

Message from PAS Director Chris Abani

There is a modern Igbo proverb that translates to “lies sound more convincing in English.” The origin of this is probably in the experience of colonialism and the way language is used by imperial forces to manipulate and extort. Igbos, by virtue of their small republican governance systems, were vulnerable to erasure—through subsumption into the colonial project. Colonialism became an erasure of the most essential ways of knowing and preserving self and culture: language. It seems most of our recent postcolonial difficulties, at the deepest level, are the failure of the current models of epistemology to help us come to a balanced sense of self, community, nation, and identity.

This failure creates a deep rift that is not limited to Africa. Even this American moment more than likely has its roots in the same rift. It has fractured most of the collective agreed social orders, resulting in staggering violence against others, and a rising crisis in our collective mental health. This is not meant to be an easy read of the moment but rather the placing of a conceptual thumb on the pulse.

Consider this: you grew up in an English-speaking culture. We know that language is not a passive communication algorithm, but rather the programming of self and identity formation. In other words, language carries within itself the foundation of



we are resonating (in the musical sense), the worldview of the culture. Why am I asking you to consider this? Well, imagine now a person who comes from an Igbo-speaking culture, whose symbolic order is embedded in that worldview, speaking English. First, a translation (which is already a failure or at best an approximation) occurs from one to the other. So, at the most basic level, there is a filter between the speaker and the utterance. There are no pure filters, so the original worldview is contaminated with and by the

worldview of the filter.

Let’s complicate this further by attempting an epistemology of a self in a filter language. The approach, by the time filters of scholarship and interpretative models and systems are applied, is very limited. This is why Akin Ogundiran and I are in the process of setting up The Orisa/Erusi Epistemology Initiative here at PAS, to provide resources (archival and otherwise) to African scholars to help identify new approaches and models that account for the complexity of the moment and account for this rift, this erasure. Perhaps with time, and with the interdisciplinary approach that permeates Northwestern, this new initiative will pull in scholars in adjacent fields until we all come to some hopefully startling and innovative ways to revisit this epistemology question that undergirds so much of our work as writers and scholars.

In the meantime, in keeping with the continent-wide philosophy of hospitality and syncretism, drop by the program and join the conversations. Community is essential if breakthroughs are to be had. In Igbo we say, *ihe gbari ehbo gbari eto, ihe gbari eto, gbari tiginani* (When there are two, the third appears, when there are three, there are already nine). A fractal expansion of ideas and possibilities. Or even better, the mysteries of shallow water yield easily to children while the mysteries of deep water yield easier to adults, but if we are to measure water, we need both.

Chris Abani

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the culture that speaks it and that forms the symbolic order for that culture and language. In an English-speaking culture are embedded notions of proportion, beauty, religion, faith, ethics, morals, and so forth.

By inference one can suppose that every time English is spoken, even in the most quotidian way,

PAS participation at ASA Chicago 2024

LaRay Denzer

Our PAS community, comprising faculty, graduate students, staff, and alumni, actively participated in the 67th annual African Studies Association meeting in Chicago in mid-December 2024. The event's theme, "Global Africa," provided a platform for participants to recenter the continent and its peoples in global discourses. Their discussions on development, decolonization, peace and security, racism, knowledge production, gender equality, human rights, climate change, and the overall interpretation of African issues were not just contributions, but active shaping of these global conversations. A central focus was the role of African youth, who now constitute sixty percent of the continent's population, making the continent's population the youngest in the world. Youth play a prominent role in shaping global conversations about social justice, democracy, development, decolonization, technology, migration, popular cultures, scientific innovation, and local and international policies.

Northwestern faculty, graduate students, and staff played prominent roles in the meeting. **Akin Ogundiran** (history), **Sean Hanretta** (history), and **Meagan Keefe** (PAS) served on the local organizing committee. Two important roundtables highlighted the contributions of eminent PAS members to the development of African studies: "Jane Guyer and Africa," cochaired by historians **David Schoenbrun** and **Akinwumi Ogundiran**; and "Mixing, Moving, Making, Meaning: The Contributions of David L. Schoenbrun to African History," chaired by alumni **Rhiannon Stephens** (Columbia University). The recent publication of **Dotun Ayobade** (performance studies) was discussed in an Author Meets Critic roundtable that reflected on the methodology and significance of his new book, *Queens of Afrobeat: Women, Play, and Fela Kuti's Music Rebellion*.

Faculty participated in panels and roundtables. **Noelle Sullivan** (global health and anthropology) presented a paper, "The Dilemmas of Global Health Detritus: Unintended Consequences of Hospital Donations in Tanzania. Professor emeritus **Richard Joseph** chaired the group presentation, "AfricaNow! Collaborative Learning and the Postcolonial

Predicament;" **Sarah Dimick** (English) took part in the roundtable "Byron Santangelo and Environmental Justice in Africa;" **Sally Afia Nuamah** (human development and social policy) took part in the discussion of Dotun Ayobade's book *Queens of Afrobeat* and joined Ayobade in the roundtable, "Lower Frequencies and Global Africa(s): Authenticity and Circulation in Afrobeats, Chicago House, and Hip Hop." **Peter Mwangi** (Swahili) chaired the panel, "Charting Paths to Equity in Higher Education: Access for Success;" **Rebecca Shereikis** (ISITA associate director) chaired the roundtable, "Building Maktaba: Reflections on a West African Arabic Manuscript Translation and Access Project (see p.10) and chaired the panel "Historical Narrative Construction in Two West African Kingdoms." **Akin Ogundiran** (history) chaired the panel, "African Histories Examined through Ritual Archives;" and also took part in the Author Meets Critic discussion of *Humans in Shackles: An Atlantic History of Slavery*, by Ana Lucia Araujo (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2024). **Rebecca Shereikis** (ISITA associate director) Professor Emeritus **David Schoenbrun** (history) participated in the roundtable, "How Should I Write This," **Robert Launay** (anthropology) and **LaRay Denzer** (PAS) participated in the reflection on the career of Jane Guyer. **Sean Hanretta** (history) served as a discussant on the panel, "Islam, Welfare and Charity in Africa."

Faculty members from Northwestern University in Qatar took part in panels. **Zachary Wright** presented two papers: "The Portrait of the Prophet Muḥammad in the Poetry of Shaykh Ibrahim Niasse;" and "Scholars and Sultans in the Seventeenth-Century Tārīkh Ibn al-Mukhtār. Gerard Akindes presented with Peter Alegi (Michigan State University) a paper, "Afrobelgian Football History Matters." In addition, Qatar faculty **Clovis Bergere** and **Ibrahim Abusharif** presented a papers, "Youth as Digital Infrastructure: Radical Openings, Shutdowns, and Momentums," and "Embodied Knowledge and Digital Affordances: Challenges to Traditional Pedagogy in Senegal."

Several students, both graduate and undergraduate, presented papers: **Umar Yandaki** (history), "History Wars in Katsina Emirate: Royal Historiographies and the Politics of Legitimacy;" and **Austin Bryan** (anthropology), "Stigmatized as 'Promoting Homosexuality' with a Duty to Report: Public Healthcare Workers Providing Services to

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Akin Ogundiran establishes the Material History Lab at Northwestern



Professor Ogundiran has inaugurated the Material History Lab at Northwestern. It is an interdisciplinary site for researching and teaching about objects and what they tell us about human experience in history. Its primary foci are research, teaching, collaboration, and public outreach. The lab currently focuses on Africa's material history over the past 2,500 years, building on findings from various disciplines for a comprehensive understanding.

The lab will investigate how human-made and natural objects influence the formation of the identities of individuals, families, nations, and associations. It will examine how people have created special relationships with objects (e.g., body adornment) to forge relationships with one another and other social entities, including spirit beings. From the beginning of human history, communities

have been surrounded by things critical to human safety and environmental sustainability.

Objects of all kinds are fundamental sources for studying the past, the only substantial sources available to study past societies. Until present times, most peoples have not documented their lives in writing but have created a vast array of objects that scholars can use to describe their everyday lives. Thus, objects represent a window to understand the past, present, and future. Their function, symbolic meanings, and manufacture are integral to understanding human evolution.

Richard Joseph Learning Centre established in Lagos

On February 7, 2025, the Lagos-based Nigerian Institute of International Affairs honored Richard Joseph, a former PAS director and John Evans Emeritus Professor of Political Science, by launching the Richard Joseph Learning Centre as a platform for advancing African research. Professor Eghosa Osaghae, NIIA director general and former senior PAS visiting scholar, presided at the opening. He declared that "Africa cannot move forward without intellectual exchanges."

Emphasizing Joseph's dedication to Africa's development and his belief in the continent's potential for greatness, Osaghae declared, "This legacy project is a platform for exchange of ideas and engagement in robust debates about development. Africa should not be where it is currently, but what do we do to make it get where it should be? The same is the case for Nigeria. The world now realizes that very little can be achieved without Africa." Osaghae further opined that Africa had every reason to hope, build, and begin with new foundations and forecast that the RJLC would reset the African agenda in global debates.

Responding to Osaghae's address, Joseph observed that the center is about manifesting, declaring, and expanding values and principles. He recalled his activism in civil rights and anticolonial movements: "I have seen it. I have lived it. I

have been involved in the civil rights movement. I have been in Mississippi with some of our great leaders. I have been involved in the anti-colonial movement. I have seen where democracy was threatened in Nigeria and witnessed the resistance and sacrifices. We were able to overcome those challenges. I have no reason to doubt that we will overcome again," Joseph hoped that the new center would symbolize Nigeria's resilience and determination over the years, noting that many of those present at the occasion had been part of Nigeria's political struggle and had made sacrifices to ensure the continuation of the country's democracy.

The event marked Joseph's long association with Nigeria, beginning as a young lecturer at the University of Ibadan from 1976 to 1979. His many publications, especially *Democracy and Prebendal Politics in Nigeria: The Rise and Fall of the Second Republic* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987), and works on African governance and politics are well-known in Nigeria. Many prominent Nigerian academics and intellectuals assembled to mark the occasion, including Professors Bolaji Akinyemi, Femi Otubanjo, and Adele Jinadu. They highlighted Joseph's impact on African comparative politics and governance. Joseph donated 77 cartons of books to the new center.

Graduate student reports on predissertation research

Sasha Artamonova (art history) received both a Hans E. Panofsky Pre-Dissertation Award and a Buffet International Research Travel Grant, which helped her spend the fall quarter of 2024 conducting research in Ethiopia, Mali, and Senegal for her dissertation, “The Art of Socialist’ Friendship’: Black Artists’ Encounters with the Eastern Bloc, 1950–1979.” She began her fieldwork in Addis Ababa, exploring the history of artistic exchange between the governments of Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, and then conducted interviews with Ethiopian artists and filmmakers who had studied in Soviet Russia and Ukraine. In Bamako, Mali, she examined archival materials on cultural cooperation between Modibo Keita’s government and Eastern bloc countries. Sasha discovered a rich photographic archive at the Malian National Press Agency and a video archive at the Malian National Center for Cinematography that illustrate the history of this cooperation. The highlight of the Bamako trip was meeting the prominent Malian filmmaker Souleymane Cissé, who studied at VGIIK in Moscow in the 1960s. Sasha was able to show him his graduate film, *L’Aspirant*, which he had not seen since his graduation in 1968. She completed her research in Dakar, exploring documents related to the 1966 First World Festival of Negro Arts in the National Archives of Senegal while also attending the Dak’Art Bien.

Ca’la K Connors (anthropology) spent six weeks last summer in Douala conducting preliminary research for her dissertation project, which examines intergenerational stress transmission amongst internally displaced Anglophone women as a sociopolitical-linguistic minority in Cameroon. She identified a collaborating hospital for her project, connected with the scholarly community at the University of Douala, hired a research assistant, and solicited research approval requests at the hospital, regional, and national levels. All of this will facilitate the next stage of her project during the summer of 2026, when she returns to Douala to collect preliminary ethnographic/survey data. Ca’la states that as a biocultural anthropologist, “My work uses ethnographic, survey, and biomarker data to address two goals: 1) examine how displaced pregnant Anglophone women articulate their identity, stress, and discrimination in

Francophone Douala and 2) understand how stress during pregnancy impacts maternal/infant outcomes within this population.

Raja Ben Hammed (French and Italian) conducted research in Congo (Brazzaville) on the colonial history of Pointe-Noire. This former French colony was created after the decree of May 1922 with the French installation, opening work on the railway project called Chemin de Fer Congo-Océan. Pointe-Noire is the exclusive setting of narration in *Les Méduses* (1982) by the Congolese writer Tchicaya U Tam’si (1931–1988), the focus of Raja’s dissertation’s second chapter. In this novel, literature and history intersect to shed light on a form of death in life experienced by the Congolese during French colonization, preventing them from living their lives fully and turning them into living dead. Their lives are neither full nor complete deaths, but a state in between, in which existence revolves around work for the colonizer on the railway project.

Drawing on the postcolonial thinker Achille Mbembe, Raja argues that Pointe-Noire is subject to necropolitics. This modality of rule refers to the political power that visibly adopts its disciplinary maximum in managing the biopolitical through conferring death and expelling life (Mbembe 2019; 17). Raja states that “The National Archives of the Republic of Congo in Brazzaville were extremely valuable in helping me study the repercussions of the colonial project of Chemin de Fer Congo-Océan on the colony and the quotidian of the colonized. I consulted official correspondence, budget tables, reports, telegrams, invoices, lists, and maps. These documents explain the ways in which the industrial activities in colonial Pointe-Noire were monopolized by the colonial institutions of C.F.C.O. (Chemin de fer Congo-Océan), founded in 1922, and C.G.B.C. (Compagnie Générale du Bas-Congo), founded in 1929.

Behailu Shiferaw Mihirete (rhetoric, media and publics) conducted research in Addis Ababa on the new Adwa Victory Memorial, which opened in February 2024 to commemorate Ethiopia’s victory against the Italian invasion of 1896. This was a landmark event in African resistance to European colonialism in the late nineteenth century, resulting in Ethiopia remaining one of two independent African states. The memorial includes a museum that preserves the artifacts, documents, and historical records related to the Battle of Adwa and Ethiopia’s struggle against imperialism. Based on this research, Behailu

has submitted an article to the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, which is now under consideration for publication. He is the David Zarefsky Graduate Fellow for 2023-2024 and copresident of the African Graduate Students Association.

Uche Okpa-Iroha (art history) went to New York for two weeks in July to do research in connection with museum exhibits at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and Marilyn Nance's studio, as well as to investigate archival materials related to the photography archive of Pius Akpan in Lagos, Nigeria. This trip underlined theoretical engagement and methodological frameworks critical to his dissertation's focus on archives as sites of history, silence, authorial censorship, civil deterioration, and postcolonial memory. At MoMA, Uche conducted preliminary research in the Jean Pigozzi African Art Collection. Uche observes, "A major revelation for me was during my review of Marilyn Nance's FESTAC '77 collection, which Pius Akpan also photographed in Lagos in 1977. Her photographs, published in the book *Last Day in Lagos*, offer a contrast of transnational points of view of the same event. While Nance's work highlights Pan-African unity, Akpan's government-oriented perspective omits certain contemporary tensions and conflicts. Thus, the work at Nance's Brooklyn studio allowed me to study how archival preservation (or its lack thereof) affects historical memory. Her meticulous recording of resources sharply contradicts the "neglect"/"Silence" seen in Akpan's file, so in postcolonial contexts, questions about institutional versus organic archival methodologies in postcolonial settings."

Umar Aminu Yandaki (history) spent the summer of 2024 exploring the history of the city gates of Katsina as transitional spaces that shaped movement, power, and memory. Through oral interviews, audiovisual documentation, and archival research, he began to forge relationships with key stakeholders and gained access to essential resources that offer fragments of evidence about how these gates functioned not just as physical barriers, but as sites of negotiation between citizens and foreigners, rulers and subjects, traders and authorities, and the past and the present. The narratives embedded in these gates and other built structures in Katsina's urban landscape heightened his awareness of stories of blessings and curses, of gates opened and some permanently sealed. The weight of history was tangible in the worn gate frames and rusted hinges he saw at museums in Katsina. This immersive experience reveals how urban landscapes, the built environment, and material culture embody histories of control, resistance, and global connections. He observes that "The resources I encountered reinforced my determination to seek more Arabic manuscripts and revealed gaps in my interview and Hausa Ajami paleography skills, which I will be addressing through an independent study on oral history and Ajami this coming summer."

(continued from p. 3) Criminalized 'Key Populations for HIV' Under Uganda's 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act." Undergraduate students **Beckett Sands** (psychology and mathematics) and **Gideon Pardo** (journalism and managing editor at *North by Northwestern*) also presented a paper "Modernizing STEM Education in Rwanda: The Triumphs and Challenges of Rapid Change."

Many PAS alumni participated in a variety of ways. The new book by Aili Mari Tripp (University of Wisconsin-Madison), *Joan Wicken and Her Lifelong Collaboration with Tanzania's President Nyerere*, was highlighted in an Author Meets Critic panel that discussed Tripp's collaboration with Wicken in producing this mediated life history. Another panel considered the volume, *The State, Ethnicity, and Gender in Africa Intellectual Legacies of Crawford Young*, honoring Young's career. In addition, Tripp copresented with Joana Ramos a paper, "Historical Antecedents to Women and Politics in Contemporary Mozambique," and cochaired a panel, "Publishing on Women and Gender in Africa: From Dissertation to Book Manuscript."

Alumnus **David Donkor** (Texas A & M University) presented a paper, "Ghanaian Popular Fashion, National Team Dress, and the Spectacle of Airport Arrivals in International Soccer." Alumnus **Moussa Seck** (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) presented a paper, "The Representation of the Figure of 'l'étranger' in Francophone Travel Writing." Alumna **Lorelle Semley** (Boston College and editor of *History in Africa*) chaired and participated in the roundtable "How Should I Write This? Semley also participated in the Author Meet's Critic panel that discussed the book *Humans in Shackles: An Atlantic History of Slavery* by Ana Lucia Araujo (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2024). **Rebecca Shumway** (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and **James Brennan** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) served on roundtables. Several alumni participated in the roundtable that reflected on the career of their teacher and colleague David L. Schoenbrun, including **Rhiannon Stephens** (Columbia University), **Raevin Jimenez** (University of Michigan), **Neil Kodesh** (University of Wisconsin-Madison), **Yaari Felber-Seligman** (City College of New York), and **Pamela Khanakwa** (Makerere University). Alumna **Kathleen Sheldon** chaired the panel, "Gender and Indigenous Legal Norms in Colonial Africa."

Morris F Goodman (1933-2025)

Craig Sirles

Morris Franklin Goodman, retired linguistics professor at Northwestern who specialized in pidgin and creole languages, Swahili, the northern Nigerian language of Hausa, language families and typology in Africa, and historical linguistics, died February 14 after a battle with cancer. He had a decades-long association with the Program of African Studies. He was 91 years old.

Morris's family history read like the great American immigrant story. His father, Abraham (his last name was changed from its Yiddish form to "Goodman" at Ellis Island), was born into a Yiddish-speaking family in Ukraine in 1890. The family lived in a shtetl near Gritsev, an area where pogroms against local Jewish populations had not been uncommon. According to Morris and a 1988 *New York Times* obituary of his father, the family moved to New York's Lower East Side in the first years of the twentieth century, and by 1907 Abraham was selling rhinestone-studded hair combs on the streets from a pushcart. Over the decades this business would eventually grow into Goody Products, a major manufacturer and distributor of haircare products, sunglasses, and other beauty and fashion accessories.

The Goodman family moved to Brooklyn, where Morris and his two older brothers spent their early years. Sometime in the late 1930s–early 1940s the family relocated to Miami Beach, where Morris witnessed for the first time the effects of racial segregation and Jim Crow, experiences that would have a lasting effect on his sense of social justice. Sometime after returning to New York City, he enrolled at Oberlin



Morris Goodman

College in Ohio, majoring in art history because he had career plans possibly to become an architect, but by then he had also discovered his interest and talent in language.

Morris entered Columbia University's graduate program in linguistics in the mid-1950s, studying with Joseph Greenberg, whose groundbreaking—and controversial—work on language typology in Africa, and later classification of Amerindian languages in the New World, would redefine

the entire field of comparative linguistics. Greenberg had received his PhD in African anthropology under none other than Melville Herskovits at Northwestern a decade and a half earlier. Morris also studied under Uriel Weinreich, a specialist in Yiddish, bilingualism, and language contact. Without question, the influences of Weinreich must have sparked Morris's interest in pidgin and creole languages, which by their very nature represent the quintessence of language contact.

Upon completion of his doctoral course work at Columbia, Morris spent two years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, writing his dissertation and working as a research assistant for a UNC faculty member.

There Morris witnessed the same racial discriminatory laws that he had seen in Miami Beach years earlier, this time involving two movie houses in Chapel Hill that either barred Blacks from entering the theaters or confined them to inferior balcony seating, but this time Morris joined other demonstrators, White and Black, to demand equal treatment, and both theaters eventually capitulated and allowed Black patrons in.

In 1961 Morris completed his dissertation, a structural study of French creole varieties found principally in Haiti, Madagascar (which, ironically, had been a British, not a French, colonial possession), and two small island locales in

the South Indian Ocean, Mauritius and Réunion, and several years later this research was published as *A Comparative Study of Creole French Dialects* (The Hague: Mouton, 1964), which for years was the standard work on the topic.

Before coming to Northwestern, Morris did post-doc work at UCLA, where, among other things, he taught Swahili. One of his students was Ron Everett, a Black political activist in Los Angeles who later Africanized his name to Maulana Ndabezitha Karenga. In 1966 Karenga would create the Pan-African holiday Kwanzaa, originally as a Black alternative to Christmas and then as a supplement to the Christmas season for African Americans.

When Morris arrived at Northwestern in 1966, he joined a cadre of Africanist linguists that included Rae

Moore (Moses), whose doctoral work at University of Texas at Austin had focused on Swahili; Richard Spears, who at Indiana University had specialized in the Mande languages found across a swath of West Africa; Hans Wolff, a German-trained Africanist who had done extensive interethnic language research in Nigeria; and, of course, Jack Berry, founder of Northwestern's Linguistics department, who was a pioneer in research on West African pidgins and creoles and compiler of several dictionaries of West African languages. Berry had established his career at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London before moving to the States. (Morris would also go on to study at SOAS.) *(Continued p. 8)*

Morris Goodman: A remembrance

Jeff Rice

One thing Morris and I had in common is that we both aligned with the Program of African Studies during the era of Gwendolyn Carter. Morris joined the Linguistic Department when it was very much an adjunct of the program; Morris taught Swahili and Hausa (both of which he spoke fluently). In fact, Morris must have spoken closer to a dozen languages with varying degrees of competence, which made his knowledge of non-United States countries most intimidating and equally engaging (as long as you had a high tolerance for trivia). Morris was more than an academic and world traveler. Born to a well-off and very philanthropic family, Morris was dedicated to Amnesty International and could be seen annually marching in the Evanston July 4th parade. He was a supporter of the National Mexican American Museum in Pilsen as well as the Old Town School of Folk Music and of course, our own Program of African Studies. Of late he created a charity to extend his ability to donate to worthy causes.

Morris was also a dedicated member of the salon at 911 Foster Street, also known as Great Expectations Bookstore and it was there that I first met him. Status was level, opinions were tossed around like balloons at a graduation. Like the rest of the participants, Morris was front and center with knowledge, opinions, and a readiness to do battle. Like the rest, Morris gave as good as he got and friendships were built, not ended. Morris' arrival was always greeted like Norm was in Cheers: "Hi Morris, sit down."

One story I can tell concerned my long-term argument with Morris about the Middle East. His family legacy was Zionist, he frequently travelled to Israel and spoke Hebrew. Morris hated Netanyahu in a way that was so palpable, I truly believe Bibi caused him pain on a very tangible basis. Having hot chocolate with Morris within the last month, his mind was super sharp, his opinions in place, his likes and dislikes intact and his hatred of Netanyahu was present. When he informed me of his age and his medical condition, I was flabbergasted. Morris Goodman retains a vital memory in the annals of PAS and Evanston/Chicago. I can truly say: idiosyncratic, opinionated, generous and above all, a mensch.

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Some years later, Northwestern University's Department of Linguistics and Program of African Studies welcomed Abraham Demoz, a noted Semiticist and authority on Ethiopian languages and African sociolinguistics. It is worth noting here that just as NU's linguistics department offers the annual Demoz Prize to an outstanding undergraduate student, the Program of African Studies offers the Morris Goodman Awards, monetary grants to graduate students who are studying an African or colonial language to conduct their doctoral research.

During his career at Northwestern, Morris focused his research mainly on French-based creoles, but occasionally his work cast a wider net. He coauthored a major article on Nilo-Saharan languages for *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and wrote a significant piece on "Languages in Contact" for the "Linguistics and Sub-Saharan Africa" volume in the *Current Trends in Linguistics* series. In the 1980s, his attention shifted to Dutch- and Portuguese-based creoles in the Caribbean or found along and off the northern coast of South America; one notable article was the monograph-length "The origin of Virgin Island Creole Dutch." During this time, he also examined Portuguese-based Papiamentu, a creole spoken in the Dutch Antilles islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao.

Morris was a linguist, but he might have also been described as simply a language maven. He could speak—fluently or proficiently—French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Hebrew, Yiddish, Swahili, and Hausa; he had broad familiarity with pan-Semitic and possessed a strong grasp of the morphology of Hebrew, Arabic, and Amharic; he was familiar with the declensional and conjugational classes of Latin as well as of several Slavic languages; he could read Dutch; he had a decent command of "tourist Russian;" and he even knew a smattering of Japanese. For many years Morris taught a popular undergraduate course at Northwestern called "Languages of the World;" in it, students were introduced to the fantastic structural and lexical diversity of languages unrelated to English and its close western European ancestors, and to the world's diverse writing systems, from Egyptian hieroglyphics to the Cherokee syllabary.

Not surprisingly, given his penchant for words and mastery of lexical arcana, Morris was an inveterate cruciverbalist. He almost always completed, in ink, the Friday and Saturday *New York Times* crossword puzzles, considered a good deal harder than the Sunday *Times* puzzles. And for good measure, every day he would solve the Sudoku puzzles

in the *Chicago Tribune*, even those rated level four, most difficult.

Morris and the other Goodman men were apparently blessed with longevity genes: his father Abraham lived to be 98; his brothers Len and Phil both lived well into their 90s; and Morris was just three months shy of his 92nd birthday when he passed away. Moreover, Morris was as sharp at 91 as he was at 70. Requiescat en pace, Morris.

A memorial service was held for Morris in Wilmette on February 20, with burial taking place in New York.

Craig Sirles received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Northwestern in 1985. His research centered on French-Arabic language planning in the postcolonial Maghreb, especially Morocco. He had been a student of Morris Goodman during his studies at Northwestern. He is now an emeritus professor of English at DePaul University.

Scholars gather to celebrate the career of Charles Stewart

By Rebecca Shereikis

A conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC) from September 19 to 20, 2024 celebrated the long and fruitful career of Charles C. Stewart, professor emeritus of history at UIUC. Organized by Mauro Nobili (UIUC) and Bruce Hall (University of California, Berkely), the event brought together an international group of scholars who offered papers in appreciation of Stewart's many contributions to African history.

After receiving his DPhil from Oxford University in 1970, Stewart joined the UIUC history department in 1971 and taught there until 2006, also serving as history department chair, director of the Center for African Studies, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Interim Provost for International Affairs.

Stewart's postretirement move to Chicago brought him more fully into ISITA's orbit and he quickly became a valued community member. From 2014–2016, he served as ISITA's director of programming, filling a gap between Northwestern faculty directors during a crucial time for the institute. ISITA supported Stewart's compilation, with Sidi Ahmed Ould Ahmed Salim, of *Arabic Literature of Africa, Volume V: Writings of Mauritania and the Western Sahara* (Brill, 2016), a two-volume annotated bibliography covering three hundred years of intellectual production in the Mauritanian region.

The September conference in Stewart's honor, titled "Muslim West Africa's 'Core Curriculum' Explained, Explored, and Redefined," took as its organizing principle the 2011 study published by Stewart and Bruce Hall, and a 2021 update by Stewart, that outlined a historic "core curriculum" they argued was common to teaching and learning across Muslim communities in West Africa. The opening panel considered the core curriculum in broader contexts, including a paper by ISITA director Zekeria Ahmed Salem titled "A Tradition the Move: Performing the West African Core Curriculum in the Heartland of Islam." Five subsequent



panels were organized around specific disciplines and genres of texts that had emerged as central to the core curriculum, including Arabic grammar; jurisprudence; logic, belief, and Quranic exegesis; history and prosopography; devotion, Sufism, and esoteric sciences.

The panel titled "Charles Stewart and West African History" was a time for more personal reflections. Longtime colleagues Murray Last (University College, London) and Ann McDougall (University of Alberta) described the heady early days of discovering, alongside Stewart, new sources for the study of precolonial West African history. Former PhD students Sundiata Djata (Northern Illinois University) and Nicole Anderson Cobb characterized Stewart as a committed graduate advisor who challenged them intellectually while also dispensing sound practical advice. The Boutilimit (Mauritania) chapter of Stewart's career was represented by Baba Ould Haroun, whose request to Stewart in 1986 for help in preserving his father's library set in motion a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to microfilm that collection (the Cheikh Sidiya Library) and Stewart's subsequent development of the West African Arabic Manuscript Database (WAAMD). Andrew Stewart, Charles' son, closed out the panel with reflections on his time in Boutilimit in the late 1980s assisting on the microfilming project, illustrated by images that brought to life the painstaking process of capturing over 100,000 manuscript folios on film, in between Saharan sandstorms.

Bringing together a wide range of contemporary scholars with expertise on different aspects of the textual tradition of Muslim West Africa, the conference honored the core curriculum "mapping" work pioneered by Stewart in the best possible way—by delving deeply into the genres and disciplines identified in the mapping and posing new research questions. Conference organizers plan to publish the papers in a two-volume book.



From left to right: Ragy Mikhaeel, Rebecca Shereikis, Mauro Nobili, and Paul Naylor.

Maktaba project introduced at ASA roundtable

Rebecca Shereikis

Scholars involved in the Maktaba project reflected on their experiences during a roundtable presentation at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association in December 2024. Maktaba is an open-access digital collection of translated and contextualized Arabic manuscripts from Muslim West Africa. A collaborative effort between Northwestern University (ISITA and NU Libraries) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Maktaba is dedicated to making portions of the African manuscript collections from these universities' libraries accessible to a wide variety of users for learning, teaching, and research.

A planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has funded the development of a pilot website with a sample set of thirty-three digitized manuscripts (twenty-four from the NU collection and nine from the UIUC collection), each accompanied by an English translation, transcription into typescript Arabic, and an essay providing historical and cultural context for the text. The roundtable included a demonstration of the Maktaba website, which is still in a pre-release phase. The site will be formally launched in spring, 2025.

Mauro Nobili, project lead at UIUC, opened the roundtable by locating the project's origins in the "battle for sources" in the field of African history. Historians' focus on the colonial library, he explained, has obscured the so-called "Islamic library," produced by Africans in Arabic and 'Ajami (African languages written in an enhanced Arabic alphabet).

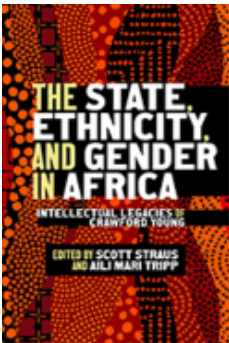
The Maktaba project endeavors to open that Islamic library to nonspecialist audiences. Rebecca Shereikis (ISITA associate director), project lead at Northwestern, demonstrated the website, designed and built by NU Library's Digital Projects and Data Curation Department. She also reflected on the process of curating content for the site, especially the challenges of contextualizing the manuscripts' contents for nonspecialist audiences.

Paul Naylor (cataloger of West African manuscripts at Hill Museum and Manuscript Library), one of a group of international scholars producing translations for Maktaba, explained his process of translating *fā'idās*—a genre of texts offering specific recipes, ritual practices, or physical actions that promise to afford the user assistance in times of need (e.g., in health, finance, relationship, etc.). *Fā'idās*, Naylor explained, are important sociocultural documents that are prevalent in West African collections and provide a non-elite perspective on the struggles and concerns of daily life. Ragy Mikhaeel (associate professor of instruction, MENA languages, Northwestern) discussed his involvement in the project as a teacher of Arabic language. He described the challenges of producing a fluent translation for Maktaba of "*Huqqa al-Bukā'u*"—a poem by Ahmadu Bamba Mbacké (d. 1927), founder of the Muridiyya Sufi order. Mikhaeel has developed an entire course, titled "Reading Arabic Manuscripts," that uses Arabic manuscripts, including the "*Huqqa al-Bukā'u*," to teach grammar, rhetoric, paleography, and more.

The project was enthusiastically received by the roomful of scholars, librarians, and educators in attendance, many of whom expressed interest in using the materials for teaching.

Rebecca Shereikis is the associate director of ISITA.

PAS bookshelf



Aili Tripp and Scott Straus, eds.,
The State, Ethnicity, and Gender
in Africa: Intellectual Legacies
of Crawford Young (Madison:
University of Wisconsin Press, 2024)

Alumna Aili Tripp (political science, 1990) coedited with Scott Straus this symposium celebrating the contribution of Crawford Young to the study of African politics. It includes fifteen chapters

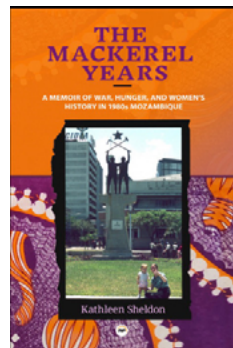
examining the intersecting themes of postcolonialism, the politics of ethnic and religious identity, and the role of women in contemporary African society and politics. The book includes an introductory chapter on the legacies of Crawford Young by the coeditors and a chapter by Will Reno (political science), “State Development in Contemporary Africa.”



A Prodigy's Calling: The Early
Musical Biography of Cosmas
Magaya, Zimbabwean Mbira
Master (Chicago: University of
Chicago Press, 2024).

Paul Berliner, a former member of Northwestern's Department of Music, presents the biography of master mbira musician, Cosmas Magaya of Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia), who was his

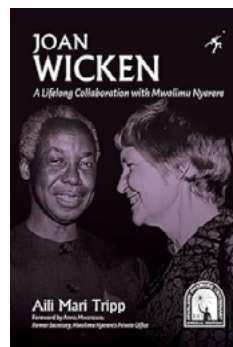
teacher and lifelong collaborator for fifty years. *A Prodigy's Calling* recounts Magaya's emergence as a renowned musician in Zimbabwe during the time when Zimbabwe society was fraught with decolonial conflict. Magaya's engagement with music and the ancestors was affected by overlapping tensions between Shona cosmology and Christian ideology, rural and urban lifestyles, and the escalating African nationalist struggle and the white supremacist state. While Magaya's story reflects profound social changes in the nation, it is also a story of musical apprenticeship. Linocut illustrations by South African artist Lucas Bambo bring the narrative to life, and Berliner's spirited storytelling is accompanied by QR codes that take readers directly to recordings of music as Magaya learns it.



Kathleen Sheldon, The Mackerel
Years: A Memoir of War, Hunger,
and Women's History in 1980s
Mozambique (Trenton, NJ:
African World Press, 2024)

Alumna **Kathleen Sheldon** (BA history 1974) recounts her research experience in Mozambique in 1982–84 where she conducted her dissertation research. She was accompanied

by her husband, Steve Tarzynski, a physician working with the Ministry of Health, and her toddler daughter. The young couple were cooperates who supported the new socialist Frelimo government. Mozambicans recall these years as the “mackerel years” because of the dominance of mackerel in the markets, a fish many did not particularly like. Sheldon's account of the difficulties of everyday life for Mozambicans and her young family also delves into contemporary health-care problems and the impact of South Africa-backed insurgents to destabilize the Frelimo government. Beautifully written, this work demonstrates the feminist maxim that the ‘personal is political.’



Aili Mari Tripp, Joan Wicken:
A Lifelong Collaboration with
Mwali Nyerere (Dar es Salaam:
Mkuki na Nyota Publishers, 2023)

Alumna **Aili Tripp** (political science, 1990) presents a mediated account of the life-long relationship between Joan Wicken and Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's founding president.

Wicken was a British woman who was Nyerere's personal assistant, speechwriter, confidant, sounding board, and friend—his staunchest supporter. In this interview with Tripp, Wicken talks about her early life and how she became Nyerere's personal assistant. She served him for almost 40 years and witnessed the building of Tanzania. Wicken tells us much about Nyerere as a person and how he experienced events in the country after Independence and leading up to his death.

Lovejoy presents his papers to the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies

Esmeralda Kale



Paul E. Lovejoy is Distinguished Research Professor, Emeritus, Department of History, York University, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Lovejoy was Founding Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas at York University and held the Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History from 2000 to 2015. A former Vice President of the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, he was a member of the International Scientific Committee of the UNESCO "Slave Route" Project (1996–2012). He was co-editor of the journal, *African Economic History* for 37 years and continues as General Editor of *The Harriet Tubman Series on the African Diaspora* (Africa World Press), which has now published over forty books. He has published 44 books, including *Jihad in West Africa during the Age of Revolutions (1775–1850)* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2016), *Slavery in the Global Diaspora of Africa* (New York: Routledge, 2019),

coedited with Ali Moussa Iye and Nelly Schmidt, *Slavery, Resistance and Abolitions: A Pluralist Perspective* (Africa World Press, 2019), coedited with Dale Tomich, *The Atlantic and Africa: The Second Slavery and Beyond* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2021), and coedited with Kartikay Chadha, Henry B. Lovejoy and Erika Melek Delgado, *Regenerated Identities: Documenting African Lives* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2022). His most recent publications are *Boko Haram, Islamic Protest, and National Security*, coedited with Melchisedek Chétima, (Trenton, NJ: Red Sea Press, 2024) and *Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua: An Enslaved Muslim of the Black Atlantic*, coauthored with Nielson Bezzera. He has several web-based projects including Equiano's World: Gustavus Vassa and the Abolition of the Slave Trade (www.equianosworld.org). His digitization preservation focuses on the Sierra Leone Public Archives, supported by the British Library Endangered Archives Programme. He is on the board of directors of Walk With Web Inc. (www.walkwithweb.org) that supports digital research projects. In 2019, the *Journal of Global Slavery* and Brill Publishers established the annual Paul E. Lovejoy Prize to recognize excellence and originality in a major work on global slavery. His personal papers and research materials have been donated to the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies at Northwestern University.

Just digitized

Have you noticed that we are digitizing our manuscripts?

We recently started digitizing our manuscripts in order to preserve the manuscript and extend use beyond the Herskovits Library. Several of these manuscripts will be used for the Makataba project and the African Poetry Digital Portal discussed in earlier issues of the newsletter. If there are manuscripts that you would like to recommend we digitize please contact us at Africana@northwestern.edu.

The Libraries' "Digital Collections" contains thousands of items from Northwestern University Libraries. While only a fraction of materials from the Libraries' collections are represented, the site is representative of the distinction and diversity of collections from the Northwestern Government and Geographic Information collection, Herskovits Library of African Studies, Music Library, Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections and University Archives, and Transportation Library."

Recent additions to the collections of the Herskovits Library

Esmeralda Kale



Steel Sculpture Masquerade by the Nigerian British sculptor Sokari-Douglas Camp:

Two summers ago, while packing up materials at the home of Jean Herskovits, this item on display caught my attention. I was primarily there to pick up books and serials published in Nigeria and focus on her archives. All of the art and material culture in her home had already been earmarked for her friends but her executor assured me that if there were any duplicates or unwanted items, she would keep the Herskovits in mind. As I packed up boxes to send back to Evanston more items were added to the shipment. These were mainly items of clothing and fabric, which would serve as a good example of fashion and fabric produced in Nigeria. I left New York with the understanding that the executor would organize a pickup for the boxes I left behind. But before she did so, she requested additional boxes and shipping labels. When the shipment finally arrived at the Herskovits Library and was opened, I was extremely surprised to see this sculpture that had first caught my attention. If you would like to read more about the item, take a look at “Camp, Sokari Douglas, et al. *Play and Display: Steel Masquerades from Top to Toe : Sculpture* by Sokari Douglas Camp

(Silvara, 1995); Herskovits Library -5 South - Large 730.9669 C186Z.

No-entry by Chickenman Mkhize:

Quite often faculty come to the Herskovits or contact me about items they'd like to donate. Last summer just before Reg Gibbons retired, he popped into the Herskovits with this object and book. Reg mentioned that he had edited the book and had organized a conference at Northwestern . Truly interdisciplinary in nature, authors, poets, and artists from across Africa attended the conference. Many of the artists came with original works of art. Reg bought a few works of art and did his best to have his book signed by as many participants as possible. As we sat in my office he tried to recollect the name of the artist who created this item, that had been on display in his office for years, but just couldn't.



Strange things happen. In December Henrietta Dax, our South African vendor, owner of Clarkes bookshop, popped into the Herskovits to see the collection and touch base with me before the African Studies Association Conference. I showed her the object and she identified it as a work by the artist Chickenman Mkhize. More information about his work can be found in Brenner, Joni, et al. *Life-Line-Knot-: Six Object Biographies* (Standard Bank Gallery, 2015). Herskovits Library - 5 East - N6350 .B74 2015.



Esmeralda Kale is the George & Mary LeCron Foster Curator of the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies.



Community News

ISITA and PAS congratulate Professor **Mukhtar Umar Bunza** on his appointment as the vice chancellor of Northwest University in Sokoto, Nigeria. He was a former ISITA junior fellow during the spring quarter, 2002). He is a scholar of social history and religion, with a PhD from Usmanu Danfodiyo University where he served as a member of the Department of History until his recent appointment. He has published widely on history, religion, and culture. He recently coedited *Nigeria in Search of Stability: The Role of Religion, History and Language* (Sokoto: Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, 2020). He is the author of *Christian Missions among Muslims: Sokoto Province, Nigeria, 1935-1990* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2007) and *A History of Yauri Kingdom from 1411 to its Emirate Status* (Zaria: Gaskiya Corporation, 2015). In addition, he has coedited a number of collections and published many articles. He has served in many administrative capacities in his home university and prior to his recent appointment as Commissioner for Higher Education, Kebbi State, Nigeria.

Visiting scholar **Eric Berman** has published the study “Exploring the Acquisition and Management of Arms among Volunteer Security Outfits in Nigeria’s Borno State” (Geneva: UNIDIR, 2024). It can be accessed at https://unidir.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/UNIDIR_WAM-of-VSOs-in-NE-Nigeria-Study-edit.pdf. He has also published, the briefing paper “Insecurity in Niger in the Wake of the Junta’s Rise to Power: A Persistent and Growing Challenge, IPIS, December 3, 2024, <https://ipisresearch.be/weekly-briefing/insecurity-in-niger-in-the-wake-of-the-juntas-rise-to-power-a-persistent-and-growing-challenge/>.

be/weekly-briefing/insecurity-in-niger-in-the-wake-of-the-juntas-rise-to-power-a-persistent-and-growing-challenge/.

Sherwin Bryant (history) participated in a panel on “Ways of Knowing—Colonial Knowledge and Digital Histories of Latin America” at the 2024 Conference on Latin American History in San Francisco.

Erin Delaney (law and political science) published “A Comprehensive Plan to Lower Health Care Costs without Reducing Coverage,” for the *Progressive Policy Institute* (October 2024). It can be accessed at www.progressivepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/PPI-A-Plan-to-Lower-Health-Costs-.pdf.

Doris Garraway (French and Italian) published an article “Raising the Living Dead in Postrevolutionary Haiti: Glory, Salvation, and Theopolitical Sovereignty in the Kingdom of Henry Christophe,” *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents* 20(3), 2023: 409–430.

Sean Hanretta (history), published two articles, “Egypt in Africa: William A. Brown and a Liberating African History,” *Journal of African History* 64(2), 2023: 204–208. He also coauthored with O Kobo, “William A. Brown and the Assessment of a Scholarly Life,” *Journal of African History* 64(2), 2023: 169–173.

Brannon Ingram (religious studies) published two articles, “The Queen’s Urdu: Translating Colonial Secularity in Victoria’s 1858 Proclamation,” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 52(1), 2024: 104–127; and “Textures of Belonging: Feeling

Muslim Publics Past and Present,” *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 51(3), 2023: 937–948.

Alumnus **Moses Khisa** (2016) published several articles, “Uganda’s Ruling Coalition and the 2021 Elections: Change, Continuity and Contestation,” *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 17(1-2), 2023: 325–343; “Militarism and the Politics of Covid-19 Response in Uganda” (with Sabastiano Rwengabo), *Armed Forces & Society*, 2023: 1-25; Rwanda-Uganda Relations: Elites’ Attitudes and Perceptions in Interstate Relations” (with Gerald Bareebe), *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics* 61(2), 2023: 152–176.

Robert Launay (anthropology) published two book chapters, “Pioneers of Piety: Youth as Agents of Islamic Renewal,” in *Rethinking the Anthropology of Islam: Dynamics of Change in Muslim Societies. In Honour of Roman Laimeier*, edited by Katja Follmjalder, Lisa Maria Franke, and Ramzi, 155–168 (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2024); and “Sabati-Ba’s Coup d’Etat: Contexts of Legitimacy in a West African Chiefdom,” in *State Formation and Political Legitimacy: Political Anthropology*, edited by Ronald Cohen and Judith D. Toland, 45–67 (London: Taylor and Francis, 2024). In addition, he published an article, “Tymowski, Michal—Europeans and Africans: Mutual Discoveries and First Encounters,” *Cahiers d’Etudes Africaines* 253(1), 2024: 245–247.

Amanda Logan (anthropology) and graduate student **Elikplim Kuto** (anthropology) are among the multiple authors of “Early Archaeological

Evidence of Wheat and Cotton from Medieval Ile-Ife, Nigeria, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 121(37), 2024, e2403256121.

Leah Neubauer (preventive medicine) copublished with four other scholars “Developing a Community of Practice (CoP) on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) in a Global Network of Women’s Funds,” *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*, 39(2), 2024, doi.org/10.3138/cjpe-2023-0005.

Akin Ogundiran (history) copublished with four others “Os Lacos Que Nos Unem: Uma História Arqueológica do Cosmopolitismo Africano/Iorubá e Suas Implicações para a Colaboração no Atlântico Sul; The Bonds that Unite Us: An Archaeological History of the African Yoruba Cosmopolitanism and Its Implications for the Collaboration in the South Atlantic,” *Revista de Arqueologia* 37(2), 102–117.

Noelle Sullivan (global health and anthropology) published an article, “Pushpin Memoir: Making Meaning Out of Murder,” online, February 1, 2025, doi.org/10.1111/aman.28045.

Christopher Udry (Global Poverty Research Lab and economics), copublished several articles on international economics, including “Crop Yields Fail to Rise in Smallholder Farming Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 121, 2024, e2312519121; and “The Fading Treatment Effects of a Multifaceted Asset Transfer Program in Ethiopia,” *American Economic Review: Insights* 6(2), 2024, 277–294;

Christopher Udry and **Dean Karlan** (economics) copublished with several others, “Access to Digital Credit for Smallholder Farmers: Experimental Evidence from Ghana,” *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 2024; and “Access to Digital Credit for Smallholder Farmers: Experimental Evidence from Ghana,” *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 2024.

Jessica Winegar (anthropology) coauthored two articles with L. Deeb, “Anthropology’s Good Beyond the Discipline,” *American Ethnologist* 51(1), 2024: 140–142; and “Resistance to Repression and Back Again: The Movement for Palestinian Liberation in US Academia,” *Middle East Critique* 33(3), 2024: 313–334.

Zachary Wright (NUQ Liberal Arts Program) published two articles, “Scholars, Secrets, and Sultans: Clerical Authority in West Africa, 1450–1650,” *Journal of African History* 64(2), 2023: 248–268; and “The Qurān and Knowledge of God in West Africa: The Sufi Tafsīr of Shaykh Ibrāhīm Niasse,” *Islamic Africa* 15(1), 2023: 69–97.

Sera Young (anthropology) participated in the publication of many articles on water security, including the following specifically on Africa: “The Influence of an Agricultural Intervention on Social Capital and Water Insecurity Strategies: Qualitative Evidence from Female Smallholder Farmers Living with HIV in Western Kenya,” *Heliyon* 10(11), 2024, e32058; “Water Insecurity is Associated with Greater Food Insecurity and Lower Dietary Diversity: Panel Data from Sub-Saharan Africa during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Food Security* 16, 2024: 149–160; and “Water Insecurity Is Associated with Intimate Partner Violence among Female Adolescents and Youth but Not Males in Rural Tanzania: A Cross-sectional Study,” *Global Public Health* 19(1), 2024: 2409369.

PAS-affiliated faculty and graduate students receive recognition for excellence

Congratulations to PAS-affiliated faculty who were awarded Buffett nonresidential fellowships to pursue international research. **Katherine Hoffman** (anthropology and MENA studies) will examine the lived experiences and legal culture around Islamic guardianship (kafala) and the adoption of North African children in transnational perspective. **Zekeria Ahmed Salem** (ISITA and political science) will investigate how The Islamic Republic of Mauritania achieved an outsized influence in global arenas of Sunni Islamic knowledge and religious authority. **Chris Udry** (Global Poverty Research Lab and economics) will research change in institutions, with particular attention to seasonality, risk and economic, social and environmental heterogeneity.

Andrew Dillon (development economics) was awarded the World Bank Economic Review Excellence in Refereeing Award in 2024.

Umar Yandaki (history graduate student) was awarded the Georgn e Romani Prize for the best research paper by a first year graduate student in the Department of History in June 2024.



Learning Swahili at Northwestern has enhanced my family history

Vrinda Gupta

My family has a history of spending brief periods in Kenya. Unfortunately, they spent no time there during my early childhood, although my parents lived in Nairobi for some time after they got married, but they moved back to India before I was born. Nonetheless, I always had the feeling that there was something for me there—not necessarily a history to uncover but maybe just something new to learn. My

suspicions were confirmed after I visited Kenya for the first time when I was 10 years old. I decided then that I would live in Kenya someday, just like so many others in my family. Through the years, I always kept this idea in the back of my head, but without really doing much about it until I got the chance to visit Kenya again right before coming to college. I realized that experiencing the country at its fullest was still something I wanted. I also felt an exciting urgency because this was something that I could actually make possible. When I found out Northwestern offered courses in the Swahili language, I was eager to start right away. I could not have hoped for a better professor, Mwalimu Mwangi is always willing to dedicate time to students' understanding of the language. When I could not make it to class due to schedule conflicts, he made sure I was able to stay up to date in office hours so I would not have to wait a year to continue. The language tables are welcoming social spaces to practice conversation and engage with current events and culture—the chai and samosas are also delicious. I can safely say that my time at Northwestern would not be complete without Swahili.

Vrinda Gupta is a sophomore who is majoring in psychology and South Asian studies.

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