

AFRICAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH FORUM (ASRF)

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From the ASRF's President's Corner

The ASRF's 20th Meeting, which was held jointly with the Association of Global South Studies at Indiana University-Southeast, Richmond, Indiana, from November 2016, provided a unique opportunity for both stock-taking, and for charting the future direction of the organization for the next 20 years plus more. Frankly, the meeting was the most frank and critical self-introspection in the history of the organization. There were two resulting major benefits, which bore very well for the future of the organization. First, some of the major shortcomings, as well as the successes of the organization during its first two decades were articulated. This was quite laudable, because the admission of shortcomings is not a common human trait. Nonetheless, by so doing, the ASRF recognized that all human endeavors are fraught with shortcomings, no matter how well intentioned the undertakings might be. Second, the organization made a firm commitment to learn from the shortcomings, build on its successes, and to forge a new path in the continual pursuance and fulfillment of the organization's mission. I would like to thank the members of the ASRF, who participated in that historic meeting.

So, as we embark upon the next 20 years plus, I would like to unequivocally state that my colleagues and I in the leadership of our venerable organization are determined to pursue the path that was charted at the organization's historic 20th Meeting. In this vein, we will formulate and implement projects that advance the organization's three core pillars of service, activism, and scholarship. Therefore, we implore all of the members of the ASRF to continue to work with us, as we endeavor to move our association forward.

Finally, we thank you again for the confidence you have reposed in us to lead our organization, until new election is held. We will endeavor to justify the confidence through our individual and collective performance.

Cordially,

George Klay Kieh, Jr.
President, ASRF

ASRF'S FORUM TO DECIDE ON CONTINUALLY HOLDING JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF GLOBAL SOUTH STUDIES

During the historic 20th Meeting of the ASRF, which was held at Indiana University-Southeast, in New Albany, Indiana, the Forum (The General Membership), the organization's highest decision-making body, has mandated the interim leadership to organize and conduct a referendum to decide whether the ASRF will continue to meet jointly with the Association of Global South Studies (formerly Association of Third World Studies), as has been done during the past 20 years, or meet independently. The decision was made after a productive meeting during which the pros and cons of the ASRF meeting independently or continuing to meet jointly with the Association of Global South Studies were discussed.

Against this backdrop, the new interim leadership of the ASRF will conduct the referendum as its first activity. Given the importance of the matter to the continual viability of the organizations, members are being encouraged to weigh all of the angles and information, including advantages and disadvantages, as they decide on the direction of their votes.

NEW LEADERSHIP CHOSEN TO LEAD ASRF FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD

The Forum, the highest decision-making body of the ASRF, has decided to cancel the holding of the organization's election of officers(for the 2016-2018 term), which was scheduled to be held during the ASRF's 20th Annual Meeting, which was held at Indiana University-Southeast, New Albany, Indiana, from November 20-22, 2016. The rationale for the decision was that the organization needed to undertake the process of critical reflection and stock-taking, before holding the election. Hence, the meeting, in part, was devoted to this critical exercise.

Meanwhile, the Forum unanimously elected the following officers to serve during the interim period from 2016-2018: George Klay Kieh, Jr. (University of West Georgia) (President), Ishmael Munene (Northern Arizona University) (Executive Secretary), and Christine Mathenge (Austin Peay State University) (Treasurer). In addition, the Forum authorized the interim leadership to choose a Director of Research and Publications, who will also serve as Chair of the Research and Publications Committee. In this vein, Abdul Karim Bangura (American University & The African Institution) was chosen. Also, Peyi Soyinka-Airewele (Ithaca College) was chosen as the Chair of the Awards Committee. Further, the leadership appointed other members of the Research and Publications and Awards Committees as follow:

The Research and Publications Committee

Doyin Coker-Kolo (Indiana University-Southeast)

Ciyata Coleman (U.S. Department of the Treasury)
 Kehbuma Langmia (Howard University)
 Samuel Zalanga (Bethel University)

The Awards Committee

Theodora Ayot (North Park University)
 James Gire (Virginia Military Institute)

ASRF TO HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE INDEPENDENTLY

The results from the Referendum on the ASRF's Annual Conference, which was conducted in January 2017, showed that the majority of the membership voted for the organization to hold its annual conference independently in March of each year. The decision means that the organization will end the two decades old arrangement of holding its annual conference simultaneously with that of the Association of Global South Studies (formerly the Association of Third World Studies).

Meanwhile, the ASRF's Executive Committee has put out a "Call" for the submission of proposals for a host for the 22nd Annual Conference of the organization, which will be held in March 2018. Part of the plan for the holding of the organization's annual meeting is to alternate the venue between the United States and the African Continent.

ASRF'S MEMBERS' SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

JOHN AGBONIFO (OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA)

Journal Articles

"Sanctions, conflict prevention and peacebuilding: coercing non-state armed actors in Africa," *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, 12(1), 2017, pp. 65-78.

Paper Presented at Professional Conference

'Uncivil' Society and the Challenges of Sustainable Development: the Case of National Union of Road Transport Workers, presented at the Annual Conference of the Ibadan Sustainable Development Center, Ibadan, Nigeria, August 21-25, 2017.

Research Grants

Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), Nairobi, Kenya, for the project on "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the empowerment and promotion of social and political action for accountability in extractive industry in Nigeria: the case of two CSOs," 2017.

Others

His Journal Article on "Sanctions, conflict prevention and peacebuilding: coercing non-state armed actors in Africa," *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, 12(1), 65-78, has received favorable mention in Peace Direct.

A.B. ASSENSOH (INDIANA UNIVERSITY & UNIVERSITY OF OREGON)

Books

Malcolm X and Africa (with Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh), Cambria Press, 2016.

A Matter of Sharing: My Memoir, Africa University Press, 2016.

Lecture Delivered

“Importance of Copyright Law in Africa,” a Distinguished Endowed Lecture Delivered at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Achimota, Ghana, 2016.

Others

Reappointed Co-Book Review Editor, *African and Asian Studies*, a refereed journal published by Brill Academic Press of Europe, Leiden: The Netherlands, 2016-2017.

Appointed Book Review Editor Emeritus, *Africa Today Journal*, published by Indiana University Press, 2017.

JOHN ALIE CONTEH (WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Book Chapters

“Hope-focused approach to couple enrichment in counseling” (with P. Allie-Turco), in J. Carlson & S. Dermer (eds.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Marriage, Family, and couples counseling*, Vol. 4, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Ltd. 2017, pp. 806-808.

“Gender audit,” in N. Naples, R. C. Hoogland, M. Wickramasinghe, & W. C. A. Wong(eds), *Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*, 1st ed., Wiley- Blackwell, 2016, pp. 1-3.

“Dowry and bride-price,” in N. Naples, R. C. Hoogland, M. Wickramasinghe, & W. C. A. Wong(eds), *Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*, 1st ed., Wiley-Blackwell, 2016, pp. 1-4.

Journal Articles

“Therapeutic factors and psychological concepts in Alcoholics Anonymous” (with D.A. Stone and J.D. Francis), *Journal of Counselor Practice*, 8(2), 2017, pp. 120-135.

“Examining the relationship between traumatic experiences and posttraumatic growth among counselors-in-training” (with M.J. Huber and H.A. Bashir), *The Practitioner Scholar: Journal of Counseling and Professional Psychology*, 6(1), 2017, pp. 32-46.

Papers Presented at Professional Conferences

Collaborative ways communities can tackle the heroin epidemic (with H.A. Bashir), paper presented at the Addiction Studies Institute (ASI) Conference, Columbus, Ohio, July 21, 2016

A university partnership using a community-based intervention to reduce opiate substance abuse (with H.A. Bashir), paper presented at the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (NCACES) Conference, Bloomington, Minnesota, October 22, 2016.

GEORGE KLAY KIEH, JR. (UNIVERSITY OF WESTGEORGIA)

Book Chapters

“Economic Globalization in Africa,” in Edward Loma Wonkeryor (ed.), *Africa and Globalization*, Cherry Hill, NJ: Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, 2016, pp. 37-56.

“Globalization and State Sovereignty in Africa,” in Edward Loma Wonkeryor (ed.), *Africa and Globalization*, Cherry Hill, NJ: Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, 2016, pp. 147-171.

“Land Reforms and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding in Liberia,” in Tukumbi Lumumba-Kasongo (ed.), *Land Reforms in Africa*, London, UK: Routledge, 2016, pp. 11-32.

Journal Articles

“The Political Economy of the Growth of the Liberian Public Sector,” *International Journal of Public Administration*, 39(14), 2016, pp. 1148-1158.

Conference Papers Presented

“Soccer and Politics in Liberia,” paper presented at the Spring 2016 Annual Conference of the Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies, held at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, February 5-7, 2016.

“Beyond Liberal Peacebuilding in Africa’s Post-Conflict States,” paper presented at the 57th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 16-19, 2016.

“Rethinking State Failure in Africa,” paper presented at the 34th Annual Conference of the Association of Third World Studies, Indiana University-Southeast, New Albany, Indiana, November 21, 2016.

“Regulating Political Finance in Liberia’s Elections,” paper presented at the 49th Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association, held at Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey, March 31, 2017.

Conference Panel Chaired

Panel on “Critical Issues Affecting Governance, Economic Development and State-building in Liberia: Citizenship, Corruption, Education, Legal System and Macro-economics, 49th Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association, held at Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey, April 1, 2017.

Awards

The Georgia Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), “The Warren Akins Award,” 2016 (In recognition of outstanding contributions to higher education).

JOHNSON MAKOKA (UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA-RENO)

Paper Presented at Professional Conference

“Public Service Delivery and Implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 21st Century,” presented at the 3rd Annual Conference on *Technology and Management* organized by the Uganda Management and Technology University and the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, Kampala, Uganda, August 1-3, 2016.

EGODI UCHENDU (UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA-NSUKKA)

Books

Studies in Igbo History (co-edited), Noli Educational Publications, 2016.

Enhancing Research Capacity, University of Nigeria Press, 2016.

Book Chapters

Gender and the Construction of the Nigeria-Biafra War Scholarship,” in Toyin Falola and O. Ezekwem(eds.), *Writing the Nigeria –Biafra War*, Boydell and Brewer, 2016, pp. 403-422.

Journal Article

“Islam, Stability and Security in Eastern Nigeria,” *Yeni Turkiye*, 23(97), 2017, pp. 388-401.

Papers Presented at Professional Conferences

“Islamic Propagation (Da’awah) In Eastern Nigeria: Impact, Problems and Prospects,”(with E. J. Ibuot, C. N. S. Okoro, A. Abubakar and C. C. Agbo), paper presented at the 61st Annual Conference of the Historical Society of Nigeria, Port Harcourt, October 9-13, 2016.

“Interrogating Islamic Propagation (Da’awah) in Eastern Nigeria” (with Emmanuel Ibuot and Chukwuemeka Agbo), paper presented at the 17th Annual Africa Conference at The University of Texas, Austin, March 31 – April 2, 2017.

Awards

University of Nigeria Staff Award for the Top Ten Most Punctual Lecturers, 2016.

“The Wangari Maathai Award for Innovative Scholarship and Leadership,” The University of Texas at Austin, 2017.

Research Grants

Nigeria’s Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TET Fund) Institution-Based Research Grant for the Project “Patterns of Islamic Da’awah (Propagation) in Eastern Nigeria,” 2017.

Others

“The Nigerian Civil War: Gender Echoes 50 Years Later”, Keynote Address at the First International Conference of the Center for Gender Studies, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, March 6-8, 2017.

Hosted the public seminar of the African Humanities Research and Development Center (AHRDC) at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, on “Patterns of Islamic Da’awah (Propagation) in Eastern Nigeria,” held July 27, 2017.

E.IKE UDOGU (APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY, USA)

Paper Presented at Professional Conference

“Theoretical and Analytical Examination of the Human Rights of Autochthonous Africans, presented at the 26th Annual Conference of the Global Awareness Society, San Jose, Costa Rica, May 25-29, 2017.

Awards

His book, “*Leadership and the Problem of Electoral Democracy in Africa: Case Studies and Theoretical Solutions*,” was named “The Book of the Month” by The Cambridge Scholar Publishing, United Kingdom.

“Who’s Who World-wide Lifetime Achievement Award,” 2017.

OLUFEMI VAUGHAN (AMHERST COLLEGE, USA)

Book

Religion and the Making of Nigeria, Duke University Press, 2016.

Others

Appointed Alfred Sergeant Lee ’41 and Mary Ames Lee Professor of African Studies, Amherst College, 2017.

Appointed Senior Editor, Oxford Encyclopedia of Methods, Sources and Historiography in African History.

Appointed Associate Editor, Oxford Encyclopedia of African History.

Appointed Co-Editor, Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Nigeria.

