

RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

# Global Africa, Migration, Literature, and the Arts

Intercollegiate Symposium · March 28-30, 2019



**Global Africa and the Humanities**

## Description of the Symposium

The Symposium *Global Africa, Migration, Literature, and the Arts*, March 28-March 29, 2019 is intended to explore how Africans and people of African descent globally have been and continue to be at the center of complex histories of encounter and exchange, traversing geographic, generational, and cultural boundaries over the centuries. It will highlight the lived experiences of migration of, and its impact on, the people of Africa and its Diaspora through the prism of the arts—literature visual cultures and performances including film, comics, graphic arts, painting, photography, music, and dance. Departing from a critical examination of the discourses of migration, location, home and identity in the context of social and cultural transit, the symposium will position Africans and the African Diaspora as participants and players in the movement of both tangible and intangible matter—multi-generic ideas, texts, stories, memories, artifacts and performances—as they move through time and space in the World. In the final analysis, the symposium will highlight the multidimensional nature of the interchange between Africa and other regions of the world as experienced in the realm of the arts, demonstrating the global/international reach and scope of the arts and art movements from Africa and the African Diaspora.

**Co-convenors:** The Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures (AMESALL), the Department of French, the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS), the Business School, and the Center for African Studies (CAS)

## About the Global Africa and the Humanities Series



It has been over 25 years since Robert H. Bates, Valentine Y. Mudimbe and Jean O’Barr produced their edited volume, *Africa and the Disciplines*. The text was crucial in delineating some of the important contributions of research in and on Africa to both the humanities and the social sciences. In addition to the many new and complex developments that have continued to unfold in the quarter of a century or so since its publication, the book covered research in only two areas of the humanities – literature, primarily in European languages, and philosophy. In addition, the book defined Africa in its narrower, continental frame. The three symposia that are part of this series, to run over a period of three academic years, are intended to continue this trans-disciplinary conversation on Africa and the humanistic disciplines, but taking Africa in its more global meaning.

*Global Africa and The Humanities Series* is an Initiative of The Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures (AMESALL) in collaboration with School of Arts and Sciences-Humanities and the Center for African Studies. Its co-convenors are Professor Ousseina Alidou and Professor Alamin Mazrui.

Time Traveler, Cover artwork, and Collecting and Recollecting above by Adérónké Adesólá Adésànyà

## PRE-SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

### **MAASAI Remix Film Screening**

Co-directed by Kelly Askew (University of Michigan) and Ron Mulvihill (Winner of 2004 Paul Robeson Award for Best Feature Film *Maangamizi, The Ancient One*)

**Introduction:** Ousseina Alidou

**Time:** 1:10pm - 02:30pm

**Location:** Scott Hall, Room 201, Rutgers College Avenue Campus

**Description of Film:** *Maasai Remix* (a 73 min. ethnographic film) explores how three Maasai individuals confront problems in their community by drawing strength from local traditions, modifying them when necessary, and melding them with new resources. Adam Ole Mwarabu, founder and director of a Maasai NGO, navigates domestic and international political spheres to advocate for Maasai rights to their pastoralist lifestyle. At the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues he forcefully but respectfully calls for an end to the persecution of Maasai pastoralists. Evalyne Mkulati Leng'arwa pursues a college education in the USA, having convinced her father to return 12 cows given him by a man wanting to marry Evalyne when she was but 9 years old. Her dream of empowering Maasai women propels her to delay marriage, inviting criticism and suspicion from the community. Frank Ole Kaipai, the elected leader of his village, faces stiff opposition as he tries to promote secondary school education, protect the village forest, and save the cattle wealth of alcoholic men by transferring it to their wives. Sharing a goal of Maasai self-determination in an ever changing world, Adam, Evalyne and Frank in divergent settings innovate while maintaining an abiding respect and love for their culture.



**Day 1**

**Thursday, March 28, 2019, 8:00am-9:00pm**  
**Rutgers College Avenue Campus, Teleconference Room, Alexander Library**

**8:00am-9:00am** Registration and Breakfast

**9:00am-9:30am** Welcome and Opening Remarks

Convenors: Ousseina Alidou and Renée Larrier  
Director, Center for African Studies: Genese Sodikoff  
AMESALL Chair: Charles Häberl  
SAS Executive Vice Dean: James Masschaele  
Rutgers Global: Rick Garfunkel and Rick Lee

**9:30am-11:15am** Panel 1

Global Africa, Material Cultures, and the Arts of Being

Moderator: François Cornilliat

Ouafaa Deleger: *The Piano as a Cultural Passage: Le Piano Oriental, Z. Abirached*  
Roger Nogueroles Ramírez: *El Cajon as a Symbol of Resistance*  
Jonathan Bishop Highfield: *Riding the Indian Ocean's Waves*  
*Displacement of People and Movement of Food across Four Continents*

**11:15am-11:30am** Coffee Break

Cacophonous cognates: Poetry Performance by Thato Magano

**11:30am-12:45pm** Keynote Address

Introduction: Renée Larrier  
Manthia Diawara: *Global African Studies: Some Thoughts from Édouard Glissant*

**12:45pm-1:30pm** Lunch

**1:30pm-3:15pm** Panel 2

Global Africa, Hip Hop Cultures, and Sonic Agency

Moderator: Tadjou-N'Dine Mamadou Yacoubou

RaShelle R. Peck: *Global Blackness in Underground Nairobi Hip Hop*  
Tosin Gbogi: *Postcolonial Resistance, Transethnic Vernaculars, and New Youth*  
*Identities in African Hip Hop Cultures*  
Eric Charry: *Hip Hop Africanized*

**3:15pm-4:15pm** In Honor of Kassahun Checole and Africa World Press

Conversation with Christopher Wise on *The Manuscript of Timbuktu*  
Moderators: Bode Ibironke and Carolyn Brown

**4:15pm-4:30pm** Coffee Break

**4:30pm-6:15pm Panel 3****Global Africa, Decolonial Praxis, and the Literary Imagination****Moderator:** Paulina Maria Barrios**Simone Brioni:** *Collaboration as a Decolonial Practice***Christopher Wise:** *Yambo Ouologuem's Le devoir de violence at 50***Amir Mohamed Aziz:** *Towards a Queer Decoloniality: (Trans)Gender Epistemologies, the Invention of Binary Sex/Gender, and the Coloniality of White Gender***6:30pm-7:30pm Reception****Welcoming Remarks:** Dean of Humanities, Michelle Stephens**7:30pm-9:00pm Film Screening and Conversation*****An Opera of The World* by Manthia Diawara****Introduction:** Genese Sodikoff, CAS Director**An Opera of The World**

Manthia Diawara, Director

University Professor, Film Director and Producer, Writer

New York University, Tisch School for the Arts

Manthia Diawara writes: "My film, *An Opera of the World* (2017), is...a kind of tribute to Lamko's libretto, through which I freely interpret the themes in my film. I have taken some of the key characters in *Bintou Were*, a Sahel Opera, whose performances aim to mirror the drama of the current migration crises in the world... My second goal with *An Opera of the World* was to build a meeting point between the genre of opera and the medium of film and see what new meanings emerge out of that porosity of borders, transgression of frontiers between Africa and the rest of the world. I wanted to ask if film can be the new opera medium par excellence: because of the easy access the masses have to it, and because it is the perfect vessel for carrying several contradictory emotions at the same time."



*Day 2*

**Friday, March 29, 2019, 8:00am-9:30pm**

**Rutgers College Avenue Campus, Teleconference Room, Alexander Library**

**8:00am-9:00am** Registration and Breakfast

**9:00am-10:45am** Panel 4

Global Africa, Migrations, and the Ethics of Conversation

Moderator: Ousseina Alidou

Diya Abdo: *Every Campus A Refuge: Reimagining the University in a Time of Crisis*

Adérónké Adésolá Adésànyà: *Embracing/Embodying Glo-cal-ity: New African*

*Diaspora Artists' Aesthetics and Transnational Conversations*

Lisa Yung and Ricardo Larémont: *Afro-Asian Intersections and Migration*

**10:45am-11:00am** Coffee Break

**11:00am-12:45am** Panel 5

Global Africa, Women's Bio-Graphics, and the Practice of Diaspora

Moderator: Chioma Nwankwo

Alexandria Smith: *Roaring Inside the Marble: Queer Diaspora in Akwaeke*

*Emezi's Freshwater*

Maramé Gueye: *A Woman is Another Woman's Cure: African Women, Immigration, and Digital Sisterhood*

Gabriel Bámbóósé: *The Self in Poetic Language: Poetics of Hapticality in Abena Busia's Traces of a Life*

**12:45pm-1:45pm** Lunch

South African Writer, Sisonke Msimang

Reading from *Always Mother Country: A Memoir of Exile and Home*

Moderator: Stéphane Robolin

**1:45pm-3:30pm** Panel 6

Global Africa, Aesthetic Mobility, and Digital Cultures

Moderator: Federica Soddu

Reginold Royston: *Podcasting and Orality in African Digital Aesthetics*

Susanna Sacks: *The Aesthetics of Agency: International Art Festivals and the Limits of the Cosmopolitan Imagination*

Clovis Bergère: *Clever Improvisations, Hashtags and Choreographies of Protest in Guinea*

**3:30pm-4:15pm** Mother and Daughter as African Artists

Conversation between Adérónké Adésolá Adésànyà and Tosin Adésànyà-Olaleye

Moderator: Donna Gustafson

**4:15pm-4:30pm** Coffee Break

**4:30pm-6:30pm Panel 7****Global Africa, Critical Blackness, and the Wakanda Imaginary****Moderator:** Jordan Steiner**Wendy Wilson-Fall:** *Practical Pan-Africanism: Global Musics, Mobility, and Blackness***andré carrington:** *Watching Wakanda: Desiring Blackness in Marvel's Black Panther; From Page to Screen***Jonathon Repinecz:** *From Négritude to Wakanda: Toward A Critical Genealogy***Ron Mulvihill:** *Maasai Remix***7:00pm-9:30pm Concluding Remarks and Celebration – ZIMMERLI MUSEUM****Department of French Tribute to Professor Renée Larrier**

Moderator Professor Mary Shaw with Professor Myriam Alami, Professor Medha Karmarkar, Georgette Mitchell, Doctoral Student

**Bloustein School of Public Health Tribute to Professor Meredith Turshen:**

Professor Francis Barchi

**Tribute to Professor Kassahun Checole:** H.E. Ambassador Professor Abena Busia**Tribute to Professor Manthia Diawara, NYU Tisch School of the Arts:** Professor Ousseina Alidou**Performance by Students, Faculty, and NJ Community****Play, Poetry, Music, Dance, Tributes, Performance, Africa World Press Exhibition, and more at the Zimmerli Museum****Artists/Performers/Poets:**

Ahmed Butt

Ala Jitan

Alexis Haynie

Amir Aziz Mohamed

Antu Yacob

Diya Abdo

Etienne Labbouz

Gabriel Bámbgósé

Hyo-Won Nakashio

Itzel Corona Aguilar

Jacob G Price

Nyuma Waggeh

Tadjou-N'Dine Mamadou Yacoubou

Thato Magano

Tosin Gbogi

**Day 3**

**Saturday, March 30, 2019, 9:00am-3:00pm**

**Rutgers Academic Building (AB)**

**15 Seminary Place, Room 2150, College Avenue Campus  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901**

**K-12 Teachers Workshop**

**Global Africa, Migration, Foodways, and Storytelling**

**Teaching Global Africa Through its Foodways: From the Farm to the Table!**

AMESALL-School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS)-BUSINESS SCHOOL and The Center for African Studies (CAS)

**Co-convenors:** Professor Renée Larrier (French), Professor Ousseina Alidou (AMESALL), Professor Genese Sodikoff (Director, Center for African Studies), Professor Jim Simon (SEBS), Professor Albert Ayeni (SEBS), Professor Mark Robson (SEBS), Professor Kevin Lyons (Business School), Emily Merchant (SEBS), and Dr. Olufunmilola (Funmi) Ibironke (Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute)

**Workshop Facilitator:** Professor Albert Ayeni

**Description of Workshop:** The intercollegiate symposium *Global Africa, Migration and The Arts* is followed by a one-day outreach, K-12 TEACHERS WORKSHOP: TEACHING GLOBAL AFRICA THROUGH ITS FOODWAYS: FROM THE FARM TO THE TABLE! in collaboration with The School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) and the Business School. The aim of the Teachers workshop is to reinforce *Rutgers Center for African Studies's* outreach mission to the wider public by raising awareness of the great contributions of Africa and the African Diaspora to world civilizations through their rich cultural heritage and entrepreneurship strategies. This goal will be illustrated in this Teachers Workshop by thematically focusing on *Global Africa, Migrations, Foodways and Storytelling*. Through the series of pedagogic activities, we hope to have a dialogue with the teachers on the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to curriculum development and invite them to reflect on how to include Global African foodways and stories into the K-12 Curriculum on STEM/STEAM, Global Social Studies and the Humanities, Science and Entrepreneurship. K-12 Teachers who participate in the workshop will meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Social Studies, and the mandate of the New Jersey Amistad legislation. They will also receive a certificate of attendance.

**What to Expect:** This workshop aims to prepare K-12 teachers in New Jersey to teach about Africa's contribution to global health through its foodways. Led by expert Dr. Albert Ayeni, this workshop has four specific goals:



**To explore:**

1. How food systems work (from production to consumption).
2. The role of food in social life (weddings, festivals, etc.).
3. The connections between nutritious food, health, and productive life.
4. The ethnic crops, culinary arts, and entrepreneurship of African immigrant populations in New Jersey.

**Workshop has these broad goals:**

- To equip educators with practical strategies and resources for integrating Africa and its diaspora in their schools and classrooms
- To provide a forum and a network of K-12 educators and scholars in the New Jersey area engaged in bringing Africa and its diaspora into to the school curriculum.

This workshop is suitable for teachers of social studies, science, health and nutrition, geography, literature, music, language, and art. It will provide teachers with resource materials for curriculum design. Teachers will also earn professional development credit and their participation will enable them to meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Social Studies, and the mandate of the New Jersey Amistad legislation.

**What Do Teachers Get?**

Expert-led sessions on Africa and African foodways

Breakfast and lunch

Lesson plans and other curricular materials

Lists of useful websites that provide lesson plans for different grade levels

Certificate of completion for participation

**Program**

9:00am-9:30am Welcome Address and Breakfast

9:30am-12:00pm Session I: Lectures and Presentations

12:00pm-12:30pm Lunch

12:30pm-1:00pm Exhibition on African American Foodways at Alexander Library

1:00pm-3:00pm Session II: Presentations and Break-out Sessions

3:00pm-3:30pm Closing and Evaluations

### List of Participants in Alphabetical Order

- **Abena Busia** – Ambassador of Ghana to Brazil; Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University
- **Adérónké Adésolá Adésànyà** - The School of Art, Design, and Art History, James Madison University
- **Ahmed Butt** – Rutgers Undergraduate Student
- **Ala Jitan** – Rutgers Undergraduate Student
- **Alamin Mazrui** - Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Rutgers University
- **Albert Ayeni** - Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University
- **Alexandria Smith** - Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University
- **Alexis Haynie** - Department of English, Rutgers University
- **Amir Aziz Mohamed** - Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University
- **andré carrington** - Department of English and Philosophy, Harvard University
- **Antu Yacob** - Theater Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University
- **Bode Ibronke** - Department of English, Rutgers University
- **Carolyn Brown** - Department of History, Rutgers University
- **Charles Häberl** – Chair, Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Rutgers University
- **Chioma Nwankwo** - Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University
- **Christopher Wise** - Department of English, Western Washington University
- **Clovis Bergère** - Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania
- **Diya Abdo** - English Department, Guilford College
- **Donna Gustafson** - Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University
- **Emily Merchant** - Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University
- **Eric Charry** - Music Department, Wesleyan University
- **Eric Garfunkel** – Vice President, Global Affairs, Rutgers University
- **Etienne Labbouz** - Department of French, Rutgers University
- **Federica Soddu** - Department of Italian, Rutgers University
- **Francis Barchi** – Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University
- **François Cornilliat** - Department of French, Rutgers University
- **Gabriel Bámgbósé** - Program in Comparative Literature, Rutgers University
- **Genese Sodikoff** - Director, Center for African Studies, Rutgers University
- **Georgette Mitchell** - Department of French, Rutgers University
- **Hyo-Won Nakashio** – Rutgers Undergraduate Student
- **Itzel Corona Aguilar** - Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University
- **Jacob G Price** - Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers University
- **James Masschaele** – SAS Vice Executive Dean, Rutgers University
- **Jim Simon** – Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University
- **Jonathan Bishop Highfield** - Literary Arts and Studies, Rhode Island School of Design

- **Jonathon Repinecz** - Department of Modern and Classical Languages, George Mason University
- **Jordan Steiner** - School of Social Work, Rutgers University
- **Kassahun Checole** – Founder and Publisher, Africa World Press and The Red Sea Press
- **Kelly M. Askew** – Department of Anthropology, The University of Michigan
- **Kevin Lyons** – Business School, Rutgers University
- **Lisa Yung** - Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, Binghamton University
- **Lydia Quayson** - Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures
- **Manthia Diawara** - Tisch School of the Arts, New York University
- **Maramé Gueye** - English Department, East Carolina University
- **Mark Robson** - Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University
- **Mary Shaw** - Department of French, Rutgers University
- **Medha Karmarkar** - Department of French, Rutgers University
- **Meredeth Turshen** - Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University
- **Michelle Ann Stephens** – Dean of Humanities, Rutgers University
- **Myriam Alami** - Department of French, Rutgers University
- **Ndirangu Wachanga** - Department of Media Science, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- **Nyuma Waggeh** – Rutgers Undergraduate Student
- **Olufunmilola Ibrónke** – The Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institutes, Rutgers University
- **Ouafaa Deleger** - Department of French, Rutgers University
- **Ousseina Alidou** - Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Rutgers University
- **Paulina Maria Barrios** - Program in Comparative Literature, Rutgers University
- **RaShelle R. Peck** - Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University
- **Reginold Royston** - the Information School and the Department of African Cultural Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- **Renée Larrier** - Department of French, Rutgers University
- **Ricardo René Larémont** - Department of Sociology, Binghamton University
- **Rick Lee** – Director, Rutgers Global, Rutgers University
- **Roger Noguerol Ramírez** - Producer and Musician
- **Ron Mulvihill** – Filmmaker, Director, and Producer
- **Simone Brioni** - Department of English, Stony Brook University
- **Sisonke Msimang** – South African Writer
- **Stéphane Robolin** - Department of English, Rutgers University
- **Susanna Sacks** - English Department, Northwestern University
- **Tadjou-N’Dine Mamadou Yacoubou** - Department of Linguistics, Rutgers University
- **Thato Magano** - Program in Comparative Literature, Rutgers University
- **Tosin Adesanya-Olaleye** – Artist
- **Tosin Gbogi** - The Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics, Tulane University
- **Wendy Wilson-Fall** - Africana Studies Program, Lafayette College

## Acknowledgements

### **Rutgers University, School of Arts and Sciences, and Rutgers Global Sponsors**

School of Arts and Sciences Executive Vice Dean James Masschaele and SAS-Humanities Dean Michelle Stephens; SAS Communications: Associate Dean Kara Donaldson, Ian DeFalco, John Chadwick, Karrin Pitt; Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Charles Haberl; Department of French, Richard Serrano; Department of English and Writers House: Rebecca Walkiwitz, Colin Jager, Carolyn Williams; Program in Comparative Literatures, Andrew Parker; Department of Italian; Department of Spanish and Portuguese, World Language Institute: Thomas Stephens, Celines Villalba Rosado; Center for African Studies, Genese Sodikoff; Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Mary Trigg; Department of Jewish Studies and the Bildner Center, Nancy Sinkoff; and Rutgers Global: Vice President Eric Garfunkel and Director Rick Lee.

**2019 Symposium Convenors:** Ousseina Alidou, African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, AMESALL; and Renée Larrier, Department of French.

**Conference Planning Committee:** Ousseina Alidou, AMESALL; Renée Larrier, Department of French; Alamin Mazrui, AMESALL; Gabriel Bámbgósé, Comparative Literature; Chioma Nwankwo, Bloustein School; Michele Frishberg, AMESALL; Elizabeth Folk, French Department; Kevin Lyons, Business School; Donna Gustafson, Zimmerli Museum; Amanda Potter, Zimmerli Museum; Rebecca Brenowitz, Zimmerli Museum; Genese Sidokoff, Director, Center for African Studies; Christine Waithe, Program Manager Center for African Studies; and Chioma Nwankwo, Bloustein School.

**Rutgers Doctoral Students:** Gabriel Bámbgósé, Comp Lit; Chioma Nwankwo, Bloustein Urban Planning; Alexandria Smith, Women and Gender Studies; Ouafaa Dleger, French; Paulina Maria Barrios, Comp Lit; Amir Mohamed Aziz, WGS; Emily Merchant, SEBS/Nutrition; Jordan Steiner, Social Works; Tadjou-N'Dine Mamadou Yacoubou, Linguistics; Federica Soddu, Italian; Jacob G Price, Spanish and Portuguese; Etienne Labbouz, French; Thato Magano, Comp Lit; Alexis Haynie, English.

**Rutgers Undergraduate Students:** Nyuma Waggeh, Poet, African Diaspora; Ala Jitan, History and AMESALL; Rand Jitan, AMESALL; Hyo-Won Nakashio, Comparative Literature and AMESALL; and Ahmed Butt, Comparative Literature and AMESALL.