



# African Studies Center

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY facilitates an exploration of Global Africa, Unity in Diversity, and Partnership.

**November 27, 2018**

**Fall #13**

## This is the Year of Global Africa!

The Year of Global Africa explores MSU's rich history and connection with our many partners across Africa and throughout the African Diaspora through diverse scholarship, engagement, and activities. The weekly Newsletter provides a list of upcoming events, speaker presentations, tea times, conferences, jobs and other exciting opportunities related to the Year of Global Africa



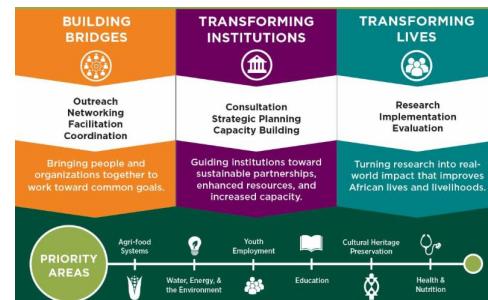
To learn more about the Year of Global Africa, <http://globalafrica.isp.msu.edu>  
For more on the African Studies Center, <http://africa.msu.edu>

## Alliance for African Partnership

To learn more about the Alliance for African Partnership,  
[aap.isp.msu.edu](http://aap.isp.msu.edu)

## Eye On Africa Speaker Series

To learn more about Eye on Africa,  
<http://africa.isp.msu.edu/programs/eye-africa/>



Eye on Africa Seminars are livestreamed at <http://eyeonafrica.matrix.msu.edu/watch-live/>

## AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Eye on Africa

(Seminars are live-streamed at <http://eyeonafrica.matrix.msu.edu/watch-live/>)

**Thursday, November 29, 2018**

No Eye on Africa this week

(African Studies Association Conference in Atlanta)

**Thursday, December 6, 2018**

12:00-1:30pm-Room 201 International Center

"Diaspora Identity, the unhomely and the politics of belonging in Indian East African novels"

Eye on Africa with James Ocita, Literature, Makerere University

## MSU ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AFRICA R&D CONNECT SEMINAR SERIES

Connecting Interdisciplinary Sciences for Research and Development in Africa

Wednesday, 28th November, 5:00- 6:30 PM

Room A279, Plant and Soil Sciences Building (PSSB)

**AFRICA R&D CONNECT SEMINAR SERIES**

**Connecting Interdisciplinary Sciences for Research and Development in Africa**

**Featuring:**



**Agada Iveren Blessing**  
(PhD Candidate)  
Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences  
(Visiting Scholar, USAID- Nigerian Agricultural Project (NAPP))

**Title:**  
*Productivity and Extension Issues in Nigeria: Involving University Students as a Way Forward*

**Abstract**

A number of challenges to increased agricultural productivity in Africa has been identified and outlined in literature. Amongst these challenges are lack of accessible data and poor extension service delivery. Usually, information on new technology has to be passed to the end users (smallholder farm families) ensuring workability for the desired result to be achieved, however this is not the case in most developing countries.

The World Bank puts the ideal farmer - extension agent ratio at 1:800, while FAO uses 1:1000. Statistics for Nigeria on the other hand shows the ratio to be pegged between 1:7000 -10,000 one of the poorest in the world. The government of Nigeria has repeatedly attempted to fix the problem but failed. Recently there was a move to recruit 100,000 young people as extension agents, but will this be sustainable? And with government transitions can we ensure continuity?

An approach where universities 400-level students in faculties of agriculture within the country are trained, registered and motivated during their mandatory students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) to serve as village extension workers is proposed to address the huge gap of extension farmer ratio.

Join us for a networking session over Pizza on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Room A279 Plant and Soil Science building (PSSB)

Agada Iveren Blessing,a PhD Candidate in the Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Science and Visiting Scholar USAID -Nigerian Agricultural Project will be speaking on the topic "Productivity and Extension Issues in Nigeria: Involving University Students as a Way Forward".

We'll start off with free pizza dinner followed by the talk and discussions. Kindly see the attached flyer for more details. Hope to see you there.

The African R&D Connect Seminar Series is an informal monthly seminar series with the aim of letting the African community at MSU know what each other is doing in order to foster collaborations during their time at MSU and after graduation. Presentations are usually 30 min long and can take any form preferred by the speaker.

### Spring Course Announcement - Islam in Africa

ANP 417, Spring 2019

Wednesdays 3 - 5:50 pm

C302 Snyder Hall

Professor: Mara Leichtman

This course aims to provide an overview of "African Islam" through examining the work of scholars from Anthropology, History, Islamic Studies and other related disciplines. We will begin with an overview of the fundamentals of Islam before turning to the diverse accounts of the historical spread of Islam to Africa, the religious implications of the African slave trade and European colonialism, the making of an Islamic state in Africa, and Islamic education in various African countries and contexts. Themes of religious conversion, gendered dynamics, migration, urbanization, ethno-religious tensions, and the relationship of Islam to human rights will also be explored. Case studies will focus on Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan and the Americas. A further goal of this course is to provide students with the conceptual tools necessary to evaluate reports and news about the region, and to understand the subjectivity and bias that often permeates these reports. We will visit the Islamic Center of East Lansing, watch films, and hear alternative accounts of Islam in Africa from guest speakers. Seminar participants will post weekly reactions to readings and activities to a listserv, and create, through research and class presentations, their own accounts of African Islamic worlds. This course is open to advanced undergraduate and graduate students.

Please contact Professor Mara Leichtman, maral@msu.edu, for further information or for assistance with an override if needed.

## Other Announcements

### Greater Lansing United Nations Association- Human Rights Day

Sunday, December 2 @3:30pm- 6pm

Hannah Center

You are cordially invited to attend the Greater Lansing United Nations Association (GLUNA) Human Rights Day Program on Sunday, Dec. 2 at the Hannah Center from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. One speaker is a NGO Country Director in Nigeria and will share about press freedom in Nigeria. The other speaker owns a business consulting firm in South Africa and will speak about human rights post- Apartheid.

*Join Greater Lansing United Nations Association*  
*to commemorate*

## Human Rights Day 2018

 UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
#STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS

**Sunday December 2, 2018**  
3:30 p.m. -6:00 p.m.  
East Lansing Hannah Community Center - 819 Abbott Rd

3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Check-in, displays, networking  
4:00 - 6:00 pm Program, refreshments, and informal conversation with our presenters and international guests from the MSU Humphrey Fellowship Program.

Teachers, students, faculty and the general public are cordially invited to attend.

Program and parking are FREE!

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 defined ideal standards and goals for all member nations to work toward over the decades ahead.

More information:  
[www.gluna.org/event-2937260](http://www.gluna.org/event-2937260)

 UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Greater Lansing Chapter

## Fellowships & Scholarships

### GenCen Call for Papers: Extended Deadlines

New Deadline: Friday, December 14, 2018

The Center for Gender in a Global Context (GenCen) has extended the deadline for all four of our paper competitions to Friday, December 14, 2018. We encourage you to apply if eligible, and encourage others to apply!

The **Gallin Paper Award** is open to MSU graduate students in honor of Rita S. Gallin for her 13 years as director of the WID Program. Submissions should be made to [tinyurl.com/gallin-paper](http://tinyurl.com/gallin-paper).

The **Dobson Activism Award** is open to MSU undergraduates and named to honor Tracy Dobson's tireless efforts to bring gender equity to MSU. Please submit papers to [tinyurl.com/dobson-award](http://tinyurl.com/dobson-award).

The **Anderson Paper Award** is open to MSU undergraduates in honor of former women's rights activist and MSU Women's Studies scholar Dr. Mary Anderson. Submissions should be made to [tinyurl.com/anderson-undergrad](http://tinyurl.com/anderson-undergrad).

The **RCGV Paper Award** is cosponsored by the Research Consortium on Gender-based Violence. Please submit papers to [tinyurl.com/RCGV-paper](http://tinyurl.com/RCGV-paper)

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## GJEC fellowship competition

Deadline: December 2, 2018

The Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change (GJEC) Program is pleased to announce fellowships available to MSU graduate students. Generous funding provided by MSU's Graduate School allows us to offer fellowship opportunities in the following two categories:

### **GJEC Dissertation Research Fellowship (Up to \$10,000)**

Eligibility: PhD. 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 (\$8,500)**

Eligibility: PhD. 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 the end of Fall 2020 with a dissertation focused on the gender dimensions of environmental and/or agricultural change.

We encourage previously unsuccessful applications to reapply.

Applications are due December 1st, 2018, and are available at <https://gencen.isp.msu.edu/graduate-students/funding/>

Applicants do not need to be enrolled in the GJEC specialization to be eligible. Students who previously received a GJEC Research fellowship are still qualified to compete for a GJEC Completion fellowship. Previously successful applicants can be found here:  
<https://gencen.isp.msu.edu/graduate-students/gjec-program/>

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## Conferences

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### Call for Proposals

21st Annual Africana Studies Student Research Conference:

Friday, February 8, 2019; Deadline: December 7, 2018

Bowling Green State University

The Africana Studies Program at BGSU is proud to announce the 21st Annual Africana Studies Student Research Conference:

"Emerging Perspectives in Africana Studies"  
Friday, February 8, 2019

We encourage undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines to participate. And we are asking faculty to help us identify students whose work is appropriate for submission/presentation. Panels will be held in the morning and afternoon, punctuated by a keynote luncheon.

#### **Proposal Deadline: December 7, 2018**

All proposals should include: name, institutional affiliation, paper title, abstract (300 words max), Faculty sponsor (for undergraduate students), and email address, and will be submitted to: [http://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/africana\\_studies\\_conf/](http://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/africana_studies_conf/).

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**  
**AFRICANA STUDIES PROGRAM**  
**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Presents  
The 21st Annual Student Research Conference:  
***"Emerging Perspectives in Africana Studies"***

**Friday, February 8, 2019**

"***Emerging Perspectives in Africana Studies***," encompasses a wide range of topics spanning time and place, from current and historic political events, to artistic and cultural developments, and environmental change. We welcome papers on broad issues affecting Africana people in a global context, including but not limited to: language, religion, gender, culture; ethnicity; the arts/media; politics, leadership, economics, commerce; education; social justice; law; medicine & public health practices; war & terrorism; peace, conflict resolution, & security; youth, crime, & vigilante justice; changing values & norms; environment, development, rural-urban changes; immigration/migration; slavery; Post-Colonial issues; the civil war; political-economic empowerment & leadership; national reconciliation; property rights; census; etc.

We encourage **undergraduate and graduate students** from all disciplines to participate. Moreover, we request faculty to help us identify student papers that are worthy of submission/presentation and when possible, to assist their students in attending the conference.

**Proposal Deadline: December 7, 2018**

All proposals should include: name, institutional affiliation, paper title, abstract (300 words max), Faculty sponsor (for undergraduate students), and email address. Please submit this information to: [http://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/africana\\_studies\\_conf/2018](http://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/africana_studies_conf/2018). Click on the *Submit Proposal* tab in the left hand column to start the submission process. You will be notified of acceptance and other program details via email. Conference proceedings and papers can be published online at BGSU's digital publication, **scholarworks@BGSU**. Please contact Dr. Rebecca L. Skinner Green at [rgreen@bgsu.edu](mailto:rgreen@bgsu.edu) or Tracy Susko at [tsusko@bgsu.edu](mailto:tsusko@bgsu.edu) with any questions.

**Paper Deadline: February 1, 2019**

All completed papers **must** be received by this date. Presenters whose papers are selected will be awarded a certificate. While there is no conference registration fee, participants are responsible for all costs associated with their participation in the conference.

**Deadline for submission of paper proposals December 7, 2018.**

The Africana Studies Program is grateful for generous support from:

## MAIE Call for Proposals

March 7-8, 2019

Abstract Deadline: November 30, 2018

Eberhard Center at Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids



The MAIE (Michigan Association of International Educators) Annual Conference for 2019 is [now accepting presentation proposals!](#) The deadline to submit is November 30th, 2018.

The Conference will be March 7 and 8, with preconference workshops on March 6, at the Grand Valley State University Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids. We are looking for presentations that address all areas of international education including:

- International Student and Scholar Services
- Education Abroad
- International Enrollment Management
- Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship
- Internationalization at Community Colleges
- International Education Leadership
- And more!

Conference sessions will be in 1 hour blocks, and workshops will be either full or half-days. Flash sessions (30 minutes) may also be offered, depending on demand.

Please consider sharing your expertise and creativity with the IE community in Michigan this year! For more information about the Conference, and to submit your proposal, please visit [www.maie.us](http://www.maie.us). First-time presenters are more than welcome, and encouraged to apply for one of our grants.

## Contact

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

## Stay Connected



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