# 21st Annual Graduate Student Conference in African Studies

**March 29-30, 2013**

*Continuity, Change, and Adaptation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Africa*

**March 29:** Boston University George Sherman Union  
775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston – 2nd Floor Conference Room

**March 30:** Boston University Photonics Center  
8 St. Mary’s Street, Boston – 9th Floor Colloquium Room

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**FRIDAY, MARCH 29 – George Sherman Union, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

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<td>1:00 – 2:00 PM</td>
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| 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | **PANEL 1: People, Commerce, and Measurement in Urban Africa**  
**Moderator:** Ben Twagira |
| **Zack Zimbalist**, School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University  
*Urban Bias Revisited: Urban and Rural Development in Post-Apartheid South Africa***  
**Cynthia Obioma Ezeani**, Boston University School of Law  
*Entrepreneurship in Africa: The Nigerian Example***  
**Lynsey Farrell**, Boston University  
*Branding Ideologies: Fake Social Movements and Youth Strategies in Kibera Slum***  
**Nyambati R. Aori**, University College London  
*Energy Access as a Measure of Absolute and Overall Poverty in Developing Areas: Evidence from Kenya’s Slums of Kibera*** |
| 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM | **Panel 2: Religion, Ritual, and Sexuality**  
**Moderator:** Derek Muwina |
| **Muoki Mbunga**, Syracuse University  
*Narratives of Ritual, Agency, and Resistance in the Mau Mau Struggle for Independence in Kenya***  
**David Kofi Amponsah**, Harvard University  
*Rituals of the State: Indigenous Religion, Public Morality, and the Making of the State in Ghana, 1824-Present Times***  
**Eden Almasude**, Ohio University  
*Amazighite and Secularist Discourse and Praxis in Morocco***  
**Kevin Tervala**, Harvard University  
*Queering Ubuntu: Southern Africa and the Aesthetics of Normalcy*** |
| 5:30 PM | **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**  
**Drs. Jean and John Comaroff**, Professors of Anthropology, Harvard University  
*Buffet Dinner to Follow*** |
### SATURDAY, MARCH 30 – Photonics Center, 9th Floor Colloquium Room

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<td>8:30AM – 9:00PM</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast</td>
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| 9:00AM – 10:30AM   | **PANEL 3: Women, Youth, and Identity**  
                      | **Moderator:** Lilly Havstad       |
|                    | **Jeffrey Bristol,** Boston University  
                      | *Senegalese Merchants Who Move, Build and Sell Africa*       |
|                    | **Colleen Fulp,** University of Washington  
                      | *Ghanaian Voices: Examining the Casual Relationship between Small Business Ownership and Women’s Empowerment in Cape Coast, Ghana*       |
|                    | **Emmanuel Asiedu-Acquah,** Harvard University  
                      | *"The 'young men' are the third estate in these kingdoms": Youth, popular culture and politics in colonial Ghana, c. 1900-1945*       |
|                    | **Fiacre Bienvenu,** Florida International University  
                      | *Gender, Hybridity, and Genocide: Intersectionality and Metabolism of Sexual Anxieties from the Colonial Race and Body Politics in Rwanda*       |
| 10:45AM – 12:15PM | **Panel 4: Power, Ideology, and Colonialism**  
                      | **Moderator:** Mimi Stith         |
|                    | **M. Chloe Muderig,** Boston University  
                      | *Reach Out and Touch Someone: Moroccan Monarchical Stability, the Arab Spring, and the Power of Presence*       |
|                    | **Zophia Edwards,** Boston University  
                      | *The class legacies of colonial rule: Explaining divergent political regimes between Gabon and Trinidad and Tobago*       |
|                    | **Samuel Severson,** Northeastern University  
                      | *The Imperial Economist's Imagination: ‘The Pim Report’ on Basutoland as Historiography, Ideology, and Policy*       |
|                    | **Toivo Asheeke,** Binghamton University  
                      | *Amilcar Cabral as an embodiment of the Revolutionary Tradition of the Black International: Imagining a Global Africa*       |
| 12:15PM – 1:15PM   | Lunch                              |
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, continued

1:15PM – 2:45PM

**PANEL 5: Security, Development, and Conflict**

**Moderator:** Ela Soyemi

- **Whitney Grespin**, Young Professionals in Foreign Policy  
  *Fifty-four Durand Lines: The Necessity of Persistent Security Assistance in Africa*

- **Jillian Jaeger**, Boston University  
  *No Conflict, No Development: Why Morocco and Algeria May Have Needed an Arab Spring*

- **Luwam Dirar**, Cornell Law School  
  *Rethinking Development through Regional Integration in Southern Africa*

- **Giulia La Mattina**, Boston University  
  *Armed Conflict and Domestic Violence: Evidence from Rwanda*

3:00PM – 4:30PM

**PANEL 6: Environment and Health**

**Moderator:** Phil Rotz

- **Chakoro Tamire**, Addis Ababa University  
  *The Role of Enset in Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Rehabilitation in the Hadiya Zone*

- **Adaeze Wosu**, Boston University School of Public Health  
  *Tackling Cardiovascular Disease in Lagos State, Nigeria: Strategies for Primary Prevention*

- **Amy Panikowski and Chesney McOmber**, University of Florida  
  *Investigating Climate Information Services and Adaptation Through a Gendered Lens in Africa*

- **Christopher Conz**, Boston University  
  *Environment, Knowledge, and Agency in Lesotho’s Southeastern Highlands*

At conference end, please join us for a pub reception: Location TBA
Jean Comaroff - Was born in Scotland, but raised in South Africa. Her education was conducted first at the University of Cape Town and after at the London School of Economics. She worked as a researcher doing medical anthropology for a period at the University of Manchester and then later settled at the University of Chicago where she was until very recently as the Bernard E. and Ellen C. Sunny Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology, moving to her current position as Professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology, Oppenheimer Fellow in African Studies in 2012. Her research interest covers the people of Southern Africa, focusing on social and cultural transformation, emphasizing postcolonial studies and the view of the world from the Global South. She has published extensively on her own and with her husband and co-presenter, John Comaroff.

John Comaroff - Was born in South Africa and educated at the University of Cape Town and the London School of Economics. He is also a research professor with the American Bar Association. Until very recently he was at the University of Chicago as the Harold W. Swift Distinguished Service Professor in Anthropology, moving to his current position as Professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology, Oppenheimer Fellow in African Studies at Harvard University. His work has focused on Southern Africa and the Tswana people, covering corporate Christianity, witchcraft, political culture, colonialism, the history of consciousness, politics, historical anthropology, law, post colonialism, modernity, and social theory. He has published extensively on his own and with his wife and co-presenter, Jean Comaroff.
2013 Conference Organizing Committee

Zachary Gersten – BU School of Public Health
Chris Conz – Department of History
Nina Rhim – BU School of Public Health
Jeffrey Bristol – Department of Anthropology
Ashveena Gajeelee – Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow
Phillip D. Rotz – Department of History

Our Thanks

This conference was made possible through the generous support of the following co-sponsors, to whom we are grateful.

BU African Studies Center
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BU Department of Sociology
BU Department of International Relations
BU Department of Art History
The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future

Thanks to Christina Balch for flyer and program design.
Friday evening’s catering is from Terranga
1746 Washington Street, South End, Boston (617)-266-0003