

# African Studies Center Michigan State University

## Weekly Bulletin

March 21, 2017

Spring #10

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

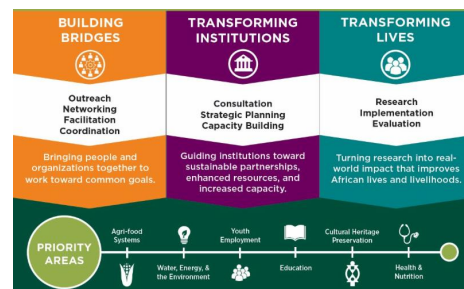
Please feel free to visit our website for more information:  
<http://www.africa.isp.msu.edu>

### 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://africa.isp.msu.edu/programs/eye-africa/>



## AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER PROGRAMS

### Eye on Africa

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 **SPECIAL DAY**  
12:00- 1:30pm- Room 201 International Center

"Peacebuilding in Mali." Eye on Africa with Stephen L. Esquith, Dean, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, MSU.



Tuesday, March 28, 2017  
12:00- 1:30pm- Room 201 International Center

"You Could Sing Your Way Out of Pain and Survive: Music, Resistance and Race Relations in Mandela's Robben Island Prison during the Anti-Apartheid Struggle." Eye on Africa with Janie Cole, Visiting Professor, University of Cape Town, Musicologist and Oral Historian.

[For additional information or to view past episodes.](#)

***African Tea Time- Open to Everyone***  
***An opportunity to learn about and share first-hand knowledge of***  
***the African continent***  
***Learn, Share, Engage!***



*March 30: Cameroon, the Congos and Tunisia*

*April 13: Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire & Guinea  
(Bissau and Conakry)*

*The full schedule can be found on our [website](#).*

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## MSU ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*"FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: EXPLORING  
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO AFRICA'S  
DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES"*

*March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 | 8:30 - 4PM  
MSU INTERNATIONAL CENTER ROOM 115*



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. FELIX  
KWAME YEBOAH**

Dr. Yeboah is an Assistant Professor, International Development, and a member of the AFRE Food Security Group. His research focuses on agricultural productivity and poverty reduction strategies in Africa and the human dimensions of environmental and natural resource change.



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# **“Migrations of Islam”**

## **Movie Screening and Discussion with the creators**

a documentary film on Muslim American voices in the 21st century  
by Salah D. Hassan and Swarnavel Pillai  
(56 minutes)

**Wednesday March 29  
6:30 - 8:30 pm  
South Kedzie, Room S107**

From October 2011 to May 2012, a series of public performances were held in Michigan to explore the different ways that Muslims in the U.S. have negotiated the relationship between their faith and society. The result was an extended dialog with Muslim-Americans on a range of issues, from the wearing of a hijab to the making of hip-hop music. These young Muslim-Americans challenge Islamophobia and pose questions to Muslim communities. “Migrations of Islam” is a documentary film that includes clips from the public performances and interviews with students, artists and experts to present the different ways that young Muslims in the United States have positioned themselves against the extremes of anti-Muslim rhetoric and conservative religious traditions, showing the different ways that contemporary forms of Islam are finding expression in the words, images, and actions of Americans.

**Michigan State University  
College of Natural Science  
Council on Diversity and Community  
Muslim Studies Program**

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# 4th Annual ASLA Model African Union Follow Up Conference




## **THEME: HARNESSING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND THROUGH YOUTH INVESTMENT**


Date: Friday 24th March 2017  
Venue: International Center Room 115  
Time: 5.30pm - 7.30pm  
Light refreshments will be served!



 [alsamsu48@gmail.com](mailto:alsamsu48@gmail.com)

 [Asia Msu](#)

 [asia\\_msu](#)

 [asia msu](#)

# Frugal Innovation Field Practicum

*Lilongwe, Malawi*

Global Center for Food Systems Innovations (GCFSI) brings MSU students an interdisciplinary experiential learning opportunity in community engagement, inter-institutional collaboration, and urban food systems.

## Students will learn...

- 1 Deeper understanding of urban food environments in urban Africa.
- 2 Critical skills in community engagement, interdisciplinary problem-solving and collaboration.
- 3 How to co-produce appropriate innovations to critical food system problems as they are identified by those working in food-based livelihoods.

## GCFSI is looking for students who...

- 1 Offer a unique perspective in the areas of business, marketing, urban planning, agriculture, food systems, community, engagement, and sustainability.
- 2 Show commitment to their chosen field but are well-rounded in their pursuits.
- 3 Have a demonstrated commitment to the process of collaboration, inclusion and information exchange.

## APPLY NOW

Visit [goo.gl/HmRMZQ](http://goo.gl/HmRMZQ) to start your application.

*Applications should be submitted by Sunday, April 9, 2017. Interviews of suitable candidates will be held the final week of April and the first week of May. The practicum will take place from June 25 - August 24.*



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Global Center for  
Food Systems Innovation

[gcfsi.msu.edu](http://gcfsi.msu.edu)

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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### 2017 MSP Graduate Student Essay Award (\$500)

This award recognizes an outstanding research paper by a current MSU graduate student whose studies focus on Muslims in any contexts and/or Muslim-majority communities/societies.

Published or unpublished papers must have been written between March 2016 and the deadline, 31 March 2017.

Please submit papers by email attachment (15-25 pages with complete works cited) to Mohammad Khalil ([khalilmo@msu.edu](mailto:khalilmo@msu.edu)) and Mary Firdaws ( [firdaws2@msu.edu](mailto:firdaws2@msu.edu)).

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2017.

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### GIGA Institute of African Affairs - Call for Seed Funding Proposals

The GIGA Institute of African Affairs (IAA) is looking to fund a limited number of research projects by doctoral students and early career researchers in economics, political science or other social sciences based at research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular in South Africa. The primary aim of this call is to intensify and consolidate cooperation with excellent partners in sub-Saharan Africa and foster collaborations on research topics of joint interest. Submitted proposals should synergistically connect to ongoing or potential future IAA research activities within the broader scope of the four GIGA Research Programmes (RPs) - namely Accountability and Participation (RP1), Peace and Security (RP2), Growth and Development (RP3), and Power and Ideas (RP4).

Proposals to be considered:

- Carry out a small research project within the broader scope of the

aforementioned focus areas.

- Carry out early-stage research or exploratory studies intended to obtain more significant funding from major sources.
- Conduct field research (quantitative or qualitative) within the scope of an existing larger research project.
- Carry out other supplemental research activities within an existing research project that otherwise could not be realised due to budget limitations.
- Engage in synergistic program activities, such as the dissemination of research results to broader audiences; as well as the organisation and support of workshops and research meetings.

#### Eligibility and Funding

The call is open to all doctoral students and early career researchers in economics, political science or other social sciences who are nationals of a sub-Saharan African country and are based at a research institution in sub-Saharan Africa. Applicants holding a PhD must have obtained it not earlier than 2012. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply. Inter-/multidisciplinary and comparative research projects as well as joint projects with other GIGA/IAA researchers are strongly encouraged. The maximum funding for each seed project will be €5,000. Projects should be concluded by the end of 2018.

Additional travel grants will be provided to support collaborative work and to invite researchers to present the results of awarded projects at the GIGA headquarters in Hamburg, Germany.

All proposals and questions regarding the call should be submitted to [iaa@giga-hamburg.de](mailto:iaa@giga-hamburg.de).

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## GJEC Fellowships for Dissertation Research & Completion

The Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change (GJEC) Program, at the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen), is pleased to announce fellowships for MSU graduate students for the 2017-18 academic year.

Generous funding provided by MSU's Graduate School allows us to offer four fellowship opportunities of up to \$10,000\*\* in the following two categories:

#### GJEC Dissertation Research Fellowship

Eligibility: Ph.D. students at MSU who have completed all requirements for their degree with the exception of their dissertation research. Applicants must have dissertation projects that focus specifically on the gender dimensions of environmental and/or agricultural change.

#### GJEC Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Eligibility: Ph.D. students at MSU who have completed dissertation research and all other requirements for their degree program, except for completion of the dissertation. Applicants must graduate by Spring 2018, and their dissertations must focus on the gender dimensions of environmental and/or agricultural change.

Funding must be used during the 2017-18 academic year. Applications are due April 15, 2017, and are available at [www.gencen.msu.edu/funding/gjec.htm](http://www.gencen.msu.edu/funding/gjec.htm).

Email: [gencenga@msu.edu](mailto:gencenga@msu.edu)

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## CONFERENCES & PUBLISHING

### Call for Chapters in English for Edited Volume: Rethinking Childhoods in Africa: An Anthology

Publisher: Vernon Press

For this edited volume, we hope to have a coherent congregation of chapters presenting original research that focuses on the psychology, sociology and history of the condition of childhood in Africa. We intend to move away from the traditional examination of the child solely, to the exploration of childhood in Africa. We are also interested in the different rationalisations and conceptions of childhood, a diversity of aspects and ramifications of childhoods, from purely African and Africa centred perspectives.

The enquiry into aspects of childhood, such as childhood belongings, and the cultures of childhood, has been most amplified in countries in the Global North of Europe and North America in recent times. Africa has a

large youth population and children make up a significant percentage of that demography. Yet the study about childhoods in Africa is still in its nascency. Worse, the scholarly studies of the life of children in Africa have mostly looked at children as victims of social injustice and exploitation and persons living on the peripheries of the world of adults. But there are more regions, surprisingly happy and hope-giving ones, worth interrogating. These include creative expression in childhood, perceptions of happiness in childhood, childhood versus adulthood, childhood spirituality, hijacked childhoods and brave negotiations of safe havens for self-expression, and child(ren) constructed understandings of the African childhood.

The edited volume will bring together the composite analyses and interpretations and stories and case studies about various aspects of childhood in Africa by scholars who focus on African society, culture, education and history. It will investigate childhood and the child(ren) actor(s) across different stages of personhood development, and times and spaces on the African continent.

The editors encourage contributors to submit works that are more inclined to the sociological and historical approaches of inquiry and analysis. The editors also seek works that approach the subject of childhoods in Africa from the interdisciplinary perspective. Thus, contributors can come from different areas such as Childhood Studies, Psychology, Education, Sociology, Human Relations, Cultural Studies, African History, African/a Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Philosophy, Humanitarian and Social Work.

Please direct requests for any additional information to the editors.

- Prof. Charles Quist-Adade Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, BC, Canada  
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- Prof. De Valera Botchway  
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- Dr. Awo Abena Amoah Sarpong  
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## Strategic Narratives of Technology and Africa

### September 1-2, 2017, Madeira Interactive Technologies Institute

### Call for Participation

Submission deadline (papers + creative works/tech): May 1, 2017

Strategic Narratives of Technology and Africa is a peer-reviewed, transdisciplinary conference organized by the Critical Technical Practice laboratory at the Madeira Interactive Technologies Institute (M-ITI), Funchal, Portugal. One of the primary goals of the conference is to foster new, critically-informed confluences between the humanities and tech R+D with regard to Africa, and we especially seek the participation of Africanists from a broad array of disciplinary backgrounds. We are delighted to announce Achille Mbembe, Nanjira Sambuli, Ntone Edjabe, and Sarah Nuttall as our keynote speakers.

#### The Conference

The conference brings scholars, technologists, and cultural producers together on the island of Madeira: a European territory off the coast of Africa, a historical site of mutual entanglement between the Atlantic continents, and a point of departure for European expansion. Here we'll strategize ways to revisit, reframe, and recode the future of technology on and for the continent. What can African theorists, technologists, and cultural producers do to generate alternatives to the influx of neocolonial narratives of tech entrepreneurship? Taking as a given that Africa is "a variegated site of innovation" (Mavhunga), what are key epistemologies and ways of being which are endemic in Africa that should be offered to the world through new systems and processes? Technology is politics by other means (Latour), even if its agency is generally dissimulated. How, then, might we consider anew progressive social and political goals and their conjoining with cultures of technical creativity already embedded in Africa's diverse contexts of life? How might new strategic narratives nurture and promote a vision of the continent as a crucible for radical new socio-technical paradigms? How can an African information economy avoid the dynamics of the resource curse, where connectivity is extractive and exercised upon African citizens rather than by and through them? What can Western technologists do differently, and what are the spaces for collaboration? This conference aims to reinvestigate these relationships and engender dialog between African and Western audiences and participants, who should leave Madeira equipped with new strategies and new collaborative partnerships.

We are accepting papers, creative works, and technologies that explore or demonstrate alternative socio-technical

strategies. Contributions should be grounded in analysis and move toward synthesis: We hope to paint the "art of the [radical] possible" and generate new threads and pathways for the development of fresh technologies. We hope that this focus on the possible near future will differentiate this event from many generative but more phantasmal Afro-futurist speculations. Creative works and technologies eligible for consideration may include, but are not limited to: software, technical systems ("low" or "hi"), images, objects, demos, film/video, poetry, performances, interventions, illustration, and more.

For detailed submission guidelines and more information, please see the [conference website](#) or send questions to Cátia Jardim at [snta-admin@m-iti.org](mailto:snta-admin@m-iti.org).

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## Call for Chapters in English for Edited Volume: "In the Name of God?" Religious Fundamentalism in Africa.

Publisher: Vernon Press

For this edited volume, we are hoping for a coherent ensemble of chapters presenting original research on the phenomenon of religious fundamentalism in Africa. The notions of religion and fundamentalism are a dangerous mix the world over. Africa is no exception. From Nigeria to Sudan, from Mali to the Gambia, Central African Republic, and from Egypt to Swaziland, religious fundamentalist-inspired conflicts have left in their trail death and destruction. The most recent notorious religious conflicts are in Nigeria and Sudan. According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, "since 1999, a disturbingly large number of Nigerians, 12,000, if not more, have been killed in sectarian and communal attacks and reprisals between Muslims and Christians."

The fundamental belief that one religion or a sect in a religion or a society that identifies with a particular religious worldview has absolute knowledge of the absolute truth and therefore all other groups and sects must conform to the ways of that group has been a basic recipe for all sorts of antagonism and conflicts between religious groups and societies globally and in Africa. Whether produced by the pursuit of religious exclusivism or inclusivism or universalism, or fanned by doctrinal differences or political aims and goals, the antagonism has often yielded violence inspired by religious fundamentalism and aggression globally. The ramifications of religious fundamentalism in Africa are many and far reaching.

Thus, this volume aims to deliver fresh perspectives on this religious phenomenon as it has manifested and influenced lives and shaped society in Africa. By combining international and interdisciplinary contributions the book seeks to congregate the composite analyses and documented experiences of religious fundamentalism in Africa recounted by scholars who focus on African society, culture, politics and history. It will investigate the plethora of ways that religious fundamentalism has negotiated, mediated, disturbed, deconstructed, or constructed social, political and economic canons and interactions across different times and spaces on the African continent.

Please direct requests for any additional information to the editors.

- Prof. Charles Quist-Adade Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, BC, Canada  
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## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Fulbright US Scholar Program

The 2018-19 Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program competition is now open and accepting applications for awards in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Fulbright grantees teach and conduct research abroad to deepen their expertise, build networks and foster partnerships that help further internationalize campuses. A complete list of opportunities available in the region



can be found in the [Catalog of Awards](#). Some highlights:

- Botswana: Environmental Sciences (8020-BC)
- Senegal: All Disciplines (8049-SG)
- Mauritius: All Disciplines (8038-MP)
- Africa Regional Research Program: All Disciplines (8465-MC)

For eligibility factors, detailed application guidelines and review criteria, please visit the website. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and the current competition will close on August 1, 2017.

Also, join in an informational webinar on Tuesday, March 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Please contact the Fulbright Program with additional questions at [subsaharanafrica@ie.org](mailto:subsaharanafrica@ie.org) or <http://www.cies.org/us-scholar-programs>.

## Contact

[africa@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:africa@campusad.msu.edu)

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## Stay Connected



*We want to feature you (students, faculty, alumni) on our website and across our social media platforms. Please keep us informed at [mocktara@msu.edu](mailto:mocktara@msu.edu).*