Africa: Engaging the Past, Envisioning the Future

The 18th Annual Graduate Research Conference in African Studies

March 19 & 20, 2010

African Studies Center
Boston University
232 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 353-3673
WELCOME TO THE 18th ANNUAL
GRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Graduate Research Conference in African Studies is designed to be a multidisciplinary forum for the exchange of information regarding current research on Africa. Thus, the conference is intended to benefit both presenters and audience participants. Our goal is to provide graduate students with the opportunity to receive valuable feedback on their research from fellow graduate students. Additionally, we hope audience members will benefit from the opportunity to participate in the critical analysis of issues in Africa.

The impetus for this conference comes from our desire to promote the honest exchange of ideas and comments in an academic atmosphere free of large conference pressures. We, as graduate students, often find that the need to make professional presentations at large, formal conferences outweighs the need to obtain suggestions or criticisms. Thus, the Graduate Research Conference was created eighteen years ago to facilitate the flow of information and the exchange of ideas in an open and informal setting. We hope that you enjoy the Conference and we welcome any suggestions that you might have for next year’s event.

The Graduate Students of the African Studies Center,
Boston University
Schedule of Events

Friday, March 19

2:00 PM: Registration

2:30-4:00PM: SESSION ONE

Panel I: American Foreign Policy in Africa
Rodney Seminar room

Chair: Kallie Szczepanski

Carly Edwards  Clark University
“Friend-ing the Peace Corps: Leveraging Personal Relationships to Further Social Change”

Justin Tinsey  Boston University

Kristen Bradley  United States Coast Guard Academy
“Past, Present and Possible Future U.S Coast Guard Engagement in Africa”

4:15-5:45PM: SESSION TWO

Panel I: Foreign Engagement
Rodney Seminar Room

Chair: Abel Djassi Amado

Dennis Sullivan  Boston University
“The Great Charm Game: China’s Efforts to Penetrate Africa”
Peter McGuire  
Boston University  
“A Serious Coke Problem? State Fragility, Informal Governance, and Narcotics Trafficking in West Africa”

James Nichols  
Boston University  
“Prospects for Islam in Africa”

**Panel II: Spirituality and Secular Response**  
Outreach library  
Chair: Liz Crocker

David Bargueño  
Yale University  
“Faith, Business and Activism: International Responses to Mass Killings in German South West Africa and the Congo Free State 1884-1909”

Matthew Kustenbauder  
Harvard University  
“Mediator, Militant, Messiah: Alice Lakwena and the Holy Spirit Movement in Uganda”

Derrick Muwina  
Boston University  
“Christianity, Commerce and Civilization: David Livingstone and Africa”

6:00-7:00PM  
**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Peter Uvin  
Academic Dean and The Henry J. Leir Professor of International Humanitarian Studies  
The Fletcher School, Tufts University

7:00-9:30PM  
**DINNER & WELCOME RECEPTION**
Saturday, March 20

8:30-9:30AM: REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

9:30-11:15AM: SESSION THREE

Panel I: Claiming Space: Land, Urbanism, and Agency
Rodeney Seminar Room

Chair: Jennifer Rosenbush

Cathy Buerger University of Connecticut
“Law, Land and Tradition: Women’s Land Rights in Ghana”

Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi New York University
“Urbanism in the Bight of Benin: Lagos in the Nineteenth Century”

Jillian Jaeger Boston University
"Deadlock in the Maghreb: Identity, the Nation-State, and the Futility of International Law"

Anna Henry University of Illinois
“Neoliberal Urban Planning and the Informal Economy in Developing Cities: The Case of Warwick Junction’s Urban Rejuvenation Project”

Kallie Szczepanski Boston University
“Land for the Lions, Land for the Cattle: The Cultural and Political Struggle for Amboseli, Kenya, 1948-1960”

Panel II: Questioning Notions of Health and Development
Outreach Library

Chair: Leslie Sale
Shannon Phillips  Boston College
“The Impact of HIV Rates on the Gains to Marriage”

Titus Gwemende  Ohio University
“Between Scylla and Charybdis; A Critical Analysis of the Impact of Zimbabwe’s Political Crisis on HIV and AIDS in the Country”

Brenda Nyandiko Sanya  Simmons College
Thesis Chapter: “Reexamining the History of Biomedical Interventions in Africa”

Mari Webel  Columbia University
“Old Paths, New Travelers: Research, Mobility, and Sleeping Sickness at Lake Victoria, 1906-1907”

11:30AM-1:00PM:  SESSION FOUR

Panel I:  Responsibility and Agency in Transitional Justice
Rodney Seminar Room

Chair: Hillary Weimont

Leslie Sale  Boston University
“Peace vs. Justice: A Struggle for Zimbabwe’s Future”
Veronica Roberts, Boston University  
“Mending the Rift: The Potential Role of Transitional Justice in Kenya’s Rift Valley”

Erin Mosely, Harvard University  
“Traumatic Realism and the Art of Witnessing: Connections Between Art, Memory and Reconciliation in Sierra Leone”

**Panel II: Memory and Media**
Outreach Library

Chair: Laura Ayad

John Tyson, Emory University  

Carla Klehm, University of Texas, Austin  
“Shades of Bronze: Power and Identity through the filtering of the Colors of Bronze at the Iron Age site of Bostswe, Botswana”

Jamie DeAngelo, Boston University  
“Idioms of Exchange in 19th Century Zululand”

Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi, Emory University  
“Re-Thinking the African Photographic Image: Malick Sidibé’s and Zwelethu Mthethwa’s Photographic Portraiture”

Abdullah Mohammad, Ohio University  
“Is There a Future if the Past Haunts the Present? Stereotypes and Narrative Crumple in “Dar to Lagos”

1:00-2:00PM: **LUNCH**
2:00-3:45PM: **SESSION FIVE**

**Panel I: Language and Representation**
Rodney Seminar Room

Chair: Tijani Nwadei

Abel Djassi Amado, Boston University
“State, Nation, and Languages: Language Conflict in Cape Verde”

Arinola Wuraola, Ohio University
“Language in Post-Conflict Education and Rehabilitation”

David Kyeu, University of Wisconsin
“Representing the Culture of the Swahili Speaking People in an American Foreign Language Class”

Tage Biswalo, University of Illinois
“Is Education Policy in Tanzania a Reality or an Illusion? An analysis of Language Policy”

**Panel II: Pedagogy and Educational Equality**
Outreach Library

Chair: Trevor Green

Katrina Demulling, Boston University
“Decolonizing the Mind: Nationalism and African Intellectuals”

Meghan Healy, Harvard University
“Engendering Separate Development: The Bantu Education Act and African Women’s Schooling”
Debra Woods  Boston University
“Early Childhood Care and Education in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Verity Norman  University of Massachusetts, Amherst
“Outcomes-Based Education Widening the gap Between South Africa’s “haves” and “have-nots”?”

Sarah Kahando,  Nancy Gachigo  University of Massachusetts, Amherst
“The Relationship between Girls’ Schooling or Women’s Literacy Education and Delaying Marriage for Girls”

4:00-5:45PM:  SESSION SIX

Panel I: Reconstructing Gender and Identity

Chair: Cedony Allen

Winifred Uche Nwaefido  Michigan State University
“The Gender of Witchcraft among the Igbo of Southeastern Nigeria”

Christine Nakyeyune  Boston University
“Promoting Gender Equality: An Appraisal Based on the Role and Significance of the Mother’s Union in Uganda”
Leonard Mbah  Michigan State University
“Forged on the Whip: Diasporic British and Igbo Masculinities on the Niger”

Edward Akita  Ohio University
“Hegemony, Patriarchy and Human Rights: The Invisibility of Ghanaian Women in Politics”

Amy Hanes  Brandeis University
“Rereading the Kenyan Women’s Sex Ban of 2009: Demands for Sexual Rights and Agency in and out of Marriage”

**Panel II: Communications, Ideas, and Change in East Africa**

Outreach Library

Chair: Veronica Roberts

Ryan Butyniec  Carleton University
“Conflicting Interests: Obstacles to the Amelioration of the Human Condition in East Africa”

Njambi Wagacha  Clark University
“ICTs and the State in Society: Understanding the Sociopolitical Economic Complexities of Technological Advancement in Africa”

David Conrad  Ohio University
“Community Radio in East Africa: A Struggle for Identity and Sustainability”
# Participant Contacts

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The African Studies Center at Boston University, established in 1953, was one of the first graduate programs in the United States to offer a multidisciplinary African Studies curriculum. Over the decades it has achieved international recognition for its commitment to teaching, research, and publications. It is currently a National Resource Center for African Languages and Area Studies funded by Boston University and the United States Department of Education.

The Center’s academic staff is comprised of core and associate faculty, all of whom hold academic positions at Boston University. The Center also appoints Research Fellows who do not hold teaching positions, but whose research interests focus on Africa. In addition to providing a wide range of courses and a minor in African Studies at the undergraduate level, Center faculty prepare graduate students at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels for research, teaching, and public service through degree programs in Anthropology, Archeology, Economics, Geography, History, International Relations, Linguistics, Political Science, and Sociology.

Within these programs, special concentrations are available in developmental anthropology, development economics, economic history, environmental studies, health care delivery systems, law and development, rural development, rural development, migration, public sector enterprise, African languages and African archeology. The Center also offers specialized programs through Boston University’s professional school in law, public health, medicine, education and communications. A graduate certificate in African Studies is available to graduate students who fulfill basic requirements in African area studies within an existing degree program at the University.