Global Africa, Migration, Literature, and the Arts
Intercollegiate Symposium · March 28-30, 2019
Global Africa and the Humanities
GLOBAL AFRICA, MIGRATION, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

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.
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

Discription 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 Noguerol 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
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
Marame Gueye: A Woman is Another Woman’s Cure: African Women, Immigration, and Digital Sisterhood
Gabriel Bámgbósé: 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 Bâmgbósé

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 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
GLOBAL AFRICA, MIGRATION, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS

List of Participants in Alphabetical Order

- **Abena Busia** – Ambassador of Ghana to Brazil; Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University
- **Adérónké Adésolá Adésanyà** - 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 Ibironke** - 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
- **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
• Marame 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
• Meredith 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 Ibironke – 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-Olaley – Artist
• Tosin Gbogi - The Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics, Tulane University
• Wendy Wilson-Fall - Africana Studies Program, Lafayette College

Full bios for all participants above: amesall.rutgers.edu/global-africa/symposium/participants
Acknowledgements

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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 Bámgbósé, 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 Bámgbósé, 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.