

MSU African Studies Center

Eye on Africa Speakers for Fall 2017

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Room 201 International Center

427 N Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824

Ph: 517-353-1700

(Also found at URL: <http://www.Africa.isp.msu.edu>)



<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sept. 14	Charles MacKenzie	Veterinary Pathologist, Michigan State University	"MSU's major role in controlling and eliminating neglected tropical diseases."
Sept. 21	Akil Cornelius	Doctoral Candidate, History (MSU)	"Gun Running, Guerrilla Warfare, and Technological Change in the late nineteenth Century South Africa"
Sept. 28	Sarah Evans and Robert Logan	Sarah is an assistant professor at Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) and the Department of Integrative Biology, Michigan State University. Robert is a graduate student at KBS and received his bachelor's degree at Grinnell College.	"The microbial ecology of Namibia's Namib Desert" Sarah and Robert will discuss their work in Namibia, which examines how microorganisms survive and drive ecosystems in very dry areas. We discuss our findings and share field adventures from the last two years working in one of the driest and oldest deserts in the world.
October 5	Anne Pitcher	Anne Pitcher is Professor of African Studies and Political Science and a faculty associate in the Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. She also serves as President of the African Studies Association.	"No Place Like Home: The Politics of Urban Residential Development in Luanda, Angola"
Oct. 12	Dr Emila Afonso Nhalevilo	Associate Professor in Math & Science Education and Director of the Center of Mozambican Studies and Ethnoscience, Pedagogical University in Mozambique.	"Research and Curriculum: Deconstructing the Circle"

Oct. 19	Jessica Achberger	<p>“Words Matter: Rhetoric vs. Reality in China-Africa Relations.” Jessica Achberger is African Studies Librarian and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History at Michigan State University. Her PhD research in history focused on the bilateral relationship between Zambia and China during the Cold War, for which she conducted fieldwork in both Zambia and China. Prior to arriving at MSU, she was Associate Director of Research & Programs and a Senior Research Fellow at the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research, Lusaka, Zambia. In Zambia, Jessica worked collaboratively researching Chinese agricultural investors in peri-urban Lusaka, researching experiences along agricultural value chains (farm to market to restaurant). At MSU, she is part of a team exploring the expansion of the China in Africa, Africa in China Resource Network’s Knowledge Hub and is working on a text-encoding project to compare themes and rhetoric from Mandarin and English language academic publications on Chinese agricultural investments in Africa.</p>	<p>This talk explores the past, present, and future of China-Africa relations, arguing that the rhetoric of the relations, as well as the way we write about them in journalism and in academic literature, matter. Using examples from historical diplomatic relations, contemporary agricultural engagements, and distant reading through topic modeling of Mandarin and English academic literature, we will discuss the importance of rhetoric to our understanding of China-Africa relations, as well as to the relations themselves.</p>
Oct. 26	Berhanu Abegaz	Former Executive Director of the African Academy of Sciences, & current member of the African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET).	<i>Science, Technology and Globalization – Where is Africa?</i>
Nov. 2	Arturo Saavedra	Centro de Estudios de Asia y Africa, El Colegio de Mexico	
Nov. 7	Mona Mwakilinga	4-6:30 pm Room 201	
	ASA		
	Thanksgiving		
Nov. 30	Joanna Grabski	Director of the School of Art at Arizona State University	“Dakar as an “Art City””
Dec. 7	TBD		