

Greetings! You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Michigan State University, African Studies Center. Don't forget to add fruge@isp.msu.edu to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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# African Studies Center Michigan State University

## TUESDAY BULLETIN

September 6, 2016

Fall

No. 1

Welcome to the African Studies Center's Newsletter and list of upcoming events, speaker presentations, tea times, conferences, jobs and other exciting opportunities.

Please feel free to visit our website for more information:  
<http://www.africa.isp.msu.edu>

### Alliance for African Partnership

To learn more about the Alliance for African Partnership,

<http://www.aap.isp.msu.edu>

### Eye On Africa Speaker Series

To learn more about Eye on Africa,

<http://www.africa.isp.msu.edu>

Thursday, September 15, 2016

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. - Room 201 International Center

"Re-presenting the Other: Filming other cultures" Eye on Africa with Sam Jury, Visiting Artist (Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum).

Thursday, September 22, 2016

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. - Room 201 International Center

"Scaling Social Innovation in Africa" Eye on Africa with Ndidi Nwuneli, Founder (LEAP Africa, co-founder of AACE Foods, director Sahel Capital and the African Philanthropy Forum).

Thursday, September 29, 2016

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. - Room 201 International Center

### Social Media

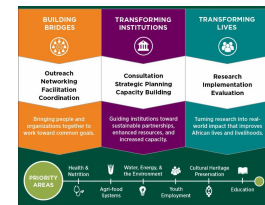
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[Alliance for African Partnership](#)



The Alliance for African Partnership will promote innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions to address emerging challenges in today's world.

"Life Along a Retreating Lakeshore: Fishing, Herding, and Monumentality around Lake Turkana 5000-4000 BP" Department of Anthropology and African Studies Center, Eye on Africa seminar with Elisabeth Hildebrand, Visiting Faculty, (Turkana Basin Institute at Stony Brook University).

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## Watch Past Episodes

<http://eyeonafrika.matrix.msu.edu/>

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## African Tea Times - Open to Everyone

An opportunity to learn and share about first-hand experiences on the African Continent

Learn, Share, Engage!

(427 N Shaw Lane, Room 303 International Center, East Lansing, MI)

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### September 8, 2016

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Room 303 International Center  
Countries: Ghana and Nigeria

### September 22, 2016

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Room 303 International Center  
Countries: Malawi and Mozambique

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## MSU ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Linking All Types of Teachers to International Cross-Cultural Education (LATTICE)

First Annual GALA

Friday, September 30, 2016

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

LATTICE (Linking All Types of Teachers to International Cross-Cultural Education) is a non-profit organization comprised of international educators and students at MSU. LATTICE is a learning community and international network that cultivates and supports global perspectives in K-12 classrooms through personal and professional development opportunities. This diverse group of international graduate students, domestic graduate students, professors, local teachers, and community members meet once a month to discuss and learn from relevant - and often controversial - topics that influence the lives of K-12 students around the world. LATTICE provides a safe, inspiring environment for these conversations and share in global food and discussions each meeting.

The LATTICE Board of Directors cordially invite you to the first annual LATTICE Gala this fall. The event will be held on MSU's campus at the Kiva in Erickson Hall on Friday, September 30th from 6-8:30 pm. There will be a delicious meal from Zaytoon Mediterranean Grill, several international and local musical performances, and a silent auction. It will be a fun evening to promote global awareness and raise funds to support LATTICE. As this is a fundraising event for a 501©(3) non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible. Consider making your reservation soon, as space is limited.

RSVP form: <https://goo.gl/forms/Bvsc8m5atdF4GVf1>

Adults: \$25

Students: \$10

Children 6-12: \$10

Children 5 and under: free

**Yours,**

### **LATTICE Board of Directors**

**LATTICE Mission:** LATTICE is a learning community and international network that cultivates and supports a global perspective in K-12 classrooms through personal and professional development opportunities.

**LATTICE Vision:** LATTICE will promote a safe and dynamic learning community to share ideas, develop personal relationships and explore controversial topics that permit members to gain global understanding and appreciation of similarities and differences within nationalities, cultures, religions, ethnicities, ages, and professional pursuits.

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### **New Course Announcement**

#### **HST 363 East African History through Music**

**Tu & Thur**

**3:00-4:20 pm**

**Instructor: Professor Laura Fair**

Taking East African popular music as our guide, this course explores the twentieth century from the perspective of musicians, singers, listeners and dancers, revealing both the particularities and universals of East Africans' histories and experiences. Musicians have long played central roles in East African societies, soothing souls, giving expression to heartbreak and love, praising the divine and providing an opportunity for people to come together and have a good time. In other instances musicians have proved to be powerful political voices, offering stinging critiques of social inequality, injustice and calls for change. What does history look and sound like when we place music at the center of the story? What can beats, instrumentation and lyrics teach us about the diversity of East African experience over the past 100 years. The course will address both the 'big five' of standard history courses (slavery, colonialism, nationalism, post-colonial politics and war) as well as the more intimate spaces giving meaning to people's lives, such as family, community, religion, bedrooms and dance-floors.

A willingness to listen, talk, read and write is essential for success in this course. There will be some lectures, but a lot of our class time will be spent actively analyzing music, lyrics, films and readings. No background in either music or Africa is required, but you cannot be a wallflower. Readings include a course packet, Bob White's *Rumba Rules: the Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire* and Jonny Steinberg's *A Man of Good Hope*. Grades will be determined through regular participation in class discussion, short papers, and a final presentation of a playlist and liner notes focused on a specific issue or musical genre.

Please direct questions to Professor Fair, [fairl@msu.edu](mailto:fairl@msu.edu).

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### **Summer Exhibitions in the RCAH LookOut! Art Gallery**

#### **Building and Preserving Heritage:**

**May 23 - September 16, 2016**

#### ***The Challenge:***

A Picture Book for Peace in Mali

"*The Challenge: A Picture Book for Peace in Mali*" presents a proof copy and the original individual pages of

a picture book designed, written, and produced by teachers of the Ciwara School in Kati, Mali, and its parent nongovernmental organization, the Institute for Popular Education, in collaboration with students and faculty of the RCAH.

The story and images in

*The Challenge* are designed to contribute to peace-building dialogues in Mali that strive to recover and deepen a democratic culture in the wake of political violence.

Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH)

C200 Snyder Hall, 2nd Floor

Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI 48823

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## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### CFP:

**Everyday Life on the African Continent: Fun, Leisure and Expressivity**

**Deadline: September 30, 2016**

<https://melissagraboyes.com/everyday-life-on-the-continent>

Editors: Kemi Balogun, Lisa Gilman, Melissa Graboyes, Habib Iddrisu

AUGUST UPDATE: This project has received a pre-completion contract with Ohio University Press, and we are accepting 500 word abstracts until September 30. Please email abstracts and questions to Lisa Gilman at [imgilman@uoregon.edu](mailto:imgilman@uoregon.edu).

### Project Description

This volume, edited by a multi-disciplinary group of scholars who work in different regions of Africa, will be a collection of essays focusing on forms of leisure and expressivity on the continent. Each short and descriptive essay (5000-6000 words), will be written in accessible prose and will focus on providing details about a cultural form, explaining the context(s) in which it occurs, and providing some analysis as to its significance. The book will be thematically organized, with multiple chapters on topics such as Fashion and Beauty, Sports and Games, Love and Dating, and Creative Arts. The volume targets an undergraduate audience with limited knowledge of the continent. The intent is for the volume to include essays from all regions of the continent, from rural and urban settings, about the present or the past, and about "popular" or "traditional" practices. This edited volume is under pre-completion contract with Ohio University Press, and draft chapters will be due by February 2017.

This project will contribute a critically needed text that exposes undergraduate students to the positive aspects of daily life on the continent. A particular focus will be upon the creative and dynamic ways that people in African contexts are using their leisure time, having fun, being creative, and engaging in forms of expressive culture. Much of the material available for undergraduate African Studies courses emphasizes the challenges facing the continent, focusing on war, poverty, corruption, disease, or human rights violations. These issues are real and deserve sustained attention. However, the narrow focus on "Africa's problems" creates pedagogical problems. It can reinforce stereotypes students are already conversant with and misses an opportunity for students to consider the similarities and differences between their lives and those of their African counterparts. As those of us who have spent time on the continent know firsthand, challenging conditions do not preclude people from making music, falling in love, playing sports, participating in festivals, writing blogs, telling jokes, wearing expressive clothing, making videos, playing games, dancing, eating delicious food and finding pleasure in myriad other ways in their daily lives. These are the types of topics we anticipate for this volume.

Contributors are welcome to write about their research expertise and may distill research findings from an article or monograph to make it accessible to undergraduates. This is an opportunity to write about a compelling topic outside of one's disciplinary scope, and essays about first-hand experience are also acceptable. We welcome all abstracts that convey a sense of energy and excitement on the part of the author.

### Companion Symposium

The book editors will be hosting a companion symposium on the topic of "Fun, Leisure, and Expressivity in Africa" at the University of Oregon on February 23-24, 2017. Chapter contributors will be strongly encouraged (but not required) to participate in this event, and funding to offset travel costs will be available. Draft chapters will be pre-circulated, authors will receive feedback from the volume editors during the symposium. We anticipate this symposium being a key activity for establishing connections between the authors and building cohesiveness throughout the book.

Submission details

Abstracts of roughly 500 words are due by September 30, 2016. Abstracts should briefly describe the topic, place, and time frame, how it fits into the parameters of the volume, and why it is significant. Contributors are welcome to submit multiple abstracts about different possible topics, and then receive feedback from the editors about which might be the best fit.

When submitting your abstract, please indicate whether you would like to participate in the symposium in February, and if you'd like to be considered for funding to offset travel costs.

Abstracts should be emailed as word docs to [imgilman@uoregon.edu](mailto:imgilman@uoregon.edu).

#### Project Timeline

- September 30, 2016-Abstracts due
- November 15, 2016-Notification of Acceptance & Notification of Funding Awards for Symposium
- February 15, 2017-Pre-circulation of Symposium Papers/ Chapter Drafts
- February 23-24, 2017-Symposium at the University of Oregon
- April 1, 2017-First Draft of Full Chapter Due to Editors for review
- June 1, 2017-Comments back from Editors on Draft Chapters
- July 15, 2017-Revised draft due to Editors
- July 15-Sept. 1-Editors work on finalizing manuscript
- September 1, 2017-Submission to Ohio University Press

#### About the Editors

This project is being coordinated by four colleagues at the University of Oregon. Kemi Balogun is in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies; Lisa Gilman is in English and Folklore; Melissa Graboyes is in History and the Honors College; and Habib Iddrisu is in Music and Dance. We all have inter-disciplinary research interests and work on different parts of the continent. We will be producing an introduction for the edited volume in addition to contributing content chapters.

#### Contact

For questions or additional information, and to submit abstracts, please contact: Lisa Gilman, [imgilman@uoregon.edu](mailto:imgilman@uoregon.edu).