2019 Annual Report

Celebrating 50 YEARS of Africa at Harvard
Welcome

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Harvard and Africa

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Cover: The Aeolians of Oakwood University performing at Memorial Church, Harvard Yard, during the Folorunso Alakija Distinguished Lecture on Religion and Public Life in Africa (April 17, 2019).
Welcome
Director’s Message

I am honored to share with you an overview of CAS’ achievements during the past year. It has been, by any measure, the most productive and impactful year in our Center’s history as we continued to partner with students and faculty from across the university as well as across the African continent. This year, we celebrate 50 years of Africa at Harvard. The Harvard University Committee on African Studies was established in 1969 and has since grown into a globally recognized, interdisciplinary body committed to deepening the connection between Harvard and Africa.

I welcome you to review our work in bringing Africa to Harvard, and Harvard to Africa, this past academic year.

We are proud to continue serving as the premier platform for Africa at Harvard and remain committed to broadening knowledge about African experiences and perspectives. We were honored in March 2019 to facilitate visits from H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of Sierra Leone, and H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana, both of whom delivered public addresses and engaged with students and faculty during their time on campus. President Bio’s visit focused on deepening educational and research collaborations between Harvard and Sierra Leone, while President Akufo-Addo spoke to the theme of Ghana Beyond Aid. Both visits presented Harvard students and faculty with an opportunity to hear directly from two of Africa’s democratic leaders about their respective visions and agendas.

We continued the conversation under our Africa-Asia research initiative with our second conference, hosted in Johannesburg and building off of the themes of our 2017 conference in Shanghai. The theme of this year’s conference was Africa-Asia: Partnerships in Health and Healthcare Delivery for Women and Youth. The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Harvard Asia Center served as co-organizers to represent the expertise of their respective faculties, and the conference was co-hosted by the University of Witwatersrand and the University of Johannesburg with significant participation by their faculty.

Dr. Tshepo Motsepe, MPH’84 and First Lady of South Africa, and Dr. Paul Farmer, Harvard Medical School, delivered the conference’s keynote addresses. In addition to our research initiatives, CAS occasionally convenes conferences on topics of emerging importance to Africa. This year, we partnered with a number of academic and philanthropic institutions to convene a conference on The State of African Philanthropy. Setting the Agenda. Held in Johannesburg, the conference explored how to formulate a coherent framework for African philanthropy.

The Center also hosted two of its annual endowed lecture series. The inaugural Folorunso Alakija Distinguished Lecture on Religion and Public Life in Africa featured retired Bishop John Bryant at Harvard’s Memorial Church. We were delighted to be serenaded by the 2017 Choir of the World, the Aeolians of Oakwood University, whose performance rang through the Memorial Church sanctuary and is featured on this year’s annual report cover. We also held the fourth annual Hakeem and Myrna Belo-Osagie Distinguished Lecture on African Business and Entrepreneurship in Johannesburg, featuring Kola Karim of Shoreline Energy International. Our third endowed lecture series, the Joseph Agepong Distinguished Lecture on Public Health in Africa, will be held in the coming academic year.

CAS remains the leading source of funding opportunities for students on campus conducting research and pursuing internship opportunities in Africa. This year, 20 students received funding from CAS to conduct research in Africa during Harvard’s J-term and summer term. This summer, CAS launched the annual Jospong Internship Program in Accra, Ghana, and the first cohort of students had the opportunity to gain work experience from one of the fastest growing networks of companies in Africa.

Our successful year would not have been possible without our Africa Advisory Board and Leadership Council’s support. Our faculty Executive Committee’s leadership was instrumental in fulfilling our mission to broaden knowledge about Africa and bring African perspectives to bear in the scholarship of the Harvard community. Through the work of our Africa Office, opened in Johannesburg in May 2017, CAS is able to convene many of the conferences and programs discussed above as well as remain in touch with our alumni and networks throughout the continent.

I am grateful for all of the Center’s supporters and wish to thank you for your commitment to our mission and your generosity. We will continue to provide a platform for students, scholars, and academics who not only shape the perception of Africa at Harvard University but also shape the way Africa is viewed in the global context. We look forward to the exciting year to come!

Emmanuel Kwaku Akyeampong
Oppenheimer Faculty Director
Harvard University Center for African Studies
2019 marks the 50th anniversary of African Studies at Harvard. Established in 1969 as the Committee on African Studies, our Center has grown into a globally-recognized interdisciplinary body, committed to deepening the connection between Harvard and Africa. Today, we have offices on two continents, including Harvard’s campus in Cambridge and our Africa Office in Johannesburg, South Africa. Our Africa Office allows us to convene international gatherings on topics of importance to Africa as well as to keep in touch with our alumni and colleagues across the continent. Our office in Cambridge has become a premier platform at Harvard University for hearing from Africa’s global thought leaders.

1969 The Harvard University Committee on African Studies is established.

1972 A group of students take over Massachusetts Hall, calling for divestment in apartheid-era South Africa.

1978 African Students Association (HASA) is founded.

1979 President Derek Bok establishes the Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program.

1980 Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa, receives an honorary degree from Harvard University.

1997 The Harvard Business School Africa Business Club is founded.

1998 Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa, receives an honorary degree from Harvard University.

2001 The Graduate Program in African American Studies begins classes with its first six students.

2002 Professors Jacqueline Bhabha and Stephen Greenblatt launch Harvard’s Scholars at Risk Program.

2003 Harvard African Language Program (ALP) is established, and the Department of African & African American Studies begins to offer undergraduate degrees in African Studies.

2004 UN Secretary General Kofi Annan receives an Honorary Degree from Harvard University.

2006 The Department of African and African-American Studies begins to offer doctoral degrees in African Studies.

2007 Harvard establishes its first two Summer Abroad Programs in Africa.


2012 The African Studies Workshop is established as a platform for Africanist scholars to present pre-published research work and explore Africa’s changing place in the world.

2017 The Harvard University Center for African Studies launched a continental office in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Africa Office works closely with its companion office in Cambridge to facilitate and strengthen relationships with alumni as well as business, cultural, and academic leaders across the African continent.

2018 The Center for African Studies hosted Africa’s Leaders Speak, which brought former heads of state from Cape Verde, Nigeria, and Tanzania to Harvard for the largest gathering of former heads of state at the university.

50 YEARS of Africa at Harvard

5 YEARS of the Center for African Studies
The Harvard University Center for African Studies collaborates across continents to share the Center’s resources and knowledge with Africans and Africanists from their offices in Cambridge and Johannesburg.

Student Programs  
Research Fellowships  
Events  
Outreach  

Africa at Harvard  
by the Numbers

- 259 African students enrolled
- 3600+ Harvard Alumni in Africa
- 45 African Languages taught
- 458 Students traveled to Africa Academic Year 2018-2019
- 120+ Harvard professors working on Africa-related topics
- 229 Africa-related Harvard Business School Case Studies
- 78 African Languages Courses Taught Academic Year 2018 - 2019
- 52 Partnerships in Africa
- 20 African student groups

STUDENT COUNT  
PER COUNTRY  
(As of October 19, 2018)

AFRICA TOTAL:  
259
1395

STUDENT TRAVEL TO AFRICA  
(July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

- 5 Tunisia
- 22 Morocco
- 19 Ghana
- 88 Senegal
- 1 Gambia
- 39 Nigeria
- 66 Cameroon
- 5 Benin
- 1 Sao Tome and Principe
- 1 Democratic Republic of Congo
- 1 Burundi
- 11 Rwanda
- 24 Lesotho
- 12 Namibia
- 6 Botswana
- 52 Zimbabwe
- 35 Mozambique
- 19 Eswatini

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Our Work

Student Programs

The Harvard University Center for African Studies supports programs that foster student and faculty engagement with the continent, encouraging interdisciplinary understandings of Africa.
Harvard African Language Program

With over 2,000 languages, Africa is home to nearly one-third of the world’s languages. Harvard’s African Language Program (ALP) is one of the largest language programs in the world. The ALP boasts some of the most innovative foreign language-learning pedagogy. Led by John Mugane, Professor of the Practice of African Languages and Cultures and Director of the ALP, Harvard has taught a total of 45 African languages averaging 24 different languages in any given semester. Not only do the courses in the African Language Program provide students with literacy skills (ability to understand, speak, read, and write) in the languages, ALP also emphasizes the cultural component in the classroom so that they can be functional in specific countries and regions of Africa. Activities such as Theater Night offers students a valuable opportunity to showcase oral skills in their language of study.

In Academic Year 2018-2019, 485 students took African language courses totaling 78 courses ranging from beginner to advanced classes, including Somali, Yoruba, Zulu, Jamaican Patois, Sudanese Arabic, Bemba, Igbo, Hausa, Afrikaans, Swahili, West African Pidgin, Twi, Gullah, Pulaar, Tigrinya, Amharic, Haitian Creole, and Xhosa.
**Student Programs:**

**Maru-a-Pula Summer Internship Program**

Since 2008, the Center for African Studies has provided an opportunity for Harvard students to teach and tutor at Maru-a-Pula (MaP) during the summer for eight weeks every summer in Gaborone, Botswana.

**SUMMER 2018 INTERNS:**

Armeen Barghi ‘21
Harvard College

Lisa Matay ‘20
Harvard College | Economics

Connor Richardson ‘19
Harvard College | Integrated Biology

Ituze Stella ‘21
Harvard College

**Lebone College Summer Program**

The program pairs Harvard undergraduates interested in teaching and mentorship with high school students at the Lebone II College in Phokeng, South Africa, where they spend eight fully-funded weeks living and working alongside Lebone students.

**SUMMER 2018 INTERNS:**

Rediet Alemu ‘21
Harvard College

Michaela Donato ‘21
Harvard College

Rahel Imru ‘21
Harvard College

"During this internship, I was granted the opportunity to help plan and facilitate the Lebone Leadership Festival, an international conference, which invited passionate students from schools across the globe to debate current issues, engage with guest speakers, and reflect on their own experiences to make decisions in cooperation with one another. Along with the participating students, I was transformed through the multiple discussions and interactions regarding the theme of the conference, which was what it meant to be a leader, as viewed through the Mandela legacy. This international perspective is so unique and crucial to my personal development.

The conversations I had with the students - whether it was about the school culture, or the politics in the current society of South Africa, or their family dynamics, or whatever else we talked about - taught me so much about the universal human experience, no matter where in the world you live. Our worlds were so different, but they had so many parallels, and that is what drew us all closer to one another. The relationships with the students I formed over the eight weeks I spent there are priceless and life-lasting."

**SPOTLIGHT:**

Lisa Matay ‘20
Harvard College, Economics

"Born and raised in Tanzania, I came to learn about Harvard through mentors and educators who believed I had a chance. I know the importance of having someone who believes in you and guiding you to the right resources because without that exposure, I would never have known what opportunities lay ahead of me and how to access them. At MaP I have witnessed the incredible talent that these students have, whether it be music, art, sports or leadership. The trouble remains in finding a way to make the most of these talents amidst all the barriers. I loved being able to talk to the students about what their ambitions were, what their backgrounds were like, and how they could use their passions to influence their future. It was also very helpful for me, as I found myself thinking about these questions every day. Words cannot adequately express just how grateful I am to have had this experience that opened me up to learning more about other cultures and societies."
“I am incredibly grateful to have had the experience of traveling and learning about Ghana’s history, culture, and business environment during such a pivotal time of my education journey. After an arduous first year of law school, it was incredible to expand my understanding of the legal environment of Ghana through my visits to the High Court as well as my work with Jospong’s in-house legal department. The experience helped me to better grasp the multitude of legal traditions and norms that exist outside of the United States and provided a necessary comparative perspective that will enrich my legal studies moving forward.

Jospong Internship Program

The Jospong Internship Program is a fully-funded program for Harvard University undergraduate and graduate students to work for the Jospong Group of Companies for eight weeks during the summer in Accra, Ghana. The Jospong Group of Companies has several sectors of operation including waste management, banking and finance, information communications, technology, and mining. This program provides interns with a unique opportunity to work for one of the fastest-growing networks of companies in Africa.

Interns gained invaluable experience working on challenging assignments and setting up systems for the sector they are selected to work in. Each intern’s role is shaped by their field, skills, and strengths as well as the needs of the company at which they are placed.

SPOTLIGHT:

Opeolowa Adebanjo
Harvard Law School '20

“I am incredibly grateful to have had the experience of traveling and learning about Ghana’s history, culture, and business environment during such a pivotal time of my education journey. After an arduous first year of law school, it was incredible to expand my understanding of the legal environment of Ghana through my visits to the High Court as well as my work with Jospong’s in-house legal department. The experience helped me to better grasp the multitude of legal traditions and norms that exist outside of the United States and provided a necessary comparative perspective that will enrich my legal studies moving forward.

As this was the first year of the program, I am glad to have been able to participate in the inaugural class and share my experience and insights with the classes that will participate in the coming years. I believe that it provides a rare opportunity for students of the African diaspora to learn and work on the continent and to envision how they can contribute their gifts and interests to the continent.”

INAUGURAL INTERNS – SUMMER 2018 INTERNS

Opeolowa Adebanjo ‘20
Harvard Law School
Sela Kasepa ‘20
Harvard College | Mechanical Engineering
Maclean Sarbah ’19
Harvard Graduate School of Design
Sammota Mwakalobo ’20
Harvard College | Mathematics
Kennedy Opala ’19
Harvard Kennedy School

Student Programs: Jospong Internship Program

Student Programs: Student Events

Highlights:

AfricaGSD at the Harvard Graduate School of Design
February 22, 2019
Mpho Matsipa in Conversation

Mpho Matsipa is a leading architect and design theorist. While primarily based in South Africa and the US where she holds research and academic appointments, her research looks at shifting urban conditions throughout the African continent.

For her lecture at the GSD, Mpho focused on African Mobilities. African Mobilities is a multi-site research initiative that brings together built environment practitioners, theorists, and designers from across Africa. The aim of the project was to begin to build networks of knowledge production centred on resources held on the continent. African Mobilities took place in Johannesburg, Harare, Kampala, Lagos, and New York culminating with an exhibition at the Architecture Museum at the University of Munich. What is notable about African Mobilities is how it decentres existing power structures and nodes of cultural production. Much of urban theory, especially in Africa, is not written by people on the ground.

Mpho’s talk gave a nuanced and enlightened perspective on how we can think about the urban experience as it relates to some of the most dynamic and unpredictable cities on the planet. In the Q&A session after the talk, Mpho set forth an agenda that proposed new ways of thinking about and engaging with African cities. This is notable for a long-time because western academic institutions have taken a very narrow view of urban development in Africa. African Mobilities thus presents a powerful model through which productive conversations can spark new ideas.

Nigerian Student Association at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
April 25, 2019
Can Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, eliminate Malaria?

The event began with an opening speech by Dr. Chris Sudfeld, the faculty advisor to the Harvard T. H. Chan-Nigerian Students Association (NSA). He thanked the NSA, the attendees, and all the various co-sponsors for using the World Malaria Day as a platform to have a conversation about the feasibility of malaria elimination in Nigeria. Next, Dr. Sai Lone Tip, the president of the ASEAN students, introduced the two guest speakers for the day. The first speaker, Dr. Ify Aniebo, spoke about key issues in malaria elimination as well as the public health impact of malaria in Nigeria. Dr. Hezekiah Shobieye then shared his experiences working with the Nigerian government in combating infectious diseases. He highlighted the challenges of malaria elimination and suggested better and alternative strategies to be employed in the fight against malaria in Nigeria.

An audience led Q&A session was moderated by Ebere Azumah, Harvard T. H. Chan-NSA president.
The Harvard University Center for African Studies creates opportunities and provides resources for academics, students, scholars, organizations, and anyone with an interest in Africa-related topics, to learn, research, and share knowledge related to Africa.
Research: Harvard Graduate & Undergraduate Research

Harvard Graduate & Undergraduate Research

Through research, language, and experiential grants for summer and January term, CAS expands opportunities for Harvard students to gain experience, in both formal and informal settings. In 2018-2019, the Harvard Center for African Studies funded the research, study abroad, and internship activities for more than a dozen students traveling to eight different African countries.

RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIP GRANTS 2018-2019:

J-Term Research and Grants

Esias Bedingar ’20
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Effects of malaria prevention practice on malaria transmission rates in NDjamena (Chad)

Emma Clarke ’22
Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Quality of care for postpartum hemorrhage in Kenya (Kenya)

Zeenith Ebrahim ’19
Harvard Kennedy School
Jamii: Bringing affordable home healthcare to South Africa (South Africa)

Kirin Gupta ’23
Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Archival research and inquiry into the anti-apartheid movement’s gendered strategies to resistance and tactical use of violence: Women’s Prison Protests (South Africa)

Molly Leavens ’20
Harvard College | Environmental Science & Public Policy
Corporate responsibility in the Ghanaian cocoa market (Ghana)

Roy Mugobi ’21
Harvard College | Undeclared
Researching healthcare access in rural Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe)

Eduardo Palaez ’19
Harvard Graduate School of Design
Community resilience to floods: Wet grounds, ecological risks, and community-based initiatives in Nairobi (Kenya)

Miheret Woldesmait ’19
Harvard Law School
Participatory reform in Ethiopia: How Ethiopia in its new climate of inclusiveness and democracy can utilize participatory policy-making to reform laws and the justice system (Ethiopia)

Summer Research and Internship Grants

Lydia Cawley ’20
Harvard College | Classical Languages & Literature
Internship with the Press & Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers (Algeria)

Charles Michael ’20
Social Studies
Internship with Our Future Cities NPO in Cape Town (South Africa)

Eunice Mwabe ’19
Harvard College | Anthropology
Internship with Our Future Cities NPO in Cape Town (South Africa)

Kirin Gupta ’23
Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Archival research and inquiry into the anti-apartheid movement’s gendered strategies to resistance and tactical use of violence: Women’s Prison Protests (South Africa)

Dylan Ryals ’20
Harvard College | Integrative Biology
Internship in beekeeping with Kasisi/Kibale Forest Schools Project (Uganda)

STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCES:

“I feel that I grew so much over the course of my ten-week internship at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers. I learned a lot about myself and my personal, academic, and career goals. This internship was my first time ever in an office job—no less in the highly bureaucratic environment of the U.S. State Department—and it taught me how to effectively, efficiently, and meaningfully work with people.”

– Lydia Cawley

“Over the course of my two months in Cape Town, I learned far more than I could ever have imagined about my own interests, the real estate industry, and the ways that the world functions outside of the Harvard bubble in which we are too often stuck inside at school. This summer has given me inspiration to continue pursuing my passion for real estate development and global travel.”

– Charles Michael
Fellowships: Harvard African Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

In 2015, the Center for African Studies introduced the African Studies Postdoctoral Program to offer professional development and teaching opportunities to promising African postdoctoral candidates who seek academic careers on the African continent. The program was established to supplement Harvard’s mission of advancing teaching and research across the university and to encourage the exchange of new and diverse ideas among academic communities.

As one of the Center’s first postdoctoral fellowship recipients, Mekonnen Firew Ayano has divided his time between Cambridge, Massachusetts and Johannesburg, South Africa in the pursuit of scholarship and teaching. In the penultimate year of the fellowship, he was based in Johannesburg at the Wits Institute for Economic and Social Research (WISER) at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In the Fall of 2018, Mekonnen Ayano completed his book manuscript and published a journal article at the New York University School of Law. He presented his work at the African Studies Workshop on November 26, 2018, on Land Conflict in Transitional Economies.

He has accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri School of Law beginning Fall 2019.
Fellows:
Harvard African Studies
Visiting Scholars Program

The Center for African Studies hosts visiting scholars each year, who come to collaborate on research with Harvard faculty. In addition, the Center in collaboration with the Committee on General Scholarships is able to host semester-long Visiting Scholars from Africa. In the spring semester we hosted in residence Dr. Pengtao Li from Zhejiang Normal University in the People’s Republic of China (African Studies), Dr. Uchenna Okeja from Rhodes University in South Africa (Philosophy), and Dr. Inam Yekwayo from the University of Mpumalanga in South Africa (Biology and Environmental Sciences). During their time here, they accessed the university’s library resources, presented their work, and partnered with faculty on various projects.

VISITING SCHOLARS:

Pengtao Li
(Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)

Pengtao Li is an Associate Professor in the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University (IASZNU). Dr. Li received his PhD at the History Department of Nanjing University. Dr. Li teaches African history, and his fieldwork focus is on Eastern African countries, especially Tanzania and Zambia. He is the author of many articles on African history in influential Chinese academic journals and is also the translator of the Chinese edition of The Cambridge History of Africa (Vol.7) and Kenya, Between Hope and Despair (Daniel Branch, Yale University Press, 2011). His monograph Exploring History at the Margin of Empire: A Comparative Analysis of the Social Change in Anglophone Africa (1885-1960) is to be published in 2019.

Uchenna Okeja
(Fall 2018)

Uchenna Okeja is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Rhodes University and an Iso Lomso Fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study. He works mainly in the areas of critical theory, political philosophy, ethics, and African philosophy. Prior to the current position at Rhodes, he taught philosophy and business ethics at the University of Applied Sciences in Fulda and Goethe University Frankfurt. He completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Germany, obtaining his PhD at Goethe University, Frankfurt, in 2011. He has held visiting positions at the Institute for Advanced Study in Stellenbosch, Forschungskolleg in Frankfurt and had a Senior Fellowship at the Iustitia Amplificata Center for Advanced Study in Frankfurt.

Inam Yekwayo
(Spring 2019)

Inam Yekwayo is a Conservation Ecologist, with a PhD (Conservation Ecology) from Stellenbosch University and an MSc (Zoology) from Water Sisulu University. Inam’s research focuses on the interaction of arthropods with various vegetation types. Inam has published scientific articles in journals such as PLoS One, Biodiversity and Conservation, and Insect Conservation and Diversity. In addition, she has shared her research findings at local (South Africa) and international conferences. Inam understands the importance of collaborative research. In addition to being a researcher, Inam is a Nature Conservation lecturer at the University of Mpumalanga. At the University of Mpumalanga, she has been involved in the teaching and learning of modules, such as Conservation Ecology and Entomology and the supervision of an MSc student. Currently, Inam is registered with Haaga-Helia University for the Vocational Teacher Education Program.

Victor Ongoma
(Fall 2018)

Victor is an up-and-coming expert in meteorology, with a specialty in climatology and climate change. He holds a PhD (Meteorology) from Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, China, attained in 2017. He is a lecturer in the Department of Meteorology at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) in Kenya, which he joined in 2013 as a tutorial fellow. Victor worked for Kenya Meteorological Department as meteorologist for two years prior to joining SEKU. At Harvard, Victor explored the applications of satellite products in estimating crop yield in Africa, in an effort to enhance food security monitoring. His mentors are Peter Huybers, Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Co-Director of the Harvard University Center for the Environment, and Steven Wofsy, Abbott Lawrence Rotch Professor of Atmospheric and Environmental Science.

HIGHLIGHT:

In September 26, 2018, Uchenna Okeja was a presenter at the CAS Director’s Lecture Series, speaking on an “African Arena for Deliberation: Foundations of African Political Philosophy”. Uchenna began with an account of the phenomenon of political failure and showed the sense in which its recalcitrance constitutes a demand for the articulation of a new African political philosophy, that is, a call for the development of a political philosophy that takes a different route in attempting to make sense of post-colonial African experience.
Established in 1979, the Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program (HSAFP) invites mid-career professionals who have been historically disenfranchised by laws and resource allocations related to the South African apartheid system to pursue a course of study in one of eight possible programs. Fellowships provide tuition waivers, living stipends, and airfare for one-year study at one of Harvard’s Professional Schools or the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Participants undergo a rigorous application process and are selected by a panel of esteemed Africanists and Harvard faculty.

Fellowships: Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program

Harvard South Africa Fellowship Program

Zeenith Ebrahim, Mid-Career Masters in Public Administration at Harvard Kennedy School

Zeenith spent nine years leading rail transactions across Africa, including some of Africa’s largest locomotive transactions. She led GE’s Joint Venture in South Africa as GM & CEO – a company that manufactured hundreds of locomotives for South Africa and for export across the entire continent of Africa. These locomotives were built with more than 55% local content, facilitating thousands of jobs. Zeenith transitioned to healthcare in June 2017 to expand access to healthcare technology across Africa. Her role to lead GE Healthcare Africa’s affordable care and indirect distribution was targeted at expanding access to healthcare technologies, such as ultrasound for women’s health and diagnostic imaging equipment beyond major cities on the continent. Zeenith has a Bachelor of Business Science (Finance & Accounting) from the University of Cape Town and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, a BCom (Honors) in Management Accounting and cooperatives. Chuma holds a BCom (Honors) in Management from University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, and a Master of Business Administration from the Gordon Institute of Business Science. She is passionate about future-proofing organizations in a highly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world, by applying deep understanding of global economic and technological trends and determining powerful strategies for self, team, and organizational leadership.

Chuma Qwalela is an organizational strategy and optimization professional, with over 15 years of experience in financial services, telecommunications, mining, and information and communications technology. She has held various senior and advisory positions from process re-engineering to strategy consulting, organizational transformation, and change management. She is currently responsible for implementation of Prudential Author- ity programs at the South African Reserve Bank, as part of the Twin Peaks model of financial regulation, aimed at transitioning from banking supervision to the supervision of all financial institutions (e.g. insurers, pension funds, stock exchanges, and cooperatives). Chuma holds a BCom (Honors) in Management from University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, and a Master of Business Administration from the Gordon Institute of Business Science. She is passionate about future-proofing organizations in a highly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world, by applying deep understanding of global economic and technological trends and determining powerful strategies for self, team, and organizational leadership.

Kabelo Witness Matlou, Visiting Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Jazz pianist Witness Matlou is a composer, performer, and band leader whose work is influenced by African traditional, folk music, jazz, classical and other forms of world music. Witness studied music at Berklee College of Music on a full scholarship, where he completed his bachelor’s degree in both performance and jazz compositions with a minor in philosophy in 2015. He also earned his Master’s degree from the Berklee Global Jazz Institute In 2016, where he studied with Grammy-winning pianist and composer Danilo Perez, as well as Joe Lovano, John Patitucci, Dave Liebman, and Terri Lyne Carrington - to name a few. After he received his Master’s degree, Witness was awarded a Post-Master’s Fellow- ship in 2017 at the Berklee Global Jazz institute. Witness has toured professionally throughout Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the Unit- ed States. His current composition and research project is a social and political reflection on the history of South Africa, with the message of love, hope, and unity. He has also worked as a composer and musical director for the Tony Williams Dance Company for their Urban Nutcracker in Boston.

Nilesh Patel, Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School

Nilesh has proven expertise and experience in efficient and effective healthcare service delivery. He has spent two decades developing and managing value-based healthcare services within the South African public and private healthcare sec- tors. He spent most of the past 10 years in an executive general man- agement role at Life Healthcare, where he was responsible for sev- eral strategic support and business units including acute rehabilitation, acute mental health, renal dialysis, occupational health, employee wellness, chronic mental health and frail care as well as clinical governance and quality. He is currently Group Chief Medical Officer at Lenmed Health, the largest independent private hospital group in South Africa, where he is responsible for clinical governance, quality, nursing, pharmacy, and human resource management.

Chuma Qwalela, General Management Program at Harvard Business School

Chuma Qwalela
Fellowships:
Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship

Through funding from the United States Department of Education, the Center for African Studies offers Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships. These fellowships provide tuition and stipend support for full-time Harvard University graduate and undergraduate students interested in intensive for-credit study of an African language in the United States or abroad. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships are awarded for summer intensive language programs and language and area studies during the academic year.

SUMMER FLAS 2018 FELLOWS:

Paul Clarke ’22
Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Language: isiZulu
University of Witwatersrand
South Africa

Renugan Raidoo ’21
Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Language: isiZulu
Dissertation Research & Language Study
South Africa

Olivia Woldemikael ’23
Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Language: Kiswahili
Kiswahili na Utamaduni (KIU)
Training Services
Tanzania

ACADEMIC YEAR FLAS 2018-2019 FELLOWS:

Paul Clarke ’22
Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Language: isiZulu

Hannah Kim ’20
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Language: Swahili

Meghan McCormick ’19
Harvard Kennedy School
Language: Fulani

STUDENT EXPERIENCES:

“This experience has been truly invaluable for me, not only for my research where much of what is expressed is in isiZulu, but also for my general knowledge of South Africa. The language of isiZulu that I learned is not only a medium of communication, but an archive of sensibilities, deeply held values, and philosophical positions on the world. Learning the language has given me insight into my country of study in a manner I could have never done before. That is solely possible through the Summer FLAS fellowship and for that I am extremely grateful.”

– Paul Clarke
On March 7th, His Excellency Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, gave a public address at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum. He highlighted the country’s efforts at development and improved governance. On March 8th, the Center hosted A Forum on Sierra Leone featuring His Excellency Julius Maada Bio and prominent professors from Harvard University and Tufts University. A variety of themes were discussed, including healthcare infrastructure, K-12 education, economic development, law, and governance. Harvard University Professors Paul Farmer, Fernando Reimers, and Raymond Atuguba, as well as Tufts University Professor Margaret McMillan provided insight and thoughts on these topics, followed by His Excellency’s keynote on the future of an inclusive Sierra Leone.

The The Africa-Asia Partnerships in Health and Healthcare Delivery for Women and Youth was a two-day conference that convened scholars, policymakers, and practitioners across disciplines from Harvard, Asia, Africa, and the rest of the world to move the agenda forward for safeguarding the health and development of women and youth in Africa. Dr. Tshepo Motsaepe and Dr. Paul Farmer were the two keynote speakers for the conference. This event was held in collaboration with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Harvard University Asia Center. The University of Witwatersrand and the University of Johannesburg served as co-hosts. [Johannesburg, South Africa]

The Writing Beyond “Mugabe’s Zimbabwe” Symposium was a robust engagement between Zimbabwean writers of opposing views who interrogate the history that culminated in one of the biggest political shakeups in generations through books that cut across the genres of memoir, cultural and political analysis, reportage, and fiction. This packed event provided an opportunity for the writers to engage with the difficult of being an author in one’s home country, Zimbabwe.

[Cambridge, MA, USA]

The Hakeem and Myma Belo-Osagie Lecture on African Business and Entrepreneurship featured Kola Karim, CEO and Managing Director of Shoreline Energy International, who shared how he got started in business and his insights on doing business in Africa. He encouraged Africans to work together and look at the negatives of Africa as opportunities. The lecture was followed by an engaging Q&A that highlighted the differences of doing business in Africa and how Africa faces additional challenges in sustainability while also improving infrastructure. [Cambridge, MA, USA]

The Folorunso Alakija Distinguished Lecture on Religion and Public Life in Africa featured Bishop Richard Bryant, retired Senior Bishop and President of the Fourth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Bryant shared his experience with religion as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia and how that influenced his preaching career to this day. The sanctuary of Memorial Church echoed to the day. The sanctuaries of Memorial Church echoed with breathtaking music provided by the 2017 choir of the world, the Aeolians of Oakwood University in Alabama. This lecture was followed by a dinner where Mrs. Folorunso Alakija was the keynote speaker, sharing her own experience of how her deep faith shapes her business and philanthropy.

[Cambridge, MA, USA]

The African Philanthropy Conference was a two-day conference hosted in collaboration with the African Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment at the Wits Business School, the African Philanthropy Forum, and TrustAfrica. The conference, entitled “The State of African Philanthropy: Setting the Agenda,” convened philanthropists (African and non-African), non-governmental organizations that work in this area, policy-makers, the private sector, and academic researchers to explore how together we can formulate a coherent framework for African philanthropy. Mrs. Tsitsi Masiyiwa, Founder and Executive Chairperson at Strauss & Co., was the keynote speaker for the two-day conference.

[Johannesburg, South Africa]
African Studies Workshop

In its seventh year, the African Studies Workshop at Harvard continued in academic year 2018-2019 with another exciting lineup of cutting-edge Africanist researchers. This workshop is led by renowned Harvard University professors Jean and John Comaroff and offers both leading and emerging Africanist scholars an opportunity to workshop new materials and publications-in-progress. In the Spring of 2019, Professor George Meiu served as the moderator of the workshop while Professors John and Jean Comaroff were on sabbatical. Discussants are drawn from the Africanist community at Harvard and throughout the Boston area. Students, faculty, and the general public are encouraged to engage in discussion, moderated by the Comaroffs. A comprehensive list of the workshops is shown on the following pages, and videos of the workshops are available at www.vimeo.com/harvardafrica.

April 15, 2019, Jonny Steinberg presented on The Courthship of Nelson and Winnie Mandela: The Dizzying Quest to Live Exemplary Lives. Jonny Steinberg is Professor of African Studies at Oxford and is currently Visiting Professor in African Politics at Yale. Among his books are The Number, a history of the underworld of crime and punishment in South Africa, and A Man of Good Hope, which explores the predicament of women asylum seekers and refugees in Paris. The discussant for this workshop was Sebastian Jackson, PhD Candidate, Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University.

October 1, 2018, Darja Djordjevic presented on The Cancer War(s): Onco-Nationhood in Post-Genocide-Rwanda. Darja Djordjevic is currently a psychiatry resident physician at Yale University School of Medicine. She received her BA in anthropology from Harvard College, and was a mentee of Professors Arthur Kleinman and Michael Herzfeld. Her BA thesis examined the predicament of women asylum seekers and refugees in Paris. The discussant for this workshop was Michael Herzfeld, Professor of the Social Sciences, Emeritus.

September 5, 2018, African Language Program (ALP) Open House gave students the opportunity to learn about Harvard’s many African language courses, meet the ALP’s language instructors and register for language courses for the semester.

September 10-12, 2018 Biko: Subject and the State was a three-part lecture series on Steve Biko presented by Tendayi Sithole, Associate Professor at the Department of Political Sciences, University of South Africa. The discussant for this workshop was Michael Herzfeld, Emeritus Professor of the Social Sciences, Emeritus.

September 13-15, 2018 West Africa and the Maghreb: Reassessing Intellectual Connections in the 21st century was an international conference convened by Professor Ousmane Kane, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society at Harvard Divinity School, to facilitate intellectual conversation between junior and senior scholars involved in cutting-edge research in the field of Islam in Africa, including Sufism and Sufi Orders in Muslim Africa, Prayers, Invocations and the Talismanic Tradition, Re-evaluating the Historic Core Curriculum, Jihadi Ideology: What is new, what is not, and New Intellectual Connections.

September 17, 2018 African Studies Workshop featuring Robyn d’Avignon, who presented Les Techniques hégéliennes: ‘Customary’ Mining and Colonialism in French West Africa. The discussant was Emmanuel Akeyesempong, Ellen Gurney Professor of History and of African and African American Studies and Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the Harvard University Center for African Studies.

September 20, 2018 Dr. Tshepo Motsepe MPH’84, First Lady of South Africa, visited CAS and engaged in a roundtable discussion on Africa at Harvard with faculty.

**Events: A Year in Review**

**September 25, 2018**

**September 27, 2018**

**October 1, 2018**

**October 11, 2018**
Pan-African Discussion Group featuring Ingrid Monson, Quincy Jones Professor of African-American Music, and Professor of African and African American Studies.

**October 15, 2018**
African Studies Workshop featuring Alioune Sow, who presented Transitional Memorials: politics and literary forms in post military Mali. The discussant was Michael Herzfeld, Ernest E. Monrad Professor of the Social Sciences, Emeritus.

**October 22, 2018**
African Studies Workshop featuring Antonio von Schlipitzer, who presented infrastructure, Material Politics, and Apartheid’s Remains. The discussant was George Meiu, John and Ruth Hazel Associate Professor of the Social Sciences.

**October 25, 2018**
Ali-Harvard Africa Fall Mixer was an opportunity to welcome more than 150 African and Africa enthusiasts from across the University to engage in the Fall semester’s meet-and-greet mixer.

**October 29, 2018**
African Studies Workshop featuring Amah Edoh, who presented Tailor-made, tailor-making: Expertise and the negotiation of social status in contemporary West Africa. The discussant was Lila Kilburn, PhD student in Anthropology.

**November 5, 2018**
African Studies Workshop featuring Michael Ralph, who presented Martyr Certificate: Death, Sacrifice, and Legitimacy in Eritrea. The discussant was Paul Clarke, PhD student in Anthropology.

**November 8, 2018**
Africa: Finding and Funding Internships Panel offered an opportunity to hear from students about their internship experiences across the continent, as well as how they found and funded them.

**November 12, 2018**
African Studies Workshop featuring Nina Sylvanus, who presented Harboring the Future: The Togolese Techno-Port, Governance, and Global Economics in West Africa. The discussant was Susan Cook, Project Manager for Cultural Initiatives.

**November 20, 2018**
Writing Beyond “Mugabe’s Zimbabwe” Symposium hosted a robust engagement between Zimbabwean writers of opposing views, who interrogate the history that culminated in one of the biggest political shakeups in generations through books that cut across the genres of memoir, cultural and political analysis, reportage, and fiction.

**December 3, 2018**

**December 5, 2018 – January 5, 2019**
Barber Shop Chronicles production arrived at the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge as part of its US premiere tour following critically-acclaimed runs at London’s National Theatre and the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

**January 28, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Donald Donham, who presented The Erotics of Capitalism: An Atlantic African Example. The discussant was Casey Golomski, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Hampshire.

**February 4, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Evan Mwangi, who presented Interspecies Sexual Intimacies in African Literature. The discussant was Parker Shipton, Professor of Anthropology at Boston University.

**February 11, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Elizabeth Foster, who presented A Truly Universal Church: Alloune Diop and Catholic Negritude. The discussant was Jacob Oulpona, Professor of African Religious Traditions at the Harvard Divinity School and Professor of African and African American Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

**February 25, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Nicholas Githuku, who presented The Indivisible Global African Experience: A Reflection on an Inter-Permeating Intellectual History. The discussant was Robyn d’Avignon, Assistant Professor of African History at New York University.

**March 4, 2019**
**Events: A Year in Review**

**March 7, 2019**
A Public Address by His Excellency Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, was given at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum.

**March 8, 2019**
A Forum on Sierra Leone featuring His Excellency Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and prominent professors from Harvard and Tufts University discussing a variety of themes, including healthcare infrastructure, K-12 education, economic development, law, and governance.

**March 11, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Lisa Lindsay, who presented Abiola, PhD student, African Enslavement in Atlantic Africa. The discussant was Gbemisola Enslavement in Atlantic Africa.

**March 19 - 20, 2019**
Africa-Asia Partnerships in Health and Healthcare Delivery for Women and Youth, a two-day conference that convened scholars, policymakers, and practitioners across disciplines from Harvard, Asia, Africa, and the rest of the world to move the agenda forward for safeguarding the health and development of women and youth in Africa.

**March 25, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Yousef Carter, who presented Daydreaming about Diaspora. The discussant was Paul Clarke, PhD student in Anthropology.

**March 25, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Ronald Niezen, who presented Tracking Herero and Nama Justice Claims from Namibia to Germany. The discussant was Yookyong Im, PhD student in Anthropology.

**March 26, 2019**
African Language Program Theatre Night was an opportunity for Harvard students to present skits, readings, plays, and other cultural performances in various African languages.

**April 4, 2019**
Careers in Africa welcomed students to come and hear from a diverse guest panel who have experience working and living in various African countries.

**April 8, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Robert Lorway who presented Experimental Entanglements: Surveillance Science, Sex Worker Dissidence, and Evidentiary Politics in Kenya. The discussant was Sophia Roosth, Frederick S. Danziger Associate Professor in the History of Science.

**April 15, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Jonny Steinberg who presented The Courtship of Nelson and Winnie Mandela: the dizzying quest to live exemplary lives. The discussant was Sebastian Jackson, PhD student in African and African American Studies.

**April 17, 2019**
Folorunso Alakija Distinguished Lecture on Religion and Public Life in Africa featuring Bishop John Richard Bryant, retired Senior Bishop and Presiding Prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The audience was serenaded by the talented Aeolians of Oakwood University.

**April 22, 2019**
African Studies Workshop featuring Robert Blunt who presented Anthropology After Dark: Nocturnal Life and the Anthropology of the Good Enough in Western Kenya. The discussant was Chrystel Oloukoï, PhD student in African and African American Studies.

**April 29, 2019**
Director’s Lecture Series featuring Joel M. Ngugi, Presiding Judge, High Court of Kenya at Nakuru, who presented The Role of the Judiciary in the Reconstruction and Transformation of Transitional Societies: Lessons from Kenya.

**May 15, 2019**

**May 16 - 17, 2019**
African Philanthropy Conference, was a two-day conference that convened philanthropists (African and non-African), Non-Governmental Organizations that work in this area, policy-makers, the private sector, and academic researchers to explore how together we can formulate a coherent framework for African philanthropy.

**June 1, 2019**
Center for African Studies Open House brings together recent graduates and alumni who are back on campus for reunions to learn more about the work the Center for African Studies has been doing.
Outreach: Summer Workshop for Educators

Collaborating with other international centers at Harvard University, the Harvard University Center for African Studies supports an annual four-day intensive summer workshop for middle school, high school, and community college educators.

The 2018 workshop, attended by 34 educators, focused on “The Internet: Access, Connection, and Opportunity in a Global Landscape.” The workshop featured presentations and regional case studies by scholars, experts, policy-makers, and practitioners who study the Internet and its global impact, explored pedagogy and skill-building techniques to help educators and students better understand the Internet as a global phenomenon, and provided an introduction to relevant classroom resources to explore with your colleagues and students.

The Harvard Center for African Studies (CAS) sponsored the participation of Africa experts at the conference, including Tinsley Galyean and Stephanie Gotwald from the non-profit Curious Learning. They discussed how access to further education and to the resources of the Internet are gated by one’s ability to read and write, yet there are at least 1 billion people that are illiterate. They looked at the scope of the problem with an emphasis on Africa and explored how the importance of learning how to read influences how the same technologies cannot be fully utilized.

SOME OF OUR TEACHERS’ FEEDBACK FROM THE CONFERENCE:

“The Harvard Incubator was quite useful for giving my students strategies to find and research peer-reviewed academic sources that aren’t just on the internet.”

“It is always a pleasure to work with your team of educators. It is, by far, the best professional development I have experienced across many venues, including Harvard Continuing Education.”
“Thank you very much for this opportunity. I cannot wait to bring this information back into the classroom. This was one of the highlights of my summer development.”

Outreach: Boston Community Engagement

Roxbury Community College Partnership

For the fifth year, the Center for African Studies partnered with Roxbury Community College (RCC) to provide an internship for RCC students to work at the Widener Library and explore the library resources. In 2018, Lleayn Hashim joined us for an internship at Widener Library to assist Bassey Irele, Librarian for Sub-Saharan Africa, in identifying the gaps in the Widener Library collection by searching publishers’ and book vendors’ lists in the online catalog. The internship opportunity provides exposure both to the inner workings and operations of an academic library system as well as to African studies more broadly.

Over the past year, RCC faculty and students attended activities including the weekly African Studies Workshop, as well as the public lectures and meet-and-greets with President Akufo-Addo of Ghana and President Bio of Sierra Leone. We also held meetings with RCC faculty to discuss how CAS and RCC can partner on curriculum development as RCC revives its African Studies Program, as well as strategies for RCC to more broadly engage with CAS. This partnership provides RCC with greater access to Harvard university’s Africa resources.

Globalizing the Classroom Fellowship

The fellowship brings together secondary and community college educators from across the country who have distinguished themselves through their work and passion for integrating global content into their classrooms. Each fellow is expected to develop classroom materials for use in their own classrooms, but with potential value to classrooms throughout the country. The trainings, drawing on Harvard resources, are devoted to both area studies content and pedagogical approaches. The fellowship culminates with participation in GSOC’s annual Summer Workshop for Educators.

Crimson Summer Academy Film Screening

To reach younger audiences directly, the Center for African Studies organizes an annual film screening at the Crimson Summer Academy, a program for talented and highly-motivated Boston-area high school students who take summer classes on Harvard’s campus. The Center selects films that challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about Africa. In 2019, the Center screened The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind and facilitated a Q&A session with a student panel.
In June 2019, CAS welcomed the third cohort of INSPIRE students on campus. This year we partnered with the University of Limpopo (South Africa) and the Harvard Club of Ghana to identify and prepare students for this program. The goal of INSPIRE is to unlock the potential of Africa’s brightest and most capable youth. INSPIRE aims to make the possibility of attending Harvard or other major research universities imaginable for students who would otherwise consider it beyond their reach. INSPIRE brings talented, disadvantaged high school juniors and seniors from Africa to Harvard’s two-week Pre-College Summer Program. The rigorous academic program is coupled with extra-curricular activities designed to give participants a taste of the Harvard experience. INSPIRE pairs each student with a Harvard undergraduate mentor who can serve as a guide through the process of applying to university.

INSPIRE Student Profiles:

Madira Monica Maponya  
Grade 10  
Mountainview Senior Secondary School, Mankweng Township, Limpopo Province, South Africa  
Course: “Introduction to Astrobiology”

“The study of space has always interested me, and I wish to see what it’s like up there,” writes Monica Maponya. Curious about the solar system and its workings, Monica hopes to explore whether or not Earth is the only planet that can sustain life. She also hopes to find out whether or not aliens are real and if human beings should fear them. To find answers to her many questions about the universe, Monica has registered for the course, aptly titled From Stars to Planets, Are we Alone in the Universe.

Pebetsi Marcia Sehlapelo  
Grade 10  
Frans Mohlala Secondary School, Makweng Township, Limpopo Province, South Africa  
Course: “Molecular Oncology”

Marcia hopes to learn more about cancer-causing behavior, the various cancer treatments that are available to patients, and the ways in which people can be helped to reduce the number of deaths caused by treatable cancers. While at the Summer School, Marcia will study Molecular Oncology, a course that she hopes will help her understand the basics about cancer and learn more about cancer-treating strategies. Marcia hopes to be one of the physicians to discover the cure for the disease.

Refentse Florinah Mamabolo  
Grade 10  
Ramashobholle High School, Ga-Mamabolo Village, Limpopo Province, South Africa  
Course: “Why Haven’t We Cured Cancer”

Refentse Mamabolo is concerned about the lives of South Africans. She is passionate about health-related issues affecting society. In her application essay, Refentse draws attention to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS. She writes, “In 2003, the SARS epidemic claimed the lives of nearly 800 people worldwide.”

Thabiso Henk Matjokotja  
Grade 11  
Mountainview Senior Secondary School, Mankweng Township, Limpopo Province, South Africa  
Course: “Financial Markets”

After much research, Henk found out about digital media studies. Upon being accepted into the Harvard Pre-College Program, Henk enrolled into the Digital Media course in order to learn more about advantages and disadvantages of digital media as a communication platform. More importantly, Henk wishes to explore what opportunities lie ahead for future sound engineers. Inspired by tech innovators and entrepreneurs such as Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates, Henk hopes to own his own multimedia company one day.

Louis Nnanna Nwosu  
Grade 12  
Ghana International School, Accra, Ghana  
Course: “Law & Philosophy”

Having a great interest in sociology and law, Louis enrolled into the Law and Philosophy course with the hope of honing his analytical skills and getting to see rudimentary theories and concepts in sociology being fleshed out and developed with regards to the law as well as attaining a deeper understanding of the law. With a passion for reading and a hunger for knowledge, Louis is confident that this course is the perfect fit for him. He aims to be one of the best lawyers of his generation.
Our People

The Center for African Studies would make no progress on its vision and mission without the support and counsel of our faculty Executive Committee, Africa Advisory Board, and Leadership Council.
Governance and Leadership:
Harvard University Center for African Studies Executive Committee

The Harvard Center for African Studies Executive Committee is comprised of faculty members, who represent a wide range of disciplines in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the graduate and professional schools. The Executive Committee oversees the strategic direction, academic plan, and financial sustainability of the Center.

Harvard University Center for African Studies Executive Committee


Double asterisk (**) denotes simultaneous standing on the Center for African Studies Steering Committee

Harvard University Center for African Studies Steering Committee

The Harvard Center for African Studies Steering Committee is comprised of a small group of Executive Committee members, who work closely with the Faculty Director to advise and discuss specific initiatives at the Center.

Governance and Leadership:
Harvard University Center for African Studies Leadership Council

In 2017, the Center for African Studies inaugurated the first cohort of the Center’s Leadership Council. The Leadership Council is comprised of a group of dynamic young leaders, who are currently living or working on the African continent. Living across the breadth of the continent, Leadership Council members extend the geographical and intellectual reach of the Johannesburg-based Africa Office.

Harvard University Center for African Studies Leadership Council

Sangu Delle
Co-Chair, Harvard University Center for African Studies Leadership Council; Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer, Golden Palm Investments

Kayode Ogunro
Co-Chair, Harvard University Center for African Studies Leadership Council; Managing Partner, Aion Holdings

Clare Akamanzi
Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board (RDB); Member of the Cabinet of Rwanda

Blinky Bill
Musician, Producer & DJ

Joy Buolamwini
Technology Activist & Founder, Code4Rights

Amal Enan
Chief of Staff & Director of Policy Planning, Egyptian-American Enterprise Fund

Tania Holt
Partner, McKinsey & Company

Elizabeth Tanya Masiyiwa
Co-Founder, Simba Education

Patricia Nzolantima
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, XP-COMUNICART, Working Ladies Cab, and Working Ladies Foods & Crafts

Amanda Ooko-Ombaka
Consultant, McKinsey & Company

Ali Osman
Senior Associate, Mubadala Development Company

Fayelle Ouane
Head, Novartis Social Business for West & Central Africa

Yusuf Randera-Rees
Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Awethu Project

Stella Safo
Physician & Assistant Professor of Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

David Sengeh
Research Scientist, IBM

Farai Shonhiwa
Group Strategy Director, Centum Investment Company Limited

Siya Xuza
Founder & Managing Director, Galactic Energy Ventures

David Sengh
Research Scientist, IBM
In 2016, the Center for African Studies introduced the Africa Advisory Board to the Center’s governance structure. The Board brings together entrepreneurs, policy makers, academic leaders, and cultural figures to connect the Center for African Studies to the vibrant scene in technological innovation and artistic creativity on the African continent, and to advise on the policy relevance of the Center’s research initiatives. Board members serve as ambassadors for the Center and assist in shaping the field of African Studies, intellectually and institutionally.

Hakeem Belo-Osagie  
Chair, Harvard University Africa Advisory Board

Ilesanmi Adesida  
Professor Emeritus of Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Provost at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan

Joseph Agyepong  
Executive Chairman, JOSPONG Group of Companies

Folorunso Alakija  
Executive Vice-Chairman, Famfa Oil Limited

K.Y. Amoako  
President & Founder, African Center for Economic Transformation

Myma Belo-Osagie  
Partner, Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie Law Firm

Elana Brundyn  
Chief Executive Officer, Norval Foundation

Paul Farmer  
Kolokotrones University Professor of Global Health & Social Medicine, Harvard University; Chief Strategist & Co-Founder, Partners In Health

Donald Kaberuka  
African Union High Representative, AU Peace Fund

Kola Karim  
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Shoreline Natural Resources

Carole Kariuki  
Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Private Sector Alliance

Chris Kirubi  
Director, Centum Investment Company Limited

Paul Maritz  
Chairman of the Board, Pivotal

Precious Moloi-Motsepe  
Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, The Motsepe Foundation

Sizwe Nxasana  
Founder, Sifiso Learning Group

Dry Okolloh  
Director of Investments, Omidyar Network

Gavin Rajah  
Creative Director, Gavin Rajah Atelier; UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador

Magda Wierzycka  
Chief Executive Officer, Sygnia Asset Management
Harvard University Center for African Studies staff operate in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Johannesburg, South Africa. The team works across continents to coordinate programming and events. They also manage the Center’s programs and fellowships, and facilitate connections between Harvard faculty and students across the professional schools.

Harvard University Center for African Studies Staff

Obenewa Ampomah
Executive Director, Africa Office
obenewa@fas.harvard.edu

Candace Lowe
Finance Associate & Grant Manager
clowe01@fas.harvard.edu

Lindsay Moats
Student Support & Outreach Officer
lmoats@fas.harvard.edu

Alex Taylor
Interim Director, Finance and Administration
ataylor@fas.harvard.edu

Rosaline Salifu
Program Manager, Africa Office
rosaline_salifu@fas.harvard.edu

Lerato Ngobeni
Program Manager, Africa Office
lerato_motaung@fas.harvard.edu

Li-Ming Tseng
Communications Officer
li-ming_tseng@fas.harvard.edu

Nthatisi Quella
Program Manager, Africa Office
nthatisi@fas.harvard.edu

INTERNS

Rediet Alemu
Intern, Harvard University Center for African Studies

Ifeoma Okoli
Intern, Harvard University Center for African Studies

Katherine Okumu
Intern, Harvard University Center for African Studies

Kennedy Opala
Graduate Research Assistant

Juliet Nwagwu Ume-Ezeoke
Intern, Harvard University Center for African Studies
Harvard University Center for African Studies Faculty Affiliates

Faculty Affiliates of the Center for African Studies represent the spectrum of the study of Africa at Harvard University. Affiliates contribute to the formulation of the Center’s academic and intellectual agendas. They also utilize the Center and its resources as a point of convergence, sharing trends, information and teaching resources related to Africa as well as collaborating on research.

Asterisk (*) denotes simultaneous standing on the Center for African Studies Executive Committee.

Leila N. Ahmed
Victor S. Thomas Professor of Divinity (HDS)

Matt R. Andrews
Senior Lecturer in Public Policy (HKS)
Center for International Development

Ali Asani
Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion
Professor of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Robert H. Bates
Eaton Professor of the Science of Government
Professor of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Jacqueline Bhabha*
Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights (HSPH)
Director, Bagnoud Center for Health & Human Rights

Jeremiah Smith Jr. Lecturer on Law ( HLS)

Suzanne Blier*
Allen Whitehill Clowes Chair of Fine Arts
Professor of African and African American Studies (FAS)

David Bloom
Clarence James Gamble Professor of Economics and Demography (HSPH)

Lawrence D. Bobo*
W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences (FAS)
Dean of Social Science

Thomas Burke
Chief, Division of Global Health and Human Rights, Department of Emergency Medicine, MGH
Associate Professor of Surgery (HMS)

Suzanne Blier*
Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights

Alfred North Whitehead Professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology (FAS)

Oppenheimer Research Fellow

Suzanne Blier*
Professor of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Jean Comaroff*
Alfred North Whitehead Professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology (FAS)

Oppenheimer Research Fellow

John Comaroff
Hugh K. Foster Professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology (FAS)

Oppenheimer Research Fellow

Alejandro de la Fuente
Robert Woods Bliss Professor of Latin American History and Economics (FAS)
Professor of African and African American Studies and of History

Director, Afro-Latin American Research Institute, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University

Sarah Dryden-Peterson
Associate Professor of Education (GSE)

Christopher Duggan
Professor in the Department of Nutrition (HSPH)
Associate Professor of Pediatrics (HMS)

Caroline Elkins
Professor of History and Professor of African and African-American Studies (FAS)

Mary Woodard Lasker Professor of Public Health Economics (HSPH)

Richard Saltonstall Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine (HMS)
Chief Strategist and Co-Founder, Partners In Health

Wafaie W. Fawaz*
Richard Saltonstall Professor of Population Sciences (HSPH)
Professor of Nutrition, Epidemiology, and Global Health

Günther Fink
Assistant Professor of International Health Economics (HSPH)

Walter Friedman
Lecturer of Business Administration (HBS)
Director, Business History Initiative

Henry Louis Gates Jr.*
Director, Hutchins Center for African & African-American Research

Professor of History and of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Michael Hiscox
Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs (FAS)

Michael Hooper
Associate Professor of Urban Planning (GSD)

Tyler Giannini
Clinical Professor of Law (HLS)
Co-Director, International Human Rights Clinic

Christopher D. Golden
Professor (FAS)

Alphonse Fletcher, Jr. University & African-American Research Institute Partnership Chair, Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership

Mary Woodard Lasker Professor of Public Health Economics (HSPH)

Richard Saltonstall Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine (HMS)
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Wafaie W. Fawaz*
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Professor of Nutrition, Epidemiology, and Global Health

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Assistant Professor of International Health Economics (HSPH)

Walter Friedman
Lecturer of Business Administration (HBS)
Director, Business History Initiative

Henry Louis Gates Jr.*
Director, Hutchins Center for African & African-American Research

Professor of History and of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Michael Hiscox
Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs (FAS)

Michael Hooper
Associate Professor of Urban Planning (GSD)

Tyler Giannini
Clinical Professor of Law (HLS)
Co-Director, International Human Rights Clinic

Christopher D. Golden
Research Scientist, Department of Environmental Health and Visiting Scientist, Department of Nutrition (HSPH)

Sue Goldie
Roger Irving Lee Professor of Public Health (HSPH)
Director, Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard
Director, Center for Health Decision Science

Evelyn Hammond*
Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science
Professor of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Chair, Department of the History of Science

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Michael Hiscox
Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs (FAS)

Michael Hooper
Associate Professor of Urban Planning (GSD)

Tyler Giannini
Clinical Professor of Law (HLS)
Co-Director, International Human Rights Clinic

Christopher D. Golden
Research Scientist, Department of Environmental Health and Visiting Scientist, Department of Nutrition (HSPH)

Sue Goldie
Roger Irving Lee Professor of Public Health (HSPH)
Director, Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard
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Roger Irving Lee Professor of Public Health (HSPH)
Director, Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard
Director, Center for Health Decision Science

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Professor of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Chair, Department of the History of Science

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Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies (FAS)

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Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs (FAS)

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Associate Professor of Urban Planning (GSD)

Tyler Giannini
Clinical Professor of Law (HLS)
Co-Director, International Human Rights Clinic

Christopher D. Golden
Research Scientist, Department of Environmental Health and Visiting Scientist, Department of Nutrition (HSPH)
Biodun Jeyifo*
Professor of African and African-American Studies and of Comparative Literature (FAS)

Geoffrey G. Jones*
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Director, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights

Julia Lee
Executive Director for Education and Research, John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

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Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures (French)
Professor of African and African-American Studies in Residence

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Curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard

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George Paul Meiu
Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African and African American Studies (FAS)

Ingrid Monson
Quincy Jones Professor of African American Music Professor of African and African American Studies

Marcyliena Morgan*
Professor of African and African-American Studies in Residence

Roberta E. Peters
Faculty Affiliate and Senior Research Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School Center for International Development

Robert Paarlberg
Adjunct Professor of Public Policy (HKS)

Phuong Pham
Assistant Professor, Department of Global Health and Population (HSPH)

Annemarie Quack
Associate Professor of Global Health and Population (HSPH)

Nawal Nour
Associate Professor in Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Medicine (HMS)

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Jeremiah Smith, Jr. Professor of Law (HLS)

Jacob K. Olupona*
Professor of African Religious Traditions (HDS)
Professor of African and African American Studies (FAS)

Robert Paarlberg
Adjunct Professor of Public Policy (HKS)

Christian Tryon
John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences (FAS)

Michael VanRooyen*
Director, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Chairman, Brigham and Women’s Hospital Department of Emergency Medicine
Professor, Harvard Medical School and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Patrick Vinck
Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Health and Population (HSPH)

Walter Willett
Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Pardis Sabeti
Professor at the Center for Systems Biology (FAS)
Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology
Professor of Immunology and Infectious Disease at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Lucie White*
Louis A. Horvitz Professor of Law (HLS)

Dyann Wirth
Richard Pearson Strong Professor of Infectious Diseases (HSPH)

Steven C. Wofsy
Abbott Lawrence Rotch Professor of Atmospheric and Environmental Science (SEAS)

Acronyms Key:

FAS: Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences
GSD: Harvard University Graduate School of Design
HBS: Harvard Business School
HDS: Harvard Divinity School
HGSE: Harvard Graduate School of Education
HKS: Harvard Kennedy School of Government
HLS: Harvard Law School
HMS: Harvard Medical School
HSPH: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
SEAS: Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
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United States - Cambridge
1280 Massachusetts Avenue
3rd Floor
Cambridge, MA USA
+1 617 495-5265
africa@harvard.edu

Africa - Johannesburg
Block C First Floor, Rosebank Office Park
181 Jan Smuts Avenue
Parktown North
Johannesburg, South Africa
+27 87 701-0715
africaoffice@harvard.edu

Online
Website: africa.harvard.edu
Facebook: @HarvardAfricanStudies
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