

AFRICAN TEA TIME

MSU AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER



Kongamano Student Group in collaboration with the African Studies Center presents African Tea Time! An opportunity to learn and share about first-hand experiences on the African Continent.

OPEN TO EVERYONE!
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Thursday, March 18th, 2021
4:00pm to 6:00pm (EST)

Virtual via Zoom
*Tea Time events will be recorded

Benin

Presenter: Dr. Anne Namatsi Lutomia, Postdoctoral Research Associate, SAWBO Program, Department of Entomology, Purdue University

Title: *Improving International Scientific Collaboration: Lessons from a Program Based in the United States and Benin*

While new patterns of scientific collaboration are now emerging such that scientists in advanced and emerging economies link with those in less developed economies - often based in the global South and generate significant scientific work - little research to date examines the actual practices of these knowledge producing collaborations. Instead, much research focuses on the enabling means for such collaborations. Nonetheless, scientific collaboration, however, is also shaped in key ways by its social norms of practice, any existing structures of knowledge, and the infrastructure of the scientific discipline itself. Moreover, when collaborations occur across the global North-South divide, they can easily belie a neocolonialist dynamic that poorly supports bi-directional ownership, sustainability, and development of capacity or potential opportunities for mutually enhancing the competency, skills, and knowledge of the collaboration's participants. Given the increasing emphasis on global North-South scientific collaborations, it becomes necessary to understand the actual scientific knowledge production collaboration process through empirical research. In this talk I will discuss the lived experiences of scientists based in Benin and the US engaged in a scientific collaboration program. Experiences of these scientists indicate that personal interactions that lead to relationships, developed trust in one another, and meeting collaboration goals are key markers of collaborative success. Issues arise from asymmetries of power and funding, on the other hand, present challenges, especially when global North-South dynamics lead to dependency and/or unethical behavior. I argue that North-South collaborations must pursue humanistic values to mitigate practices that are informed by colonial vestiges and asymmetries of power. I will briefly discuss the shifts in international scientific collaboration in the era of COVID-19.

Facilitator: Dr. Jorem Awadu, Alumnus, Dept. of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Special Ed. Michigan State University

