

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR  
AFRICAN STUDIES



2016  
ANNUAL REPORT

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## FACULTY DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



*Emmanuel Akyeampong in the Northern Region of Ghana with Paramount Chief of Kpembe and the Chief of Salaga*

**IT IS WITH PLEASURE AND EXCITEMENT** that I deliver my inaugural message as the new Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the Center for African Studies (CAS). The recent reporting period was a time of transition, but also of structural growth and coherence. In October 2014, the Committee on African Studies, under the direction of my predecessor Caroline Elkins, received an anonymous gift that enabled the creation of the Center for African Studies with Elkins as the first Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the Center. That same month, the United States Department of Education renewed the Committee on African Studies' status as a National Resource Center for the study of Africa (Title VI). These two developments have enabled significant growth in the activities, obligations, and staff of the Center over the past year. When Elkins resigned at the end of November 2015 as Faculty Director of the Center, Dean of Social Sciences Claudine Gay and Vice Provost for International Affairs Mark Elliott assumed leadership of CAS as interim Co-directors with the assistance of the Center's Executive Committee. Dean Gay and Vice Provost Elliott created a Steering Committee that met monthly to advise the Center on the way forward.

My goal in this message is to give a clear sense of the present status of CAS and its future direction. I will focus on governance and transparency; creating an inclusive academic community; forging an intellectual vision and agenda; and our new office in South Africa. These areas underscore how confident and excited we are about

the mission of CAS and Harvard University's broader engagement with Africa as a continent.

With its designation as a National Resource Center and the acquisition of Center status, CAS's staff has expanded significantly in the last couple of years. In Cambridge we have a full-time staff of seven headed by an Executive Director, not counting student interns. An Executive Director was recruited for the South Africa office beginning in November 2015. I have benefitted enormously from the Executive Committee retreat convened by Dean Gay and Vice Provost Elliott in February 2016 with Professor William Kirby as moderator. On this retreat, we discussed governance structures and procedures for the Center, drawing on the best practices of other Centers in the University. Henceforth, the following structures will be central to governance at the Center. The Faculty Director will be assisted in the day-to-day business of the Center by the Executive Director and staff of the Center at Harvard. The Executive Committee, composed of senior faculty drawn from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the professional schools, will meet twice a semester to serve as a sounding board for the ideas and programs of the Faculty Director and to review and approve the budget of the Center. The Steering Committee will remain as a smaller group of faculty that works more intensively with the Faculty Director. I have modified the group's composition to ensure representation of the humanities, social sciences, health sciences, and science and technology. Each semester there will be a general meeting of faculty affiliates (a "town-hall"

meeting), so that the larger Africanist faculty can be informed of the activities and programs of the Center and their input and participation can be solicited. An Africa Advisory Board, composed of African entrepreneurs, policy makers, and senior academics, will advise the Faculty Director on the broader vision and agenda of the Center and its policy relevance for Africa, represent the Center as ambassadors, and serve as facilitators in the raising of money for the Center.

Twenty-three years ago, when I joined Harvard, there was very little teaching and research on Africa outside of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Today, most of the professional schools have an Africa component, and several are very actively engaged with the continent. As Faculty Director of CAS, which is a university-wide body, I will promote dialogue between the various schools to ensure that our vision and agenda for African Studies is collaborative. African Studies has emerged as an interdisciplinary field. Many of Africa's developmental challenges – climate change, health, education, governance, and economic growth -- require an interdisciplinary response. I am confident that in the dialogue between schools a research agenda will emerge that reflects the strengths of Harvard's faculty. The result will be an inclusive community that meaningfully connects Harvard faculty working on Africa to CAS and to the continent.

The Center's intellectual agenda has focused on a number of key thematic areas: Africa and China, Islam and Africa, Global Public Health and Human Rights, Africa and the Global South, Entrepreneurship in Africa, and African Humanities in the 21st Century. These are key themes and will remain important to the Center's agenda and to the teaching and research interests of faculty. The Africa-China initiative will be expanded in the coming years to an Africa-Asia initiative to reflect the deep and complex history of Africa's engagement with Asia more broadly, and to benefit from the presence at Harvard of vibrant Centers and Institutes for China, Asia, South Asia, Korea, and Japan.

Africa is at a critical point in its history. Compared to the early decades of independence, Africa does not suffer a knowledge or capital deficit. Technology has revolutionized the production, storage, and distribution of knowledge. Africans living abroad (the African "diaspora") have become a major resource for the continent, not just in remittances, but also through brain circulation, diasporic philanthropy, and economic investment. Programs such as Carnegie Corporation's African Diaspora Fellows Program recognize this and seek to build on these realities to rebuild the capacity of Africa's institutions of higher learning. The paradigm of area studies is under review with the growth in global studies, as we discuss how these two inter-relate and how area studies can bring new insights to global studies. The promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as the wave of the future for a developing Africa also raises questions about African studies, which has traditionally privileged the social sciences and humanities. Across Africa, isolated conversations are taking place about how to move the continent from extractive to learning economies and what should be the research priorities for this generation and the next. These are big questions that should involve conversations between the humanities, social sciences, health and natural sciences, and technology and industry.

I find the opportunity for Harvard to engage African institutions, academics, policymakers, and entrepreneurs around these big questions through its South Africa office timely and hugely significant. It has been truthfully observed that all roads lead to Harvard, and if one remains at Harvard long enough one gets to meet every notable in the world. But for Harvard to engage Africa as an intellectual space and to locate an office in South Africa underscores the University's strong commitment to the continent. Though located in South Africa, this is an "Africa" office with a mandate to engage the continent intellectually. This we will do in partnership with regional and continental institutions of research, such as the Council for the Development of Social Science Research (CODESRIA), the African Academy of Science, and the African Research Universities Alliance



(ARUA), comprising 15 of the leading research universities on the continent. The Harvard office in South Africa was originally slated for Cape Town. At the Executive Committee retreat in February 2016, it was unanimously resolved that Johannesburg, as the transport, business, and political capital, would be a better location. It lends itself better to the office's continental ambitions. Gauteng Province is also home to the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Johannesburg, UNISA, and the University of Pretoria, envisaged as local partners in the office's activities. Suitable office space has been identified in Rosebank, Johannesburg, and the Harvard office in South Africa will be functional before the end of the year. In this process, Harvard Global, a nonprofit organization created by the University to provide in-country administrative support for Harvard's overseas projects and sites, has been invaluable in the provision of technical advice and in the setting up of the necessary infrastructure in South Africa. Our founding Executive Director in South Africa, Raenette Gottardo, has been instrumental in securing the office in Johannesburg.

I hope my enthusiasm about African Studies at Harvard and the Center's leading role is infectious. This enthusiasm is grounded in the open support of President Drew Faust, Provost Alan Garber, FAS Dean Mike Smith, Vice Provost Mark Elliot, and Dean Claudine Gay for the Center and the priority assigned Africa by the University. Surrounded by some of the most amazing faculty in the world, I am confident we will make a difference in the study of Africa. CAS has as stalwart allies the Department of African and African American Studies and the Hutchins Center for African & African American Studies. And with the superb staff at CAS, the possibilities are immense.



**Emmanuel Kwaku Akyeampong**  
Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the  
Harvard University Center for African Studies



**Professor Emmanuel Kwaku Akyeampong,**  
**Oppenheimer Faculty Director,**  
**Harvard University Center for African Studies**

# AFRICA AT HARVARD



150+  
Students traveled  
to Africa

73 Scholars  
from Africa

116 Faculty-led  
research projects

148 Africa-related  
courses

200+  
Africa-related events

230 African students  
enrolled

## CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES



### STUDENT SUPPORT

\$400,000 in sponsored  
programs

20+ student  
groups

### PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

\$300,000 on

70  
conferences,  
lectures, and events

### AFRICAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

28 instructors  
offered up to

43 languages

### FACULTY SUPPORT

\$15,000  
for  
faculty research

\$76,000  
to support  
language instructors

### OUTREACH

\$14,000 for 100+ educators, students,  
and partners

### FELLOWS PROGRAMS

\$300,000 for visiting  
fellows

# CAS

## Executive Committee

### Members 2015-16





*\*CAS Steering Committee*

*\*\*Faculty Director through November 2015*



Henry Louis Gates, Jr.\*



Sue Goldie



Evelynn Hammonds



Biodun Jeyifo



Calestous Juma



Ann Marie Lipinski



John Macomber



Marcyliena Morgan



John Mugane



Nathan Nunn



Kay Kaufman Shelemay



Lucie White





*Ingrid Monson and Deborah Foster*





*Marcyliena Morgan,  
Lawrence Bobo, and John Comaroff*



*Kay Shelemay, Doris Sommer,  
Susan Cook, Biodun Jeyifo*





*Lawrence Bobo, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Sangu Delle ('10 J.D./M.B.A. '17), Emmanuel Akyeampong*



*Mark Elliott*





*Christian Tryon, Suzanne Blier, and Pauline Peters*



*Claudine Gay and Evelyn Hammonds*



*Patrick Vinck and Susan Cook*

# African Language Program

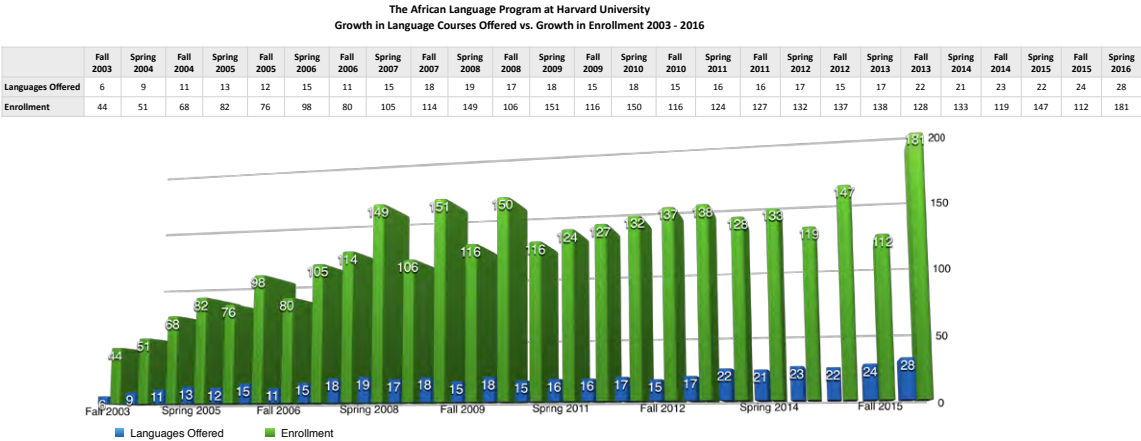
Established in 2003, thanks to the generous gift of Jonathan and Jennifer Oppenheimer ('89 and J.D. '93), Harvard University's African Language Program (ALP) is unparalleled anywhere in the world. Under the leadership of John Mugane, Professor of the Practice of African Languages and Cultures and Director of the ALP, Harvard teaches as many as 43 different African languages, averaging more than 20 per semester. The ALP boasts some of the most innovative foreign language-learning pedagogy at Harvard. With an average of over 250 students enrolling in African language courses annually, the ALP is also one of the largest language programs in the nation and the world. The table below shows the languages offered and the enrollment numbers from the program's inception in 2003 to the present.

Attesting to the efficacy and quality of the ALP is the impressive list of language instructors receiving the prestigious Derek Bok Certificate of Excellence and Distinction in Teaching. Awardees include Flora Akyeampong (Zulu), Oscar Bayingana (Kinyarwanda), Judith Mmari (Swahili), Mulugeta Zegeye (Amharic), Jean Lesly Rene (Haitian), and Sandra Lynn Withers (Afrikaans).

The Center for African Studies provides over \$75,000 annually in direct support to the ALP and its staff and students. The Center's support includes direct funding of Professor



John Mugane, Director,  
African Language Program





Mugane's 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 (ALD) Conference.

### 7th Annual African Languages in the Disciplines Conference

The Center for African Studies proudly sponsored the 7th African Languages in the Disciplines (ALD) Annual Conference. This unique conference convenes a range of scholars from across disciplines and heritage communities to evaluate the state of African languages in intellectual production and professional practice. ALD promotes and profiles cutting edge scholarship and professional practices where mastery of Africa's languages is critically and crucially important.



*Participants in the African Languages in the Disciplines Conference*



*John Mugane with  
Gbemisola Abiola (GSAS '16)  
at the African Languages in  
the Disciplines Conference*

# African Language Program



The highlight of the conference is the Neville Alexander Memorial Lecture. A fellow-prisoner with Nelson Mandela on Robben Island, Neville Alexander was one of the world's foremost intellectuals on language planning, multilingualism, and English hegemony in South Africa. The named lecture is in acknowledgement of the influence Neville's life and scholarly achievements have had in the intellectual founding and development of the ALP at Harvard. Three lectures have been delivered to date:

- Inaugural Lecture 2012-2013: John M. Mugane: *Rocking The Emperor's Throne: Language Proficiency African-Style.*
- 2013-14 Max Price: *Race to Deracialise: Paradoxes of Transformation in South African University Admissions.*
- 2015-2016 Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o: *The Politics of Translation: Notes Towards an African Language Policy.*



**Professor Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o,**  
Neville Alexander Memorial Lecturer '16





## African Language Theater Night

Every year, the African Language Program hosts the African Language Theater Night. All students studying an African language write, direct, and perform short plays for the entire African language student and instructor community, as well as for other members of the Harvard and African heritage communities from the Boston area. The event is an important component of African language instruction in which students perform in front of native speakers of the languages under study.





A photograph showing a group of people, including a man in a white shirt and glasses who is speaking, seated around a wooden conference table. There are water bottles and papers on the table. Large windows with blinds are in the background.

## THEMATIC PROGRAMMING

## THEMATIC PROGRAMMING

The Center for African Studies prioritizes programming in a group of thematic areas that are not only timely and topical in Africa, but are also central to recent academic debates regarding the African continent and its relationship to the rest of the world. With funding from the U.S. Department of Education and private sources, the Center devotes significant resources to research, teaching, and public programming on: Africa and the Global South; Business and Entrepreneurship in Africa; Africa and China; and Islam in Africa. The following highlights represent just some of the major events and initiatives that took place in AY 2015-16 under these thematic banners.



## Africa and the Global South

### The African Studies Workshop

The African Studies Workshop (ASW) is one of the most highly-attended and successful Africa-related events held at Harvard. Convened weekly by Professors Jean and John Comaroff, it draws Harvard faculty and students, 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 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 2015-16, it hosted 20 presentations, including those from Professors Ato Quayson, Loren Landau, John Thornton, Deborah Durham, Wendy Laura Belcher, Achille Mbembe, Brenda Chalfin, Sarah Nutall, Kristin Peterson, Leon de Kock, Corinne Kratz, Krystal Strong, and Jeremy Jones.



## Business and Entrepreneurship in Africa

### Hakeem and Myma Belo-Osagie Distinguished African Business and Entrepreneurship Lecture

Aliko Dangote, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dangote Group, delivered the inaugural Hakeem and Myma Belo-Osagie Distinguished African Business and Entrepreneurship Lecture on October 29, 2015. Speaking to a standing room only crowd of more than 200 at the Charles Hotel, Dangote described his journey as one of Africa's most well-known entrepreneurs. After decades of building up his cement business and expanding into sugar, flour, oil, and other commodities, Dangote today is worth \$18.6 billion, making him Africa's wealthiest man.



Myma Belo-Osagie (HLS '85), Caroline Elkins, Aliko Dangote, and Hakeem Belo-Osagie (HBS '70)



### Workshop on African History and Economics

With Emmanuel Akyeampong and Nathan Nunn as conveners, the Workshop on African History and Economics (WAHE) facilitates dialogue between academic researchers, African entrepreneurs, and policy makers on Africa's economies with the conviction that bringing theory and practice into conversation illuminates the dynamics of Africa's economies and informs research priorities. On November 5, 2015, the WAHE welcomed several prominent scholars and business people to Harvard Hall to share and discuss their insights into the state of African economies. The afternoon

began with a roundtable discussion on "The Changing Face of Business in Africa" featuring two economists, Dani Rodrik (Harvard University) and Margaret McMillan (Tufts University); and two African entrepreneurs, Judith Aidoo, Chief Executive of Caswell Capital Partners Ltd., an Accra-based merchant bank, and Kola Karim, Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Shoreline Energy International, described by Forbes in 2014 as one of the "ten most powerful men in Africa." Howard French provided a captivating keynote address entitled "Continents in Motion," full of illuminating stories from his travels throughout Africa while researching his book, *China's Second Continent*.



*Howard French, Keynote Speaker at WAHE*



*Emmanuel Akyeampong, Nathan Nunn, Howard French,  
Judith Aidoo, and Margaret McMillan*



## African Leadership Network (ALN) Annual Gathering, Morocco

As the exclusive academic sponsor of the ALN's annual gathering of African leaders from the public and private sectors, the Center presented a panel discussion on African Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century, moderated by Susan Cook and featuring Caroline Elkins; Catherine Duggan, former HBS faculty member; Hakeem Belo-Osagie (HBS '70); Efosa Ojomo (HBS '15); and Lindiwe Mazibuko (HKS '15).



*Lindiwe Mazibuko (HKS '15)  
and Efosa Ojomo (HBS '15)*

## Entrepreneurship in Africa Course (David Williams)

Entrepreneurship in Africa (Aframer 212) generates and advances a focus on the economic and social development of Africa by promoting innovation and student engagement. Taught for the second year in Spring 2016, Aframer 212 is an interdisciplinary seminar facilitated by professors from across and beyond Harvard. The course also features business leaders from Africa who sit alongside faculty to share their practical experiences while reinforcing the principles taught.



*The team from the International Fund for Agricultural  
Development (IFAD) with Dr. Kanayo Nwanze  
and Professor Jacob Olupona*



*Caroline Elkins, Lindiwe Mazibuko (HKS '15), Hakeem Belo-Osagie  
(HBS '70), Efosa Ojomo (HBS '15), Catherine Duggan, Susan Cook*

### Immersive Field Course: Africa; Building Cities (John Macomber)

Rapidly growing cities in Africa and around the world are constrained by the funding and delivery of basic infrastructure, including water, transit, power, and communications. New technologies, new business models, public-private partnerships, and increasing interest from financial investors should be able to mitigate some of these constraints, help individuals to improve their lives, and provide attractive business and investing opportunities. In theory, well-matched finance, appropriate design, and capable execution in addressing these components of cities can help urban areas to be more competitive with other cities, more environmentally friendly, and better able to provide opportunity for residents.

Students in this course, taught at the Harvard Business School for the first time in 2016, gain extensive understanding of two major East African cities (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania); rich awareness of the basics of infrastructure design, finance, and delivery; and an advanced sense of what private investors and businesses need in terms of revenue opportunities, regulatory and contractual environments, and technical skill to succeed in these areas.

***Elliott Davis, Vikas Mouli, and Jeremy Watson, HBS students, at the top of the construction site of the Tanzania Ports Authority Tower in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania***



***Susanna Lynch (HBS) with Professor John Macomber***





## Field Immersion Experiences for Leadership Development at HBS

First-year MBA students at the Harvard Business School are required to enroll in the Field Immersion Experiences for Leadership Development (FIELD) course, which gives them meaningful opportunities to lead, translating their ideas into practice. In 2015-16, FIELD took students to Casablanca, Accra, and Johannesburg, where they visited the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and interacted with the JSE's CEO, Nicky Newton-King.



*Nicky Newton-King and Professor Karim Lakhani*



## Africa and China

### Africa-China Workshop

The Center for African Studies, in collaboration with Harvard's Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, the Asia Center, and the East Asian Legal Studies Program at the Harvard Law School, hosted a one-day workshop on September 10, 2015 aimed at charting the contours of this emergent field, setting priorities for new research on Africa's changing economies, and the dynamic political and cultural transformations taking place in the era of globalization. Keynote speakers included Professor Robert Rotberg and Howard French.

Following this workshop, the Center was delighted to participate in the launch of the China-Harvard-Africa-Network, an initiative of the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health in the Spring of 2016.

## Islam in Africa

### Islam in Africa Lecture Series

The Center for African Studies launched the Islam in Africa Seminar Series, co-hosted with the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University. This series aims to trace the rich historical legacy of Islamic culture in Africa, as well as discuss the implications of Islam in a rapidly modernizing and globalizing African continent. Speakers included:

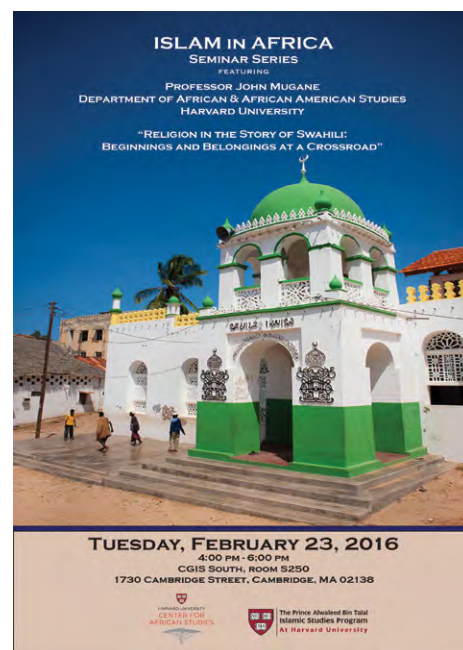
- Yusuf Serunkuma, Ph.D. candidate at Makerere University Institute for Social Research in Kampala, Uganda, on November 10, 2015. "Do Not Come Back Next Summer: The Welcome and Unwelcome Diaspora in Hargeisa, Somaliland."

*Howard French, Keynote Speaker  
at the Africa-China Workshop*





- Chanfi Ahmed, Researcher and Lecturer on History of Islam in Africa at the Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin-Germany on December 3, 2015. "Encounters Among Ulama from West Africa, Egypt, and South Asia in Medina's Dar an-Hadith in the Early Twentieth Century."
- John Mugane, Professor of African and African American Studies, Harvard University on February 23, 2016. "Religion in the Story of Swahili: Beginnings and Belongings at a Crossroad."
- Zachary Wright, Associate Professor in Residence at Northwestern University in Qatar, April 27, 2016. "Living Knowledge in West African Islam: the Sufi Community of Ibrahim Niasse."





## EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

The Center hosted, sponsored, and supported an unprecedented number of events in 2015-2016, ranging widely across Harvard's schools and disciplines. Highlights included the Harvard Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy in Cape Town, a discussion of Professor John Mugane's book *Story of Swahili*, sold-out performances of *Hear Word!*, the electrifying Nigerian play inspired by *The Vagina Monologues*, and lectures and discussions with African thought leaders such as Aliko Dangote, Achille Mbembe, Lindiwe Mazibuko, Donald Kaberuka, Uzodinma Iweala, Xolela Mancu, Paul Kagame, Mamphele Ramphela, and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. Social and networking events took place throughout the year to continue to engage, support, and connect African students across Harvard's schools.

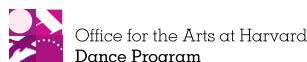


## Hear Word!

The Center for African Studies was thrilled to spearhead a short run of the play *Hear Word!* about cultural and societal norms that limit the potential of girls and women in Nigeria at Harvard's American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.). The 13-member Nigerian cast gave five sold-out performances and drew members of the local African diaspora together with Harvard students, faculty, and staff; students and faculty from local universities; Cambridge theater-goers; and a number of fans from Lagos. In addition to the public performances, Ifeoma Fafunwa, the play's creator, was appointed a Visiting Scholar at the Radcliffe Institute. She and her cast were featured at the A.R.T. of Human Rights (A.R.T. and the Carr Center for Human Rights at the Harvard Kennedy School), Harvard Law School's course on "Gender Violence, Law and Social Justice," Theater Dance and Media's course on "The Art of Storytelling," and the A.R.T. Institute's graduate theater training program. Additionally, 14 students from across campus served as volunteers. CAS was delighted to sponsor this event together with a broad range of Harvard entities, including:



Harvard University  
Committee on  
the Arts



The initiative received support and sponsorship from Nigerian partners as well, including Hakeem and Myma Belo-Osagie, KLM Nigeria, Ford Foundation (Nigeria), and iOpenEye Productions.



*Ifeoma Fafunwa, Writer, Director,  
and Producer of Hear Word!*



*Hear Word! on stage at the Harvard Dance Center  
(Actress: Elvina Ibru)*

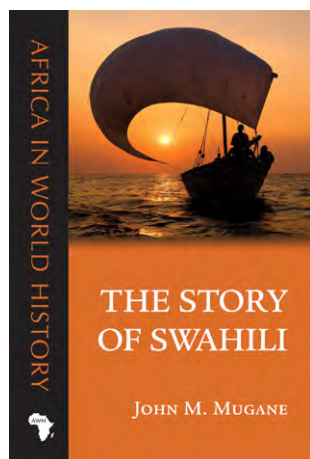


*Hear Word! Naija Women Talk True  
(Actress: Ufuoma McDermott)*

## Events Highlights

### *The Story of Swahili*

On March 3, 2015, the Center for African Studies, together with the Department of African and African American Studies, and the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, celebrated the publication of *The Story of Swahili*, by Professor John M. Mugane. A panel discussion featured Emmanuel Akyeampong as convener and Marcyliena Morgan, Harvard University, as moderator. Discussants were Ali Asani, Harvard University; Laura Fair, Michigan State University; and Sam Mchombo, University of California, Berkeley.



John Mugane, Ali Asani, Sam Mchombo, Laura Fair, Marcyliena Morgan, and Lawrence Bobo (not pictured)

### *Beasts of No Nation*

On October 18, 2015, the Center for African Studies, the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, and the Department of African and African American Studies hosted a special screening of *Beasts of No Nation*, followed by a discussion and reception with author Uzodinma Iweala. Based on Iweala's novel of the same name, *Beasts of No Nation*, written and directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, tells the story of a young boy in a West African country who is forced to become a child soldier. Iweala is a graduate of Harvard University (2004) and was a 2011-12 Radcliffe Fellow.



Uzodinma Iweala ('04)



## Dean Margot Gill visits West Africa

From June 18-24, 2016, Dr. Margot Gill, Administrative Dean for International Affairs in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, visited Ghana and Nigeria in the company of Emmanuel Akyeampong. This was a follow-up visit from a December 2014 visit to Harvard of 16 deans and provosts from universities in Ghana and Nigeria. They visited the University of Ghana, where they had lunch with alumni who are faculty members at the University of Ghana, and met with the Vice Chancellor and senior faculty who had visited Harvard. Harvard alumni who are business executives hosted a dinner for Dean Gill and Professor Akyeampong. In Nigeria, they met with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Professor Rahamon Bello, and senior faculty, and had a Skype meeting with Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University of Ibadan, Professor Gbemisola Oke.



*Margot Gill with Professor Rahamon Bello,  
Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos*



*Emmanuel Akyeampong, Margot Gill, and  
Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice  
Chancellor of the University of Ghana*

### Institute for Global Law and Policy, Cape Town

The Harvard Law School, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town, and with support from the Center for African Studies, piloted its workshop for global law and policy for the first time on the African continent in January 2016. Fifty-six scholars from 31 countries gathered in Cape Town for an intensive week of peer-to-peer discussion and mentoring alongside 47 senior faculty from 18 countries and 32 universities. CAS Executive Committee Members Lucie White, John Comaroff, Jean Comaroff, and Senior Research Fellow Achille Mbembe served as faculty in the pilot workshop.



*Professor David Kennedy (6th from right) with participants at the Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop*



## Harambeans Visit Harvard

Each year a small group of aspiring African social, business, and political entrepreneurs are selected from a competitive pool of applicants to participate in the Harambe Bretton Woods Symposium. Participants gain access to fellowships, internships, scholarships, pro bono legal services, Harambe Africa Angel Network, venture capital and other opportunities tailored to the unique needs of our community. The visit to Harvard is an opportunity to discuss Harvard Programs available to African students, to shed light on the entrepreneurial activity at Harvard and the social and business ventures of Harvard African alumni across the continent, and to bring together Harvard's African student leaders for a panel discussion.



*Participants at the Harambe Bretton Woods Symposium*



*Mandela Washington Fellows  
and Mason Fellows Reception*



*Careers in Africa Panel: Nok Nora Duany Bassey (MPA '16), Ifeoma Fafunwa, Nkateko Mkhondo (MPH '16), Brighton Mudzingwa (MBA '17), and Sunday Silungwe (not pictured)*



*Mandela Washington  
Fellows and Mason  
Fellows Reception*



*All-Harvard Africa Fall Mixer*





*Maru-a-Pula Marimba Band Concert*



*All-Harvard Africa Fall Mixer*





## FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Hosting and supporting visiting African scholars and practitioners at Harvard is part of the Center's core mission. The Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program, the flagship fellowship program at the Center, was joined this year by the Center for African Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and the Senior Visiting Fellows program.



## HSAFP

The Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program (HSAFP) was established by Harvard President Derek Bok in 1979 to address the needs of South Africans who were denied access to advanced education by the apartheid system. The program recruits mid-career professionals educationally disadvantaged by past laws and resource allocations in South Africa to undertake one-year degrees at the Harvard Law School, the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and non-degree programs at the Harvard Business School, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Fellows are selected on the basis of their achievements in their chosen fields and their potential to benefit from advanced training. The Program is jointly funded by the Office of the President, and the relevant Professional Schools, under the directorship of Professor John Mugane. There are between four and six fellows studying at Harvard each year, with over 200 fellowships having been awarded to date.



*Nozipho Zambuko, Itumeleng Dlamini,  
John Mugane, and Nkateko Mkhondo*



*Chitja Twala*

## 2015-16 Harvard South Africa Fellows



**Itumeleng Dlamini**

Mid-Career Master in Public  
Administration at Harvard  
Kennedy School;  
Mason Fellow



**Wiseman Khumalo**

General Management  
Program at Harvard  
Business School



**Dominic Milazi**

Program for Leadership  
Development at  
Harvard Business School



**Nkateko Mkhondo**

Master of Public Health  
at Harvard School  
of Public Health



**Abigail Nozipho Zambuko**

Mid-Career Master in Public  
Administration at Harvard  
Kennedy School;  
Mason Fellow



**Chitja Twala**

Visiting Fellow at Harvard  
Graduate School of  
Arts and Sciences



**Hugo Canham, Raenette Gottardo, Susan Cook,  
John Mugane, Terence McNamee,  
Lerato Motaung, and Thandi Ngwane**



## Postdoctoral Fellowships

In January 2016, the Center launched its new Postdoctoral Fellowship program that enables promising young African scholars to spend time at the Center (based both in Cambridge and in the South Africa Office), pursuing their scholarship and teaching, and receiving mentoring in the early phase of their academic careers. The Center was delighted to welcome Grieve Chelwa and Mekonnen Firew Ayano, as the inaugural cohort of postdoctoral fellows.

**Grieve Chelwa** completed his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Cape Town, where he focused on the economics of tobacco control in South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia. Previously, Grieve was a researcher at the Center for Financial Regulation and Inclusion in Cape Town, where he worked on public policy issues in the Southern African region. Grieve also worked as a Management Associate for Citibank in their Africa Division, based in Johannesburg. He earned his Masters degree in economics from the University of Cape Town and his Bachelors degree in economics from the University of Zambia. His project on education in Zambia has received funding from the International Growth Centre. Grieve frequently writes for the online blog *Africa Is a Country*, and his work has appeared in *Quartz Africa*. He will be presenting “Does Economics have an Africa Problem? Some Data and Preliminary Thoughts” at the African Studies Workshop in November 2016, and will also be co-teaching a course in Harvard’s Department of Economics.



Grieve Chelwa

## Postdoctoral Fellowships

**Mekonnen Firew Ayano** completed his doctorate at Harvard Law School and holds an LL.M. degree from the American University in Cairo and an LL.B. degree from Addis Ababa University. He previously worked as a legal counsel for the World Bank, as a judge in Ethiopia, and as a lecturer at Addis Ababa University.

Mekonnen's doctoral studies focused on law and development, law and social change, legal theory, private law, and property. His dissertation, based on field research in a rural community in Ethiopia, examines institutional structures and processes that shape local customs governing rural land title and the resulting impact on the economy and society of rural Ethiopia. Through this work he explores the formalization of rural land title in the context of developing countries more broadly.

As a Postdoctoral Fellow, he is continuing his research into current issues in law and social change, with a focus on the steadily intensifying process of globalization and its consequences for the economy and society of rural Africa. Mekonnen will be leading a reading group at the Harvard Law School in the Fall of 2016 on the issues related to land reform in Africa.

*Mekonnen Ayano (HLS '16)*





## Senior Research Fellow

The Center for African Studies welcomed **Professor Achille Mbembe** as the Center's Spring 2016 Senior Research Fellow. A major figure in African history, politics, and social science, Mbembe is widely regarded as one of the most important public intellectuals writing about contemporary African and global phenomena in the world today. Professor Mbembe presented "The Open Laboratory: South African's Fanonian Moment" at the African Studies Workshop on February 1, 2016, with comparative commentary by Professor Brandon Terry. Mbembe also delivered a keynote address at Harvard's African Development Conference in March 2016 and served as faculty for the CAS-sponsored Institute for Global Law and Policy in Cape Town, South Africa.



*Achille Mbembe*





# STUDENT PROGRAMS

The Center for African Studies offers a wide selection of opportunities for students to gain experience in Africa through its internship and fellowship offerings, J-term and summer grants, and FLAS awards. In addition, the Center supports University student groups and advises students on how to expand their knowledge and understanding of African Studies.



*Eunice Mwabe ('19), David Du Toit, Will Li ('19), Thebe Morake, Catherine Zhang ('19)*



## SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

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

### Maru-a-Pula Internship Program

Thanks to the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. James Rothenberg, the Maru-a-Pula Internship (MaP) Program is a fully-funded summer opportunity for undergraduate students to work and live at one of southern Africa's top secondary schools. Since 2008, the Center has supported six students at Maru-a-Pula School in Gaborone, Botswana, where they mentor graduating students and help them prepare for the SAT examinations, as well as lead extracurricular programs and assist in the classrooms.



*Paul Stainer ('18) and Caleb Johnson ('17)  
with MaP Students*



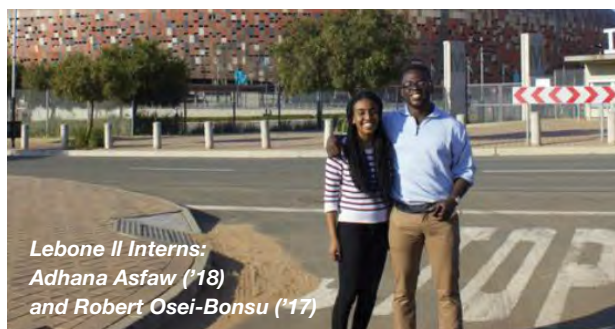
*Jessica Sithebe ('18), Paul Stainer ('18), Melissa Joseph ('17),  
Caleb Johnson ('17), Natalie Atunez ('17), Alondra Ramirez ('18)*





### Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng 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 College in Phokeng, South Africa, to support two Harvard student interns. The interns live on campus, where they assist in the planning, execution, and documentation of the College's annual leadership festival, teach SAT classes, and enjoy visits to a nearby platinum mine, Soweto, Kruger National Park, and Cape Town.



*Lebone II Interns:  
Adhana Asfaw ('18)  
and Robert Osei-Bonsu ('17)*



*Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng*





## Royal Bafokeng, Jr. NBA/WNBA 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 Sports Jr. NBA/WNBA Program. The program, now five years in the running, serves more than 20 schools and 3,000 players in and around Phokeng. It employs more than 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.



Intern Maddy Tessier-Kay ('18)  
with basketball players



Nani Redford ('19), Junior Mmoloke (Royal Bafokeng Sports), Sydney Skinner ('19), and Sue Cook

## Student Grants and Programs

Immersive learning experiences in Africa are fundamental to the training of Africanist undergraduate and graduate students. The Center provides a range of support and activities to ensure Harvard's students have access to numerous engagement opportunities on campus and on the African continent. Undergraduate and graduate students from across the University receive direct funding and administrative, intellectual, and moral support from the Center.

In 2015-2016, 40 students funded by the Center travelled to 15 African countries. The Center provided \$350,000 in financial support to students traveling, conducting research, studying abroad, and undertaking internships.

### J-term Grants

The Center funds a select group of students to undertake research activities in Africa during the winter break. These grants are designed to enrich senior research work before final thesis submissions and to enable graduate students to continue their field research.

### Recipients

#### Stefan Dimitriadis

*Status Building Strategies Among Small Businesses in Togo*

#### Amandla Ooko-Ombaka

*How Can the Kenyan Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise (MOI) More Efficiently Coordinate and Manage its Resources to Reduce the 4-6% GDP Performance Gap in the Manufacturing Sector? Case Study: Nairobi Industrial and Technology Park (NITP)*

#### David A. Owen

*Khadija's Sahelian Milieu: Logic Manuscripts, Female Jurists, Scholastic Pedagogy*

#### Matthew Steele

*Fiqh of the Shanaqita: The Making of Legal Literature in the Islamic Sahel*

#### Emma Din

*Poverty and Unmet Needs in Reproductive Health Among Adolescents and Youth in Central Africa*



*Emma Din (MPH '16) at the Cameroon Reunification Monument*

#### Shawheen Rezaei

*Post-Conflict Trends in Sudanese Economic Development*

#### Rachel Brigell

*Evaluating the Impact of School Based Health Programs on Children's Well-Being and Academic Performance in Lusaka, Zambia Midline Data Collection*



**Katherine Gonzalez**

*What Impact Does the 2014 Recognition of Muslim Marriages as Legal Have on the Rights of Muslim Women in South Africa, Particularly in the Areas of Marriage, Divorce, and Intestate/Succession?*

**Carlyn James**

*Participatory Methods in Evaluation Design: A Case Study of World Vision and SOMREP's Reconstruction Activities in Somalia*

**Alexander Kintu**

*Evaluating the Determinants of Access to NCD Services in HIV Patients Receiving Care at Public Clinics in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa*



**Katherine Gonzalez (HLS '17) with the Head of Marriage for the Muslim Judicial Council in Cape Town**



**Rachel Brigell (center) (MPH '16) with the staff of Healthy Kids/Brighter Future in Lusaka, Zambia**

# Student Grants and Programs

## Summer Grants

During the summer, a competitive process provides funding for eight weeks of travel to Africa for research, internships, or study abroad.

## Recipients

### Mary Elston

*Constituting Modernity Through Education: Science and Religion at al-Azhar*

### Sara Lowes

*Gender and Cultural Norms: Evidence from the Matrilineal Belt*

### Abigail Niebuhr

*Afrikaans Language Study & Preliminary Research on Xenophobic Violence against Foreign Nationals*

### Laura Thompson

*Who Speaks for the Sacred?: Punishing Blasphemy in Post-Arab Spring Tunisia*

### Stephanie Choi

*Evaluating the Implementation and Management of a Task-Sharing Strategy for the Integration of Mental Health and HIV/AIDS Care in Tanzania*

### Krystal Klingenberg

*The Creation and Circulation of the Popular Music of Uganda, At Home and Abroad*

### Samra Girma

*Summer Service at Mothers and Children Multisectoral Development Organization (MCMDO)*

### Helen Pitchik

*Research to Investigate the Impact of Micronutrient Supplementation on Neurodevelopment and Cognitive Function in School-aged Children*

### Jonathan Iyandemye

*Educational Internship in Rwanda*

### Mikaela Esquivel

*Support for International Change*

### Teagan Lende

*Research: Cape Coloured Rastafari farmers economy in Cape Town*

My coming to Harvard as a student marked an important stage in my journey to creating the Africa that I have always wanted to see. Most importantly though, my going back to Africa was a crucial step forward and a real chance to go back to my roots and see the need that I will potentially be addressing in the future.

*Jonathan Iyandemye ('18)*



## Foreign Languages and Area Studies Awards

In 2014, Harvard University's Center for African Studies was awarded a Title VI grant for the second time, designating it as a National Resource Center for African Studies as well as a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) recipient. FLAS grants provide summer and academic year funding for the study of African Languages and African Studies at Harvard and in Africa. The African Language Program at Harvard offered instruction in 43 African languages in 2015-16.

## Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 FLAS

### Ashley Demming

*Yoruba*

### Allison Blajda

*Wolof*

### Alex Kintu

*Zulu*

### Caroline Gimmillaro

*Swahili*

### Ayodeji Ogunnaike

*Yoruba*

### Lowell Brower

*Kinyarwanda*

### Jessica Dickson

*Afrikaans*

## Summer 2015

### Amsale Alemu

*Amharic*

### Kyrah Daniels

*Haitian Creole*

### Jessica Dickson

*Xhosa*

### A David Owen

*Fulani*

### Matthew Steele

*Fulani/Pulaar*

### Jessica Williams

*Zulu*

### Theodore Waechter

*Swahili*

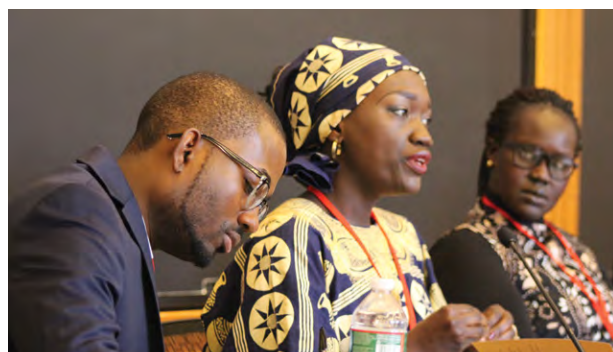


## Student Groups

Student Group activities are a crucial component of Africanist initiatives on Harvard's campus. The Center takes a leading role in supporting these student-led groups, through faculty and staff mentoring, intellectual engagement, and financial and administrative support. In 2015-16, CAS sponsored 10 student groups in activities that spanned the University's college and professional schools. In February, the Africa Business Club at the Harvard Business School presented the Africa Business Conference, the largest student-organized, Africa-focused conference in the world. Student-led events culminated in the spring semester with Africa Week, featuring the Harvard African Students Association's Africa Night celebration, and the African Development Conference led by the Harvard African Law Association and the Africa Caucus at the Harvard Kennedy School.

### African Development Conference

Held March 4-5, 2016, the 7th Annual African Development Conference focused on how the continent's potential can be realized and its growth sustained over the coming years. The conference revisited the idea of the "African Renaissance." Conversations reflected on how to advance human rights, promote civic participation, and increase security. Participants explored the challenges of building infrastructure, navigating rapid urbanization, tackling climate change, eradicating poverty, and achieving gender and income equality. It addressed models of good governance, access to quality education, health, and power, and other issues central to ensuring success and prosperity across the continent.



*Sangu Delle ('10/HLS & HBS '17); Akinyi Williams (HGSE '16); and Nok Nora Duany Bassey (HKS '16)*



*Donald Kaberuka, Hauser Leader in Residence, Center for Public Leadership (HKS) Keynote Speaker at the African Development Conference*



*Yasmin Belo-Osagie (HLS '18), John Comaroff, Sarah Nzau (Wellesley College), and Katra Chebaiba Sambili (HKS '16)*



## Africa Business Conference

Known for its impressive convening power, the Africa Business Conference at the Harvard Business School attracts the brightest minds in African economic growth and innovation. The Africa Business Club (ABC) with the support of the Center for African Studies, organized the 18th annual Africa Business Conference from February 26 – 28, 2016. This year's theme, "Unite, Innovate, Disrupt: Homegrown Models for Africa's Prosperity," aimed to celebrate and promote awareness of existing innovative solutions that have been deployed in Africa, in addition to motivating attendees to create more innovative solutions to overcome the challenges in Africa. Keynote presentations were delivered by Clayton Christensen, Makhtar Diop, Paul Kagame, Ashish Thakkar, Khanyi Dhlomo, and Charles Ifedi. Over 1,300 attendees participated in the conference, and the career fair at the conference attracted hundreds of students from around the globe seeking to connect their skills and aspirations with exciting opportunities on the continent.





*Dennis Ojogho ('16), Eunice Mwabe ('19), Lade Sogade ('16), and Leslie Ojeaburu ('16) at Harvard African Student Association's (HASA) Fall Feast*



*Members of Black Men's Forum at the Celebration of Black Women Gala*



*All-Harvard Fall Africa Mixer*





*Josh Sandler (HBS '16), Amandine Lobell (HKS '16),  
John Comaroff, and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. at the CAS/  
Hutchins Center/AAAS Fall Welcome Party*



*All-Harvard Africa Spring Mixer*



*Susan Cook, Hauwa Ibrahim,  
and Pamela Nwaoko (HLS '17)*

## Outreach

The Center's outreach agenda includes teacher development, direct engagement with high school students and with community college students and educators, as well as educating the public about Africa through the arts.

### Summer Workshop for Educators

The Center, together with other centers at Harvard, convenes an annual Teachers' Workshop in August. The workshop focuses on content and pedagogy, and affords school and community college teachers the opportunity to explore methods of teaching about Africa. The 2015 workshop entitled, "Global Migration in the 21st Century: Understanding How and Why People Move," featured Omekongo Dibinga, an American poet, musician, motivational speaker, diversity consultant, CNN contributor, and positive rapper. He taught a session on conflict metals from Africa and ways to engage students positively in the study of contemporary Africa.



*Crimson Summer Academy*

### Globalizing the Classroom Fellowship

Ten of the Teachers' Workshop participants are selected for a year-long Globalizing the Classroom Fellowship Program. The fellows create teaching material for teachers across the country through the Center's electronic platforms. The Center collaborates with Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and other centers at Harvard to enrich the programming. Two educators from Bunker Hill Community College and Roxbury Community College have been selected for this fellowship program.

### Crimson Summer Academy

To reach younger audiences directly, the Center hosts a film screening and discussion every year at the Crimson Summer Academy, which assembles talented and highly motivated high school students from around Boston to attend summer classes on Harvard's campus. Past screenings have included films from various regions of Africa. This summer, *Amandla: A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony* was screened. More than 60 high school students attended the screening and participated in the discussions. Nthatsi Quella, the Center's Student Support and Outreach Officer, led discussions on issues arising from the film.



## Roxbury Community College

The Center has collaborated with Roxbury Community College (RCC) since 2014, establishing an internship for RCC students to work with the Africana librarian at Widener Library on the acquisition, cataloguing, and curating of Harvard University's African collection. In addition, RCC faculty are integral to the Center's workshops, conferences and social events, where they engage with faculty, graduate students, and staff of the Center.



Participants at the  
Teachers' Workshop

## Staff



*Susan Cook*

**THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES STAFF** has grown to include an Associate Director (Maggie Lopes), a South Africa-based Executive Director (Raenette Gottardo), a South Africa-based interim Program Manager (Lerato Motaung), a Financial Associate (Cande Lowe), and a Fellows Officer (Erin Linn). CAS was sad to say goodbye to Andrew Iliff, who took up a new position at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and to Erin Linn, who left to create a new NGO in the field of cultural heritage preservation. Intern Junius Williams headed off to LSE for a year, and Oluwaseyi (Shae) Omonijo and Nehemiah Muhikira came on board as our Summer 2016 interns. Tricia Reinkin joined us as an interim Communications Officer.



## Staff and Interns



Susan Cook



Raenette Gottardo



Lerato Motaung



Maggie Lopes



Nthatsi Quella



Candace Lowe



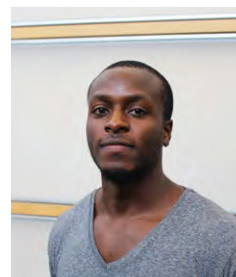
Margie Jenkins



Erin Linn



Tricia Reinken



Nehemiah Muhikira



Adhana Asfaw



Alma Medina



Natasha Koverola



Junius Williams

# Faculty Affiliates

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## **Leila Ahmed**

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## **John Comaroff\***

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## **Caroline Elkins**

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**Myron Essex**

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(HMS)  
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**Michael Hooper**

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**Bassey Irele**

Librarian for Sub-Saharan Africa (FAS)

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Ira Jewell Williams, Jr. Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of African and African American Studies (FAS)

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**Patrick Vinck**

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Louis A. Horvitz Professor of Law (HLS)

**Dyann Wirth**

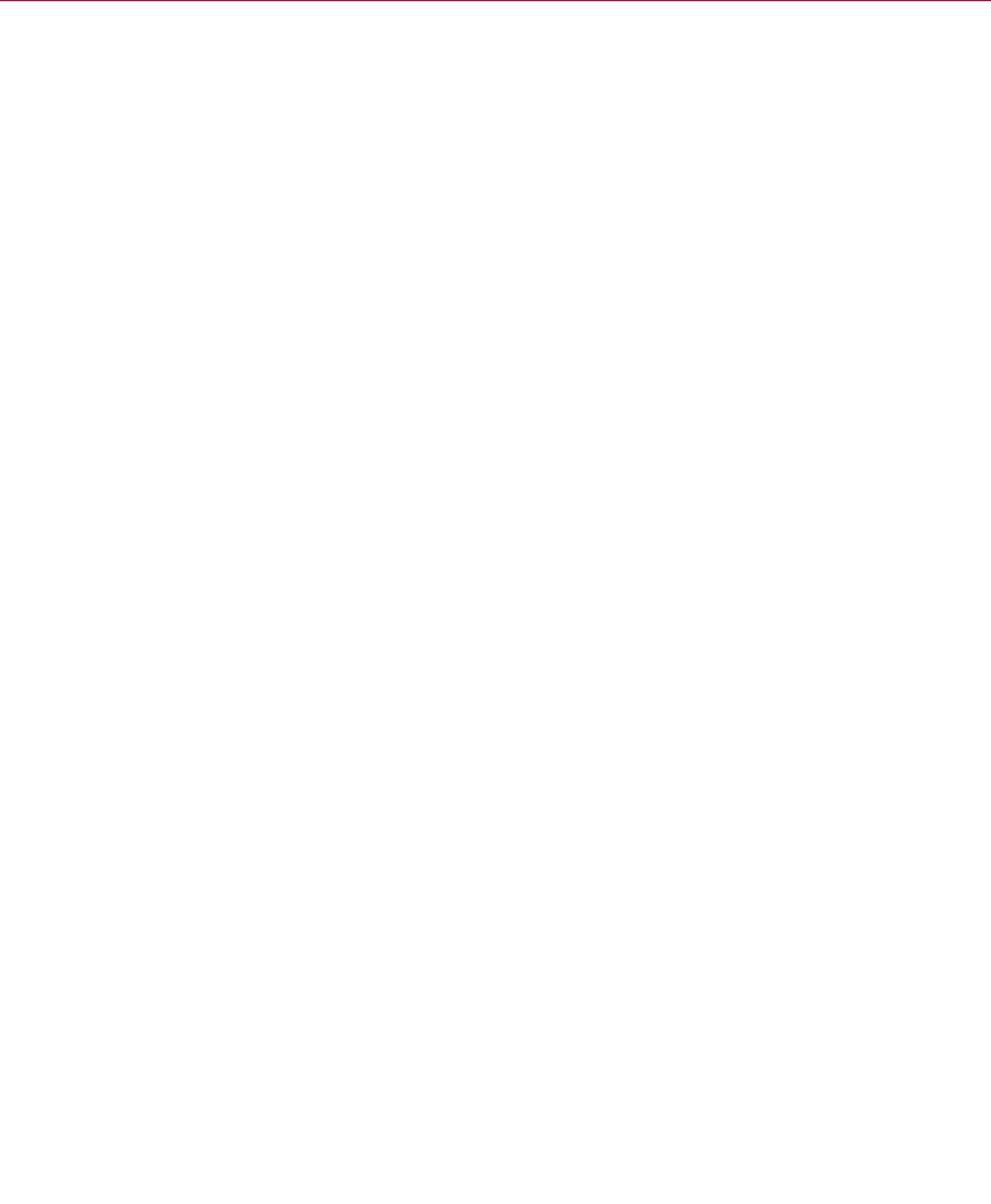
Richard Pearson Strong Professor of Infectious Diseases (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health)

**Alicia Yamin**

Lecturer on Global Health (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health)

*\*CAS Executive Committee '15-'16*

<i>FAS</i>	<i>Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences</i>
<i>GSD</i>	<i>Harvard University Graduate School of Design</i>
<i>HBS</i>	<i>Harvard Business School</i>
<i>HDS</i>	<i>Harvard Divinity School</i>
<i>HGSE</i>	<i>Harvard Graduate School of Education</i>
<i>HKS</i>	<i>Harvard Kennedy School of Government</i>
<i>HLS</i>	<i>Harvard Law School</i>
<i>HMS</i>	<i>Harvard Medical School</i>







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