

Five top priorities set for African studies at Northwestern

The PAS executive committee, with input from the PAS community, has articulated the following statement of PAS's mission and five priority areas for the coming academic year and beyond.

The Program of African Studies at Northwestern University, founded in 1948 by renowned anthropologist Melville J. Herskovits, is one of the oldest of its kind in the United States. The overall mission of PAS is to increase knowledge about Africa and the diaspora through research and teaching. As such, the program pursues this cross-disciplinary agenda through the work of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and researchers with diverse specializations, visiting scholars, and partner organizations around the world.

Over the last 65 years PAS has sustained a reputation as a world-class center that fosters cutting-edge faculty research and trains new generations of African specialists. PAS played a pivotal role in founding the Institute for the

Study of Islamic Thought in Africa—a center unique for its focus on Islam in the region—and in developing an interdisciplinary undergraduate major, one of only a handful in North America. The research of PAS's faculty draw scholars and students from around the world to Northwestern every year, while universities and think tanks both here and abroad actively recruit PAS post-graduates for their teaching programs, ensuring that the legacies of PAS live on elsewhere.

In continuing our tradition of excellence, PAS seeks to confront new challenges and create new vehicles for study and outreach. As we move forward, we look to provide opportunities for research, communication, and knowledge that best suit the African studies community. The following are priority areas identified by the PAS executive committee with input from the PAS community:

1. Securing new external funding

Over the last decade PAS has had to confront the reality of drastic decreases in private philanthropic funding for African studies in the United States. PAS is therefore seeking creative ways to collaborate with the Northwestern's alumni relations and development specialists to secure new external funding in the form of both grants and outside donors.

2. Hiring faculty specializing in Islam

While Northwestern has led the way in championing the study of Islam in Africa, our peer institutions took note and succeeded in recruiting four of our top faculty away from the University over the last five years. A position for an Islamist studies faculty member has been approved, and we plan to bring in new faculty by 2014 who are on par with our tradition of hiring the strongest minds in that field of study.

3. Attracting and training the best students, including those from Africa

While PAS has trained many of the world's leading scholars of Africa—both from the African continent and from the West—this graduate training mission is now threatened. Cluster funding has been reconfigured so that it is no longer as attractive to doctoral students wishing to pursue African studies as in the past, and the Gwendolyn M. Carter-Kofi Annan Fellowships for students from Africa have been drastically reduced. Both of these developments may decrease Northwestern's competitive advantage in drawing the best and brightest of the new generation. PAS as an interdisciplinary hub creates a competitive advantage for these students to seek faculty mentorship and peer exchange throughout their doctoral training and contributes to Northwestern's production of leading scholars in each field.

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Kellogg Africa Business Conference focuses on need for business innovators



The overarching theme of the Africa Business Club of the Kellogg School of Management's third annual conference April 20 was innovation: what role can innovators and entrepreneurs play in assisting Africa's emerging industries?

From the opening statement by keynote speaker Thierry Tanoh, CEO of Ecobank Group, the notion of taking advantage of existing technologies to fill the gap in African economies until African solutions can be put into place came up repeatedly. True innovation, Tanoh explained, is taking an existing product and transporting and translating it to another market where it does not yet exist. As many speakers noted, such translation is the crucial step African businesses must take to augment and continue the continent's economic growth.

Products that leverage technology to overcome the lack of widely available banking infrastructure (M-PESA) and substandard communications and transportation infrastructure

(Cisco's Telepresence) were mentioned. Not only do these innovations sow seeds of positive social, political, and economic transformations, there are millions of dollars to be had from them.

The three panels—"Addressing the Needs of the Burgeoning Middle Class," "Seeding New Innovations in Agriculture," and "Comparing and Contrasting Renewable and Traditional Energy Opportunities"—underscored this notion of immense opportunity in African industry. The African consumer is underserved and overcharged due to market inefficiencies of every ilk. Companies and innovators that can find ways to overcome such barriers—often involving the use and application of modern technology—have unfathomable opportunities for profit. Panelists Frank Braeken (executive vice president, Unilever), Jan Van Zyl (head of property development, Novare), and Anil Ahluwalia (chairman, Lexcel Group) noted that nowhere is opportunity more evident than in the retail, agricultural, and energy sectors.

To the future African leaders in attendance, Tanoh emphasized the role young Africans themselves will play in either catalyzing sustained growth throughout the continent or allowing the growth and development of the past 15 years to peter out. The intense interest in Africa's emerging industries shown by native and diasporic Africans at the conference bodes well for a robust future. —*Spencer Hodge*

PAS priorities, *continued*

4. Improving language training

Given the University's small size compared with larger state institutions, PAS's impact on graduate training is truly extraordinary. Language training, an essential dimension of rigorous scholarship on the continent, is one area on which we will continue to improve. The program hopes to pursue collaborations with neighboring institutions for some kind of consortium for training, exploring both online and in-person options. PAS continues to dedicate a large sum of financial resources to assist our graduate students in their quest for language proficiency.

5. Connecting with the African community at large

Building collaborations with African universities and other institutions in the context of research projects, conferences,

and other academic events is an area in which PAS hopes to grow. We will continue to develop avenues for community outreach within Evanston and Chicagoland, including forums on current events and engagement with the African diaspora community.

PAS hopes to serve and grow the Africanist community by providing excellent resources—academic, monetary, and social—to its students, scholars, and faculty. In the coming years we hope to see substantial growth in the above priority areas, and we continue to be open to new ways in which to expand our program and enrich our resources.

Forum focuses on President Obama's Africa policy

Has the Obama administration's engagement with Africa been sufficiently robust in light of the continent's strategic and economic importance? A public forum in February hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the ONE Campaign, a grassroots fight against extreme poverty, addressed this pressing policy question, among other topics.

Northwestern students attended the event, which featured a dialogue between Richard Joseph, Northwestern's John Evans Professor of International History and Politics, and Mwangi S. Kimenyi, senior fellow and director of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution.

Kimenyi reiterated the opinions he had expressed in an open letter to the newly reelected president in which he urged Obama to make enhanced relations with Africa a greater priority in his second term. Proponents of increased US-Africa engagement note that Obama's predecessors adopted significant programs related to Africa, including Bill Clinton's Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and George W. Bush's Millennium Challenge Corporation and President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

"The way you design your policies depends on whether you look at Africa as an opportunity or a problem," Kimenyi said. Africa is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, presenting opportunities for US-Africa trade and investment that are currently being lost to foreign competitors such as China.



Participants met for dinner after the forum hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the ONE Campaign.

Both speakers noted that the US private sector has technological expertise that could find a profitable market while contributing to the continent's development. Africa's energy sector—electricity in particular—would benefit from US research and development. To this end, Joseph recommended that the Obama administration invest in research institutions that are developing technologies that address Africa's energy and infrastructure challenges. Northwestern's Initiative for Sustainability and Energy might serve as a model for such programs, he said.

During the question-and-answer period, Kofi Asante, Northwestern sociology PhD student and AfriSem graduate coordinator, questioned whether increased US involvement would prove beneficial. "The history of Western intervention has often had disastrous consequences in Africa," he observed. While acknowledging prior foreign policy missteps in Africa, both speakers

cautioned against isolationism and noted that international intervention will be critical to addressing immediate security challenges such as the rebellion in Mali.

In this vein, Joseph recommended that the Obama administration consider bolstering US efforts to end the chronic crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Such a project would require a comprehensive strategy and sustained engagement. "You need leadership to bring it about," argued Joseph, "and I believe that Barack Obama could do it."

The forum was followed by a dinner reception attended by Northwestern students and the speakers, who continued to discuss the future of US-Africa engagement as well as Northwestern's role in advancing scholarship at the nexus of African studies and public policy. —David Peyton

Roundtable examines radical Islamic movements in Africa and Indonesia

A large crowd heard six experts discuss the local contexts and transnational connections of radical Islamic movements in North, Sahelian, and eastern Africa and Indonesia during a February roundtable cosponsored by the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa and the new Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGES) Program of Northwestern's Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies.

MALI AND NIGERIA: Armed Islamist groups directly opposing the state

Describing how certain sectors of Malian society were enriched over the past decade or more by such trends as rampant government corruption, collapse of state services, growing poverty, and increasing kidnapping and smuggling activities in the north, Benjamin Soares (African Studies Centre, Leiden University) contextualized the seemingly rapid domination of Mali's northern region by armed Islamist groups in 2012. With the state providing little tangible support to ordinary people in the north, religious organizations and leaders have filled the void. Funding from the Arab world for mosques, schools, and scholarships for Malian students to study in the Arab world has had an impact on religious ideas in the north. Members of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) have been operating and establishing networks in northern Mali since at least 2003, and, Soares said, there was receptivity in some areas—particularly Gao—to

Islamist ideas well before 2012. All of this suggests that to characterize the Islamist occupation of Mali's north as simply the recent imposition of "external, extremist" Islamist elements on the local population oversimplifies the complex composition and historical antecedents of the various Islamist groups operating in the north. These groups include AQIM, made up mostly of non-Malians; the more Malian-based Ançar Dine; and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, a semiautonomous franchise of AQIM operating out of Gao with some West African leaders but also recruiting from elsewhere.

Soares also briefly described some prominent Muslim leaders in southern Mali, some of whom could be characterized as Islamist but have supported the French intervention. These leaders will be influential in negotiating whatever political dispensation follows.

Alexander Thurston (religious studies PhD student, Northwestern) traced the evolution of the Islamist group Boko Haram from its emergence out of the fragmentation of northern Nigeria's Salafi field in the mid-1990s to its current position as a formidable opponent of the Nigerian state. Boko Haram's charismatic founding leader



Clockwise from top left: Will Reno presenting on US-NATO counterterrorism strategy in Somalia; roundtable panelists (left to right) Alexander Thurston, Ben Soares, Michael Buehler, Rachel Riedl, and Claudia Gazzini; roundtable attendees, including students from PAS and EDGES

Mohammed Yusuf drew support primarily from young males in northeastern Nigeria to form a movement with two main tenets: that it is religiously forbidden to participate in Western-style education and that Muslims should not work for the Nigerian government. After violent clashes between group members and Nigerian security forces in 2009 resulted in Yusuf's death in police custody, Boko Haram, under new leader Abubakar Shekau, launched guerilla-style attacks against government offices, security agencies, elected officials, local leaders (including hereditary Muslim rulers), banks, mosques, churches, and schools. Thurston's concluding questions included: What are the prospects for dialogue to end the violence, and who could serve as a credible mediator? Will the splinter groups emerging from Boko Haram pursue a more international agenda? What are the connections, if any, between Boko Haram and AQIM? How will Boko Haram's activities affect the Muslim community in northern Nigeria—for example, the status and prestige of hereditary Muslim leaders, Sufi orders, and other Salafi groups? What drives the group? While some have suggested poverty and disenfranchisement as the root motivator for the attacks, Thurston said a more complicated model should be sought.

LIBYA AND SOMALIA: Overlapping state and Islamist groups threatening governments

A common feature of the Libyan and Somalian situations is the overlap between the state and Islamist groups, making it difficult for fragile transitional governments to control the activities of such groups and thwarting the effectiveness of counter-insurgency strategies.

Claudia Gazzini (senior analyst, International Crisis Group) noted that in the Libyan case, "Islamist armed

groups are not 'the other'; they are within from the point of view of the state." Following the 2011 revolution the National Transitional Council incorporated existing armed groups into the security apparatus to help impose order in the power vacuum. While this may have been expedient to establish order immediately following the revolution, it is not a stable long-term solution. Over the past year the destruction of Sufi shrines and targeted assassinations have taken place with the support of state security forces, and Islamist armed groups have infiltrated Libya's very weak border control unit. In addition, there are Islamist groups operating outside of the state, including Ansar Sharia, which provides assistance to local populations but also operates as an armed brigade, and Al Qaeda-linked groups in mountainous areas. The Libyan government's inability to control Islamist armed groups and secure its borders has regional implications. Weapons, people, and goods continue to cross Libya's borders, especially in the south, and certain areas risk becoming safe havens for Islamist activities. The government's challenges in the upcoming months include establishing credible border security, building state security forces, addressing growing dissatisfaction towards the central government and the constitutional process, effectively negotiating communal conflicts, and controlling the spill-over effect from the international invasion of Mali.

Will Reno (political science, Northwestern) discussed the Somali case, where the boundary between the state and radical Islamist groups may be less clear than in Libya. Through a series of vignettes from Mogadishu, Reno demonstrated how challenging it is for foreign observers or ordinary Somalians to discern motive or connections in the chaos of events propelled

by actors who may be playing all sides in the larger arena of Somali politics. While observers are quick to attribute guerilla-style attacks—such as that on the prime minister's compound in January—to militant Islamist group Al Shabaab, Reno asserted that Al Shabaab is better understood as a brand name—it exists, but one must examine the multiple uses for armed groups at various levels. "Has Shabaab infiltrated the government," asked Reno, "or has the government infiltrated Shabaab? That is the really interesting question." What Reno called the "strong undertow of localism" makes Somalia difficult terrain for Islamic internationalists, who struggle to create social space and develop their own ideas and organization. And it has consequences for international counter-insurgency efforts. In Reno's opinion, "Somalia is the worst place in world to do counter-insurgency: we can't tell who is 'good' or 'bad.'" Rather than continuing to speak about the state as if it heads a government, as some foreign government officials do, Reno suggested that observers seek to understand how the bureaucracy of the state functions in a profoundly stateless area.

KENYA AND INDONESIA: Nonviolent Muslim groups seeking influence in a secular state

In the presentations on Kenya and Indonesia the focus shifted away from Islamist armed groups and on to Muslim groups with nonviolent agendas seeking political representation or implementation of an agenda (such as adoption of sharia) within the framework of a secular state.

Rachel Riedl (political science, Northwestern) described the efforts of Kenya's minority Muslim population to increase political representation over

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Community news

Jack Davis (BA 2012, sociology and urban studies) won a Fulbright scholarship to work in Mozambique from January to October 2014. His project will be in the form of a documentary examining the informal social networks developed by refugees in the context of a post-civil-war Mozambique.

Jonathon Glassman (history faculty) was honored as a “Scholar for a Day” by the Africa Studies Center of the University of Pennsylvania in 2012.

Patricia Ogedengbe (Africana librarian) participated in the 2013 NU Undergraduate Research and Arts Exposition in May. She was on the “Doing Research at the Library” panel, which paired undergraduate researchers with library subject specialists talking about ways University Library supports student research.

Robert Launay (anthropology faculty) has a forthcoming piece, “Dyula,” in the fall 2013 *Oxford Bibliographies* series in African studies (Thomas Spear, ed.; Oxford University Press, New York).

Sally Nuamah (PhD candidate, political science) presented a TEDx talk in April at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her talk was based on research for the film *HerStory: Educate a Woman, Educate a Nation* (www.herstorythefilm.com), which is set to release in this summer.

Alex Thurston (PhD candidate, religious studies) won an International Affairs Fellowship from the Council on Foreign Relations. The fellowship will begin in September.

Jessica Winegar (anthropology faculty) published three blogs on the Middle East Research and Information Project (www.merip.org): “Weighed Down: The Politics of Frustration in Egypt,” “The Writing on the Walls of Egypt,” and “The Walls of Tahrir.”

Chelsie Yount-Andre and **Arturo Marquez** (PhD candidates, anthropology) were awarded Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grants. Yount-Andre also received an Osmundsen Award to carry out ethnographic and linguistic research among transnational Senegalese families in Paris and Dakar. Marquez will be carrying out fieldwork in Spain on Senegalese migrants.

Student awardees celebrated

PAS salutes the talented graduate and undergraduate students who won awards for academic study during the 2012–13 year.

Goodman Language Award

Lauren Adrover
Kofi Asante
Abdeta Beyer
Andrew Brown
Elise Dufief
Moses Khisa
Sean Lee
Aditi Malik
Ayuko Picot
Nafissatou Sall
Rachel Vanderpoel
Chelsie Yount-Andre

Panofsky Predissertation Award

Priscilla Adpia
Kofi Asante
Elise Dufief
Raevin Jimenez
Moses Khisa
Sahkile Matlhare
Sally Nuamah
David Peyton
Jessica Pouchet

Nafissatou Sall
Amy Selby
Nicolas Smith
Chelsie Yount-Andre

Conference Travel Grant Award

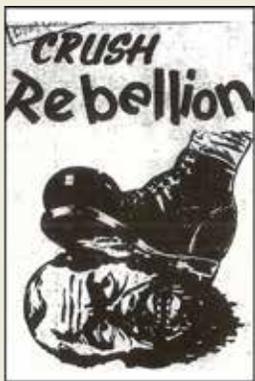
Kofi Asante
Erik Johnson
Moses Khisa
Sally Nuamah
Rose Sedeman
Alex Thurston
Marlous Van Waijenberg
Chelsie Yount-Andre

Undergraduate African Leadership Award

Nadia Abdulhafiz
Daniel Cheruiyot
Nicole Magabo

Two new working papers released

The PAS Working Papers series allows affiliated Northwestern faculty, graduate students, advanced undergraduates, visiting scholars, and resident research fellows to solicit feedback from their peers on their working papers in African studies. The papers are posted on the PAS website and also available in print. See www.northwestern.edu/african-studies/publications_workingpapers.html for past working papers and style guidelines. To have a working paper considered, please email it to african-studies@northwestern.edu.



A Task That Must Be Done: Issues on the Federalists' Visual Propaganda in Nigerian Civil War

Etiido Effiong Inyang

Using selected visual illustrations in posters, cartoons, and photographs, this paper attempts to review the visual propaganda approach of the Federal Government of Nigeria in the civil war between 1967 and 1970. Employing the tools of art historical discourse to analyze techniques and styles, themes, and the contexts of production of these ephemera, it seeks to underscore the role of the antecedent issues often harnessed to exacerbate and propagate

crisis in the politics of might in today's Nigeria.

Etiido Effiong Inyang is a senior lecturer in graphic design and visual communications at the University of Port Harcourt.

The Context, Causes, and Cultural Valuation of Yoruba and Baganda Women's Participation in the Public Economy

Marjorie K. McIntosh

This paper examines participation in the public economy among two groups of African women, the Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria and the Baganda of central Uganda, during the 19th and 20th centuries. The analysis considers many kinds of economic activity other than growing food for one's own family, including independent income-generating work and salaried or waged employment. For the Yoruba, discussion focuses on around 1820 to 1960, by which point the major features of women's roles for the rest of the century were already in place. For the Baganda, the concentration is on the decades after 1970, when many women entered work outside the home. This comparative account argues that the patterns of women's economic engagement were shaped by the interplay of three factors: the demands and opportunities presented by the context within which they lived; the specific reasons that led individual women to enter the public economy; and their culture's assessment of their roles.

Marjorie K. McIntosh is distinguished professor of history emerita at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Specialist in Islam in Africa sought for faculty

PAS is accepting applications for a full-time, tenured associate or full professor with an active research agenda on the role of Islam in African societies. The appointment will be contingent upon a successful tenure review. It will be associated with PAS, while the home department will be in Northwestern's Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (including but not limited to religious studies, anthropology, philosophy, sociology, political science, literature, or history).

The ability to engage across disciplines and to provide leadership for interdisciplinary collaboration to support the study of Islam is highly desirable. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

The application is at <https://facultysearch.weinberg.northwestern.edu/apply/index/NjY>. Only electronic application materials will be accepted. Applicants should submit a letter of intent describing their current research agenda and teaching experience and interests; representative written work; a curriculum vitae; and the names and contact information of three referees. The internal review process for applications will begin immediately and continue until October 1, 2013.

Questions may be directed to african-studies@northwestern.edu.

Islamic movements roundtable, *continued from page 5*

the past decade. Far from pursuing an Islamist agenda, certain sectors of the Muslim population have been working within the framework of the state to address core economic and political grievances. Kenyan Muslims, however, are divided along ethnic and internal religious lines. At the top of the hierarchy are coastal Muslims of Swahili descent who have focused on constitutional reform, particularly to protect their right to use khadis courts for family law cases. Ethnic Somalis in the northeast, the other major Muslim population, are viewed with suspicion by the government and many Kenyans; as a result, they are marginalized and unconnected to the broader Muslim political agenda. The regional and transnational Islamist element only complicates the picture. Al Shabaab has launched violent attacks in Kenya in retaliation for the country's participation in the joint military mission in Somalia, in turn provoking domestic backlash against Kenyan citizens who are ethnically Somali. Riedl noted that transnational Islamist threats create problems for the government but also

opportunities to create scapegoats for problems it is unable to take care of. In this context intrareligious tensions in Kenya have risen sharply, and some of the earlier alliances between Muslims and Christians have now broken down. Moderate religious leaders who attempt to promote dialogue and condemn violence are hampered by the international and transregional security context. Riedl's presentation illustrated how regional and transnational politics affect domestic understandings of religion, which in turn influences how religious groups engage in domestic politics.

Michael Buehler (political science, Northern Illinois University) examined how the interaction of religious and secular forces in the context of democratization has resulted in the adoption of sharia in certain Indonesian provinces since 1998. The first Indonesian constitution (1945) established a secular state, but locally based Islamic groups continued to fight to implement sharia for over a decade (known as the Darul Islam rebellion, 1949–62). Suharto's New Order dictatorship (1965–98) repressed political Islam, but with the regime's collapse and the advent of democracy, Islamic interest groups have resurfaced in three main forms: official Islamic political parties, locally based Islamist groups with no interest in taking part in politics, and groups with a violent agenda that have targeted Westerners and state institutions. While all three groups have called for the implementation of sharia, only the local Islamist movements have succeeded in bringing it about. These groups' deeply rooted networks—traceable to the same groups that led the Darul Islam rebellion—are valuable to politicians in the new context of democracy, providing the political capital that Indonesia's poorly institutionalized political parties cannot. Buehler concluded by noting that political structures that allow groups to mobilize (such as political parties, which in Indonesia are useless to politicians) must be differentiated from opportunity structures that allow Islamist movements to influence politics. He also urged observers of radical Islamic groups to remain attentive to the ways that secular and religious forces interact with rather than simply oppose each other, and the ways that the state mediates the influence of Islamist groups.

Program of African Studies
Northwestern University
620 Library Place
Evanston, Illinois 60208-4110 USA

Will Reno, *Director*

Kate Klein, *Assistant Director*

Rebecca Shereikis, *Interim ISITA Director*

Kelly Coffey, *Program Assistant*

Phone 847-491-7323

Fax 847-491-3739

african-studies@northwestern.edu

www.northwestern.edu/african-studies

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