



West Coast Regional Conference on West Africa #WestCoast_WestAfrica21

Monday and Tuesday, June 28-29, 2021
Virtual on Zoom

The West African Research Association, the Center for African Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and the UC Africanist Research Workshop are hosting a virtual conference on West Africa for scholars based in the western regions of North America.* The goals of the conference are to build a West Coast regional community of West Africa scholars; provide a space for scholarly exchange focused on West Africa; enhance research and teaching collaborations; and create mentoring opportunities.

Registration

Registration is required and free. Register at this link for the conference:

https://berkeley.zoom.us/webinar/register/8416228322154/WN_TFvro6psTm--HluRwnA-5A

Program

MONDAY, JUNE 28

9:00am-10:15am PDT ~ Welcome and Keynote: Amplifying the Voices of African Artists

- Chair: Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Davis
- Keynote speaker: Adenrele Sonariwo, Founder of Rele Art Gallery, Los Angeles
- Discussant: Sylvester Okwunodu Ogbechie, Professor of Arts and Visual Cultures of Global Africa, University of California, Santa Barbara

11:00am-12:15pm PDT ~ State Intervention and Economic Development

- Chair/discussant: Martha Wilfahrt, Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley
- Martha C. Johnson, Associate Professor, Mills College
Patronage Politics, Revenue Imperatives, and Bureaucratic Capacity in African States
- Michael Kevane, Associate Professor, Santa Clara University
Ethnicity, public goods, and elections in Burkina Faso: Insights for the insurgency of 2016-21
- Erin Litzow, Graduate Student, University of British Columbia
Evaluating the impacts of cooking interventions in rural Senegal: The case of domestic biogas digesters

2:30pm-3:30pm PDT ~ Representation in Postcolonial Transnational Literature

- Chair/discussant: Ivy Mills, Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley
- Utitofon Inyang, Graduate Student, University of California, Riverside
Africanizing Julius: Yoruba Epistemologies and the Limits of Aesthetic Vision in Teju Cole's Open City
- Sanyu Mulira, Graduate Student, NYU
Beyond So long a Letter: The Revolutionary life of Mariama Bâ

4:00-5:00pm PDT ~ Agents of Oral and Literary Traditions

- Chair/discussant: Andrew Apter, Professor, University of California, Los Angeles
- Bright Alozie, Assistant Professor, Portland State University
From Traditions of Orality to "Voices in Ink": Making Sense of Oral Tradition and Petitions in Precolonial and Colonial Igboland, Nigeria
- Ibrahim Anoba, Graduate Student, University of California, Davis
Taáni Ìmò Odù Ifá: Engaging Boundary Mechanisms in Discursive and Critical Appreciation of the Ifá Literary Corpus

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

9:00am-10:00am PDT ~ Family Planning and Education: High-yield investments for the Sahel Region

- Malcolm Potts, Bixby Professor Emeritus, Berkeley Public Health, UC Berkeley
- Brooke Escobar, Research Affiliate, OASIS
- Daniel Perlman, Project Scientist, OASIS

10:30am-11:30am PDT ~ Local Control and Peacebuilding in Côte d'Ivoire

- Chair/discussant: Rachel Sigman, Assistant Professor, Naval Postgraduate School
- Jeremy Speight, Associate Professor, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Elite Coalitions and Rebel Social Control in Northern Côte d'Ivoire (2002-2011)

- Francis Abugbilla, Graduate Student, University of Washington
Opportunities and challenges of incorporating African peacebuilding mechanisms in transitional justice: A case study of Côte d'Ivoire

12:00pm-1:00pm PDT ~ Structural Violence and Collective Memory

- Chair/discussant: Isidore Lobnibe, Professor, Western Oregon University
- Ebelechukwu Eseka, Researcher, University of California, San Diego
"This Berlin Wall that Runs through Me": Making Sense of the Postcolonial African AliNation
- Cullen Goldblatt, Independent Scholar
Beyond Collective Memory: Cinéma Thiaroye

2:00pm-3:00pm PDT ~ Conceptualization and Consequences of Gender in African History

- Chair/discussant: Jody Benjamin, Assistant Professor, University of California, Riverside
- Sarah Zimmerman, Associate Professor, Western Washington University
The Gendered Consequences of Emancipation and Citizenship on Nineteenth-Century Gorée Island
- Oluwasola Daniels, Graduate Student, University of California, Davis
Connections and Disruptions in Dialogue: Boundaries and Fluidity of African Gender

4:00pm-5:00pm PDT ~ Building a Sustainable Future for Research and Teaching on Africa in the West

- Chair: Muey Saeteurn, Assistant Professor, University of California, Merced
- Trevor Getz, Professor, San Francisco State University
- Karla Kirk, Instructor, Fresno City College
- Summer Trentin, Metropolitan State University of Denver