scholarly organizations in Ghana, South Africa, and elsewhere on the continent, and in doing so, build a platform for sharing ideas and expertise among an expanding community of scholars.



# EMC2

**THE INAUGURAL EMC2 WORKSHOP:** U-M and Ethiopian colleagues met in February 2016 in Ann Arbor to explore collaboration opportunities to advance healthy communities.

Contributions by  
 Todd Austin  
 Henrike Florusbosch  
 James Holloway

In 2018, the Ethiopia-Michigan Collaborative Consortium (EMC2) became the fifth faculty-led initiative associated with ASC, and the only initiative based on relations with a specific country. U-M has a deep and multifaceted relationship with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, going back well over a decade. U-M faculty and students engage with diverse stakeholders across the country, from ministry officials and national funding agencies to universities and non-governmental organizations. This work involves faculty members, researchers, and students from many disciplines and extends beyond academia through community-based research, patient care, service learning, scholarship, and research.

EMC2 was founded in 2015 to support faculty and students whose work depends on collaborations with Ethiopian partners; it has sought to organize and coordinate this work through the transparent co-creation of shared knowledge and goals. EMC2 builds on the university's history of engagement with Ethiopia, and on the work of an earlier collaboration platform, the Ethiopia-Michigan Platform for Advancing Collaborative Engagement (EM-PACE), an effort led by professor Joseph Kolars of the Medical School. EMC2 has

received support from the Office of the Provost, including funding for Ethiopian UMAPS scholars, and for a regular series of meetings alternating in location between Ethiopia and Michigan over the last three years.

### Early Collaborations with Ethiopia

U-M's engagement with Ethiopia dates back to the early 2000s with a variety of faculty projects and independent programs in a range of fields. In 2002, Raymond Silverman, who had just published a book on Ethiopia's artistic traditions, joined the university as director of the new museum studies program and professor of history of art and Afroamerican and African studies. Since then, Silverman has continued his research on the visual culture of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries. In 2005, Jacinta Beehner (Psychology and Anthropology) and Thore Bergman (Psychology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), established the Simien Mountains Gelada Research Project, studying the rare gelada monkeys found only in Ethiopia. In 2007, Social Work Professor Rosemary Sarri traveled to Ethiopia for the first time and began to teach classes in a newly developed doctoral program in the School of Social Work at Addis Ababa University (AAU). Professors Todd Austin and Valeria Bertacco (Electrical

Engineering and Computer Science) spent their sabbaticals at the Addis Ababa Institute of Technology (AAIT) in 2012, and their collaboration with AAIT has since expanded to include a research exchange program, which brings U-M graduate students and faculty to visit AAIT and work with students there on the development of MS and PhD projects.

The Center for International Reproductive Health Training (CIRHT) is another important U-M program focused on Ethiopia. CIRHT grew out of an earlier U-M partnership with the St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa focused on integrating family planning and reproductive health into St. Paul's curriculum. The success of that pilot led to the creation of CIRHT in 2014 and its expansion to nine other medical schools across the country, financed through a \$25 million grant to U-M's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. While CIRHT has now expanded its education and training in family planning into other African countries, the focus on Ethiopia that characterized CIRHT in its early stages has served as a catalyst for other U-M activities in Ethiopia. These include capacity building work in medical fields such as dentistry, gastroenterology, nephrology, oncology, ophthalmology, pediatrics, and surgery, with important successes such as the creation of a viable kidney transplantation program in Ethiopia.

CIRHT founder Senait Fisseha (then a professor at U-M's Medical School) served as a crucial coordinator and connector, using her extensive contacts in Ethiopia to support many other U-M faculty and students to engage in Ethiopia. Similar connections were facilitated by the EM-PACE initiative spearheaded by Joseph Kolars. EMC2 continues the work of EM-PACE by working to connect all the U-M faculty and students who do work in Ethiopia with each other. These faculty and students now come from more than ten U-M schools and colleges, including the Schools of Business, Environment and Sustainability, and Nursing, and the College of Engineering. Taken together, the activities, relations, and projects encompassed by EMC2 form a prime example of how U-M puts into practice its guiding principles for community and civic engagement.

### EMC2 Meetings

EMC2 was inaugurated with a week-long symposium, *Advancing Healthy Communities*, held in Ann Arbor in February 2016. The event brought together participants from multiple institutions in Ethiopia, including St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Addis Ababa University, the University of Gondar, and the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, with U-M faculty and students across disciplines and schools. The main goals of the meeting were to maintain the

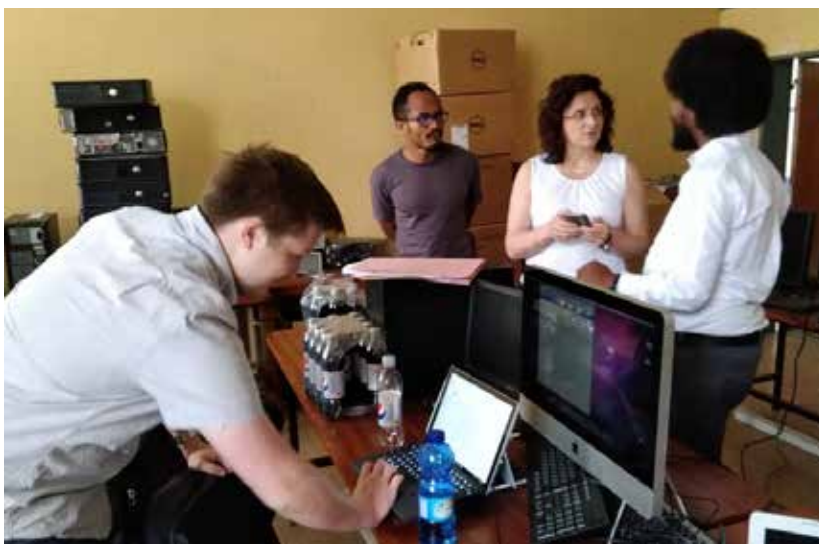
momentum developed through the EM-PACE program and visioning for EMC2, to prepare future faculty and strengthen higher education in both Ethiopia and Michigan, and to generate new knowledge on how to advance healthy communities.

The first EMC2 meeting was followed by two additional conferences, including most recently in Addis Ababa in July 2017. The 2017 conference, *Ethiopian Futures: Moving Forward*, attracted over 150 participants, from U-M as well as universities and organizations across Ethiopia, to discuss their research, strengthen relationships, and build new connections. EMC2 also hosted its own panel at ASC's 10th anniversary symposium in 2018, focusing on the theme of best practices in international partnerships. The engaging panel paired U-M faculty and Ethiopian colleagues with whom they had engaged in long-term partnerships, to reflect on questions such as: What key principles makes a partnership work? What is the value of partnering? What power structures are at play in your work?

### Student Engagement and Next Steps

Students have benefited tremendously from the continued strengthening of research collaborations in Ethiopia. In the three-year period between Fall 2014 and Summer 2017, 128 undergraduate and graduate students have undertaken research, study or internships in Ethiopia. For example, students in a collaborative mapping project of the city of Addis Ababa, led by Larissa Larsen (Urban Planning), examined areas of land cover change in order to identify high risk flooding areas and suggest where green infrastructure projects for storm water attenuation would be most effective. Likewise, College of Engineering students have participated in Ethiopia-based projects as part of professor Kathleen Sienko's Design for Global Health Internship course, where they use design ethnography techniques to define global health challenges and conceptualize, prototype, or evaluate design solutions. Also in the College of Engineering, a yearly cohort of computer science and engineering students have since 2015 been traveling to Ethiopia each summer to mentor MS and PhD projects at Addis Ababa Institute of Technology (AAiT). The students are part of a larger effort to grow higher education capacity at AAiT and to help fill the needs for the many new faculty needed for Ethiopia's fast-growing university system. Senior PhD students are also invited to teach a "block course," which covers the material of a semester long course in just four weeks.

The engagements between U-M and Ethiopian partners are deep and representative of U-M's wide disciplinary research foci. Under EMC2's guidance, ASC looks forward to continue and expand on these engagements over the next decade. 📍



**U-M COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STUDENTS MENTOR PROJECTS IN ETHIOPIA (L-R):** U-M CSE students Pete Ehrett and Misiker Aga prepare the summer 2018 Addis Ababa Institute of Technology student projects lab under the supervision of U-M CSE Professor Valeria Bertacco and AAiT ECE Professor (and former UMAPS scholar) Fitsum Andargie.



# STEM-AFRICA

## AND THE “MICHIGAN DIFFERENCE”

**W**

hen the African Studies Center (ASC) was founded in 2008, part of its charge was to embody the “Michigan Difference.” One of the distinctive features of ASC that exemplifies this charge is the inclusion of the STEM disciplines, the quantitative social sciences, and the professional schools in the activities of the center. The STEM-Africa initiative, established in fall 2009, has thus been a crucial part of defining ASC’s unique identity.

In addition, over 800 high school students across the country have benefitted from intensive two-week programs teaching English, math, science, and life skills. Forty high school teachers from all over Liberia received two weeks of pedagogical training to better equip them to prepare students for the rigors of university studies. Concerted efforts were made to recruit female candidates for all pipeline programs. During the presidential panel of ASC’s 10th anniversary symposium, UL President Ophelia Weeks proudly noted that half of students in science and engineering at her university were now women.

EHELD included resources to bring STEM-related faculty from the UL (and later Cuttington University as well) to Ann Arbor through the UMAPS program. Among the many successes of the ten EHELD-funded UMAPS alumni is the 2018 appointment of Gesler Murray as Minister of Lands, Mines, and Energy for Liberia. Other alumni have been promoted to chairs of their departments and one to the position of associate dean. Yet others have gone on to receive their PhDs or enroll in a PhD program. EHELD also brought Liberian students to U-M to pursue graduate degrees in engineering so that they could become faculty in UL’s engineering college. Besides the planned components of the EHELD grant, other projects have grown organically from involvement of STEM-Africa faculty with Liberia. An ongoing example is the Liberian chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (LSWE). This evolved from a support group organized by female engineering students at UL into the first chapter in Africa of the Society of Women Engineers. Supervised by Aline Cotel (Engineering), U-M’s Society

Contributions by  
 Frank Anderson  
 Brian Arbic  
 Daniel Burns  
 Roy Clarke  
 Cheong-Hee Chang  
 Aline Cotel  
 Henrike Florusbosch  
 Oveta Fuller  
 Elijah Kannatey-Asibu  
 Massy Mutumba  
 Nkem Nkumbah  
 Brenda Vyletel  
 Herbert Winful

### EHELD as Catalyst of STEM-Africa Activities

The establishment of STEM-Africa coincided with the application process for a USAID grant to help rebuild STEM education in Liberia after the country’s civil war. STEM-Africa steering committee member Herbert Winful (Engineering) served as Principal Investigator (PI) on U-M’s part of the project, for which the research institute RTI International was the primary contractor. In the *Alliances* article reporting on the start of the “Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development” (EHELD) grant in 2011, Winful notes the importance of strengthening education in the STEM disciplines for economic growth and improving people’s quality of life, and the benefit of including STEM within African studies.

EHELD brought together faculty from various STEM disciplines, working in different departments in the College of Engineering as well as other schools and colleges. Some faculty traveled to Liberia in March 2011 for a first encounter with the country, and for some of them,

a first encounter with each other. Their purpose was to develop a work plan in partnership with the various stakeholders and determine concrete ways in which U-M and ASC could best be involved in Liberia. Between 2011 and 2016, these plans were put into action, most notably through projects to strengthen the educational pipeline leading to university studies in engineering and agriculture, developing new curricula for engineering programs at the University of Liberia (UL), and providing training and research opportunities to Liberian faculty.

Pipeline programs (aimed at high school and university students as well as high school STEM teachers) provided students with the essential skills and generated the enthusiasm and commitment needed to succeed in university-level study of STEM fields. By the end of the EHELD grant period, more than 300 entering university freshmen and rising sophomores had participated in a four-week residential camp teaching both the hard and soft skills needed for success in their areas of study.





OPPOSITE: UMAPS scholar Wolobah Sali helping with EHELD's STEM-Start teacher training camp

AT LEFT: Group of high school students and college freshmen showing off catapaults built during one of EHELD's Summer Start camps.



The Origin and Future Plans of U-M Ob-Gyn Training Program in Ghana. Graphic by Melani Kekulawala.

of Women Engineers has conducted yearly leadership and success camps with LSWE that have helped the Liberian female engineering students enhance their academic skills and improve their career preparation.

Other new research collaborations in Liberia in the wake of EHELD involve the newly formed National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), with which STEM-Africa steering committee member Oveta Fuller (Medical School) has established a connection. Following earlier work in Zambia and building on the highly effective use of community leaders in Liberia's 2014 Ebola epidemic, the aim of Fuller's project is to explore the capacity of religious leader networks as gateways to move biomedical and clinical science advances into broader community use.

### Capacity Building in STEM for Africa-Centered Development

The goal of capacity building in STEM is common to many of STEM-Africa's projects. The Coastal Ocean Environment Summer School in Ghana (COESSING), currently in its fourth year, has so far benefitted over 300 students, faculty, and professionals from multiple institutions across Ghana and neighboring countries. Spearheaded by Brian Arbic (Earth and Environmental Sciences), the course uses STEM-Africa members as well as faculty from other US institutions as instructors, and has included the participation of 12 undergraduate and graduate students from U-M and other US institutions. STEM-Africa is exploring options for extending the model of COESSING into an ambitious program of linked, short-term, demand-driven summer schools taught at African institutions under

the umbrella of "Science Corps Africa," analogous to the Peace Corps idea. Likewise, the REFRESCH project is aimed at contributing to capacity building in the domains of food, water, and energy in "resource-constrained environments," focusing on Gabon. The project got its start in 2014 thanks to a third-century initiative grant from U-M's Office of the President to a group of seventeen U-M researchers, with Johannes Schwank (Engineering) as PI. The innovative aspect of REFRESCH's proposed model of capacity building consists of linking university-based education in STEM disciplines with vocational training focusing on hands-on learning and practical applicability of skills. Between 2014 and 2018, REFRESCH has sponsored students from Gabon to pursue training at U-M and co-funded three UMAPS scholars. Important capacity-building projects in STEM-related fields also predate STEM-Africa. Foremost among these is the partnership between U-M's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and educational institutions in Ghana to train obstetrician-gynecologists (ob-gyns), dating to the 1980s. The origins and early successes of this project were detailed in ASC's first *Alliances* newsletter and one of its initiators, Timothy Johnson (Medical School) reflected on the key components making the collaboration so successful in the sixth edition of *Alliances*. At the STEM-Africa panel at ASC's 10th anniversary symposium, professor Johnson addressed the program's ongoing success as a model for equitable and sustainable capacity building. The program's retention rate, in particular, is truly impressive. Since the program's inception, 245 ob-gyns have been trained; 240 of these have continued their career in Ghana, four in another African country to

which they had prior ties, and only one has migrated away from the continent. STEM-Africa steering committee member Frank Anderson, Timothy Johnson's colleague in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, is now working to expand the program across Sub-Saharan Africa and into additional health and STEM disciplines.

### Agenda setting through International Conferences: STEM I-IV

The themes of capacity building and relevance of STEM education and practical training have been important threads through four international conferences organized by STEM-Africa. Following the STEM III conference, STEM-Africa steering committee member Nkem Khumbah (Comprehensive Studies) succinctly described the importance of highly trained Africa-based scientists in a 2014 Op Ed in the *New York Times*. The article urged the creation of a "science-led agenda in Africa" that would bring together institutions of higher education, scientific research centers and technological entrepreneurs in the US and on the continent.

Equally important, these conferences have served to bring people together, generate new initiatives, and establish and cultivate partnerships that remain strong. Many high-profile speakers from within academia and beyond have been featured at the conferences, including renowned Ghanaian mathematician, Francis Allotey,

**RIGHT:** University of Liberia President Ophelia Weeks, Oveta Fuller (Medical School), and University of Ngaoundéré Rector Uphie Chinje Melo.

**FAR RIGHT:** Former International Institute director Ken Kollman and Prof. Jean-Pierre Ezin, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (African Union Commission).



at STEM I, the World Bank President for Africa at STEM II, and numerous government ministers from Cameroon at STEM IV. The conferences (held in Ann Arbor in 2010 and 2014; Kumasi, Ghana, in 2012; and Yaounde, Cameroon, in 2017) have featured numerous speakers from universities, research centers, government and non-governmental organizations, many of whom have continued to be involved with the STEM-Africa group over the years. For example, founding chair of the Biomedical Engineering Department at the University of Ghana, Elsie Effah Kaufmann, as well as renowned inventor and Makerere University professor Moses Musaaazi, gave presentations at STEM I and returned to campus many times afterwards, including for the STEM-Africa panel at ASC's 10th anniversary symposium in March 2018.

Each successive STEM-Africa conference also brought together new people working or interested in STEM fields in Africa. Of particular note is the keynote address made by World Bank President for Africa, Makhtar Diop, at the 2014 STEM III conference in Ann Arbor. Diop used the occasion to officially announce a new World Bank initiative, the African Centers of Excellence (ACE) program, and later wrote to the conference organizers about how the discussions at STEM III had inspired him and served to influence his policies. Also discussed at STEM III was another capacity-building project spearheaded by the African Union, the Pan African Universities (PAU) project. A memorandum of understanding between the African Union Commission and U-M has resulted from this meeting, and U-M faculty Nkem Khumbah and Elijah Kannatey-Asibu have participated in the Math, Science, and Engineering PAU Regional Curriculum Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. STEM IV, finally, brought together over 400 students and faculty from Cameroon with faculty, business leaders, and government officials from many countries. An outcome of STEM IV is an alliance to be solidified between U-M and the Ministry for Scientific Research and Innovation of Cameroon to build STEM research and teaching capacity in Cameroon.

Mutumba (Nursing School) has gained support from the Ugandan Academy of Science for a nursing training program involving 16 universities in Uganda. One of these universities, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), recently signed a memorandum of understanding with U-M, resulting in a significant collaboration in the medical fields. Cheong-Hee Chang (Medical School) started to work in Uganda in 2016 and is involved in MUST's new Africa Center of Excellence for Pharm-Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine. These new projects in Uganda join the collaborations already underway in the country through the efforts of STEM-Africa members and partners, such as Roy Clarke (Physics), Joseph Kolars (Medical School), and Moses Musaaazi at Makerere University.

In thinking about lasting achievements of STEM-Africa, steering committee members identify as a strength the coupling of existing initiatives about which individual faculty are passionate. The expertise and interests of individuals are our best asset, and by bringing together people through STEM-Africa, we increase the impacts of single projects by using the networks and synergies emerging from new and existing initiatives. Another key legacy and continuing strength of STEM-Africa is the relationships that have been formed. Nurturing these relationships are important if we are to achieve our mutually beneficial objectives. Indeed, this is the Michigan Difference! 🇺🇸

**COLLABORATIVE FACULTY SEED GRANT, 2018**

*Scaling Solar for Off-grid Communities*

Roy Clarke, University of Michigan; Emmanuel Miyingo and Moses Musaaazi, Makerere University, Uganda

*The Influence of Early-life Aflatoxin B1 Exposure on DNA Methylation through Adulthood*

Jaclyn Goodrich, University of Michigan; and Oluwakemi Rotimi, Covenant University, Nigeria

**The Power of Partnerships**

New STEM faculty continue to become involved with Africa as part of their ongoing research or when they are recruited to U-M. Most recently, interests and projects of STEM-Africa members have converged around Uganda. Massy

# AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER WELCOMES THE 2018–2019

# UMAPS

**T**he African Studies Center (ASC) at the University of Michigan is pleased to welcome the 11th cohort of the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS).

These 14 faculty representing universities in Ghana, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, Gabon, and Tanzania will be in residence in Ann Arbor from late August 2018 through February 2019.

With support from the U-M Office of the President, Office of the Provost, the South African Initiatives Office, and other sponsoring units, ASC has welcomed 149 early-career faculty from over ten African countries to campus since the launch of the program in 2009. Scholars are paired with a U-M faculty member for mentorship and collaboration on projects that will help advance their careers through four-to-six-month-long residencies.

“In supporting these faculty as they engage in research, finish a paper or publish a book, we are in turn helping their students who benefit from a better prepared professor. We want to support these scholars so they can excel—at home, where they are most needed,” U-M President Emerita Mary

Sue Coleman commented on the UMAPS program in her keynote address at ASC’s 10th Anniversary Symposium. “Faculty here who serve as mentors gain so much from new collaborations and partnerships with African colleagues, and that new knowledge benefits our students.”

The UMAPS program encourages scholars to immerse themselves in university life as they are provided with full access to campus research materials and facilities, attend seminars, present papers in conferences and workshops, and engage with U-M faculty and students. These activities promote lasting scholarly relationships to support ongoing faculty development in Africa and capacity building for their home institutions.

## 2018–2019 UMAPS Profiles

**Jacqueline Adongo** is an assistant lecturer in the Department of Open and Distance Learning, Makerere University, Uganda. She has a MA in literature from Makerere



University and is currently working towards her PhD at the same institution. While at U-M, Jacqueline will work on her research project entitled, “Rethinking

Childhood: Child Identity Formation in Post-War Northern Uganda.” Jacqueline’s U-M mentor is Professor Elizabeth Goodenough (Arts and Ideas in the Humanities Program, Residential College).

**Zerihun Birehanu** is a lecturer in and director of the School of Theater Arts, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Zerihun has an MA in International Performance Research from the University of Warwick,



United Kingdom. At U-M he will conduct research for his PhD degree on the topic of “Politics, Performance, and Governance in EPRDF Ethiopia.” His mentor is

Professor Anita Gonzalez (Department of Theater and Drama, School of Music, Theater and Dance).

**Patrick Cobbinah** is a lecturer in land use and environmental planning at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. Patrick holds a PhD in Human Geography from Charles Sturt University, Australia. His UMAPS project,



“Urban Growth, Neoliberal Governance Failures, and Water Scarcity in Accra,” will be conducted under the mentorship of Professor Larissa Larsen (Urban

and Regional Planning Program, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning).

**Lemlem Beza Demisse** is a lecturer and researcher at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. She is currently working towards a PhD in Nursing in a joint program between



Emory University and Addis Ababa University. During her participation in the UMAPS program she will further her research on "Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery in Two Public Health Hospitals of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia," under the mentorship of

Professor Sue Anne Bell (Department of Health Behavior and Biological Sciences, School of Nursing).

**Kholekile Nicholas Malindi** is a lecturer the Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He has a Master



of Commerce in Economics from Stellenbosch University, where he is also currently enrolled in a doctoral program. While at U-M, Kholekile will work

with Professor David Lam (Department of Economics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts) on "Labor Market Determinants of Income Dynamics for a Highly Unequal Society: The South African Case."

**Adélaïde Nieguitsila** teaches on parasitology, mycology, and general microbiology at the Université des Sciences et Techniques de Masuku, Gabon. Adélaïde has a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Université de Paris 12, France.

While at U-M, she will conduct research on "Microbial Water Quality and Biological Contamination in Lakes of the Moyen-Ogooué Region." Her U-M mentor is Professor Lutgarde Raskin



(Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering).



**Okechukwu Nwafor** is head of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Nnamdi Azikiwe

University, Nigeria. He has a PhD in Visual History from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. During his residency, he will work towards completing his book, *The Ubiquitous Image: Obituary Photographs in South-Eastern Nigeria and the Allure of Public Visibility*. Okechukwu's mentor is Professor Omolade Adunbi (Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts).

**Christina Osei-Asare** is a lecturer in the Department of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, at Central University, Ghana. She holds an MPhil degree in pharmaceutics from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and is currently working on her PhD in the same program.



During her time at U-M, Christina will work on a research project entitled "Formulation of Solid Dosage Form of Lippia Multiflora for Managing Stress

and Hypertension." Her mentor is Professor David Sherman (Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy; Chemistry, LSA; Microbiology & Immunology, Medical School).

**Kabir Otun** is an assistant lecturer at Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria. Kabir earned an MSc degree in chemistry from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, and is currently working towards a PhD at the University of South Africa. While at U-M, he will be working with Professor Adam Matzger (Department of Chemistry, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Department of Macromolecular Science and Engineering, College of Engineering) to further his research on "Iron Carbide



Fischer-Tropsch Catalysts for the Conversion of Biomass to Liquid Transportation Fuels."

**Uhuru Portia Phalafala** is a lecturer in the English Department, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. She has a



PhD in English Literature from the University of Cape Town. At U-M, Uhuru will continue work on a book based on her dissertation research, *Restless Natives,*

*Indigenous Languages, and Revolution: Keorapetse Kgotsitsile's Critical Biography*. Uhuru's U-M mentor is Professor Gaurav Desai (Department of English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts).

**David Ngendo Tshimba** is an assistant lecturer and research fellow at the Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University, Uganda. He has an MA in



Sustainable Peace and Conflict Management from Uganda Martyrs University. At U-M, he will work on a research project titled "Transgressing

the State: An Inquiry into Violence in the Rwenzori Borderlands, ca. 1830-1998." His mentor is Professor Derek Peterson (Department of History and Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts).

**Tebaber Chanie Workneh** is the chair of the social anthropology department at the University of Gondar, Ethiopia. Tebaber has a PhD in Social Anthropology from Addis



Ababa University, Ethiopia. His UMAPS project will examine "The Roles and Status of Indigenous Medicine for Primary Health Care Services in the Amhara

National Regional State (ANRS), Ethiopia." Tebaber's mentor is Professor Elizabeth King (Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health).

**Demis Mengist Wudeneh** is a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, the University of Gondar, Ethiopia. He has a



Master's degree in Geography and Environmental Studies from Addis Ababa University, and is currently pursuing a doctorate from the same institution in

Socioeconomic Development Planning and Environment. During his residency, he will conduct research on "Implications of Large-scale Agricultural Investment for Livelihood Security and Regional Development: The Case of Gambella Region, Southwest Ethiopia." Demis' mentor is Professors Arun Agrawal (School of Environment and Sustainability).

**Faida Zacharia** is an assistant lecturer at the University of Dodoma, Tanzania. She has an MSc in Natural Resource Assessment and Management from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. While at U-M, she will work with Professor Kelly Askew (Department of Anthropology and Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts) to further her research on



"Small-scale Groundwater Irrigated Agriculture and Livelihoods in Drylands Areas: A Case of Dodoma Region, Tanzania."

# 2018–19 UMAPS COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE



Each UMAPS fellow has the opportunity to present their research as part of our monthly colloquium series. The campus community is invited to attend the colloquium series to learn about the range and depth of research conducted by UMAPS scholars. **\*All colloquiums are on Thursday from 3:00–5:30 pm**

## October 18

*Michigan League, Koessler Room (3rd floor)*

### **Tebaber Chanie Workneh**

The Roles and Status of Indigenous Medicine for Primary Health Care Services in the Amhara National Regional State (ANRS), Ethiopia

### **Christina Osei-Asare**

Formulation of Solid Dosage Form of Lippia Multiflora for Managing Stress and Hypertension

## November 15

*Michigan League, Kalamazoo (2nd floor)*

### **Uhuru Phalafala**

Restless Natives, Indigenous Languages, and Revolution

### **Okechukwu Nwafor**

The Ubiquitous Image: Obituary Photographs in South-Eastern Nigeria and the Allure of Public Visibility

### **Kholekile Malindi**

An Investigation of the Labour Market Determinants of Income Dynamics for a Highly Unequal Society: The South African Case

## December 13

*Michigan League, Koessler Room (3rd floor)*

### **Patrick Cobinnah**

Urban Growth, Neoliberal Governance Failures, and Water Scarcity in Accra

### **Faida Zacharia**

Small-scale Groundwater Irrigated Agriculture and Livelihoods in Drylands Areas: A Case of Dodoma Region, Tanzania

### **Demis Mengist Wudeneh**

Implications of Large-scale Agricultural Investment for Livelihood Security and Regional Development: The Case of Gambella Region, Southwest Ethiopia

## January 17

*Michigan League, Koessler Room (3rd floor)*

### **Zerihun Birehanu**

Politics, Performance, and Governance in Ethiopia

### **David Tshimba**

Transgressing the State: An Inquiry into Violence in the Rwenzori Borderlands, ca.1830–1998

### **Jacqueline Adongo**

Rethinking Childhood: Child Identity Formation in Post-War Northern Uganda

## February 14

*Michigan League, Koessler Room (3rd floor)*

### **Adélaïde Nieguitsila**

Microbial Water Quality and Biological Contamination in Lakes of the Moyon-Ogooué Region

### **Kabir Otun**

Iron Carbide Fischer-Tropsch Catalysts for the Conversion of Biomass to Liquid Transportation Fuels

### **Lemlem Beza Demisse**

Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery in Two Public Health Hospitals of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



The African Studies Center (ASC) collaborates with schools, colleges, academic departments, and various units across campus to support Africa-related activities. These collaborations engage with the campus and the broader community through innovative activities that address contemporary social, cultural, medical, technological, and environmental. Last year, ASC disbursed over \$15,000 to support these collaborations, partnering with over 10 different units and departments across campus.

## 2017–2018 AFRICA WORKSHOP

By Elizabeth James

For almost two decades, the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS) has coordinated the Africa Workshop series and has invited researchers from around the world to share their latest work with enthusiastic audiences. Focusing on presentations by scholars dedicated to examining the continent of Africa and its diaspora, the workshop has kept the campus community up to date on recent insights in the field of African Studies and on current developments and new theoretical contributions from the continent. In 2008, with the establishment of the African Studies Center in the International Institute, DAAS gained a collaborator and cosponsor, and the Africa Workshop remains a major programmatic component for both units.

During 2017 academic year, the workshop featured an array of thoughtful and powerful lectures. Coordinated by Omolade Adunbi (DAAS and Program in the Environment), assisted by Frieda Ekotto (DAAS and Comparative Literature), the Africa Workshop assembled an extraordinary set of scholars with presentations by such esteemed scholars as Taiwo Adetunji Osinubi from the University of Western Ontario, Emilie Diouf of Brandeis University and Dorothy Hodgson of Rutgers University, on topics ranging from an exploration of the temporalities of lesbian literary history, to African women refugees’ stories in global human rights, and to gender, generation and changing temporal regimes in rural Tanzania.

Other presenters included DAAS’ own Ray Silverman (DAAS and History of Art), whose paper entitled “Painting and Piety: Contemporary Visual Practice in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church” focused on his many years of research in Ethiopia. Zachariah Mampilly from Vassar spoke on “Taxation and Governance by Armed Groups,” while Jemima Pierre from UCLA offered her perspective on “Africa and the Project of Black Studies.” Ebony Coletu of Pennsylvania State University offered her paper on “The Undocumented Origins of African American Migration to Ghana,” while Sana Aiyar of MIT presented her research on “Africa’s Burma Boys in India.”

In all, it was a fulfilling and productive season of presentations, with hopes for a similarly engaging series of presentations for the 2018/19 Africa Workshop, to be coordinated by Anne Pitcher (DAAS and Political Science), Derek Peterson (DAAS and History), and Amal Fadlalla (DAAS, Anthropology, and Women’s Studies).



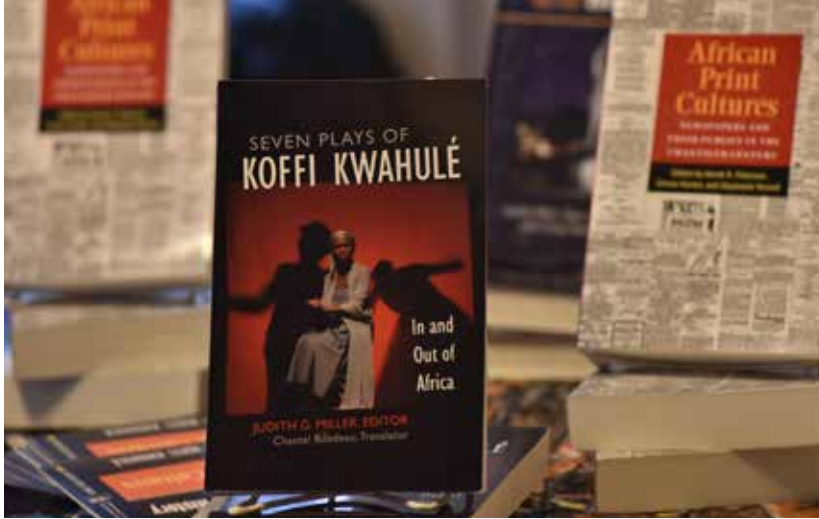
Ebony Coletu (Pennsylvania State University) presenting at the Africa Workshop.



## ANTI-APARTHEID LEADER ALBIE SACHS DELIVERS BISHOP LECTURE AT U-M LAW SCHOOL

By Andries Coetzee

In March 2018, Justice Albie Sachs, human rights activist, co-writer of the South African constitution, and one of the original justices on South Africa’s Constitutional Court, delivered the 2018 William W. Bishop Lecture at the University of Michigan Law School. His presentation, “Getting to Know Nelson Mandela,” chronicled his engagement in the anti-apartheid struggle alongside South Africa’s first post-apartheid president, Nelson Mandela. Although Justice Sachs said that South Africa still has a lot of work to do to address the legacy of apartheid, he expressed optimism in South Africa’s future: “We have a lively, free, open press; our judiciary is one of the strongest in the world; and we have a country with a constitution that enables the citizens to insist on the things that we were fighting for.” For more information on this ASC cosponsored event, consult the article on the Michigan Law webpage: [bit.ly/albie-sachs-law](http://bit.ly/albie-sachs-law).



## 2017–2018 AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES New Titles and First Book Reviews

**The African Perspectives books series is published by the University of Michigan Press** and edited by Kelly Askew (DAAS and Anthropology), and Anne Pitcher (DAAS and Political Science). Academic year 2017-18 saw the publication of an important new volume in the series, Mũkoma wa Ngũgĩ's *The Rise of the African Novel: Politics of Language, Identity and Ownership* (2018).

Mũkoma wa Ngũgĩ's volume exemplifies the series' mandate to unsettle conventional understandings of the continent by raising questions about the very nature of African literature and criticism. It argues that the start of Africa's written literary tradition has been too narrowly confined to certain languages (mainly English) and identities, and it highlights the important contribution of South African literature, written in various African languages, of the late 1880s through the early 1940s.

The publication of this volume brings the number of titles available in the *African Perspectives* series to four, with five additional titles in press: *Lily Saint's Black Cultural Life in South Africa: Reception, Apartheid, and Ethics*, Frieda Ekotto's *Nimrod: Selected Writings*, Jacqueline-Bethel Tchouta Mougoué's *Gender, Separatist Politics, and Embodied Nationalism in Cameroon*, Erin Accampo Hern's *Developing States, Shaping Citizenship: Service Delivery and Political Participation in Zambia*, and Evan Mwangi's *The Postcolonial Animal: African Literature and Posthuman Ethics*. Additional titles are in preparation and under review. Together,

the series' volumes represent exemplary work grounded in original research on the continent, from the full disciplinary range of African studies and with a diversity of focus on Francophone, Lusophone and Anglophone countries.

Established in 2013 to mark ASC's fifth anniversary, the *African Perspectives* series published its first volume in 2016. A number of enthusiastic book reviews have already been published of this first title, *African Print Cultures: Newspapers and Their Publics in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Derek Peterson, Emma Hunter, and Stephanie Newall. Aerni-Flessner, for example, in the *Journal of Contemporary History*, praises the cutting-edge scholarship in the book, calling the opening essay "crucial reading" and praising how other sections "push the envelope for utilizing sources to move beyond the study of print as an elite endeavor."

For more information about the African Perspectives book series, please contact executive editor Ellen Bauerle at [bauerle@umich.edu](mailto:bauerle@umich.edu).

Other titles available in the series include:

*Seven Plays of Koffi Kwahulé: In and Out of Africa*, edited by Judith G. Miller and translated by Chantal Bilodeau

*Unsettled History: Making South Africa Public Past*, by Leslie Witz, Gary Minkley, and Ciraj Rassool

## AHAW WORKSHOP

By Kristen Connor

**The African History and Anthropology Workshop (AHAW)** is an interdisciplinary group of graduate students and faculty at the University of Michigan with a shared interest in the study of Africa and the African diaspora. AHAW meets throughout the school year to discuss pre-circulated papers and grant proposals written by graduate students, faculty, and invited guests.

In collaboration with the African Studies Center, AHAW organized a workshop in April 2018 featuring Jean Allman. Allman is professor of African and African-American history and the J.H. Hexter Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis, where she directs the Center for the Humanities. Professor Allman is currently the president of the African Studies Association (ASA). Professors and graduate students of AHAW had the unique and timely opportunity to workshop a draft of Professor Allman's ASA presidential lecture (to be delivered at the November 2018 annual meeting of the ASA) preliminarily titled, "#HerskovitsMustFall?: A Meditation on Whiteness, African Studies, and the Unfinished Business of 1968."



Jean Allman (Washington University in St. Louis, and president of the African Studies Association) presented at the African History and Anthropology Workshop in the 2017/18 academic year.

# AFRICAN ART EXHIBITIONS AT UMMA

By Laura De Becker

The exhibition **Power Contained: The Art of Authority in Central and West Africa** was on display at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) from August to December 2017. Curated by Laura De Becker, Helmut and Candis Stern Associate Curator of African Art, this exhibition employed objects in UMMA's collection, such as figurative sculptures and ceremonial regalia from historical cultures in Nigeria, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cameroon. Complemented by objects on loan and contextual photographs, the exhibition drew a visual comparison between the adornment of kings and the accumulative aesthetic of objects serving as vessels for a society's ancestors, called *minkisi* (power objects).

From May to September 2018, the exhibition **Unrecorded: Reimagining Artist Identities in Africa** further explored pertinent questions related to the permanent collection of African art at UMMA. Curated by Allison Martino, UMMA's 2016–2017 Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow and a recent graduate of U-M's History of Art program, the exhibition explored historical collecting practices and how they have had a lasting impact on representations of Africa, its history, culture, and life today. Labeled as 'unknown' or 'anonymous,' African artists became associated with broad cultural styles and collective identities rather than personal creativity and individual agency. Through juxtaposing works by unknown and well-known artists, *Unrecorded* revealed how the changing attributes of an 'African' artist's identity, and constructions of African identity more broadly, have shaped perceptions of Africa outside of the continent.

Both exhibitions were presented through generous support from the African Studies Center (ASC). Additionally, with support from ASC, **Beyond Borders: Global Africa** will be displayed from August 11 to November 25, 2018 in UMMA's A. Alfred Taubman Gallery. Bringing together global art from the last three centuries, *Beyond Borders* demonstrates the scope of African and African diasporic art while exploring issues such as migration, colonization, and identity.



Artist unrecorded, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Songye peoples. Power figure (nkisi), ca. 1940, wood, civet skin, monkey skin, woven vegetable fiber, feathers, seed pods, animal teeth, antelope horns, glass beads, metal. University of Michigan Museum of Art, Gift of Candis and Helmut Stern, 2005/1.229

LEFT: Installation view of *Unrecorded: Reimagining Artist Identities in Africa*, on view at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, May to September 2018. Photography: Charlie Edwards.







Members of the National Theatre of Ghana during an open air performance of the Tennessee Williams play *10 Blocks on the Camino Real*.

# NATIONAL THEATRE OF GHANA 10 BLOCKS ON THE CAMINO REAL BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

By Ingrid Racine

The African Studies Center (ASC) supported the **Center for World Performance Studies (CWPS)** in hosting the National Theatre of Ghana in residency from September 12-17, 2017. Established in 1983 at the University of Ghana at Legon, the professional theater company also known as “Abibigromma” became the resident troupe of the National Theatre of Ghana in 1991. The focus of the company is to develop a rich blend of music, dance, mime, movement, and dialogue with a strong social, spiritual and folkloric base.

The highlight of the group’s residency was a series of open air performances of the one-act Tennessee Williams play, *10 Blocks on the Camino Real*. The play integrates song, dialogue, and dance to tell the story of how the American hero Kilroy enters the pantheon of heroes by losing his innocence. Ghana was the source and setting for this production: while the spoken English text was performed as written by Williams, Spanish songs and Spanish words were translated to Ghanaian songs and Ghanaian languages. Other Spanish details were also exchanged for Ghanaian specifics: pesos became pesewas, fiesta was turned into jubilee, and instead of a blue guitar, the presiding musician played two blue djembe drums.

In addition to outdoor performances in the Diag, Ann Arbor Farmer’s Market, Ypsilanti Depot Town Farmer’s Market and Carrie Morris Arts Production (CMAP) Detroit, the members of the ensemble visited classes in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, the Rackham Graduate School, and the Residential College. They also conducted two public master classes, and workshops with high school aged students at Ann Arbor Community High School and Mosaic Youth Theater Detroit.

*This residency was co-sponsored by the African Studies Center, Carrie Morris Arts Production, International Institute, Residential College, and School of Music, Theatre & Dance.*

# FILMING AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF THE CITY

By Damani J. Partridge

**How can African futures be imagined in Europe versus the U.S., in Detroit versus Berlin?** Why do African migrants come to these two cities, in particular? What difference does it make to the imagination of the future of these cities when one is a noncitizen?

In February 2018, the African Studies Center (ASC) sponsored the film screening event, "Filming the Future of Detroit/Filming the Future from Berlin: African Perspectives," at the College of Creative Studies in Detroit. The project, lead by Damani Partridge (Anthropology and DAAS), uses film and participatory research as critical means to investigate futures and engage a broader public, building on ongoing collaborative film projects in Detroit and Berlin.

The films on futures in Berlin and Detroit include perspectives on what one has to do when one arrives in the country and what one needs to do to stay. They include films on potential marriage and children, on racism, and the differentiation between "Black" American and African residence in Detroit. They also include perspectives on "Black" German activism, contemporary processes of decolonization, francophone versus anglophone African immigration, and the ambivalence about staying in versus leaving the new city and country.

While some of the participating filmmakers traveled from Berlin to Detroit or from Detroit to Berlin, many were refugees and were not granted or did not apply for the right to travel. Nevertheless, the filmmaking always involved those who were already residents of and active in Detroit and Berlin to help interrogate their related futures with an emphasis on the often neglected perspectives of African migrants. In Europe, African migration is seen in largely informal and economic terms, and therefore as suspect. In the United States, African migration is often left out of conversations and research on migrants, except when it is linked to regulations of Muslim migration and suspicions of potential "terror." African migration in Detroit, though, has a deep history that this project has helped to reveal.



Together with Freedom House Filmmakers from Detroit (freedomhousedetroit.org), Seydi Saar (on Skype from Senegal), Hawlaane Sarr-Robbins, and Whitney Smith screened the series of short films produced in Detroit and Berlin, and brought to light African perspectives on the future of both cities.

## Films Screened

***Change the System*** by Ibrahim Telly (Berlin) is a film that follows an African immigrant/actor through his process of claiming Berlin as home while refusing the advice from lawyers and others who tell him that the surest way to stay in Germany is to get married or have a baby. He suggests instead: Change the System!

***Do Black Kids Experience Racism in Berlin?*** is a collaboration between then 12-year-old filmmaker Hawlaane Sarr-Robbins (Detroit) and Sheila Marretta of Theater X in Berlin. It examines the extent to which young "Black" residents experience racism and how they confront it.

***De-Berlinization*** by Seydi Sarr (Detroit), plays on the fact that the conference (1884-1885) to divide Africa amongst the European powers took place in Berlin. The film focuses on an African artist teaching Berlin youth democracy as rooted in an African example. In this way de-Berlinization is a de-colonization in which Europe is de-centered.

***Currents of Blackness*** by Whitney Smith (Detroit) uncovers perspectives and experiences of "Blackness" in Berlin. She finds activists and youth who are able to relate their experiences in Berlin to hers in Detroit.

***AfriComplexCities*** examines what it is like to live in Black skin in Berlin by examining the perspectives of two young "Black" women whose parents are African immigrants. Sarr's (Detroit) inquiry concludes: "Painful question. How comfortable are you in your skin?"

***Better Future***, by one of the Freedom House Filmmakers (Detroit), examines Francophone perspectives on living as an immigrant in Detroit.

***America-Relax***, also by one of the Freedom House Filmmakers (Detroit) in collaboration with Ahmed Shah (Berlin) began as a song and then became a film. It takes up the pace of American life in Detroit and asks it to calm down. In the film, an African immigrant minister interprets the meanings of the song. "I left my country with many riches to become a refugee ... America Relax."

***Displacement in Detroit*** examines the city through movement. It begins by highlighting the statistics of both African immigration and deportation. In this film, Seydi Sarr asks: "Why do we decide who has the right to migrate?"

***Same Mother, Different Father*** thinks through the politics of being "Black" and African in Detroit. What qualifies one as African? Who qualifies as African?

***Should I stay or not?*** by another of the Freedom House Filmmakers (Detroit) explores the question of whether or not a recent migrant should stay in the city. Should she go to Canada? Does being constantly on the move mean that one never rests?



L-R: Elizabeth James, DAAS staff, Daniela Guzman, Undergraduate Admissions representative, and Zoe Allen, U-M student

## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AT THE AFRICAN WORLD FESTIVAL

The University of Michigan was represented at the **36th African World Festival in Detroit**, August 17-18, 2018, by the African Studies Center (ASC), the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS), the U-M Detroit Center, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and the UM-Dearborn African and African American Studies (AAAS).

This annual celebration of African culture held at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History features an array of musical performances and activities that give participants an opportunity to explore African and African-American culture, entertainment and food.

With over 100 vendors and dedicated “villages” for all ages, the festival typically attracts over 150,000 attendees, making this three-day festival one of the largest celebrations of African culture in the US.

The U-M booth was staffed by volunteers from units across campus who distributed information about the various Africa-related activities at U-M, and answered many questions about admissions and financial aid from prospective students and their families. The U-M booth also provided an opportunity for the many U-M alumni from the Detroit area to reminisce about the happy times they spent at the university.



## MAI HASSAN QUOTED IN THE NYTIMES ON THE 2017 KENYAN ELECTION

Mai Hassan (Department of Political Science) was quoted in the *New York Times* after the Kenyan Supreme court nullified the results of the Kenyan presidential election in September 2017. Hassan described the developments as “truly exciting” and said that this recall was a great step for Kenya. Read the full story at: [bit.ly/hassan-kenya](http://bit.ly/hassan-kenya)

## GEOFF EMBERLING COMMENTS ON THE URGENCY OF UNCOVERING ANCIENT ARTIFACTS

Geoff Emberling, research scientist at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, was quoted by *The Wire* in their article titled “Rediscovering Ancient Nubia in Sudan Before It’s Too Late.” The article explores the ongoing work by archaeologists to uncover and fully understand Nubia’s historical significance. Although Nubia is home to civilizations significantly older than even the great Egyptian dynasties, it has received relatively little attention in comparison to other ancient civilizations in archaeological and historical research. Read the full story at: [bit.ly/emberling-nubia](http://bit.ly/emberling-nubia)

Temple of Amun at Naqa,  
Nubia (North Sudan),  
c. 1–20 AD. Photo:  
Wikimedia Commons.

## KELLY ASKEW TALKS ABOUT THE LIFE AND WORK OF LEO SARKISIAN ON NPR'S *HERE & NOW*

Kelly Askew (Department of Anthropology and Department of Afroamerican and African Studies), and Lisa Mullins, host of NPR's *Here & Now*, discussed the remarkable life and achievements of Leo Sarkisian. Sarkisian was the creator and long-term producer of *The Voice of America's* popular radio program *Music Time Africa*, featuring original recordings of music from across the African continent, many of which Sarkisian made himself. Sarkisian donated his extensive collection of African music to U-M where Kelly Askew and Paul Conway (School of Information) have been cataloging, digitizing, and preserving the collection, supported first by the African Heritage and Humanities Initiative and later by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Sarkisian passed away in June at age 97.



Leo Sarkisian, center, his wife, Mary, and *Voice of Africa* Director David Ensor at the *Voice of Africa* studios in 2014.



## DEREK PETERSON NAMED 2017 MACARTHUR FELLOW

Derek Peterson (Department of History and Department of Afroamerican and African Studies) was named a 2017 MacArthur Fellow. In announcing the award, the MacArthur Foundation said of his work: "Peterson's wide-ranging scholarship and archive preservation efforts are challenging long-standing narratives about colonialism and nationalism in Africa and opening new avenues for further research." Peterson has served as ASC associate director from 2008 to 2012, and as director for the 2012–2013 academic year. Read more: [bit.ly/peterson-macarthur](http://bit.ly/peterson-macarthur)

## NAOMI ANDRÉ RECEIVES SHIRLEY VERRETT AWARD FOR 2017/18

The University of Michigan Women of Color in the Academy Project presented the 2017/18 Shirley Verrett Award to Naomi André (Department of Women's Studies and Department of Afroamerican and African Studies). She was selected for the award in recognition of her scholarship and musicological inquiry into the representation of race, voice and gender, her deep commitment to diversity as an educational mission, and her contributions to teaching

and mentoring women-of-color scholars in the arts. Read more: [bit.ly/shirley-andre](http://bit.ly/shirley-andre)



## CHERYL MOYER RECEIVES 2018 SARAH GODDARD POWER AWARD

Cheryl Moyer (Department of Learning Health Sciences and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical School) was the recipient of the 2018 Sarah Goddard Power Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the betterment of women through their leadership, scholarship or other ways in their professional life. Moyer's research focuses on maternal and neonatal health in sub-Saharan Africa. Read more: [bit.ly/goddard-moyer](http://bit.ly/goddard-moyer)

## ARUN AGRAWAL ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



Arun Agrawal (School for Environment and Sustainability) was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest distinctions for a

scientist or engineer in the United States. Agrawal was among 84 new members and 21 foreign associates elected to the academy in 2018. Agrawal's research and teaching emphasize the politics of international development, institutional change and environmental sustainability. He has written critically on indigenous knowledge, community-based conservation, common property, resource governance, and environmental beliefs and identities. Read more: [bit.ly/agrawal-nas](http://bit.ly/agrawal-nas)

## 2018 LESTER P. MONTS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ON AFRICA AWARDED TO CHALIFOUX AND MACHAVA



**Christine Chalifoux** is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology. Her paper, "Families of Faith: The Making of Kinship Bonds in a Ugandan Orphanage," used data from her preliminary ethnographic fieldwork to examine how religious faith shapes kinship bonds formed at an orphanage in Kampala, Uganda. Her research focuses on the bond between orphanage workers and the children for whom they are paid to care,

and on evangelical Christians who are "called" to adopt children from Uganda, and the ways in which they use the Bible as a creative force to reimagine kinship and family.



**Benedito Machava** recently completed his PhD in the Department of History and accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University. His paper, "The Morality of Revolution: Urban Cleansing Campaigns, Reeducation Camps, and Citizenship in Socialist Mozambique (1974–1988)," focuses on the Mozambican government's attempt to enforce a new form of citizenry by banishing undesired

people from urban areas to rural reeducation and labor camps as part of Mozambique's socialist experiment.



## AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 20TH ANNUAL CULTURE SHOW

In March 2018, over 500 audience members participated in the 20th annual culture show of the African Students Association (ASA). The 2018 show, held at the Crisler Center, was called *Sankofa*, an Akan word that translates to "go back and get it." It celebrated what African identity means, has meant, and will mean for different generations and diasporas. ASA co-vice president Maxwell Otiato explained his hope that this theme would embody its very name, *sankofa*: "We, the ASA, wanted to tell a riveting, yet relatable, story, which would remind us and the audience to always reflect on the lessons of our past and heritage so as to inform our present and build our future."

This narrative unfolded through a fashion show, the mainstay of this year's event. The fashion show featured students dressed in a variety of African-inspired fashion and attire, donated by themselves and their families. With authentic, traditional attire and contemporary styles from across the continent, the fashion highlighted and brought to life the storyline. The show also featured music, traditional dance, and spoken word performances exploring the experiences of many Africans living in the diaspora.

Participants in the fashion show at ASA 20th annual cultural show



## FORD SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN SENEGAL STUDY PROGRAM

As part of a course offered by the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy through the International Economic Development Program (IEDP), a group of twenty U-M students had the opportunity to travel to Gorée Island, Senegal during the 2018 winter break. The eight-week course, *PubPol 674: Economic and Social Policies in a Selected Emerging Market Economy*, was led by Shobita Parthasarathy, associate professor of public policy and women's studies. During the classroom component of the course, students learned about Senegal and how to conduct qualitative research for the purposes of a country case study. On the trip, students then interviewed policymakers and stakeholders as part of research projects. The students' research projects focus on a different pressing policy issue in Senegal: climate change, youth unemployment, children's rights, and infectious disease, and were presented to the U-M community.

AT LEFT: Class excursion to Gorée taken by IEDP President Gabrielle Horton (MPP '18)



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