In this article, Ali-Dinar looks at the involvement of neighbor states, regional, and international organizations in the ongoing crisis in Darfur, Sudan. In our next issue, we will feature commentary on the impact of this conflict in West Africa.

The current conflict in Darfur has effects that go far beyond Sudan’s borders—through the spread of violence and rebellion, the influx of refugees and displaced persons, financial and political responsibilities for containing the conflict, and polarization of states within the region. In this article, I briefly look at the involvement of neighboring countries and international organizations, their interests and actions.

The Chadian Connection
The politics of Sudan and Chad are so thickly intertwined that it is difficult to speak of them as distinct polities. Darfur shares political borders with Chad, and some groups—both “Arabs” and “Africans”—have kin on both sides of the border. Since the early 1980s, Sudan and Libya have had direct and indirect roles in Chadian domestic affairs, opening both Darfur and Chad to floods of arms, waves of refugees and armed rebel groups, and a spreading culture of violence. The conflict itself goes back at least to the early 1990s, when banditry, lack of security, government intimidation, and ethnic conflicts were on the rise in a region that had been politically and economically marginalized by the central government.

When the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A, formerly the Darfur Liberation Front) announced its existence in early 2003, the government of Sudan (GoS) suspected that Chad was the main backer of the rebellion. But in February 2003, in a meeting between Sudanese president Bashir and Chadian president Deby that took place in Darfur, Deby denounced the rebellion and maintained that Chad had no role in providing support for SLM/A. Both presidents agreed on the necessity of eliminating all armed bandits and armed groups in the border areas, and Bashir declared that force would be used in crushing the rebellion.

While Chad’s impartiality as regards Sudan’s domestic affairs has been called into question by some of the main Darfur rebel groups, the GoS has in turn been implicated in power struggles within Chad. Darfur has served both as a route for transporting arms and as a refuge for Chadian armed groups. Following a failed coup d’état by the Chadian opposition inside N’Djamena in March 2006, Chad accused Sudan of masterminding an invasion and consequently severed its diplomatic ties with Khartoum, only reinstating them in July 2006.

The first diplomatic attempt to contain the Darfur conflict took place in Abéché, Chad in late August 2003 and was mediated by President Deby. These peace talks between GoS and SLM/A resulted in both parties signing a 45-day ceasefire agreement that allowed humanitarian access to affected areas. The second meeting, in June 2004 in N’Djamena, paved the way for a ceasefire between GoS and the Darfur armed opposition groups. This second mediation, which was initiated by Chad, can be seen within the context of Chad’s own worries about the ramifications of continuous conflict close to its own borders.

The Libyan Connection
Libya has also had a long history of meddling in Chadian affairs, and shipments of arms from Libya to Chad have passed through Darfur, which has been the battle ground for various Chadian rebel leaders: Hussein Habré, Idris Deby, and Ibn Omar. Arms shipments that found their way into Darfur constituted the base for militarizing ethnic con-
West African Research Association Newsletter

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An Acknowledgement
WARA would like to acknowledge The Payroll Company of Milford, Massachusetts for providing pro-bono professional services. We are grateful for their generosity and encourage WARA members seeking payroll services to contact them.

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News from the WARA Headquarters

Letter from WARA’s Outgoing President

It is a pleasure to welcome our new WARA President, Maria Grosz-Ngaté. In February, a WARA nominating committee composed of myself, past-president Leonardo Villalon, and Board Member Gracia Clark began the search for a nominee for this position. We successfully recruited Dr. Grosz-Ngaté, who has experience both as a researcher in West Africa and, in her role as Associate Director of the African Studies Program at Indiana University, as an administrator of a Title VI African Studies Center. Our nomination was submitted to the WARA Board for approval by majority vote. The votes were submitted by email and collated by WARA Vice-President James Essegbey in July, and the positive outcome was announced at the end of July. Dr. Grosz-Ngaté took over responsibilities as president on Aug. 15.

We welcome her and wish her the best in this new role.

During my year as President, we accomplished a lot. Several initiatives that I prioritized have borne fruit, thanks to the cooperation of WARC Director Ousmane Sene and WARA Director Jennifer Yanco: we have established a WARA-grantee researchers lecture series and “mini-lecture series” at WARC, restructured some WARC staff positions and raised salaries for key personnel, established more permanent reporting requirements at WARC, contracted to secure regular legal counsel for WARC, created the WARC Fellows program, housed the CREPOS research center (Centre de Recherches sur les Politiques Sociales, headed by Momar Coumba Diop) at WARC, raised the WARA director’s salary and improved the benefits attached to the position, and created a series of new WARA Board Committees that are up and running (including personnel, nominations, and WARA library committees).

I am a Founding Member of WARA (1988) and was a Board Member for much of the 1990s and in 2000-1, WARA Treasurer (2001-2005), and then President in 2005-2006. In my role as Past President, I will remain a member of the Board of Directors. Thanks to all of you who have helped in WARA endeavors, and who have contributed to this organization over time.

Catherine Boone
Outgoing WARA President
Professor, University of Texas at Austin

Letter from WARA’s Incoming President

I have been a WARA member for many years and am honored to follow Catherine Boone as President of WARA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her, her predecessors, the successive officers and members of the Board and, not least, the WARA and WARC Directors for making WARA into the vibrant organization it is today. Catherine Boone and WARA US Director Jennifer Yanco have generously shared their knowledge in long phone conversations and e-mails to bring me up to speed and allow me to make informed decisions. Sandra Greene has given me the Treasurer’s perspective and shared her experience of leading the successful 2005 Summer Institute. Thank you all. In carrying out the duties of the presidency I am also aided by my recent experience of serving on the African Studies Association’s Board of Directors (2002-2005) and my work here at Indiana University.

In the short time since assuming office I have come to appreciate the dedication of US Director Yanco and WARC Director Ousmane Sène and his staff. It is their day-to-day hard work that ensures the smooth functioning of WARA and WARC and the achievement of WARA goals. I expect to work closely with them in building on past accomplishments and reaching for new horizons. Among other things, I hope to strengthen and expand WARC’s activities, identify ways of working more closely with WARA institutional members, collaborate with regional sister associations (MANSA, Ghana Studies Council, etc.), and develop cooperation between WARA/WARC and West African institutions outside of Senegal. The realization of these initiatives requires the insights and contributions of the WARA Board and the members at large. I look forward to working with all of you.

My final thanks go to the members of WARA whose financial support is crucial to the life of the association. We count on your continued support as we strengthen and expand WARA / WARC activities. I hope to see many of you in San Francisco and to hear your suggestions.

Maria Grosz-Ngaté
WARA President
Associate Director, African Studies Program
Indiana University-Bloomington
From WARA’s US Director

I would like to begin by welcoming our new WARA board president, Maria Grosz-Ngaté, of Indiana University; and by personally thanking our outgoing board president, Catherine Boone, for her tireless work on behalf of WARA.

This has been a busy six months; in June, I had the honor of representing WARA/WARC at the CAORC Directors meeting at the Center for Khmer Studies, in Siem Reap, Cambodia. This was an opportunity to connect with colleagues from other centers, to learn about the challenges they face and the solutions they have found, and to explore possibilities for joint initiatives. This has also been a very active period for our grantees. In the spring, Indiana University and the University of North Florida hosted West African colleagues at their institutions as part of the WARA Residency Program. This summer, six WARA grantees have been in the field; a number of them have submitted reports that are featured in this newsletter. Also during the summer, three Travel Grantees presented their work at professional meetings—one at the 20th World Congress of the International Political Science Association, another at the 11th Annual Congress of Parasitology, and another at 6th European Symposium on Biochemical Engineering Science. I think we can all feel quite proud to have been able to play a role in supporting such excellent researchers in their work. The deadline for our next round of WARA fellowship applications is December 1, and we especially encourage WARA members to apply.

This fall we are inaugurating the WARC Fellows Program, which will provide for three UCAD doctoral candidates to be in residence at WARC for the academic year. This initiative, spearheaded by our outgoing president, Catherine Boone, is another way that WARA contributes to the development of Africanist scholarship in the region. In July, I made a two-week visit to WARC. I had not been there since December 2004, and I was quite impressed with the energy among staff, the improvements in the physical plant, and the many activities that were taking place or in the planning—some of which you can read about in this issue. I would like to commend Ousmane Sène, Abdoulaye Niang, and the entire WARC staff for the fine job they are doing in making WARC such a vibrant center. I urge you all to visit and see for yourselves!

Of course, none of this would be possible were it not for the generous support of our two major funders: the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and the U.S. Department of Education. In closing, I’d like to encourage all of you to get involved—by proposing WARA-sponsored panels for the ASA and other professional meetings, submitting brief reports on your research, book reviews, or other material for the newsletter, or volunteering to serve on a WARA committee.

I look forward to seeing many of you at this year’s ASA.

Jennifer Yanco,
WARA US Director

WARA at ASA 2006

Membership meeting: We will be holding our annual membership meeting on Saturday evening and urge everyone to come. We will have updates on WARA and WARC’s activities, reports from grantees, and want to hear from you with your ideas for how WARA can better fulfill its mission. Please consult the program for details on the room and exact times.

This year, WARA is sponsoring two panels.

The first is on Thursday at 3:00 pm and is chaired by Jeanne Maddox Toungara of Howard University

Challenges to Democracy in West Africa
- Jeanne Maddox Toungara, Howard U, Reversing Multiparty Antagonism in Cote d’Ivoire
- Thomas Kelley, UNC-Chapel Hill, Contemporary Slavery as an Impediment to Democracy in Niger
- Ngozi Ojiakor, A Case Study of Nigeria: Nigerian Democratic Experience
- Jose Garcia-Rojas, U de La Laguna, From Revolution to Evolution: The Democratic Experiments of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau

The second is scheduled for Saturday at 9:00 am and is chaired by Leigh Swigart of Brandeis University

Justice in Africa: Legal and Cultural Considerations
- Leigh Swigart, Brandeis U, Justice in Africa: Balancing International Norms and Local Notions
- Lyn Graybill, Georgia Institute of Technology, Religion and Reconciliation in Sierra Leone
- Lars Waldorf, The New School, Comparing Rwandan Genocide Narratives in Local and International Tribunal
- Linda Carter, U of the Pacific, The Interrelationship of Local, National, and International Responses in Rwanda
- Omar Dajani, U of the Pacific, Legal Responses to Ethnic Differences: Rwanda and Burundi
- Tim Allen, London School of Economics, Justice and Healing
With the major activities and events scheduled at the West African Research Center in the course of the current fall semester, it can be safely said that WARC is continuing along its path of growth as a key center of intellectual activity. Indeed, the Center has been contacted several times for collaboration and cooperation on a number of major events by such institutions as University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), the French Colonial Historical Society, the Mouvement Citoyen, and others.

In October, WARA and WARC will be organizing an international seminar on the Current Dynamics of Islam in West Africa, which will bring together eminent scholars of Islam from West Africa, the United States, and Europe for a week of discussions. This seminar will further consolidate WARC’s contribution to the development of the culture of peace through dialogue. Our critical role in the success of major international gatherings such as the Judicial Colloquium and the conference on Colonialism and Identity has definitely established the Center as a major partner to be relied on. WARC’s Lecture Series was beautifully wrapped up at the end of August with an outstanding presentation from Professor Tariq Ramadan. The WARC film series, “Les vendredis cinematographiques du WARC” launched this year in collaboration with Fulbright Professor Kenneth Harrow, was very successful and plans have already been made to continue the series in 2006-2007.

This year, researchers affiliated with WARC conducted their activities in an entirely refurbished section in the library where the overall atmosphere of quiet, peace and comfort is congenial to serious work. They also presented seminars that were well attended by knowledgeable specialists from the University and other institutions. The Travel Grant Program will be complemented this year by the WARC Fellows Program. This will provide three advanced graduate students from UCAD with a monthly stipend and office space at WARC. The Program has been warmly commended by university officials, particularly the Rector, who was instrumental in launching this collaborative effort. A selection committee is now reviewing the applications for this program.

While substantial ground has been covered in our joint efforts to make of WARC a Research Center to be reckoned with, there are still some challenges to take up and some major efforts to make. Disruptive power outages have been lately compromising work and productivity at the Center and this situation is not likely to fade away anytime soon. We are pleased to report that a backup generator is being procured which will have the capacity to keep administrative offices operating during power outages. At the same time, as increasing numbers of graduate students, researchers, and other scholars use the center, and as more and more research is dependent on Internet access, our computer capacity has fallen behind and we need to purchase new computers to replace older ones and those that are simply not working any longer.

The Director would like to conclude by thanking the respective boards of WARA and AROA and the WARA Director for their unstinting and unrelenting support.

Ousmane Sène
Director, West African Research Center


L’animation culturelle et académique a été également assurée avec brio par la Direction du WARC/CROA autour de thèmes au cœur de la présence de l’Afrique dans la mondialisation. Conférences et tables rondes ont été animées par des experts qui ont réussi à chaque fois à porter le débat à un niveau académique remarquable. La cadence forte et la régularité remarquable des manifestations académiques et culturelles ont permis d’impliquer dans la vie du Centre et de l’Association un large public.

Ousmane Sène
Président AROA

L’AROA a géré avec équité le dossier des bourses de voyage d’études(travel grants) par l’étude de plus de 70 dossiers classés selon des critères académiques modérés par les équilibres de genre, de nationalité, de langue. Nous espérons que le Resident Fellowship initié cette année connaîtra le même succès mais contribuera surtout au renforcement des services offerts par l’AROA et le WARC/CROA à la recherche sous-régionale. Nous avons amélioré la gestion de nos finances et l’AG a pu largement discuter de la stratégie de renforcement de ce secteur qui, jusque là, a constitué une des faiblesses majeures de notre organisation. Nous avons pu renforcer et élargir la coopération avec les directions du Rectorat de l’UCAD et avec la faculté des lettres et sciences humaines et celle des sciences juridiques et politiques (French Colonial Historical Society et Séminaire de Droit).

Les efforts sont à poursuivre dans la politique de délocalisation des activités tel que initiée par le BBF ou dans le domaine de la formation (Séminaire de Accra - Ghana), en visant l’ensemble de la sous-région ouest africaine.

Ibrahima Thioub
Président AROA
WARC News

Colonialization and Culture in the French Empire

The French Colonial Historical Society, a learned body encouraging interest in the scholarly study of all French colonizing activity and in the history of all French colonies, held its 32nd Conference in Dakar, from May 17-20. The conference, entitled “Colonialization and Culture in the French Empire”, was attended by over a hundred specialists hailing from various universities and research centers around the world, including the United States, Europe and West Africa.

The opening reception hosted by the Office of the President of University of Cheikh Anta Diop, was attended by the president of the Society, Professor Duplessis (Swarthmore College), the University of Cheikh Anta Diop Vice-Rector, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, and the Chair of the Department of History. WARC was instrumental in organizing the event, hosting both the business meeting and a reception for participants and officials, including the newly appointed ambassador of the United States to Senegal, Her Excellency, Janice L. Jacobs. The WARC Director gave a presentation on the Senegalese poet Leopold Sedar Senghor and chaired a number of panels. Many officers of l’Association de Recherche Ouest Africain (AROA), including its president, Professor Ibrahima Thioub, and Secretary General, Dr Ibrahima Seck, were among the panelists. The Center and its staff, led by Abdoulaye Niang, were acknowledged for their work in providing a congenial venue for intellectual, cultural and research events in Dakar and West Africa.

Ousmane Sène
Director, West African Research Center; Dakar

Battling Siki: A Tale of Ring Fixes, Race and Murder in the 1920s

On August 21, WARC hosted a book signing by Professor Peter Benson (Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey). His new book, Battling Siki, is about the Senegalese boxing champion of the 20’s, Louis Mbarek Fall, better known under the name of “Battling Siki.”

In his presentation, Professor Benson explained that his reason for writing the book was to do justice to a man who was seriously misrepresented in the many newspaper stories and books written about him. He said that bigotry, cultural differences and the need to preserve white supremacy in the twenties made many people in Europe and the States see in Siki the “singular Senegalese” with packs of muscles and no brains.

The presentation was chaired by the President of the Senegalese Boxing Federation, Professor Lamine Ndiaye and attended by former boxers, sportsmen, students, academics from the National Institute for Sports (INSEPS), and reporters. In total, WARC welcomed 64 people on that day.

In an effort to decentralize its activities, WARC joined with University Gaston Berger of Saint Louis and the Saint Louis City Council to host the same event in Battling Siki’s hometown, Saint Louis, on Aug 24. The WARC Director drove to Saint Louis to organise the event, which was chaired by the dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Letters, Professor Baydallaye Kane. The Saint Louis presentation was attended by 13 people including the grand-son of the Senegalese boxing champion, Battling Siki, and other members of his family.


He has served as a visiting Fulbright Professor at both Kenyatta University in Kenya and University Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal.
Democracy and Islam: A Lecture by Professor Tariq Ramadan

On August 31, the West African Research Center (WARC), the NGO “Mouvement Citoyen,” and the Senegalese Association of Muslim Students (AEEMS) jointly hosted a lecture by the Islamic scholar, Professor Tariq Ramadan, known for his work on Muslims in the western world.

Professor Ramadan discussed the basic and founding principles of Islam which, he maintained, are quite amenable to democracy. His knowledgeable exegesis of these principles contributed to his argument that the political principles embedded in Islam are no different from those couched in Rousseau’s “Social Contract,” for instance.

In addressing the current conflicts besetting the world and the forces behind them, he pointed to humankind’s sheer inability - or refusal - to understand and accept each other, in our variegated similarities and differences. He classified these types as fundamentalism and advocated, as a solution, the accommodation of difference and recognition of every human being’s right to shape their lives on the basis of their own religious, cultural and social values.

The lecture was followed by a press conference covered by several Senegalese print and electronic media. There was also a book exhibit which drew a substantial crowd. The lecture attracted about hundred and twenty (120) people, including academics, members of the diplomatic community, and the larger public. Attending from the US Embassy’s political section were Rachel Wallace, El Hadj Sarr.

WARC Summer Intern Explores Human Rights Issues

As one of six undergraduate students from Brandeis University who received the 2006 Ethics Center Student Fellowship, I had the opportunity to intern at a non-government organization (NGO) in any country in the world over the summer. It was through this fellowship that I chose the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal to be my residence from late May to early August 2006.

With WARC Assistant Director, Abdoulaye Niang, as my site supervisor, and Brandeis’ Marci McPhee and Leigh Swigart as well as WARA as my support and guidance from back home, my primary responsibility at WARC was to support the Know Your Rights! project. In an effort to reach West African populations with information on human rights, the project will collect, assess, and distribute written materials concerning human rights in West African languages, from Wolof to Bambara.

The project’s goals include the creation of African language translations of charters and other legal human rights documents, and of a digital database of these documents. These then can be made available to schools, organizations, and other institutions that make direct connections with civil society. My role in Know Your Rights! was to do preliminary background research on the women’s rights scene in Senegal: what activities were already being initiated, what publications were available to other NGOs and to the general public and in what languages, what was the degree of networking between NGOs, and so on. Most importantly, my question became to what extent and how does the legislation and official discourse pertaining to the women of Senegal actually reach the homes and daily lives of individuals of the civil society? I conducted my research through a series of informal interviews with directors and/or members of organizations that advocated for the promotion of the Senegalese woman, including such groups as Tostan, Reseau Sigil Jigeen, La Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l’Homme (RADDHO), l’Association Nationale pour l’alphabétisation et la formation adultes (ANAF), and a tontine women’s group in St. Louis. In addition, I had the opportunity to hold discussions with a number of university professors and other scholars who have worked on or studied issues related to women’s rights from various angles. Between interviews with organizations, I assisted the permanent staff at WARC with activities ranging from updating the website to cataloguing new books for the WARC library.

My work at WARC was aimed at improving access to information, be it through working to expand the WARC library cataloging system or inviting people to speak about the more sensitive issues of women’s rights in Senegal.

Dana J. Sawitz
Department of Anthropology
Brandeis University
Les Vendredis Cinématographiques du WARC

This spring, the West African Research Center (WARC) teamed up with Fulbright Professor Kenneth Harrow (Michigan State University), noted scholar of African cinema, to organize a series of film screenings.

The series featured African American and African films and included such classics as *La Petite Vendeuse du Soleil* (Senegal), *Imitation of Life* (US), and *Yaaba* (Mali).

The series began in March and continued into July, with screenings taking place on Friday afternoons at WARC. These were accompanied by commentaries by Professor Harrow and followed by lively discussions.

This series brought together a range of people from both the local and expatriate communities to share in the screenings and discussions.

Professor Harrow, who specializes in African literature and cinema, Caribbean literature, Third World cinema, and postcolonial and feminist theory, is the author of several works on African cinema, including *African Cinema: Postcolonial and Feminist Readings* (2000).

CREPOS Project Settles into WARC Office

In May, the Center for Research on Social Policies (CREPOS) took up residence at WARC. CREPOS is an independent research organization that was created by teachers and researchers who are committed to contributing, in a sustainable way, to the production and renewal of knowledge about Senegal and the West African region. Spearheaded by Professor Momar Coumba Diop, CREPOS grew out of the collaborative research project, Senegal 2000.

CREPOS’ principal objectives are:

- To promote research at a very high level, in particular by generating a better understanding of the socio-economic dynamics set in motion by structural adjustment policies and political liberalization;
- To gather and analyze data relating to social policy in Senegal and in the subregion in order to assess the equity and effectiveness of these policies;
- To renew reflection on long-term development perspectives, and to give researchers the tools that are essential for understanding current problems and solving them in ways that benefit the majority.

WARC is pleased to partner with CREPOS in pursuing these objectives.

Together with WARC, CREPOS offers regular seminars on research methodologies to junior researchers in Dakar. These are supervised by Professor Ibrahima Thioub, AROA President and chair of the Department of History, UCAD. A list of CREPOS seminars can be found on the WARC website www.warc-croa.org.
The Legacy of John Steinbeck

As a recipient of a WARA travel grant, I undertook a study trip of two weeks to “Steinbeck Country” in California. This trip offered me an opportunity of a lifetime to acquaint myself with and broaden my knowledge of Steinbeck’s works. As specified in my proposal to WARA, I conducted visits to places of significance to Steinbeck scholarship and to Steinbeck’s life, including San Jose, Monterey and Salinas, on the marvellous Pacific Coast. I also met with renowned Steinbeck scholars and institutions that proved to be of great benefit to my research work. Notable amongst the personalities I had discussions with was Dr. Susan Shillinglaw, a prolific Steinbeck scholar and a key organizer of the John Steinbeck festival, based at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas.

On my first day at the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, the two librarians, Satoz Tes & Jennifer Uchiyama, presented the main displays to me. The Center houses items from Cannery Row, such as signs from the canneries and items belonging to the biographical characters in Steinbeck’s book, Cannery Row. This sight brought to mind the statement “John Steinbeck is a realistic novelist who tells it the way it is.” What I was seeing in the Center highlighted the realism of John Steinbeck’s fiction and by extension the postulate underlying the fundamental characterization of Cannery Row: “Cannery Row in Monterey in California is poem, a stink, a grating noise, a quality of light, a habit, a nostalgia, a dream”. This experience was a wonderful beginning for my research; it presented an array of opportunities to critically dissect my research focus, “John Steinbeck’s Quest for Universal Interest.”

The San Jose stage of my travels further enriched my experience, exposure, and research. Dr. Paul Douglass, the interim director of the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies, offered me all the novels by Steinbeck. I met with Dr. Steven Millner, the Head of the African-American Studies Department, who offered to explore some collaboration prospects with the Senegalese designated institutions in the future. Finally, my stopover at Steinbeck’s birthplace in Salinas and his old haunts in Monterey enlivened my experience and deepened my understanding of his works.

The scholarly trip I undertook greatly helped me conduct extensive research on John Steinbeck. This, at the same time, constituted a good start for my academic endeavors and career prospects. In that regard, I am indebted and grateful to WARA. It plays a laudable role for the benefit of Africans and the African Diaspora.

I commend WARA and WARC for their dedicated, professionally organized staff. Certain individuals made an enormous difference on my behalf, and they deserve mention. I commend Dr. Jennifer J. Yanco, of the Boston-based WARA, for having rapidly sent the required documentation for the visa application; Dr. Ousmane Sène, Executive Director of the WARC, for his most useful research-focused orientations; Mr. John Sedlins, for assisting me to conform to the established legal procedures; and Mr. Abdoulaye Niang, the WARC Finance Officer, for having provided timely administrative assistance.

Souleymane Diouf, WARC Travel Grantee
Université Cheikh Anta Diop
Dakar, Senegal

Genetic Relationship between Basella alba and Basella rubra

I received a WARC Travel Grant to attend the Plant and Animal Genome Conference in San Diego, CA from January 14 to 18, 2006. I sincerely thank WARC for giving me the opportunity to attend the meeting. Basella rubra (pink) and Basella alba (green) are underutilized plants with great potential. In Nigeria, the leaves are consumed in stew and soup. In Suriname, the leaves and young stems are used in salads or steamed with tofu and ginger. The fruit contains a red dye that has been used for official seals. The dye stems are used in salads or steamed with tofu and ginger. The fruit is consumed in stew and soup. In Suriname, the leaves are underutilized plants with great potential.

Random amplified polymorphic DNA was employed to examine genetic diversity between Basella alba and Basella rubra. The striking morphological difference between B. alba and B. rubra is the color of the edges of the leaves and the stem. Amplified DNA fragments were scored for the presence or absence of RAPD fragments. Variation within and among the species in RAPD fragments was evident for all the six lines using the OP-HO2 primer. Young leaf samples were harvested from one plant of each type for DNA extraction and analysis and kept in -20°C. Additional leaves were collected and placed in bags stored in -80°C freezer for future use.

DNA Extraction
DNA Extraction was done according to the CTAB method (1983) with some modifications. 0.2g of plant tissue was ground into powder using in liquid Nitrogen. Ground tissue was suspended in 800ul of 2x CTAB Buffer (50mM Tris pH8.0, 0.7 Um Nacl, 10mM EDTA: 2% Hexadecyltri- methylammonium bromide; 0.1% 2 mercapto ethanol and incubated at 65°C for 15 minutes). DNA was purified by two extractions of Chloroform Isoamyl alcohol (24:1) and precipitated with – 20°C Absolute alcohol. After washing with 70% ethanol, the DNA was dried and resuspended in 50ul sterile milliq water. DNA concentration was measured using a DU- 65UV

Steinbeck Center in Salinas.

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Spectrophotometer. To check the integrity of the DNA, the sample were electrophoresed in 1% agarose using 1.0XTAE (45mM Tris Acetate, ImMEDTA, pH8) as running buffer.

Amplification reaction was carried out in 20ul. reaction volume containing 40ng of DNA, 100Um each of deoxynucleoside triphosphates (dATP, dCTP, dGTP and dTTP) 2.0mM MgCl2, 10mMTris – HCl (pH8.3), 50mM Kcl, 0.4um of one Oligonucleotide decamer primer (operon Technologies Inc, Alameda, CA USA) and two units of Taq DNA polymerase.

Reactions were performed in a thermocycler model MJR programmed for 1 cycle at 940 C for 3 minutes followed by of 94oc for 0.20 minutes, 370C for 0.40 minutes, and 720 C for 1 minute. After 45 cycles, the samples were held at 720C for 5 minutes (final extension step) and then stored at 4 0 C until they were electrophosed – refrigerated. Amplification products were separated on 1.4% agarose gels using 1xTAE buffer 45mM Tris – acetate, 0.1mMEDTA, Ph8.0 stained with Ethiodium bromide (10ug/ml) and photographed under UV light with Polaroid film type 667. Fragments that were clearly resolved on the gels were scored as 1 or 0 (i.e., present or absent respectively) across all the six accessions. Bands that could not be confidently scored were regarded as missing data. A dendrogram was generated which grouped the accessions and species on the basis of Nei genetic distance (Nei, 1972).

Dendrogram

A dendrogram of the 40 lines was constructed by the Unweighted Paired Group Method Using Arithmetic Averages (UPGMA) on the basis of the genetic similarity and Jaccard, s Coefficient. The population clustering exhibits two main clusters when truncated at 75% similarity level coefficient.

Three samples were outside the clusters. Sample E and F are Basella rubra with green leaves and stems distinguish themselves from others at 50 % similarity with Sample A which has a pink stem. Cluster 1, consisting of two samples (B and C), had a pink stem with resemblance at an 80% similarity level. Results showed that sample A, D, E and F were genetically different because they were grouped differently in the cluster at 75%. This is an indication that they have peculiar traits.

Dr. Olagorite Adetula at the conference

Minerals, Metals, Materials

The initial funding for this trip was through a WARC Travel Grant for the purpose of attending the TMS conference. Further funds, allowing me to spend a few weeks doing a short-term research project at the laboratories of the Institute of Materials Processing, Michigan Technology University, were provided by the University of the Witwatersrand, where I am a doctoral student. On my way back to Johannesburg, I stopped over in Senegal to present a seminar paper at WARC.

135th TMS Annual Meeting & Exhibition

The 135th TMS Annual Meeting & Exhibition took place in San Antonio, Texas, between March 12 and 16, 2006. The conference was organized by the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS) and focused on the exchange of technical information, networking with others in various fields of metallurgical and materials engineering, and determination of the society’s future initiatives. The conference consisted of 244 sessions with a total of 1843 papers presented. I had both an oral and poster presentation on aspects of my PhD research. The respective titles of the two presentations are: “Applied mineralogical studies of Nigerian bulk complex sulphide ore” and “Electrochemical studies of the influence of ore mineralogy on the bioleaching of complex sulphide ores.” The oral presentation appeared in a peer reviewed conference proceedings (a copy has been submitted to WARC), while the poster presentation was part of a student contest. I received the award for the Best Graduate Poster in the Extraction and Processing Division of TMS.

Research Visit to Michigan Technological University

Between March 20 and April 10, I made a short research visit to the laboratories of the Institute of Materials Processing, Michigan Technological University. The aim of my research there was to investigate the effects of microwave treatment parameters on ore mineralogy, leaching kinetics, and dissolution mechanisms of the microwave treated minerals.

The visit was also aimed at enhancing international cooperation and collaboration between the University of the Witwatersrand and Michigan Technology University. The Institute of Materials Processing (IMP) is an innovative, multi-disciplined, and industrially oriented research and development centre which has well-equipped facilities to conduct quality research in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering. The Director, Dr Jim Dr. Olagorite Adetula, WARC Grantee

Chief Research Officer

National Horticultural Research Institute

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Hwang, on behalf of the Institute, is of the opinion that a strong collaboration could be established between our two institutions.

Presentation at WARC in Dakar

I made a visit to WARC on my way back from the United States to present a seminar on my on-going work. My objective was to inform West African colleagues on the effectiveness of biohydrometallurgy for sustainable development in the minerals industry of the West African sub-region. Should West African countries be interested in developing and exploiting the mineral deposits within the subregion, it is recommended that increased efforts should be placed in the research and development of this robust technology. The presentation was attended by officials and members of the Centre. During my stay in Dakar, I was well-received and the staff at WARC were very kind and hospitable. The work at WARC is very commendable.

The overseas conference and short research visit granted me the opportunity to learn and exchange technical information, network with others in various fields of metallurgical engineering, exposed to international research culture, and see new technology demonstrations. I wish to express my profound appreciation for the financial support received from the West African Research Center for the conference and the research visit.

Peter Apata Olubambi, WARC Travel Grantee
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University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
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Oil and the National Question in Nigeria

The 20th World Congress of the International Political Science Association was themed “Is Democracy Working?” It was hosted by the Japanese Political Science Association (JPSA) from 9 - 13 July, 2006 in Fukuoka, Japan. The IPSA was established in 1949, and is headquartered Montreal, Canada.

My paper, titled ‘Oil and the National Question in Nigeria: The Case of the Ethnic Minorities in the Niger Delta,’ was based on fieldwork conducted in August 2004, as a visiting fellow at the Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS) in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The study discusses one of the contradictions of Nigerian federalism as a design for accommodating ethnic-territorial cleavages, especially given the context of an oil-centric political economy and the legacies of hypercentralised military rule. It investigates the impact of economic considerations in the ethnic minority conflict in Delta and Rivers States from 1986 to 2006. It establishes the impact of Nigeria’s political history, its economic base as well as class-property relations, informed and determined, among others, by revenue generated from oil, on the groups in the southern Delta.

To this extent, it interrogates the political economy of Nigeria’s fiscal federalism with a view to establishing whatever injustices and contradictions that exist within that arrangement against members of the different nationalities, especially the oil-bearing communities.

Athletes in West African Universities

I presented the result of my research, which examined coping as a critical mediating factor in stress relationship of athletes in West African universities, at the 26th International Conference of the Stress and Anxiety Research Society held at the Martin Luther Universität, Germany, July 21-23, 2006.

Athletes from the West African Universities Games (2003) in Burkina Faso, and the Federal Africaine Du Sport Universitaire FASU (2004) in Nigeria were included in my study. A total of (587) participants Male = 319; female = 268) served as sample for this study. Their mean age was 24.4± 3.62 SD.

The instrument used for data collection was a standardised 4-point Likert scale instrument known as Ways of Coping with Sport (WOCS) developed by Madden Christopher. The instrument consists of 66 items with reliability value of .90.

However, only the eight interpretable factors of problem focused coping, seeking social support, general emotionality, increased effort and resolve, detachment, denial, wishful thinking and emphasising the positive with (38 items) were finally used for the study. The 38 items were also subjected to reliability using
The present cultural complexity and diversity of West African states is a direct reflection of the ancient and historic past of the region, particularly concerning the effects of external influences. The region along the southern Saharan fringe particularly was impacted by external factors. One example of this, and perhaps the most important historically, was the advent and development of trans-Saharan commerce. Existing scholarship is still undecided about its advent, both the when and how of its start, but also its scale and the populations involved. However, the male West African universities athletes from both the Anglophone and Francophone countries used the ways of coping variables more than their female counterparts when the mean values of all the coping variables are compared.

Comparison of the coping variables was also done with the division of the West African athletes by their official languages of French and English. Significant difference (P>.05) was not found between the two groups on all the coping variables. However significant difference (P<.05) was found in the categorisation by sport on all the coping variables. A matrix of correlation to show the strength of the relationship among the coping variables on the universities athletes was also determined in the research. The result indicated significant (P<.05) relationships among the variables, with the exception of the relationship between the coping variable of detachment and emphasising the positive.

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Ancient Trans-Saharan Commerce and the Role of Copper Metallurgy

The present cultural complexity and diversity of West African states is a direct reflection of the ancient and historic past of the region, particularly concerning the effects of external influences. The region along the southern Saharan fringe particularly was impacted by external factors.

One example of this, and perhaps the most important historically, was the advent and development of trans-Saharan commerce. Existing scholarship is still undecided about its advent, both the when and how of its start, but also its scale and the populations involved.

One of the major commodities moving north through this trade, and probably the most significant commodity, was gold. However, many things were moving south as well including not only products and raw materials but also religious, political and cultural ideas and languages.

Among the traded materials headed south were abundant copper alloy metal cast in the typical form of thin rods or bars (i.e., ingots). Since copper metal and its alloys were considered much more valuable to indigenous West African cultures than gold, they were content to trade away the gold for imported copper metals. So, was it the desire for gold in North Africa (and beyond) or was it the desire for copper in West Africa that was a primary motivation for the advent and development of trans-Saharan commerce? Or was it something completely different? Moreover, how did this trans-Saharan contact affect the indigenous populations? These and more were the questions I was seeking to begin answering during my summer travel fellowship in West Africa.

I arrived in Niamey, Niger, in mid-May, with several objectives in mind. The first objective was to establish contacts in Niger for the purposes of research. These contacts included those at the government level with the authority to issue official government documents endorsing and authorizing my proposed research in Niger.

They also included logistical contacts to facilitate housing, transportation, supplies and food resources both while in Niamey and in the field. After achieving the primary objectives, the next major push was to conduct preliminary archaeological field survey and collection.

This survey work was conducted at the archaeological sites of Marandet and Azelik, near Agadez, Niger, both important to the study of trans-Saharan commerce. A number of other smaller ar-

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From Our Fellows

Tom Fenn taking photograph of archaeological remains at Marandet while his Toureg guide and daughter look on.

Archaeological sites and copper ore deposits in the region also were selected for visitation. This survey work included photo-documenting the sites visited, taking notes, recording them in several ways with a GPS unit, and collecting samples for laboratory analysis and radiometric dating.

WARA and the Pre-Doctoral Summer Fellowship have provided funds to help me establish Niger’s role in trans-Saharan commerce and the cultural influences heading both north and south, instigated by this contact.

From this preliminary research and travel I have identified and worked with supportive government contacts at the national and local levels, and acquired the appropriate permits to conduct this and future research in the country.

I also have collected data and samples from two sites critical to understanding the beginning of trans-Saharan commerce; these sites had remains of metallurgical activity and evidence of trans-Saharan commerce. I also was able to collect geological and archaeological samples from a hand-full of other related sites and ore deposits. These data together will provide important evidence for reconstructing the metallurgical environment for the region before and during the primary period of trans-Saharan trade.

Thomas R. Fenn, WARA Pre-Doctoral Fellow
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WARC Travel Grant

The West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal is offering travel costs, and a stipend of up to $1000 to West African scholars and graduate students. This competition is open only to West African nationals. Travel grant funds may be used to 1) attend and present papers at academic conferences relevant to the applicant’s field of research; 2) visit libraries or archives that contain resources necessary to the applicant’s current academic work; 3) travel to a research site.

Applications will consist of the following:

- A brief (50-80 word) abstract of the activity to be funded
- A description (6 double-spaced pages maximum) of the applicant’s research and how the proposed travel is relevant to this work
- A curriculum vitae with research and teaching record when relevant
- An abstract of the paper to be read and a letter of acceptance to the conference (for those wishing to attend meetings)
- A description of the collections to be consulted and their significance to the applicant’s research (for those wishing to travel to libraries or archives)
- Proof of citizenship in the form of a photocopy of the applicant’s passport
- For graduate students, a letter of recommendation by the professor overseeing their research
- A WARA grant application cover sheet

Complete applications will consist of one original and three copies of all materials (4 sets total). Deadlines for the 2006-2007 academic year are March 15, 2007 for travel to take place between July 1, 2007 and Dec. 31, 2007 and September 15, 2007 for travel to take place between Jan. 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008.

Upon completion of their research, grantees are required to submit a detailed report of their work and findings. This report will subsequently be published in the biannual WARA newsletter.

Please direct inquiries and submit applications to:
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Fall 2006
From Our Fellows

Jeffrey S. Ahlman

 Algerian and African Nationalism

In a 1964 interview with Argentine revolutionary Ernesto “Che” Guevara, Josie Fanon—the widow of the famed Martinican philosopher and Algerian revolutionary Frantz Fanon—asked Guevara why he began his tour of Africa in Algeria. Guevara replied that in order “to go to Africa we have to come to Algeria first.” In first discovering this interview as part of an undergraduate research project on the philosophy of Frantz Fanon, I was struck by the power by which Guevara connected Algeria and specifically the Algerian struggle for self-determination to the future of Africa. For Guevara, Algeria represented a revolutionary icon for all of Africa and a symbol for the future of a continent freed from the corrupt and exploitative processes of the global capitalist system. As my research interests shifted to the Pan-African theory of Kwame Nkrumah and the politics of his Ghanaian state, I continuously found myself returning to the “Algerian Question” and the links between this “Arab” nation and the world of African nationalism. Adopting Ghana as the site from which I wished to begin my exploration into this relationship, my dissertation aims to investigate the role of the Algerian Revolution in the intellectual and political development of Kwame Nkrumah’s Pan-African thought.

Through the support of the W ARA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, I gained the opportunity to broaden my understanding of this relationship with pre-dissertation research in Accra, Ghana during the summer of 2006. Arriving in Accra in May, I began my research at the George Padmore Research Library on African Affairs, where I enveloped myself in a study of the documents of the Ghanaian Bureau of African Affairs (BAA). Headed by Padmore until his 1959 death, the BAA offers a unique perspective into the anticolonial politics of the 1950s and 1960s, for it served as an important point of intersection for the vast array of nationalist movements and Freedom Fighters that dotted the continent in this era. Following a month’s work at the Padmore Library, I continued my research at the National Archives of Ghana, where I spent another month reading Nkrumah’s correspondence with a group of individuals ranging from political leaders such as Algeria’s Ahmed Ben Bella and Egypt’s Gamal Abdul Nasser to the leaders of various student movements throughout the world.

In a way I had not expected, the sheer diversity of resources offered by these two archives forced me to broaden my understanding of the relationship forged between Nkrumah and the Algerian revolutionaries of the Front de Libération Nationale. Although seemingly obvious, I learnt that this relationship did not develop in a vacuum, but instead evolved out of a vast global network of ideas and movements, which came together in the 1950s and 1960s to form the intellectual and political vibrancy that first drew me to this dissertation project. As I continue with my graduate education, I intend to build upon my pre-dissertation research by returning to the Padmore Library and the National Archives in 2007-08 to undertake a more extensive examination of the documents listed above. Furthermore, I plan to expand this research by conducting formal and informal interviews with surviving members of Nkrumah’s Convention People’s Party as well as with the “Algerian volunteers”, a small Ghanaian militia formed in 1960 with aspirations of fighting in Algeria. I further hope to extend my dissertation research with a research trip to the Archives Nationales d’Algérie in Algiers, in the summer of 2008.

Finally, I am grateful to W ARA for the opportunity to conduct this pre-dissertation research. I also wish to thank James Naabah of the Padmore Library for his invaluable help, patience, and friendship during my research experience. And lastly, I cannot express my gratitude enough to Abdulai Iddrisu and Kwesi Asiedu for the hospitality shown to me throughout my stay in Accra.

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Francophonic Sports and Arts Festival

My research project focuses on the cultural, political, and economic dimensions of the 5th Jeux de la Francophonie (“Francophonie Games” or “Francophonic Sports and Arts Festival”) held in Niamey, Niger in December 2005. More than 2,000 athletes, artists, and coaches representing 44 Francophone and Francophile nations competed in seven sports (track and field, basketball, boxing, soccer, judo, African wrestling, and table tennis) and seven arts (singing, oral storytelling, literature, dancing, painting, photography, and sculpture).

A generous W ARA Post-Doctoral Fellowship allowed me to make two trips to Niamey to collect a broad range of data. I spent six weeks in Niamey from May to July investigating the preparation for the Festival; then returned for four weeks in December and January to attend the 11-day Festival and its immediate aftermath.

In a time of the so-called “global war on terror,” culture wars and misunderstanding between Muslims and Christians, Les Jeux de la Francophonie offers a fantastic idea: We can work toward peace, unity, and global understanding through sports and arts— “the two universal languages.” My analysis considers...
the interplay of global, national, and local actors. This includes the mission of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), and the objectives of its subsidiary, Le Comité International des Jeux de la Francophonie (CIJF). At the national level, Niger served as the primary mediating institution for the Festival through the Comité Interational des Jeux de la Francophonie (CNJF). Finally, the Festival brought from far and wide the largest international gathering ever to take place on the ground in Niamey.

I first visited Niamey in 1988, and it has been my primary research site since 1991. I am especially interested in both how the Nigerien state and Nigerien citizens defined, presented, and perceived themselves in the Francophone world vis-à-vis the strategic scope of the OIF and the CIJF.

This report outlines my primary research questions and a description of my research methodology.

Primary Research Questions
Core questions: (1) Can a shared Francophone heritage—expressed through sports and arts—function to create cultural unity? (2) What did Nigerians think about the Games, in both cultural and economic terms? (3) What did international visitors think about Niamey? (4) How did the state and how did Nigerien citizens define Niger for an international audience? (5) What were the economic impacts on Niger? My research methodology included 60 detailed (verbatim) interviews in Hausa, as well as informal discussions with organizers including the Directors of the CNJF and of the Musee Nationale. I combined these approaches with participant observation to study local perspectives and debates on the Games. On my second trip I completed 38 detailed interviews in Hausa and 39 in French, 37 of which were conducted during the Festival, and 40 after. I also attended the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, dozens of competitive events, and many non-competitive musical events.

I took 325 photographs highlighting performances as well as audience interactions. Throughout the project, I have monitored both state and private media coverage of the Games.

Francophone, Niger, and Nigeriens
Still reeling from the famine of 2005 and still smarting from “Nigergate,” Niger desperately needed some good news and an international image makeover. Many international and Nigerien observers suggested that Niger should not host the Games in the midst of famine and that Niger did not have the management skills and infrastructure to host a festival of such magnitude.

Their doubts were not entirely unfounded. Allegations of corruption and ineptitude led to the dismissal of the Director General, Almoustapha Soumaila, in February, and as late as July the CNJF was still contemplating moving the Games to Ouagadougou or Tunis while the Village du Francophonie was only about one-third complete. Nevertheless, the CNJF, led by new Director General Dr. Seriba Mahaman Lawan, convinced representatives of the CIJF that Niger was up to the task. With national honor at stake, Niger rose to the occasion. The Festival was a tremendous success in many ways. Remarkably, the least developed nation on earth successfully hosted 3,500 visitors from 44 nations in a generally well-organized gala, held in new or significantly renovated venues designed to promote cultural dialogue and unity.

Nigeriens who had the time and money to attend events enjoyed themselves immensely. Others appreciated attending free events such as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and dozens of informal music and dance performances or watching formal competitions through the excellent coverage provided by all three local television stations. Most Nigeriens are extremely proud to have pulled off this event. Overall Les Jeux was a highly worthwhile event which satisfied diverse constituencies and largely achieved a range of objectives.

Ongoing Research
I presented some preliminary findings at the “Women, Gender, and Sport in Africa” Conference hosted by Ohio University on February 24-25, 2006. I am currently working hard with the data I have collected and look forward to presenting my conclusions at this year’s African Studies Association meetings.

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2005 ASA Scholar: Papa Meissa Dieng

Papa Meissa DIENG, Associate Professor; School of Law; Université Gaston Berger Saint-Louis (Sénégal), was the WARA ASA Scholar in 2005. As such, he was a member of the panel on the Adrian Adams Kungani archives, organized by WARA member Brett O’Bannon. Below is Professor Dieng’s description of the project.

The central purpose of the Adrian Adams-So Project is to catalogue, preserve, and make accessible through digitization, the work of noted anthropologist Dr. Adams-So. The work consists of some 40,000-50,000 pages of field notes, transcripts, and correspondence related to a wealth of published and unpublished ethnographic research, including notes and rough drafts for her three published book-length manuscripts (Le Long Voyage Des Gens Du Fleuve (François Maspero, 1977), La Terre Et Les Gens Du Fleuve (l’Harmattan, 1985) and A Claim To Land By The River: A Household In Senegal, 1720-1994 (Cambridge, 1996). The project involves collaboration between undergraduates, graduate students and faculty at three American Universities as well as the Université de Cheikh Anta Diop, in Dakar, Senegal and our Université Gaston Berger.

In 2001 the family of Adrian Adams, specifically her brother Charles, asked to explore the idea of preserving and archiving Adrian’s works. In August 2002, Adrian’s friends and colleagues met in Senegal and decided the collection should remain in Kungani; the Senegal River Valley. To make the work more accessible, we decided to undertake a massive digitization program online at www.aodl.com, with appropriate stipulations regarding privacy and integrity of human subjects and institutions. Matrix has already constructed the architecture for the Adrian Adams-So Gallery: An Extension of the African Online Digital Library.

The initial efforts are promising; with relatively simple equipment and suitable climate control the trial run was an extraordinary success from both the objective archival interests as well as from the point of view of student-faculty collaboration.

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WARA Graduate Intern: Femmes Africa Solidarité

From May to August 2006, I worked in Dakar, Senegal as an intern at the regional bureau of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to promoting the involvement of women in peace processes around Africa.

My desire to work with FAS stemmed from a long-standing interest in West Africa, coupled with my academic focus on the role of gender in conflict. This internship allowed me to combine these interests through research and practical experience and to gain a deeper understanding of the women’s peace movement, particularly in the Mano River and Great Lakes regions of Africa.

I was fortunate to arrive at FAS during a period of high activity for the organization, which allowed me to participate in and contribute to a number of different projects over the course of the summer.

The first activity I helped plan was a conference on Gender, Peace and Security in Africa, which was held in Bamako, Mali from 12-14 June to mark the ten-year anniversary of FAS. Following this conference, FAS organized the 8th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender into the African Union in Banjul, Gambia from 26-27 June in conjunction with the African Union (AU) Summit. In preparation for this meeting, I conducted research on the status of gender mainstreaming in peace and security operations as part of the civil society’s commitment to monitor compliance with the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa by AU member-states.

In addition to these two conferences, I also helped prepare for and attended a Short Course on Gender and Peacebuilding, run by FAS in partnership with the University for Peace, which brought together scholars and practitioners from all over Africa to learn about issues of gender, peace and security in Africa.

Throughout all of these activities, I was active in research, writing, translation, coordination and evaluation and I was able to learn a great deal not only about the women’s peace movement in Africa but also about the operations of FAS and of African NGOs more generally.

I also had the opportunity to conduct my own research through participating in the discussions and workshops and speak-

Continued on page 17...
ing with participants about their peacebuilding activities, the success and challenges they have faced in their work, and the changing priorities of the women’s peace movement in Africa. One of the main issues that came up in these discussions was the importance of ensuring that women be involved in all stages of the peace process, from prevention activities, to peace negotiations, all the way through to post-conflict reconstruction.

For example, Rwanda and Liberia are two cases where women have made significant gains in post-conflict society, and serve as examples for countries like Côte d’Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo that are currently facing significant periods of transition as well. The women of Guinea, on the other hand, have been successful in their work to prevent spill-over of conflict into their country from neighboring states. Some other issues that came up during these conferences were the importance of including young women in the peace movement to ensure that it continues to grow and remains strong, the importance of balancing reconciliation and justice in post-conflict reconstruction and the importance of focusing on sustainable development that takes a human-centered, rather than state-centered, approach to security.

Thanks to the generous support of WARA, this internship allowed me to make contacts with peacebuilders from around Africa and to gain insight into the important role that women have played and continue to play in promoting peace and preventing conflict around Africa. I plan to continue working on and researching the role of gender in peacebuilding in Africa, with a particular focus on the involvement of women and youth in grassroots conflict prevention efforts in West Africa. Based on my experience at the AU Summit, I will also be participating in the African Evaluation Conference in Niamey, Niger in January 2007, where I will lead a round table discussion about the role of civil society in monitoring the compliance with regional and international mechanisms and resolutions.

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WARA Residency at Indiana University: Senior Lecturer Shittu Akinola

Shittu Akinola, Senior Lecturer in the department of Public Administration at Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, is a longstanding colleague of scholars at Indiana University (IU) who first came to the area as a visiting scholar in 2003.

Based on this productive experience, Professor Akinola was invited to return for a three-month visit in the spring of 2006 to continue work on a book aimed at understanding the roots of collective action in communities in southwestern Nigeria. His residency enabled him to use IU’s extensive library collections and other resources as well as offering him the opportunity to engage with colleagues at both the African Studies Program (ASP) and at the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis (the Workshop). His report follows.

While in Bloomington, I was able to complete three book chapters to add to the four chapters that had already been completed in 2003-2004. One chapter completed during the residency outlines the theoretical framework of the book, drawing heavily from research on self-governance conducted by scholars at the Workshop.

The remaining two chapters completed here discuss the data upon which the book is based. These data were collected during eight months of research conducted in five Yoruba communities in Nigeria in 2004 and 2005. This culminates my work of over 15 years to understand indigenous local governance in Africa.

During my stay, I was able to participate in several complementary activities. First, I participated in a conference entitled “Designing Constitutional Arrangements for Democratic Governance in Africa: Challenges and Possibilities,” organized by the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, African Studies Program, and Office of International Programs, Indiana University, on March 30 & 31. There, I presented a paper entitled “Structural Transformation and Polycentric Governance: A Constitutional Gateway towards Nigerian Democratization,” in which I advocate for “people-oriented” constitutions that embody the concept of “bottom-up” self-governance.

Second, at the Workshop’s biannual “mini-conference,” held in conjunction with the Workshop seminar on institutional analysis and design, I presented a paper titled “Polycentricity and Self-Governance in Yorubaland: A Passage to a Democratic Society in Nigeria.” This paper was used to detail the progress to date toward my goals for the WARA residency. Findings confirmed that the pattern of institutional formation and organizational structures of self-governing institutions vary across Yorubaland and reflect democratic values considered prerequisites for a truly democratic society.

These activities helped to advance WARA’s mission and a number of its objectives. Broadly speaking, my residency developed further an ongoing exchange between scholars at IU and scholars in West Africa. It enabled me to access research resources and exploit research opportunities not available at my home institution.
WARA Residency at University of North Florida: Dr. Aymerou Mbaye

In spring of 2006, Dr. Aymerou Mbaye of the Ecole Normale Superieure of Cheikh Anta Diop University (ENS/UCAD) in Dakar, Senegal, spent four weeks at the University of North Florida (UNF), Jacksonville, as a WARA Resident Scholar. He collaborated with Dr. Tim Robinson, Director of UNF’s International Center on the preparations for the Summer Leadership Program at ENS/UCAD.

The program consisting of variety of activities and visits throughout the country, including a 3-credit course titled “Language and Society in Senegal” taught by Dr. Mbaye, a took place in Dakar from mid June to early July 2006. The leadership component of the program included meetings with U.S. Ambassador to Senegal Janice Jacobs, educational leaders in Senegal (including former Minister of Education Andre Sonko), community and religious leaders, grassroots associations and NGOs active in economic development.

Classroom activities took place on the ENS/UCAD campus, and a number of Dr. Mbaye’s ENS/UCAD graduate students were integrated into the activities both in and out of Dakar. A highlight of the program was visiting WARC and meeting Director Dr. Ousmane Sene who gave the group an introductory talk on the center’s activities and a tour of the facilities.

Besides the Summer Leadership Program, a second goal of Dr. Mbaye’s residency at UNF, was to explore the possibilities for exchange of experience and/or cooperation between UNF and ENS/UCAD, specifically with regards to teacher training and EFL/ESL.

Dr. Mbaye met with the Dean and other administrative staff of the UNF College of Education and Human Resources to discuss exchange of information, education, conferences, and models for accreditation. As ENS/UCAD moves forward in their reform process, UNF remains ready to provide information and support as might be useful.

During Dr. Mbaye’s visit to UNF, discussion on possible collaboration on English language teaching efforts in Dakar was discussed with UNF Vice President for Student and International Affairs, Dr. Mauricio Gonzalez. Since UNF has its own English Language Program for teaching English to students from other countries, the connection is of interest to both institutions.

Building on a Decade Long Relationship

The University of North Florida has a decade-long educational relationship with Senegal, beginning with joint discussions on reforms in the educational system in Senegal in 1995. Subsequent visits had resulted in a two-year ALO/USAID grant to develop a community health program in a community college setting in Bambey, Senegal. The community college educational model, with its two-year job training programs complementing a 2+2 community college to university educational partnership, has been well received in Senegal both as a means to develop local work force capabilities and as a way to ease the pressure on the two national universities.

Dr. Mbaye arranged a meeting with Minister of Education Professor Moustapha Sourang at which Dr. Robinson confirmed UNF’s continuing interest in working on this project.

This WARA Residency was successful in finalizing the UNF Summer Leadership Program, laying the foundation for mutual learning between students from UNF and ENS/UCAD, and established the basis for an academic exchange project between the two schools. Our sincere thanks to WARA funding this grant.

Dr. Timothy Robinson
University of North Florida International Center

Similarly, it enabled me to build on overlapping interests between my own research agenda and that of IU. Further, it fostered a long-term collaborative research effort, the Consortium for Self-Governance in Africa, based at the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis and involving partners in Liberia, Guinea, South Africa, Mali, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Sierra Leone in addition to Nigeria. Overall, the visit has been a rewarding and productive experience for me.

Dr. Shittu Akinola, WARA Resident Scholar
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conflicts. In June 2004, the US announced that it was working with Libya to open routes for US aid to Darfur. When Libya offered to help in resolving the Darfur crisis, Sudan asked them to sponsor peace talks, and in August, Libya hosted an informal Darfur peace conference attended by representatives from GoS, SLM, and JEM (Justice and Equality Movement), the African Union (AU), and the Chadian Foreign Minister.

In May 2005, Libya hosted a Summit on Darfur attended by the leaders of Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, Chad, Eritrea, and Gabon, and by representatives of the Arab League and the AU—but without representatives of the rebel groups. Rebel groups were urged to sign the humanitarian protocol, and the Summit ended with a joint statement calling the Darfur conflict an “absolute African issue,” and rejecting any foreign intervention. During this conflict Libya has tried to play a mediatory role through its initiative of a Darfur-Darfur dialogue, a gesture that was high-jacked by the GoS, which sent its sympathizers to the conference.

Egypt, the Arab League, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
In defending its policies in Darfur and against any UN or EU criticism, the GoS has made continuous calls on Egypt, the Arab League (AL), and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for their support and backing. In reaction to the UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1556 in July 2004, which threatened sanctions if the GoS did not take action to disarm the Janjaweed, the AL and the Egyptian Foreign Minister urged the UN not to slap hasty sanctions on Sudan. Upon the issuance of UNSC resolution 1564 in September 2004, again urging measures for non-compliance, the AL representative stated that sanctions on Sudan would not help in resolving the crisis. The GoS, in an effort to deflect international pressure, has contacted other groups sympathetic to its cause. For example, the GoS contacted the OIC in June 2004 for its assistance in ceasefire monitoring, something later requested by President Mubarak’s spokesman in July, and by AL Secretary General Amr Mussa in October.

Both Egypt and the AL have supported the GoS against international pressures regarding Darfur. The GoS uses such support to advance and strengthen its position vis a vis domestic policies that have international implications. Egyptian support may serve its own interests by inflating the Sudanese position(s) in order that Egypt may play a role in mediation later, thus demonstrating its worth and influence to the international community.

The African Union
Darfur has played a major role in revitalizing the mission of the AU, which came into existence shortly before the Darfur conflict began. Based upon the N’Djamena agreement of April 2004, the AU was entrusted with monitoring the ceasefire between the warring parties in Darfur, but had no clear mandate for protecting civilians.

The AU has also taken the lead in organizing peace talks, with the first AU-facilitated peace talks scheduled in Addis Ababa in July 2004. However, disagreement over Sudan’s refusal to accept responsibility for disarming the Janjaweed led to their collapse and the venue then shifted to Abuja, Nigeria. In November 2004, the GoS and Darfur rebels signed security and humanitarian protocols, including an agreement to cease all hostilities, including military overflights. In July 2005, the GoS, the SLM, and JEM signed a memorandum of understanding, and the AU-sponsored negotiations were concluded by an accord signed in Abuja in May 2006 by only one SLM/A faction. All attempts, by threat and persuasion, to convince the other armed groups (JEM and SLM/A Abdul Wahid factions) have failed.

Thus far, peace talks have not stopped the violence in Darfur. Dissatisfaction with agreements that gravely ignore the suffering of the Darfurian refugees and the internally displaced has been clear from the continuous demonstrations that have erupted from these camps, from the renewal of violence in the region, and the formation of the National Salvation Front from breakaway SLA, JEM and Federal Democratic Alliance. Although a ceasefire agreement signed by all parties has been in force since April 2004, continuous violations and attacks against civilians have never subsided—not even during peace talks.

The AU currently has 7,000 military and civilian forces on the ground in Darfur; these include monitors, their guards, and police. In July 2004, President Olusegun Obasanjo stated that the responsibility for Darfur lay with the AU and called for expanding the mandate of the AU force to include protection of civilians. His call, however, was challenged by the GoS. The AU Peace and Security Council asked Chair Alpha Oumar Konare to review the possibility of transforming the AU ceasefire monitoring force into a full-fledged
peacekeeping mission. Bowing to AU and UN demands, the GoS accepted the proposed increase in the AU protection force supporting the monitoring team in Darfur. In March 2006, the AU extended its Darfur mission, effective until Sept 30th.

Despite the deployment of the AU forces in Darfur, atrocities against civilians and ceasefire violations have never ceased. The GoS has been vehemently against expanding the AU mandate from its monitoring status to include an authorized unit for protecting civilians. Because of AU forces’ failure to protect civilians, they have been characterized by the displaced persons as collaborators with the GoS.

Conclusion

The conflict in Darfur can be seen as a way that the state has used war as a tactic for its own survival and as a pretext for consolidating power and inviting international attention that it can then leverage for bargaining purposes.

With the continuing violence in Darfur, hopes that African and international diplomacy might bring peace have withered. The opposition to the Abuja agreement has culminated in the formation of the National Redemption Front, which has been countered by a huge military build-up in Darfur by the Sudanese army. The main opposition to the agreement comes from those displaced by the conflict. The $30 million promised by the Sudanese government for compensation shows little concern for the underlying issues and the need for concrete action to bring justice and restitution to those directly affected by the war.

For the government of Sudan, the conflict in Darfur is a domestic issue; for Sudan’s neighbors and the African Union, it is a regional threat; for the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, it is a western attempt to undermine Sudan’s Arab and Islamic heritage; and for the United Nations, it is a serious threat to the world.

In the end, the Darfur Peace Agreement, like the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (signed between GoS and SPLM/A), is more reflective of the AU’s, the UN’s, and other partners’ interests in having an agreement that the GoS would sign, rather than in having a reasonable document that would bring justice and peace for all. While all parties are drawn to “talk” about the Darfur conflict, the lives of the innocent displaced civilians have not changed due to the conflicts of interest and differing visions of how to bring peace and justice to those affected by the on-going conflict.

Ali B. Ali-Dinar, Ph.D.
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September 11, 2006

Dr. Ali B. Ali-Dinar obtained his BA and MA from the University of Khartoum, Sudan, and his PhD in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania in 1995, where he now works as the Director of Outreach for the African Studies Center. Dr. Dinar is the grandson of the late Sultan Ali Dinar, who was the last indigenous ruler of the Darfur Sultanate before its annexation by the British to the rest of the Sudan and the killing of its Sultan in November 1916. Dr. Dinar is the current President of the Sudan Studies Association in the USA.

CAORC Multi-Country Research Fellowship

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) announces a fellowship program that supports advanced regional research. This program is open to U.S. doctoral candidates and scholars who have already earned their Ph.D. in fields in the humanities, social sciences, or allied natural sciences and wish to conduct research of regional or trans-regional significance.

Fellowships require scholars to conduct research in more than one country, at least one of which hosts a participating American overseas research center.

Deadline: Friday, January 12, 2007

For more information about CAORC: [www.caorc.org](http://www.caorc.org)
The Laboratoire d’Etudes et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (Laboratory for Studies and Research on Societal Dynamics and Local Development - LASDEL) is a research institute in Niamey, Niger. It was founded in 2001 by a collaboration between four African universities, three French and one Swiss institute, and a Nigerien civil society organization: the Université Abdou Moumouni of Niamey; the Beninese universities of Abomey Calavi and Parakou; the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in France, the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and the Institut d’Etudes Universitaires pour le Développement (IUED), and the Association d’Etudes et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (ASIDEL).

A growing concern about the continuing degradation of academic research in African countries made these organizations come together to form LASDEL. LASDEL is mandated by the IRD (formerly ORSTOM, a French research and development institute) and two civil associations from Niger and Benin, and is partly funded by the partner institutions mentioned above and partly by consultancies by members. Its research output is published regularly in slim books that are both archived in the institute’s library and sold at a low price (CFA F. 1000, that is, roughly $2).

The main area of concern for LASDEL is the state and its functions and dysfunctions in Africa: public administration, public goods and services delivery, public policies and “development projects”, and the many failings that blight them. LASDEL was created on the assumption that concrete state-building is insufficiently studied in the African context and that it is urgent to have fresh empirical studies and solid analytical frameworks related to “l’Etat au quotidien”, “l’Etat local”, “l’Etat au concret” (the grounded, local, day-to-day state activity).

However, as was pointed out by the institute’s Scientific Director Mahaman Tidjani Alou, while civil society actors in Niger – especially the media – manifest a durable interest for findings that the institute’s scholars produce, the Nigerien state itself often ignores the expertise and information on its own functioning produced by research at LASDEL.

LASDEL has set up an international scientific committee to supervise its research programs’ theoretical and methodological orientations. The committee reviews and decides on the design of each program and only after that LASDEL staff goes out to look for funding by interested parties (typically either other academic institutions, or international NGOs and organizations). This structure is meant to ensure that the research agenda of the member institutions are prioritized and that the research programs are up to international standards.

Another important activity of LASDEL is the “Social Sciences Seminars”. These are public events where the findings of the research carried out at LASDEL are disseminated to the public, organizational and governmental representatives. LASDEL also organizes international conferences and summer universities where students from Africa and Europe can come and learn from the scholars affiliated with the institute. Lastly, the LASDEL serves as a research facility for students and scholars from its member institutions.

The main center of LASDEL is situated in Niamey, where the main buildings were financed by the French and Swiss Cooperation and the IRD. The current scientific director of LASDEL, Director Alou, also tells us that a satellite center has since been built in Parakou, and the Niamey center is in the process of expanding and enhancing its capabilities, to include a larger library and a greater number of offices and research amenities.

LASDEL has gained in visibility, and many institutions in the region have expressed the desire to become members. However, such an institutional expansion would increase the organizational demands on LASDEL beyond its current capacity and therefore these other institutions have been encouraged instead to adopt LASDEL’s formula and create similar but separate institutes. Already, according to Director Alou, the Parakou center is being developed along those lines; it is a “satellite” only on paper and is functioning independently of the main center in Niamey.

LASDEL has been successful in its endeavor to create a genuine research environment for African scholars, although one that does not offer a conventional career plan. The institute hopes to perfect the formula for effective growth of high quality research in Africa and that this formula will spread throughout the continent. The great challenge is to learn how to work effectively with African states in efficient and enduring endogenous development work.

For more information on the institute, you may visit the website http://www.ird.ne/lasdel/
Announcements and Opportunities

WARA 1997 Symposium Proceedings Available
In June 1997, WARA held its first international symposium, *West Africa and the Global Challenge*, in Dakar, Senegal. Approximately 150 scholars from Africa, the US, and Europe attended this meeting.

*The Histories, Languages and Cultures of West Africa: Interdisciplinary Essays* is a compilation of selected essays that were presented at the 1997 symposium. The volume is edited by Edris Makward, Akua Sarr, Amadou Fofana, and C. Frederick and is available from Edwin Mellen Press. For more information on the collection and for ordering information, go to http://www.mellenpress.com/mellenpress.cfm?bookid=6575&pc=9

Boston University-
African American Studies and African Studies Center

Call for Paper Proposals!!!
Community Building and Identity Formation in the African Diaspora
Conference Date: 30-31 March 2007


The formation of political and cultural identity is a vital question in contemporary social science and humanities disciplines. How do people living in diaspora form and maintain community and identity? To what political or social purposes is this identity formed? In the case of people of African descent living in diaspora, how are conflicting, competing, or cognate “identities” - e.g. maroon, mixed race, Islamic - integrated and negotiated in the context of diaspora?

The organizers are interested in papers from a variety of approaches on the themes of community building and identity formation in diaspora. For example, papers may address the role of women in community building and identity formation, transnational identity, or case studies of the intersection of identity in particular regions. We are particularly interested in papers that put the questions of community building and identity formation in the diaspora in comparative and historical perspective.

Procedures for Submitting Proposals
Due date: November 30, 2006
Submissions: Electronic submissions are preferred and should be emailed to lokenkim@bu.edu
Submit as MSWord file attachment if possible; however, if necessary, submissions can be sent in the body of an e-mail message.
Format: All proposals must include, in this order:
- Title
- Type of proposal (paper, panel, roundtable, or workshop)
- Abstract of up to 250 words
- Name(s) and affiliation(s) of presenter(s)
- Submitter’s e-mail address, telephone number, and full mailing address
- Up to six keywords to assist in coordinating papers and presentations
- Curriculum vita

All proposals sent by mail must be addressed to Christine Loken-Kim, Program Administrator, African American Studies, Boston University, 138 Mountfort Street, Brookline, MA. 02446.
To be considered proposals must be received no later than November 30, 2006

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WARA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship

WARA will grant two pre-doctoral fellowships for research in West Africa during the summer of 2007. Applications are invited from graduate students who wish to conduct research for a 2 to 3 month period in order to 1) prepare a doctoral research proposal; or 2) carry out research related to the completion of another terminal degree program (e.g. MFA or MPH). Funded through the bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department, this competition is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are currently enrolled in graduate programs at institutions of higher education in the United States. Priority will be given to applicants who are at the pre-dissertation stage, that is, who will be returning to their institution to complete course work, exams, etc. before beginning their fieldwork. Each fellowship will provide round trip travel to a West African country and a stipend of up to $3,000. The West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal may assist with academic contacts and affiliations and recommendations for lodging in the country chosen by the fellow.

WARA Post-Doctoral Fellowship

WARA will grant two post-doctoral fellowships for research in West Africa during the summer of 2007. These fellowships are open to persons already holding a Ph.D. who wish to conduct research for a 2 to 3-month period in order to 1) complete or elaborate upon an earlier project; 2) initiate a new research project; or 3) enhance their understanding of a particular topic in order to improve teaching effectiveness or broaden course offerings. Funded through the bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department, this competition is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who currently hold a teaching position at an institution of higher education in the United States or who work in another related domain (e.g. public health or museology). Each fellowship will provide round trip travel to a West African country and a stipend of up to $3,000. The West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal may assist with academic contacts and affiliations and recommendations for lodging in the country chosen by the fellow.

WARA Summer Internships

WARA is offering two internships for the summer of 2007. This program is designed to encourage the next generation of Africanist scholars by supporting relevant experience in the region. WARA Internships provide round trip travel to West Africa and a stipend of $1500 to cover the cost of living for 6 to 8 weeks. This competition is open to US citizens and permanent residents who are enrolled in a graduate program and who plan to pursue a career in African Studies.

WARA Library Intern: This year, one of the graduate internships will be earmarked for a student in library science who will serve as intern at the library of the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal. This intern will work with the WARC librarian on electronic cataloguing and use of electronic research databases and should have well-developed skills in these areas. Applicants should be enrolled in and MLS program and have an interest in becoming Africana librarians.

For both internships, priority will be given to those enrolled in graduate programs at HBCUs and to those who completed their undergraduate studies at an HBCU.

All applications are due on December 1, 2006

Please address all inquiries regarding WARA grants and fellowships to:

WARA
African Studies Center
Boston University
270 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215

Tel: 617-353-8902
Fax: 617-353-4975
Email: wara@bu.edu
Website:http://www.africa.ufl.edu/WARA/
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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.

For more information about WARA or to become a member, please check out our website at www.africa.ufl.edu/WARA/index.htm and click on “Membership”