Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes African Studies Conference

*Creativity, Innovation, and Resilience: Rethinking Challenges and Opportunities in Africa*

Saturday March 24th, 2018
O’Hara Student Center/ William Pitt Union
4024 O’Hara Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00 - 9:20 am    Registration/Check In/Breakfast – O’Hara Student Center Dining Room

9:20 – 9:25 am    Opening Remarks from Yolanda Covington-Ward, Conference Organizer and Advisory Committee Member, African Studies Program

9:25 – 9:30 am    Welcome Remarks from Louis A. Picard, Director, African Studies Program

9:30 – 9:35 am    Welcome Remarks from Macrina Lelei, Associate Director, African Studies Program

9:35 – 9:40 am    Overview of Conference Logistics, Yolanda Covington-Ward

9:40 am          Walk to William Pitt Union for Concurrent Panels

SESSION I:        10:00 AM – 11:10 AM

Concurrent Panel A (10:00 am – 11:10 am, Room 540 WPU):
Reimagining Home: African Immigrants, Refugees, and Entrepreneurs

Chair: Eliada Griffin-EL, Robert Morris University

American Nativism & Retreat from Globalism, Cosmopolitanism and Immigration in the 21st Century: African Immigrants Caught in the Crossfires of Post-American Order
_Darryl Thomas, Penn State University_

Rethinking Home: African Refugees on Negotiating Spaces and Places
_Leonora Kivuva, University of Pittsburgh_

Enacting ‘Home Habitus’: Theorizing the Practice of Bricolage by Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Adversarial Settings
_Eliada Griffin-EL, Robert Morris University_
_Joy Olabisi, Rochester Institute of Technology_

Concurrent Panel B (10:00 am – 11:10 am, Room 527 WPU):
The Politics of Nation Building in Africa

Chair: Eric Beeko, University of Pittsburgh

The Contested Legacy of Malawi’s Decolonization Process, 1944-1994
_Gift Kayira, West Virginia University_
Liberia’s First National Population Census of 1962
William B. Kory, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

All African People’s Conference of 1958: the Historic Significance of a Revolutionary Gathering
Gervais Gnaka Lagoke, Lincoln University

Concurrent Panel C (10:00 am – 11:10 am, Room 538 WPU):
Environment, Landscapes, and Narrative

Chair: Mari Webel, University of Pittsburgh

Rich Literature, Fragmentary Archive: Doing Historical Work in the Niger Delta
Oghenetoja Okoh, University of Akron

"Whose Earth Is It, Anyway?" Toward a Pan-African Eco-Queer Theology of Liberation
Nixon Cleophat, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Reconstituting African Landscapes, Its Literary Tradition
Cecil Tengatenga, Yale University/Hartford Health and Human Services Department

SESSION II: 11:20 AM – 12:30 PM

Concurrent Panel D (11:20 am – 12:30 pm, Room 540 WPU):
Youth, Identity, and Education in Africa and its Diasporas

Chair: Macrina Lelei, University of Pittsburgh

Tanzanian Hip Hop, Language, and Youth Identity Construction
Hannah Vidmar, The Ohio State University

Shifting Notions of Adoption in Igboland, 1920’s – 2000s
Robin Chapdelaine, Duquesne University

Urban Education in African Immigrant and Black American Poverty Settings: A New Wave of Upheaval and Inequality
David McBride, Penn State University

Concurrent Panel E (11:20 am – 12:30 pm, Room 538 WPU):
Interrogating Religion and the Business Sector in Africa

Chair: Yolanda Covington-Ward, University of Pittsburgh

A Slave to God: Subjugation and Controlling Enslaved Panis and Negros Among the Clergy of New France
Chris Gismondi, Concordia University
Decolonizing the BSAC in Nyasaland: Economic and Developmental Implications, 1944-1967
Paul Chiudza Banda, West Virginia University

How do Employers Respond to Religious Requests from their Muslim Workers?
Sara Nyobe, Robert Morris University

Concurrent Panel F (11:20 am – 12:30 pm, Room 527 WPU):
Reconsidering Conflict, Violence, and Coercion in Africa

Chair: Opolot Okia, Wright State University

The Legacy of Mauritania's Colonels: West Africa's Next Disaster?
Boubacar N'Diaye, The College of Wooster

Opolot Okia, Wright State University

Gender and Conflict
Joshua Okyere, Ohio University

BREAK FOR LUNCH

12:30 – 2:20 pm  Lunch (featured keynote address by Moses Ochonu, Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of History, Vanderbilt University) - O’Hara Student Center Dining Room
2:20 – 2:30 pm  Walk to William Pitt Union for Concurrent Panels

SESSION III:  2:30 – 4:00 PM

Concurrent Panel G (2:30 – 4:00 pm, Room 527 WPU):
Access, Institutions, and International Development Paradigms

Chair: James Saku, Frostburg State University

The Rockefeller Foundation in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe (1950-1980): A Transnational Study of Gender Inequalities
Fungisai Musoni, The Ohio State University

The Dynamics of Information and Communication Technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa
James Saku, Frostburg State University

The Normative Foundations of TRIPS Agreement: Challenges Affecting Access to Medicine
Vincent Mutai, University of Pittsburgh
**Concurrent Panel H (2:30 – 4:00 pm, Room 540 WPU):**

**Critical Discussions on Independence, Decolonization, and Liberation**

Chair: John Stoner, University of Pittsburgh

Evaluating the Pan-African Personality in Academic Spaces  
*Zizwe Poe, Lincoln University*

Kenya’s Elusive Quest of Political Inclusion: Multiracialism, Majimbo, and Beyond  
*Robert Maxon, West Virginia University*

Post-independence Disillusionment and Revolutionary Hope in Petals of Blood: "Eat or be eaten" vs. "Why can't the eaten eat back?"  
*Katherine Mooney, The Ohio State University*

Reconciliation and Justice: The Legacy of Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu for Contemporary African Politics  
*Jean-Marie Makang, Frostburg State University*

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**BREAK FOR CLOSING**

4:00 – 4:10 pm  Walk to O’Hara Student Center Dining Room

4:10 – 4:40 pm  Advancing African Studies in the Region: A Brief Discussion of Future Partnerships or Consortia

4:40 – 5:00 pm  Evaluations of Conference

5:00 pm  Departures
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof. Moses Ochonu
Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of History

Lecture Title:
African Studies at a Crossroads: Notes about Writing and Programming a Continent


Ochonu has published over thirty articles in peer-reviewed journals and chapters in edited volumes. His research has also been very well funded and recognized. He was twice the recipient of the fellowship of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). His research has also been supported by awards and fellowships from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the American Historical Association, Franklin Roosevelt Institute, and the British Library. He regularly grants interviews to international print and electronic media on contemporary African and Nigerian topics. His op-eds and commentaries on African topics have appeared in TIME magazine, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Tennessean.com, History News Network, GlobalPost, Pambazuka, African Arguments, and several African newspapers and magazines. Notably, readers of the London-based African Arguments voted his essay assessing the first fifteen months of the presidency of Nigeria’s Muhammadu Buhari as the best article of 2016.