



Message from Blair Rutherford, Director



It is hard to believe that the Institute of African Studies at Carleton University has been around for seven years. This is the last newsletter I will be putting out as Director, as my second term has finished and I am pleased to return as one of nearly 50 cross-appointed professors to the Institute and watch it grow and thrive under the dynamism of my colleague and its new Director, Professor Pius

Adesanmi (carleton.ca/africanstudies/2016/ias-news-ias-welcomes-professor-pius-adesanmi-new-ias-director/).

As it turned out, 2015 has once again been a very busy and exciting year for the Institute. Of the many talks and events it organized on its own or in partnership with others, let me highlight three of them (more information about these events and others can be found on our website, under “past events” -carleton.ca/africanstudies/events/past-ias-events/).

The Institute carried out two events in partnership with the African diplomatic community based in Ottawa. On March 12th, in partnership with the Africa Group of Diplomats to Canada and the African Women Diplomatic Forum, we had an exciting day-long conference on the African Union’s Agenda 2063. The vision and prospects for achieving this ambitious agenda was critically discussed by a range of speakers. High Commissioner Dr. Mathabo Tsepo (Lesotho) and High Commissioner Dr. Sulley Gariba (Ghana) worked with their colleagues and with us to make this a success and the start of an annual conference.

Thanks to the hard work of my colleague Professor Aboubakar Sanogo, over a two week period in October the Institute collaborated with the African Group of Diplomats again along with the Film Studies program and the Canadian Film Institute to host the inaugural African Film Festival of Ottawa. Bringing 14 contemporary feature and short films from throughout Africa, it showed Ottawa audiences a range of cinematic engagements with love, longing, racism, family, history, and horror, amongst many of the themes represented.

During the same period, the Institute of African Studies Student Association presented the first Undergraduate Research Conference. Although mentored by my colleague

Professor Nduka Otono, the entire conference was organized and carried out by our undergraduate students, which made us faculty extremely proud and excited about them and our programs as well. Please read the following article about this conference, written by two of its student organizers.

The keynote speaker of the Undergraduate conference was our colleague from Carleton’s prestigious Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA), Yiagadeesen (Teddy) Samy. Inside is a profile of Professor Samy as well as one of our new cross-appointed faculty members, Professor Monica Patterson from the Child Studies program. There is also an article about our last African Studies Abroad course which was taught in Ghana by Professor Chris Brown (Political Science). This is written by one of the students on it who just completed her MA at NPSIA and part of our collaborative Master’s in African Studies, currently the only graduate program in African Studies in Canada. Finally, this short newsletter ends with profiles of some of Carleton graduate students who are conducting doctoral research on topics concerning Africa.

More information about the Institute can be found on its webpage (carleton.ca/africanstudies) and its weekly listserv emails which sends out notices about upcoming public events concerning Africa and its diasporas in the Ottawa-Gatineau area and beyond as well as news about calls for papers, scholarship opportunities, and anything concerning the Institute and its faculty and students. To join it or to get in touch with us, please email African.Studies@carleton.ca. Finally, let me warmly thank our latest group of student volunteers who helped to put this newsletter together: Jessica Carroll, Kristine Harwood, Faduma Mohamed, Elizabeth Peparah for their informative articles and to Radiyah Chowdhury for formatting and piecing this all together as a newsletter!

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Carleton's first Institute of African Studies Undergraduate Research Conference

By Faduma Mahmoud and Elizabeth Peparah

Carleton University held its first Institute of African Studies (IAS) Undergraduate Research Conference on October 17, 2015. Organized by undergraduate students in African Studies at Carleton, this one-day conference was aimed at providing an opportunity for undergraduate students to improve academic portfolios as well as encourage future graduate studies or careers in the field of African Studies. The IAS Undergraduate Conference created an environment that was driven by a wealth of knowledge and diversity, with a range of important topics from the Rwandan Genocide, African Canadian female identities, African diaspora, globalization and popular culture, the complexities over black masculinities in hip-hop music, and the divide between African American activism and the Black Church. The welcoming environment, positive feedback and constructive criticism were paramount in encouraging student researchers to continue their personal research with excellence and integrity.

wonderful experience in terms of gaining valuable undergraduate research presentation experience. The level of professionalism within the conference was also extremely rewarding to see as a student in African Studies and I hope to see future years of students enjoying this conference as much as I did."

For many of the presenters it was their first time to present a paper at a research conference. When asked to describe the overall experience of the conference, Sophia Jesow, a presenter from York University in Toronto said, "to describe the Conference as great would be an understatement. My experience was beyond anything I could have ever imagined. I thank each and every organizer, presenter, and all those who have attended for making this day so memorable. I look forward to the growth and future success of the Institute of African Studies."

The IAS Undergraduate Research Conference was a great success, not only did it enrich the academic dialogue within the scope of African Studies but also created an opportunity for undergraduate students to strengthen and tap into their research potential.



Professor Matthew Carotenuto (St. Lawrence University), Sarah Badr (York University), Emily Adams (St. Lawrence University) and Elizabeth Peparah (Carleton University)

The conference had a total of 17 participants, coming from all over Canada as well as from New York State, and including a conference Skype call from Ghana. There were a total of 5 panels, each having 3-4 presenters and a moderator. There were a total of 5 moderators, 2 professors and 3 graduate students from Carleton University. Emily Hersey, one of the presenters from Carleton University said that, "presenting at Carleton University's first undergraduate African Studies conference was an honour and also a



Audience members from IAS Undergraduate Research Conference

African Study Abroad course heads to Ghana

By Jessica Carroll

From May 4th to May 23, 2015, eleven students traveled to Ghana as part of the African Studies' Study Abroad class. This class, offered by the Institute of African Studies, travels to a different country each year to study a theme in depth under the guidance of a Carleton professor who has expertise in a particular topic concerning that country. Last year's course titled "Ghana: The Challenges of Development and Democracy in Africa," explored economic growth and democratic consolidation within the country. The class included graduate students from NPSIA and Social Work, as well as undergraduate students from Journalism, Human Rights, Political Science, Linguistics and Public Affairs and Policy Management. It was led by IAS and Political Science faculty member, Chris Brown.

The first two weeks of the course took place on the campus at the University of Ghana in Legon, Accra. The first week focused on democratic development in Ghana's Fourth Republic. In 1993, Ghana emerged from military rule and democratically elected Jerry Rawlings as president. Ghana has been seen as a successful example of democracy in Africa since then, with two peaceful transfers of power. The students participated in lectures at the Parliament of Ghana, the Center for Democratic Development and IMANI Center for Policy and Education during these first two weeks.

The last week was spent in Tamale, the capital of the Northern Region, to explore rural development and

inequality in the country. The Northern Region of Ghana is very different from the wealthier South, which produces cocoa and gold. Students participated in visits to the Regional Coordinating Council, Savelugu District Assembly and the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority. Additionally, students were given a tour of the city by a fellow student whose family is from Tamale. This all provided personal insight into the development of Ghana.

It wasn't all work, however. Students spent the weekends traveling to different places in Ghana including Cape Coast Castle and Kakum National Forest. Cape Coast Castle is a former slave fort on the coast of Ghana about two hours from Accra. This was a profound experience for all of the students. This was followed by a canopy tour at Kakum National Forest. The class was a fun learning experience for all of the students.

Interested students can visit the Institute of African Studies webpage (carleton.ca/africanstudies/ias-study-abroad-course/) to see the tentative schedule for upcoming study abroad courses. The 2016 course will be in Malawi focusing on global health with Professor Paul Mkandawire, who is also from the country.



Photo: Samantha Damwe-Mante, Jessica Carroll, Rasha Al Katta and Chelsea Ruitter

Monica Patterson: Curating a new methodology in African Studies

By Kristine Harwood



When asked where and when her education started, Dr. Monica Eileen Patterson replies that has run through the course of her life and she has never stopped learning. Nor does she want to. Patterson attributes her interest cultural anthropology her early childhood experiences of moving to different

regions of the United States. Her father's job often required relocation, resulting in Patterson living everywhere from the Deep South to the Appalachians, and everywhere in between. The travel bug grew when Patterson attended Swarthmore, a liberal arts college outside of Philadelphia, and she participated in a year-long study abroad program in Zimbabwe.

One of her first experiences with 'cultural immersion', she stayed with families in rural, township, and suburban settings, and encountered the widely varying circumstances of life in southern Africa. This experience- coupled with visits to Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa- sparked her interest in the continent. From there, Patterson attended the University of Michigan, where she completed a joint PhD in History and Anthropology, in addition to a certificate in Museum Studies. A highlight was being invited to curate an exhibit on apartheid in honour of Desmond Tutu's visit to the campus. Her next stop was the Centre for Ethnographic Research and Exhibition in the Aftermath of Violence at Concordia University, where she held a Banting postdoc before joining the faculty at Carleton.

Patterson's passion for curation is perhaps what is most fascinating about her work. As she points out, "curation involves much more than exhibits at museums; when you look at the word... the 'cur' means 'to care for'." To 'curate' means to "select, assemble, and present" a group of things to make a larger statement or provocation, but this work also carries an ethical charge. It can be, and often is, a political project, especially for Patterson who is interested in the experiences of historically and culturally marginalized groups.

Combining cultural anthropology, history, and curation, Patterson seeks to create a new and hybrid methodology, one that works towards reinserting historical materials into communities, questions the colonial legacies of knowledge production about 'Africa', and creates space for the histories and memories of marginalized groups. This, says Patterson, can only be successful if programs centered on curation are anticolonial; diverge from dominant narratives; and are collaborative with the local community in question.

Affiliated with IAS, History, Anthropology, and Child Studies, the marginalized group Patterson focuses on most is children. During her stay in Zimbabwe- and later, her three years of doctoral research in South Africa- Patterson found that people's decision to participate in conflict often "hinged around formative experiences they had as children during colonial and apartheid rule." Due to the marginality of children in general, the nature and socioeconomic circumstances of apartheid, and the infrequency in which especially black children were (are) able to leave material traces of themselves, Patterson encountered a lack of archival material documenting apartheid childhoods. She also noticed that even when material was found, it was usually not attributed to the individuals represented or the children who created it.

So, she continues to collect what material she can, while working towards the reinsertion of historical materials through community-based, collaborative exhibits, housed in community centres and other 'non-official' museums. By incorporating curation into her work on the traumas children faced during colonialism and apartheid, Patterson plans to continue conducting memory work and questioning how knowledge production on the topic of 'child trauma' occurs, both in and out of Africa.

In collaboration with students from her Advanced Topics in Child Studies seminar, "History of 'the African Child'", Professor Patterson is currently curating an exhibit entitled, "Children's Rights in Africa" that will be featured during the annual IAS conference, "Human Rights and the Public Sphere in Africa".

Yiagadeesen Samy: Integrating interdisciplinary research for greater success

By Jessica Carroll



As a region, Sub-Saharan Africa is where the biggest development challenges remain, and for those who are studying international development, much of the work is set in the African context, making African Studies a complementary field of study. For Dr. Yiagadeesen Samy, an Associate Professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, his various research projects on international development is what has led him to focus on Africa in recent years.

Dr. Samy was born and raised in Mauritius, a small island nation off the east coast of Africa. After completing his secondary education there, he moved to Canada to begin his university studies. He completed a BA in Economics and Mathematics at York University before moving on to complete an MA in Economics from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Ottawa.

He joined the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in 2003, where he has taught as a professor since. In 2008 he took over as Associate Director of the MA program at the School. He currently teaches courses in development economics and foreign assistance.

Dr. Samy has researched and published on a range of development topics, which include: debt relief for the poorest countries; trade and labour standards; state fragility and state transitions; small island developing states; aid effectiveness; domestic resource mobilization and income inequality.

In recent years, this research has come to have a more geographic focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. Because of his economics background, much of his research is data-driven, which is quite different to the approaches of other fields in African studies that tend to focus more on qualitative methods.

However, the interdisciplinary nature of international affairs has allowed him the opportunity to collaborate with researchers of different disciplinary backgrounds on a wide range of topics. Dr. Samy praises this interdisciplinary approach to research saying “it has allowed me to approach complex problems from different perspectives.” He often integrates his research into the courses that he teaches at NPSIA, believing that this encourages and trains his students to think about real policy problems.

Dr. Samy’s research interests have been heavily shaped by his personal experience growing up in Mauritius during the period of his native country’s successful economic transition. As a result of this experience, many of the models and theories that he was exposed to during his academic training made more sense. “Good economic and social policy can have a transformative impact on people’s lives,” he says. His hope is that his teaching and research can inspire his students, especially those pursuing a future career in international development, to think critically about policy in their own quests to change things.

Graduate Profiles



Ying-Ying Tiffany Liu

Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology

My original research was about Chinese migration and food in South Africa, as many anthropologists see that food itself can be defined as a cultural commodity and as a marker of ethnic identity. While conducting year-long ethnographic research in Johannesburg's Chinese restaurants, I realized that most of the kitchen helpers were from Zimbabwe; hence, I decided to explore such an interesting example of how diaspora shaped, as well as being shaped by, a local economy. I use the term "intra-migrant economy" as a first conceptual framing step to refer to the phenomenon that a large number of Chinese small business entrepreneurs employ primarily undocumented Zimbabwean migrants as a business strategy for Chinese entrepreneurs, and as an alternative way to survive for undocumented Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa. However, due to South Africa's apartheid past and current high crime rates, the criminalization of blackness is rooted in both South African and Chinese discourses of racial bigotry, which are often reflected by the uneasy working relationship between Chinese employers and Zimbabwean employees. Rather than focusing solely on the economic aspect, my research project exam-

ines the intertwining of diasporic entrepreneurship, cultural identities, and South Africa's racial and economic issues. As this is the first project that documents Chinese restaurants in South Africa empirically, and in so doing ethnographically documenting Chinese and Zimbabwean diasporic experiences, this research also explores how the Chinese and Zimbabwean migrants negotiate and re-construct economic and labour relations in urban South Africa.



Will Tait

Ph.D. Candidate, History

Will's dissertation looks at Canadian Faith Based Organizations in connection to aid and development during the Cold War. Part of his work looks at case studies of these groups in East and West Africa in the 1960s to the 1980s including the Nigerian Civil War and the Great Ethiopian Famines. In the case of Ethiopia Will examines the Canadian NGO, Emergency Relief & Development Overseas (ERDO), founded by the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC) in 1982. In the 1970s the PAOC partnered with two Canadian provincial government-funding agencies to provide small-scale development projects through their Overseas Missions Department. This relationship became a praxis of the Lausanne Covenant and a model for the creation of ERDO as a stand alone aid and development NGO funded by Church donations and eventually by the Federal Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). ERDO became one of the founding members of the Canadian Food Grains Bank in 1983 that sought to co-or-

ordinate donations from Canadian prairie grain producers, Canadian Churches and the Federal Government in a "Christian response to Hunger". The initial result was a massive delivery of food aid to Ethiopia during the famines of the mid-1980s. Within this initiative ERDO played a key role in partnership with US and European evangelical aid organizations on the ground. The dissertation as a whole analyses the rising phenomenon of food aid delivery through such partnerships. In doing so, it argues that if changes in development theory and social activism had prompted great transformations in aid and development policies, splitting humanitarianism away from its religious roots, the rupture between NGOs and their religious predecessors had neither been complete nor permanent.

Graduate Profiles



Beth Mburu

Ph.D. Candidate, Geography & Environmental Studies

As a Kenyan native and doctoral candidate at the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Beth has pursued several academic interests. These span from her undergraduate degree in Chemistry at the University of Nairobi (Kenya), a Masters in Environmental Management from Yale University (CT, USA) to her current interests in food security and climate change at Carleton University. Her current research focuses on smallholder farmers in the Mt. Kenya region, teasing out their food security and climate change concerns. Smallholders are constantly negotiating changing farm dynamics and climate change acts as a threat-multiplier that exposes their vulnerabilities and increases their risks. Smallholders are uniquely positioned both as food producers and consumers and are closest to the trending global concerns on food consumption. In acknowledgement of their limitations at the household levels, smallholders often tap into social networks among themselves as well as engaging different institutions for external support. Ultimately, the research seeks to inform whether the current institutional arrangements are sufficient to address the smallholders' concerns while seeking to highlight areas of improvements. Beth hopes that her case study research will inform greater concepts of food security and further make a case for prioritizing smallholders' needs, incentives and resources for better livelihood outcomes.

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All this information and more can be found on our website (Carleton.ca/africanstudies) and is sent out along with information about other public events having to do with Africa in the Ottawa-Gatineau region.

Please send us an email at African_studies@carleton.ca to be put on the mailing list.

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THANK YOU: Let me once again pass on my deep appreciation for all the hard and professional work of the students who put this newsletter together: Jessica Carroll, Kristine Harwood, Faduma Mohamed, Elizabeth Peprah for their informative articles and to Radiyah Chowdhury for formatting and piecing this all together as a newsletter.

-- Blair Rutherford



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