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UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Back Lecture and Reception: Rethinking Francophone Africa: Boris Boubacar Diop, Eileen Julien and Kalidou Sy. September 20, time and place TBA. A reception for all CAS friends and members will be held at the home of Barbara Cooper at 7:00 that evening. Venez nombreux!

Roundtable: Fieldwork in Africa Post 9/11, Monday October 18, 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Van Dyck, 011 (CAC). Please let Barbara Cooper know if you plan to attend.

Conference: Environmental Justice Abroad, Geography Department, October 15 and 16, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30p.m. University Inn and Conference Center (Douglass).

CAS Open House for students: College Avenue Graduate Student Lounge at the Student Center from 5:00 to 7:30 on Thursday October 14th. Be sure to be there for pizza, door prizes and a lot of fun!

Concert: World-renowned Ghanaian pianist William Chapman Nyaho will be performing October 22nd.

Film: “Duara” for World Aids Day, Wed. Dec. 1, 7:00 p.m.

Joint Rutgers and Princeton Symposium on Anthropogenic Environments: Friday Dec. 3. Location TBA. Contact David Hughes for further information.

Acclaimed literary scholar and author Boubacar Boris Diop will teach a graduate course for the French Department this Fall and will offer a lecture co-sponsored with the French Department on Sept. 20.
When the Center emerged in the 1990s one key question was whether there would be a reason for Americans to take an interest in Africa without Cold War competition with the Soviet Union for global hegemony. Africa has once again been dramatically repositioned by global developments: it is both a victim of terrorist acts directed at targets elsewhere and a relatively unregulated space in which terrorists and counter-terrorists seem to range at will. Given Africa’s position as both producer and victim of terrorists will it be possible for Africa and the needs of ordinary Africans to gain a serious hearing? How will knowledge about Africa be shaped by larger global concerns? How will the movements of African workers, students, and travelers be affected by the perception of Africans as “dangerous” or as costly victims? What do “home” and “exile” now mean to the artists and writers who migrate in large numbers but with increasing difficulty to other parts of the world? This year the Center will explore these issues under the heading of “Africans in the Post 9/11 World.”

Our second programming initiative, “Anthropogenic Environments in Africa” explores the naturalization of the landscape of Africa despite human interaction with the environment. Humankind originated in Africa—the continent has long been shaped through human activity. Yet the protection of an imagined pristine landscape regularly serves as justification for interventions to “protect” Africa from “traditional” practices. The project will bring together regional African Studies faculty to assess current multi-disciplinary research on environmental instability in Africa and its disease, population, and policy implications. This initiative will provide the Rutgers Center for African Studies and the Princeton African Studies faculty with the possibility of exploring a longer-term collaboration in African Area Studies.

I look forward to working with many of you during this exciting time at the Center.
In Memoriam
Ronald E. (Ronn) McGee was born in Long Branch, NJ on April 15, 1950, and passed away on December 14, 2002.

Ronn graduated with majors in journalism and history from Livingston College, Rutgers University, and had a Masters Degree in Media Studies and Film from The New School of Social Research. He worked for many years as a news writer, program producer, and in other capacities at WBAI (Pacifica), NBC, ABC, and CBS. At the time of his death he was an ABD Doctoral Candidate in History and was one course short of completing a Master’s Degree in Library Studies, both at Rutgers University.

Ronn was the founder of Rutgers Graduate African Studies Association. He helped to organize several major projects undertaken by the Center, including first graduate student hosted conference, “Paul Robeson and Africa” (in April 1999), an event that brought several well-known international scholars to the university. He had traveled widely in Africa, and often expressed his deep love for the continent and its people. Ronn McGee was personally committed to education about Africa as a librarian, a public speaker, a consultant, a facilitator of local organizations, and a faculty member. Many undergraduate students regarded him as their mentor and model. He had a great enthusiasm for life and numerous friends worldwide. In the memorial event, many members of the Center, his brother Kenneth, and others spoke movingly about the meaning of his life, his service in many fields, and their great personal loss at his passing. A fund is being established in his name to support graduate student events related to Africa. Contributions to the Ronald McGee Fund should be made out to the Rutgers History Department with a note indicating that they are for the Ronn McGee Fund.

CAS Milestones under Outgoing Director Carolyn Brown, 2001-2004

Under Carolyn Brown’s energetic leadership over the past three years our Center has expanded its contacts throughout the University and opened the way to collaboration with African Studies scholars in Africa and elsewhere. Despite a severe budget crisis in the wake of the September 11th attacks, the Center succeeded in hosting over 35 lectures, multiple international conferences, expanded its curricular presence, and developed linkages with African universities.

Carolyn Brown, Director of CAS 2001-2004

Carolyn’s vigorous commitment cultivating donors during these budgetary difficulties resulted in a number of major donations to the Center: The Nyerere Project ($13,000 supporting the training of a Tanzanian archivist in collaboration with the US National Archives, Alexander Library, SCILS and Columbia University Library), The William Wright Collection of South African Art (a substantial collection donated by a prominent African Art collector now deposited in the Zimmerli museum); a print by Oshogbo School painter Susan Wenger (donated to CAS by Meredith Turshen); and a 17th c. Dutch map of Africa by Johannes Blau, the cartographer of the Dutch East India Company (donated by the Gillotti family).

Carolyn Brown with donor William (Bill) Wright
Carolyn’s enthusiasm for the arts has enlivened our connections with museums, art collectors, and artists in the region. Under her leadership we co-hosted several South African women artists and developed links to the area’s prominent museums. For example, Abena Busia participated in the launching of a symposium for the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s show “African Genesis,” and is now collaborating on a proposed Newark Museum exhibit on African Queens.

The Center significantly strengthened the Rutgers curriculum related to Africa: we encouraged the development of over 15 new courses and modules on Africa through our Africa Across the Curriculum grants, we institutionalized our Model African Union program in the Political Science department, and we expanded our Program in African Languages (we now have an Arabic program with enrollment that is sixth in the nation). Under Oussieena Alidou’s leadership we became partners with Penn, Yale, Boston, and Harvard to strengthen African language teaching. We will be hosting the newly formed association, the North East Regional Consortium for Programs in African Languages (NERCPAL), for its annual meeting this spring. We also planted seeds for African languages on the Camden and Newark campuses by developing distance learning courses in Yoruba and Swahili. At the graduate level, the Center secured FAS approval for our Graduate Certificate in African Studies.


Our programming has inspired new units within Rutgers to become more engaged with Africa. For example, the School of Communication Information and Library Studies co-sponsored a number of lectures on media representations of Africa. SCILS is now exploring the possibility of establishing a continent-wide journalism school as a result of discussions between SCILS and Charlayne Hunter-Gault of CNN when she spoke under CAS auspices.

CAS co-sponsored a delegation of museum administrators, historians and cultural reservationists from the École Patrimoine Africain of Porto Novo, Benin. These contacts led to the signing of a memorandum of agreement between Rutgers and EPA, which can serve as a platform for future collaboration. Carolyn is also an active participant in ongoing discussions about how to develop a study abroad program focused on the slave trade.
In an effort to reach out to the African immigrants in the region Carolyn nurtured cooperative relations with Omo Egbe Yoruba, a Long Island based Yoruba group. Members attended the “Yoruba Day” program organized by Kole Odutola and his students in the Spring of 2004.

The Center has been immeasurably enriched by Carolyn’s imagination and energy over the past three years, and we will all continue to turn to her for inspiration, guidance, and ideas even as she shifts her energies towards her own research in the upcoming years. Many thanks to Carolyn for all her years of service to the Center from all of us!

**BON VOYAGE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MARC SHUR**

Marc Shur, who has been serving as our administrative assistant, received both Leakey Foundation and Fulbright support for his research project entitled "Fecal Testosterone and Cortico-sterone Profiles Associated with 'Friendship' Bonds in Adult Male and Lactating Female Olive Baboons." He explains, “I am testing several working hypotheses for the adaptive significance of friendship. Studies have traditionally focused on behavioral observations, which I will replicate in conjunction with simultaneous sampling for fecal hormones. I plan to spend a year in the field in the Laikipia District of Kenya followed by a six month laboratory phase at Emory University analyzing fecal samples.” We all wish him the best of luck and look forward to hearing about his research upon his return.
A LETTER FROM
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT AKANSHA
GUPTA

Dear CAS community:

I was recently hired by Dr. Barbara Cooper to serve as the Administrative Assistant at the Center of African Studies for the coming Fall 2004 semester. Let me start by saying that it is my honor and privilege to work for someone as talented, knowledgeable and nice as she is. It was also a pleasure to meet Michelle Peterson at the interview.

Here’s a little about me – I am a graduate student at the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at Rutgers, New Brunswick and I joined Rutgers in Fall 2003. I’m an international student from India. As a child, I had the opportunity of spending five unforgettable years in Lagos, Nigeria. I read somewhere that strangers are just friends we haven’t met yet. Although I have yet to meet so many of you, I’m sure that it will be a wonderful opportunity for me to interact with each of you and to share our unique experiences of Africa. I look forward to a great semester working with all of you.

Sincerely yours,
Akansha Gupta

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS: 2003-2004

This year on February 20th we held what we hope will become an ongoing tradition, the “Rutgers/NYU Conference of African historians.” Participants from throughout the region and across many disciplines, including graduate students, took part in this event hosted by NYU and organized by Fred Cooper, Carolyn Brown, and Michael Gomez. In another fruitful collaboration, we co-sponsored a Colloquium on Women’s Health in Africa: AIDS in Africa (Bernadette Muthien, Ellen Foley, Julie Livingston) with IRW on March 24th. The event had a very sizable turnout and was attended by both students and faculty.

Ibrahima Thiaw, of Cheikh Anta Diop University offered a stimulating discussion of “Archaeology and the Memories of the Atlantic Slave Trade on Goree Island” March 25th at RCHA. Special thanks to Al Howard for organizing this event in collaboration with the History department. Susan Andrade managed to conquer the weather and finally offer her thought provoking talk on the perils and promise of genre on February 19th. Special thanks to Dorothy Hodgson for organizing this event and for soldiering through despite meteorological mishaps.

David Hughes was particularly active in organizing stimulating programming in 2003-04. As part of the Center's lunchtime series he brought in a fabulous sequence of speakers on issues related to land tenure, development, and land reform bridging academics and practitioners. On March 31st Jesse Ribot gave a talk on “Modern Indirect Rule,” and on April 2nd Prosper Matondi gave a talk entitled “Institutional and Governance Issues in Zimbabwe’s New Resettlement Scheme.” David also held a joint seminar on Wednesday, April 28th - Yuka Suzuki “The New Wild in Western Zimbabwe” (Anthropology, Bard College) and David Hughes “White Waterscapes of Leisure in Southern Africa” (Human Ecology, Rutgers University). Bravo David!

A highlight of the Spring semester was a visit from representatives of the École du Patrimoine Africaine (EPA) in Benin organized by Carolyn Brown in conjunction with Judy Byfield of Dartmouth College and Suzanne Blier of Harvard University to coincide with the Association of African Studies Programs meetings at SAIS of Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. Dean Seth Gopin of Global Programs and Steve Ferst, Director of Study Abroad attended. The EPA visit featured events at the Zimmerli Museum, History Department, the Bloustein School visits to the World Monuments Fund, the Newark Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Education Department of the Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institute. The visit facilitated the exploration of opportunities for partnerships with various US-based museums, cultural institutions and institutions of higher education.

We took advantage of the presence of EPA faculty member Baba Keita to offer a showing of the film, Guimba the Tyrant, for which he served as the Artistic Director. Baba Keita offered
introductory remarks and commentary after the film. The event was a big success with our current students!

Curriculum Committee News

This year the CAS Open House will be focused entirely upon reaching undergraduates and introducing them to our minor, the Model African Union program, study abroad, and internship opportunities at the Center. The Open House will be held in the College Avenue Graduate Student Lounge at the Student Center from 5:00 to 7:30 on Thursday October 14th. Be sure to be there for pizza, door prizes and a lot of fun! The Center hosts regular advising hours Thursdays in Beck Hall 202 from 1:30-4:30 and by appointment with Barbara Cooper. We have made a number of changes to the minor in an attempt to draw students who are in sciences and physical anthropology and to accommodate students who are particularly interested in literature. Please see the CAS website for details.

Graduate Certificate Program News

The Graduate Certificate Program is off to a start and gradually attracting the attention of students scattered across the University. Barbara Cooper offered the first of the required graduate seminars, “Contemporary Issues in African Studies” in the Fall of 2003 and enjoyed a mix of students from History, Geography, and Anthropology. The students had the opportunity to hear about current issues and contemporary research from a marvelous array of CAS faculty and friends, including Herman Bennett, Angelique Haugerud, Julie Livingstone, Sarah Brett-Smith, Dorothy Hodgson, Richard Serrano, David Hughes, Ousseina Alidou, and Richard Schroeder.

In Fall 2004 Professor Cooper will be teaching the second of the two bookend courses for the Graduate Certificate: 016:502 Interdisciplinary Research in African Studies VD 001 Monday 9:50-12:50. The preliminary syllabus is posted on the CAS website. Please announce to all of your graduate students current and incoming. The course will feature readings, writing exercises and occasional speakers on a variety of topics: finding and writing grants, fieldwork and write up, going from dissertation to book. All are welcome to join us for the October 18th Regional Roundtable on Fieldwork in Africa!

Graduate Students interested in French speaking Africa have a particularly exciting opportunity this Fall to study with a major African literary scholar and writer, the acclaimed Boubacar Boris Diop! The course, French 695 Langues et Littérature en Afrique Noire Francophone, will be conducted in French and will explore the complex problem of whether and how an indigenous language literature might be possible and even preferable for African writers. Readings will include texts by Ahmadou Kourouma, Ngugi Wa Thiong’o, Pierre Dumont, Lilyan Kesteloot, Makhily Gassama, and John Hutchinson & Michel Nguessan. The course meets on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 7:10.

Sarah Brett-Smith is offering Art History 509 Introduction to African Art on Wednesdays from 4:00-6:40 in VH001. Half of class will consist of lectures on the major traditions in West African art along with some from Central Africa. Issues addressed will include women in African Art, gender relations, death and coming of age rituals. Students will also present summaries of readings on key methodological and theoretical issues.

Finally, the Center now sponsors an informal Graduate Student Working group and email list. Please let Barbara Cooper know if you would like to be added to the list and feel free to volunteer to give a Brown Bag Lunch one Friday on your ongoing research!

CAS Ventures into Distance Learning for our Program in African Languages

In the fall of 2003 CAS sponsored its first Distance Learning courses. We offered Yoruba, with Rutgers Camden, and Swahili with Rutgers Newark. The project was supported by a generous grant from VP Raphael Caprio, director of Distance Learning and Continuing Education. Wayne Glasker and James Rushing, Chair of Modern Languages, worked tirelessly to get Yoruba accepted as a required language and at publicizing the course. The class is listed for Fall 2004 and will be taught again in the fall by Kole Odutola, our enthusiastic Yoruba teacher. In Newark Belinda Edmundson of African American Studies and Joanne Grieder of Modern Languages worked with Oussiena Alidou and John Innis to introduce Swahili to Newark Students. The Department of Africana Studies is eager to sustain the tradition and we will continue working with them in the future.
Library News

As a result of concerns expressed about the state of library collections in newly emerging non-Western fields by the Department of History Library Committee, Vice President Furmanski agreed in 2003-2004 to allocate $6,000 this year in one-time funds for acquisitions in South Asian and African History. In addition to this funding the libraries will allocate $3,000 to each of the collections over the next five years from non-restricted gifts and endowments. The African History faculty worked hard with considerable assistance from librarian Lourdes Vasquez to prepare a list of affordable and useful primary source documents that would help to fill out the sketchy primary source collection for Africa. Barbara Cooper has also drafted a Research Guide for Students in African History to be posted on the CAS website with a list of some of the sources held in Alexander, finding sources, and internet resources.

Outreach

The launching of CAS events for 2003/04 was the Open House which was extremely successful. It brought in the Rutgers community, general New Jersey community, CAS members and groups of students who were in the Study Abroad Programs in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa as well as Koobi Fora. It also featured skits by Yoruba students, lectures and demonstrations by Arabic and KiSwahili instructors and presentations by the faculty, including several winners of the “Africa Across the Curriculum” grants. Of particular interest was the talk by Arthur Powell on the use of an Egyptian papyrus to solve mathematical equations.

FACULTY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Brian Baum, is the 2004 Claude Ake Prize winner for his paper titled, "Afrikaner National Identity Formation." Many thanks to Allen Howard for working closely with Brian and for nominating his work. The submitted papers were all very engaging and presented us with the kind of challenges every prize committee hopes for.

Julie Silva is the 2004 Ruth First Prize winner for her paper entitled “Economic Liberalization and Regional Inequality: The Case of Mozambique,” which presents a thought provoking, balanced, and original analysis of substantial sets of economic data for Mozambique. The paper confirms the importance of interdisciplinary work and shows how a geographer can cast new light on existing economic data. Congratulations to Julie Silva and many thanks to Robin Leichenko of the Geography Department for working with Julie and for nominating her work.

David Hughes, Department of Human Ecology, is the winner of a Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship to become not simply an anthropologist, but an “agro-anthropologist.” The fellowship will enable him to take courses in Bioresource Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park and do field training at the University of Zambia. This will enhance his ability to move beyond aesthetic and cultural analysis to also broach pragmatic scientific and technical issues that contribute to farmers’ choices in engineering the landscapes in which they work. He hopes that this New Direction will render applied research and interdisciplinary collaboration with farmers, extension officers, and development specialists a reality.

Katie Keller, graduate student in the History department, won a Chateaubriand research grant from the government of France for nine months of dissertation research in the Centre des Archives d’Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence as part of her study of “Suspicious people” in colonial AOF. She also received an SSRC grant that will enable to carry on her work in the Senegalese Archives in Dakar as well.

THOSE AMAZING ANTHRO STUDENTS

Jessica Morales-Libove won a Bevier Fellowship to support the writing of her dissertation on gender, sexuality, and performance in women's dance in Senegal. This past year she was also a graduate student fellow at the Rutgers Institute for Research on Women. Jack McCoy won an NSF to support dissertation research in Kenya. Marc Shur won a Fulbright IIE and a Leakey Foundation grant to support dissertation research in Kenya. Dillon Mahoney, won a second grant from the Princeton Program on Urbanization and Migration to support pre-dissertation research and writing. Jackson Njau won a fellowship from the Wenner Gren Foundation to support dissertation writing. This past year Elizabeth Jordan was a graduate student fellow at Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis and will teach a course for the
Rutgers History department this fall. **David Braun** won both Wenner Gren Foundation and L.S.B.Leakey Foundation funding for dissertation research. Finally, **Briana Pobiner** won Wenner Gren and Leakey funding for dissertation research.

**BOOKS**

"We Were All Slaves" *African Miners, Culture, and Resistance at the Enugu Government Colliery*, Carolyn A. Brown, Rutgers University Heinemann 0-325-07006-7, 2003. This book documents an important, but understudied sector of a West African working class. The coal miners of the Enugu Government colliery became nationalist icons for many Nigerians following a colonial government massacre of striking miners in 1949. Carolyn Brown argues that the experiences of these miners deserve to be studied as something more than appendages to the political history of the birth of the Nigerian nation. Through the lens of gender, race, and class, she documents the tumultuous history of the Enugu miners and reveals how they developed characteristics of self-awareness and class-consciousness similar to those of their Western counterparts in British or North American mines.

*From Mukogodo to Maasai: Ethnicity and Cultural Change In Kenya*, Lee Cronk, Westview Press, Boulder, CO., 2004. This book focuses on the strategic manipulation of ethnic identity by the Mukogodo of Kenya. Until the 1920s and 1930s, the Mukogodo were Cushitite-speaking foragers (hunters, gatherers, and beekeepers). However, changes brought on by British colonial policies led them to move away from life as independent foragers and into the orbit of the high-status Maasai, whom they began to emulate. An interesting by-product of this sudden ethnic change has been to give Mukogodo women, who tend to marry up the ladder, better marital and reproductive prospects than Mukogodo men.

**CAS MEMBERS**

Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Linguistics  
Ousseina Alidou, Africana Studies  
Albert Ayeni, Cook/NJAES International Programs  
Cesar Braga-Pinto, Portuguese & Spanish  
Sarah Brett-Smith, Art History  
Carolyn Brown, History  
Barbara Callaway, Political Science  
Barbara Cooper, History  
Lee Cronk, Anthropology  
Cathleen Coe, Sociology  
Emmet Dennis, Dean, University College  
Salah El-Shakhs, Bloustein School  
Lilian Farhat, Africana Studies  
Jack Harris, Anthropology  
Angelique Haugerud, Anthropology  
Dorothy Hodgson, Anthropology  
Allen Howard, History  
David Hughes, Human Ecology  
Walton Johnson, Africana Studies  
Yeon-Soo Kim, Spanish & Portuguese  

Donald Krueckeberg, Bloustein School  
Renee Larrier, French  
Barbara Lewis, Political Science  
Julie Livingston, History  
Edouard Mafoua-Koukeben, Food Policy Inst.  
Carol Martin, African Studies Association  
Susan Martin-Marquez, Spanish & Portuguese  
Bonnie McCoy, Human Ecology/Social Science  
Arthur B. Powell, Educ. and Acad. Fnd. - Newark  
Edward Ramsamy, Africana Studies  
Mark Robson, Public Health / UMDNJ  
Philip Rothwell, Spanish & Portuguese  
Richard Schroeder, Geography  
Richard Serrano, French  
Michael Shafer, Political Science  
James Simon, Plant Biology/ Pathology  
Thelma Tate, Librarian  
Meredith Turshen, Bloustein School  
Lourdes Vasquez, Latin America/African Studies Library  
William Wright, CAS Visiting Scholar
SELF-DIRECTED AFRICAN LANGUAGE STUDY
AT RUTGERS – NEW BRUNSWICK

Department of Africana Studies and Center for African Studies Competition for Spring Semester 2005

Description: The Center for African Studies is sponsoring the study of any one African language (other than Arabic, Swahili and Yoruba) through the self-directed language study track (or tutorial track) in the Spring semester of 2005. Only ONE AWARD is available (subject to approval of funding) therefore selection will be competitive and based on the merits of the application. The successful student will be expected to work on a one-to-one basis with an assigned tutor of the relevant language. Performance and proficiency in the language will be evaluated by an appointed external examiner. Eligibility: The interested applicant must: (a) be enrolled full-time in the graduate school or any professional school of Rutgers University; (b) be highly motivated, self-disciplined and self-directed. Application process: Students wishing to enroll in the self-directed African language study should complete the application form available from the offices of the Center for African Studies. The application should be accompanied by a letter of support from the applicant’s academic advisor. (Beck Hall 207) and the Department of Africana Studies (Beck Hall 112) on Livingston Campus. Mail the completed application to: Ousseina Alidou, Director, Program in Arabic and African languages Rutgers University, Department of Africana Studies 112 Beck Hall, Piscataway, NJ 08854; Tel: 732-445-4023; Email: oalidou@rci.rutgers.edu; Tel: 732-445-3334 (main office, leave a message). Deadline: All application materials must be received by October 5, 2005. Students will be informed in 3 weeks time of the status of their applications, and may at that time be invited for an interview.

Application for Spring 2005 Competition
Self-Directed African Language Study
Sponsored by Rutgers Center for African Studies

Mail completed application together with a letter of support from your academic advisor to Ousseina Alidou, Director, Program in Arabic and African languages, Dept. of Africana Studies, 112 Beck Hall, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854 or as email attachment to: oalidou@rci.rutgers.edu.

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