WARA Launches new Journal African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review (ACPR)

WARA is pleased to announce the launch of a new journal, *African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review (ACPR)*, the first issue of which is due out in early 2011. Published by Indiana University Press, *ACPR* is a collaborative project of WARA and the African Peace and Conflict Network, headed up by WARA member Mark Davidheiser (Nova Southeastern University) who, along with Niklas Hultin (American University) and Tricia Rededker Hepner (University of Tennessee), serves as associate editor. The editorial board of the journal includes a number of WARA members who specialize in the area of peace and conflict resolution.

*ACPR* will be an interdisciplinary forum for creative and rigorous studies of conflict and peace in Africa and for discussions between scholars, practitioners, and public intellectuals in Africa, the U.S., and other parts of the world. It will regularly include scholarly research articles and briefings, book and film reviews, photo essays, and podcasts and will provide instructors with materials to which students can easily relate.

According to Abu Bakarr Bah, WARA board member and editor in chief of the journal, "*ACPR* will work to move beyond simple descriptions and ideological biases to engage in critical study."

Below are excerpts from a recent interview with Bah conducted by the Staff of IUP/Journals:

**BAH:** I see three key things that make it the right time for *ACPR*. First, there are ongoing conflicts and political tensions in Africa that need serious scholarly and policy attention. At the same time, there are intriguing efforts to build peace, and Africans are taking ownership of their problems and political destiny. In addition, the struggles for democracy have transformed the relationship between the people and the power holders, and young people are becoming more involved in addressing the fundamental political, economic, and social issues that often lead to conflict. *ACPR* will be a major outlet for work that focuses on the conflict and peacebuilding efforts in Africa.

Second, studies and policy debates on conflict and peacebuilding in Africa have not received the attention they deserve in major academic publishing outlets, and it is still the case that most works on Africa in the major journals are by people who do not live and work there. *ACPR* will make high quality works by scholars and practitioners based in Africa accessible to a wider audience, especially in the United States. I think that it will be refreshing to read about Africa through the lens of people who work and live there.

Third, there is a growing recognition that multiple voices and mediums of expression are needed in the effort to promote conditions for peace in Africa. Scholars, policy makers, and activists have a common goal of understanding the causes and the nature of conflict in Africa and finding ways to promote peace. *ACPR* will encourage the interaction of ideas and perspectives across disciplines, professions, geographic locations, generations, and worldviews and will transcend professional and generational boundaries.

**IUP/J:** Why is there a need for creative and rigorous study of conflict resolution in Africa?

**BAH:** The more we study conflict resolution, the better are the chances of improving the human condition in Africa. We need to engage in critical study of the causes of conflicts, the institutional arrangements that are most likely to maintain peace, and the elements of our cultures that promote or hinder peace. My view is that the ultimate purpose of knowledge is not knowledge for the sake of knowing but knowledge for the sake of improving the human condition. This does not mean some kind of utopian vision of peace and justice, but, rather, it is about translating knowledge into practical tools that can make some difference in society.

A holistic view of peace and conflict is one that links the nature and effects of conflict with the conditions that lead to conflict. Similarly, it is the perspective that links peace to the conditions that undermine or promote peace. A holistic view of peace and conflict will be informed by multiple disciplines, professional backgrounds, and lived experiences.

**IUP/J:** In your view, what is the link between research and activism?

**BAH:** We live in a world in which ideas and action are locked together. Research should uphold the principles of objectivity and non-ideological commitments in the pursuit of knowledge and solutions to human problems. However, research by itself will not change the human condition. Knowledge has to be acted upon. Activism should be clearly separated from research. Research should not be reduced to activism. Researchers should be open about their policy preferences, biases and worldview. As a journal that bridges research and policy, *ACPR* will be sensitive to this issue. The journal will ensure that policy preferences are presented as such and not as definitive scientific knowledge. The issue question is, “How do we take the ideas from research and put them into practice?”

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This newsletter is published twice a year by the West African Research Association with the support of the African Studies Center and the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston University. It is distributed to all members and associates of WARA. Material for publication in upcoming newsletters should be submitted to the editor at the African Studies Center at Boston University. Please send an electronic version (preferred) or a hard copy of your submission. WARA has the right to reject items that do not comply with the goals and purposes of the organization and reserves the right to edit and/or modify any submissions for content, format or length. Opinions expressed in published articles, however, belong solely to the author(s).
From the WARA President

As we express our sincere gratitude to Ousseina Alidou and Abdoulaye Kane who are rotating off the Board of Directors after three years of dedicated service and hard work, we extend a warm welcome and congratulations to Ibra Sène and Ismail Rashid, our two new board members who will kick off a three year term at this November’s WARA board meeting at the ASA in San Francisco. We look forward to their contributions to the steadily growing and expanding work and reach of WARA.

Yes, indeed, growth, expansion and significant impact continue to be the defining hallmarks of WARA. Much has transpired on the programming and administrative fronts since the last newsletter in April 2010 and some of the highlights of these are outlined in the current issue. I want to put the spotlight, though, on a couple.

WARA board member Abu Bakarr Bah led a major successful collaborative effort between WARA, the African Peace and Conflict Network and Indiana University Press to establish a new semi-annual journal, African Conflict and Peace Building Review, to be launched in early 2011. This is a major achievement for WARA. Many thanks to Abu and Youngstedt and WARA Board Secretary, Wendy Wilson-Fall, and President, Maria Grosz-Ngaté, WARA Vice President, Scott Youngstedt, helms this project. The Call for Papers and Prospectus has already been issued.

In close partnership with CAORC, WARA/WARC are making significant headway on a project with the Library of Congress to identify and collect materials being published in 10 West African countries. A contract has been signed already. Updates on this very exciting project will be provided in the next newsletter as well as on the newly redesigned WARA website (www.bu.edu/wara).

WARA submitted a project proposal, “Western African Muslims in America: 400 Years and Counting,” to the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Bridging Cultures initiative. Unfortunately, the proposal was not funded. However, plans are in place to seek funding through other sources. Many thanks to all those who worked diligently on putting the package together. Good news: WARA received award notification for the fourth and final year of our Department of Education Title VI Grant. Now is time for all of us to gear up for the next grant cycle.

We have made progress in our efforts to fine tune the administrative and financial procedures and practices of WARA. We are now up-to-date and in compliance with audit and other administrative requirements. I cannot stress enough how fortunate WARA/WARC are to have Jennifer Yanco and Ousmane Sène as directors. Speaking of fine-tuning, we owe a debt of gratitude to immediate past WARA president, Maria Grosz-Ngaté, WARA Vice President, Scott Youngstedt and WARA Board Secretary, Wendy Wilson-Fall, and WARA Executive Director, Jennifer Yanco, for a job well done revising and updating the WARA By-Laws.

On the programming front, WARA continues to support, collaborate and partner with many institutions and organizations on various projects. We conducted another successful Fulbright-Hays Seminar for 16 US high school teachers in Dakar in summer 2010. Details on the project are at www.gs.howard.edu/wara2010. Arrangements are all in place for the upcoming second WARA/WARC peace conference scheduled to take place in Freetown, Sierra Leone, December 10-15, 2010. Our two academic coordinators, Steve Howard of Ohio University and Penda Mbow of UCAD, Senegal, have worked with the Steering Committee of the WARA/WARC Peace Initiative to put together an exciting program with more than 60 participants from West Africa and the US. I want to commend also Ousmane Sène and Henri-Pierre Koubabka, WARA/WARC Peace Initiative coordi-

ator, for the wonderful job they have done on the ground to make this event happen. Coming up on the horizon is the Saharan Crossroads: Views from the South conference, organized by WARA and AIMS, to be held in Niamey on 8-9-10 July 2011. WARA Vice President, Scott Youngstedt, helms this project. The Call for Papers and Prospectus has already been issued.

In closing, I want to commend and thank my fellow board members who continue to work on various tasks and assignments in their respective committees. Much remains to be done, particularly in terms of growing our institutional and individual membership base and coming up with a strategic plan looking five years on from now. I am confident we will make progress on these and other challenges in the coming year.

Mbys Cham
WARA President

From the WARC Director

Dear members of WARA,

At the end of October I visited Freetown, the Sierra Leonian capital, with the coordinator of the WARA/WARC Peace Initiative (WAPI) to monitor the preparations for the upcoming conference on faith communities and conflict scheduled for December 11-15, 2010. Sierra Leone was indeed, a few years back, sorely affected by a civil strife, the consequences of which are still palpable in the capital city. In spite of all the challenges relating to the organization of the conference in such a venue, the choice is highly symbolic and significant and the project Steering Committee should be commended and gratulated for the insight.

Meanwhile, numerous other WARC activities are underway in Dakar. Several researchers, primarily from American universities, are pursuing their research projects and activities as official WARC affiliated scholars. At the same time, the second session of the Journalism Institute of the Peace Initiative is smoothly unfolding with four West African journalists (hailing from Cote d’Ivoire, Mauritania, Guinea and Senegal) in residence here in Dakar, attending the various courses and field activities lined up for their training.

Because of the increasingly hectic pace at WARC, other regular features of WARC activities have had to be re-scheduled: book presentations and dedications, public lectures and films. Such events will be back in the picture in early January 2011. Meanwhile plans are being made by both WARA and WARC to support some of the Haitian students and researchers recently arrived in Senegal to continue their academic pursuits here following the devastating effects of hurricane that devastated the nation.

WARC is truly developing into a much-sought after institution for research and other academic and cultural pursuits as testified to by a letter of congratulations recently sent to us by the Senegalese Minister of Higher Education and Research. This certainly promises a bright future for the West African Research Association, its sister organisation l’Association de Recherche Ouest Africaine, and their executive arm the West African Research Center.

Ousmane Sène
WARC Director
From the WARA Director

WARA is 21 years old this year! I think we can all feel a sense of pride in WARA’s accomplishments up to this year of majority. This year has been marked by a number of remarkable developments. In June, WARA signed a contract with Indiana University Press to launch a new journal, *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review*. This is an enormously important development for us and we are grateful to WARA board member Abu Bakarr Bah who took the lead in negotiations with publishers. The first issue is due out in February 2011 and we urge members to take advantage of the discounted subscription rate for WARA members. Current individual WARA members are eligible to receive a 15% discount on print, electronic, or the combined print-electronic subscription to *ACPR*. We worked to ensure that those residing in Africa receive a preferential rate, as well.

The West African Peace Initiative will hold its second regional conference in December 2010 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. It is entitled “Faith Communities and Their Roles in Conflict.” Academic coordinators Professors Penda Mbow (UCAD) and Steve Howard (Ohio University) are working with the project staff to finalize the program, which will feature presentations by some 20 West African scholars working in the area of conflict studies.

In January 2011, WARA will conduct a symposium on “West African Muslim Societies and Their Contributions to US Culture” at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland and at Kent State University. This is being funded by CAORC through a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Plans are well under way for the Saharan Crossroads conference, “Views from the South,” which will take place in July 2011. The coordinating committee—WARA Vice President Scott Youngstedt and WARA members Ghislaine Lydon and Idrissa Rahamane—are busy reviewing abstracts and making local arrangements.

This past year we were able to provide support to a number of initiatives. This fall, our series “Rethinking Islam in West Africa,” organized jointly with Boston University’s African Studies Center has featured Allen Roberts of UCLA who spoke on “The Iterative Arts of Senegal;”; Zeinabou Hadari of the Niger office of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, who spoke on “Islamic-based strategies for female empowerment in Niger;” and Ousseina Alidou of Rutgers University, who spoke on “Muslim women reshaping Islam: West Africa in a global context.”

WARA also co-sponsored a number of events this fall, including the *Global Voices* film festival in September here in Boston which screened *Sutra*, a film by Mariama Khan made in collaboration with the Know Your Rights! Project. In October, WARA helped sponsor the SOMPA TT conference on higher education in Africa, which featured Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, who traveled from Senegal to serve as keynote speaker.

In November, WARA was a co-sponsor of the international conference, “Polygamy, Polygyny, and Polyamory: Ethical and Legal Perspectives on Plural Marriage,” held at Brandeis University; among the presenters was Professor Abdoul Aziz Kebe of UCAD, who spoke on cultural, Islamic and legal aspects of polygamy in Senegal. Also in November, WARA joined CODESRIA and the government of Cape Verde to sponsor “Women in Cape Verde: Experiences and Prospects.” This international conference took place on November 9 and 10 at the University of Cape Verde. WARA provided travel funding for one of the speakers, Terza Lima-Neves of Johnson C. Smith University.

All this is possible because of the wonderful synergy that exists among those of us working to realize WARA’s mission. I am daily mindful of the extraordinary working relationship that Ousmane Sène and I enjoy and of the tremendous dedication and professionalism of the WARC staff. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the ongoing work of Abel Djassi Amado, WARA’s graduate assistant who, now in his third year with WARA has made significant contributions to the smooth running of the association. It was Abel in fact, who encouraged us to support the very important conference in Cape Verde noted above. And of course, it is a pleasure to work with our gracious and highly efficient board president, Mbye Cham, with our talented and committed board members.

We are grateful to the Educational and Cultural Affairs section of the Department of State for its support of our fellowship programs through our CAORC grant, and to the Department of Education for its continuing support. I would also like to express our appreciation to the government of Senegal who provide us with the spacious center for WARC and to Boston University for providing us with an engaging and collaborative institutional home in the US.

Wishing you all a productive rest of semester and pleasant holidays.

Jennifer Yanco  
US Director
Evaluating biocomplexity in the environment: livelihoods support activities and their effects on forest biodiversity in southeastern Ghana

Introduction
In Spring 2010, I was awarded a WARC Travel Grant that supported my travel to Ghana for my PhD dissertation research. My research aims at evaluating the effects of livelihoods support activities (LSAs) on conservation attitudes and forest biodiversity in the Afadjato-Agumatsa and Atewa Ranges in southeastern Ghana. LSAs are used as a conservation strategy to help change conservation attitude and behavior in order to reduce biodiversity degradation. The study seeks to investigate whether LSAs in forest fringe communities reduced the rate of forest degradation in the project areas. These LSAs include bee-keeping, agro-processing, animal husbandry, rearing of wildlife, crop farming and woodlot establishment.

This evaluation is being conducted in the framework of biocomplexity in the environment, which means that social, economic ecological and biophysical factors that affect forest biodiversity are all taken into consideration.

Travel Award Activities
During the period of this award, I was able to collect primary and secondary data; my work involved collecting economic data, social data and ecological data.

The economic data focused on the funds invested in livelihoods support activities, the returns, income levels of participants and non-participants and other economic measures. Apart from primary data which was obtained in the communities, I also obtained secondary data from the district offices of the Statistical Services Department. This data is relevant for a cost-benefit analysis of livelihoods support activities in the forest fringe communities.

The social aspect of this research aimed at measuring conservation attitudes and the socio-demographics of the respondents. We employed the New Ecological Paradigm to measure attitudes. This provides a standard for measuring conservation attitudes which can be compared globally.

The ecological aspect of the study was undertaken during “ground-truthing” of forest cover. Satellite images are currently being used to determine forest cover change in the various communities. The ecological aspect of the study was undertaken during “ground-truthing” of forest cover. Satellite images are being used to determine forest cover change in the various communities. Ground-truthing is on-the-ground observations and measurements of features of an area which has its images already collected by remote sensors (satellite images or aerial pictures). Ground-truthing therefore helps in interpretation and analysis of the satellite images. Apart from that I also trapped fruit bats in the various forests in order to determine fruit bat diversity. This was during the rainy season. It was a repeat of bat surveys conducted during the dry season of November 2009 to January 2010.

Apart from that I also trapped fruit bats in the various forests in order to determine fruit bat diversity. This was during the rainy season. It was a repeat of bat surveys conducted during the dry season of November 2009 to January 2010.

Other socio-economic and biophysical factors that, according to the literature, have been determined to affect forest biodiversity directly and indirectly were also measured. The research units are the communities and the forest buffers around them. My focus of attention was on the parts of the forest within the forest reserves.

During this work, I got a lot of support and assistance from the chiefs and people of the communities surrounding the Afadjato Range and the Atewa Range, who gave my research team local guides. Also students from the Animal Biology and Conservation Sciences and technical staff of Ghana Wildlife Society and the Begoro District Forestry office actively engaged in providing voluntary support to my work.

Progress on research
Currently, I am analyzing the data collected. Since the research is not completed, I will limit listing any major finding. I will communicate major findings to WARA after completing my dissertation. However, it is worth noting that in many areas, there was no significant difference in incomes between LSA participant communities and non-participant communities. Also, in many communities, the per capita investments in LSAs were insignificant in terms of any impact on incomes. Also, the “ground truthing” showed that not all areas that are forested in satellite images had tropical forest vegetation. Some were largely cocoa farms.

Acknowledgements
I am very grateful to the West African Research Association for the travel award for this study. Though I have not completed the research, it has allowed me to make my work more comprehensive. Also, I am grateful to the Chiefs and People of Akeyma Abukwa, Gbledi, Fodome-Ahor, and Wli. I also want to thank Ghana Wildlife Society, the Begoro Forest District of Ghana’s Forestry Commission, Okyeman Environment Foundation, Ghana Statistical Services, Ghana Meteorological Agency and the Office of the GEF/UNDP Small Grants Programme for all the literature and technical support provided me during the research.

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With kites, researchers share a vue du ciel of Dakar Floods
Senegalese researchers and an American graduate student use kite photography to illustrate and understand widespread flooding Dakar, Senegal

Dakar Urbanization: Dormant Lakes Return
Dakar grew explosively during a Sahel-wide drought that began in the early 1970s. The drought damaged Senegal’s rural agricultural economies and pushed thousands of households from the countryside towards Dakar in search of work. Dakar’s sandy urban outskirts absorbed much of this influx. What the households did not know (although the Lebou who sold them land probably did) was that Dakar’s periphery was striated with depressions that, in wetter times, became swampy lakes (niayes in Wolof). The same drought had dried them up, and newcomers settled parched lakebeds and high dunes alike. Recently, heavy rains have returned to Dakar, refilling the dormant basins, bringing devastation to communities spread across them.

Maladaptation to Flooding
My field interviews in flooded communities led me to suspect that spontaneous attempts to manage flooding are compounding the disaster. As households build small dams and infill their plots, they’ve ‘flattened’ the lakebeds, so that the floodwaters spread far beyond the original boundaries of the niayes. This pattern is almost impossible to discern from the ground, where the flooding often appears random, but it becomes very apparent from the air. Unfortunately, residents have not had the benefit of an aerial perspective, and so often copy what works for their neighbors, neglecting subtle topographies below. With the collaboration of Professor Tahirou Diaw (Director) and the staff and several graduate students of the Laboratoire d’Enseignement et de Recherche en Géomatique (LERG) at Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar (UCAD), I have been able to fly camera-equipped kites over flooded communities in Dakar to tease out these natural basins from these contemporary climate ruins and to compare the images with archival aerial photography from the 1940s and 1960s when the lakes were full. The analysis reveals how flooding has reconstituted the old niayes, but also how spontaneous adaptation has blurred the historic edges, turning narrow lakes into wide urban floodplains.

Why Kites?
The basic technique of kite photography was pioneered by the French photographer, Arthur Batut, and the first image published in 1889. However, after initial interest, the idea faded and has only recently returned in the hands of a committed, global community of amateur photographers. Digital cameras can now capture thousands of pictures, increasing the likelihood of good images, and the Internet has also helped hobbyists share techniques, and the photos they create. Recently a handful of archeologists and at least one earth scientist have been systematically exploring what the technology can do in the sciences.

Urban planners typically begin with mapping, but using kites to collect photos from the middle of a community is the opposite of the typical “grand plan” strategy of urban mapping. Kite-based photography and mapping are more local, neighborhood-centered, and three-dimensional. They produce human-scale images that seem to ignite the imagination of everyone. Staying close to the features of interest, kites bring the analysis close to communities. The novelty and possibility of a ‘vue du ciel’ seems to stimulate the imagination of everyone from village elders to local mayors, and the kite becomes a playful focal point for dialogue about sensitive histories of settlement and struggle with flooding. I also use print-outs of kite images directly in my interviews: they help me focus the interviews with residents, and to elicit implicit and vernacular knowledge that emerged as people reflected on the changes visible in these photos, and as I encouraged them to directly annotate the images with their knowledge.

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Kite-based images and maps can be generated within a community, and shared freely. This contrasts sharply with the recent aerial survey, done by the French IGN under a commission from the national government of Senegal. France’s IGN was commissioned in 2009 to photograph and map flooding in Dakar, but heavy restrictions in the contract mean this critical data has not been distributed or explained to the public, local governments, or researchers.

While I hope the IGN’s work will be used in the interests of all of Dakar’s citizens, our kites free us, as researchers, to share the imagery widely. I have begun to do so, transmitting it to local mayors, a community development association, and engaging with populations over their adaptation. The photos, filled with human detail, illustrate the cost of un-collaborative action, and hint at places where stagnant water can be freed, or where mayors can place pumps to return the water to niayes that families have abandoned.

Kites democratize the vue du ciel: Typical satellite and high-altitude aerial photography permit an increase in precision in various respects, but at enormous cost. This cost tends to limit access to the information, and also to make the information less dynamic, since the process is too costly to repeat at regular intervals. By using cheap digital cameras modified with free software, it is possible to collect imagery at a detail that speaks for itself, but costs less than pennies per image. Google Earth has democratized the vue de l’espace; kite photography, in the hands of communities with a problem, can be used to do the same for the vue du ciel.

The geometric precision of satellite and high-altitude aerial photography also comes at another cost: essential details of human life and interaction with natural processes become harder to see. The low cost of kite-based photography and mapping make especially good sense in Africa, where, where cost puts local researchers at a serious disadvantage to their European and American colleagues since they cannot afford the same raw data. Senegalese researchers to whom I’ve demonstrated technology are extremely excited by the idea and have already begun using my equipment to study urban coastal erosion in detail, and experimental agricultural projects in central Senegal. Recently a Senegalese doctoral student who has partnered with my project gave a juried presentation at UCAD on the implications kite-photography-based research and took home a first prize.

My Research Motivations
Global climate change is often presented as a problem of political will and technology to curb emissions by developed and rapidly developing societies. Given their feeble contribution to greenhouse gasses, peoples most immediately vulnerable to a changed climate, residents of precarious settlements in the developing world, are often cast as victims, not agents. Yet, in the aggregate, the ways these populations adapt to climate change has huge potential to shape the human cost of this global problem. Cities are home to an increasing fraction of the world’s population, though their often-unstructured urbanization has created a growing population of vulnerable, urban slum-dwellers. In the face of floods and a rising ocean, climate events in these spaces will blur the distinction between ‘man-made’ and ‘natural’ disaster, globally and locally. On the sprawling fringe of Dakar, where the climate dramatically shifted from drought to a much wetter period, I’m trying to understand the human-environment nexus that has shaped, and aggravated recent, intense flooding. My research has evolved to include a search for alignments of incentives between populations and local governments, with the hope of contributing a fresh and compelling perspective on mitigating the current flooding, and finding relevance to other cities that may anticipate similar climate events.

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(Endnotes)
1. They must often rely on outdated and hand-me-down imagery, often still with distribution restrictions, or the budgets of European and American collaborators who buy imagery from European and American agencies at unsustainable prices. With kites, Senegalese researchers have a tool that can be used and perfected locally to generate very-high resolution imagery of comparable detail and precision (with processing) to out-of-reach satellite and aerial photos. Beyond teaching several students and researchers the technology, I’m trying to enlist the interest of online communities of francophone kite photography amateurs in the hopes of establishing new points of exchange, and encouragement to help ensure the idea sticks.
3. My climatologist colleagues refer to the current spate of flooding in the Sahel as the end of an unnaturally dry period that began in about 1970, and are less certain that it can be linked to global trends of a warming climate. For my purposes, rains in communities that grew during drought create a laboratory study a changed urban climate, which is speculatively a glimpse of changes that will occur in cities throughout the globe. In recent flood-years I’ve found that rainfall sufficient to cause widespread flooding is still slightly below the pre-drought average of 1898-1969.
God’s Arrows:
Documenting the Oral and Written Narratives of Pentecostal Christians in Southern Nigeria

Pentecostal churches, or “mushroom churches,” as they are called by their detractors, are spreading across Africa at an astounding rate. Nigeria, with one-third of the world’s Pentecostal population, is at the forefront of this growth. Thanks to the generous support of the West African Research Association’s Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Grant, I was able to travel to southern Nigeria this past summer (June 15, 2010-August 17, 2010) to document the oral and written narratives of Pentecostal Christians. This material is integral to the development of my M.F.A. thesis, a narrative nonfiction book about the history and practice of Pentecostalism in Nigeria.

My research goals were four in number: 1) Conduct group discussions with Pentecostal Christians and leaders; 2) Conduct semi-structured interviews with Pentecostal Christians; 3) Perform a detailed study of literary production within Pentecostal churches; and 4) Regularly attend church services and special events as a participant-observer.

On the advice of various contacts within Nigeria, I accepted a generous offer from Professor Ademola Dasylva to headquarter myself at the University of Ibadan, a premier university in southern Nigeria with 12,000 students. From the University of Ibadan, I had easy access to Ibadan, Lagos, Ife, and Ogun State, the headquarters of numerous Pentecostal churches such as the Redeemed Christian Church of God and Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries. I spent the majority of my time in Nigeria conducting lengthy interviews with a wide range of Pentecostal Christians and pastors from a wide range of different Pentecostal churches. Approximately half of my interviews focused primarily on my subjects’ conversion testimonies, with the rest revolving around a questionnaire I developed about the specific nature of their belief system. I also conducted extensive interviews with leading religious scholars in Southern Nigeria, including Ayodeji Abodunde, Pentecostal historian and author of Heritage of Faith, internationally renowned scholar of Pentecostalism Dr. Matthews Ojo, and up-and-coming Pentecostal pastor and scholar Dr. Samson Fatokun, among many others.

Another cornerstone of my research was over seventy hours of participant-observation during church services: including multiple Sunday services, Wednesday night services, prayer meetings, and church conventions. While attending these services, I paid particular attention to the narrative innovations used during sermons, the gender roles during the services, discourses about missionary enterprises, and the role of the supernatural in the church.

Unforeseen opportunities during my research process included the chance to be the special guest at a special seminar at the University of Ibadan entitled: “Pentecostalism, Witchcraft, and Get-Rich-Quick Syndrome.” As an outcome of that event, I was invited to submit a chapter to the recently published volume Suffereth Not a Witch to Live: Child Witchcraft Accusations in Nigeria. I was also able to collect an enormous amount of literature on Pentecostalism that is only available in Nigeria, most importantly, copies of over a dozen books, some quite rare, in the genre of “power encounters.” These are book-length testimonies of the adventures of the author with demonic and witchcraft powers, before they become converted to Christianity. Currently I am using these materials to significantly revise a paper that has been accepted to the 2010 American Academy of Religion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Immersing myself in the Pentecostal culture of southern Nigeria challenged many of my initial assumptions about the history and practice of Pentecostalism. I am now firmly convinced that Nigerian Pentecostalism is a truly organic innovation that has taken place independently of the development of Pentecostalism in the West. The ties between Pentecostalism and traditional belief systems are also much deeper than I had originally suspected. After my research in Nigeria, I reorganized my draft manuscript to include significant sections which can serve as case studies for the relationship between traditional religious systems in Nigeria and Pentecostalism, including a chapter on the phenomenon of child witchcraft accusations by Pentecostal pastors in Akwa Ibom State, a chapter on the linkages between traditional Yoruba praise songs and current Pentecostal worship practices, and a chapter on the relationship between orality and literacy in the Pentecostal churches of Nigeria.

I am extremely grateful to W ARA for giving me the opportunity to spend ten weeks studying what I believe to be one of the most fascinating phenomena of our time—the explosion of Pentecostal Christianity in sub-Saharan Africa. I am hopeful that my creative nonfiction treatment of this topic will make a complex and deeply engaging subject accessible for the general reader who is curious but largely ignorant about Pentecostal religious practices in West Africa.

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From Our Fellows

State and Social Processes in pre-colonial West Africa: Elements of power, office devolution and agency in the Mossi states

I travelled to Burkina Faso and Mali between April 9-May 1 to collect material for my PhD thesis titled “Naam: Political History of a State Ideology”. My thesis investigates the history of state-formation in the Voltaic region (northern Ghana and Burkina Faso) between the 16th and the 19th centuries. One of the arguments it makes is that the Voltaic region can be conceptualised as one big culture-historical area whose formation can be explained as a frontier process initiated in Mamprugu (northern Ghana) that was not completed at the time of colonisation, at the end of the 19th century. I collected material from the national and regional archives of Burkina Faso and Mali. Material pertaining to the history of Burkina has been scattered in neighbouring countries (Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Mali) as a consequence of its territorial divisions in between these countries in the 1920s and 1930s. In any case, archival material was very scant and most of it pertained to colonial and post-colonial history and had little in terms of the precolonial history of the country.

The bulk of my research was done in Ouagadougou (capital) and Ouahigouya, in the north of Burkina. These two cities were respectively the political centres of the precolonial polities of Ouagadougou (Wogdgo) and Yatenga. I conducted about 25 interviews with customary chiefs and royal administrators who know the history of these precolonial states quite well. The ‘traditional’ political structure coexists today with the post-colonial state, although it has no formal executive or legislative powers. Customary chiefs constitute, for a great number of people, an alternative resort in matters of land-tenure conflicts and advice on a number of other social issues for which the formal system might not readily provide lasting solutions.

During my stay in Burkina, I was able to attend the ‘Ceremony of false departure’ that takes place at the royal compound in Ouagadougou on Fridays. This ritual ceremony marks the loyalty of the Moro Naba; prior to this trip, I had only read about this ceremony.

Moreover, I had the opportunity to exchange with historians and PhD students from the department of History and Archaeology at the University of Ouagadougou. In addition to having access to theses and unpublished material not available elsewhere, the fruitful exchanges with scholars working on topics similar to mine were invaluable in helping me refine my arguments.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to WARA for this valuable opportunity. I am now writing up my thesis and will make sure to send a copy of it when completed.

Amy Niang
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From Our Fellows

“Once it’s your sister, it’s everybody in your family; they think it’s in the bloodline”
Living with HIV/AIDS Stigma

In March I traveled to Ghana to conduct an inquiry into the impact of HIV/AIDS related stigma on persons living with AIDS (PLHA) and their family members. Specifically I wanted to look at their experiences of stigma, its impact on their lives, what it means to them, how they cope with it and why they think they are stigmatized. I was also interested in gender differences in the experience of HIV/AIDS related stigma. The study was carried out in different locations in the Eastern Region (one of the ten regions of Ghana).

I contacted the Regional AIDS project (RAP) in the Eastern Region to work on recruiting participants for the study. Recruiting family members of PLHA into the study was not easy, as most PLHA do not reveal their status to their family members. Eventually I attended a general meeting of PLHA association in Koforidua and introduced my study. Participants who were interested in the study were asked to contact the RAP office. I was honored to have five PLHA (3 females and 2 males) respond. Two females included their mothers, and one included her sister in the study. One of the males included his wife and the other, his two parents.

The research station was Koforidua and so I travelled to different cities in the Eastern Region to conduct the interviews—in participants’ homes and areas where they felt comfortable. I was touched by participants’ stories and I believe that the interviews gave them a platform to talk about experiences that are not usually discussed.

Stigmatization begins with disclosure of one’s serostatus. Disclosures were voluntary (where participants disclose their status to family members and friends for emotional and physical support); involuntary (where PLHA are forced to disclose their status to at least one relative in order to receive Anti-Retroviral treatment); third party disclosure (where PLHA’s status were revealed to other people by health care workers, friends and relatives etc). The final form of disclosure was implied or perceptible where people assume other people have HIV because of their physical appearance. Participants were as shocked, worried, and in disbelief of their status as their family members were. While some family members were supportive of the PLHA, others blamed them for their “irresponsiblity”. Stigmatizing experiences were overt and covert and began within the family, although family members may not be aware of their stigmatizing behaviors. I found out that family members experience similar stigmatizing behaviors from the community and that the impact on family members is similar to the impact on the actual PLHA.

The study revealed that many people stigmatize PLHA because of how HIV has been negatively portrayed by the media, its association with “improper behaviors” as well as cultural beliefs in witchcraft. Family members were stigmatized simply because of their association with PLHA. Differences in behaviors towards women and men were also noted. Women were stigmatized more often than men because they are more likely to reveal their status. While women who have HIV are usually abandoned by their husbands, men who have HIV are cared for by their wives. As a way to cope and prevent being stigmatized, many women are not disclosing their status to their husbands now.

I was emotionally affected by the stories people shared with me and especially how the women in the study live day to day with stigma. I was so moved by one of the many quotes from family members that I chose one as the title for my study.

I very much appreciate being awarded the WARC Travel Grant to go back to my home country to fulfill my dream. I believe it is important that we as Africans stimulate research in our countries and share ideas with the outside world. It is my hope that policy makers, programmers and educators in the area of HIV/AIDS will benefit from my study. I will be working with the Regional AIDS project in the Eastern Region to design programs which are sensitive to HIV related stigma.

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We are delighted to announce the new website of West African Research Association (www.bu.edu/wara). The new website features pertinent information for and about WARA’s many activities, our fellowship program and includes a section containing contact information as well as disciplinary interests of WARA’s current members. We encourage everyone to keep their memberships up-to-date so as to enjoy the benefits that the new page offers in particular as well as to those that the association provides in general. We also encourage members to email us (wara@bu.edu) with suggestions or comments regarding our new look online.

WARA wishes Happy Holidays to all its members and their respective families!
This fall, WARA Resident Scholar, Dr. Ahmed Nuhu Zakariah, Director of the Ghana Ambulance Service of the Ghana Ministry of Health, spent four weeks in residence at the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville. With the collaboration of sponsoring faculty mentor Dr. Elizabeth DeVos, MD, MPH, Director of International Emergency Medicine, Dr. Zakariah was able to coordinate his educational activities and to design a project in his specific areas of interest (Ambulance Dispatch and EMS personnel training).

Currently, the EMS system in Ghana is limited by “on-line” control, requiring EMTs to consult with physicians before providing any intervention; this is often complicated by long delays in attempts to reach the appropriate personnel by cellular phone, and sometimes such attempts prove futile. The goal of Dr. Zakariah’s residency was to address this problem and to improve the dispatch and training of the Ghana National Ambulance Service Personnel and the EMS system in general. The residency provided opportunities for Dr. Zakariah to increase his understanding of Emergency Medicine and EMS as they are practiced in the US, with the ultimate goal of providing the Ghana Ambulance Service employees evidence-based skills training and more efficient dispatch knowledge. Dr. Zakariah also participated in the UFCOM-J International Post Doctoral Associate observation program in Emergency Medicine, which addressed the interface of pre-hospital and hospital care for acutely ill and injured patients.

Dr. Zakariah observed county EMS services in Putnam and Nassau Counties in Florida as well as in New York City. He also worked with the Trauma One Air Ambulance Service, hospital dispatch and emergency departments at UF&Shands Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. Watching these systems at work allowed him to better understand current US methods for dispatch and transport of emergent patients.

The International Emergency Medicine Program also provided Dr. Zakariah with training in the sub-specialty of Disaster Medicine, which includes disaster preparedness training, disaster management and development and implementation of community and hospital disaster plans that will be particularly valuable to the Ghana National Ambulance Service.

Additionally, Dr. Zakariah participated in the American College of Emergency Physicians 2010 Scientific Assembly, with access to state of the art trauma and emergency management updates, novel product vendors, and many international colleagues including a meeting of the newly formed African Federation for Emergency Medicine.

Finally, Ghana was invited to host the 2012 AFEM African Congress on Emergency Medicine. Dr. Zakariah will play an important role in coordinating the multiple international stakeholders in this meeting and ongoing developments in Emergency Medicine in Ghana.

Over the course of the residency, it was determined that a critical step would be the introduction of a Protocol Guided Management of all Pre-hospital cases. We will start by developing locally relevant protocols based upon State of Florida EMS protocols for the most frequently treated conditions. We will measure success by surveys of EMTs perceptions of the new protocols, EMS response and waiting times and other relevant indicators. We expect the University of Florida to assist by providing guidance to the smooth implementation of these protocol guidelines and to set up skill laboratories for the training of Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics.

As a result of these shared experiences, we hope that UFCOM-J, Dr. Zakariah, and the Ministry of Health of Ghana can together develop a research program to immediately train and document the efficacy of the work to strengthen the current Ambulance Service. It is equally hoped that a lasting partnership will be in place to continue to bolster Emergency Medicine in Ghana under the instruction of Dr. Zakariah and the Committee in Charge of Emergency Medical Services in Ghana. Based upon the needs of the MOH and ideas from the WARA Residency, the partners can work together to plan projects and exchanges to continue the bi-directional knowledge exchange.

With the knowledge acquired from this project, the people of Ghana will receive improved Ambulance Service transport and ultimately improved hospital care for acute illness and injury. And, as the African Federation of Emergency Medicine develops, Dr. Zakariah, the Ghana Ambulance Service and the MOH will be in a position to offer training and assistance to other African countries seeking to improve their own Emergency Medicine systems including Pre-Hospital Transport.

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Les travaux académiques à l’Université Santa Clara

Dès mon arrivée, j’ai pu visiter l’exposition que les étudiants ont réalisée lors de leur séjour au Burkina Faso. Cette exposition qui donne des photos et des objets (pagnes, livres) de belle facture offre une image positive du Burkina Faso. Cette exposition montre aussi que le modèle de cours en immersion est une bonne initiative pour la rencontre des peuples et pour le partage des connaissances avec les étudiants américains qui découvrent et apprécient des pans de la culture burkinabè.

La seconde phase a consisté à effectuer une séance de travail avec ma collègue Nina Tanti qui s’occupe de la traduction de mon recueil de contes intitulé Contes du pays des Moose. Le travail a été finalisé le 16 avril. Ce travail assurait à la fois les corrections et vérifications rigoureuses des termes et expressions en moore et en français pour s’accorder sur la traduction a donné lieu à la publication du livre au mois de juin avec le lien suivant : Folktales from the Moose of Burkina Faso (2010, author(s)-editor(s) Alain-Joseph Sissao et Nina Tanti.

Un autre volet de mon séjour a consisté à intervenir dans les classes de mes collègues enseignants de l’université Santa Clara. C’est ainsi que j’ai eu une première intervention dans la classe de français de ma collègue Nina Tanti. Elle avait sélectionné un certain nombre de contes de mon recueil (Un investissement fructueux, L’Orpheline, La Sorcière, Une année sans critique) sur lesquels j’ai travaillé avec les étudiants. Les questions des étudiants étaient très pertinentes et ont permis de mettre en exergue les aspects culturels de la culture moogra et partant burkinabè. La vision du monde de la société a beaucoup intéressé les étudiants.

J’ai eu une discussion riche avec les étudiants et étudiantes autour du film burkinabè Wend Kuuni (Le don de Dieu) du cinéaste burkinabè Gaston Kaboré. Ce film qui se situe avant la colonisation montre comment le moogo vivait dans la paix et comment certaines coutumes étaient aussi ancrées dans les esprits comme la sorcellerie. Ce film donne une image idyllique du Moogo dans un univers parfois oscillant entre le bucolique et l’étrangeté. Les étudiants m’ont posé des questions sur la vie des hommes, le mariage, les coutumes, la sorcellerie et les mutations avec le monde moderne. Ces séances ont permis de comprendre les préoccupations des étudiants et étudiantes et leurs besoins intellectuels et culturels. Je me rendais à mon questionnaire.

Un autre volet de mon intervention dans les classes a consisté à faire la présentation du prochain programme dans les classes de français de ma collègue Nina Tanti. Elle avait sélectionné un certain nombre de contes de mon recueil (Un investissement fructueux, L’Orpheline, La Sorcière, Une année sans critique) sur lesquels j’ai travaillé avec les étudiants. Les questions des étudiants étaient très pertinentes et ont permis de mettre en exergue les aspects culturels de la culture moogra et partant burkinabè. La vision du monde de la société a beaucoup intéressé les étudiants.

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Un autre volet de mon intervention dans les classes a consisté à faire la présentation du prochain programme dans les classes de français. C’est ainsi que le jeudi à 13h00, j’ai pu présenter dans la classe de français de ma collègue Jimia le vendredi 23 avril à 11h45 dans la classe de ma collègue Lucile, le programme d’automne de ma collègue Nina Tanti. Elle avait sélectionné un certain nombre de contes de mon recueil (Un investissement fructueux, L’Orpheline, La Sorcière, Une année sans critique) sur lesquels j’ai travaillé avec les étudiants. Les questions des étudiants étaient très pertinentes et ont permis de mettre en exergue les aspects culturels de la culture moogra et partant burkinabè. La vision du monde de la société a beaucoup intéressé les étudiants.

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J’assure un cours de littérature africaine francophone et de littérature africaine en français. Le premier cours est une lecture intensive des romans africains et burkinabè ainsi que des extraits de textes littéraires. Les étudiants font des devoirs sur le contenu des extraits, ils produisent aussi un dossier sur un roman africain ou burkinabè.

J’ai effectué mes recherches bio-bibliographiques dans la bibliothèque de Santa Clara ou j’ai eu accès au fonds du JSTOR. J’ai profité des orientations professionnelles de Madame Hélène Lafrance de la bibliothèque de Santa Clara pour la réalisation de la bibliographie des écrivains et de leur localisation et adresses. Mes recherches m’ont aussi conduit à visiter des sites où j’ai pu consulter les documents des écrivains que je voulais rencontrer.

Contacts scientifiques

J’ai effectué une tournée de terrain à l’intérieur du territoire américain pour rencontrer les écrivains afin de réaliser les interviews. C’est ainsi que j’ai réalisé un voyage pour aller rencontrer l’écrivain Amadou Koné à Washington. J’ai fait une intervention dans sa classe de français à l’Université Georgetown, qui m’a permis de poser des questions sur la littérature africaine, des thématiques sur la culture africaine, la négritude, la tradition africaine, le Burkina Faso, etc. Cette séance a été édifiante pour moi car elle m’a permis de comprendre les préoccupations des étudiants et étudiants et leurs besoins intellectuels et culturels sur l’Afrique. J’ai eu aussi une séance de travail avec le prof. Koné Amadou et j’ai pu réaliser une interview de deux heures avec ma caméra. J’ai eu des contacts téléphoniques à Washington avec Monsieur Mbye Cham qui est Directeur de African Studies à Howard University et Président du conseil d’administration de WARAJ. Il est expert en cinéma et littérature.


Les perspectives

Ce séjour aux Etats Unis avait pour but en particulier, de travailler avec les collègues de l’université de Santa Clara et d’entretenir des interviews avec les écrivains africains francophones. Ces derniers seront publiés sous forme d’un CD et sous forme d’un ouvrage. Ceci permettra d’avoir une perception claire des spécificités de ces écrivains dans le processus de la compréhension de l’apport de ces intellectuels à la culture américaine.

Je tiens à remercier Mme Yanco Jennifer à travers l’organisme WARAJ qui m’a octroyé cette bourse qui m’a permis de réaliser ce travail important. Je tiens à remercier les responsables de l’université...
After Sékou: Youth, Vulnerability, and Possibility in Post-Revolutionary Guinea, 1984-2001


To date, studies of African youth have illuminated relationships between specific forms of youth consciousness and social practice in particular localities and the broader economic and political dynamics of the conjuncture in which they emerged. This synchronic approach is particularly common in work on the post-cold war era, where the objective of most analysts has been to demonstrate that the youths under examination are, quite literally, signs of the times: signs of sprawling urbanization, signs of neoliberal globalization, signs of state dysfunction or failure, or signs of war. Meanwhile, little work on postcolonial Africa has rigorously studied shifts and continuities in local representations and experiences of youth across time. Even less research has addressed differences in youthful struggles unfolding simultaneously in contrasting localities within a given a nation-state or sub-region.

Through its multigenerational and multi-sited perspectives on Guinean youths’ encounters with perils and possibilities emerging across the threshold of the twenty-first century, my second book seeks to overcome some of the historical and geographical limitations of many studies of youth in millennial Africa. In doing so, it argues for a critical reexamination of various interpretive and representational practices that combined to frame late-twentieth and early twenty-first century Africa as a relatively undifferentiated site of “abjection.”

Anchored in the remote southeastern forest town N’Zérékoré, the research undertaken this summer focused on the recording and collaborative analysis of semi-structured interviews with sons and daughters of six “forester” adults whose local coming-of-age narratives featured centrally in my book, *Youth, Nationalism, and the Guinean Revolution*. My long-running acquaintance with each of these families facilitated this process, which yielded oral-historical data critical for the first detailed intergenerational study of Guinean youths’ experiences of education and other fields and facets of state power and transnational influence stretching from the revolutionary era (1958-1984) through the millennial turn.

My preliminary findings indicate that enduring and more recent historical circumstances have made Guinean youths coming of age in the forest region cautious observers and critical analysts of the havoc wrought by neighboring war, the relevance and disenchantments of national belonging, and the enigmatic consequences of globalization. I was fascinated and inspired by the variety and creativity of their commentaries on wide-ranging forms of change, stagnation, fear, frustration, pleasure, and hope marking individual and collective sentiments, mentalities, and practices in and around N’Zérékoré over the last twenty-five years.

Beyond the satisfaction obtained from advancing my research project, I drew immense pleasure and meaning from simply reconnecting with Guineans who thought I would never return. WARA members would be distressed to see how deeply communities of the Guinean interior have suffered from international economic sanctions intended to punish Guinea’s “transitional” military government for its murder or rape of hundreds of peaceful protestors in Conakry in 2009. As a result of these sanctions, the scope of NGO and international aid activities has withered, and provincial citizens—caught in a political impasse whose scale and intensity are beyond their control—are experiencing forms of marginalization and isolation that they thought had forever ended with the demise of Sékou Touré’s revolutionary dictatorship in 1984. My collaborators and other new acquaintances in N’Zérékoré were delighted with the focal concerns of my current project, and excited that Guinea was a country of interest for many American scholars and educators. They would certainly welcome other WARA-supported researchers with equal enthusiasm.

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WARC was pleased to welcome Megan Goins into the WARC family for the summer. Ms. Goins, a graduate student at NYU who is also completing a degree in Library Science at Long Island University, accomplished a great deal during her two-month stay in Dakar as this year’s WARC Library Fellow.

Thanks to Megan, WARC now features a YouTube channel. You can subscribe to WARC’s site at http://www.youtube.com/user/WARDakar to watch clips of our conferences. This is a very valuable resource, as it allows us to make WARC lectures and conferences available to those who can’t be there in person.

In addition, Megan catalogued WARC’s exclusive collection of nearly four-hundred (400) DVD’s in multiple languages. The collection includes African and American films, with a particularly rich selection of African American films. Titles include *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, (Ernest J. Gaines), *Roots* (Alex Haley), *Ceedo* (Ousmane Sembe), *Malcolm X* (Spike Lee), *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Zora Neale Hurston), and many, many others. DVD’s are only viewable onsite.

Megan also worked on our interface with the Digital Library for International Research (DLIR). The DLIR is managed by the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, Illinois. It is an online public access catalog for the holdings of the WARC library, as well as 22 additional global participating libraries of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). You can visit the online catalog at http://dlir.aiys.org/. Click on the ‘Online Catalog’ link on the page and the ‘Dakar Center Library’ from the scroll-tab to view our collections. This is also where you can find ALMA’s collection of e-books. The WARC digital library continues to grow as new materials and received and cataloged.

We are extremely grateful to Megan for her spirit of teamwork and for her willingness to share her skills in the interests of making the WARC Library a more useful and user friendly resource.

**Designing Mobile Solutions: Training Faculty and Students in Senegal**

Africa is the fastest growing market of mobile subscribers in the world and mobile phones are contributing significantly to the economic growth of African countries. But mobile phones need to be equipped in contextual mobile solutions and need to access local content. Thus, designing mobile solutions is a niche to be explored by the talents of the continent. Universities have a mission to prepare their students adequately for this promising field linking technology, business and social change. During the summer two events promoting the field of mobile solutions in Senegal were hosted at WARC.

These trainings were organized by Christelle Scharff of Pace University and Jean-Marie Preira and James Tamgno of the Ecole Superieure Multinationale de Telecommunications (ESMT), Dakar. Opening ceremonies were attended by Ndyea Maimouna Diope Diagne of the Ministry of Telecommunications and ICTs; Mohamadou A. Saibou, the Director General of ESMT; and Dr. Niang, the director of CRI at UCAD. The first training was funded by NCIIA and Neurotech and the second was sponsored by Google.

In early June, more than twenty faculty representing most of the universities in Senegal (ESMT Dakar, UGB St Louis, UCAD Dakar, ESP Dakar, University of Bamby, UHAB Dakar, University of Thies, UDB Dakar, SUPINFO Dakar) and professionals of NGOs (UNICEF) gathered to attend a training on “Mobile Solutions for Social Changes” that covered SMS, mobile web, USIM and client application technologies. The NGO and industry perspectives were provided through invited talks on the impact of SMS and USIM technology in Senegal by experts in the area from Tostan, UNICEF, and Oberthur.

Following on this successful faculty training, a five-day boot camp on the theme “Mobile Solutions for Women and Girls Empowerment” was organized for 21 students (including 14 female students) in late July. Seven teams of students hailing from some of the major universities of Senegal (ESP Dakar, UCAD Dakar, ESMT Dakar and University of Thies) learned about SMS and Java ME client application technologies and applied their knowledge in the design of mobile solutions. Localized solutions targeted women’s health and support for groups of women and working women. Diary Ba, Baba Djombera Tandia, and Mame Seye Fall, graduate students in IT at UCAD, were awarded first place for their application called « Soukeyna » by a distinguished committee composed of faculty of ESP, UCAD, ESMT and a professional of Sonatel. « Soukeyna » is a mobile technology permitting pregnant women access to medical information and follow-up. This was just one of the creative applications developed to take advantage of the wide use of mobile phones.

For more information see http://mobilesenegal.com
In May 2010, thanks to the generous support of a Title VI, U.S. Department of Education grant entitled “Internationalizing the Curriculum for All,” 18 faculty members representing Georgia Southern University’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences enjoyed a two week faculty development seminar in Senegal.

To conduct this seminar, we formed an alliance with the West African Research Center, (WARC). Dr. Ousmane Sene, Director, appointed Mr. Waly Faye, as our in-country program coordinator; together, the two of them treated GSU faculty to an extraordinary experience.

Our trip began with a tour of Gorée Island which put before us the other side of the story of slavery, both its sad history and the magnificence of the Senegalese experience. This tour began a week filled with scholarly lectures in mornings on diverse topics such as politics, education, and Islam in Senegal, followed by afternoon field trips to everything from the National Assembly to the Grand Mosques in Dakar and Touba, to visiting schools that ranged from Koranic to primary and secondary, and to one on one meetings with faculty and administrators at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar and Gaston Berger University in Saint Louis.

After spending a week in Dakar and its environs, the group visited the cities of Saint Louis, Touba, Kaolack, and Toubacouta. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Waly Faye and his assistant Korka Sall, we were able to experience up-close personal aspects of Senegalese society and its people. Visiting the local markets and villages, having the opportunity to meet with students and faculty at the Islamic University of Touba, eating lunch (that’s lunch for 22) in the home of the local guide all exhibited a slice of life that ordinary tourists would never have the opportunity to witness. Ousmane Sene, WARC’s redoubtable director made arrangements for us to stop by his ancestral home in the town of Sokone and treated the group to a musical, dancing greeting, traditional Senegalese Tea, and a meeting with the mayor of this small but vibrant community.

Throughout this journey every evening featured enriching forms of entertainment that ranged from traditional music and dance performances to village wrestling matches at Nemandingue offering not only the sport, but the pageantry, indeed theater, of these athletic events. And, no visit to Africa is complete without encounters with nature; we enjoyed two phenomenal sites, one the Bird Sanctuary of Djoudj and the other through the mangrove that surrounds Toubacouta. The tour of the mangrove continued with a visit to a small fishing village. This incredible day culminated with a picnic lunch on Sippo beach and a stirring lecture from Dr. Sene on his own research on the poetry of Leopold Sedar Senghor.

There was no point in time during this Seminar when we were not engaged, learning something more about a world that few of us had ever experienced. There are not enough words in any language to properly recognize and acknowledge the hard work, time and energy that Dr. Sene, Waly Faye, and their support staff put into making certain that our visit was memorable, successful, and indeed magnificent. The hardest part of this trip was absorbing the never ending days filled with activities that opened new intellectual horizons and personal development with each passing moment. At the end of the journey, everyone needed a vacation to rest and reflect. Over the course of the near future, through further reflection, I am confident that each participant will better understand and develop further as internationalized thinkers and scholars.

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Professor of History
Georgia Southern University
The 2010 WARA Fulbright –Hays Seminar Abroad took place again this year in Senegal. Directed by Professors Mbye Cham of Howard University and Samba Gadjigo of Mount Holyoke College, the program took 16 US teachers to various parts of Senegal for a rich four-week program of lectures, field visits, films, and discussion. Professor Ousmane Sene, Director of WARC, served as resident director. Program support staff included Mame Coumba NDOYE, Mariane Yade, and Elana Anderson.

Following a similar program to that of last year’s Seminar for college and university faculty, this year’s program was adapted to the needs of secondary educators and in response to feedback from last year’s program. Having two directors, both of whom are film scholars, was a real plus, allowing the incorporation of film throughout the program. The program began with a week of orientation activities which included lectures on various aspects of Senegal and West Africa (history; Dr. Penda Mbow and Boubacar Barry; politics and culture; Dr. Fatou Sow Sarr; gender issues, religion, and the arts: Colle Ardo Sow); viewing of films (Ben D. Beye and Alassane Diago); and and visits to selected cultural and historical sites such as Gorée Island, IFAN, UCAD, art studios, Ngor Island, and the new Monument de la Renaissance Africaine.

In addition to a rich program of lectures and activities in Dakar over the course of the four weeks, the group also had the opportunity to travel to Diourbel, Touba, and Saint Louis to the north; and to the Saloum Delta to the south.

During the final week of the seminar, participants worked on the research and writing of their individual projects. Each made a 15 minute presentation of his or her project to the group, followed by discussion and feedback. The program concluded with a day outing to a beach resort, a farewell dinner, a musical evening and a moving exchange of kind words and gifts.

From both directors’ and participants’ perspectives, this four-week program was a wonderful opportunity for cultural immersion, personal growth, and human exchange at the highest level. As directors, we felt blessed with an amazing group of very generous and open-minded individuals. We went as seminar participants and ended up as a family of scholars and most of all, as sisters and brothers all united by our love and commitment to Africa.

*Mbye Cham and Samba Gadjigo*  
2010 Seminar Directors

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**WARA Member Publications**

We have compiled a list of recent scholarly publication of our members. Names of WARA Members are in bold.

**Articles in Scholarly Journals**

http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0001873201000087-2.


Books/Book Chapters/Edited Books


Grants
Leonardo A. Villalón and Daniel A. Smith, University of Florida, have received a $650,000 two year grant from the US Department of State Division of Educational and Cultural Affair’s “Trans-Saharan Professionals Program” to conduct a series of seminars and exchanges on the issues of elections, and involving scholars and practitioners from the US as well as six Francophone Sahelian countries: Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Chad.
CAORC Multi-Country Research Fellowship
Accepting Applications from Master’s Students!!
Deadline: Wednesday, January 12, 2011

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Multi-Country Fellowship Program supports advanced regional or trans-regional research in the humanities, social sciences, or allied natural sciences for U.S. doctoral candidates, scholars who have already earned their Ph.D., and students enrolled in Master’s Degree programs. Preference will be given to candidates examining comparative and/or cross-regional research. Applicants are eligible to apply as individuals or in teams.

Approximately ten awards of up to $12,000 each will be given in the doctoral candidate/post-doctoral scholar competition. Approximately four awards of up to $8,000 each will be given in the Master’s student competition. Scholars must carry out research in two or more countries outside the United States, at least one of which hosts a participating American overseas research center. Given changing travel restrictions and/or security warnings to many countries, applicants should contact CAORC before preparing a proposal.

For details and application, please see:
http://www.caorc.org/programs/multi.htm
CAORC fellowships for multi-country research are funded by a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Grants to West Africa

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program offers several awards for teaching and/or research opportunities in West Africa. Past grants have been awarded in the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. or an equivalent terminal degree, as well as a significant amount of teaching and research experience. Scholars proficient in French of all disciplines are encouraged to apply. African citizens interested in applying for a grant for research opportunities in the United States should contact the U.S. Embassy in their home country.

Information on award opportunities for the 2012-2013 academic year will be posted on IIE’s Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) website in February 2011. The address is www.iie.org/cies.

Interested candidates may also subscribe to the Fulbright Scholar News to keep up to date with grant developments. For more information on grants in Sub-Saharan Africa, contact Kari Miller at kmiller@iie.org or Joseph Monthey at jmonthey@iie.org. You may also call 202-686-4027.

WARA Launches new Journal (continued from page 1)

IUP/J: Why is it important to include analysis of creative approaches such as film and media in your discussion?

BAH: We live in a digital age, and the regular inclusion of such materials in ACPR is a way to engage people of diverse backgrounds and generations. The more people and perspectives we invite into the debate, the better the debate. Creative approaches can be very useful tools for teaching, and ACPR will provide instructors with quality materials to which students can easily relate.

IUP/J: Talk about your goal to stimulate quality public discourse about African conflict and resolution.

BAH: Our goal is to make quality scholarship and policy reflections widely available. It is important to include the works of people who live and work in Africa in this discourse. ACPR will meet high quality academic standards and encourage a discourse that includes wide-ranging perspectives and backgrounds. One of our major objectives is to provide a high quality forum where scholarship and policy debates interact.

IUP/J: Why is it important that ACPR be available to African individuals and institutions?

BAH: ACPR is, first and foremost, about the African condition. Africans, especially those in Africa, have a stake in the mission of the journal. They should also have a voice in it. One thing that excites me the most is the possibility of promoting discourse among scholars and policy makers in Africa.

IUP/J: How will you guarantee that African voices will be included in the journal?

BAH: ACPR will make sure that scholars and practitioners across Africa are aware of the opportunities in ACPR. The editors of ACPR have extensive networks across Africa. Most importantly, the West African Research Association and the Africa Peace and Conflict Network, which are the sponsors of ACPR, have been working with African scholars and practitioners for a long time. ACPR will tap into their resources.

WARA Board member Abu Bakarr Bah, Editor in Chief of African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review, is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Northern Illinois University. His research focuses on issues of democracy, nation building, ethnicity, and the peace-making and peace-building role of the international community. He has a PhD from the New School for Social Research.
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The West African Research Association is a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) based at the Smithsonian Institution. WARA is the only Sub-Saharan African member of CAORC. More information on CAORC is available at the following website: www.caorc.org.