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# African Studies Center Michigan State University

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 4, 2016

Fall No.

5

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, October 06, 2016

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

"China's Engagement with Africa: The myths and the realities." Eye on Africa with Muna Ndulo, Faculty, Cornell Law School, Cornell University.

Thursday, October 13, 2016

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. - Room 303 International Center

"Africa from the Margins." ASA Presidential Lecture delivered by Dorothy Hodgson, Professor of Anthropology and Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at Rutgers University, and President of the African Studies Association.

Thursday, October 20, 2016

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

### Social Media

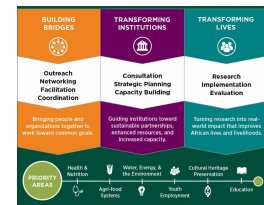
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[Alliance for African Partnership](#)



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.

"Africa's Evolving Employment Trend: Implications for economic transformation." Eye of Africa with Felix Kwame Yeboah, Faculty, International Development, MSU.

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## Watch Past Episodes

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

### **African Tea Times - Open to Everyone**

An opportunity to learn about and share 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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#### October 6, 2016

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Room 303 International Center  
Countries: Rwanda and Uganda

#### October 20, 2016

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Room 303 International Center  
Countries: Benin, the Gambia, and Togo

## **MSU ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **2016 Global Focus Photo Contest is underway**

The 2016 Global Focus Photo Contest has now begun and is accepting submissions until October 21, 2016. There are three categories for submissions: students, alumni, and faculty/staff (including retirees). Please submit your international photos for consideration! The top four winners from each category will have their photography featured in the lobby of the International Center.

Entrants can submit up to three photos to the International Studies and Program's website or its Facebook page.

[Global Focus Photo Contest \(ISP website\)](#)

[Global Focus Photo Contest \(ISP Facebook page\)](#)

[Global Focus Contest Guidelines](#)

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### **International Education Brownbag Lecture**

Tuesday, October 4th, 11:30-12:30pm  
Erickson Hall, Room 116H

International Studies in the College of Education presents "Working in International Education," delivered by Sakil Malik, the Director for the Reading within Reach (REACH) Project and Global Reading Network (GRN) funded by USAID.

International Education is a complex and multi-disciplinary sector. It has now expanded to an integrated

development model which is tied to other sectors such as Health, Finance and/or Conflict. This brownbag will discuss some of the complexities of IE and will also explore the challenges for professionals working in this area. This session will focus on careers in international education and can be of interest to both graduate students and faculty.

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## JOB POSTINGS

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### Postdoctoral Fellowship in African Studies (Social Sciences and Humanities) Council on African Studies at The MacMillan Center, Yale University

The Council on African Studies at the MacMillan Center invites applications for a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University for AY2017-2018 and AY2018-2019, commencing on July 1, 2017. Candidates must have research and teaching experience relevant to modern and contemporary Africa, in the social sciences or humanities.

All applicants should have in-depth knowledge of at least one African language and fluency in English, and must have completed the Ph.D. by the time of appointment. The post-doctoral associate will spend 75% of their time pursuing his/her own research and teaching one course each academic year related to his/her interests, and 25% of their time curating the programmatic/scholarly activities of the Yale Africa Initiative. Applicants should submit a cover letter, one-page description of research plans; a draft of a course syllabus, and a title and brief summary of a second course; a CV; and letters of recommendation from two academic references. Compensation includes an annual salary of \$50,000, health insurance, and other benefits afforded to post-doctoral associates at Yale: <http://your.yale.edu/work-yale/benefits/my-benefits-yale/postdoctoral-associate-benefits>.

We will accept applications immediately with review beginning on November 15, 2016 and continuing until the selections are final.

All information from the applicant should be submitted electronically through Interfolio: <https://apply.interfolio.com/38069>. Uploaded PDF copies of signed reference letters will be accepted but signed hard copies should be mailed to the address below.

George Joseph, Deputy Director, The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, 34 Hillhouse Avenue, P.O. Box 208206 New Haven, CT 06520-8206 USA. Email: [george.joseph@yale.edu](mailto:george.joseph@yale.edu)

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### College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in central Minnesota announce a full-time, tenure track position at the rank of assistant professor in Cultural Anthropology to begin in August 2017. The position entails working with one other anthropologist within a Sociology Department which offers both a minor and a concentration in Anthropology. Preference will be given to anthropologists specializing in a regional area other than Africa. Research focus is open, however, expertise in areas such as urban anthropology, environmental anthropology, transnationalism, migration, religion, or political anthropology are desirable. The successful candidate should be able to teach lower and upper level courses in anthropology, including a four field introduction to anthropology, anthropological theory (Cultural Thought and Meaning), and courses in their area of specialization (both regional and topical). They will also be expected to contribute regularly to the Common Curriculum (i.e., in our general education program—First Year Seminar and/or Ethics Common Seminar), where anthropological subject materials are welcome. There are rich opportunities in our academic community for cross-disciplinary exchange, inter-disciplinary collaboration, and leadership of study

abroad trips. ABD required; Ph.D. in Anthropology preferred.

Applications are accepted online at <http://employment.csbsju.edu>. Interested applicants should attach a letter of interest, current curriculum vitae including names of references and contact information. (Letters of recommendation will be requested from finalists), copies of graduate transcripts, teaching philosophy and statement of research interests, evidence of teaching effectiveness (for example, syllabi, teaching evaluations, effective assignments, etc).

Review of applications will begin October 14, 2016 and will continue until the position is filled.

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## Brandeis University, Assistant Professor, English

The Department of English at Brandeis University seeks to appoint a tenure-track Assistant Professor specializing in Anglophone African literature, with expertise in the novel and film preferred, beginning Fall 2017. It is expected that the successful candidate will have received the PhD by September 2017 and will demonstrate the potential for excellence as both a scholar and a teacher. This search is part of an ongoing cluster hire initiative in Africa Diaspora Studies at Brandeis University which aims to broaden and strengthen the existing intellectual community of scholars at Brandeis engaged in the study of people of African descent. We plan to interview at the MLA Convention in January. Please send cover letter, c.v., and three letters of recommendation to Prof. Ulka Anjaria, Search Committee Chair, Department of English. Applications will be accepted electronically through Interfolio at <https://apply.interfolio.com/37205>. First consideration will be given to applications received by Monday, October 31, 2016.

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## CONFERENCES



### Workshopping Approaches to Race, Racism, and Racialization in Ethnographic Examinations of China-Africa and South-South Encounters

January 13, 2017

*New York University*

Call for Papers

The spectre of race haunts the China-Africa moment. A consequence of the steady stream of sensational stories about South-South interactions is the realization of W.E.B Du Bois's observation that "crossings of the global color line make for anxious investigations." The historian Jamie Monson argues that the study of "China-Africa" has become a "hot" topic precisely because the expansion of Chinese capital and migration to Africa (and vice versa) has disturbed implicit racial geographies and global hierarchies of value. Surprisingly however, critical or intersectional perspectives on race have been limited in the emerging field of China-Africa studies. Political economists and ethnographers have frequently gestured towards issues of race, racism and racialization in African-Chinese interactions (or talked around it in terms of culture, language, ethnicity etc.), but a sustained in-depth, critical, and reflexive conversation is needed.

On January 13, 2017, we will gather at New York University to move beyond periodic scandals and grapple with the concepts of race, racialization, and racism more broadly within the context of China-Africa or South-South interactions. We invite up-and-coming scholars who are wrestling with these issues, particularly in Chinese-African connections, but also in transnational Afro-Asian, and South-South formations more generally. What we are seeking is not so much completed or polished work, but rather thinkpieces, reflections, and works in progress which evince attempts to think through these issues.

We hope to address the following questions during the workshop:

- Are expressions of anti-black racism in China best understood as "ignorance," "ethnocentrism," "colorism," classism, products of nationalism informed by social Darwinism, or what? What is the relationship between racial prejudice and structural racism? Can they be independent of each other?
- What does it mean to map concepts like race and racism onto the study of these issues? How do we approach racism critically in these domains? What intellectual genealogies are we building upon? How do ethnographic treatments of race shape the positionality of the ethnographer and his/her interlocutors along axes of racial identity, gender, and/or class? How does one write critically about race in China-Africa interactions without themselves reproducing racial categories of Chineseness and Blackness?

We welcome pieces that touch on the questions and/or discussion topics above. Please send a short description of your research questions and topic along with a CV to Derek Sheridan ([derek\\_sheridan@brown.edu](mailto:derek_sheridan@brown.edu)) and Melissa Lefkowitz ([mfl270@nyu.edu](mailto:mfl270@nyu.edu)). The deadline to apply is Friday, November 18, 2016.

The workshop will take place from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm in Room 706, Rufus D. Smith Hall (25 Waverly Place), New York University.

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## 17th Annual Africa Conference at the University of Texas at Austin

March 31-April 2, 2017

Convened by: Dr. Toyin Falola, Department of History, UT Austin

Call for Papers

While overt colonization ended with the official independence of African and Asian countries during the twentieth century, contemporary forms of imperialism and globalization perpetuate colonial inequities and structures of power, epistemology, subjectivity, and visibility. The political-economic/social/intellectual hierarchies that were first implemented through historical colonialism continue to govern the lived experiences of people of African and Afro-indigenous descent both within and across nation states. Global critiques and responses to historical and contemporary colonialisms have taken on many names and theoretical strategies, including but not limited to decolonial, anti-colonial, post-colonial, and indigenous intellectual, artistic, epistemic, political/economic, and religio-spiritual genealogies of thought and activism.

The goal of the 2017 Africa Conference is to problematize historical and contemporary colonial and neo-colonial power structures in relation to Africa and the African Diaspora, as well as to (re)imagine and map out alternative futures both within and outside of these global matrices of power and domination. Thus, we invite proposals for papers, panel presentations, roundtables, and artistic works/performances that critically engage the seen and unseen, named and unnamed global constellations of colonialism and neo-colonialism in Africa and the African Diaspora of past, present, and future. We invite submissions that include but are not limited to the following sub-themes and topics: Political and Economic Colonialisms; Responses to Intellectual, Epistemic, and Cultural Colonialisms; Racial, Gendered, and Sexual Colonialisms; Visual Colonialisms and Artistic and Performed Decolonizations; Religious Colonialisms and Religio-Spiritual Decolonizations; and Biomedical/Technological Colonialisms and Embodied Decolonizations.

Proposals will be accepted on the official conference website from mid-August to November 30, 2016 (<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/africa-conference/>). Contact conference coordinators Farid Leonardo Suárez and Dr. Kenneth E. Kalu for questions and more information: [africaconference2017@gmail.com](mailto:africaconference2017@gmail.com). <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/africa-conference/>

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# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## USAID Grant Application Work Group

Three Africanist students have formed a working group to apply for USAID funding. The grant involves examining "the role of citizens in resisting or combating the shrinking of civic space" and looks at democratic impulses that are being thwarted by authoritarian leaders and how these authoritarian efforts are and may be resisted.

Please follow the link for more information about the grant: [http://www.iie.org/Programs/USAID-Democracy-Fellows-and-Grants-Program/Available-Grants#.V\\_K2iygrKhc](http://www.iie.org/Programs/USAID-Democracy-Fellows-and-Grants-Program/Available-Grants#.V_K2iygrKhc).

The grant is due 1 November.

The grant requires that the working group be multidisciplinary and comprised of students who will have passed their Ph.D qualifying exams by 1 January 2017. Members of the working group can be U.S. citizens or international students – there are no restrictions. At this time, the members of the team are political science students who have a regional interest in African countries and have extensive experience with Afrobarometer and fieldwork.

Qualified students across other departments are invited to join the working group. If you are interested or have any questions, please e-mail Peter Penar at [ppenar@msu.edu](mailto:ppenar@msu.edu).

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## Graduate Student Awards Available to Attend ASA Conference

MSU graduate students scheduled to present at the African Studies Association's annual conference in Washington, DC may be eligible to receive travel stipends from the African Studies Center. Ten student awards are available to presenters. If interested, please contact Lisa Hinds, [hindslis@isp.msu.edu](mailto:hindslis@isp.msu.edu) with the title of your presentation and scheduled presentation date for more information.

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## The Lapidus Center

The Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, offers two long-term fellowships to assist scholars whose research on transatlantic slavery can benefit from extended access to the Schomburg Center's resources. Fellows will begin residence at the Center on September 1, 2017 and end on March 1, 2018. They will receive a \$30,000 stipend. Deadline: December 1, 2016.

The Lapidus Center also offers short-term fellowships. The Fellowship Program is open to doctoral students, post-doctoral scholars, independent researchers, and artists studying the slave trade, slavery, abolition, and anti-slavery in the Atlantic World. Fellowships are awarded for continuous periods of one, two, or three months with a stipend of \$2,000/month. Deadline: December 1, 2016.

The Fellowship Program is open to post-doctoral scholars studying the slave trade, slavery, and anti-slavery in the Atlantic World. Only U.S. citizens, permanent residents and foreign nationals who have been resident in the United States for the three years as of December 1 may apply.

For additional information, please access <https://www.nypl.org/help/about-nypl/fellowships-institutes/lapidus-center-fellowships>

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## EDITOR'S NOTE



We want to feature you on our new website.

The African Studies Center's new website will regularly feature the scholarship of MSU's Africanist community (Faculty, Alumni and Students). Please share news of your publications, research, and awards with us so that we may keep the larger MSU community abreast of your achievements. Please forward the details to Tara Mock at [mocktara@isp.msu.edu](mailto:mocktara@isp.msu.edu).