

AFRICAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH FORUM (ASRF)

NEWSLETTER

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In this segment of the "President's Corner," I would like to reflect on what I consider the three core pillars of the ASRF: scholarship, service and activism. As an academic organization, the ASRF is expected to sponsor various research projects that will contribute to the generation of knowledge that can be used to build a new democratic and prosperous Africa in which Africans MUST enjoy what T.H. Mitchell aptly refer to as "social citizenship." "Social citizenship" is based on a trilogy of rights: economic, social and political. Undoubtedly, throughout its illustrious history, the ASRF has commissioned research projects on a variety of issues that are germane to the respect for, and the promotion of political rights and civil liberties, as well as the advancement of the material well-being of Africans on the continent. In turn, these research project have been converted to books that have been published under the ASRF's famed "Books Series." As a complement, the ASRF has encouraged its members to develop and pursue active research agendas that would result in the publication of books, monographs, book chapters and journal articles. Clearly, the ASRF has made laudable strides in the important area of research. But, we cannot rest on our laurels! So, we must continue to press ahead!

In the area of service, while many of the members of the ASRF have rendered an assortment of services to their respective communities where they live, to Africa, as well as the United States and Canada, however, the ASRF as a corporate entity has not done much in this critical area. Hence, this MUST be a major area of focus in the coming years. For example, the ASRF can launch an "instructional materials campaign" for schools in Africa. Clearly, this will be a major way in which the ASRF can link theory with praxis.

In terms of activism, several of the members of the ASRF have also participated in, and supported various causes. Again, this is quite laudable. However, for its part, the ASRF, as an organization, has not been collectively engaged in activism. Clearly, there are so many issues, especially on the African Continent, that require the ASRF's active engagement. Again, activism provides another great opportunity for the ASRF to link theory with practice.

Finally, I am gratified by the ASRF's past, but even more exuberant about its future! So, let us continue to conduct research, write and publish, perform and undertake various artistic projects, serve, and remain active in fighting for the noble cause of social justice, especially in Africa.

Warmly,

George Klay Kieh, Jr.
President, ASRF

THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA TO HOST THE 22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASRF

As the ASRF enters its 22nd year of existence, the University of West Georgia will host the organization's first independent annual conference under the theme "Toward the Building of a New Africa: Weaving Together the Past, the Present and the Future," from March 29-31, 2018, in Carrolton, Georgia. For the past 20 years, the ASRF had been meeting simultaneously with the Association of Global South Studies (formerly the Association of Third World Studies). However, it may be recalled that during its 20th Annual Conference, which was held at Indiana University-Southeast in New Albany, Indiana, in November 2016, the Forum (the General Body) directed the organization's leadership to conduct a referendum to determine whether the ASRF should henceforth be meeting independently. The referendum was conducted in December 2016, and the majority of the members voted for the ASRF to begin holding its annual conference independently, beginning with the 22nd meeting.

In order to plan for the ASRF's 22nd Annual Conference, two major committees have been appointed: The Program and Local Arrangements Committees. The former will be chaired by Abdul Karim Bangura, the ASRF's Director of Research and Publications. The Program Committee's central function is to solicit and evaluate paper and colloquial (roundtable) proposals, and to organize the resulting panels. The Local Arrangements Committee is headed by George Kieh, the President of the ASRF, who will serve as the conference's lead host. Dubbed the "Mother of All Conferences and Parties," the gathering is expected to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, networking, and celebration in the true AFRICAN TRADITION!

MEMEBRS' SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

GEORGE KLAY KIEH, JR.(UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA)

Book

Contemporary Issues in African Society (edited), New York: Palgrave, 2017.

Book Chapters

"The Presidency and Democratic Developmentalism in Southern Africa," in Said Ademujobi (ed.), *Voice and Accountability in Africa's Democracy*, London: Routledge, 2017, pp. 59-76.

"The Political Economy of the Ebola Epidemic in Liberia," in Ibrahim Abdullah and Ismail Rashid (eds.), *The Ebola Crisis in West Africa*, London: Zed Books, 2017, pp. 86-111.

“Civilians and Civil Wars in West Africa,” in Nicola Foote and Nadya Williams (eds.), *Civilians and Civil Wars*, London: Routledge, 2017, 208-232.

“Framing the African Condition,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr. (ed.), *Contemporary Issues in African Society*, New York: Palgrave, 2017, pp. 1-28.

“Conflict Resolution in Africa,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr. (ed.), *Contemporary Issues in African Society*, New York: Palgrave, 2017, pp. 175-196.

“Toward Addressing the African Condition: The Lessons,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr. (ed.), *Contemporary Issues in African Society*, New York: Palgrave, 2017, pp. 239-258.

Conference Paper Presented

“Repatriated Africans from the United States and State-building in Liberia,” paper presented at the Fall 2017 Annual Conference of the Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies, held at Auburn University and Tuskegee University, October 20-21, 2018.

JOHNSON W. MAKOKA (UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA- RENO)

Book Chapter

“Non-Governmental Organizations and the State in Africa,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr. (ed.), *Contemporary Issues in African Society*, New York: Palgrave, pp. 29-46.

E.IKE UDOGU (APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

Book

Human Rights Dilemmas in the Developing World: The Case of the Marginalized Populations at Risk, Lexington Books, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers and Roundtables for the 22nd Annual Conference of the ASRF

Date: March 29-31, 2018

Venue: University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia

Theme: “Toward the Building of a New Africa: Weaving the Past, the Present, and the Future.”

Brief Description

This 22nd Annual Conference of the African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) invites participants to present papers on ways to build a new Africa by addressing past, present, and future issues pertaining to the African continent, people of African descent, institutions in the continent and the Diaspora, and relationships between Africa and other countries and regions around the world. The conference seeks to bring together researchers from around the globe and from various disciplines to take stock of current research and foster communication across approaches to the study of Africa. In keeping with the spirit of diversity, we welcome abstracts for individual papers and colloquia that engage with various topical and theoretical foci, types and sources of data, methodological questions, and practical applications. Selected papers will be considered for the ASRF’s journal and book series.

Submission Guidelines

All submissions should include the following:

- Author(s) contact information and other details:
- Full name of principal presenter and contact information: affiliation, telephone number, mailing address, E-mail address. All return correspondence will be to this individual only.
- Full names, affiliations, and E-mail addresses of co-presenters if any.

Abstract details:

- Presentation title (15-word limit).
- Abstract (300-word limit for individual papers; 300 words for Colloquia; colloquia submissions must also include an abstract for each paper, up to 300 words). An abstract should provide an extended description of the presentation for committee review.
- Presentation Summary (50-word limit): A brief description to be included in the conference program.
- Abstracts should be prepared for anonymous review (no reference to the author or the author's home institution in the abstract).

The proposal submission deadline is December 22, 2017. Early submissions are greatly encouraged.

To maximize participation opportunities at ASRF 2018, each individual is allowed two single-authored contributions and one co-authored contribution. (Presenting a paper, organizing a colloquium, and serving as a colloquium discussant each counts as one contribution.)

Individual Papers

Papers should be formal presentations that draw on theories and methods of one or more approaches on the topic.

Individual papers will be presented within a 20-minute period, plus ten minutes for discussion.

Colloquia

Colloquia involve the presentation of multiple prepared papers on a related topic or theme, followed by structured discussions of those papers. They are typically scheduled for two-hour blocks. If more time is needed, organizers can submit a series of single sessions (i.e. Part I, Part II, etc.); these will be individually reviewed.

Colloquium organizers should submit an abstract for the colloquium (of up to 300 words) and include an abstract (up to 300 words) for each paper. Please indicate the schedule for participants, with time allocated for opening and closing remarks, presentations, discussion, and audience response. Organizers may choose to participate in the session as a presenter or discussant.

Review Criteria

Review criteria include promise of a novel and productive contribution to the study of Africa; clarity and evidence of a well-organized, engaging presentation; and relevance to the ASRF 2018 theme. For colloquia, criteria also include a clearly indicated schedule of activities, with an appropriate amount of time for discussion and audience participation.

How to Submit Abstract(s)

Please send your abstract(s) to Abdul Karim Bangura as an E-mail attachment with a short note indicating your interest and the title ASRF 2018 Abstract on the subject line to the following E-mail address: <asrf2018bangura@gmail.com>.

Registration Fees:

Participant from Developed Countries (E.g. U.S., Canada, European countries):

Regular (Professional): \$100.00

Student: \$ 50.00

Participant from Developing Countries (E.g. African Countries):

Regular (Professional): \$ 50.00

Student: \$ 25.00

The Registration Portal is:
<https://uwgagenda.westga.edu/CourseStatus.awp?&course=18SMD1542>.

Call for Applications for Editor and Associate Editor of the ASRF's "Flagship" Journal

The African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) is soliciting applications for the positions of Editor and Associate Editor of its peer-reviewed *Journal of African Studies and Research*. The goal of the journal is to become one of the top periodicals in African Studies with a high impact factor and substantial submissions and readership. The editorship of this journal is a great opportunity to support the research enterprise and public mission of the ASRF and to promote its rich diversity of interests and theoretical and methodological approaches.

The responsibilities of the Editor, supported by the Associated Editor, include (a) providing overall leadership and direction for the content of the journal, (b) soliciting submissions and arranging peer reviews of manuscripts, (c) responding to authors in a timely way, (d) working with the journal's publisher throughout the production process, and (e) ensuring that issues of appropriate length are published as scheduled each year in a timely manner.

The Editor, with the assistance of the Associate Editor, is also responsible for convening and working with an Editorial Board of his/her choosing to help set the direction for the journal and establish and implement major editorial policies. The terms for both positions are three years.

An applicant for either position should include in his/her application packages (a) a vision statement, (b) a brief description of his/her qualifications, (c) an explanation of proposed staff organization and responsibilities, (d) a description of the financial and technical support provided by the host institution, (e) a statement of support from the applicant's home institution, and (f) a curriculum vita.

Members of the Research and Publications Committee (RPC) will evaluate the applications and recommend the candidates for Editor and Associate Editor to the Executive Committee (EC), which will make the appointment. Application packages should be submitted via E-mail (**asrf2018bangura@gmail.com**) to **Abdul Karim Bangura, Chair of the RPC, no later than October 31, 2017**. All applications will be treated confidentially.