



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR  
AFRICAN STUDIES



# 2015

**ANNUAL**REPORT



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**Professor Caroline Elkins**  
*Oppenheimer Faculty Director  
of the Harvard University Center for African Studies*



### IT IS WITH ENORMOUS PRIDE AND ENTHUSIASM

that I share with you this past year's African Studies achievements that are, by any measure, deeply impressive and historic. To begin, on September 30th, 2015, our long-held vision of transforming the faculty Committee on African Studies into a fully-fledged, endowed Center for African Studies became a reality thanks to the visionary gift of an anonymous donor. Then, on the very same day, the United States Department of Education renewed our status as a National Resource Center for African Studies, which was accompanied by a 4-year Title VI grant totaling some \$2.2 million. Together, these two epic achievements signaled the new Center's rightful place among all other area studies centers at Harvard University while also underscoring our unyielding commitment to excellence and, with it, the establishment of the preeminent institution for the study of Africa in the world. Finally, in June 2015, and as an unforgettable coda to the new Center's extraordinary year, I was named the Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the Center for African Studies, in honor of Jonathan and Jennifer ('89 and J.D. '93) Oppenheimer. They are long-standing supporters of Africa-related initiatives at Harvard, and are also strong advocates of increasing opportunities for African scholars.

These historic achievements resulted from years of unrelenting teamwork and collaboration. I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering support we received from President Drew Gilpin Faust, Provost Alan Garber, and Dean Michael Smith. In addition, Vice Provost for International Affairs Jorge Dominguez played a crucial role in

overseeing our transformation into a Center. Our institutional partners, the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, directed by Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and the Department of African and African American Studies, chaired by Professor Lawrence Bobo, also continue to form an essential part of our vision as we collaborate closely not only on individual initiatives, but also on our shared pursuit of ensuring African Studies' rightful place in the academy and beyond. Finally, I would be deeply remiss were I not to acknowledge the incredible team that constitutes the Center for African Studies. Our long-standing faculty members who never wavered from their dream of a Center, our dedicated staff who, day after day, demonstrate our collective commitment to excellence, and our extraordinary cohort of students and fellows together ensure that African Studies will remain an intellectual and ethical priority for Harvard University and higher education writ large.

Our collective vision for African Studies at Harvard University includes deep and robust collaborations with a variety of institutions and individuals in Africa. The Center's most decisive step in ensuring sustained engagements in Africa is through the physical establishment of offices throughout the continent. To this end, we have moved rapidly, thanks to the anonymous gift endowing the Center, towards the establishment of our first office in Cape Town, South Africa. With our doors poised to open in the first quarter of 2016, the Cape Town Office will be unique among Harvard's international offices. It will move beyond the traditional service-center model and will, instead, be an Africanist institute of the highest order and one that



will convene scholars, practitioners, and alumni from across the continent; together with Harvard faculty and affiliates, these individuals will engage in cutting-edge conversations, conferences, leadership training, and student and fellow teaching and learning opportunities.

Looking ahead, we imagine Cape Town to be the first in a series of Harvard offices established throughout the continent – offices that will be fully integrated into the intellectual vibrancy of the Center in Cambridge, and vice versa. With this in mind, I personally traveled to Kigali, Rwanda, and Lagos, Nigeria to meet Harvard alumni and other interested members of the community to begin a dialogue around the range of possible collaborations and opportunities we might explore in the near future. It is inspiring beyond measure to learn that there are so many friends of the Center for African Studies across the continent committed to advancing our agenda of broadening and deepening our engagements with African universities, companies, civil society, and public service entities. The Center's Global Advisory Board, to be launched in late 2015, will play a key role in building these relationships in line with the Center's overall vision and key thematic areas, including Africa and China, Islam in Africa, Global Public Health and Human Rights, Africa and the Global South, and African Humanities in the 21st Century, as well as our newly launched African Entrepreneurship Program.

Back at home in Cambridge, I marvel daily at the commitment, range, and unbridled energy that infuses the Center for African Studies and its dedicated faculty, students, fellows, and administrators. Epitomizing this dedication was the first, full-day faculty retreat held under the auspices of the new Center. In early December, over fifty participants came together from eight departments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and seven professional schools (Harvard Medical School, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Harvard Law School, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School, and Harvard Graduate School of Education). In addition, the Nieman Foundation was well

represented, as was the office of the Dean of the Division of Social Science in the FAS, the Office of the Provost, and the FAS Development Office. In short, the composition of the retreat's participants reflected the Center's University-wide mission and ethos in every way, as did the deeply engaging and lively conversations that centered on the future of the Center, its intellectual mission, and institutional and individual priorities.

The pages of this report detail the rapid expansion of our programs, opportunities, and collaborations over the past academic year, as well as the Center's unyielding dedication to the training of a new generation of Africans and Africanists together with the facilitation of cross-school, cutting-edge research and teaching and learning opportunities. From our interdisciplinary investigation of the Ebola epidemic and the relationships between archives, the law, and human rights to Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka's parsing of the historic Nigerian elections and the entrepreneurial zeal of the student-led Clean Water Ideathon, we continued to leverage the expertise and synergies between Harvard's constituent Africanist parts and our African partner institutions to create path-breaking, transformative opportunities for learning and engagement.

It is therefore with great pride that I share with you this historic year of African Studies at Harvard University. It is a year that witnessed our long-standing vision of becoming a Center a reality, and it is one that signals the excellence of our work and the importance of African Studies amongst the University's area studies programs. As you absorb the accomplishments and images that follow, I invite you to join me in our ongoing journey to continue raising the profile and prominence of Africa at Harvard University and beyond.

Sincerely yours,



**Caroline Elkins**  
Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the  
Harvard University Center for African Studies

**Oppenheimer Faculty Director**

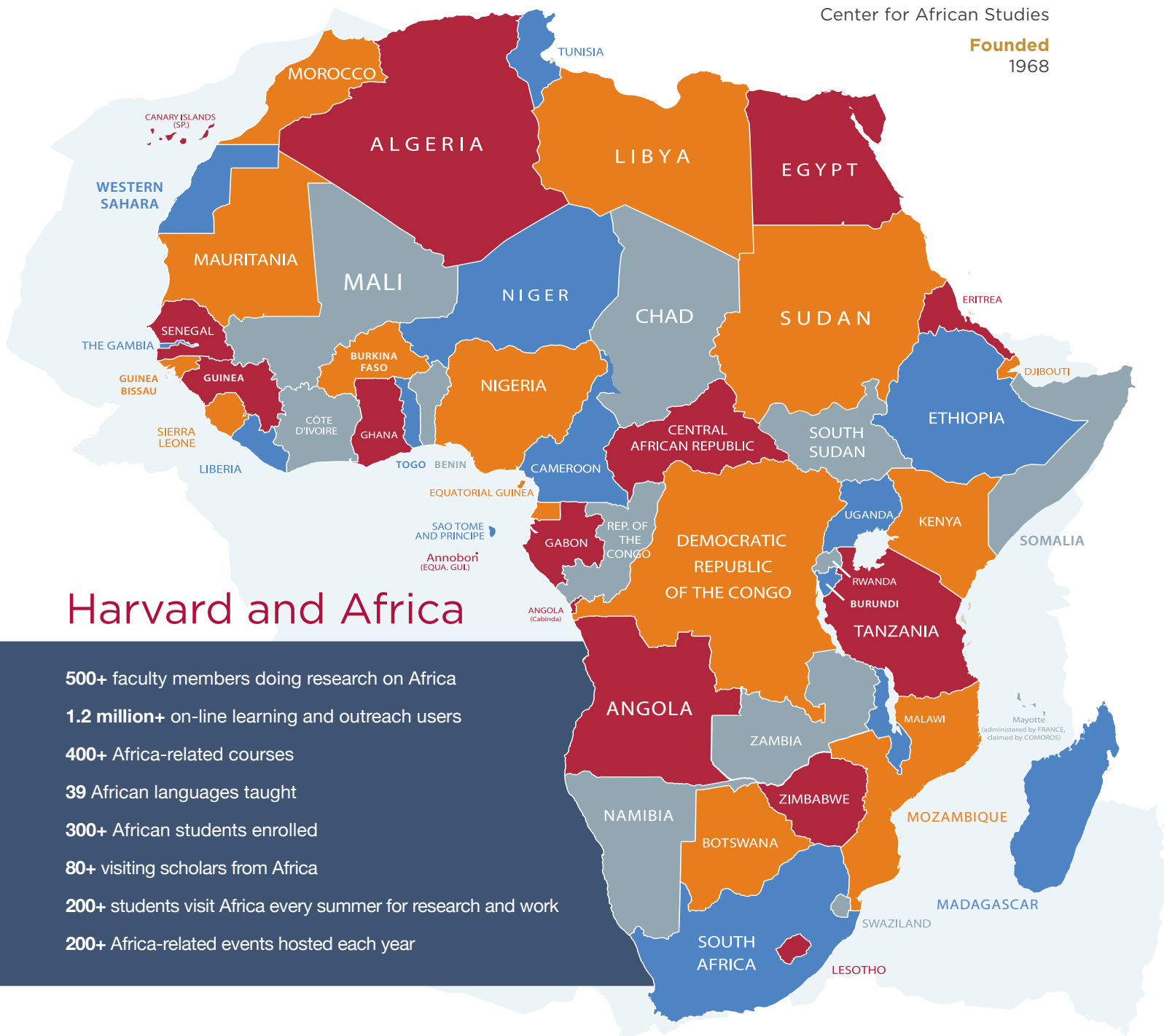
Professor Caroline Elkins

**Named**

National Resource  
Center for African Studies

**Founded**

1968



# Center For African Studies At A Glance

## Center for African Studies Leadership

- Oppenheimer Faculty Director, Professor Caroline Elkins, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and internationally-recognized Africanist for her ground-breaking work in Kenya and the Mau Mau High Court of Justice case
- Over the last five years, Professor Elkins has transformed African Studies at Harvard into one of the world's foremost programs, twice earning distinction from the United States Department of Education
- As the Founding Director, and current Oppenheimer Faculty Director, Elkins has built an exceptional leadership team around her, which includes an Executive Committee of faculty members who are distinguished scholars drawn from across Harvard University
- The Center's highly-trained staff is led by Executive Director Dr. Susan Cook, an internationally-recognized scholar and award-winning administrator with over a decade of experience in Africa

## Center for African Studies: Looking Ahead

In the upcoming academic year, the Center already has myriad plans for strengthening existing programs, launching new initiatives, and exploring further possibilities for collaborations and physical presences in Africa. In the upcoming year, the Center will:

- Launch its Global Advisory Board, bringing together global leaders from Africa and around the world
- Open its first Africa office in Cape Town, South Africa. The Cape Town Office will:
  - Serve as the Center's think tank, or intellectual hub, on the African continent, and provide a nexus for the Center's engagement in Africa
  - Host the Center's Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program and Harvard Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy; together these programs will strengthen the next generation of African practitioners and scholars by placing them in intellectually rigorous environments, collaborative conversations, and mentoring programs with their global peers
  - Launch a Global South partnership with the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER)
  - Facilitate collaboration with institutional partners including the African Leadership University and African Leadership Network
  - Create web-based collaborations between scholars and students in Africa and in Cambridge
  - Host events on matters of scholarly and topical interest, including lectures, panels, and forums
  - Support Harvard faculty and student research and study abroad programs on the continent
- Jointly launch the Africa-China Initiative, a four-year collaboration between the Center for African Studies, the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, and the Asia Center
- Launch the Islam in Africa Initiative, in cooperation with the Prince Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program
- Welcome the Center's first Post-Doctoral Fellows when they arrive in Cambridge in January 2016
- Expand the African Entrepreneurship Program at Harvard and in Africa with a new lecture series
- Present a cutting-edge panel as the exclusive academic sponsor of the African Leadership Network's Annual Gathering in Marrakech, Morocco
- Continue engagements in West and East Africa with an eye to opening future Center offices in these regions



# CAS

## Executive Committee

### Members 2014-15



Caroline Elkins  
(Oppenheimer Faculty Director)



Emmanuel Akyeampong



Jacqueline Bhabha



Suzanne Blier



Lawrence Bobo



John Comaroff



Jean Comaroff



Deborah Foster



Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Sue Goldie



Evelynn Hammonds



Biodun Jeyifo



Calestous Juma



Ann Marie Lipinski



Marcyliena Morgan



John Mugane



Nathan Nunn



Kay Kaufman Shelemay



Lucie White

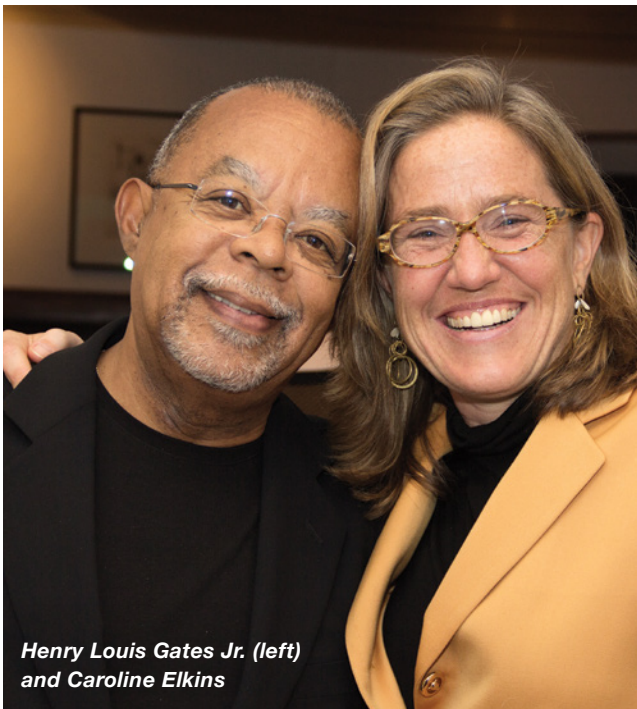




*Emmanuel Akyeampong*



*Ingrid Monson (left)  
with Neba Solo*



*Henry Louis Gates Jr. (left)  
and Caroline Elkins*



*Jacqueline Bhabha (left)  
and Jennifer Leaning*



*Biodun Jeyifo*



*Ousmane Kane (right),  
Jean Comaroff (center),  
John Comaroff (left),  
and Jamaica Kincaid (far left)*





Jacob Olupona (left)  
and Kerry Chance



Jennifer Leaning (left)  
and Jacqueline Bhabha



Lawrence Bobo (right)  
and Theresa Betancourt









Jean Comaroff (left) and  
Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham





*Caroline Elkins (left)  
and Nawal Nour*



*Deborah Foster*



*John Comaroff (right)  
and Susan Cook*



*Susan Farbstein (left)  
and Christian Tryon*

# African Language Program

Established in 2013 thanks to the generous gift of Jonathan and Jennifer Oppenheimer ('89 and J.D. '93), Harvard University's African Language Program (ALP) is unparalleled anywhere in the world. Under the leadership of John Mugane, Professor of the Practice of African Languages and Cultures and Director of the ALP, Harvard offers as many as 39 different African languages and boasts some of the most innovative foreign language-learning pedagogy at Harvard. With, on average, over 250 students enrolling in African language courses annually, the African Language Program is also one of the largest language programs at the University. The program's excellence is also reflected in the quality of its teaching staff, with language instructors Flora Akyeampong, Oscar Bayingana, Jean Lesly Rene, and Sandra Lynn Withers each winning the prestigious Derek Bok Certificate of Excellence and Distinction in Teaching.

The Center for African Studies provides over \$400,000 annually in direct support to the ALP and its staff and students, as language training is the backbone of Harvard's University-wide Africanist program. The Center's support includes direct funding of several of Professor Mugane's cutting-edge pedagogical initiatives, including the Africa Sources of Knowledge Digital Library (ASK-DL) and the Enhanced Language Instruction for African Studies (ELIAS). The Center's financial and administrative support also extends to advanced African language training, professional school language short-courses, student study abroad programming, and marquis on-campus events, including the annual African Language Theater Night and the African Languages in the Disciplines Conference.

## African Language Theater Night

Each semester the African Language Program, with support from the Center for African Studies, hosts the African Language Theater Night. All students studying an African language write, direct, and perform a short play for the entire African language community, as well as for other Africanist members of the Harvard and African heritage communities



*John Mugane, Director of the African Language Program*



from the Boston-area. The event is both a unique teaching and learning opportunity, as well as a large community event centered on African languages, culture, music, and food.



## 6th Annual African Languages in the Disciplines Conference

Again this year, the Center for African Studies proudly provided substantial funding for the annual African Languages in the Disciplines Conference. Unique anywhere in the world, this conference convenes linguists and pedagogy practitioners together with a range of scholars from across disciplines and heritage community members from around the continent to engage and analyze the ways in which African languages contribute to the disciplines. This year's conference set attendance records, with over 150 conference attendees participating in important discussions about African languages and the disciplines, and with nearly seventy-five percent of conference attendees coming from either Africa or the African heritage community.







## EVENTS

The Center for African Studies is the University's preeminent convener for Africa-related events, programming, and initiatives. In this past academic year, the Center hosted and co-sponsored over 60 events across the Faculty of Arts and Science and the professional schools. These events spanned a wide range of subject areas, including public health and medicine, religion, law, entrepreneurship, literature, history, and government, to name only a few. Some of this year's highlights include the Center's Faculty Retreat; the African Studies Workshop; Ebola in Interdisciplinary Perspective; The Archive, History and Law: The Politics of Re-membling, Truth-Seeking and Remaking History; the African Development Conference; the Africa Business Conference; and Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka's keynote lecture on the Nigerian elections.

*President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana poses for photos with students, including Sangu Delle '10 J.D./M.B.A. '17 (right)*

## Events

### Center for African Studies Faculty Retreat

In December the first Africanist faculty retreat was held under the auspices of the new Center. Together, over fifty faculty, fellows, and administrators came together from eight departments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and seven professional schools. In addition, the Nieman Foundation was well represented, as was the office of the Dean of the Division of Social Science in the FAS, the Office of the Provost, and the FAS Development Office. The composition of the participants reflected the Center's University-wide mission and ethos.

The faculty retreat provided Faculty Director Caroline Elkins with a convening opportunity to update colleagues on the progress of the new Center. In addition, the retreat focused on rapid, "Ignite"-format presentations by some of the University's young innovators, including Sangu Delle, Lindiwe Mazibuko, Naseemah Mohamed, Johanna van Eeden, Hugo van Vuuren, and Delia Wendel. Facilitated by Ann Marie Lipinski, Curator of the Nieman Foundation and CAS Executive Committee member, the Ignite talks were launching points for broad and lively discussions, including engagements centering on the role of the new Center in the 21st century, innovation and the academy, and the synergies between scholars and practitioners, as well as between business, law, governance, and higher education.

### African Studies Workshop

The African Studies Workshop is one of the most highly-attended and successful Africa-related events held at Harvard. Convened weekly by Professors Jean and John Comaroff, the Workshop draws faculty and students from the University, neighboring institutions, and the Boston-area community. The Workshop functions as a graduate seminar, a professional apprenticeship for doctoral Africanists-in-training across the disciplines, and a laboratory for international scholarly exchange. Together, these activities were focused on the intellectual theme, "Africa and the

World at Large: Or, What the New Global Order Has to Learn from the Contemporary African Experience." Workshop presenters were internationally recognized scholars and up-and-coming Africanist intellectuals. In 2014-15, the Workshop hosted 22 presentations, including those from Professors Michael Lambek, Jacob Dlamini, Dorothy Hodgson, David William Cohen, Ousmane Kane, and Biodun Jeyifo.



*Ann Marie Lipinski*



## Events

### Ebola in Interdisciplinary Perspective

On September 23rd, 2014, the Center convened a unique panel discussion on the Ebola epidemic that delved into critical, yet less well-understood, aspects of the crisis by approaching the topic across disciplines. Medical specialists discussed the clinical, research, and public health aspects of the disease with an historian and a media expert. Together, these diverse panelists came to unique and concerning conclusions about the likely scenarios for ending the present epidemic, as well as future ones. By combining the findings and approaches of these very different disciplines, a major global health crisis comes into sharper, and ultimately more alarming, perspective.

Featured speakers included Harvard historian, Professor Emmanuel Akyeampong, who spoke on the history of epidemics in West Africa and the critical cultural factors impacting local responses; HSPH Professor Jennifer Leaning, who analyzed several of the unique features of the Ebola pathogen, and why it is so difficult to contain; and Patrick Vinck, visiting scientist in HSPH, who put the epidemic in political and economic perspective while explaining how mobile technology innovations were being explored for the first time in this epidemic. Kristian Andersen, from the world-

renowned Sabeti Lab at the Broad Institute, recounted his experiences in Guinea, where he went to obtain samples of the virus after the first case was diagnosed – importantly, the work of his lab aided in tracing the virus back to the original cases and understanding its ability to mutate. Maggie Koerth-Baker, science editor at *Boing Boing* and a monthly columnist for *The New York Times Magazine*, explained why US-based coverage of the epidemic was full of so many inaccuracies, and how the media coverage then shapes the public and policy responses to the crisis.

### The Archive, History and Law: The Politics of Re-memoing, Truth-Seeking and Remaking History

This international workshop was the culmination of a three-year initiative that gathered scholars and practitioners to analyze the intersections between the archive, history, and the law. Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow opened the Workshop with a keynote address that drew upon her internationally-acclaimed scholarship. Panels featuring archivists, scholars, and human rights practitioners from around the world engaged with a wide range of questions, including: What impact is the intersection between the



*Kristian Andersen, Sabeti Laboratory (left) with Patrick Vinck, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and Emmanuel Akyeampong*



archive, history, and law having on the nature of history as official record and scholarly practice? What light does this cast on the archive as it becomes ever more implicated in the production of evidence as the past is juridified and put on trial? And how might history writing serve in tandem with, or in counterpoint to, judicial processes in their overall pursuit of justice? The workshop broke new ground in the ongoing dialogue between various scholars and practitioners, and will result in a significant publication on the topic.

## 6th Annual African Development Conference

Held in early April, the 6th Annual African Development Conference was an occasion for student groups from all of Harvard's professional schools to collaborate on a major conference focused on Africa's contemporary achievements and challenges. With the Africa Caucus at the Kennedy School of Government taking the lead, and with major support from the Center for African Studies, the 2015 conference featured an electrifying keynote address by His Excellency, Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger. Corporate CEOs from across Africa and around the world, alongside government ministers from Africa and officials from organizations like the China Africa Fund, shared views with Harvard faculty from across the University and, together, they forged new networks and synergies focused on African issues. In addition, with an overarching theme of South-South cooperation, conference panels on traditional topics such as health, education, and infrastructure, were interspersed with panels on water, information and communications technology (ICT) innovation, and logistics.

One new feature of this year's conference was several panels focused on personal narratives of significant figures in contemporary Africa. Two current Harvard fellows – Ms. Lindiwe Mazibuko, former Member of Parliament for the Opposition in South Africa; and Ms. Fadumo Dayib, 2016 Presidential Candidate in Somalia – drew standing room only audiences to hear about their gripping journeys into politics and the ways in which Harvard has helped shape their future trajectories.

*Lindiwe Mazibuko (HKS '15)*



## Events

### 17th Annual Africa Business Conference

With major sponsorship from the Center for African Studies, the Africa Business Club at the Harvard Business School organized the 17th annual Africa Business Conference from February 27th to March 1st, 2015. There were more than 1,450 participants at this year's conference, which pursued the theme "A More Inclusive Africa: The Pursuit of Progress for All." The event was, as usual, an essential "must attend" gathering for the best and brightest minds in African economic growth and innovation. The conference career fair attracted hundreds of students from across North America seeking to connect their skills and aspirations with exciting opportunities on the continent. Keynote presentations by Acha Leke, Ndidi Nwuneli, Ken Njoroge, and Fred Swaniker highlighted the huge interest in bridging the inequality gap in Africa on the part of private sector actors as well as those in the NGO sector and in education.

With a strong focus on African entrepreneurship, the conference received nominations of innovative companies across Africa and awarded a cash prize to Dot Com Zambia in recognition of their unique bus tickets idea. The conference's ABC Leadership Excellence Award was given to

Ismail Douri, Co-CEO at Attijariwafa Bank based in Morocco. Complementing the panel discussions on trade, leadership, and industry sectors, the conference also organized panels on the business case for early childhood education, African consumers, and the business of sports in Africa.



***Fred Swaniker, CEO of the African Leadership Network, delivers a keynote address at the 2015 Africa Business Conference.***



***Jared Diamond and Emmanuel Akyeampong at the Workshop on African History and Economics 2015 Conference***





## WOLE SOYINKA

### *Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka's Keynote Lecture, "Predicting Nigeria? Electoral Ironies"*

In the wake of Nigeria's historic elections and peaceful transition from the Goodluck Jonathan to the Muhammadu Buhari government, Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka returned to Harvard on April 29th, 2015, to deliver a keynote lecture entitled "Predicting Nigeria? Electoral Ironies." Following Professor Biodun Jeyifo's introduction, Soyinka electrified the capacity audience with his analysis of contemporary Nigerian politics and the possible future directions of the country. In addition, Soyinka discussed the many challenges facing the newly-elected Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, including entrenching democratic norms in a country experiencing its first democratic change of government, and confronting the Boko Haram insurgency in northern Nigeria.





Harvard Law and International Development Symposium  
2014: Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Rebuilding from  
Emergency to Development



## Medieval /Africa

### The Trans-Saharan World, 500-1700

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 5:00 PM**  
 Sperry Room, Andover Hall, 45 Francis Ave., Cambridge  
**Keynote Address | SHAMIL JEPPIE**  
*Timbuktu: The World, the Text, and the Manuscript*  
**Additional Remarks | LAWRENCE D. BOBO,**  
**CAROLINE ELKINS, NICHOLAS WATSON**  
 Welcoming Reception to Follow

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 9:00 AM**  
 Tsai Auditorium, CGIS 50101, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge

**Panel Discussions**

- **Session 1 (9:00-10:30) | Modern Africa and its Medieval Legacy | MURRAY LAST, ERIC ROSS, SEAN GILSDORF**
- **Session 2 (10:45-12:45) | Timbuktu, Islam, and African Urbanism | CORISANDE FENWICK, SUSAN MCINTOSH, ADRIA LAVIOLETTE, EMMANUEL AKYEAMPONG**
- **Session 3 (2:00-4:00) | Political, Religious, and Cultural Exchange in the Trans-Saharan World | SUZANNE BLIER, CHOUKI EL HAMEL, RUDOLPH WARE, OUSMANE KANE**
- **Session 4 (4:15-5:30) | Medieval Africa? Remarks and Reactions | MICHAEL BRETT, CAROL BYMES, NICHOLAS WATSON**

*All events are free and open to the public*  
 Please visit [medieval.fas.harvard.edu](http://medieval.fas.harvard.edu) for more information

Co-sponsored by Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, the Standing Committee on Medieval Studies, the Center for African Studies, the Mahindra Humanities Center, the Harvard Divinity School, and the Department of African and African American Studies

**Medieval/Africa: The Trans-Saharan World, 500-1700**  
**Keynote: Shamil Jeppie**





*Out of Bounds: Ethnography, History, Music – A conference in honor of Professor Kay Kaufman Shelemay*



*African Studies Workshop*





*Conversation with African Union Ambassador  
Amina Salum Ali*



*African Languages in the Disciplines Conference*



*Clean Water Ideathon hosted by Sangu Delle '10 and J.D./M.B.A. '17, CEO of CleanAcwa (center)*





*Photograph from Mwangi Hutter, Fairytale of the Black Mountain, 2014, Performance. Part of Harvard University's 2014 Black History/Art History Series. Photographer: Kyras Daniels*



*African Economic Development: Past, Present, and Future – Hosted by the Workshop on African History and Economics, Keynote: Jared Diamond*



*Harvard Law School SJD Association Workshop in honor of Duncan Kennedy – Keynote: Mahmood Mamdani*



## STUDENT & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

The African and Africanist students and fellows at Harvard University epitomize excellence as both academics and practitioners. In the past year alone our students garnered awards and distinctions ranging from Gus Ruchman's election to Phi Beta Kappa to Sangu Delle's selection as one of Forbes' 30 Most Promising Entrepreneurs in Africa. The Center for African Studies is dedicated to supporting and mentoring these current and future change agents.



## Student & Fellowship Programs

Together, undergraduate and graduate students from across the University, as well as visiting fellows drawn predominantly from Africa, receive direct funding and administrative, intellectual, and moral support from the Center. Moreover, immersive learning experiences in Africa are fundamental to our training of Africanist undergraduate and graduate students, and the Center provides a range of support and activities to ensure Harvard's students have access to numerous engagement opportunities with institutional and individual partners throughout Africa. Over the past decade, the impact of these Center initiatives is reflected in the numbers of prestigious awards granted to our students, which include 37 Hoopes Prizes (top 10% of senior theses at Harvard), and numerous outside awards including nine Rhodes Scholarships and five Marshall Scholarships.

This past year, over 100 students traveled to 21 African countries, and the Center provided nearly \$500,000 in financial support for their travel, research, study abroad programs, and internships. The Center has facilitated the launch of faculty-initiated study abroad programs for our students across the University, with Harvard now boasting nine undergraduate study abroad programs in Botswana, Ghana, Mali, Rwanda, Kenya (2), Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania, as well as five graduate programs in Botswana, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, South Africa, and Ghana. In addition, the Center sponsors several student internship programs, including those at the Maru-a-Pula School in Botswana, and the Royal Bafokeng Nation in South Africa which hosts both the Lebone II Internship Program and the NBA Africa Internship Program.

## Summer Internship Programs

The Center runs three eight-week-long internship programs in Southern Africa during the summer. Via these programs, students gain field experience in African communities through teaching, tutoring, and student mentorship.

### Maru-a-Pula Internship Program

Thanks to the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. James Rothenberg, the Maru-a-Pula Internship Program is a fully-funded, eight-week summer opportunity for Harvard undergraduates to work and live at one of Southern Africa's top secondary schools. Since 2008, the Center has annually supported six students living at Maru-a-Pula in Gaborone, Botswana, where they mentor graduating students and help them prepare for the SAT examinations, as well as leading extra-curricular programs and assist in the classrooms.

### Lebone II Internship Program

Building on the success of the Maru-a-Pula program, the Center launched the Lebone II Internship Program in 2015. Through this program, the Center collaborates with Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng to support two Harvard student interns. The interns live in the village of Phokeng and mentor students at the College. Beginning in 2016, the program will expand to four students annually.

### Royal Bafokeng Jr. NBA/WNBA League Internship Program

Since 2014, the Center, in collaboration with NBA Africa and Royal Bafokeng Sports in Phokeng, South Africa, has supported Harvard varsity basketball student-athletes interning at the Royal Bafokeng Jr. NBA/WNBA League in Phokeng. The League, now entering its fifth season, serves 18 schools and 3,000 players, and employs 40 local coaches and league coordinators. The Center's interns train school coaches and young basketball players, gaining invaluable experience in sports management. The interns also form part of the Bafokeng delegation to Basketball Without Borders, a three-day camp in Johannesburg that serves as an intensive skills workshop and recruitment event for the top players from across Africa.

*Harvard Summer School South Africa  
Study Abroad Program*



*Study abroad students during Pedagogic  
Safari in Kruger National Park, South Africa*

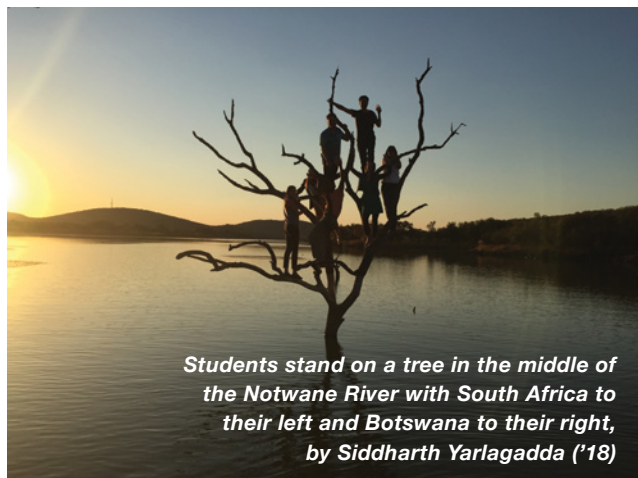


*Maru-a-Pula interns with students*



*Study abroad students during home stay  
in Hamakuya chieftdom, South Africa*





*Students stand on a tree in the middle of the Notwane River with South Africa to their left and Botswana to their right, by Siddharth Yarlagadda ('18)*



*Mural in Cairo, Egypt, by Brent Drummond (HLS '16)*



*Iyeyinka Omigbodun ('16) performs during Harvard African Students Association's Africa Night*



*Shannon Milroy (HSPH '15, 2nd from left) and interview team in Kigali, Rwanda*





*Study abroad students in Kisumu, Kenya*



*Kenya Airways flight landing in Mali, by Joshua Sandler (HBS '16)*



*NBA Africa Summer 2014 Interns  
Steve Moundou-Missi ('15),  
Maggie Hartman ('17),  
and Temi Fagbenle ('15)*

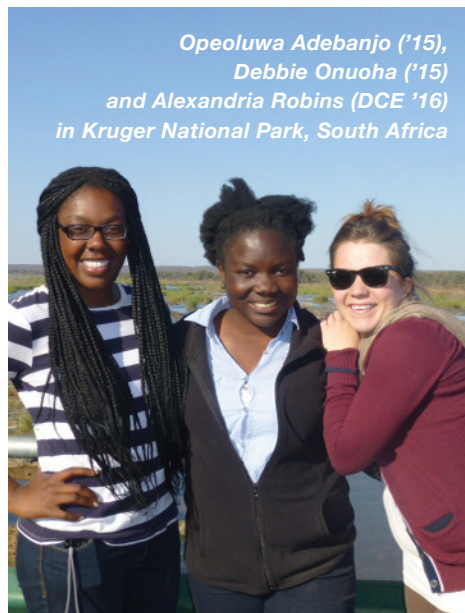


*Morning commute in Lagos during the rainy season, by Matt Eisen (HBS '16)*



*Hanna Amanuel ('16) with community circumciser in rural Eritrea*





Opeoluwa Adebajo ('15),  
Debbie Onuoha ('15)  
and Alexandria Robins (DCE '16)  
in Kruger National Park, South Africa



Vichochoro (alley ways)  
of Stone Town,  
Zanzibar, Tanzania,  
by Breeanna Elliott ('14)



Study abroad students in Elmina, Ghana



Mural in Khartoum,  
Sudan, by Matthew Steele,  
PhD Candidate

## Student Groups

Student group activities are a crucial component of Africanist initiatives on Harvard's campus. The Center takes the leading role in supporting these student-led groups, through faculty and staff mentoring, intellectual engagement, and financial and administrative support. In 2014-15, CAS sponsored 13 student groups in activities that spanned the University's college and professional schools. These Africa-related student group initiatives culminated in the spring semester with several activities that had both immediate impact and expansive, global reach. These include the Harvard African Students Association's Africa Night celebration, the Africa Development Conference together with its inaugural Clean Water Ideathon, and the Africa Business Conference, the largest student-organized, Africa-focused conference in the world.

## Summer School

To expand and deepen engagement on the continent, the Center supported students enrolling in two summer abroad programs this academic year. They include Professor

Emmanuel Akyeampong's course in Ghana, and a new program in Dakar, Senegal, led by Professor Ousmane Kane.

In Ghana, summer program students engage with the slave trade's history and impact. During the course, students retrace the journeys of millions of enslaved Africans through hands-on activities including a visit to the coastal fortifications that were the point of departure from the continent. In cooperation with academics from the University of Ghana, students also learn about the political economy of the region during the slave trade.

The Senegal summer program introduces participants to the study of belief, knowledge, and society in Francophone Africa. The course poses historical questions about the introduction and transformation of Islam and Christianity, and their interaction with traditional religious beliefs in the Senegambian region. Students examine the regional impact of the Arabic language on education; they also study colonial history and engage with postcolonial transformations by focusing on cultural sources including novels, films, painting, and music.



*Ghana Summer School Program 2014*



# Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program

President Derek Bok established the Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program (HSAFP) in 1979 to address the needs of South Africans who were denied access to advanced education by the apartheid system. This program was established, and is still intended, for mid-career professionals educationally disadvantaged by past laws and resource allocations in South Africa. Under the current presidency of Drew Gilpin Faust, the HSAFP has expanded its outreach to institutions and organizations across South Africa in a continued effort to draw the broadest possible range of candidates for the program. In addition, the University – reflecting the current South African constitution – has expanded its applicant pool to extend to all South Africans, regardless of ethnicity or race.

Fellowships support a year of study in one of Harvard's professional schools or the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, with tuition provided by the recipient school. General administrative funds for program management, stipends, and airfare for the fellows are provided by the Office of the President, and administered by the Center under the directorship of Professor John Mugane. The HSAFP benefits enormously from the support of its local, South African advisory committee. This committee, comprised of HSAFP and Harvard alumni, participates in the selection interviews of HSAFP fellows, which take place annually at the Brenthurst Library, thanks to the generous support of the Oppenheimer Family.



*HSAFP alumni at the 2014 reunion in Johannesburg*

The impact of the Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program has been extraordinary by any measure. Since its inception, over 200 fellowships have been awarded to men and women with careers spanning education, law, public health, the arts and humanities, and a host of other professions and disciplines. Through their presence in Harvard's classrooms, seminars, research initiatives, and conferences, HSAFP fellows have introduced knowledge and perspectives to campus, the significance of which goes well beyond numbers and publications. Upon their return to South Africa, many of the HSAFP fellows have gone on to play prominent roles in their nation and local communities whilst at the same time remaining engaged with the Harvard community in Cambridge, Africa, and beyond.



*HSAFP Reunion*

This past academic year saw six HSAFP fellows at Harvard, each of whom was a crucial member of Harvard's community, and will undoubtedly go on to join the distinguished ranks of HSAFP alumni who have helped shape agendas and dialogues at community, national, and global levels. The 2014-15 HSAFP class included: Hussein Cassimjee (HSPH), Jacob Dlamini (GSAS); Wendy Isaac (HKS); Zimkhitha Lugodlo (HBS); Sipokazi Sambumbu (GSAS); and Marlese von Broembsen (HLS).

## Oppenheimer Fellowship

Established through Jonathan and Jennifer ('89 and J.D. '93) Oppenheimer's generous gift, this fellowship brings annually a distinguished African scholar to the W. E. B. Du Bois Research Institute at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, in partnership with the Center for African Studies. The first Oppenheimer Fellow, **Professor Charles van Onselen** (South Africa), is one of the world's pioneers in African History, particularly in the areas of labor, migrancy, and capitalism. Van Onselen is Research Professor in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Pretoria and author of numerous path-breaking monographs and articles, including *Chibaro: African Mine Labour in Southern Rhodesia* and *The Seed is Mine: The Life of Kas Maine, A South African Sharecropper, 1894-1985*. Professor van Onselen has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Trevor Reese Memorial Prize for Commonwealth and Imperial History, and the Herskovitz Prize of the African Studies Association of America.

The second Oppenheimer Fellow was **Professor Achille Mbembe** (Cameroon). Mbembe is a Research Professor in History and Politics, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is an internationally-acclaimed scholar and public intellectual whose wide-ranging monographs and articles, published in French and English, include *On the Postcolony* and *Critique de la raison negre*. While at Harvard in 2013-14, Professor Mbembe was an intellectual and pedagogical force on campus, where he not only collaborated in research efforts and presented his cutting-edge work in numerous seminars, but also offered an over-subscribed course on future African cities, and mentored graduate and undergraduate students.



Achille Mbembe



The Oppenheimer Fellow for academic year 2014-15 was **Xolela Mangcu** (South Africa), Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Cape Town. Professor Mangcu is the author and co-author of seven books, including the recently published *Biko: A Biography*, *To the Brink: The State of Democracy in South Africa*, and *The Meaning of Mandela* (essays by Wole Soyinka, Cornel West, and Henry Louis Gates Jr.). A collection of his columns over the past twenty years entitled *Arrogance of Power: Twenty Years of Disenchantment* was also recently published.

*The Sunday Times* has described Professor Mangcu as “possibly the most prolific public intellectual in South Africa.” He was for a long time a regular columnist for *Business Day*, *The Weekender* and *Sunday Independent*, and currently writes a bi-weekly column for *The Sowetan*. He was also the Founder of the Platform for Public Deliberation and Founding Executive Director of the Steve Biko Foundation. Professor Mangcu has held fellowships at the Brookings Institution, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Rockefeller Foundation.



Xolela Mangcu

# African Entrepreneurship Program

Economic and social entrepreneurship in Africa is one of the most robust and fastest growing areas of interest at Harvard University and beyond. In the 2014-15 academic year, the Center for African Studies consolidated multiple initiatives, while fostering new ones, to launch its African Entrepreneurship Program. This Program creates and facilitates a range of activities at Harvard and in Africa that incubates innovative ideas, integrates entrepreneurship into the classrooms and study abroad programs, offers direct mentorship and internship opportunities for undergraduate and professional school students, and cultivates collaborative opportunities for the production and execution of game-changing ideas.

The Center's African Entrepreneurship Program is Harvard's focal point for individual and cross-school initiatives centering on economic and social entrepreneurship. In the past academic year alone, these include the Center's launch of the first African entrepreneurship course in Harvard College which brought in over a dozen leading entrepreneurs to engage with undergraduate students; the direct support of Harvard Business School's Immersive Field Courses in Africa, including the development of the course, "Africa:

Building Cities," which will explore how best to attract and deploy private capital and expertise in the context of rapid urbanization and resource scarcity in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and the funding and mentorship of over twenty professional school students who traveled to Cameroon where they met with government and business leaders and hosted a youth entrepreneurship summit in Douala, bringing together 80 attendees, ranging from students to established business leaders.

The Center continues  
to support in-depth,  
on the ground  
engagement in  
Africa by leading  
Harvard scholars

***Participants in the Youth Entrepreneurship Summit in Douala, Cameroon***





The Center also facilitated Harvard Innovation Lab's nearly two dozen Africa-based projects, including three Presidential Challenge finalists; it has also extensively funded independent, student projects across campus with an African entrepreneurial focus; and is fully funding additional course development and visiting lecturers from Africa, including David Adjaye, who will teach a three-year studio on urbanization and innovation at the Graduate School of Design. The direct impact of these initiatives has already been dramatic and globally recognized, with dozens of Harvard graduates launching social and economic entrepreneurship initiatives and earning international accolades.

The Center is also a lead sponsor and facilitator of large-scale conferences and networking events, both on campus and on the continent. In 2015, the Center sponsored the 17th annual Africa Business Conference at HBS. This is the largest such conference in the world, with over 1,450 attendees and 2,345 online participants. The conference's theme was "A More Inclusive Africa: The Pursuit of Progress for All," and featured keynote addresses by Arunma Oteh, Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Nigeria; Ken Njoroge, CEO of Cellulant; and Fred Swaniker, founder of the African Leadership Network and Africa Advisory Group.



*Fernando Reimers (HGSE) addresses Jacob Olupona's Entrepreneurship in Africa course*



*David Adjaye receives Harvard's Du Bois Medal for contributions to African and African American Studies*

## Outreach

As one of the select few National Resource Centers for African Studies, the Center embraces the imperative to reach the broadest possible audience, including developing resources to promote nation-wide learning about Africa. Internet technology and evidence-based reporting are at the heart of the Center's outreach efforts. The Center is uniquely positioned to fulfill its outreach mission with the University's HarvardX online learning system. At the same time, the Center continues to deploy more traditional models, including direct engagement with K-12 educators, community college students and educators, and high school students. The Center's key outreach initiatives for this past academic year included: Globalizing the Classroom; collaborations with Roxbury Community College; *Witness Uganda*; Summer Workshop for Educators; the Global Literature Online Book Group; and the Crimson Summer Academy.



### Globalizing the Classroom

As a member of the Harvard Global Studies Outreach Committee (GSOC), the Center has collaborated with the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Project Zero to develop Globalizing the Classroom, a professional development program for high school and community college educators. This four-year program will assist educators in fostering global competencies in their students by supervising projects on international content using Project Zero's pedagogical framework. Project Zero has been integral in informing American education policy on global competency, co-authoring a report, "Educating for Global Competence: Preparing our Youth to Engage," which guided the Department of Education's International Strategy (2012-16).

### Roxbury Community College

The Center has collaborated with Roxbury Community College (RCC) for the past two academic years, establishing an internship for RCC students to work on the acquisition, cataloguing, and curating of Harvard's African collection in collaboration with the Africana librarian at Widener Library. In addition, RCC faculty members have become integral participants in the Center's weekly workshops, as well as conferences and social events, where they engage with faculty, graduate students, and administrators of the Center.

### *Witness Uganda*

In 2014, the Center for African Studies collaborated closely with Harvard's award-winning American Repertory Theatre (A.R.T.) on the hit new musical: *Witness Uganda*, which sold out its run in Cambridge and opens off Broadway in New York in November 2015 as *Invisible Thread*. The A.R.T. continues to direct and promote this story of American aid workers in Uganda, probing stereotypes and perceptions of Africa and development aid, to an even wider audience.



## Summer Workshop for Educators

The Center, together with GSOC, convenes an annual teachers' workshop in August. The theme of this year's workshop was migration, with the Center inviting Omékongo Dibinga, a diversity educator and author, to talk about migration, power, and politics in Africa. The workshop was an opportunity to educate 45 middle school, high school, and community college teachers, who will in turn teach their students about Africa. Teachers not only learned about Africa but also had an opportunity to understand better the experiences of African immigrant children in their classrooms.

## Global Literature Online Book Group

The Center also leads an online book group that targets teachers from all over the world, and selects works of African literature and accompanying non-fiction texts and discussion questions for classroom use. Participants in the book group discuss works of global literature with scholars and authors in real-time, online conversations. This year, the Center selected *Brooklyn Heights*, a novel by Egyptian author Miral Al-Tahawy.

## Crimson Summer Academy

To reach younger audiences directly, the Center screens a film every year at the Crimson Summer Academy, which assembles 90 talented and highly-motivated high school students from around Boston to attend summer classes on Harvard's campus. The Center selects films that challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about Africa. Past screenings have included *Skin*, *The First Grader*, and *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*. This year, *The Center* screened *Invictus*; Nthatsi Quella, the Center's Student Support and Outreach Officer, was the discussant.



Participants in Summer Workshop for Educators



## Staff



**THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES** continues to be an exemplar for administrative excellence at Harvard. In less than five years, the Center has expanded from 1.5 full-time staff to 9 full-time staff and 5 student interns. Driving the Center's excellence is its Executive Director, Dr. Susan Cook. Sue is a Yale PhD in anthropology, an accomplished African linguist, and a seasoned administrator with over fourteen years' experience in Africa. In her two years at Harvard, Sue has won nearly every administrative award the University has to offer. This past year, Sue was awarded an Impact Award and a Dean's Distinction Award for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

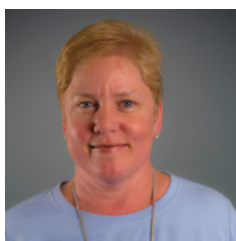
Dean Michael Smith, in his commendation of Dr. Cook, captures the full breadth of her unique skill set when he states: "In the short time Sue has been the Executive Director of the Center for African Studies, she has rebuilt the CAS administrative team from the ground up, developed strong relationships with key stakeholders, gained the trust and respect of the faculty and FAS administrative leadership, and made key contributions to securing, expanding, and developing the Center's

programs including a successful application for continued status as a National Resource Center. She cares deeply about the staff and works tirelessly to support the faculty and programs. She speaks honestly, operates with integrity, and is passionate about her work and the work of the Center. Sue is an effective administrator and an outstanding University citizen. She has contributed a great deal to the growing success of the Center for African Studies and the field of African Studies at Harvard."

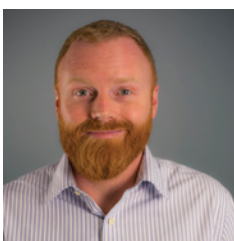
In addition to Dr. Cook's accolades, Maggie Lopes, who has been an exceptional team player for the Center for nearly five years, was recently promoted to the newly-created position of the Center's Associate Director. Maggie will take over directing all operational functions of the Center's office. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences recently acknowledged Maggie's extraordinary work, which included administratively spearheading the Center's successful Title VI application, with an Impact Award.



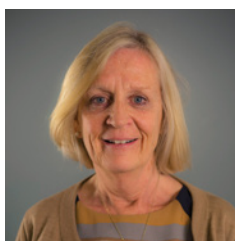
## Staff and Interns



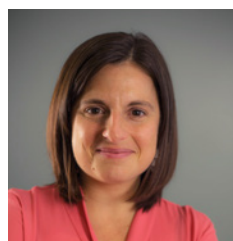
Susan Cook  
*Executive Director*



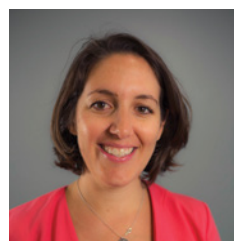
Andrew Iliff  
*Special Projects  
Manager*



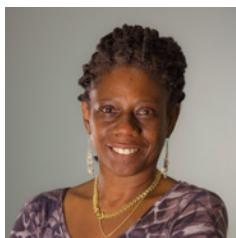
Margie Jenkins  
*Executive  
Assistant*



Erin Linn  
*Communications &  
Events Officer*



Maggie Lopes  
*Associate Director*



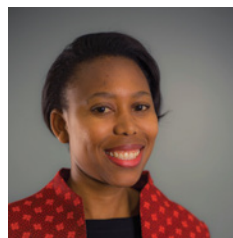
Candace Lowe  
*Finance Associate/  
Staff Assistant*



Barbara Matteau  
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Administrator*



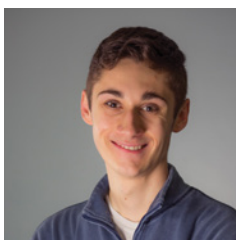
Alma Medina  
*Faculty Assistant*



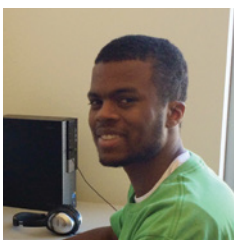
Nthatisi Quella  
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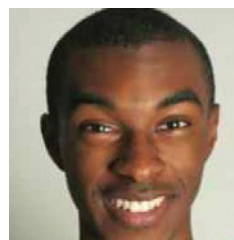
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*\*CAS Executive Committee*

FAS    *Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences*  
GSD    *Harvard University Graduate School of Design*  
HBS    *Harvard Business School*  
HDS    *Harvard Divinity School*  
HGSE    *Harvard Graduate School of Education*  
HKS    *Harvard Kennedy School of Government*  
HLS    *Harvard Law School*  
HMS    *Harvard Medical School*  
HSPH    *Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*





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