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## African Studies Center

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

*Spring #1, January 12th, 2021*

### AFRICA @ MSU THIS WEEK



**Date:** Thursday, January 21st, 2021

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (EST)

Next Week's Presentation:

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Dr. Asanda Benya (Department of Sociology; University of Cape Town): **'Demands for a Living Wage: the invisible women in South Africa's Platinum mining Belt.'**

Eye on Africa is a weekly seminar series that provides scholars, policy-makers, applied practitioners, students, and the interested public with cutting-edge and highly-contextualized knowledge about the African continent.

Due to the restrictions on travel and assembly imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will meet virtually throughout the spring. The Eye On Africa schedule for the spring semester [can be found here](#).

[Event Flier](#) | [Register Here](#) | [Watch Past Presentations Here](#)



**Date:** Thursday, January 21st, 2021

**Time:** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (EST)

Next Week's Topic:

**Cameroon: European Legacies in Africa: The Case of Camaroos, Kamerun, Cameroon, Cameroun**

Presenter: Dr. Emmanuel Yewah (Albion College)

Cameroon: The names in the title are derived from the four European powers that encroached upon this central African country in 1472. From the Portuguese navigator/explorer Fernando Pô through the

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“Africa in miniature” or, “Le Triangle” (copying the French), given its geometrical shape. This talk seeks to situate the country geographically, rememorize historical events, highlight its economic base as well as mention in passing its body politics. The last and major part will focus on the language issue, a very important aspect in this multi “everything” country. Besides its two hundred and forty language groups, Cameroon is just one of two countries in the world with two official languages as French and English. The crucial question, however, lies in whether these two received languages and the labels of Francophone and Anglophone attached to them have made or marred the construction of a true Cameroonian identity. Additionally, it is a matter of inquiring into the roles that these languages and labels have played not only in the subversion and devaluation of traditions but, more importantly, in the alienation of Cameroonians from their indigenous cultures.

African Tea Times are an opportunity to learn and share about first-hand experiences on the African continent. Every other week, the African Tea Times focus on different countries. The tea times open to everyone. They are held every other Thursday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m (EST), and are held virtually on Zoom.

[Spring Schedule](#) | [Event Flier](#) | [Registration Link Coming Soon](#)

## FLAS Fellowships

**Application Deadline:** Friday, February 12th, 2021

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for MSU graduate and undergraduate students are available through the African Studies Center, provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

FLAS Fellowships award academic year undergraduate students with \$10,000 toward tuition and fees and a stipend of \$5,000. Academic year graduate students receive \$18,000 toward tuition and fees and \$15,000 in stipends. Summer FLAS recipients receive \$5,000 in tuition and a \$2,500 stipend.

***For more information and/or to submit an application visit MSU African Studies Center at***

[africa.isp.msu.edu](http://africa.isp.msu.edu)

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## Faculty Mini-Grants: Call for Applications

**Application Deadline:** Friday, January 29th, 2021

For summer 2021, the African Studies Center at Michigan State University is offering multiple Africa-related grants.

MSU Faculty can apply for:

- Curriculum Development Grants
- Faculty Development Workshops Grants
- Strategic Partnership Grants
- Special Programming Grants

[Application Form and More Information](#)

## New Course for Spring 2021; GEO 873: Seminar in People - Environment Geography

**Date and Time:** Tuesday at 12:40 PM - 3:30 PM (EST)

**Instructor:** Dr. Leo Zulu

Understanding the complex interplay between social and ecological systems is at the center of ongoing debates on how to achieve sustainable development with minimal adverse environmental impacts. This is particularly so in the context of major current and emerging environmental crises around the world, and the diverse, shifting and often competing pressures on ecosystem services and associated opportunities. The changing context includes growing neoliberal emphasis on privatization and commercialization of nature, resurgent pressures to re-centralize natural resources control in some world regions (e.g., forest-based climate change mitigation strategies under REDD+), and increasing popular decentralization of environmental governance, including community empowerment and natural resources management. In this seminar, we investigate the theoretical, methodological, and policy dynamics of the vibrant sub-field of people-environment (or 'nature-society') studies in geography and environment related fields in the social and natural sciences. While also addressing common socioecological theoretical approaches, this course emphasizes a political ecology analytical framework which examines in a holistic manner how ecological, socio-institutional, economic, and political factors including the unequal exercise of power, shape environmental problems and the quest for lasting solutions. Students activities are structured readings, discussions, and writing assignments including reading summaries, an article review, and a final paper.



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## New Course for Spring 2021; RCAH 202: The Presence of the Past

**Date and Time:** Tuesday and Thursday at 3:00 PM - 4:50 PM (EST)

**Instructor:** Stephen L. Esquith

This Section of RCAH 202 offers students an opportunity to study and engage in peacebuilding in the West African country of Mali by joining in the work of the Malian truth and reconciliation commission (Commission Vérité, Justice, et Réconciliation) in collaboration with university students and faculty at the Institut Universitaire Technologie in Mali.

While this may sound like a narrow focus for a course on The Presence of the Past, our work with our partners in Mali is representative of many peacebuilding efforts in a world in which past injustices are very much part of the present. These efforts include the recent work of the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the desire to create a truth and reconciliation commission by members of the United States Congress. Peacebuilding in Mali may seem geographically far from us, but telling the truth about the presence of past violence and redressing this legacy is very much a part of the fabric of our increasingly connected world

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## Congratulations to Ebenezer Ansah, Inaugural Recipient of the Nnamdi Azikiwe Award for African Students

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*(Image of doctoral candidate Ebenezer Ansah)*

The African Studies Center at Michigan State University is delighted to announce two important and related developments; the inauguration of the Nnamdi Azikiwe Award, and the announcement of its first recipient, doctoral candidate Ebenezer Offei Ansah. The award honors former Nigerian President Nnamdi Azikiwe, a scholar and politician who led Nigeria as its first civilian president. The award provides support for African students who otherwise have minimal sources for support as most funds are available for citizens and permanent residents of the USA.

The Inaugural recipient of the Nnamdi Azikiwe Award, is Ebenezer Offei Ansah. Eben, as he is commonly known, is a most befitting winner of this prestigious award. His work on sustainable food systems and agriculture is Africa-centered. He is interested in how Sustainability Certification Programs can be used to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Ghana. While studying at MSU, Eben has maintained strong ties with key agricultural institutions in Ghana. He has held two internships with the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana and with the National Development Planning Commission. These engagements have given Eben the opportunity to give back to his country, and will help prepare him for his return to Ghana after the completion of his doctoral studies at MSU.

[Full Statement](#)

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## Congratulations to the Meece Paper Prize Winners!

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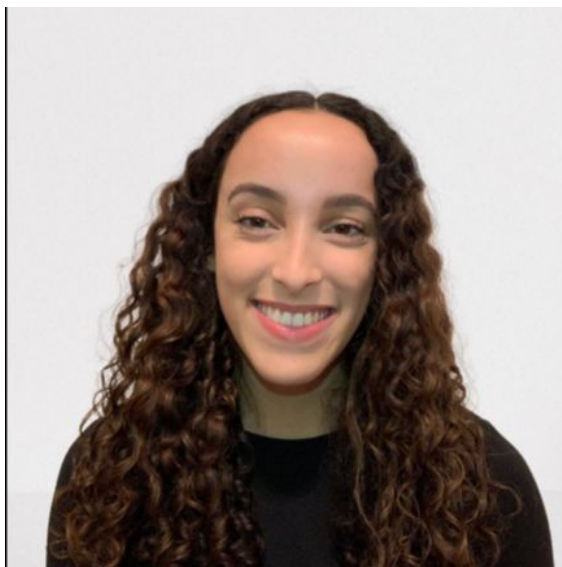
Congratulations to graduate student Caitlin Baker and undergraduate students Lucinda

Krieger, Jocelyn Polanek, and Triniti Watson for winning Meece Paper Prizes!



*(Image of graduate student Caitlin Baker)*

Caitlin Baker is a doctoral student in the Department of History, College of Social Science.



*(Image of undergraduate student Lucinda Krieger)*

Lucinda Krieger is an undergraduate student in the Department of Marketing, Eli Broad College of Business.

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*(Image of undergraduate student Jocelyn Polanek)*

Jocelyn Polanek is an undergraduate majoring in Integrative Biology, College of Natural Science.



*(Image of undergraduate student Triniti Watson)*

Triniti Watson is an undergraduate student with a major in Interdisciplinary Humanities and a minor in African & African American Studies, College of Arts and Letters.

*The Meece Graduate and Undergraduate Paper Prizes encourage excellence in African Studies at MSU and honors Mr. Roger Meece, an alumnus of Michigan State University and a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service who spent most of his career in Africa.*

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Via Zoom

**Date:** Thursday, January 21st, 2021

**Time:** 4:00 PM (EST)

The Fulbright Program offers international educational and cultural exchange programs designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the US and the people of other nations. Fulbright is funded by US government grants and operates through various initiatives in over 160 partner countries.

There are Fulbright programs in diverse fields for students, scholars, professionals, and more. Fulbright recipients study, teach, or pursue important research and professional projects abroad.

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