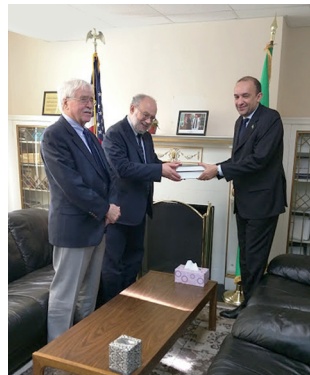


### Arabic Literature of Africa receives prestigious award

*The Arabic Literature of Africa, Volume 5—The Writings of Mauritania and the Western Sahara* (Brill, 2015) won the African Studies Association’s 2016 Conover Porter Award recognizing outstanding Africa-related reference works, bibliographies, or bibliographic essays published in any country during the preceding two years. The volume’s compiler, Charles Stewart, accepted the award at the ASA’s 59th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, in December.

Compilation of the volume was a six-year project led by Stewart and Sidi Ahmed ould Ahmed Salim and supported by the Ford Foundation’s “Constituting Bodies of Islamic Knowledge” grant to the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa. Additional contributors include Mohamed Nouhi, Babacar Mbengue, Abdel Wedoud ould Cheikh, and Bruce S. Hall.

Nominators praised the volume’s “analytical rigor, depth, and breadth of erudition,” describing it as a “work which transcends the class of bibliography or reference” and an “inexhaustible mine of sources and resources for avid explorers into the historic and intellectual past and present of Africa.” One nominator wrote



*Mohamedoun Daddah (right) accepts a gift copy of the prizewinning book from Robert Launay and Charles Stewart.*

that Stewart “achieved a tremendous effort, both individual and collective, gathering all these titles, which cover 300 years of literary production and include more than 10,000 works and a total of 1,874 authors.”

Stewart, ISITA interim director Robert Launay, ISITA associate director Rebecca Sherekis, and Herskovits Library curator Esmeralda Kale presented a copy of *Arabic Literature of Africa* to His Excellency Mohamedoun

Daddah, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the United States, during a visit to the Embassy of Mauritania. The book is a gift for the Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Scientifique in Nouakchott.

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### ISITA receives grant in support of African manuscript curators

The German-based Gerda Henkel Foundation has awarded a \$43,360 grant to the Institute for the Study of Islamic thought in Africa to support the participation of 10 Africa-based manuscript curators and calligraphers in an interdisciplinary manuscript training workshop in 2017.

“Working with African Arabic Script Manuscripts” will be held at PAS and the Herskovits Library of African Studies August 14–19, organized by ISITA, the University of Illinois Center for African Studies (Northwestern’s Title VI National Resource Center consortium partner), and the University of Hamburg Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures.

The intensive six-day workshop will be the first of its kind to focus uniquely on the rich Arabic manuscript traditions of sub-Saharan Africa, including the practice of writing African languages in Arabic script (*ajami*). The workshop aims to train participants in a holistic approach to Africa’s manuscript tradition that combines attention to the materiality of Arabic manuscripts with exploration

*continued on page 19*

## Talking Timbuktu with Mohamed Diagayete

In late September ISITA hosted a two-day visit by Mohamed Diagayete, senior researcher at Timbuktu's Institut des Hautes Etudes et de Recherches Islamiques Ahmed Baba (IHERI-AB), as part of PAS's collaboration with its Title VI consortium partner, the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Diagayete spent several weeks at UIUC on a West African Research Association residency fellowship facilitated by Mauro Nobili (history, UIUC), who shares Diagayete's interest in Fulani scholars in West Africa.

In an outreach event on September 27, Diagayete spoke at the Evanston Public Library on "The 2012 Crisis in Northern Mali and Its Repercussions on the 'Timbuktu Manuscripts'" in conjunction with the EPL's nonfiction book club's reading of the 2016 book *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* by Joshua Hammer. Diagayete introduced the audience to the history and holdings of IHERI-AB, Timbuktu's state-owned and largest manuscript repository, and described the harrowing 2012 evacuation of most of its holdings—over 30,000 items—to Bamako.

On September 28 Diagayete spoke at PAS on "The Contributions of Fulani Scholars to the Development of Islamic Scholarship in Mali, 18th–19th Centuries." The talk drew attention to Fulani scholars from the caliphate of Hamdallahi (c.1818–53), located in Masina (present-day Mali). Challenging the accepted notion that Mali's Middle Niger region was a backwater in the intellectual history of the Fulani, Diagayete demonstrated the vibrancy of the Fulani *ulama* of this region and highlighted the rich potential of manuscript sources from IHERI-AB and other repositories to shed further light on their contributions.

In between talks, Diagayete sat down for an interview with ISITA associate director Rebecca Shereikis about his research interests, the situation in Timbuktu, and the future of manuscript studies in Mali.

### **Tell me about your own education and how you came to your research topic on Fulani scholars of the Middle Niger.**

I was born in Sankoro in the region of Mopti. I began my traditional education there within my family and then

continued at *madradas* in Mopti and Bamako. I obtained my master's and PhD in Islamic civilization from the Ez-zeitouna University of Tunis (Tunisia). I always had a passion for African history. Although my degrees were in Islamic civilization, I was an avid reader of works by Africans, including the West African Arabic chronicles, the *Tarikh al-Sudan* and the *Tarikh al-Fettash*, and the works of Amadou Hampâté Bâ. I also read the writings of explorers such as René Caillé and Félix DuBois, and secondary works on the history of Fulani-speaking peoples.

### **How did you end up at IHERI-AB?**

I knew that manuscripts were the most certain source for documenting the intellectual contributions of Fulani from the time and place I was interested in. So I visited IHERI-AB for the first time in 2003, when still working on my doctorate, and spent a month there doing research. I was eventually hired to work at IHERI-AB as a cataloger/researcher. So I was working for IHERI-AB at the same time I prepared my doctorate, which was very lucky in that I had the chance to read deeply and really understand the manuscripts that I was cataloging for my job.

### **Your doctoral thesis is titled "Contribution of the Fulani of Mali to the Islamic Civilization in the 18th and 19th Centuries." What would you most like people to know about the contributions of Fulani scholars from the Middle Niger region in Mali?**

For me, their contribution was especially in the religious domain. Others have already written about the contributions of the Fulani [of Masina] in the political domain and their state building (for example, Bintou Sanankoua). So my thesis gives a short overview of Masina's political organization. My real focus is on several learned men, including the caliphate's founder, Ahmad Lobbo (d. 1845), and his successors. I examine their writings, whether in the domain of history, literature, or Islamic sciences, such as *fiqh*, *tafsir*, etc. I also try to understand the relationship between written sources and oral traditions in this context. Sometimes the information that is recounted in sources that we classify as "oral" can be traced back to the written record. My objective was

to demonstrate that this area of study is an open field—to show other researchers the possibilities and pave the way for deeper studies later on.

**Are there young Malian students who are interested in this subject or in the use of manuscripts for their research?**

Yes, indeed. It was my objective to encourage young scholars with my work. This is not the type of research one person can do alone. My dream is to form a little research group and see what we can do with the manuscripts. And, fortunately, young scholars with these interests do exist. The real problem is that Malian university education is all located in Bamako, while the manuscripts [up until their evacuation] have been in Timbuktu. It is extremely difficult for students in Bamako to travel to Timbuktu for research purposes, even more so now after the crisis. This has discouraged many students from working with manuscripts in their own research.

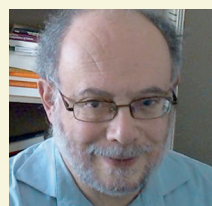
**You mentioned that IHERI-AB is supposed to start offering courses soon?**

Yes, the governmental plan indicated that courses would begin this year, but it will more likely be next year. There is much preparation—infrastructure, teachers—that needs to happen, and we are still recovering from the crisis. When IHERI-AB begins to offer courses, it should lead many more people to work on manuscripts since they will be studying in Timbuktu. But we are a bit worried that the problems that come with offering courses—such as strikes—will eclipse the focus on the manuscripts.

**So is the plan to return to Timbuktu the IHERI-AB manuscripts that were evacuated to Bamako?**

Yes, that is the plan, but the problem is security. There is no security in Timbuktu right now. On the road, you can easily be stopped by thieves who will rob you, but what can you do? The state is still very weak and cannot assure security as they should. People have armed themselves. It's an extraordinary situation; people cannot describe it. You must live there in order to understand it. For all these reasons, it is best to leave the manuscripts in Bamako until a true, true peace is established.

## Robert Launay named ISITA interim director



The Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa has announced the appointment of Robert Launay, professor of anthropology at Northwestern, as interim

director for the 2016–17 academic year.

A social/cultural anthropologist, Launay has authored several landmark studies in the anthropology of Islam, investigating Islamic identity in West African societies (especially Ivory Coast) and the roles of Muslim minorities historically specializing in trade. He is the author of *Traders without Trade* (1982) and *Beyond the Stream: Islam and Society in a West African Town* (1992), which won the Amaury Talbot Prize for best African ethnography in England in 1992. Launay's edited volume *Islamic Education in Africa: Writing Boards and Blackboards* was published by Indiana University Press in 2016. He has also published on the history of ethnography in Africa and on the "prehistory" of the field, including an edited anthology of early sources in anthropology, *Foundations of Anthropological Theory: From Classical Antiquity to the 18th Century* (Wiley/Blackwell 2010).

"Robert Launay has been a vital member of ISITA since its inception and has contributed immensely to the development of Northwestern as a hub for the study of Islam in Africa by training numerous graduate students, including many outside of his home department," observed ISITA associate director Rebecca Shereikis. "ISITA is grateful for Sean Hanretta's leadership as interim director last year and fortunate to now have Robert in this position."

## Northwestern well represented at annual meeting of Africanists

Northwestern scholars presented papers, chaired panels, and participated in roundtable and panel discussions at the 59th African Studies Association meeting in Washington, DC, in December. The conference theme was “Imagining Africa at the Center: Bridging Scholarship, Policy, and Representation in African Studies.”

The legacy of Northwestern professor John Hunwick was highlighted in four ASA panels. The Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa sponsored the first panel, “John O. Hunwick’s Legacy: Bibliographer of West African Manuscripts (Part I),” chaired by ISITA associate director Rebecca Sherekis. The Saharan Studies Association sponsored the other three “Hunwick’s Legacy” panels, which were titled “The Place of Shari’a in Songhay in African History (Part II),” chaired by ISITA director of programming Charles Stewart; “Slavery and the African Diasporas (Part III);” and “The Next Generation (Part IV).” ISITA also sponsored three other panels: “New Voices in the Study of Islam in Africa I: The Production and Contestation of Muslim Institutions in Contemporary Africa”; “New Voices in the Study of Islam in Africa II: Performance, Cultural Production,

and the Discursive Tradition across Muslim African Societies”; and “Race, Racecraft, and Racism in Islamic Africa.”

Faculty participants included Will Reno (PAS director and political science), who took part in the roundtable on “Exploring the Work of Stephen Ellis I: Politics, Money, and Criminal Networks” and was a discussant on the panel “Rebel Governance in Africa: Agency and Structure.” Galya Ruffer (Center for Forced Migration Studies director and political science) chaired the selection committee on migrations and mobilities and cochaired the roundtable “Africa, Africans, and the Global Migration ‘Crisis.’” Rachel Beatty Riedl (political science) chaired the panel “Political Parties in Africa at the Center: Comparative Studies of Representation” and presented a paper, “Authoritarian Successor Parties in Sub-Saharan Africa: Into the Wilderness and Back Again?” David Schoenbrun (history) presented the paper “Littoral Ethnic Formation in Uganda’s Earlier History, 900–1700.” Ibrahim N. Abusharif (journalism, Northwestern University in Qatar) presented the paper “Religion and Digital Media Studies.” Robert Launay (anthropology) was discussant for the panel “New Voices in the Study of Islam in Africa I.” Zachary Wright (NU-Q) presented the paper “John Hunwick’s Contribution to Songhay History.”

A number of graduate students also presented papers at the meeting. Marco Bocchese (political science) chaired the panel “Current Justice: Contrasting International and Regional Perspectives” and presented the paper “Justice Cooperatives: Explaining State Attitudes toward the ICC.” Kofi Asante (sociology) presented “‘A Government So Anomalous’: Moral, Juridical, and Fiscal Constraints on the Gold Coast Colonial State.” Moritz Nagel (history) presented “How Do Credit Arrangements Turn from Trade Facilitation to Debt Enforcement? Duala–German Trade and Colonial Conquest in the Cameroons.” Nathaniel Mathews (history) presented “‘Watu Wa Pajero’: Mobility, Wealth, and Images of the Arabian Gulf in Zanzibar.” Andrea Rosengarten (history) presented “‘Civilization Is What We Have Always Aimed at’: Negotiating Non-‘Native’ Status and Creating the ‘Coloured’ Category in Colonial Namibia under South African Rule, 1915–25.” Jessica Pouchet (anthropology) presented “Village Leadership and International Environmentalism: Mediating Global Tensions in a Tanzanian Rainforest.” Raevin Jimenez (history) presented “Social Animal, Political Beast: Precolonial Political Economic Concepts of Cattle-Keeping among Nguni-Speakers of South Africa.”



Mellon postdoctoral fellow Martha Wilfahrt chaired the panel “New Perspectives on Development and Modernity” and presented a paper, “Endogenous Decentralization? The Politics and Political Consequences of Sub-National Boundary Creation.” Buffett Institute postdoctoral fellow Kathleen Klaus presented the paper “Land Security and the Microfoundations of Election Violence: Evidence from Kenya.”

Other participants included Esmeralda M. Kale (curator, Herskovits Library), who moderated the ASA/Africana Library Council panel on “Exploring Modes of Communication and Library Services”; and Gene Kannenberg (Herskovits Library), who presented the paper “Exploring Social Activist Comic Art in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” Amy Settergren (PAS outreach coordinator) took part in several outreach activities, including the Teacher’s Workshop and the Washington, DC, National Resource Center Area Studies and Outreach Conference.



*Archaeological fragments of imported trade goods excavated from the ruins of Tadmekka, an early Islamic trading center in northern Mali (photo courtesy of Sam Nixon)*

## Block Museum receives grant for exhibition on trans-Saharan trade

Northwestern’s Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art has received a \$60,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund a 2019 exhibit on the global history of trans-Saharan trade. Challenging widely held notions of a timeless Africa cut off from the dynamics of world history, “Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture, and Trans-Saharan Exchange” will be the first major exhibition to assess the material culture of early trans-Saharan trade and to consider the role Africa played in medieval history.

“Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time” will address the shared history of West Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe during the critical epoch of the 8th through 16th centuries, when West African gold fueled a global economy and was the impetus for the movement of things, people, and ideas across the Sahara Desert to Europe, the Middle East, and beyond. Because of the scarcity of surviving intact works from before the 16th century, the early history and material culture of Africa have rarely been the focus of major exhibitions.

More than 100 assembled artworks and archeological fragments will help audiences discover the far-reaching impact of historic trans-Saharan exchange and the overlooked role of West Africa at the forefront of these developments. Using objects as points of entry and inquiry, “Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time” will interweave the art history, archaeology, history, and comparative literature of trans-Saharan trade, situating it within a broad geographical and historical context.

The exhibit will be presented by the Block Museum in partnership with the Yale University Art Gallery and will run January through July 2019. The exhibit has been a long-term project for Kathleen Bickford Berzock, who joined the Block as associate director of curatorial affairs in 2014 after 18 years supervising the African art collection at the Art Institute of Chicago.

## Outreach program continues African awareness activities, participates in national conferences

The PAS Title VI outreach program supported several fall workshops and lectures aimed at increasing African studies curriculum in Chicago-area K-12 schools and community colleges.

In October, outreach coordinator Amy Settergren led a three-hour seminar on “The Scramble for Africa” during a Newberry Library Teachers’ Consortium for 25 Chicago and suburban high school teachers. The seminar considered the range of causes and factors that led to the European conquest of the continent and African responses to the incursion. Seminar participants discussed effective ways to teach about Africa and imperialism in world history classes.

PAS built on its collaboration with Leslie Natzke, founder of Expanding Lives, a Chicago nonprofit that offers leadership training for young women from West Africa. A French teacher at an economically and ethnically diverse high school in the Chicago suburb of Skokie, Natzke frequently includes material on Francophone Africa and the Caribbean in her classes. As part of a unit on Haiti, she worked with PAS to arrange for Northwestern graduate students Arachi Jung and Brian McLoughlin to give presentations on Kreyol and Vodou (including the West African roots of both the language and religion) to five classes of 80 students total. The presentations will eventually be available on the PAS website.

The PAS outreach staff attended three conferences in Washington, DC, in December: the African Studies Association annual meeting, the National Council for the Social Studies annual meeting, and a special one-day Area Studies and Outreach Conference organized by the University of Illinois National Resource Centers with support from the Department of Education.

More than 40 K-12 teachers from in and around Washington, DC, attended the annual teachers’ workshop organized by the ASA Outreach Council. They heard presentations from African studies professors, outreach professionals, and fellow teachers about how to integrate African material into their curricula and to create new Africa lesson plans and activities for their classes. They also received literature, videos, and posters for their classrooms.

PAS, in conjunction with the 10 other African studies Title VI schools, supported a booth at the conference and three panels: “Resistance to Colonialism in Africa,” “Women and Resistance to Colonialism in Africa,” and “The Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai.” Through these presentations and the exhibit booth, the Outreach Council distributed information and resources on teaching Africa to about 375 K-12 social studies teachers from all over the United States.

The University of Illinois’s Area Studies and Outreach Conference, designed to bring together the 100 Title VI-funded NRCs across area studies, drew more than 80 National Resource Center representatives. The one-day event featured 21 presentations by 32 colleagues. Department of Education Deputy Assistant Secretary Mohamed Abdel-Kader began the day by welcoming participants and discussing the importance of the area studies and language education work. Participants highlighted activities of African studies centers in working toward collaboration and resource sharing with community colleges, K-12 teachers, and students.

## PAS adds titles to Working Papers series

The PAS Working Papers series showcases papers in African studies by Northwestern faculty, graduate students, advanced undergraduates, visiting scholars, resident research fellows, and other scholars. The objective of the series is to assist authors in soliciting feedback from peers. Working papers are posted on the PAS website and are also available in printed form. Recent additions to the series include the following:

### **“States, Conflict, and Islam: A Reconsideration of Jihad in the Gambia River Region, 1850–1900”**

In this working paper, David E. Skinner (history, Santa Clara University) reconsiders the nature of martial jihad through the evaluation of local oral historical documents, colonial records, and analyses by scholars on the legitimate requirements for martial movements in the Gambia River region between 1850 and 1900. The question raised is whether the movements were based on Islamic principles or were motivated primarily by territorial, commercial, and political goals. As the result of centuries of transregional commerce by Muslim merchants and the attendant networks developed by Muslim scholarly families, Islam was well established in the Sahel and Upper Guinea Coast by the 17th century. Commercial markets, Muslim states, and Islamic institutions developed during a long, generally peaceful process of change; however, development of the Atlantic slave traffic, the intrusion of European imperialism, and conflicts within Muslim communities and between Muslims and non-Muslims contributed to the creation of movements by Muslims who advocated martial jihad as a means to preserve proper Islamic practices.

### **Send PAS your working papers**

If you are interested in having a working paper considered for publication in the PAS Working Papers series, please email it to [african-studies@northwestern.edu](mailto:african-studies@northwestern.edu).

### **“Hostile Takeover? Corporate Interventions in Nollywood”**

In this working paper, Jonathan Haynes (English, Long Island University), a longtime Nollywood scholar, examines recent transformations in technologies, platforms, and ownership structures taking place in global Nollywood. He argues that while the corporate dimension of Nollywood may remain, new dynamics may help Nollywood move beyond the serious constraints from which it has always suffered; but new directions threaten Nollywood’s character as an autonomous industry of small-scale entrepreneurs that has stood by its popular audience through thick and thin, serving as a tribune of people.

## Panofsky awardees report on their research experiences

**Dil Singh Basanti** (archaeology) conducted preliminary dissertation reconnaissance in Ethiopia, investigating how “mythologies” of the family reconfigured larger social processes such as the global economy and cosmopolitanism in the Aksumite Empire (AD 50–700) of northern Ethiopia. His goal is to trace the large-scale material impact of personhood alternatives to western individualism and to explore how corporate/family personhoods changed over time. Remaining in Ethiopia until early 2017, he plans to discuss his project with local officials and archaeologists, acquire preliminary approval on techniques, gain input on research, outline permit expectations and a budget, visit sites, and survey facilities.

**Marco Bocchese** (political science) paid two visits to New York City last summer to interview diplomats and finalize the online survey that he later administered to about 1,500 New York-based diplomats. His dissertation project is titled “Justice Cooperatives: Explaining State Attitudes toward the International Criminal Court.”

**Gorgui Ibou Fall** (performance studies) spent a month in Senegal last summer, visiting three different griot communities in rural areas. Among the many people he interviewed were two well-known griots who provided valuable recommendations and advice for the next stage of his research. The griots assisted him in recruiting performers for his song recording and also provided contextual narratives. The research clarified the constitutive aspects of Fall’s project archive on oral literature in Senegal and other parts of West Africa.

**Christa Charbonneau Kuntzelman** (political science) spent nine weeks in Kampala, Uganda, for preliminary dissertation research on the politics of narrative representation of urban refugees. Specifically, she examined how different decision-makers and stakeholders in the international refugee regime think about agency and the power of urban refugees versus how refugees view themselves. In addition to working in areas with high refugee density, she spent time with many refugee-led organizations, observing the formal and informal community coping mechanisms deployed by refugees to improve their livelihoods and impact their communities.

**Sakhile Matlhare** (sociology) went to Berlin to complete the final leg of her dissertation fieldwork on how African contemporary artists contribute to the production and circulation of knowledge about their work alongside other cultural producers and African contemporary art “experts.” Her work is part of a larger case study of artists primarily based in New York City and Berlin who participate in the curation and circulation of cultural knowledge through their use of writing, research, and issue-specific projects. Her findings suggest that the conflation of the artists’ biographies and their work—which is often employed as a device to contextualize the art and the artist in relation to other art works, art genres, and artists—tends to flatten rather than enrich the understanding of the artists’ work. Meanwhile, the simultaneous rise in interest in art by Africans during the last 10 years, as well as the increased funding opportunities and access to both physical and virtual platforms, has enabled artists who make it into these spaces to mobilize specific agendas, particularly with reference to various interpretations of the concept of “Africaness.”



**Susanna Sacks** (English) used her Panofsky Award to support two months of study in South Africa, where she has been attending performances, meeting with poets, and working with organizers to help promote events, and building on three months of separately funded research and language study in Malawi. She is also travelling to Cape Town, where she will attend weekly poetry performances. In addition, she plans to attend the 20th annual Poetry Africa festival in Durban, which is the largest and oldest poetry festival on the continent. Sacks's work investigates how art, audience, and community may be mutually constitutive.

*Compiled by Delali Kumavi, graduate student in English and cocoordinator of the graduate student seminar Afrisem.*

## Foundation holds conference on health awareness in Africa

The Chicago-based Golden Hope Foundation collaborated with PAS to organize a miniconference on "Health Awareness in Africa for the 21st Century" on September 19. The event at PAS was attended by Chicago-area healthcare workers and community advocates as well as students and faculty affiliated with PAS and Northwestern's Global Health Program.

In her opening remarks, GHF founder and president Beatrice Chukwu noted the need to increase health and wellness knowledge in the communities in Nigeria where she and her team of healthcare providers have conducted medical missions for years. Conference participants discussed a range of health challenges facing the developing world, from mental illness and its stigmatization, the need for health literacy awareness, and the lack of senior care and aging-in-place programs to the failure to stem river blindness. GHF hopes to develop programs as part of its medical missions in Nigeria that will advocate for government investment in mental health treatment and community education on various levels. Nkiru Okolo, a medical doctor affiliated with GHF, led a discussion on river blindness and how the World Health Organization, other agencies, and African governments have worked to ameliorate the effects of the disease.

Founded in 2008, the Golden Hope Foundation supports early childhood education in Nigeria, primary school education in Haiti, medical missions to Nigeria, and back-to-school and community outreach programs in underserved areas of Chicago.



*Will Reno (front row, second from left) and Golden Hope Foundation representatives at the conference on health awareness in Africa*

## Support for undergraduate and graduate research available

### Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships

Summer FLAS fellowships provide funding to current Northwestern undergraduate and graduate students to pursue intensive summer study of an African language. Students may study any less commonly taught language—defined as any modern foreign language other than Spanish, German, or French—used in Africa as participants in an eligible US- or overseas-based summer intensive language program. Summer FLAS fellowships provide up to \$5,000 for program tuition and required fees and a \$2,500 stipend for living and travel expenses. For more information on FLAS eligibility criteria and application instructions, visit [africanstudies.northwestern.edu/funding/flas](http://africanstudies.northwestern.edu/funding/flas). **Deadline to apply: February 1.**

### Herskovits Undergraduate Research Awards

In collaboration with the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and the associate provost for undergraduate education, PAS administers this award program to encourage undergraduate research in the Herskovits Library. Over two consecutive quarters, award recipients will work on their proposed projects, guided by their faculty mentor and the Herskovits Library curator. Each student will also prepare a related bibliographic project involving regular consultation with the curator. Both projects must be completed and presented at an appropriate event by the end of spring quarter. Undergraduate students in all schools of Northwestern are eligible to apply. Projects may range from traditional research papers, choreographed dance performances, and art exhibits to websites and film festivals. **Deadline to apply: April 15**

### African Research Leadership Awards

These grants are awarded to enable students to develop, manage, and complete projects examining issues in African studies that relate to the students' academic interests and programs of study. The project may meet the research/immersion experience requirement of the African studies adjunct major or be an extension of relevant research completed in a previous course. All first-, second-, and third-year Northwestern undergraduates in any department or school are eligible to apply. Preference is given to African studies adjunct majors, minors, and undergraduate Africa seminar (Afrilogue) participants. Grants of varying amounts up to \$4,000 are awarded. **Deadline to apply: April 15**

### Hans E. Panofsky Predissertation Research Awards

Established to honor the late curator emeritus of the Herskovits Library, these awards support Northwestern graduate students planning to do predissertation fieldwork or archival research in Africa. They are normally granted for work during the summer, but exceptions may be made. **Deadline to apply: February 29.**

### Morris Goodman Awards

These awards provide approximately \$2,000 for graduate students in their second year or later to study an African language not taught at Northwestern. Applicants must submit letters that describe their research and language-study plans, justify the need for language training, and specify how the training will be completed. If tutoring is proposed, information about the tutor is required, including a curriculum vitae and documentation of visa status for remuneration purposes. For other types of language study, students must provide such information as the strengths of the program, the syllabus, and evaluations. Awards are granted on a rolling basis.

## Guyer-Virmani Awards

Established in honor of former PAS director Jane Guyer and former associate director Akbar Virmani, these one-time awards allow students to travel to archives and participate in conferences. They are conferred to PAS graduate students in their third year or later, particularly students who have completed predissertation research and already received a Panofsky Award. Awards are normally in the range of \$200–\$400 and are granted on a rolling basis.

## Working Groups Awards

PAS will provide up to \$5,000 to fund a working group—a small community of scholars including at least one faculty member who regularly come together around a common research interest in African studies. Groups vary in their approaches and goals, and their activities may include lecture series, discussions of empirical and theoretical works, collaborative research, and production of a working paper series. Applications must include a two-page description of the group's purpose, plans, and a budget. **Deadline to apply: May 2.**

## John Hunwick Research Fund

Honoring the late professor emeritus whose work made significant contributions to the scholarship about Muslim societies in West Africa, this endowment supports research by Northwestern faculty and graduate students on Islam in Africa. Awards are given annually and may be used to fund travel to an archive or library or to conduct field research; to fund expenses associated with a graduate student's presenting a paper related to Islam and Africa at a conference; or to organize the visit of a scholar of Islam and Africa to Northwestern to give a lecture, visit a class, or interact with students. Applications must include a two- to three-page proposal detailing research, conference participation, or plans for a visiting speaker, along with a detailed budget and a curriculum vitae. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis.

## PAS Travel Awards

Available to all PAS graduate students, these awards contribute \$250 toward the costs of participating in an Africa-related conference, usually to present a paper. The application must be submitted before the conference, but funds may not be received until after the event, depending on the University pay cycle. Awards are granted on a rolling basis.

**Complete application instructions for all awards can be found at [www.northwestern.edu/african-studies/graduate-studies/awards.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/african-studies/graduate-studies/awards.html). If you have questions, please call 847-491-7323 or email [african-studies@northwestern.edu](mailto:african-studies@northwestern.edu). All award decisions (excluding FLAS) are made by the PAS Executive Committee.**

## Northwestern's Swahili students experience cultural immersion

Swahili instructor Michael Wairungu and some of his students attended three Swahili-language services at the Living Waters Community Church in Chicago in the fall. Students were able to introduce themselves in Swahili to the congregants, who were predominantly Swahili-speaking immigrants from East Africa. The students also witnessed the complex multilingualism characteristic of East Africa as congregants seamlessly switched between Swahili, English, French, and Kirundi in their interactions.

Also in the fall, with support from PAS and the Northwestern Council for Language Instruction, Wairungu organized four Swahili Conversation Tables to enable Swahili students to practice speaking with indigenous speakers as well as with staff and faculty who have visited or worked in East Africa. Similar extracurricular events and immersion tours in the Chicago area are planned for winter and spring quarters.

## News from the Herskovits Library



*Above: Herskovits Library staff and the Manwerehene (center, in traditional dress) with a selection of library materials on the Asante; right: the Manwerehene and special envoy Samuel Akainyah*



## Kumasi Traditional Council member visits

In September the Herskovits Library hosted a visit by Baffour Osei Hyiaman Brantuo VI, Manwerehene of the Asante people in Ghana, who was interested in examining the Herskovits Library's holdings on the history of his people. The Manwerehene was accompanied by Samuel Akainyah, special envoy to Ghana, who presented Herskovits curator Esmeralda Kale with a print of one of his paintings. The Manwerehene also met with Martin Antonetti, director of distinctive collections, and with Officer Jude Oraegbu, a Nigerian immigrant and member of Northwestern University Police.

*—Gene Kannenberg, Africana library assistant*



## Major collections now on one floor

For the first time in decades, all of the Herskovits Library's onsite collections are centralized and in order on the fifth floor of University Library. The newest books (with Library of Congress call numbers), the Dewey 900 books, and current periodicals are located in the 5 East tower, and the rest of the Dewey collection (000–899) is located in the 5 South tower. No more Gold Section or overflow book trucks!

The new configuration includes a collaborative workspace and a comfortable reading nook. There is still some interfiling to be done, so any questions about finding a book should be addressed to any member of the Africana staff.



One of the Herskovits Library's reconfigured workspaces

By clicking on “Virtual Browse,” NUsSearch catalog users can see a representation of the item they wish to view and all of the items next to it on the shelf. Even if an item is housed off site, this feature allows researchers to see closely related books on their topic of interest.

## Bibliographies relocated to Oak Grove facility

As part of the Herskovits Library's reorganization, most of the Africana bibliographies have been moved to the Northwestern Libraries' offsite storage facility in Oak Grove, Illinois. The most recent bibliographies remain on the shelves in 5 East.

Please note that offsite materials can easily be requested and are usually delivered in only a day or two. Simply sign in to the online catalog NUsSearch and click the “Get It” tab to request an item.

## Surf's up on N'gor Island

by Jacob Frazer

The early-morning Muslim prayer calls rang out as I stood on the beach at dawn and looked toward the island that lay faintly in the distance ahead of me. Next to me was a man named Samba, who had waited to greet me at the airport and taken me across Dakar via taxi. In spite of our troubles communicating through my broken French and his broken English, I immediately felt the *teranga* (hospitality) of the Senegalese people

As we waited to be picked up by a ferryboat, I wondered what was in store for me over the coming 40 days. Here I was, on the westernmost tip of the mainland of Africa, looking toward N'gor Island, a small fishing village of just a few

I found myself in Senegal by way of unusual circumstances. Several months earlier, after watching the cult classic 1964 surf documentary *The Endless Summer*, I wanted to find out how the film had inspired the rise of surfing in Senegal decades later. I could not grasp from the film, however, what life was like on this West African island. I wanted to experience it for myself.

I woke up the next morning to the noise of breakfast chatter and walked outside and introduced myself to my new roommates, who had come from Spain, the Netherlands, and Morocco. With them were local surfers Kouka and Moor, who worked at the camp and spent their days there. The Senegalese surf community is small and tight-knit. Most of the surfers are employed by a growing surf tourism industry, which has brought a welcome boost in tourism to N'gor Island and other surf spots in Dakar.

In the first few days the prospect of creating this short surf documentary felt unfamiliar and daunting. I had never done a project like this, and I had many concerns about how the surfers would respond to someone unfamiliar filming them. I realized that I could not take out my camera gear immediately; I would have to start meeting people in the surf community, let them know what I was doing, and earn their trust and respect.

Over the coming weeks I pushed myself to learn as much as I could about the island. Every day I took Wolof lessons with an instructor named Mamgor, who taught me the Wolof proverb "*Ben natat moonool war nyari bom*," meaning "We can't ride two donkeys at once." He reminded me to focus on one task at a time. If I first made an effort to meet people and learn the language, the filming would be an easier and more enjoyable process.

Since N'gor Island has just a few hundred inhabitants, I was able to get to know a good number of them. I became friends with Elaj, a drummer; David, a man who carved wooden sculptures with a piece of glass; and Lampafall, a painter. The small island was filled with beautiful surprises around each corner. I found myself getting lost in the hidden walkways, beautiful murals, and the constant rhythm of



hundred permanent residents. I would be spending the second half of my summer on the island, researching and filming a short documentary on the local surf community.

A small boat finally came and picked us up, and five minutes later we arrived on the island. Samba took me through a maze of short walls and escorted me into the courtyard of the surf camp where I would be staying. I set my bags down and pulled the mosquito net over my bed as I lay down, exhausted in the West African heat.





the *djembe* drum. It was easy to forget about the hustle and bustle of the Senegalese capital of Dakar, just a five-minute boat ride away.

My days were simple and fulfilling. If the wave on the island was working well, I would spend the morning filming and then catch some waves myself. If the surf was better on the mainland, I would venture there with others to meet a driver who would take us to one of the three main surfing spots in Dakar. One of these, named Secret Spot, serves as the main hangout for the local surf community. There, I spent time getting to know the best surfers in Senegal.

Because it lies on a peninsula perched in the Atlantic Ocean, Dakar is one of the most consistent surf locations in all of Africa. It picks up swells from the north and south, so the ocean around it is never quiet. For Senegal's up-and-coming surfers, the waves present a consistent and dependable alternative balanced against a lack of employment and educational opportunities. I was fascinated as I watched and filmed the best young surfers in Senegal, whose perseverance and passion for surfing culminated in community, friendship, connection with the ocean, healthy living, and finding beauty even in the most turbulent moments of life.

My time on N'gor Island and in Dakar opened my heart to a new way. I found that family, friends, and happiness are what people in Senegal value most—things we often overlook in the material indulgences of American culture. I never once felt unsafe. I felt welcome and appreciated, inspired to reciprocate these gestures of friendliness to others in my life. I am grateful for the Goodman Award and the support I received from the Program of African Studies in helping make possible this experience of challenge, growth, and self-discovery. As I spend the coming months piecing together hundreds of gigabytes of clips, I will always remember the people I met, the experiences I had, and the things I learned. I'm motivated to leave behind a video that not only serves as document of Senegalese surf culture but also inspires others to appreciate the vast beauty of this planet.

*Jacob Frazer is an undergraduate in the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications. He traveled to Senegal on a Morris Goodman Award in summer 2016.*

## Community news

**Abdeta Beyene** (graduate student, political science) presented her paper on “The Practicalities of Living with Failed States” at a November workshop organized by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The workshop discussed draft essays for a forthcoming academy publication on the theme “Civil Wars, Violence, and International Responses.”

**Marco Bocchese** (graduate student, political science) published the article “Coercing Compliance with the ICC: Empirical Assessment and Theoretical Implications” in *Michigan State International Law Review* 24 (2016): 357–432.

Alumnus **Charles Adams Cogan**, currently an administrator at Carleton College, published the article “Fighting Polio: Nearly Eradicated Worldwide—Nearly,” in the September 1 issue of the *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis). Cogan cochairs the PolioPlus Committee of Rotary District 5960 and has led Rotarian teams for polio vaccination in West Africa.

**William FitzSimmons** (graduate student, history) has won an International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council to conduct research in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya in 2016–17.

Alumnus **Attahiru Muhammadu Jega** has been named Oxford University’s Blavatnik School of Government’s inaugural African Initiative for Governance (AIG) Visiting Fellow of Practice. The scheme is part of a five-year partnership between the Blavatnik School and AIG based on the shared purpose of building good governance and public leadership. Also a visiting scholar at the School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, Jega is former chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (2010–15) and former vice chancellor of Bayero University (2005–10).



## In memoriam

### **James Lyons Kingsland (1943–2016)**

James Lyons Kingsland died on January 17, 2016, at his home in Valparaiso, Indiana. He received his PhD in political science from Northwestern in 1972, having written his dissertation on “Local Government Decision-Making in Sierra Leone.” After leaving Northwestern, he went on to earn a law degree at Valparaiso University. He taught at Penn State and practiced law for some time before joining Valparaiso’s political science department, from which he retired in 2012 after 17 years of service. He was active in community race relations, volunteered as a court-appointed special advocate, and worked with children and adolescents in the court system.

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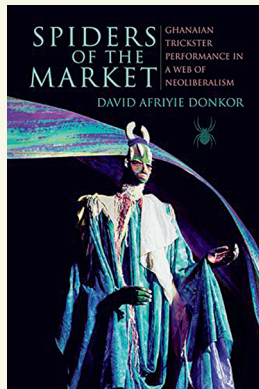
**Richard Joseph** (political science) published the article “Buhari’s Nigeria: John Kerry’s Tough Love Message,” on the AfricaPlus website (africaplus.wordpress.com) in September. He also gave a lecture on “Obama’s Uncertain Legacy: Peace, Justice, and Democracy” at Dartmouth College in October.

**Esmeralda Kale** (Herskovits Library) presented “A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words’: The Humphrey Winterton Collection of East African Photographs, 1860–1960” at the Africa Section Satellite Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, held at Ohio University in August. The conference theme was “Building Cross-Cultural Capabilities for Universal Access to Information and Knowledge in Africa.”

**Jahara “Franky” Matisek** (graduate student, political science) received the General Larry D. Selch Deterrence Writing Award at the July 27–28 United States Strategic Command Deterrence Symposium in Omaha.

**Moritz Nagel** (graduate student, history) was awarded the 2016 African Studies Association Graduate Student Prize for his paper “Precolonial Segmentation Revisited: Initiation Societies, Talking Drums, and the Ngondo Festival in the Cameroons.”

## New books by PAS alumni



**David Afriyie Donkor** (PhD, performance studies) has published *Spiders of the Market: Ghanaian Trickster Performance in a Web of Neoliberalism* (Indiana University Press, 2016). He examines how Ananse, the Ghanaian trickster-spider, blurs the lines of class, politics, and morality. He argues that social performance is a way to understand trickster behavior within the shifting process of political legitimiza-

tion in Ghana, revealing stories that exploit the social ideologies of economic neoliberalism and political democratization. Although neither ideology was fully integrated in national policy, Donkor reveals how the Ghanaian government shrewdly sold the ideas to the people, adapting trickster-rooted performance techniques to reinterpret citizenship and the common good. Trickster performers resisted this takeover of their art and devised new ways to out-trick the tricksters.



**Claire Metelits** (PhD, political science) has published *Security in Africa: A Critical Approach to Western Indicators of Threat* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016).

This study questions the dominant Western narrative of security threats in Africa. Based on an analysis of traditional security studies and Western security policy, it argues that commonly used indicators are based on mainstream security studies and provide only circumscribed analyses of threats

to international security. Through assessing the origins of this traditional approach to security and problematizing failed states, political instability, Muslim populations, and poverty, among others, Metelits calls for a critical approach to framing security challenges in Africa.

## Community news

**Will Reno** (PAS director and political science) presented the papers “Aid and Intervention in Africa” at the Peace Research Institute Oslo in August and “Domestic Politics in Fragile States—A Non-Western Approach” at a November workshop organized by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He also participated in a research seminar, “Armed Group Cohesion in the Context of State Failure,” at Indiana University’s School of Global and International Studies in October.

**Jeff Rice** (history) has been named to the 2016–17 Faculty Honor Roll by Northwestern’s Associated Student Government.

**Rachel Riedl** (political science) and **Sera Young** (anthropology) are among the eight new fellows who joined Northwestern’s Institute for Policy Research in 2016. Their work investigates issues related to inequality in developing countries and aims to internationalize domestic policy interests by uncovering various social policy mechanisms in other countries that resonate with similar US policies. In addition, Riedl’s research was featured in *Research News*, the official publication of Northwestern’s Office for Research.

**David Schoenbrun** (history) contributed a chapter, “Word, Things, and Meaning: Linguistics as a Tool for Historical Reconstruction,” to

the *Oxford Handbook of African Languages*, edited by R. Vossen and G. Dimmendaal (Oxford University Press, 2017).

**Rebecca Shereikis** (ISITA and PAS) published the entry “Law: Articulation of Islamic/Non-Islamic Systems: West Africa” in the online *Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures*, edited by Suad Joseph (Brill, Supplement 14, 2016).

**Noelle Sullivan** (anthropology and global health studies) was awarded a Public Voices Fellowship through the OpEd Project, a social venture that seeks to increase the number of women thought leaders contributing to key commentary forums. Sullivan’s

## Five students receive PhDs

PAS congratulates the following students who successfully defended their PhD dissertations last spring:

**Ariel Sobel Bookman** (English), “Commodity Fictions: Consumption and the World of Kenyan Fiction, 1963–2012.” Evan Mwangi, adviser.

**Emilie Chestnutt Boone** (art history), “Producing Harlem: The Photographs of James Van Der Zee and the Making of Local and African Diasporic Visual Cultures of the 20th Century.” Krista Thompson, adviser.

**Bethlehem Hailu Dejene** (anthropology), “Policing the Boundaries of the ‘Orthodox’: Modernity, Evil, and Morality in Exorcisms of Post-Socialist Addis Ababa.” Robert Launay, adviser.

**Nicholas William Stephenson Smith** (history), “The Making of a Colonial Regime of Sovereignty in the Southern Red Sea: Three

Entrepreneurs of Maritime Violence and their Networks, c. 1880 to 1930.” Jonathon Glassman, adviser.

**Soo Ryon Yoon** (performance studies), “Dancing Africa, (Un)Doing Koreanness: Circulation of African Culture in Contemporary South Korea.” Susan A. Manning, adviser.

Send your news updates to  
[laray.denzer@northwestern.edu](mailto:laray.denzer@northwestern.edu)  
so that PAS can share word  
with the Africanist community  
at Northwestern and beyond.

first op-ed, “We Need to Stop Sending Unskilled Volunteers to Countries that Need Care,” was published in the online magazine *Motherboard* in November.

**Helen Tilley** (history) received a “Big Ideas” grant from Northwestern’s Buffett Institute for Global Studies for her co-led multidisciplinary research project “Global Medical Cultures and Law, 2016–19.” She was concurrently named a Buffett faculty fellow.

**Michael Wairungu** (Swahili) presented a paper, “Styling the Body: Staging Protest among Students in Urban High Schools in Kenya,” at the Ninth Kenya Scholars and Studies Conference in Atlanta in September.

**Vanessa Watters** (graduate student, anthropology) received a 2016 Global Politics and Religion Summer Graduate Research Fellowship from Northwestern’s Buffett Institute. Her project, “Prosperity on the Periphery: Christian Social Welfare in Coastal West Africa,” examines the coastal West African region as a major historical corridor for Catholic and Pentecostal institutions, as well as contemporary exchanges and transformations in Christian communities in Accra, Lomé, and Cotonou.

of their contents and the intellectual contexts in which they were produced.

Ten curators and calligraphers will serve as instructors and resource persons for the first three days of the workshop (supported by PAS and UIUC’s Title VI National Resource Center grant), in which US-based scholars, researchers, and librarians will be trained to work with Arabic manuscripts from Africa. Hands-on sessions will allow participants to use the Herskovits Library’s unique collection of over 4,000 manuscripts from northern Nigeria and UIUC’s microfilm collection of one of West Africa’s largest private manuscript collections from Boutilimit, Mauritania. The workshop’s final three days will focus on the African curators’ priorities, including cataloging, preservation, and digitization adapted to local needs, and the development of a training guide for curators to use at their home institutions. Evening cultural programs throughout the week will be open to the public and showcase the craft of calligraphy and the manuscript arts.

An organizing committee selected the workshop’s cohort of seven curators, who represent private, university, regional, and national collections in West Africa, the Horn, and East and Southeastern Africa, in addition to three master calligraphers. “ISITA is thrilled to be able to include these 10 experts in what promises to be a groundbreaking workshop, unique in the synergy it will create between those who use manuscripts and those who are charged with preserving and making them accessible,” noted ISITA associate director Rebecca Shereikis. “We intend to use this pilot experience to devise, in collaboration with our international partners, a longer-term plan for a sustainable and replicable training program. We are grateful to the Gerda Henkel Foundation for its generous support.”

The Gerda Henkel Foundation is a private, nonprofit grant-making organization based in Dusseldorf, Germany. It is dedicated to promoting the humanities, particularly the historical sciences, archaeology, art history, and historical subdisciplines. In 2015 the foundation inaugurated a “Patrimonies” funding initiative focusing on the preservation of cultural heritage, specifically in regions experiencing crisis, and recently joined with German partners to support the preservation of the Timbuktu manuscripts that were evacuated to Bamako during Mali’s 2012 crisis.

## Events calendar

**Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at PAS, 620 Library Place, Evanston; noon events include lunch.**

### JANUARY

11 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Peace and Healing: Community-Based Healthcare in Northern Uganda,” a roundtable discussion with **Oyoo Benson** and **Olanya Denish** (Northern Uganda Medical Mission) and **James R. Walker** (philosophy and peace, justice, and conflict studies, DePaul University).

18 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Why ‘Modern’ Muslims? Talking about *Modern Muslims: A Sudan Memoir*,” **Steve Howard** (Center for International Studies and School of Media Arts and Studies, Ohio University).

21 through April 16

“Kader Attia: Reflecting Memory,” a main gallery exhibition at the Block Museum, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.

25 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Was He or Wasn’t He? Sultan Muhammad Bello and the Tijaniyya Controversy: Tariqa Affiliation in 19th-Century Northern Nigeria,” **Paul Naylor** (African studies and anthropology, University of Birmingham).

### FEBRUARY

1 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Juvenile Justice in Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and Côte d’Ivoire: Reflections from a Practitioner

Perspective,” **Joshua Dankoff** (Massachusetts Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum).

8 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Escape from Nigeria: A Memoir of Faith, Love, and War,” **Maudlyne Ihejirika** (urban affairs reporter and assistant city editor, *Chicago Sun-Times*).

15 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Continuity Despite Change: Kenya’s New Constitution and Executive Power,” **Mai Hassan** (political science, University of Michigan).

22 noon–1:15 p.m.

“Selecting the State or Choosing the Chief? The Political Determinants of Smallholder Titling in Zambia and Senegal,” **Lauren Honig** (Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame).

### MARCH

1 noon–1:15 p.m.

“African Literature and Social Media,” **Ainehi Edoro** (English, Marquette University).

2 5–7 p.m.

“The Artist in the Archive: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Kader Attia in the Herskovits Library,” a presentation by **Esmeralda Kale** (curator, Herskovits Library) and **Afrisem** students. Block Museum, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.

7 through March 8

Conference on “Democracy and Insecurity in Africa,” cosponsored by PAS, the political science department, the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago, and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Details to be announced.

8 noon–1:15 p.m.

“The Berber Groups of Tripolitania and the Emergence of the Ethnic Discourse in Colonial Libya, 1911–22,” **Chiara Pagano** (history, Roma Tre University).

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