

# ASRF NEWS

## AFRICAN STUDIES & RESEARCH FORUM(ASRF)

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### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

George K Kieh, Jr

The vision of the African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) to attract scholars and practitioners into the organization is slowly but surely being realized. A major piece of evidence is the increasing numbers of scholars and practitioners, who are based on the African Continent, attending the annual conference of the ASRF. The emergent trend reached a watershed moment

during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the ASRF held at the University of West Georgia, when several continental-based scholars from across Africa attended and presented papers. Similarly, during the recent 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, which was held at North Carolina Central University, the trend continued.

Moving forward, the ASRF is working on two major initiatives that will help to expand the organization's membership based on the

continent. One is the revitalization of the Summer Institute that is designed to hold workshops on various topics, to help enhance the promotion of the professional development of both faculty and graduate students from various universities across the

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Africa. The other is the launching of a continent-wide membership drive that is designed to actively attract faculty members, graduate students, and practitioners from across the broad swath of the continent.

Finally, as we approach the ASRF's "silver jubilee" in 2021, we must continue to make our dear continent the thrust of our activities. However, this will require our continued collective efforts.

continent's various regions— Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and West

### 2019 PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

The "ASRF Presidential Award" for 2019 was presented to five members of the ASRF for their outstanding service to the organization. Prior to presenting the award to the recipients, the ASRF's President recounted the invaluable contributions of each of the honorees to the advancement of the mission of the organization. The honorees were: **Guy Martin (Winston-Salem State University)**: His service to the ASRF includes chairing the Standing Committee on Awards, and co-chairing the Program Committee for the 23rd Annual Conference.

**Mueni wa Muiu** (Winston Salem State University): Her service to the ASRF includes serving as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Projects and co-chairing the Program Committee for the 23rd Annual Conference. **Bennett Odunsi** (Jackson State University): As a founding member, his service to the ASRF also includes serving as the Founding Treasurer for 10 ago years. *Continued pg. 2*

## 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Story Subtitle or summary

The ASRF will convene its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, from March 26-28, 2020, under the theme “The African Condition.” Elias Kodjo will serve as the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, and Veronica Fynn Bruey (University of Cape Coast) and Pius Tanga (Fort Hare University, South Africa) will serve as the Program Co-Chairs. The Conference is

expected to bring together scholars and practitioners from around the African Continent, as well as Europe, Canada, and the United States.

Meanwhile, “The Call for Proposals for Papers and Roundtables” will be issued by the Program Co-Chairs, and the information about lodging and other logistics will be provided the Local Arrangements Committee. In addition, the registration portal will be set up

to enable the attendees to register for the Conference. It may be recalled that the ASRF held its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Cape Coast, Ghana, in 2009, in conjunction with the erstwhile Association of Third World Studies.

Editor’s Note: Conference postponed due to COVID-2019 pandemic.

### 2019 PRESIDENT’S AWARDS

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**Emmanuel Oritsejafor (North Carolina State University):** His service to the ASRF includes serving as the Executive Secretary, and Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference. **E.Ike Udogu (Appalachian State University):** His service to the ASRF includes serving as the Founding Director of Research and Publications for ten years.

### ASRF Elections 2020-2022

Pursuant to its Charter, the ASRF will hold the election for its six principal officers—President, Vice President for Diaspora Affairs, Vice President for Continental Affairs, Executive Secretary, and Director of Research and Publications—in the fall 2019. An Elections Commission has been constituted to conduct the election. The membership of the Elections Commission consists of Isaac Junius (Chair), Jimmy Imo (Secretary), and Sabina Appiah-Boateng (member). Meanwhile, the Elections Commission has issued a “Call for Applications and Nominations.” The elected officers will serve from March 2020-March 2022.

## **ASRF STATEMENT ON NIGERIA'S 2019 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

Pursuant to its commitment to be an active participant in the promotion of real democracy (one that transcends form) and real development (one that focuses on the improvement of the material conditions of ordinary Africans) based on peaceful co-existence and stability, the African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) issued a Statement on the 2019 Nigerian Presidential Election. Here is the Full Text of the Statement:

After a week's delay, the Nigerian electorate is expected to go to the polls on Saturday, February 23, 2019, to elect the country's new president and vice president. Remarkably, this will be the country's sixth successive post-"third wave of democratization" election, since the landmark 1999 election that ended military rule. Undoubtedly, elections are fraught with challenges; and there is no doubt that Nigeria has had its share of electoral challenges. Notwithstanding, six uninterrupted elections, and almost two decades of civilian rule are remarkable

achievements that need to be built upon.

Against this background, the 2019 election is critical to the continuation of the tradition of holding uninterrupted elections. However, there are several major interrelated preconditions that must be met. A key one is that the Nigerian electorate must exercise tolerance, and a demonstrated commitment to civility and the repudiation of violence. In other words, the debates and the resulting disagreements that shape partisan-based politics can quickly degenerate into violence, if care is not taken. Therefore, it is our ardent hope that Nigerian voters will continue to demonstrate the political maturity that immensely contributed to the holding of five successive elections. Another major requirement is that the various political parties must be the vehicles for spirited policy-based debates that are designed to promote the political rights and civil liberties, as well as advance the material wellbeing of the Nigerian people. This must be done within the context of civility, tolerance, and non-violence. In addition, the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) has a national duty to conduct the electoral process, especially the voting and the counting of the votes phases, in a free and transparent manner, to ensure that the will of the

Nigerian electorate is reflected in the outcome.

Finally, let us unequivocally state that irrespective of the nature and legitimacy of whatever grievance any political party or candidate may have, the resort to violence is not an option! Hence, every effort must be made to avoid it! This is because the results of violence and their reverberations will have far-reaching consequences not only for Nigeria, but also for the West African region, and the larger African Continent. This is because Nigeria is a pivotal state at both the regional and continental levels.

In closing, the African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) wishes our brothers and sisters in Nigeria all the best, as they make the important decision of choosing their president and vice president, based on the free exercise of their constitutional right to elect those who will govern them.

Signed:

*Geo. Klay Kieh Jr.*

Professor George Klay Kieh, Jr.

President, African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF)

## MEMBERS' SCHOLARLY AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**AZUBIKE CHINWUBA ONUORA-  
OGUNO (UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN,  
NIGERIA)**

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book Chapters

“Advocating a new paradigm in environmental rights adjudication in Nigeria,” (with Wahab Olasupo Egbewole) in Bibia Lucky Worika, Michèle Emily Olivier and Nkiruka Chidia Maduekwe(eds.), *The Environment, Critical Policies and Legal Frameworks: An African Perspective*, (Lexis Nexis, 2019).

“Safeguarding Women and Minority Rights in Africa: Conceptual Foundations”(with M. Addaney and K. Kariseb) in M. Addaney(ed), *Women and Minority Rights Law in Africa: Reimagining Equality and Addressing Discrimination*, (Eleven International Publishing, 2019).

### PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

**Azubike Onuora-Oguno (with Chianaraekpere Ike)**, Charting a New Course in Sexual Violence Prohibition and Protection in Nigeria: A Need to Reappraise Public Law Jurisprudence in Nigeria? Presented at the International Public Law Society Conference, Santiago, Chile, July 3-7, 2019.

**VERONICA FYNN BRUEY  
(UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST, GHANA)**

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book Chapters

“The Liberian Public Health System,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr(ed.), *Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Issues and*

*Perspectives*(edited), Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2019, pp. 207-248.

“Indigenous Women and International Law” in Susan Harris Rimmer and Kate Ogg (eds), *The Future of Feminist Engagement with International Law* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2019), pp. 499-524.

“Maternal and Reproductive Rights - Ebola and the Law in Liberia” in David Schwartz, Julianne Anoko and Sharon Abramowitz (eds), *Pregnant in the Time of Ebola: Women and Their Children in the 2013 West African Epidemic* (Switzerland: Springer, 2019), pp. 219-242.

#### Journal Article

“Development-induced displacement and homelessness in Seattle, Washington,” *Artha: Journal of Social Sciences* 2, 2019, pp. 1-25.

### PAPERS DELIVERED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

“Indigenous Women and International Law”, National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia, July 18, 2019.

“Development-induced Displacement and the Indignation of Homelessness: The Case of Seattle, Washington”, Law and Society Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, May 30- June 2, 2019.

“Rights to Return, Resettle or Reintegrate? The Case of Liberian Refugees in Ghana”, Merian Institute for Advance Studies in Africa Summer School, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, May 23-27, 2019.

“The African Union Agenda 2063: Liberia’s Aspiration for Justice and the Rule of Law”, African Studies and Research Forum, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC, USA, March 28-30, 2019.

“The Future of Law and Development: Systematic Violence Against Indigenous Peoples”, EDOLAD Summer School, University of North West, Potchefstroom, South Africa, March 8, 2019.

### **SCHOLARLY LECTURES DELIVERED**

Plenary Speaker, “Complex System Methodology for Gender Justice Research”, Gender and Judging in Pluralistic Societies: A Comparative Assessment of Access to Justice for Women Across Africa, Point du Sud, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, August 8-11, 2019.

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

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Perspectives(edited), Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2019.

#### **Book Chapters**

“Introduction: Framing the Liberian Condition in the Twenty-First Century,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr(ed.), Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Perspectives(edited), Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2019, pp. 1-30.

“The Travails of the Liberian State,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr(ed.), Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Perspectives(edited), Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2019, pp. 31-64.

“Democratization in Liberia,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr(ed.), Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Perspectives(edited), Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2019, pp. 81-140.

“Repositioning Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Lessons and Insights,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr(ed.), Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Perspectives(edited),

Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2019, pp. 289-308.

### **PAPER PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE**

“Rethinking Regional Integration in Africa,” presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the African Studies and Research Forum, held at North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina, March 28-30, 2019.

### **APPOINTMENT**

He has been appointed the new Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas, effective July 1, 2019.

*AUGUSTINE KONNEH (AFRICAN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, LIBERIA)*

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Book Chapter**

“Ethnicity and Political Stability in Liberia,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr(ed.), Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Perspectives(edited), Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2019, pp. 65-80.

*EMMANUEL ORITSEAJFOR (NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)*

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Book**

Governance and Democracy in Africa: Regional and Continental Perspectives(Co-authored with James Guseh), Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2019.

#### **Book Chapter**

“Political Decentralization in Liberia,” in George Klay Kieh, Jr(ed.), Liberia in the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Perspectives(edited), Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, 2019, pp. 141-164.



***E.IKE UDOGU (APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY)***

**PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES**

“Changes, Challenges, and Opportunities from Regional Perspectives: Africa,” Global Awareness Society International (GASI) at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference held at Iberostar Hotels & Resorts, Marrakech, Morocco, May 23-25, 2019

“Religion, Patriarchy and Feminist Epistemology on Women’s Human Rights Discourses in the Global South,” Global Awareness Society International (GASI) at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference held at Iberostar Hotels & Resorts, Marrakech, Morocco, May 23-25, 2019.

**PANEL CHAIRED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE**

Chaired a panel titled “Changes, Challenges and Opportunities in Global Education,” Global Awareness Society International (GASI) at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Conference held at Iberostar Hotels & Resorts, Marrakech, Morocco, May 23-25, 2019.

***ISHMAEL MUNENE (NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY)***

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book**

[Conducting Research and Mentoring Students in Africa: CODESRIA College of Mentors Handbook](#) (with Abdul Karim Bangura and J.A. Obandon), (Dakar, Senegal: CODESRIA Publications, 2019).

**Book Chapters**

“Thriving as a PhD Mentee: Mediating Mentor-Mentee Conflicts.” In A. K. Bangura, J. A. Obando, I. I. Munene, and C. Shisanya (eds.). [Conducting Research and Mentoring Students in Africa: CODESRIA College of Mentors](#)

[Handbook](#), (Dakar, Senegal: CODESRIA Publications, 2019), pp. 1-18.

“Brief Descriptions of Qualitative Research Methods,” In A. K. Bangura, J. A. Obando, I. I. Munene, and C. Shisanya (eds.). [Conducting Research and Mentoring Students in Africa: CODESRIA College of Mentors Handbook](#), (Dakar, Senegal: CODESRIA Publications, 2019), pp.59-116.

“Brief Descriptions of Quantitative Research Methods,” In A. K. Bangura, J. A. Obando, I. I. Munene, and C. Shisanya (eds.), [Conducting Research and Mentoring Students in Africa: CODESRIA College of Mentors Handbook](#), (Dakar, Senegal: CODESRIA Publications, 2019), pp.117-146.

“The Art, Science and Politics of Publishing (with C. Shisanya), in Oanda, et. al. (eds.), [Conducting Research and Mentoring Students in Africa: CODESRIA College of Mentors Handbook](#), (Dakar, Senegal: CODESRIA Publications, 2019), pp. 249-284.

**Journal Articles**

“Kenyan Universities: On the Brink of Financial Insolvency,” [International Higher Education](#), 97, Spring, pp. 25-27.