

CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES



*Creating, Cultivating, and Continuing
Connections*

2020-2021 Annual Report



PittGlobal

University Center for
International Studies



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Message from the Acting Director/Associate Director

It is my great pleasure to present the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Center for African Studies. Although it was a challenging year for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we managed to accomplish many of our daily activities successfully. This was possible because of the tremendous support from the office of the Director of UCIS and the Office of the Provost, colleagues and students and the commendable hard work of the center's staff team. Our center activities are guided by our mission to enhance the study of Africa at Pitt and cultivate the next generation of leaders, scholars and change agents.



Complementing formal coursework, are our regular and dynamic series of lectures, book club, spring conference and other events open to all interested students, faculty and staff. We design these events and activities to provide a wide range of rich opportunities for interdisciplinary conversations and exchanges about Africa that are spontaneous, well-informed and offer new understanding and possibilities. This year many people joined us for conversations, including people on the ground in Africa to share their stories and experiences as well as people from across the globe. The virtual platform allowed more participation than usual because people could join from their respective locations without having to travel to Pittsburgh.

Thank you to all our supporters for your commitment to our mission and your generosity in giving to African Studies to support our efforts. Among our key achievements this year, we successfully launched the Joseph K. Adjaye Endowed Student Resource Fund. Professor Joseph Adjaye was the founding director of African Studies and served with distinction until his retirement from Pitt in 2010 when he returned to teach at the University of Accra Ghana. Joseph passed on in June 2019 and in his memory and honor we decided it would be fitting to establish the endowed student resource fund. The launch happened in November 2020. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising campaign. We will continue to grow the fund through fundraising and we hope you will help us through your generous financial support to allow us to continue his legacy and passion for teaching about Africa and leading groups of students and educators on group projects abroad to Africa. Our utmost gratitude goes to the Adjaye family, Mrs Dinah Adjaye and her daughters and the entire family for agreeing to work with us in the establishment of the student resource fund and for their generous contribution.

This year we also received recognition for our hard work through the name change. We are now the Center for African Studies (CAS). Thanks to the African Studies staff team that worked hard in making the success shared in this report possible. Many thanks to all faculty affiliated to African Studies for your commitment to a strong record of educational activities that enhance our intellectual portfolio and community engagement activities. Thanks to our students for the good work they continue to do out there in the world and above all, thanks to the Director of UCIS and the Provost's office for the recognition and for making the name change happen. We are proud to continue serving as the premier platform for African studies at Pitt and remain committed to broadening knowledge about Africa and serving as the hub for everything African Studies at Pitt and beyond.

We welcome you to read on and learn more about what we do at the center, learn about our community of engaged scholars and researchers and our partnerships. Reach out to us if you have questions, stop by to see us or call us on the phone. Visit our website for information about us. Thank you for your time reading our report and best wishes to all.

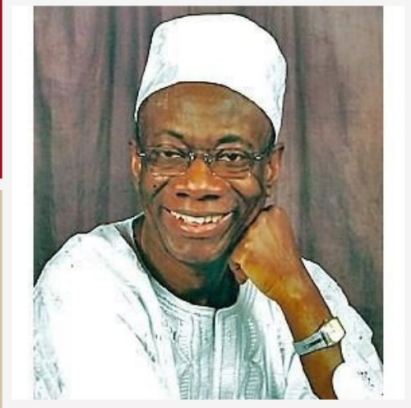
We Changed Our Name!

We changed our name from the African Studies Program (ASP) to the Center for African Studies (CAS). This change is significant and timely particularly at a time when promoting social justice and equity are at the center of conversations in our institutions of learning. For the purposes of equity, clarity and parity, the Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Director of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) Dr. Ariel Armony, and the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ann Cudd approved the renaming of the African Studies Program to the **Center for African Studies (CAS)**.

Not only does this change of name bring African Studies into alignment with other regional and thematic studies centers at Pitt, but it also works to erase the impression that the study of Africa has not been a priority within the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) or within the University more broadly. It dovetails neatly with UCIS' efforts to build an even more comprehensive Africa strategy for Pitt and to ensure that the University's future global strategy considers the growing importance of Africa in conversations about health, environment, politics, security, and culture over the coming decades.

We greatly appreciate this recognition and look forward to more support for the important work of the center—to promote excellence in teaching and research on Africa in all disciplines, and to disseminate knowledge about Africa to the wider community through our integrated outreach program to schools, community groups and colleges. We also offer numerous opportunities for students to experience Africa firsthand through study abroad and field-based learning in Africa as well as internships. Check out our website for more information on opportunities available.

The Joseph E.K. Adjaye Endowed Scholarship



A Tribute to **DR. JOSEPH E.K. ADJAYE**

The late Professor Joseph E.K. Adjaye was instrumental in the establishment of the Center for African Studies at Pitt and served with distinction as its inaugural director from 2001 until his retirement in 2010. He was also a renowned faculty member of the Department of Africana Studies and served as Chair (2000-2005).

On November 20, 2020, we hosted a gathering to celebrate Joseph's life and legacy, and launch a memorial scholarship in his honor. Joseph loved teaching and enjoyed taking students, educators, and community members on group projects abroad to various

countries in Africa. He wanted them to have an opportunity for firsthand experience and learning about Africa.

To honor Joseph's invaluable contributions to the Pitt community and beyond, the family of Joseph and the Center for African Studies partnered to establish the Endowed Student Resource Fund. The purpose of the scholarship is to support students to study abroad, research or internship in an African country. Mrs. Dinah Adjaye and her daughters Maureen and Stacey Adjaye gave \$10,000 towards the endowed fund. We hosted a fundraising campaign through the EngagePitt crowdfunding platform to raise money to match the family's contribution. We exceeded our fundraising target and together with the family's contribution we raised a total of \$22,608 towards the establishment of the endowed student resource fund. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped to make our fundraising successful. We will continue to raise funds to enhance this scholarship fund that will have a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

We are proud to honor our founding director in this way and recognize his dedication to African Studies at Pitt and beyond. His legacy and impact will live on through this endowed scholarship. Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts.

Meet our Staff Team

Dr. Anna-Maria Karnes Academic Advisor



Dr. Anna-Maria Karnes is the center's Academic Advisor and Community Engagement Coordinator. She enjoys sharing knowledge and cultural understanding about Africa with students, communities and schools in the tri-state area, and connects them with people from the African continent. Born in Cameroon, Dr.

Karnes has had a love for Africa her entire life. She has travelled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya and has a deep-rooted passion for education.

Dr. Karnes received her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Education in 2019 where she focused her research on women and higher education in Ethiopia. In her role at Pitt she has had the opportunity to take students and teachers abroad to Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Dr. Karnes loves engaging with students and learning about their passions and career goals as well as encouraging students to travel to Africa on study abroad trips. She also enjoys working with educators hosting the teach Africa workshops and the Model African Union for high schools. Her door is always open to anyone who would like to stop by and share their African experiences or to discuss opportunities.

Meet our Staff Team

Drew Medvid Administrative Assistant



Drew was the Administrative Assistant for the Center for African Studies From July 2020 until April 2021 when he left the center for a new opportunity with the Human Rights Campaign. Previously, he served as the Office Assistant for the University Center for International Studies. Drew graduated from Pitt with a BA in History and Political Science. During his undergraduate career, he studied abroad in South Africa. He was excited to engage with

students, to help them discover and grow their passions related to Africa, and to help coordinate and participate in all of the wonderful events hosted by the center throughout the year.

Drew left working at the center for a new opportunity that matched his passion and career path. He was a valuable member of our team and we are thankful for the time we worked together and for the contributions he made to the center. We wish him well in his new position.

In his resignation, Drew wrote

“ It has been a genuine pleasure getting to work with the African Studies team, develop my administrative skills, and to continue fostering my love for Africa and international studies. I wish African Studies the utmost success in the future as you continue to carry out the very important task of enhancing society’s knowledge and understanding of Africa.”

Meet our Team

Carolyn Brodie Graduate Fellow



Carolyn is pursuing her Master's of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling at Pitt, where she completed her undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Africana Studies. She is passionate about the African continent, a love that was forged during her completion of the undergraduate African Studies Certificate. As a Nationality Rooms Scholar and OCC Advantage Grant recipient, she was able to travel to Tanzania through Pitt's Panther program where she studied East African

Public Health Systems as well as Swahili language and culture. In her first year as a fellow for the Center, she has helped with projects including the Teach Africa Workshop, the African Studies Book Club, and the annual research conference. In the future, Carolyn hopes to visit and experience more African countries; at the top of her list are Morocco, Ghana, Senegal, Egypt, and South Africa. She enjoys sharing her African experiences with fellow students at Pitt.

Mercy Jematia Graduate Fellow

Mercy Jematia was the 2019-2021 Heinz Fellow and African Studies Graduate



Fellow. She graduated from the School of Education in the Administrative and Policy Studies Program in the spring 2021 with the Masters degree in Education. Born and raised in a small rural village in Morsariat, Western Kenya, Mercy has always enjoyed teaching languages and culture. She graduated in December 2017 from Kibabii University, Bungoma County, Kenya, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education.

Mercy was interested in Kenyan education policy with an emphasis on understanding the role of language in literacy development. She was interested in understanding diverse early childhood education programs that bring together the social, emotional and cognitive domains. She appreciates different cultures and enjoyed learning from the University community and sharing her own culture, ideas, and interests. She was a valuable member of the staff team who helped bring East African cultures to the K-12 classrooms and shared experiences and knowledge with Pitt students.

Meet our Team

Joyce Mutsoli

Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA 2020/21)



Throughout the academic year, Joyce joined us virtually from Kakamega County, Kenya. She teaches English/Literature in Siwar Secondary School located within Siaya County. She graduated from Kisii University with a Bachelor's Degree in Education (English/Literature). Joyce is a passionate teacher who works towards helping her students achieve their goals. She enjoys writing fictional stories, which have been published within the East African region at large. She is also an ardent soccer player and coaches students as well. She was thrilled to start sharing her culture with the students at Pitt. She assisted with teaching

Swahili and hosting conversation hours to enhance their speaking skills. The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program is designed to develop Americans' knowledge of foreign cultures and languages by supporting teaching assistantships in over 30 languages at hundreds of U.S. institutions of higher education. This year, Joyce helped lead a session within the Teach Africa Workshop about teaching African languages through cooking a traditional rice dish, pilau.

Pelumi Olubenga
Graduate Fellow



Pelumi Olubenga was born and raised in Nigeria. He graduated with his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and International Studies from the Lagos State University, Ojo; Nigeria, where he was awarded the Vice Chancellor's/President's Certificate of Honor for Exceptional Leadership on the G.N.S Review Committee. Pelumi graduated in the spring with a Masters of International Development at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, majoring in Energy and Environment and a minor in Cybersecurity, Policy and Law, and a Certificate in African Studies. Pelumi over the past three years has served as a mentor to young

civic leaders in University campuses across Africa and beyond. He has been selected to participate in global youth programs at the World Bank Group, the United Nations, and the Commonwealth People's Forum. On Africa's development, Pelumi believes that the continent and its people must optimally harness its own natural resources and human capital to sustainably address its core development challenges. He was president of the Pan-African Students Association and leader of the Model African Union Club for college students.

Meet our Team

Emmanuel Ampofo Student Ambassador



Emmanuel was born in Ghana, West Africa but lives in Bucks County, PA. Although an undeclared sophomore on the Pharmacy track, he demonstrates his love for the sciences, especially chemistry. During his freshman year, he served as a work-study intern where he learned a lot of transferrable skills. He is currently an undergraduate ambassador and loves to share interests and speak about the home continent of Africa. He is also a RISE secretary and a Provost Academy Leader where he mentors first year students. He is passionate about showing the world that Africa has very gifted minds, which will prevail given fair circumstances. He hopes to attend Pharmacy school next year.

Nneoma Uzoukwu Student Ambassador



Nneoma Uzoukwu is from the Poconos, PA. She is a Philosophy major with a Chemistry minor and certificate in African Studies. She is also in the accelerated MPH program studying Epidemiology. As a child of Nigerian immigrants, she has always been interested in learning more about Africa and the health care system. She is very passionate about health equity and plans to pursue a career in global health as a physician in the future. Her passion for public health drove her to study abroad in Tanzania where she was able to learn about critical East African health issues. While in Tanzania, she learned about research occurring throughout the African continent.

Her experiences in Tanzania were very impactful on her journey towards public health and learning about methods that can help improve health disparities. After graduation she plans to use the knowledge she gained from her certificate to help make an impact on the Nigerian health care system. This summer she plans to intern at the Lakeshore Cancer Center in Lagos, Nigeria to assist with building a program for cervical cancer education through awareness, screening, and treatment, particularly for vulnerable and underserved women in the Lagos, Nigeria area.

Certificate in African Studies

Established in 2001, the Center for African Studies supports and coordinates the study of Africa within the University of Pittsburgh, and promotes education and scholarly exchange about Africa through its curricula and educational activities. Graduate and undergraduate students who enroll in the certificate program and complete all the requirements earn the certificate in African Studies.

This year, 9 students (4 graduates and 5 undergraduates) received the Certificate in African Studies. In this report we share their interests in Africa, unique experiences pursuing the certificate in African Studies, their hopes and aspirations upon graduation. We are incredibly proud of them for their hard work and achievements. We offer our congratulations to them and we wish them the very best as they begin the next chapters of their academic, professional and personal journeys.

Certificate Recipients:

Undergraduate Students

Taylor Campell

Doug Crocitto

Rima Habte

Swati Tata

Nneoma Uzoukwu

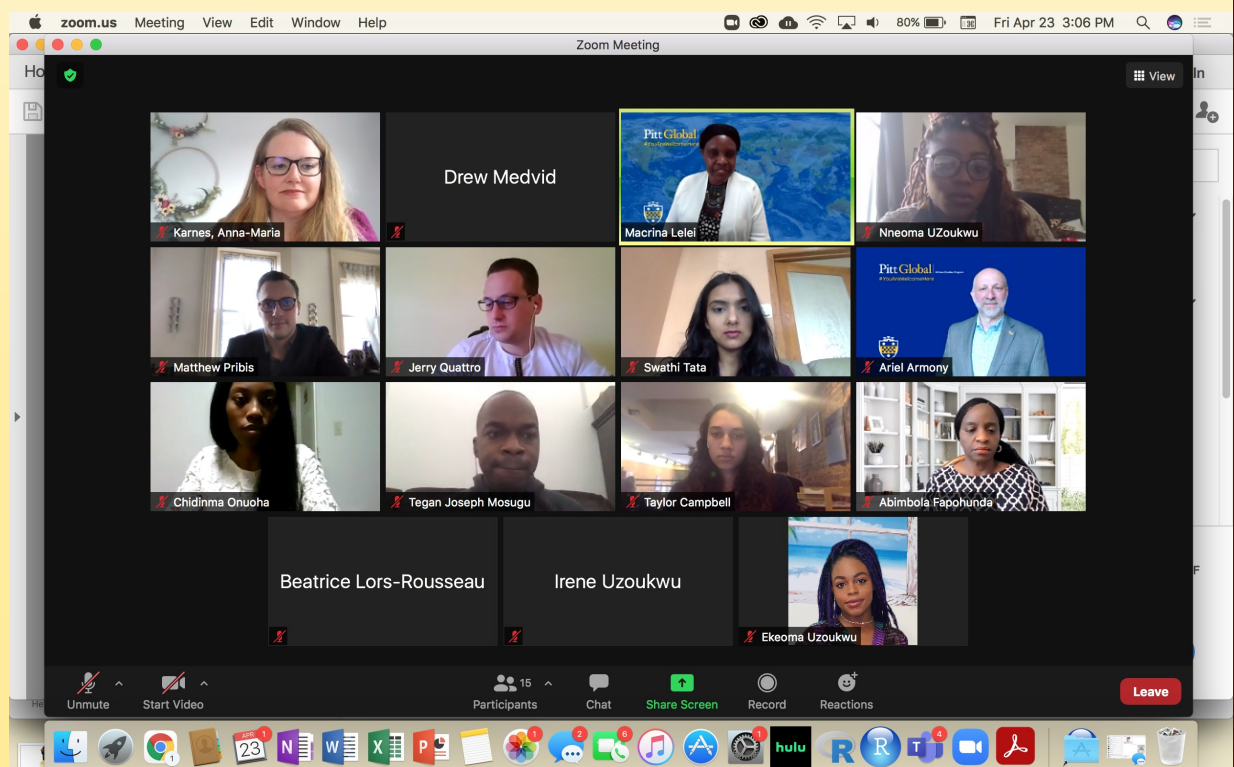
Graduate Students

Joseph Tegen Mosugu

Chidinma Onuoha

Matt Pribis

Jerry Quattro



Connect with our Students!

Taylor Campbell

Undergraduate

My name is Taylor Campbell and I will be graduating this spring with a B.S. in Neuroscience, a minor in Administration of Justice, and a certificate in African Studies.

My interest in African studies stems from the lack of knowledge I have regarding my own African culture and heritage as an African American. Once I found out about the African studies program at Pitt, I jumped at the opportunity to learn more. As a pre-med student, learning about health disparities facing the African community was of great interest to me. The summer following Freshmen year I got the chance to travel to Ethiopia on a medical brigade where I helped triage patients from the community of Korah. The program also inspired me to apply for and eventually become a Browne fellow which taught me how I could be more of an asset to African American communities in our backyard of Pittsburgh.

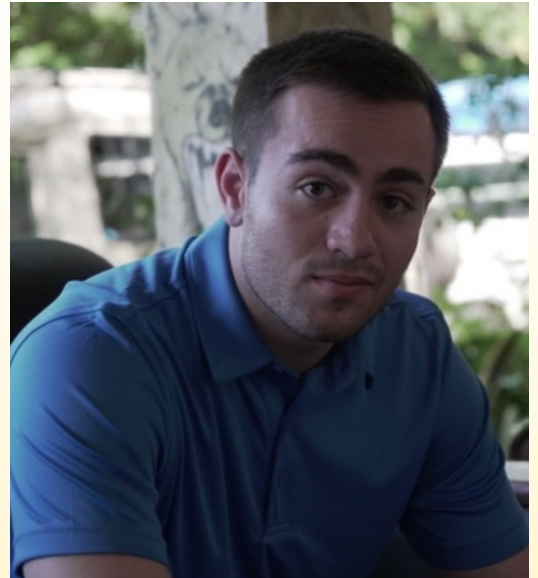
The African studies certificate also allowed me to see how race is an integral part in our institutions in America and abroad, especially the healthcare and criminal justice systems. This inspired me to pursue future research as to how trauma can impact someone's brain morphology and predisposition for criminalized behavior. I plan to focus this research in urban communities whose populations are made up majorly of African Americans who fall victim to the school to prison pipeline. In addition, I plan to pursue a career in neurosurgery and work to bridge the gap in healthcare that Africans and African Americans face.



Connect with our Students!

Doug Crocitto Undergraduate

Hi, my name is Doug Crocitto. I am originally from just north of New York City and studied Emergency Medicine while I was at Pitt. I also will receive an African studies certificate and a Swahili minor. The African studies certificate, while not directly related to emergency medicine, allowed me to explore my passion for traveling and learning about different cultures. I got to learn about social, political and economic issues and advancement in East Africa as well as focusing on public health in the region.



I was fortunate to be able to travel to Tanzania twice during my college career. First, I participated in the Pitt in Tanzania trip where we focused on learning about the public health issues affecting communities and strategies that are being implemented to help. Next, I was awarded the US State Department's Critical Language Scholarship to go to Tanzania and learn Swahili. Both trips provided great experiences to learn about the culture, language, and meet great people. While I will be working stateside as a paramedic for now, I hope to continue my education in public health and wish to utilize the knowledge I learned for the African studies certificate in the future in global health initiatives. Asante sana walimu na rafiki!

Connect with our Students!

Rima Habte Undergraduate

My name is Rima Habte, and I will be graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a B.S. in Psychology and Minor in Linguistics and an African Studies certificate. I've lived all over the place, but Pittsburgh has been my home for the last 5 years. I stumbled into doing an African Studies certificate towards the end of my undergraduate degree, through a desire to expand my language skills and connect with my culture. I chose to take Amharic to fulfil my Foreign Language requirement because it was close to the native language that I had lost at a young age after moving to the US. Through Amharic, I was able to form connections with members of the Pittsburgh Habesha community, and, at the end of two years, I had unknowingly acquired all the requirements for the certificate.



Throughout my courses, I was able to learn about the varied and global history of African people. My interests largely focused on understanding the experience of diaspora groups in America and Europe and the contributions that Black people have made worldwide that often go forgotten. In my last year at Pitt, I took two semesters of Swahili to further diversify my knowledge of African culture and experiences. I plan to go into research after graduation, and this certificate will allow me to better communicate with the populations of my studies, especially in a city like Pittsburgh with a large number of Black and immigrant people. I also plan to continue my language studies in Swahili and Amharic, and I hope to visit Ethiopia and Eritrea in the near future.

Connect with our Students!

Swathi Tata Undergraduate

My name is Swathi Tata. I am a Neuroscience major with a minor in French and Certificate in African Studies. My interest in African Studies began through my study of Francophone countries around the world, particularly in Africa. After getting exposed to Francophone literature and films from Senegalese, Malian and Chadian creators, I realized how I was missing out on due to my lack of education in African Studies. As I explored the continent through books, films and art, I became utterly enamored with its beauty and diversity.

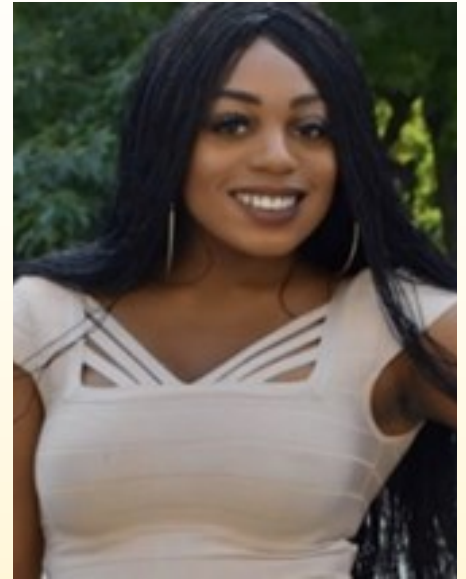


As a pre-health student, the African Studies certificate allowed me to learn about the myriad of social factors affecting health in the African American community as well as the global African diaspora. I began to appreciate the complex factors that affect us on a human level and understand how this translates to our healthcare. I joined the board for the Doctors without Borders Chapter at Pitt where we worked to educate and advocate for health crises around the world. Then, I was granted the African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship to learn about culture and medicine in my dream city of Dakar, Senegal. Although this plan has been postponed due to the pandemic, I used that summer to begin my UNAI Millennium Fellowship, where I supported community programming to promote health and wellbeing in low-income and minority neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. Upon graduation, I am doing a research fellowship at the NIH until I go to medical school. I also will be working on my Wolof skills to prepare for a future trip to Senegal. I ultimately aspire to be a physician-scientist with interest in global health and international service. I hope to advance our current approach to healthcare into one that is more inclusive and comprehensive, at every step.

Connect with our Students!

Nneoma Uzoukwu Undergraduate

My name is Nneoma Uzoukwu, and I am from the Poconos, PA. I am a Philosophy major with a Chemistry minor and certificate in African Studies. I am also in the accelerated MPH program studying Epidemiology.



As a child of Nigerian immigrants, I have always been interested in learning more about Africa and the health care system. I am very passionate about health equity and plan to pursue a career in global health as a physician in the future. My passion for public health drove me to study abroad in Tanzania where I was able to learn about critical East African health issues. While in Tanzania, I learned about research occurring throughout the African continent. My experiences in Tanzania were very impactful on my journey towards public health and learning about methods that can help improve health disparities.

After graduation I plan to use the knowledge, I gained from my certificate to help make an impact on the Nigerian health care system. This summer I plan to intern at the Lakeshore Cancer Center in Lagos, Nigeria to assist with building a program for cervical cancer education through awareness, screening, and treatment, particularly for vulnerable and underserved women in the Lagos, Nigeria

Connect with our Students

Tegan Joseph Mosugu

Graduate

My name is Tegan Joseph Mosugu, and I am a Nigerian-American global health professional passionate about transforming sub-Saharan Africa. As a PhD candidate, I studied Public & International Affairs and I pursued a global health certificate at Pitt's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs (GSPIA). I hold a bachelor's degree in history from Duke University. I also possess a master's in public administration & global affairs from New York University (NYU), and a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania.



Outside of academia, I work as a social impact and media professional. I have supported a range of philanthropic and international development initiatives in the United States and Africa. In addition, I have also spearheaded a plethora of local and national campaigns in multiple countries. Currently, I am an Associate Director of Public Affairs at the END Fund – the only private philanthropic initiative working to end five of the most common neglected tropical diseases.

During my time at Pitt, the University Center for International Studies' African Studies Certificate program has allowed me to apply critical thinking and reasoning skills to my understanding of international development and public administration. My current research focuses on the use of public administration and evidence-based management techniques to improve healthcare delivery in Africa. My academic desire is to use the African Studies certificate to advance scholarship on public management and organizational behavior in resource-scarce settings in Africa. After graduation, I intend to work at the intersection of academia and global health management in ameliorating the quality of life for individuals and communities in Africa.

Connect with our Students!

Chidinma Onuoha Graduate

My name is Chidinma Onuoha and I'm a native from Washington DC. I received my B.A in English at the University of Maryland, College Park with a heavy journalism focus in 2018 before I decided to pursue my masters in international development with an African Studies certificate here at GSPIA. I have a deep interest in human capacity building, particularly social and economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on women.



In order to achieve these goals, I joined the African Studies Department because I wanted all of the courses and internship opportunities to be centered on Sub-Saharan Africa. More than anything, I want to learn about this beautiful continent; its histories, its victories, and its challenges. Also, I'm Nigerian, my family is Nigerian and so this career journey is pretty personal. I'm taking this degree with the confidence that I can make a positive impact on Africa's economic prosperity.

Last summer, I interned as a media intern for ASA Social Fund for Hidden Peoples and an intern-to-co director for Humanist Global Charity, where I'm still working today. I did "Project Design and Evaluation: Workshop on Development" for my capstone with Dr. Muge Finkel. I'm designing a program that pushes women's economic empowerment in Nigeria called the She Leads program. Specifically, She Leads is a program that provides business training and internship experience to low-income Igbo women so that they can accumulate personal wealth.

In the future, I'd look forward to creating policies in relation to these topics and investing in projects that can alleviate poverty by granting women more economic opportunity. I am interested in policy making for human rights in Sub-Saharan Africa as well.

Connect with our Students

Matthew Pribis Graduate

Matthew Pribis here, a Butler, PA native (about one hour north of Pittsburgh). During high school, I received a NROTC scholarship to study Oceanography at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. My dream during college was to be a Navy SEAL, and after graduation and commissioning I attended SEAL training from July-October 2015, but after some soul searching, I realized that I actually didn't want to kill people or contribute to destructive US foreign policy. So, after being honorably discharged from the Navy, I worked odd jobs ranging from selling surgical devices, lifeguarding in San Diego and working at a ski resort in Oregon.



I was lucky enough to live near a refugee resettlement agency while living in Louisville, KY in 2018. This is where I started volunteering and found the inspiration to get a Master of International Development. I've since interned with two resettlement agencies in Pittsburgh, AJAPO and JFCS, and have had many African clients that turned into friends and mentors along the way. I've spoken French with my refugee counterparts from the DRC and Burundi and learned Swahili and Kinyarwanda from my Tanzanian and Rwandan clients.

Working with persons from the African continent in Pittsburgh, whether at GSPIA, at the African Studies center or in refugee resettlement, has been the highlight of my time at Pitt. It's enriching, inspiring and humbling to learn about the different perspectives, cultures, challenges and opportunities that Africa has. I plan to use my certificate to apply for jobs in Africa, and I will be doing a program evaluation internship this summer with the ASA Social Fund for Hidden People working on sustainable income generation projects in Uganda.

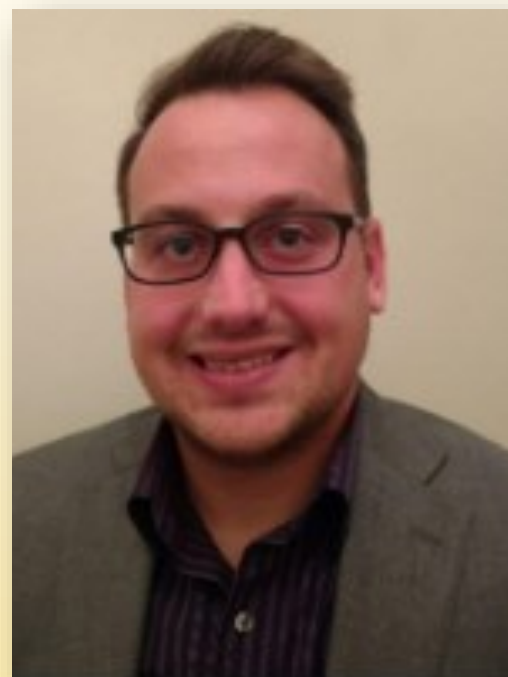
Connect with our Students!

Jerry Quattro

Graduate

My name is Jerry Quattro, and I am a native of the Pittsburgh region. I am a Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) student at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) majoring in human security. As an undergraduate I spent one month studying African history, politics, and culture in Senegal and the Gambia. Recently, my wife and I returned to Senegal and the Gambia distributing books to schools in need, and distributing funds we raised for school uniforms in the Gambia.

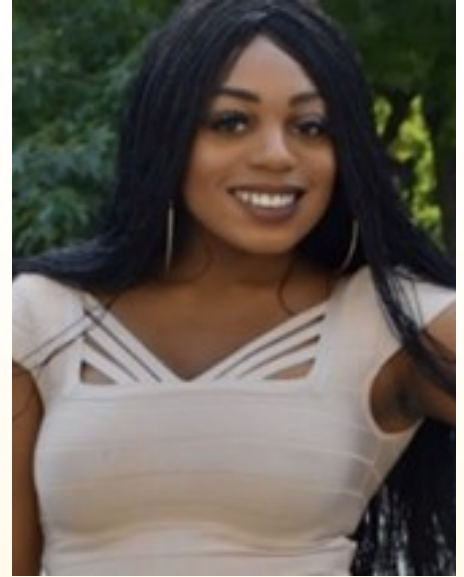
The University Center for International Studies' African Studies Certificate program has empowered me to focus on issues of good governance, human rights, and democratization in Africa while a student at GSPIA. Specifically, my Capstone project focuses on the role of ethnicity, state neglect, and ideology in the Darfur conflict. Additionally, I have analyzed presidential elections in Senegal and Uganda, identifying factors which produce credible elections. The program has also motivated me to pursue and obtain two Africa related internships, one with the U.S. Department of State, and the other with the Wilson Center.



I plan to apply the knowledge gained through the completion of the African Studies Certificate in my career. I am currently a Presidential Management Fellowship finalist. I hope to work with the U.S. Department of State or USAID on human rights, democracy, and good governance issues in Africa.

Student Spotlight

Nneoma Uzoukwu Nationality Rooms Scholar 2021



The Nationality Rooms Scholarship Program provides scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students seeking to study in countries across the globe. Various Nationality Rooms Committees as well as individual people and families provide these yearly scholarships to support the educational goals of students and promote the exchange of knowledge and ideas. We thank all these individuals for their contributions and support of students committed to studying Africa.

Congratulations to Nneoma for being awarded this competitive award for her internship experience in Nigeria!

A current MPH Candidate in Epidemiology, she had the following to say about her experience this summer:

“As a child of Nigerian immigrants, I have always been interested in learning more about Africa and the health care system. I am very passionate about health equity and plan to pursue a career in global health as a physician in the future. My passion for public health drove me to study abroad in Tanzania where I was able to learn about critical East African health issues. While in Tanzania, I learned about research occurring throughout the African continent. My experiences in Tanzania were very impactful on my journey towards public health and learning about methods that can help improve health disparities. After graduation I plan to use the knowledge, I gained from my certificate to help make an impact on the Nigerian health care system.

This summer I am doing an internship at the Lakeshore Cancer Center in Lagos, Nigeria. Lakeshore Cancer center is the 1st health center in Nigeria solely dedicated to cancer prevention and treatment. As an intern, I will be working with the Lakeshore’s team to develop and promote programs for cervical cancer education awareness, screening, and treatment in the Lagos community. I will also assist to collect qualitative data on patient and health care provider's perspective on the impact that Covid-19 has on cancer care in Lagos, Nigeria.”

Study and field –based experiences in Africa



We encourage students to take advantage of opportunities to study abroad in Africa, and to participate in field-based learning and internship programs. These opportunities are an important part of their educational experience while at Pitt and help provide firsthand experience and continue to be an important part of the work of training Africa experts. Our goal is to provide opportunities for cross-cultural skills and help students gain deeper firsthand experience and enhanced understanding of the continent of Africa. Although many students wished to study abroad in an African country this summer, it was not possible for them to travel due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Pitt Study abroad programs have been postponed until the situation is under control and travel restrictions eased.

In partnership with the Global Experiences Office and various Departments and Schools across campus, the Center for African Studies helps create and coordinate programs for students to study abroad and experience Africa firsthand. We currently have active programs in Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

Students can also choose to participate in programs in Africa through Pitt-recognized providers. These programs have been vetted by Pitt and approved for students to apply to third party organizations to study with them and receive transfer credits. Approved locations include:

- Botswana
- Ghana
- Madagascar
- Morocco
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda



Faculty Reports

Congratulations to **Dr. Abi Fapohunda** for her newly published research article, *Leveraging eLearning Tools to Improve Cervical and Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis in Lagos, Nigeria*. The article is co-authored by Adeola Fakilade and Oge Ilegbune



ABSTRACT

With rising rates of cancer, it is vital that the public health community identifies ways to effectively increase access to cancer awareness, prevention, and early diagnosis of the most common female cancers in Nigeria. Digital technologies can play an important role in scaling up necessary skills for health professionals to increase screenings and referrals, and to enhance their knowledge of cancer control. Pivoting and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic increased the acceptance of non-traditional ways of learning, creating new ways to disseminate knowledge across borders and different society. eLearning can play a very important role in training healthcare practitioners in Nigeria, and further research into the feasibility, challenges and opportunities presented by eLearning platforms in the healthcare sector is crucial.

Dr. Abimbola Fapohunda is a trained epidemiologist and health educator with over 19 years' experience of running her consulting company and being in public health. She teaches part-time at the Department of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh and has conducted several studies among African Americans, Africans in the Diaspora and on the African Continent. In February 2019, Dr. Fapohunda and Lakeshore Cancer Center in Lagos, Nigeria conducted training workshops on cancer awareness for healthcare practitioners. Abimbola's current research focus is a healthy community for Black immigrants in Pittsburgh and the intersectionality of segregation, health disparities and COVID-19 pandemic.

Adeola Fakolade MD MPH is a physician specialized in family medicine and general preventive medicine and public health. She received her medical degree from the University of Lagos and completed her master's degree in public health at Case Western Reserve University. She completed her family medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and her fellowship at Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. Her work centers around access to health care especially primary health care, preventive medicine, global health, and cancer prevention and research.

Dr. Oge Ilegbune MBBS, ARCP, HMP graduated from the University of Nigeria Medical School in Enugu, Nigeria and completed her residency in General Practice. She is an associate member of the Royal College of General Practitioners of the UK. Her current role is Head of Strategy, Development and Outreach at Lakeshore Cancer Center (LCC), she is keenly focused on spearheading the eradication of cancer in Nigeria and has immense passion and enthusiasm for advocacy. She hopes to continue her work in general practice focusing on screening and preventative measures, primarily regarding cancer care at the LCC in Lagos, Nigeria.

Faculty Reports

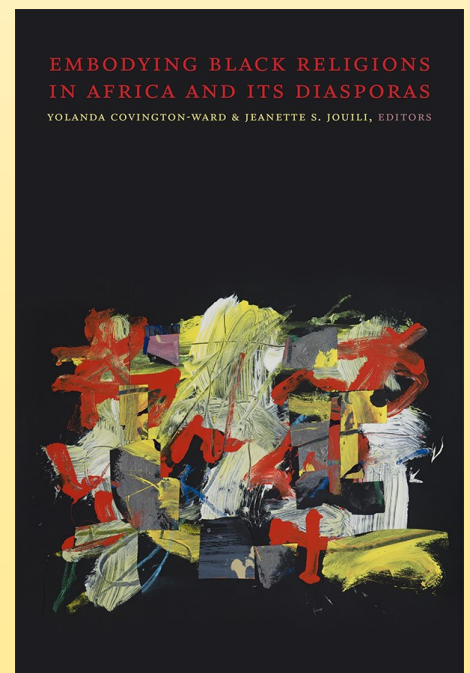


Congratulations to **Dr. Yolanda Covington-Ward** for her new book, *Embodying Black Religions in Africa and its Diasporas*, co-edited by her colleague Jeanette Jouili. The book can be purchased on the Duke University Press [website](#)

Yolanda Covington-ward is Associate Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and author of *Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo*, also published by Duke University

ABSTRACT

The contributors to *Embodying Black Religions in Africa and Its Diasporas* investigate the complex intersections between the body, religious expression, and the construction and transformation of social relationships and political and economic power. Among other topics, the essays examine the dynamics of religious and racial identity among Brazilian Neo-Pentecostals; the significance of cloth coverings in Islamic practice in northern Nigeria; the ethics of socially engaged hip-hop lyrics by Black Muslim artists in Britain; ritual dance performances among Mama Tchamba devotees in Togo; and how Ifá practitioners from Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad, and the United States join together in a shared spiritual ethnicity. From possession and spirit-induced trembling to dance, the contributors outline how embodied religious practices are central to expressing and shaping interiority and spiritual lives, national and ethnic belonging, ways of knowing and techniques of healing, and sexual and gender politics. In this way, the body is a crucial site of religiously motivated social action for people of African descent.





Congratulations to **Dr. Filipo Lubua**, who is the Vice President of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL)! NCOLCTL is an organization

that represents the less commonly taught languages (LCTLs) in the United States. Their mission is to increase the number of Americans who choose to learn at least one of the LCTLs as a means of enhancing cross-cultural communication among citizens of the United States. Their work focuses on these languages, which are becoming increasingly vital to the security, economic, social, and political welfare of the United States. They



seek to improve the teaching and learning of these languages and to make them more generally available. NCOLCTL is the national voice for organizations and individuals who represent the teaching of these less commonly taught languages at both the collegiate and precollegiate level. They also promote the use of technology, especially computers and the Internet, to enable a new era in cross-cultural understanding, communication, and language education. We are very excited that Pitt's Dr. Lubua will be serving in this leadership role in such a wonderful organization.

Dr. Lubua hails from Tanzania. He holds a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology and a master's in Applied Linguistics from Ohio University. He joined the Linguistics Department at Pitts in 2016, where he currently teaches Swahili and is also the Swahili Program Coordinator.

Check out [Pitt's Less Commonly Taught Language Center](#) which offers Amharic, Arabic, Swahili along with 11 other languages spoken across the world! They also offer a minor in Swahili. The Swahili

minor focuses on four semesters of language study and encourages electives such as Swahili Coastal Culture: Gateway to Africa and Social and Health issues in East Africa!



Grants and Awards

Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL) Program Strengthening African Studies and African Languages at Pitt

Award Amount: 98,543.00 per year (2~year grant 2020-2022)

We received the UISFL program grant that provides funds to plan, develop, and carry out programs to strengthen and improve undergraduate instruction in international studies and foreign languages.

Funding will allow us to accomplish the following goals:

- 1) Improve instruction in African Studies through creation of one new course “Introduction to the African Union” culminating in students participating in the International college Model African Union held in Washington D.C. in the spring semester
- 2) Improve African languages through enhancing levels offered in Swahili and Amharic (note: a visiting scholar from Ethiopia will be hosted for one year to help offer instruction in Amharic and one additional course to be determined by the department)
- 3) Enhance study abroad in Africa opportunities for students through the creation of programs in Ethiopia and Kenya (closely tied to our FH GPA program). Note that this will depend entirely on the Covid-19 situation and university policy regarding travel abroad
- 4) Provide student scholarship by offering \$2,000 each for up to 5 students per year traveling to an African country for study abroad, research, field based learning, and internships

Our goals for the project are firmly grounded in the Center for African Studies mission to create more opportunities that help to enhance knowledge and understanding of Africa for students and wider learning community. Through such initiatives, we aim to provide opportunities that allow students to engage and experience a depth of African languages and courses as well as experiential learning both at Pitt and in Africa and through participation in the international Model African Union conference hosted every spring by Howard University in Washington D.C. The proposed project activities will build on the assets and structures already in place at Pitt and abroad by leveraging current resources with the Less Commonly Taught Language Center, Global Experience Office, Africana Studies Department, School of Education, University Center for International Studies, and our partners in the various African countries.

Grants and Awards

Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program

Cultures of Innovation: The Intersection of Social Studies and Steam in East Africa

Award Amount: 99,380.00

The Center for African Studies in Collaboration with the School of Education received the Fulbright Hays GPA grant that will help strengthen outreach to schools and engagement with the K-12 educators in the Pittsburgh Area Schools. The program will be carried out in strong partnership with the School of Education with Dr. Maureen Porter as the Principle Investigator and Dr. Cassie Quigley as the Co PI.

With this grant, participants who will be K-12 educators and pre-service students will have the opportunity to travel to East Africa (Kenya & Uganda) to acquire first-hand knowledge and experience, and acquire resource materials for curriculum development that can be used to enrich African area studies teaching in the K-12 schools. The proposed project uses the place-based education design that provides the nexus for participants to investigate the intersections of Social Studies and Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. This innovative, grassroots approach to curriculum that is locally grounded, sustainable, and culturally responsive will provide an excellent way for participants to identify the dynamic convergences of STEAM as it happens locally and globally.

A call for proposals to participate in the program will be disseminated widely in the schools. We will select 17 participants (8 teachers and 8 students) who will then begin orientation and training at Pitt before travel to East Africa. Participants will spend 5 weeks in host countries collecting materials, visiting schools and other learning communities, and building curriculum projects. Upon return to Pittsburgh, they will continue to complete the projects and create curriculum products that will be disseminated and shared widely. They will also participate in a Teach Africa Workshop that will be hosted by the Center for African Studies and School of Education for educators from our area. Feel free to check out the lesson plans from our previous [GPA to Ethiopia](#).

Grants and Awards

Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program

East Africa: Language, Culture and Society

Award Amount: 99,934.00

The Center for African Studies in Collaboration with the Less Commonly Taught Language (LCTL) center received the Fulbright Hays GPA grant that will support our students to study Swahili language in Tanzania and immerse in the language while studying culture and society. Dr. Filipo Lubua is the Principle Investigator on the project and will be leading the program to Tanzania as soon as we are cleared for Travel to East Africa.

The central activity will be an integrated and comprehensive academic program of learning Swahili, history, culture and society of East Africa. The goal is to enhance the expertise of participants to adequately integrate Africa into their professional and ultimately be a resource in their various spaces of work. Furthermore, through participation in the project, it is expected that participants will create an institutional culture of respect for diverse, multicultural and international ways of thinking. They will acquire skills that are useful for professionals and practitioners in global context as they impart knowledge to others in spaces that are culturally and linguistically diverse.

A call for proposals to participate in the program will be disseminated widely when we are free to travel. 17 participants will be selected through a competitive process. Selected students will then begin orientation and training at Pitt before travel to East Africa. Participants will spend 5 weeks in host country learning Swahili language, collecting materials, visiting schools and other learning communities, and working on their projects. Upon return to Pittsburgh, they will participate in a panel to share their experiences in the program. They will share personal stories and any pictures from the program.

Grants and Awards

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Exchange Programs Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA)-Swahili

We host a FLTA to assist in teaching Swahili and running our language tables program for students in Swahili classes and those not in Swahili just interested in learning basic Swahili and cultures of the Swahili-speaking peoples of East Africa. The FLTA also assists with the global hub activities and outreach to the schools.

As part of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, the Fulbright FLTA Program is designed to develop Americans' knowledge of foreign cultures and languages by supporting teaching assistantships in over 30 languages at hundreds of U.S. institutions of higher education. The program also provides young teachers of English as a Foreign Language the opportunity to develop their professional skills and gain first-hand knowledge of the U.S., its culture and its people.

This academic year, due to COVID-19 travel issues, the FLTA was not able to travel to Pitt but was able to execute their responsibilities remotely from Kenya. The FLTA assisted in teaching Swahili and took on outreach to the schools to speak to school students about East Africa specifically and Africa generally. The FLTA worked closely with our community engagement team as needed for community outreach activities.

We were awarded our first FLTA in 2015, and we have been hosting one FLTA every year since then. We are on our 6th FLTA. Out of the 5 FLTAs, 3 have returned to the United States to pursue advanced degrees and one is completing a Ph.D. in South Africa with a teaching appointment at the University of Nairobi. These scholars join our rich network of global Africanists who are also a useful resource for us.

We will host Joyce Mutsoli, who was not able to travel to Pitt last year due to the pandemic, this academic year 2021-2022. She will be taking classes at the School of Education and continuing FLTA responsibilities, assisting the Swahili instructor and doing outreach to the schools and community.

Events & Activities

The Center for African Studies hosts events to engage students in learning outside of the classroom and encourage discourse and discussion about a range of topics and themes. During this academic year, we hosted all events virtually with our connections across the United States, Africa and various other places across the globe. We were thrilled to see our community grow to include friends, family, and alumni in Africa who previously were not able to join in-person activities due to logistical factors including distance and cost of travel.

Throughout the academic year, we coordinated and sponsored several major events with support from other units across the University, depending on the faculty roles and topics for discussion. Notable events included the following:

- ◇ Book Club
- ◇ Critical Research on Africa Series
- ◇ Let's Talk Africa Lecture Series
- ◇ Outreach
- ◇ Spring Conference
- ◇ Teach Africa Workshop


We also work closely with student groups on campus who focus on Africa related events and activities that promote and create cultural awareness and appreciation of Africa. They educate about the diversity of cultures, history, and geography of Africa and foster an effective networking and support for students.

There are four key groups on campus: the African Students Organization (ASO), Pan-African Graduate & Professional Student Union (PanAf), Model African Union Club (Pitt MAU), and Swahili Students Association (SSA). These groups host a diverse range of events and activities throughout the academic year.



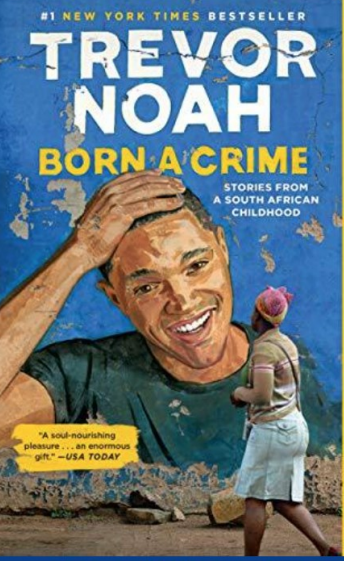
The African Students Organization crowned Shamaal Sheppard King and Ilham Adam Queen at the African King and Queen Pageant Saturday night. Courtesy Pitt ASO

Book Club Series




University of
Pittsburgh

African Studies Program
University Center for International Studies




#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
TREVOR NOAH
BORN A CRIME
STORIES FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDHOOD

"A soul-nourishing pleasure... an enormous gift." —USA TODAY



Join African Studies for an engaging discussion of *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, the story of a multiracial South African who grows into a famous comedian struggling to find himself and understand race in a world where he was never supposed to exist.

BOOK CLUB
Friday, October 16th
12-1:30pm EST
Via Zoom
Please [register](#) in advance

**AFRICAN**
STUDIES PROGRAM

We host a **Book Club series** open to the entire Pitt community and the public. Each Book Club event fosters thought-provoking and engaging discussions surrounding topics related to African topical issues of interest including race and race relations.

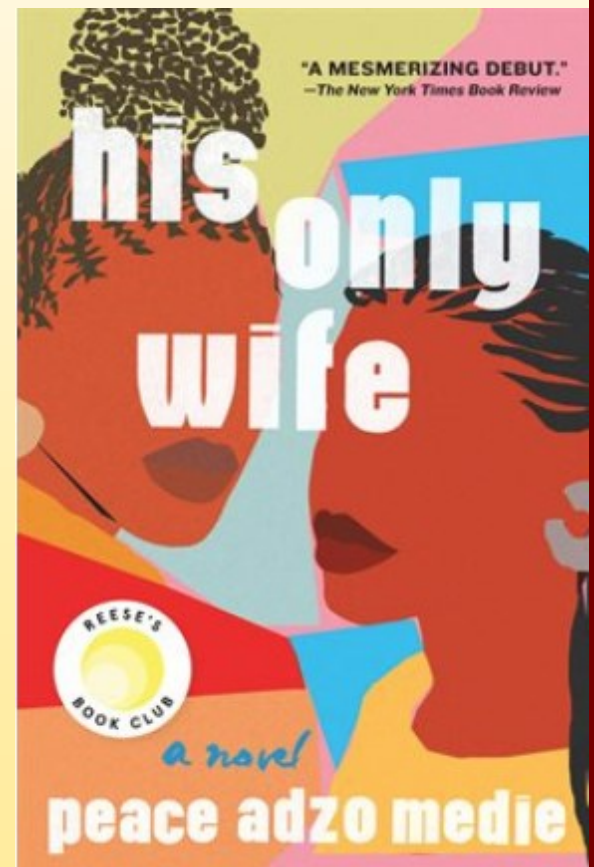
Our first Book Club pick of the year was *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, and discussions revolved around South Africa, race politics, gender roles, and poverty.

Our second book club pick

was the novel, *his only wife* by Peace Adzo Medie, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. Themes for this book included status, gender roles, relationships, and autonomy.

During both events, attendees were asked to evaluate their favorite characters, question their conceptualization of race and identity, think critically about their understanding of Africa and African immigrants to the US, and engage in small group discussions in breakout rooms.

African Studies is excited to continue the Book Club series throughout the 2021-2022 school year.



Critical Research on Africa (CRA) Series



The Persistence of Slavery: An Economic History of Child Trafficking in Nigeria

Dr. Robin Chapdelaine, Duquesne University

March 1st; 4 pm EST



Medical Legitimacy: Childbirth, Authenticity, and Pluralism in Nigeria's Faith-Based Birthing Homes

Dr. Ogechukwu Williams, Creighton University

April 9th; 12 pm EST

The Critical Research on Africa Series offers a space for faculty and graduate students to share their research projects on Africa and engage in critical discourse that improves understanding of the issues faced by the various countries in the continent and finding practical solutions. The series, led by affiliated faculty, aims to strengthen scholarly intellectual capacity, build community, collegiality, and offer opportunities for learning about our interdisciplinary research, and sharing feedback.

This academic year we hosted two distinguished guest speakers who presented their research papers to a wide range of participants who joined via zoom.

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting in progress. The main window shows a grid of 20 participants, with some names partially visible: Macrina Lelei, Drew Medvid, Mari Webel, Oge Williams, Kinsey, Jack R, TECNO Pouvoir 3, Anna-Maria Kar..., Cameron Chase, Pelumi Folajimi, Noel Marsh, Cing, Thalia B, Elizabeth Klusm..., Sciarra, Alexa R, Faryaal Alam, McBane, Katie, Andrea Arringt..., Adodoadji, Lind..., Lomahan, Carol..., Joseph Danvers, Lilli Hong, Martin, Victoria L, Sarah Hess-Gre..., Eitan Rabinovich, and Jenny Jin. A chat window on the right shows a message from Pelumi Folajimi to everyone: "Great to be here to listen to the presentation on Aladura and midwifery. I'm passionately curious." The bottom toolbar includes icons for Unmute, Stop Video, Security, Participants (26), Polls, Chat, Share Screen, Reactions, More, and End.

Let's Talk Africa (LTA) Lecture Series

The LTA series offers a forum for conversations about Africa's development, opportunities and challenges within the wider global development framework. Speakers comprise faculty, staff, students and practitioners to share conversations on topics of interest.



LET'S TALK AFRICA

The Impact of COVID-19 on University Partnerships across the World

Join us for a presentation by Professor Olanrewaju Adigun Fagbohun, the Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University in Nigeria.

October 30th
1pm ET
[via Zoom](#)



He will discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected prospective collaborations among universities across the world. The norm has always been university's representatives embarking on trips to prospective partnering higher institutions. However, with lockdowns, travel restrictions and social distancing - the international partnerships among most universities have been brought to a halt.



We assembled a distinguished panel to speak about “What You Don’t Know Is Happening: Voices from Nigeria.” The panelists were Julie Arnheim, MA., MBA., Sister Zita Iwuoha, RN-BSN, CLC, Reverend Columba Nnorom, PhD, Onynyechi Ghandi, JD, MA, and Professor Louis A. Picard. The conversations focused on the human rights issues in the country and its broader implications in the history of genocides. The event was co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program.

This academic year, we hosted speakers on a variety of topics that included The Impact of COVID-19 on University Partnerships across The World. Our guest speaker was Professor Olanrewaju Adigun Fagbohun, the Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University, Nigeria. He discussed the challenges that have resulted from the pandemic and called for the rethinking of how we do partnerships in a world that is changing rapidly.

We assembled a distinguished panel to speak about “What You Don’t Know Is Happening:



LET'S TALK AFRICA

Nov 10
12 pm ET

What You Don't Know is Happening: Voices from Nigeria

Panel Discussants



- Julie Arnheim, MA, MBA
- Sister Zita Iwuoha, RN-BSN, CLC, (DNP, 2022)
- Reverend Columba Nnorom, PhD
- Onynyechi Ghandi Chuku, JD, MA
- Louis Picard, PhD



On the 82nd anniversary of Kristallnacht, we join together to discuss the crisis occurring in Nigeria.

Tune in to hear from experts on Nigeria and how you can take action. They will be discussing what is currently unfolding in Africa and its broader implications in the history of genocides.

[Register here.](#)




**Thursday,
February 11th
1:00 – 2:30 pm**

REGISTER

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF WOMEN AND LAW IN AFRICA

Honorable Ari Tobi-Aiyemo is a retired magistrate-judge from Nigeria, West Africa. She is the first dark-skinned woman to obtain a masters in judicial studies degree globally. She is presently an adjunct professor of business law at Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York. She is a prolific writer and an audacious speaker.

Please join her in this conversation that will focus on the pre-colonial to post-colonial experiences of African women in law, from a jurisprudential viewpoint.



We also hosted the Honorable Ari Tobi-Aiyemo who gave a talk titled The Past, Present and Future of Women in Law in Africa. Her presentation focused on the pre-colonial to post-colonial experiences of African women in law. The speaker addressed the issues from a jurisprudential viewpoint. It was a lively presentation that generated a lot of questions and discussions with participants joining in from across the United States and Africa and predominantly from Nigeria.

Spring Conference



The poster is divided into several sections. At the top, a blue silhouette of the African continent is next to the text 'AFRICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE'. Below this is a yellow banner with the title 'PONDERING AFRICAN FUTURES' and the subtitle 'MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF 2020 AND BEYOND'. The main body is dark blue. On the left, under 'PANEL TOPICS', is a list of subjects. In the center, there is a logo for the 'AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM' and a yellow box with the dates 'MAY 13-14 2021'. Below the dates is a white button with the word 'REGISTER'. At the bottom, the University of Pittsburgh logo and name are displayed, along with the 'African Studies Program' and 'University Center for International Studies'.

AFRICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

PONDERING AFRICAN FUTURES
MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF 2020 AND BEYOND

PANEL TOPICS

- African Agency
- Blackness
- Development
- Education
- Gender
- Health
- History
- Natural Resources
- Politics

AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

MAY 13-14 2021

REGISTER

 **University of Pittsburgh** | African Studies Program
University Center for International Studies

Every spring we host a research conference for scholars and practitioners who work on Africa related topics to come together to engage in intellectual conversations based on research, practice and scholarship.

The conference is a culmination of the Critical Research on Africa lecture series which we host monthly through out the year. We encourage participation at the conference from faculty, students and community who focus their research and practice on Africa related topics.

We had great attendance with over 100 participants registered for the conference who joined in via zoom from across the United States, Canada, Europe and Africa.

The first day of the conference opened with a keynote panel presentation chaired by Dr. Catherine Koverola, President of the University of

Pittsburgh at Bradford who organized a group of distinguished practitioners from the field for an Interdisciplinary Dialogue about the Impact of the Global Pandemic on Africa's Development Agenda. The panelists set the conference stage for our collective pondering of African futures in the face of the current global pandemic and challenges. Each panelist shared their inspirational personal leadership journeys, serving on the frontlines addressing challenges that span health issues, such as Ebola, malaria, and HIV/AIDS; impact of genocide and war; poverty; educational disparities; and natural disasters. Drawing upon their collective wisdom and experiences, the panelists engaged in an interdisciplinary dialogue as they reflected on strategies and approaches that could be implemented as the continent navigates a post pandemic future.

Spring Conference



Keynote: Why Change in Africa must Come from Within.

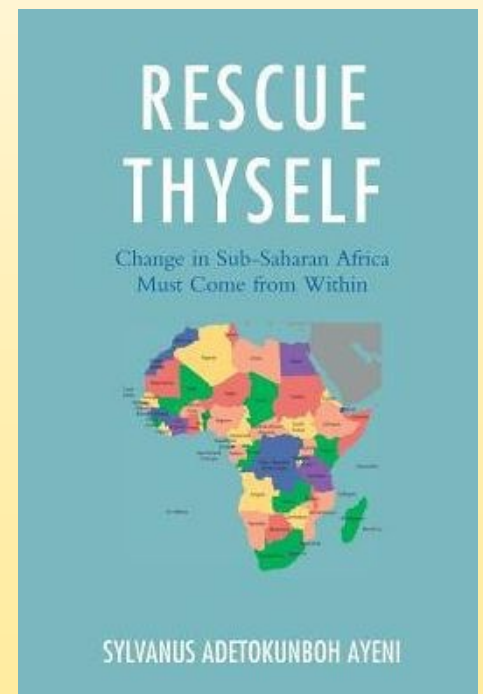
The Second day of the Conference featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Sylvanus Ayeni—a retired neurosurgeon, president, and founder of Pan-Africa Children Advocacy Watch.

Africa is the second-largest continent in the world with a population of 1.3 billion. It is also the most diverse genetically, ethnically, culturally, and linguistically. Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world, or is it? The region has enormous natural resources. It is the least affected by cyclical natural disasters like earthquakes, tornadoes, snowstorms, hurricanes, tsunamis, and typhoons.

Africa has received more than 1 trillion dollars in foreign aid in the last six decades and thousands of foreign “experts” in various disciplines have given their services to the continent. Despite all these favorable conditions, Africa remains the poorest continent in the world and Sub-Saharan Africa, the poorest region. There is the perception in some quarters, spoken and unspoken, that Africans are incapable of fending for themselves.

- Is this true?
- Why does Africa ail so much?
- What is holding Africa back?
- What are the foundational steps towards recovery?
- Who will answer and who should answer?

For Africa to emerge from the bottom of the human ladder of development, the trio of endemic corruption, leadership failure and “Can’t Do” mindset must be addressed from within these struggling nations. At the core of the endemic post independent leadership failure is “*Failure of Mindset*”. Hence, “Mindset Transformation,” particularly of the leaders, is pivotal to the resuscitation of African nations. Africa has everything it needs, not only to thrive, but to compete favorably with the other continents. The huge problems facing the continent cannot be solved by the West, East, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the United Nations, and its various agencies, the multibillion-dollar corporations or the celebrities from across the Mediterranean Sea or the Atlantic Ocean.



If you are interested in learning more about the discussions about why change in Africa must come from within, a good reference book is *Rescue Thyself* by Dr. Ayeni.

We are looking forward to hosting our next spring research conference and we hope you can plan to join us.

Outreach to Schools

A major part of the FLTA's role is to visit K-12 and college classrooms to share knowledge and experience about Africa. This year, although not in person, our FLTA Ms. Joyce Mutsoli visited several area middle schools, high schools, and a community college virtually. Through these virtual visits hundreds of students were able to learn about the history and culture of Africa, while the FLTA also learned from American students.

The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program is designed to develop Americans' knowledge of foreign cultures and languages by supporting teaching assistantships in over 30 languages at hundreds of U.S. institutions of higher education. We have been hosting the FLTA position since 2015.



Below are thank you letters sent on behalf of Franklin Regional Middle School to our fellows who had classroom interaction: Kennedy, Pelumi, and Mercy. They taught the students about Africa, science, and how to make “galimotos!” This was a great experience for their students and ours alike!



**THANK
YOU!**

From the 6th Grade Science Class

For my galimoto toy I made an airplane. For my airplane I used a pop bottle, cardboard from cereal boxes for the wings, plastic straws to attach the wheels along with toothpicks, and bottle caps for the wheels.



Teach Africa Workshop



Our 2021 Teach Africa Workshop was held on April 17th virtually and attracted students, educators, Fulbright-Hayes scholars, and educational support staff alike. African Studies was thrilled to host Dr. Nosakhere Griffin-EL of the Democracy Learning Lab as well as our own graduate students Mercy Jematia and Joyce Mutsoli.



These presenters tackled important educational initiatives: “Embedding Africa into the School Day: Towards a Holistic Approach Using African Picture Books in Your Teaching Practice” and “Fundisha! Incorporating Swahili Culture into the Language Arts Classroom” respectively. We had over 40 attendees log in to join us via zoom. Participants considered and discussed a wide range of topics relevant to these presentations and shared their own teaching experiences from their classrooms.



Attendees also got the opportunity to hear about the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad that will focus on curriculum development Summer of 2022. The African Studies Program received a grant to lead a group of educators to East Africa (Kenya and Uganda) to collect teaching resources and study education and return to build their own lesson plans for their classrooms.

TEACH AFRICA WORKSHOP



8:30 AM	Welcome and introductions & Info on Fulbright Hays
9:00 AM	Embedding Africa in the School Day: Towards a Holistic Approach to Using Picture Books in Your Teaching Practice View Presenter Dr. Griffin-El's Bio
9:50 AM	Break
10:05 AM	Information Session on Accessing African Books
10:20 AM	Break-out rooms--Create Lesson Plans and Discuss how to use the curriculum in your own context
10:55 AM	IFundisha! Incorporating Swahili Culture into the Language Arts Classroom View Presenters Joyce Mutsoli and Mercy Jamatia's Bios
11:45 AM	Break
11:55 AM	Break-out rooms--Create Lesson Plans and Discuss how to apply the curriculum in your own context
12:30 PM	Concluding Remarks, Discussion and Survey
1:00 PM	End Session

Need more info?
Visit our [website](#)



University of
Pittsburgh

African Studies Program
University Center for
International Studies

Looking Ahead

The Center for African Studies promotes the interdisciplinary study of Africa through teaching, research, and outreach. The center provides students with a rich learning environment that facilitates a comprehensive and critical understanding of Africa and the development of new ways of thinking about Africa within the larger global context.

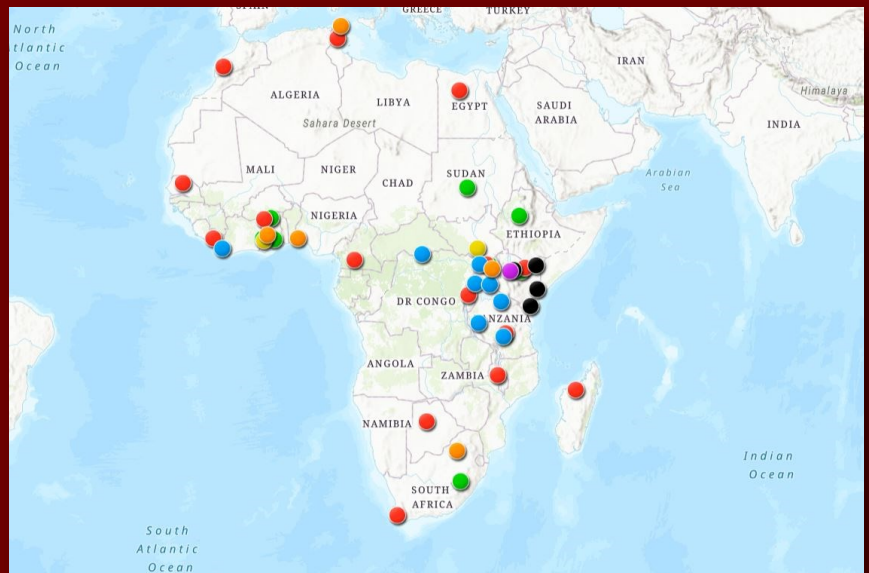
Through a diverse array of courses and outside of the classroom learning activities students are able to develop a better understanding of the continent's internal dynamics and its evolving place in the global space. Our mission is to train and prepare the next generation of African Studies scholars and experts who will apply their language skills and their enhanced knowledge in their professional careers and personal lives as they make their impact in the world.

With Appreciation

Our appreciation goes out to our affiliated faculty in the Arts & Sciences, as well as the professional schools for their active participation in advancing our mission and vision. Your immense contribution is invaluable to the African Studies Center's success. We appreciate all the work you do in teaching, research and community engagement. Let us continue to work together in partnership to make the program stronger and more successful. Let us pull together to continue to take the program to greater heights for the benefit of our students and future generations of Africanist scholars, experts and leaders.

Our appreciation also goes to our students, both past and present, for their interest in African Studies and for their desire to help to make the world a better place through their service.

Last but not least, thank you to our incredible staff team, who work tirelessly to ensure that we are successful at what we do. We look ahead to progress, growth and continuing the conversations about all things Africa. We invite you to join us in your respective capacities so that we remain one strong African Studies community!



The map above depicts the various connections the Center for African Studies at Pitt has in the continent of Africa. Our reach in the continent is quite large; however, even more expansive is Africa's footprint on African Studies. The yellow dots identify where our current students or their families reside or are from. The various opportunities that African Studies offers—internships, study abroad programs, and research—are identified by the red dots on the map. The blue dots on the map represent the locations that our scholarship winners travelled to in Africa. The black dots depict where our FLTAs originate from. African Studies' visiting scholars can be identified on the map by the orange dots. As you can see, these scholars come from northern, southern, western, and eastern parts of Africa. An interactive and informative version of the map is available [here](#).

Join us on the journey! We look ahead to progress, growth and continuing the conversation about all things Africa. Follow us on social media and check out our website.

<https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa>

<https://www.facebook.com/PittAfricanStudies/>

https://twitter.com/Pitt_Africa

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/african-studies-a4b3a371/>

https://www.instagram.com/pitt_africast/

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Africanst>