



# Ghana Studies Council Newsletter

Issue 22 (2009)



## From the Volta to the Yangtze in Search of Understanding

By Lloyd Amoah  
Ashesi University College

My first encounter with the “Orient” was as a three or four year old. I still almost vividly remember the circumstances. In the diplomatic enclave in Ouagadougou, my elder brother and I used to frolic with the children of Chinese diplomats. In the homes of my Chinese playmates, I was struck by the uniqueness of the Chinese characters peering down from the calligraphy on the walls. The daintiness and finesse of the teacups in which we were on occasion served tea and a “strange” tongue which left us perplexed had an enduring impression. Returning to Accra some years later, stories about the impressive standards of living in China during the 1980s were relayed to me by a primary schoolmate of mine who had just returned with his parents after a diplomatic stint. Barely twelve at the time, these tales from China were jarring and unbelievable against the background of the life-sapping difficulties of a Ghana caught in the enervating grip of revolutionary times. A lot of water passed under the bridge as they say and when I was offered an opportunity to visit China in an official capacity in 2004 I grabbed it with both hands.

My wife Sylvia’s sentiments as I prepared for the trip underscored the rather dated views that ordinary Ghanaians and officialdom had about China. Sylvia wondered whether I could easily place a call to Accra from China! What I encountered on

that trip was an education that undermined the narrow and often times philistine sentiments about China presented over the years from the global popular press and even the academic literature. My mental images were of a dirt poor China shuffling along on the bicycle and besotted with the doctrinaire effusions of Mao’s *Red Book*. The professionalism of the Chinese officials I met and their obsession about time, the shipshape streets, the impressive skylines, and the sheer energy of a nation on the move left me pondering as I darted from Beijing to Guangzhou. I made a vow to return to understand intellectually what had actuated this dramatic change in China within a generation.

In a year I was back in Wuhan, China, capital of the centrally-located province of Hubei where the Yangtze River (“Changjiang” in Mandarin) meanders through its sweepingly vast watery raiment. With denims and khakis substituted for my suits and slum-dunk in China’s center shorn of any official inhibitions, the Middle Kingdom was mine to explore at first hand. My four years in Wuhan University were both enlightening and challenging. Mandarin was the first challenge. One needed more than basic written and spoken capacity to handle course work and also to live in China as productively as possible. The Mandarin courses were intense, tongue-twisting and brain-splicing. Professor Huang, a petite, elderly woman ably assisted by other

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faculty, marshaled us like her troops. In rain, snow, and sickness she shepherded us into a language that in all probability none of my ancestors had ever written or spoken. In my experience, one's state of mind is critical for acquiring some facility in Mandarin. Receptiveness is boosted to the extent that one studies the language as it is without the baggage of Twi, Spanish, English or for that matter any language's grammar. Six months into what was unsparing, Spartan work it was quite a relief to transact business in the bank, travel around, shop, follow lectures, and indeed perform everyday chores without an interpreter.

The educational experience was memorable. My professors encouraged original thinking. The sheer volume of resources, both digital and non-electronic, left an unforgettable imprint. Wuhan University has electronic access to virtually every journal worth its salt. The speed of the internet off and on campus made research a delight. The beauty of the campus — encapsulated in ancient and contemporary Chinese architecture with lush, verdant greenery set against the brooding Luojia Hills and the regal East Lake which ringed the campus in a semi-circle — provided an inspiring atmosphere for reflection. It was clear to me China's rapid transformation had been powered in part by a focused and deliberate emphasis on education, a process still evolving.



An example of the ancient architecture at Wuhan University  
(Courtesy of Lloyd Amoah)

In my doctoral work, I came to my own conclusions about some of the factors that have driven China's phenomenal rise as a global economic and political power. I count among these reasons ideational independence and strategic thinking in policy formation. In simple terms, ideational independence implies a tendency by Chinese policymakers, especially at the center, to engage in policy formation without being held captive by dominant ideas of the times. Strategic thinking describes the anticipatory quality and responsiveness of Chinese policy formation to far-reaching changes in the international trade and economic environment. But, living with the Chinese day in and day out, visiting their cities and the countryside was also a prized education in itself.

The warmth and humanity of the Chinese people will stay with me forever. If you took a taxi, the driver was always ready to forgo the five *mao* (the equivalent of pesewas/pennies/cents) that you did not have. Total strangers would help you out if you lost your way by accompanying you to the destination in ques-

tion. You could pay for one-tenth of the value of an item and go pick it up three months after settling. Rice in restaurants was served free. Food and basic necessities of life were affordable and within the reach of the ordinary man or woman. To the last, Chinese men and women exuded pride in their culture and country and showed a rare perspicacity for China's place in the world. And they have built their country making their own mistakes and learning along the way from experiences from all over the world.

As I cruised on the Yangtze, I cast my mind back to the Great Volta. My country's development was always uppermost on my mind. If over 1.3 billion Chinese had made this transformation in our lifetime, why not 22 million Ghanaians? If some of the light I acquired on the Yangtze can help make this possible, the effort will have been well worth it.



The author at the banks of the Yangtze in Wuhan City  
(Courtesy of Lloyd Amoah)

### Ghana Studies Council

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## Chair's Remarks

By Dennis Laumann  
The University of Memphis

2009 was a special year for Ghana, generating lots of positive news coverage around the world. It began with a relatively smooth transfer of power between the two main political parties, reinforcing Ghana's reputation as a democratic and stable nation. John Atta Mills was inaugurated in January as Ghana's third president since the return to multiparty democracy in 1992. In July, Mills welcomed Barack Obama, the third US President in a row to visit Ghana. Obama's tour of Cape Coast Castle was especially significant, of course, as the first American president of African descent (see my brief account on following page). History was made in September, too, when the Black Satellites defeated football giant Brazil to win the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Egypt. And, throughout the year, the centennial of Kwame Nkrumah's birth was commemorated in Ghana. In many ways, Nkrumah would be proud that the black star of his beloved Ghana shines again.

2009 also was a special year for the Ghana Studies Council. We sponsored a panel at the European African Studies conference, our first outside of the annual meetings of the African Studies Association (ASA). Akosua Adomako (University of Ghana) and Stephan F. Miescher (University of California, Santa Barbara) began their tenure as the new editors of *Ghana Studies*, naming a reconstituted editorial board and simultaneously putting together two issues in order to bring our journal up-to-date (see page 14). We reinstated our research grant program for Ghana-based faculty, graduate students, and researchers, awarding three grants (page 12). And our membership grew in numbers and expanded in terms of geography and in relation to disciplines. I therefore would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members, all of whom are listed on page 11.

Last year, I announced our "Renew plus New" Membership Drive asking each existing member to help us recruit a new member. Many of you answered the call, providing us with the names and contact information of potential members, and a good number of them joined our organization. In fact, we can boast 33 new members in 2009, bringing our total membership to a perfect 100 individuals. While the recruitment of new members is impressive, the overall growth of the GSC needs to keep pace, as we had 94 members in 2008. So, please let me use this opportunity to encourage you to renew your membership now by completing the form on the last page of this newsletter. And, if you change positions or institutions, make sure you provide us with your updated contact information so we do not lose you. Finally, if you notice a colleague or friend missing from our membership directory (beginning on page 17), let us know how to reach them. Thus, I am extending our "Renew plus New" Drive for a second year so that we continue and accelerate the

growth of the Ghana Studies Council. Certainly, there are more than 100 Ghana specialists in the world!

Our 2009 annual meeting at November's ASA conference in New Orleans was very productive and well-attended by both long-term and new GSC members. I provided updates on our organization's activities and finances and members proposed and approved a number of important motions. Most significant, a committee — comprising Benjamin Talton (Temple University), Ruti Talmor (Haverford College), and myself — was named and charged with creating a constitution and bylaws for our organization. The GSC has functioned all these years without a formal document, but a constitution and bylaws now is a necessity not only for continuity of leadership and administration but also for more practical matters such as establishing and maintaining bank and paypal accounts. The committee members will study the documents of other ASA Coordinate Organizations, consider feedback from the GSC Advisory Board, and present their constitution and bylaws for discussion and approval at the 2010 annual meeting.

A related point is my tenure as GSC Chair. Chairs of our organization serve a three year term and I was elected in 2007 with that understanding. Accordingly, I reminded members in New Orleans that my term expires in 2010. The consensus was the new constitution and bylaws should stipulate a five year term for the chair and that my own tenure might be extended two years at the 2010 annual meeting. Thus, this is one more issue to consider when we meet.

Another topic discussed at our annual meeting was the regular requests the GSC receives from lawyers seeking expert testimony for asylum cases involving Ghanaians. Benjamin Lawrance (University of California, Davis) has considerable experience in these matters and he agreed to write up some guidelines for GSC members, to be published in the next newsletter, on how to handle asylum cases. In the meantime, I would like to invite those of you who are interested in receiving forwarded lawyer requests to send an email to [ghanastudiescouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ghanastudiescouncil@gmail.com) with the subject line "asylum cases list."

Besides our annual meeting, the GSC sponsored two panels at the ASA conference on Ghana's 2008 Elections. Organized by Johanna O. Svanikier (University of Oxford), one panel offered regional perspectives on the polls, while the other considered its "milestones and contradictions." Our panels brought together an impressive group of scholars, representing Harvard University, Haverford College, the University of Pavia, the University of Tampa, and Western Oregon University.

Our 2010 annual meeting will take place during the 53rd



Obama Adinkra stamp  
(Courtesy of Courtney Micots)



Annual Meeting of the ASA in San Francisco on November 18-21. Our sponsored panels for this conference were put together by Jeffrey S. Ahlman (University of Virginia) and Jennifer Hart (Indiana University) under the theme “The Nation, Nationalism, and Nation-Building in Nkrumah’s Ghana.” I hope many of you will be able to join us in California to attend our Nkrumah bi-centennial panels as well as the important annual meeting when we will discuss our “founding” document and future!

We continue to tinker with our newsletter format, this year moving the “Chair’s Remarks” to inside the issue in order to highlight a feature article on the front page. My thanks to Lloyd Amoah (Ashesi University College) for eagerly and generously contributing his stimulating article and photos. Henceforth we will feature a “Welcome New Members” box to recognize our colleagues and friends who have joined in the past year. As always, we welcome feedback on the newsletter and, as importantly, your short articles, conference reports and announcements, research queries, and photos. Please consider the GSC Newsletter your resource for sharing news and ideas with Ghanaian specialists worldwide.

I would like to thank Carina Ray (Fordham University) for once again serving as newsletter copy editor, as well as Naaborko Sackeyfio (Dartmouth College) and Benjamin Talton for their assistance at the annual meeting. Additionally, I would like to recognize the generous support provided by my institution, namely the African and African American Studies Program and the Department of History. Marissa King, an undergraduate at The University of Memphis, handles all membership affairs and puts together this newsletter with enthusiasm and efficiency.

I also wish to thank the University of Wisconsin African Studies Center, particularly David Henige, for its continued support of our academic journal. All 2009 members should have received their copy of *Ghana Studies*, vol. 10 (2007), which was included with membership. Please encourage your library or African Studies center to subscribe to *Ghana Studies*.

Finally, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Ivor Wilks and Nancy Lawler for their generous donation to the GSC. Contributions, which support our publications and research grant program, can be made via PayPal or by check or money order mailed to us.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Make sure you help publicize our Research Grant Program. And, finally, do not forget to renew your membership!

Memphis, April 2010

Does your institution’s library or African Studies center receive the GSC Newsletter? If not, please ask your librarian to subscribe. The institutional subscription rate is \$25 per issue. Proceeds, minus printing and postage, support the GSC Research Grant Program and *Ghana Studies*.

For more information, email  
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## Ghana After Obama

By Dennis Laumann

I arrived in Ghana the same day President Barack Obama left the country. So, I missed the historic visit itself – Obama’s speech to parliament, the first couple’s stop at a maternity hospital, the Obama family’s tour of Cape Coast Castle, etc. – but I experienced the excitement still in the air for weeks after Obama’s departure—what the Ghanaian press termed “Obama fever”!

It was impossible to travel around Accra without seeing the many billboards welcoming the American president. These were not limited to the official displays featuring the smiles of Obama and President J. A. Mills above the text “Partners in Change” but also included advertisements for products such as beer as well as the ubiquitous hand-painted roadside art common throughout Ghana. On the streets of Osu, hawkers were selling all types of Obama merchandise, ranging from calendars to cloth. And Americans like me and the university students I accompanied on a study abroad trip were welcomed as “brothers” and “sisters” with shouts of “Obama!” and questions about his popularity back home and his plans for helping Africa.

Newspapers ran full color pictorial spreads of Obama’s visit and articles analyzing the tone and content of his parliamentary speech and the significance of his trip to Ghana and the rest of Africa. Some of these analyses were critical of Obama and the United States, but most interpreted his visit as a triumph for Ghana. At the University of Ghana’s “bush canteen,” newspapers were sold out on the morning after Obama departed. Particularly popular was the *Daily Graphic* with its headline of “Hail Ghana—The new face of Africa.”

The content on radio call-in shows was at times less serious but certainly quite entertaining as listeners speculated about Michelle Obama’s ancestry—the consensus seeming to be her origins must be in the North— and commented on the outfits worn by the presidents and first ladies.

In short, it felt as if I had been there for Obama’s visit, even though I was merely experiencing it secondhand! For the students, it was a happy time, as they were warmly received by their hosts and they were proud of their own country.



“Obama fever” in Cape Coast  
 (Courtesy of Dennis Laumann)

## A spectacular Special Congregation at Legon

By Selena Axelrod Winsnes  
Independent Scholar

On 11 August 2008, the University of Ghana had an impressive celebration of its own birthday. In 1948, funded largely by the Government of Ghana, the University began as an affiliate College of the University of London. It was then called the University College of the Gold Coast. Later, on 11 August 1961, by an Act of Parliament, it was reorganized as the Free, Autonomous and Sovereign University of Ghana. It is therefore the latter date that is cited as the point of celebration.

The university's 60th anniversary was marked by many events throughout the year, culminating in the high point, on 11 August, at a Special Congregation, held in and outside of the Great Hall at Legon. There were three notable components: the anniversary celebration itself; the investiture of H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan as Chancellor of the University; and his first duty, officiating at the awarding of honorary decrees.

The Great Hall was packed, and a very large crowd outdoors was provided with a large TV screen so they could follow the proceedings. The sixteen individuals slated to be awarded honorary degrees were seated in the front row of the Hall. In the gallery, there were the choirs of two churches combined, who sang during the long wait for the arrival of then-President John Kufuor. He was returning from the Olympic Games in China, specifically to open this Special Congregation.



**Chancellor Kofi Annan awarding the author an honorary degree**  
(Courtesy of Selena Axelrod Winsens)

The wait was filled with music and dance performances by several cultural groups, both women and men, all impressive and colorful. Finally, the celebration began, with a long procession of faculty members in their various caps and gowns.

All this led up to the entrance, in the procession, of Kufuor and Annan. Once they were seated onstage, a number of speeches were given; appellations, written by Prof. Emeritus H.H.K. Nketia for Kofi Annan, were proclaimed, and the investiture of the Chancellor took place.

Honorary degrees were given in several categories: Distinguished Scholarship; Contributions to Education and Industry; Distinguished Public Service; and Alumni with Distinguished Careers. The awarding of degrees was effected in true Ghanaian tradition, with each of us summoned to the stage by drumming. The individual citations were read as the honorees stood facing the audience. Then the robing took

place. Now fully robed, the honorees turned to face the Chancellor. He stood ready with the encased citation which he handed to the newly-entitled doctor, with his congratulations. We then greeted each of the dignitaries seated in the front row on stage.

Afterwards, a reception was held in the garden of the Vice-Chancellor's residence, with refreshments, music, conversation, and a good time was had by all.

## Ashesi starts construction of new campus at Berekuso

By Nina Chachu  
Ashesi University College

At the end of August 2009, hundreds of local and international supporters gathered to celebrate the ground breaking of a new campus for Ashesi University in Ghana. Located outside of Accra, in the Akuapem Hills at Berekuso, the first phase of the new campus will include a complete library, three computer labs, administrative and faculty offices, two classroom buildings, and dormitories. On this campus, Ashesi University will expand its work of educating the ethical and entrepreneurial leaders that Africa urgently needs.

The traditional Ghanaian Durbar ceremony brought together a wide range of celebrants from business people to village eld-



**Plaque unveiled at groundbreaking ceremony**  
(Courtesy of Lloyd Amoah)

ers. Guests included the Ghanaian Minister of Education, the United States Ambassador to Ghana, a senior investment officer from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the village chief, and the local representative to Parliament.

A global community of donors, primarily from the US and Africa, has contributed \$3.3 million so far for the campus construction. The IFC, the private investment arm of the World Bank, has invested \$2.5 million in the campus project. Donations to Ashesi are used to fund scholarships and ex-

pansion.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ashesi.edu.gh/>



## International Food Policy Research Institute Workshop

By Daniel Bruce Sarpong  
University of Ghana



**IFPRI/GSSP workshop participants**  
(Courtesy of Daniel Bruce Sarpong)

A 10 day workshop on capacity building in modelling, sponsored by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as part of its Ghana Strategy Support Programme (GSSP) activities, was held at the University of Ghana's Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness on July 13-29, 2009.

IFPRI has experience in economic modeling for policy analysis in developing countries and this workshop provided a training course in CGE (Computable General Equilibrium) Modelling to a Ghana Modelling Team. The workshop was organized to build on the initiatives already undertaken by IFPRI and to contribute towards consolidating current efforts in establishing evidence-based policy analysis in Ghana and in the West Africa sub-region.

The Ghana Modelling Team included members from the

following institutions: the Bank of Ghana; the Ghana Statistical Service; the University of Ghana's Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER); the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning; the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC); the Department of Economics and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness of the University of Ghana; and the Department of Economics of the University of Cape Coast.

As part of the Ghana Strategy Support Programme, several training activities have been conducted by IFPRI staff or other experts, including the following: (1) the Ghana Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) construction workshop, hosted by the Ghana Statistical Service in August 2006; (2) an introduction to General Algebraic Modelling System (GAMS) and economy-wide modelling workshop, hosted by the GSSP through two distant learning assignments in April 2007; and (3) a 14-day workshop on CGE Modelling at the University of Cape Coast in August 2008.

The recent CGE Modelling workshop held at the University of Ghana was funded by IFPRI/GSSP and the Poverty Reduction, Equity, and Growth Network of the Kiel Institute of World Economy in Germany. The summer course was attended by 21 participants from the aforementioned institutions as well as Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology's Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension and Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The course and its contents were developed and taught by Dr. Manfred Wiebelt of the Kiel Institute in collaboration with IFPRI. Wiebelt was assisted in instruction by Dario Debowicz.

## Celebration at the Bokoor African Popular Music Archives Foundation

By E. John Collins  
University of Ghana

Between January-March 2009, the German government's Goethe-Institut in Accra provided funds for the music archives and Highlife-music Institute of the Bokoor African Popular Music Archives Foundation (BAPMAF), an NGO established by myself and others in 1990. This Goethe grant was used to refurbish the BAPMAF premises for public display and to buy electronic equipment to help its ongoing digitisation of 1,500 hours of music, 1,100 photographs, and hundreds of books and other written materials.

On September 12, 2009, an event was held to celebrate this collaboration at BAPMAF headquarters located at Bokoor House at Mile 8 on the Accra-Nswam Road. The 120 or so visitors were drummed in by the Brotherhood Foundation Cultural Group, short speeches were made by myself and Eleonore Sylla of the Goethe Institute, and some of the digitised films on Ghanaian music were shown, including a short animated film called "African Music Goes Planetary" by Thomas Collins. The party

moved downstairs from the BAPMAF seminar/workshop room to the garden where a music and dancing jam-session erupted. This included the Brotherhood Foundation, the Ramblers trumpeter Peter Marfo, the trumpeter Edmund Mensah (son of E.T. Mensah), and Wanlov the Kobolo and Kay Asare playing the atratoa/televi rhythm instrument.



**The author addressing the BAPMAF celebration**  
(Courtesy of E. John Collins)

## “Revisiting Modernization” Conference

By David Platzter  
University of California, Santa Barbara

“Revisiting Modernization,” an interdisciplinary conference that featured academic papers with an array of activities including dance and music performances, film screenings, an art exhibit, and a creative writing competition, was held at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, on July 27 – July 31, 2009.

As the culminating event of the University of California’s African Studies Initiative’s (UCASI) first year of activities, the conference and related events represent the first of three conferences planned to take place on the African continent on a biennial basis with the subsequent conferences to be held in Senegal (2011) and South Africa (2013). Revisiting Modernization was co-convened by Takiywa Manuh, former director of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana with the co-directors of UCASI, Peter J. Bloom (Associate Professor of Film and Media at University of California, Santa Barbara [UCSB]), and Stephan F. Miescher (Associate Professor of History at UCSB).

With presenters, panel chairs, keynote speakers, performers, and artists coming from the United States, Europe, and Africa, including many from Ghana, the conference included the active involvement of nearly 70 participants at many stages of their professional and artistic careers. It featured distinguished scholars in the field of African Studies, graduate students, spoken word poets, and an internationally recognized “performance architect.” While the academic conference focused on methods, frameworks, and debates central to the humanities, it also included the active participation and engagement of anthropologists, political scientists, economists, and others from a wide array of disciplinary backgrounds. The events and performances relied on idioms and materials, such as “traditional” Ghanaian dance, drumming, painting, sculpture, and the short story form, which, in turn, contributed to the theme of the conference proceedings.

The academic portion of the conference consisted of twelve panels, two keynote addresses, and several roundtable discussions. Focused on the question of modernization and its complex legacy, participants approached the question of what “modernization” is and has historically been, as well as the difficulties in delimiting its conceptual and historical boundaries. The conference theme was intended to create a context for an inclusive approach to examining modernization in relation to the contemporary lexicon of globalization. The conveners also hoped that the conference would foster a dialogue related to the shifting semantic parameters of “development” in order to reconceptualize its archeological forbearer, modernization and its theoretical basis.

The conference theme was also chosen to solicit discussion of certain specific historical moments and discourses, amongst them contemporary interactions on the African continent with newly powerful Asian economies (products of the so-called “Asian Miracle”); the relationship of African “modernities” to Brazilian, Indian, and other modernities frequently understood as “alternative;” and the vitality and effect of the increasingly decentralized world economy on African cultural patrimonies – for instance on funeral rites, ancestral evocations, and initiation rituals. Modernization as an ambiguous though pervasive trope has been central in conceptualizing emerging “futures,” configurations whose contours are only recently coming into view, and the conference sought to shed light on how “modernization” has been understood and utilized. By reexamining the developmental notion of modernization relative to new futures, discontinuous pasts, and ongoing social transformations, the five-day event worked to provide an open, critical, and rigorous forum for the coming generation of scholarship on modernization, its legacy, and its future.



Performance by the Ghana Dance Ensemble  
(Courtesy of R. Lane Clark)

The proceedings began with a keynote address by Nana-Wilson Tagoe (Visiting Professor in Literature, University of Missouri-Kansas City), which was followed by the dance performance “Discrete Discoveries,” a collaboration between the internationally recognized choreographer Sheron Wray (Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of California-Irvine) and the Ghana Dance Ensemble. Seeking to explore and reframe the hierarchized relationship between Western and non-Western dance, the 30 minute performance was by turns humorous, graceful, fluid, and jarring, with several instances in which performers directly addressed the audience. After the performance, Wray, the dancers, and musicians discussed the ideas, forms, and performance conventions emphasizing how “tradition” is often thematized by Western audiences relative to African dance.

The art exhibition, “Still: 2 Troubles One God,” opened on the second day of the conference. Curated by Bernard Akoi-Jackson (Accra) and R. Lane Clark (Santa Barbara), the exhibition presented the work of both established and emerging Ghanaian artists, including Kofi Setordji, Wiz Kudowor, Dorothy Akpene Amenuku, Kokor Kugblenu, and Mr. Black (Benedict Kojo Quaye). Featuring paintings, sculptures, spoken word, and video installations, the wide variety of works and artists who participated in the exhibition approached the problems of Ghanaian iconography, the complicated notion of “tradition,” tourist art and its markets, national independence, the relationship between discontinuous cultural norms and visual representation, as well as individual expression. In a roundtable the following day,



several artists, including Mr. Black and Kokor Kugblenu discussed many of the problems contemporary Ghanaian expressive artists face in trying to find a market for works that fall outside the “tourist art” mold.

A film screening was curated by conference co-convenor Peter J. Bloom and Emma Sandon, a conference participant and one of the organizers of the Colonial Film Project funded by the British Film Institute (BFI). Coordinated through loans from the French National Film Archives and the BFI, three films were presented representing the period leading to independence. Jean Rouch’s previously unknown film, “Baby Ghana” (1957, 26’), was screened initially. It documents the days surrounding Ghana’s official independence from colonial rule on March 6, 1957. This film was followed by two others produced by the Gold Coast Film Unit and directed by the British filmmaker Sean Graham which Emma Sandon introduced. “Mr. Mensah Builds A House” (1954, 36’) and “The Boy Kumasenu” (1951, 63’) are instructional films that were focused on efforts to solidify emerging national efforts related to public works as part of an attempt to assert the importance of an informed citizenry in the Gold Coast. Though propagandistic in nature, with a strong moralistic tone animating each feature, many of the older participants in the audience remembered the films from their youth, and commented about them in a discussion that followed.

The conference concluded with the second keynote by Nkiru Nzegwu (Professor of Africana Studies, Binghamton University), and a banquet. During the banquet, conference participants were treated to a performance by the Ayekoo Drummers, an internationally acclaimed Ghanaian percussion group. After

dinner, the winners of the creative writing competition, administered and chaired by the Ghana-based filmmaker and author Yaba Badoe were announced. The competition received dozens of submissions, after having been publicized in several Ghanaian newspapers.

The proceedings of the event will be published as part of two edited volumes. The success of this conference, which emphasized the arts and humanities, will allow the African Studies Multi Campus Research Group to launch future events within the UC system, on the African continent, and beyond.



“Revisiting Modernization” conference co-conveners Peter J. Bloom, Stephan F. Miescher, and Takiyaa Manuh  
(Courtesy of R. Lane Clark)

## ASWAD’s Fifth Biennial Conference in Ghana

By Benjamin Talton  
Temple University

There are few academic conferences during which a nation’s national symphony orchestra performs (twice!), the vice president attends plenary sessions, and an ambassador welcomes all the conference attendees to his residence for dinner. These were among the events of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora’s (ASWAD) Fifth Biennial Conference held this year in Accra, Ghana. From Sunday, August 2 to Thursday, August 6, 2009, scholars from throughout the world gathered for lectures, roundtables, cultural events, and panels at the Alisa Hotel-North Ridge—the conference’s main venue—and various sites in and around Accra. ASWAD convened previous conferences in New York, Illinois, Brazil, and Barbados. Beyond the paper presentations, this year’s conference in Ghana was exceptional for its display of local and national history and culture. The conference theme was “Africa, Diaspora, and Pan-African Agendas.” Not only does Ghana loom large in the history of pan-Africanism, but 2009 marks the centenary of Kwame Nkrumah’s birth.

The conference in Ghana was the first planned under the



leadership of Abena Busia, ASWAD’s president and professor of English at Rutgers University. She and the Local Arrangements Committee did a fantastic job organizing the conference, accommodating the speakers and panelists’ technological needs, and ensuring that there were adequate gathering spaces outside the meeting rooms for attendees to network and converse. In addition to fostering an environment conducive for intellectual exchange, the organizers made Accra more than the conference’s location. Events, dinners, and panels highlighted Ghanaian history and culture.

The conference marked its official opening at the Nkrumah Mausoleum in central Accra where attendees and government officials paid tribute to Nkrumah. ASWAD attendees from

throughout Africa and the Diaspora laid wreaths to honor Nkrumah’s legacy and the centenary of his birth, in the presence of members of Nkrumah’s family and Ghanaian government officials. Included in the ceremony was a performance by an ensemble of the National Symphony Orchestra Ghana.

Sunday’s proceedings moved from central Accra to the University of Ghana, Legon, for panel sessions and lunch at its In-



stitute of African Studies. After lunch, attendees had the option to tour the campus or view the exhibit, “KUDUO: The Akan Art of Brass Casting.” Later that afternoon, the conference’s first plenary session convened at the campus’s Great Hall, where Professor Takyiwaa Manu served as chair and Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana, Cape Coast—Ghana’s first woman vice-chancellor—delivered the keynote, after an introduction by Professor Busia. This eventful day concluded with a Welcome Reception at the forecourt of the Great Hall where the Honorable Juliana Azuma-Mensah, Ghana’s minister for tourism, welcomed attendees. As participants enjoyed a variety of Ghanaian dishes, there were performances by Benverj International Band, and the Ghana Dance Ensemble.

The following days were full of panel sessions during which Ghana was well represented. There were more than thirty papers with an explicit focus on Ghana, and many more that touched on some aspect of Ghanaian history, culture, or politics. The organizers included lunch as part of each day’s program, which was a welcomed means to continue conversations and debates from the panel sessions, meet new colleagues, and reconnect with old ones. Without this common lunch period, it would have been difficult to sustain the communal atmosphere that was such a wonderful aspect of the conference. It is likely that attendees would have drifted to other parts of Accra to sightsee and locate less expensive lunch options than were available at the Alisa Hotel. These lunches also allowed the organizers to announce upcoming events, changes to the program, and otherwise keep attendees well informed. In addition to the paper sessions, the plenary sessions and evening activities were intellectually and culturally rich. Monday evening, for example, the Embassy of Brazil hosted a dinner at the residence of H.E. Fernando de Serra, Brazil’s ambassador to Ghana.

Knowing that participants would likely want to explore Accra beyond the confines of the hotel, the conference organizers held three of the conference’s four plenary sessions away from the Alisa Hotel. In addition to the first day’s sessions at the Institute of African Studies, Tuesday’s plenary session and lunch took place at the W.E.B. Dubois Center, in a residential neighborhood north east of central Accra. The session was titled “The Practice of Pan-Africanism” and it included among its six panelists Dr. Bob Lee, who was the first non-European dentist in Ghana, a close personal friend of Nkrumah, and one of the first African-Americans to migrate to Ghana after its independence. Also on the panel was Dr. Carina Ray, professor of African history at Fordham University in New York and a columnist for *New African* magazine. Lunch in the Center’s garden followed with a variety of Ghanaian dishes. Attendees also had a choice of workshops on Ghanaian crafts, and a performance by the

Ghana Dance Ensemble.

On Wednesday, the fourth plenary session, “To Tell the Truth in All its Complexity: International Perspectives on Slavery and Justice,” was chaired by New York University’s Dr. Michael Gomez, and included a talk by Professor Kofi Baku, Head of the Department of History at the University of Ghana on “Research on the Disabilities of Emancipated Slaves in the Gold Coast, 1874-1950.” This fascinating paper was based on court records in which litigants undermined claims to property and title rights among those of slave ancestry. Professor Baku demonstrated the ways in which invoking slavery was, until recently, a viable means to assert social dominance and notions of belonging within Ghanaian societies. A lively discussion followed on the legacies of slavery in Africa and the Americas and their social and political implications. Later that afternoon, following the final paper sessions, attendees reconvened at the Botsio Auditorium in Accra for a concert by the National Symphony Orchestra Ghana, which was hosted by Professor Busia.

Socially and culturally, the highlight of the conference came on Thursday afternoon. Conference participants traveled by bus to the town of Aburi, north of Accra, for lunch at the Aburi Botanical Gardens, which was followed by a durbar hosted by the Aburihene (traditional ruler of Aburi) and his traditional court. Professor Esi Sutherland, of the University of Ghana, served as ASWAD’s official linguist (or spokesperson) for the occasion. She delivered an eloquent greeting in Twi and English to the Aburihene, his court, and the people of Aburi, many of whom crowded the areas beyond the enclosure of the courtyard where the durbar was held. The exchange of greetings was followed by a cultural presentation of dancing, food, and an explanation of chieftaincy and traditional politics among the Akan of Akuapem. The light rain and cool weather in Aburi did not stop ASWAD attendees from sampling the food and enjoying locally prepared akpeteshi (spirits) and palm wine offered by their hosts. It was quite an event!

That evening, a number of attendees gathered at Asanka Local in Osu where they danced to live music by Adehyeman Band and enjoyed wonderful Ghanaian food and drinks. Danny Glover, the American actor and activist, sat with a small group of attendees and discussed the day’s events and African diasporic politics. Other conference participants found dinner on their own in various parts of Accra.

Intellectually, culturally, and socially this was an engaging and extremely successful conference. The panelists presented many original, high quality papers and the plenary sessions advanced the discourse on pan-Africanism and cultural and intellectual connections within Africa and between Africa and its Diasporas.



**National Symphony Orchestra Ghana**  
(Courtesy of the National Commission on Culture)

## Nkrumah @ 100 Symposium at Connecticut College

By Harcourt Fuller  
Connecticut College

September 21, 2009 marked the centenary of the birth of Kwame Nkrumah, the Ghanaian nationalist and Pan-Africanist who led the former British colony of the Gold Coast to independence on March 6, 1957. On November 6, 2009, Connecticut College hosted an international symposium to commemorate Nkrumah's life and legacy, which included presentations, literary discussion and a dance performance.

A.B. Assensoh of Indiana University-Bloomington delivered the keynote address. Assensoh acknowledged Nkrumah's tremendous influence on African political history, Pan-Africanism and international affairs. He opened his speech with a video clip from Ghana's inaugural Independence Day celebrations, when Nkrumah made his famous Pan-Africanist declaration that "our independence is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of the African continent." Assensoh, author of *Kwame Nkrumah of Africa: His formative years and the beginning of his political career, 1935-1948*, provided both a scholarly and personal view of Nkrumah, whom he had met in person. Assensoh discussed how Ghana's independence had a significant impact on the concurrent Civil Rights Movement in the US. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to Ghana during the independence celebrations and discussions with Nkrumah about his "Positive Action" campaign against the British colonial regime, inspired King's "Birth of a New Nation" speech as well as his non-violent tactics of civil disobedience, non-cooperation, boycotts and strikes. Further, it was King's fateful encounter with then Vice President Nixon in Accra that later led to a critical meeting between King and Eisenhower at the White House to begin talks on important civil rights legislation.

Connecticut College professor David Canton spoke on "the African Americanization and Racialization of Kwame Nkrumah." He focused on the ten years (1935-1945) that Nkrumah spent in the US working and studying at Lincoln University and the University of Pennsylvania. Nkrumah became radicalized and racialized by living amongst, learning and sharing in the history, culture and experiences of both ordinary and prominent African American and Afro-Caribbean activists, intellectuals and preachers. While living in America, Nkrumah was heavily influenced by the philosophies and opinions of Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. DuBois, C.L.R. James and other black nationalists. Canton argued that Nkrumah owed much of his nationalist and Pan-Africanist ideology to his transformative experiences in the U.S. during his early career.

Edmund Abaka of the University of Miami examined the origins and legacy of the Ghana Young Pioneer Movement (GYPM), which Nkrumah started in 1961. The GYPM's aim

was to politicize and inculcate school-aged youth with a sense of patriotism; duty and service to the nation; discipline; physical fitness; and reverence for education. Promising young Africans from other nations were also trained in Ghana as Young Pioneers and ultimately became leaders of their home countries. Abaka addressed the main historical criticism of the GYPM: that it was designed to brainwash youth into spying on opponents of the CPP (including their parents), concluding that he has found no evidence yet to corroborate these accusations.

I discussed how Nkrumah sought to balance the demands of nation-building, Pan-Africanism, Cold War alignment and Third World non-alignment. In order to illustrate the complexities inherent in juggling these four pillars of his presidency, I examined the iconography and symbolism of the national currencies, postage stamps, monuments and other representations of

"symbolic nationalism" produced during the Nkrumah era. My work on this topic has appeared in *Nations and Nationalism* and forms the basis of my forthcoming monograph.

Ama Biney of the University of Middlesex (UK) highlighted a debate that centered on Ali Mazrui's 1966 article entitled "Nkrumah: The Leninist Czar" in *Transition*. Mazrui argued that although Nkrumah was the hero of Pan-Africanism, he was also the architect of the one-party state in Africa. While agreeing with Mazrui in terms of the parallels between Nkrumah and Lenin, Biney contextualized the circumstances that led to Nkrumah's move toward authoritarianism, which included the assassination attempts on his life, conspiracies to overthrow the CPP government and internal ethno-political disunity. The one

-party state, Biney argued, was not unique to Ghana in the post-independence period, but was adopted by other African leaders such as Léopold Sédar Senghor as a nation-building solution to end tribalism and regionalism. The online publication *Pambazuka News* published Biney's recent article, "Nkrumah at 100," in November 2009, and her forthcoming book, *Kwame Nkrumah: An Intellectual Biography*, examines his socio-political, economic and cultural ideas.

The symposium also made an indelible impression on the students and faculty who were in attendance. As one freshman commented, "Kwame Nkrumah was not a name I had heard of before. I was shocked to learn of his impact not only on Africa but also...on international politics. The lack of knowledge about Nkrumah in the U.S. is another indicator of the little we know and understand regarding Africa. This lecture made me aware of how much there is to learn about Africa and the people that have influenced it." I could not agree more.



Dancing at the Nkrumah symposium  
(Courtesy of Harcourt Fuller)



## Response to “SHAME! An Open Letter”

By Merrick Posnansky  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Chair’s Note:** In the previous GSC Newsletter (Issue 21, 2008), we published an open letter by Selena Axelrod Winsnes, an independent scholar based in Norway and a GSC member, addressed to the Museums and Monuments Board of Ghana about tours conducted at the Elmina and Cape Coast castles. I invited readers to send their reactions to us and below is a contribution from Merrick Posnansky.

The last time I took visitors to some of the castles I too was somewhat appalled at the lectures given by the guides. I had the advantage of knowing the castles before the great influx of tourists began in the 70's. I was also privileged to work with Doig Simmonds, then of Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, in 1973 on the only excavations yet conducted on any of the dungeons at Cape Coast or Elmina. At that excavation there were also students from the University of Cape Coast and a short report was published in the *Transactions of the Ghana Historical Society*.

Contrary to prevailing descriptions, nobody really had much idea about what the below ground rooms were called or how they were used in the heyday of the slave trade. We knew how they were used in the period from the end of the Slave Trade until the takeover by the Museums and Monuments Board, i.e., largely as storage for building materials, etc. Nobody at that time spoke of a “gate of no return.” We thought from local informants, on what basis we had no definite idea, that we were excavating in an area that might have been the women's holding prison. This seemed to be confirmed by the large number of

waist beads (smaller than neck or wrist beads) that we found. At that time there was only a very small shrine in the dark passage area and we were told that it was not all that old.

Though there were many barracoons on the Benin (old Dahomey) coast, and the remains of the last one were still visible at Ouidah in 1968, I do not think barracoons were common in the Cape Coast-Elmina area where there were no large expanses of shelving beaches on which to erect such layered mud structures. Nevertheless, I agree with Dr Winsnes that the prime object was to keep as many African slaves alive and to get them to the Americas alive in order to both recoup expenses and make a profit. Though many slaves were probably held privately in towns like Cape Coast, the main holding areas were undoubtedly the forts.

It appears that many of the recent talks on the castles are not based on accounts by their original occupants but on emotional interpretations by present-day Ghanaians steeped neither in the documentary nor oral histories of the area. Though some may be based on oral history prevalent in the area, that history is not fresh and its reliance not always verifiable. There is definite evidence of “feedback” indicating that informants are not relying on the memory of their ancestors but on what was told to them by elders who had been informed by visitors to the fort, including historians of the colonial era. Dr Winsnes is probably right in assuming that many, though perhaps not all, of the stories are 20th century fabrications concocted to meet the expanded demand of interested tourists.

## Welcome New GSC Members!

Ebenezer Addo, Drew University	William Narteh Gblerkpor, University of Ghana	Adwoa Kwakyewaa Opong, University of Ghana
Lauren Adrover, Northwestern University	Nahomi Ichino, Harvard University	Dylan Penningroth, Northwestern University
Kwame Adum-Kyeremeh, University of Ghana	Gabriel Kleager, SOAS	Daniel Bruce Sarpong, University of Ghana
Robert Ash-Quaynor, University of Ghana	Ousman Kobo, Ohio State University	Ruti Talmor, Haverford College
Estella Ayitey-Arhin, University of Ghana	Kristine Krause, University of Oxford/Humboldt University	Theophilus Kofi Tamakloe, University of Ghana
Clifford Campbell, University of Ghana	Philip Yao Kumahor, University of Ghana	Afua Twum-Danso, University of Sheffield
Josiah A.M. Cobbah, Ghana Institute of Management & Public Administration	Diana Højlund Madsen, Roskilde University	Carolyn Tyhra, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
Manna Duah, University of Ghana	Cletus Kwaku Mbowura, University of Ghana	Sjaak van der Geest, University of Amsterdam
Kevin Dumouchelle, Columbia University/Brooks Museum	Jamie McGowan	Waseem-Ahmed Bin-Kasim, University of Ghana
Scott Edmondson, UCLA	Gertrude Nkrumah, University of Ghana	
Kenneth Joojo Essel-Cobbah, University of Ghana	Godwin Kwaku Nukunya, University of Ghana	
Harcourt Fuller, London School of Economics	Michael Perry Kweku Okyerefo, University of Ghana	

## 2009 Ghana Studies Council Research Grant Recipients

The Ghana Studies Council is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2009 research grants. All three award winners are graduate students in the Department of History at the University of Ghana under the supervision of Dr. Kofi Baku, the head of department. The GSC Research Grant committee, comprised of Wilhelmina Donkoh (KNUST), Sandra Greene (Cornell University), and Nancy Lawler (Oakton Community College), divided our grant budget in order to fund all three of our successful applicants. Our grant recipients will report on their research in the next GSC Newsletter, as required by their award.

**Wassem Ahmed Bin-Kasim, "Identity Politics and Religion in the Wa District"**

**Manna Duah, "Making Kuroba in Colonial Asante"**

**Adwoa Kwakyewaa Opong, "Rewriting Our Women into History"**

## The Ghana Studies Council Research Grant Program

The Ghana Studies Council invites applications for its Research Grant Program.

The GSC will award two or more research grants of up to \$500 each. Graduate students, faculty, and researchers affiliated with a university department or institute in Ghana are eligible. Applications must consist of the following:

- (1) completed application form (see following page);
- (2) research proposal of approximately 500 words; and
- (3) a letter of recommendation (for graduate students, this should be from your primary advisor).

All documents should be emailed to [ghanastudiescouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ghanastudiescouncil@gmail.com) by 1 October 2010.

Applications will be reviewed by the GSC Research Grants Committee and decisions will be announced by early November. Recipients will be required to submit a research report which will be published in a future issue of the GSC newsletter.



## Ghana Studies Council Research Grant Program

### 2010 Application Form

Check the appropriate box:    ☐ Graduate Student                      ☐ Faculty                      ☐ Researcher

Title (check all that apply):    ☐ Mr.                      ☐ Mrs.                      ☐ Ms.                      ☐ Dr.                      ☐ Rev.

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

If faculty or researcher, list current position: \_\_\_\_\_

If graduate student, list degree program and anticipated graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

If graduate student, name and title of advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide name, title, affiliation, and email address of the person submitting a recommendation for you:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Title of proposed research project: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Completed application form, research proposal, and letter of recommendation are due 1 October 2010.**



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**Volume 10, 2007**

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Sjaak van der Geest

#### Fifty Years of the Media's Struggle for De- mocracy in Ghana: Legacies and Encum- brances

Audrey Gadzekpo

#### Politics in Ghana Since 1957: The Quest for Freedom, National Unity, and Prosperity

Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi

#### Asante History: A Personal Impression of Forty Years

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#### Women in Ghana at 50: Still Struggling to Achieve Full Citizenship?

Dzodzi Tsikata

**To order *Ghana Studies*, please email Lisa Bintrim at [publications@africa.wisc.edu](mailto:publications@africa.wisc.edu)**

## **Introducing the new Editors and Editorial Board of *Ghana Studies***

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Larry Yarak (Texas A&M University)



## Member Publications and News

### Publications

#### Ghana

##### **Lloyd Amoah**

- “Walking Tall,” *BBC Focus on Africa*, (July– Sept. 2009), 20 (3): 30.
- “Emergent China, Public Theorizing and Developing Countries,” accepted in the *Fudan Journal of Social Sciences*.

##### **E. John Collins**

- “Nkrumah and Highlife,” *New Legon Observer*, Ghana Society for Development Dialogue Publication, vol.2, no. 7 (24 April 2008): 5-7.
- “The Entrance of Women into Ghanaian Popular Entertainment,” in *The Legacy of Efua Sutherland: Pan African Cultural Activism*, eds. Anne V. Adams and Efua Sutherland-Addy (Ayebeia Clark Publishing Ltd, 2007): 47-54 (released 2009).
- *Fela: Kalakuta Notes*, published in April 2009 by the book section of the Dutch Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam.
- “Tribute by J. Collins,” in the funeral brochure “Celebrating the Life of Ghanaba” published by his family and friends (March 2009): 28-31.
- “Popular Dance Music and the Media,” Chapter 14 in *Media and Identity in African*, eds. Kimani Njogu and John Middleton (Edinburgh University Press for the International African Institute, 2009).
- “Ghana and the World Music Boom,” *World Music: Roots and Routes*, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, vol. 6 (2009).

#### The Netherlands

##### **Sjaak van der Geest**

- “Wisdom: An Intergenerational Gift? Notes from Kwahu-Tafo, Ghana,” in E. Alber et al. eds. *Generations in Africa: Connections and Conflicts* (Münster: Lit-Verlag): 111-133.
- “Liquid Waste Management in Urban and Rural Ghana: Privatization as Governance?,” in Giorgio Blundo and Pierre-Yves Le Meur, eds. *The Governance of Daily Life. Ethnographic Explorations of the Delivery of Public and Collective Services* (Leiden: Brill): 205-222 (with N. Obirih– Opareh).
- “Life After Dark in Kwahu-Tafo, Ghana,” *Ethnofoor* 20 (2): 23-39.
- “Resilience and the Whims of Reciprocity in Old Age: An Example from Ghana,” *Medische Anthropologie* 20 (2): 297-311.
- “Listening: Friendship According to

Kwame Opoku,” in: Sjaak van der Geest and Marian Tankin, eds. *Theory and Action: Essays for an Anthropologist* (Amsterdam): 203-209.

- “‘Anyway.’ Lorry inscriptions in Ghana,” in: J.B. Gewald, S. Luning, and K. van Walraven, eds. *The Speed of Change: Motor Vehicles and People in Africa, 1890-2000* (Leiden/Boston, Brill): 253-293.

- Children and Dirt in Kwahu, Ghana: A Social– Anthropological Perspective. In: R. Kutalek & A. Prinz, eds. *Essays in Medical Anthropology. The Austrian Ethnomedical Society After Thirty Years*. Wiener Ethnomedizinische Reihe vol. 6. Wien, Muenster: LIT Verlag, pp. 179-190.

#### Norway

##### **Selena Axelrod Winsnes**

- *Two Views from Christiansborg Castle: A Brief and Truthful Description of a Journey to and from Guinea* Johannes Rask ed. Vol. 1 (1708-1713) (SubSaharan Publishers, 2009).
- *Two Views from Christiansborg Castle: A Description of the Gold Coast and its Inhabitants*. H.C. Monrad ed. (1805-1809) (SubSaharan Publishers, 2009).

#### United Kingdom

##### **Gabriel Klaeger**

- “Religions on the Road: The Spiritual Experience of Rod Travel in Ghana,” in J.B. Gewald, S. Luning, and K. van Walraven, eds. *The Speed of Change. Motor Vehicles and People in Africa, 1890-2000* (Leiden/Boston, Brill): 212-231.

##### **Afua Twum-Danso**

- “Situating Participatory Methodologies in Context: The Impact of Culture in Adult-Child Interactions in Research and Other Projects,” *Children’s Geographies*.
- “Reciprocity, Respect, and Responsibility: The 3 R’s Underlying Parent-Child Relationships in Ghana and the Implications for Children’s Rights,” *The International Journal of Children’s Rights*.
- “The Convention on the Rights of the Child: Turning International Law into Reality,” in Heather Montgomery and Mary Kellet, eds. *Children and Young People’s Worlds: Developing Frameworks for the Integrated Practice* (Polity Press).
- “The Construction of Childhood and Socialization of Children: the Implications for the Implementation of Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in

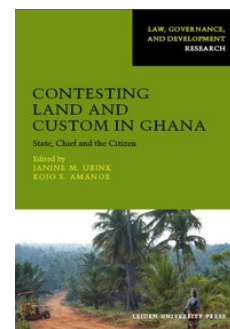
Ghana,” in Nigel Thomas and Barry Percy-Smith, eds. *The Handbook of Children’s Participation* (Routledge).

- “A Cultural Bridge, Not an Imposition: Legitimizing Children’s Rights in the Eyes of Local Communities,” *Journal for the History of Childhood and Youth*, vol. 1, no. 3.

#### United States

##### **Sara Berry**

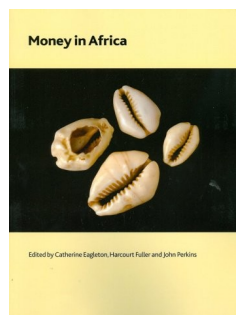
- “Building for the Future: Investment, Land Reform and the Contingencies of Ownership in Contemporary Ghana,” special issue on “The Limits of State-led Land Reform.” *World Development*. Daniel Muller and Thomas Sikor, eds. 37 (8): 1370-78.
- “Property, Authority, and Citizenship: Land Claims, Politics and the Dynamics of Social Division in West Africa,” special issue on “Property and Authority: Fuzzy Relations, Fuzzy Realities.” *Development and Change*. Christian Lund and Thomas Sikor, eds. 40 (1): 23-45.
- “Ancestral Property: Land, Politics and ‘the Deeds of the Ancestors’ in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire,” in *Contesting Land and Custom in Ghana: State, Chief and the Citizen*. Kojo Amanor and Janine Ubink, eds. (Leiden: Leiden University Press).



##### **Kevin D. Dumouchelle**

- William C. Siegmann, Kevin D. Dumouchelle, and Joseph Adande. *African Art: a Century at the Brooklyn Museum*. (New York: Prestel, 2009).
- “Beyond the Body Boundary: Que[e]rying the Photographs of Rotimi Fani-Kayode and Samuel Fosso,” in *Expressions of the Body: Representations in African Text and Image*, Charlotte Baker, ed. (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2009): 63-96.
- “Baule,” in *Man Ray, African Art and the Modernist Lens*, Wendy Grossman, ed. (Washington, D.C.: International Art & Artists, 2009): 154-55.

## Member Publications and News



### Harcourt Fuller

- *Money in Africa*, co-edited with Catherine Eagleton and John Perkins (Trustees of the British Museum, 2009).
- “From Cowries to Coins: Money and Colonialism in the Gold Coast and British West Africa in the Early 20th Century,” in C. Eagleton, H. Fuller, and J. Perkins, eds. *Money in Africa*. (Trustees of the British Museum, 2009).
- “Civitas Ghanensis Conditor: Kwame Nkrumah, Symbolic Nationalism, and the Iconography of Ghanaian Money, 1957–the Golden Jubilee,” *Nations and Nationalism*, 14.3 (July 2008): 520-541.

### Daniel P. Hopkins

- “Peter Thonning, the Guinea Commission, and Denmark’s Post Abolition African Colonial Policy, 1803-1850,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd series, vol. 46, no. 4, (October 2009): 781-808.

### Wyatt MacGaffey

- “Crossing the River: Myth and Movement in Central Africa,” in B. Heintze and A. von Oppen, eds. *Angola em Movimento, Vias de Transporte, Comunicação e História*. (Frankfurt am Main: Otto Lembeck, 2008).
- “The Ritual Person as Subject or Object in Ancient Greece and Central Africa,” in S. Blakely, ed. *Ancient Mysteries, Modern Secrets*, Electronic Antiquity xii, 1: 107-27.
- “Kongo Slavery Remembered by Themselves: Texts from 1915,” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 41, 1: 55-76.
- “The Blacksmiths of Tamale: Dynamics of Space and Time in a Ghanaian Industry,” *Africa* 79, 2:169-85.

### Courtney Micots

- “Art and Architecture of Anomabo, Ghana: A Case Study in Cultural Flow,” *Athanasia* XXVII (2009): 105-111.
- “Of Cloth and Culture,” Exhibition Review, *African Arts* 41 (4 Winter 2008): 82-84.

- Micots, Courtney, Eugenia S. Martinez, Mackenzie Moon and Amy Schwartzott. “Global Africa: Through the Lens of Visual Culture,” *African Arts* 41 (1 Spring 2008): 8-11.

### Brempong Osei-Tutu

- With Alex B. Asiedu and Kwame Amoah Labi, “An Asanteman–World Bank. Heritage Development Initiative in Promoting Partnership with Ghanaian Traditional Leaders,” *Africa Today* 55, 4: 3-26.

### Carina Ray

- *Navigating African Maritime History*, co-editor with Jeremy Rich (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Research in Maritime History Series, 2010).
- *Darfur and the Crisis of Governance in Sudan: A Critical Reader*, co-editor with Salah Hassan (Cornell University Press and Prince Claus Fund Library, 2009).
- “The ‘White Wife Problem’: Sex, Race, and the Contested Politics of Repatriation to Interwar British West Africa,” *Gender and History* 21:3 (November 2009): 628-646

## News

### Ghana

#### Lloyd Amoah

- Presented paper entitled “China’s Public Policy Empirics, Public Policy Formation in the South and the Riddle of Modernization” at the First Conference on Modernization (July 2009).
- Presented paper entitled “Deconstructing Ghana’s Slums: Dystopia, Distressed Urbanism, and Lessons from Asia” at the Ghana National Housing Conference (7-8 Oct. 2009).

#### E. John Collins

- Given an Arts Critics and Reviewers Association of Ghana Award for Popular Music (July 2008).
- Became a Patron of the Musicians Union of Ghana (August 2008).
- Became editor of the University of Ghana School of Performing Arts Journal (October 2009).

### United Kingdom

#### Afua Twum-Danso

- Embarked on a one-year project funded by the Nuffield Foundation, which aims to explore children’s perceptions of physical punishment in Ghana. Currently planning a dissemination workshop for next August in Ghana.

### United States

#### Kevin D. Dumouchelle

- Appointed Assistant Curator (Interim), Arts of Africa and the Pacific Islands, Brooklyn Museum.
- Recipient of a Leitner Family Fellowship, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

#### Harcourt Fuller

- Organized an international symposium—“Ghana in Africa and the World: A Symposium Commemorating the Centenary and Legacy of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, 1909-2009.”

### David Groff

- Undertook a health promotion project with a group of 15 Linfield College nursing students and two nursing colleagues in Littoral Province of Cameroon in cooperation with the Cameroonian NGO, Women, Environment and Health. The students conducted 520 head-to-toe child assessments and distributed 500 mosquito nets (January 2009).
- Retired from position as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs/Director of the Portland Campus at Linfield College (June 2009).

### Courtney Micots

- Graduate Student Council Travel Grant, University of Florida, 2009.
- Center for African Studies Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Summer Intensive Language Study (Fante), University of Florida, 2009.

### Carina Ray

- 2009-2010 Visiting Fellow, Princeton University, Center for African American Studies

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**Discipline:** English

**Research Interests:** Ghanaian popular culture and fiction, youth literature, postcolonial and postmodern studies

### Denmark

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**Discipline:** Religion, History, and Development Studies

**Research Interests:** Religion and social change in Asante

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**Discipline:** Cand. Science and Sociology

**Research Interest:** Gender mainstreaming, gender and land rights, violence against women, Ph D Project: "Getting the Institutions Right for Gender Mainstreaming— the Strategy of Gender Mainstreaming Revisited in a Ghanaian Context"

### Germany

**Kristine Krause**

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**Discipline:** Social Anthropology

**Research Interests:** African diasporas, migration, medical practices, health, religion, transnational networks, medical pluralism, citizenship

**Carola Lentz**

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**Discipline:** Anthropology

**Research Interests:** Ethnicity, elites, land rights, chieftaincy, colonial history, and cultural politics

### Ghana

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**Research Interests:** Social and political history of Akyem Abuakwa

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**Research Interests:** Identity and modern boundaries, chieftancy and politics

**Nana Akua Anyidoho**

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**Discipline:** Social Policy

**Research Interests:** Work & employment, cognitive approaches to the policy process

**Lloyd G. Adu Amoah**

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**Discipline:** Public Management and Policy Analysis

**Research Interests:** Public policy process theories, e-government and governance, public sector reform, postmodern public policy, Asian

affairs, China-Africa relations, sustainable development

**Robert Ash-Quaynor**

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**Discipline:** History

**Research Interests:** Inter-ethnic and international relations spanned by the Slave Trade at Osu (Accra) in the 18th & 19th centuries

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**Research Interests:** African intellectual history, Ghanaian Nationalism, the Ideologies of S.R.B. Attah Ahuma as a Priest, nationalist and journalist

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**Research Interests:** West African and Black Diasporan History

**Tyhra Carolyn**

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**Nina Chachu**

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**Research Interests:** Human rights in Africa, African leadership concepts, ethnicity and African politics, appropriate rural development

**E. John Collins**

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**Research Interests:** History of Identity

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**Research Interests:** Urban history, thesis (waste management into central business district of Accra, 1922-1966)

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**Research Interests:** Language and national identity

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**Research Interests:** Agricultural development, development economics, modeling, resource and environmental economics, technology policy, policy analysis

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**Research Interests:** Wala and Dagaba relations (Muslim and Non-Muslim relations), ethnicity, religion, and conflict

### Italy

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**Research Interests:** Social history, political institutions, Ghana/Ivory Coast

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**Research Interests:** Dutch-Ghanaian relations, elite studies, state formation, cultural heritage and development

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relations, African soldiers in colonial armies)

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**Research Interests:** Sexual relationships and birth control; the use and distribution of medicines; popular song texts; meanings of growing old, death, and end-of-life care; concepts of dirt and hygiene; hospital ethnography; sleeping the night

### Norway

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**Research Interests:** Northern Ghana, nineteenth century, Sisaland, impact of slave trade, impact of colonialism

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music, photography, cartography

### The United Kingdom

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**Discipline:** Sociology and social anthropology

**Research Interests:** Construction of childhood and implications for children's rights, the convention on the rights of the child, parent-child relations, parenting styles and physical correction of children

### United States

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#### **Osei-Mensah Aborampah**

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#### **Jeffery S. Ahlman**

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