



# *Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom*

September 29<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>

St. Olaf College, Northfield Minnesota

Since its origins in decolonization and the Cold War, African studies has consistently had to reassert its relevance to university curricular trends and global historical forces. For many teaching African studies courses, consistent pedagogical goals have focused on deconstructing popular discourse about the world's second largest continent, and centering African voices and experiences as vital to understanding global issues. These goals are unfinished and on-going, but how is African studies evolving to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom? What are the new opportunities and challenges to promoting the study of Africa within the liberal arts?

In higher education, declining interest and funding for the humanities and social sciences has taken its toll on fields which still dominate area studies. At the same time, universities are investing in STEM and global education in ways which could both strengthen and threaten the future of African studies. As teachers and scholars of African studies, how have we responded to these trends in the classroom and our university curricula? What pedagogical strategies best demonstrate the importance of understanding African experiences in students' academic, personal or professional lives?

[Africa Network's](#) key mission is to promote the study of Africa within the liberal arts curriculum. This year's conference theme "Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom" is a continuation of an on-going focus of the organization and designed to bring together an interdisciplinary group of teachers/scholars to share best practices in a collaborative environment. Building on our 2016 conference theme "[The State of African Studies](#)," our 2017 conference will offer a chance to continue the debate within the changing landscape of higher education.

**Publication Opportunities** Selected papers from the conference will be invited to submit to a new online, open source publication called "Teaching Africa" sponsored by Africa Network and set to launch in 2017. (Discussion of this opportunity will be run by Africa Network board members and Editors Matt Carotenuto and Fiona Vernal on Saturday September 30th).

**Host and location:** St. Olaf is one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges, and promotes global engagement as a key institutional mission. Northfield is a historic river town of 20,000 in the southeast part of Minnesota, just 45 minutes from the Twin Cities and Minneapolis/ St. Paul (MSP) international airport. Historic downtown Northfield, within walking distance of campus, features coffeehouses, sandwich shops, restaurants, gift stores, and local art galleries. Northfield is also home to Carleton College.



## **Schedule of Events**

### **Registration/Welcome (3-4:30pm Friday September 29th)**

- Buntrock Commons — St. Olaf College

### **1. Teaching Transforming Africa (Friday 4:30-6:15)**

Chair Dianna Shandy, Macalester College

“Rising, Falling, and Generalizing with Africa in the Classroom”

Susanna Fioratta

Bryn Mawr College

“The Entrepreneurship Paradigm in Africa and on the American Campus”

Lisa Mueller

Macalester College

lmueller@macalester.edu

Teaching New Voices in Francophone African Studies

Joelle Vitiello

Macalester College

Moving the Classroom to the Continent: Critical Questions on Study Away in South Africa

Dianna Shandy

Macalester College

### **Dinner 6:30pm: Buntrock Commons**

- Welcome Address from St. Olaf President David R. Anderson
- Africa Network Board Meeting—Open to all participants

### **2. Roundtable: Engaging Students in African History – New Pedagogical Approaches (Saturday 8:30am-10:15)**

Participants: Matt Carotenuto (Chair), John Aerni-Flessner, Jennifer Hart, Dave Eaton and Gary Marquardt

### **3. Africa Reloaded: “Using Connections to Generate Relevance, Progress, Development, and Peace” (10:30-12:15)**



Chair: Brandon Lundy

“Rebuilding Tertiary Education in Guinea-Bissau: Can it be done?”

*Brandon D. Lundy* (Session/Panel Organizer and Chair; Corresponding Author)  
Associate Professor Anthropology Associate Director, School of Conflict Management,  
Peacebuilding & Development [blundy@kennesaw.edu](mailto:blundy@kennesaw.edu)

A model for Tertiary Education

*Solomon Negash*  
Professor of Information Systems  
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Kennesaw State Universities and its extensive global connection to Africa

*Ikechukwu Ukeje*  
Professor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education  
Special Assistant to the Vice President for Research  
KSU Coordinator of African Partnerships in the Office of Research  
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Teaching Africa across the Disciplines

*Nyasha M. GuramatunhuCooper*  
Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies  
[nguramat@kennesaw.edu](mailto:nguramat@kennesaw.edu)

## **Lunch 12:15-1:30**

### **4. New Approaches to Teaching Development in the Era of Africa Rising (1:30-3:15pm)**

Chair: Alexander Wiseman

“The Problems and Promises of using African Contexts to Teach about Education for Development”

Alexander W. Wiseman  
Lehigh University

“Complicating the Single Story: African Development by Youth”

By Tshegofatso Thulare  
Lehigh University

“The Aesthetics of the IT Entrepreneur: Social Enterprise vs Market Incorporation in Ghana”

Reginold Royston, University of Wisconsin, Madison



Assistant Professor in Africana Studies and New Media

“Re-framing development in human terms: Africa at the intersections of humanities and social science discourses”

Isaac Joslin

Arizona State University

## **5. Using the liberal arts to teach about Africa I (1:30-3:15pm)**

Chair: Kathleen Keller

“Myths, Misconceptions, History, and Stereotypes: Teaching about African “tribes”

Kathleen Keller

Gustavus Adolphus College

“Teaching Africa in Scandinavian Studies courses”

Ursula Lindqvist

Gustavus Adolphus College

“Voices from East Africa: Dispelling Stereotypes through Exploration of Global Culture and Identity”

Robin Rhodes-Crowell and Khalid Kitito,  
St. Lawrence University

“Teaching African Sport History in a Kinesiology Department:  
Opportunities, Challenges, and Questions

Michelle Sikes

Lecturer, Stellenbosch University

Visiting Assistant Professor, Penn State University

## **6. Using the liberal arts to teach about Africa 2 (3:30-5:15pm)**

Chair: Eric Washington

“The Doctrine of Christian Discovery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Teaching the Virtue of Justice in African History”

Eric M. Washington

Calvin College

“Close to the Edge’: Considering Afropolitanism as a (Teaching) Tool for Enlightenment.”

Kalenda Eaton



Arcadia University (PA)

“Teaching Ama Ata Aidoo’s *The Dilemma of a Ghost*”

Joseph Mbele  
St. Olaf College

“Decolonising Knowledge: Reflections on a Seminar”

Christian A. Williams  
University of the Free State

### **Dinner 6pm**

- Launch of Africa Network’s new open access digital pedagogy journal
- Matt Carotenuto and Fiona Vernal (editors)
- Publication opportunities and discussion

### **Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### **7. Simulations and Digitizing African Studies Pedagogy (8-9:30am)**

Chair: Fiona Vernal (University of Connecticut)

“Teaching Africa through Simulation: Modeling Decision-Making in the African Union”

*Nuru Akinyemi*

Professor of Political Science and International Affairs  
Director, Center for African & African Diaspora Studies  
[nakinyem@kennesaw.edu](mailto:nakinyem@kennesaw.edu)

“Training English Teachers: Engaging East African Voices for Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age”

Robin Rhodes-Crowell, St. Lawrence University, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Canton, NY

“African History: From Face 2 Face to ONLINE: A Flexible Learning Imperative”

Christine Ellen Cina  
History Instructor  
Madison College