An AALAC Collaborative Workshop Proposal:
African Studies in the Small Liberal Arts Context:
Experiments in (post-) colonial reading and pedagogy

Rationale:
Amid rising undergraduate interest in global health, human rights activism, ethical consumerism, and “doing good,” Africa-centered courses have seen increased enrollments. The purpose of this workshop is to focus on the practical and intellectual challenges of teaching about Africa at a small liberal arts college (SLAC). Participants for this workshop share similar challenges in that we do not benefit from a large network of Africanist scholars or the resources of an African Studies Center on our respective campuses, yet we seek to represent a wider Africanist intellectual community as best we can at our home institutions. Workshop participants will reflect on their role as pedagogues striving to channel student interest into critical thought and engagement with sub-Saharan Africa, and discuss how to keep “African Studies” alive and well on small campuses.

Plan:
Workshop participants will collaboratively explore four main questions:

1) What should be our objectives in teaching Africa-centered courses at SLACs?
2) What can we learn about contemporary Africa—and our relation to it—by reflecting on both canonical and “cutting edge” texts that often appear on our syllabi?
3) How can we engage growing student interest in learning about Africa to impart an enduring critical and historical perspective on the continent?
4) How do Africa-focused courses fit into the larger curricular menu and commitments to institutional diversity at SLACs?

Schedule and Format:
We plan to schedule the workshop at the end of spring semester 2014 at a time when faculty participants on the different campuses will be freed from teaching obligations. The workshop participants will be asked to arrive on a Monday afternoon/evening, participate in two full days of sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, and depart Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

The workshop will comprise a total of eight sessions—two in the morning and two in the afternoon on Tuesday and Wednesday. Five of these sessions are designed to probe major themes that commonly appear on syllabi or in course titles across member institutions of the AALAC. The focus of these sessions will be determined based on the specialized interests of the final list of participants, but possibilities include: Medicine/global health, Popular Culture, Conflict & Violence, Development & Human Rights, Post-colonial theories, and Sexuality/Gender. Workshop participants will collaboratively choose two texts (articles, essays, book chapters) associated with each theme: one will be a “canonical” text that has remained a staple of Africanist course syllabi for generations, and one will be a “cutting-edge” text that reflects on the same theme in a new way.

Discussion of paired readings will be facilitated by assigned pairs or groups, who will provide a 10-15 minute response and a few points for discussion, emphasizing and probing the “generational gap” between the readings in order to determine the past and future trajectory of African Studies in the classroom. In the remaining time in each session, participants will use the shared texts as a platform for engaging the themes that structure our syllabi, for considering the pitfalls and potential in teaching both “old” and “new” readings and theory in African Studies, and for discussing teaching philosophy (answering questions 1 and 2 above).
The workshop will also include two sessions devoted to exchange of pedagogical (and/or extracurricular) “best practices” (answering questions 3 and 4 above). Participants will share classroom activities, assignments, challenges, and course ideas in small groups and receive feedback from colleagues. Some participants may reflect on extracurricular avenues for generating campus-wide interest in African Studies—speaker series, workshops, films, etc.

The final session will focus on a keynote speaker—a senior scholar with significant experience teaching Africa-focused courses. While this scholar will be encouraged to participate in all aspects of the workshop, his/her primary responsibility will be to give a keynote address that offers retrospective reflection on his/her pedagogical career, syllabi, and objectives in teaching Africa-centered courses. Our keynote speaker will be encouraged to speak about the state of Africanist pedagogy today from his/her perspective.

One potential keynote speaker is Susan Reynolds Whyte, a professor of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen with a long and distinguished career centered on Africanist inquiry and engagement. Her interest in contemporary issues such as the politics of development, AIDS interventions, and global health speak to a variety of teaching themes our workshop seeks to explore. Other potential keynote speakers with similar cross-cutting research interests and distinguished and committed careers in African Studies include James Ferguson, Professor of Anthropology at Stanford University or Steven Feierman, Professor of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. In reflecting on personal scholarly and teaching interests as they have evolved over time, one such keynote speaker will bring a valuable and long perspective to our workshop and provide important insights into how “Africa” has evolved as an object of research and teaching in the past decades.

**Audience:**
The workshop’s intended audience is scholars and teachers of sub-Saharan Africa at the member institutions of the AALAC. Participants will be drawn from across social science and humanities disciplines and programs, including Anthropology, History, English, Film Studies, Gender Studies, African/Africana Studies, Sociology, Economics, Political Science, and Modern Languages and Literatures. Participants should regularly teach at least one course whose major focus (regional or theoretical) lies in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Goals:**
The major goals of this workshop include the following:

- Facilitate networking, collegial exchange, friendship, and collaboration among a network of Africanists drawn from AALAC member colleges.
- Forge online forums (list-serves, Facebook groups, blogs, etc…) where Africanist teacher-scholars can maintain contact, share teaching materials, Calls for Papers, and so on following the workshop.
- Provide an intensive two-day space away from home institutions and obligations in which to take pause, reflect, and enhance our pedagogical orientation(s) to Africa.
- Provide a forum where Africanist scholars can form connections and identify shared interests that can later serve as platforms for collaborative panels or sessions at relevant conferences or other workshops in the future.
- Develop a statement of “Next Steps” to be taken after the event.

**Host Institution and Conference Date:**
Swarthmore College; Spring 2014, after completion of scheduled class meetings on AALAC campuses
Conference Organizers:
Crystal Biruk, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Oberlin College, (workshop leader)
Christy Schuetze, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Swarthmore College, (workshop leader)
Kalala Ngalamulume, Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies, Bryn Mawr College
China Scherz, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Reed College
Jesse Weaver Shipley, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Haverford College

Preliminary List of Potential Participants
Tim Burke, Professor of History, Swarthmore College
Sarah Croucher, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Archaeology, and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Wesleyan University
Susan Diduk, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Denison University
Abosede George, Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies, Barnard College
Jean-Pierre Karegeye, Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Macalester
Zolani Ngwane, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Haverford College
Joanna Tague, Assistant Professor of History, Denison University
John Thabiti Willis, Assistant Professor of History, Carleton College
Zachariah Cherian Mampilly, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Vassar College
Caroline Melly, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Smith College
Jamie Monson, Professor of History, Macalester College
Kenda Mutongi, Professor of History, Williams College
Pashington Obeng, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, Wellesley College
Stephen A. O’Connell, Professor of Economics, Swarthmore College
Samson Okoth Opondo, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Vassar College
Donna A. Patterson, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, Wellesley College
Elizabeth Prevost, Associate Professor of History, Grinnell College
Sean Redding, Professor of History, Amherst College
Neil Roberts, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and Political Science, Williams College
Nicholas L. Wilson, Assistant Professor of Economics, Reed College
Carina Yervasi, Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Swarthmore College

Workshop Liaison
Christy Schuetze, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Swarthmore College
cschuet1@swarthmore.edu

Preliminary Budget
Travel and accommodation expenses for faculty participants from the AALAC (20 plane/train tickets @ $350 each, 40 nights of accommodation @ $120 each) .................................................................$11,800
Keynote speaker travel and accommodation expenses .........................................................$1700
Keynote speaker honorarium .........................................................................................$1000
Conference website creation and maintenance .................................................................$500
Workshop organizers’ stipend .........................................................................................$1000
Other administrative expenses (photocopying, note-taker) .............................................$500
Catering ...........................................................................................................................$2500
Staff support ....................................................................................................................$1000
Workshop evaluation (via electronic surveys - undertaken by project organizers) .......... $0
Total ..................................................................................................................................$20,000
CURRICULUM VITAE

CRYSTAL BIRUK
Assistant Professor of Anthropology | Oberlin College
King Building 320B | 10 North Professor Street
Oberlin, OH 44074-1095
848-333-8310 | crystal.biruk@oberlin.edu

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Anthropology Department
PhD, Anthropology, May 2011
- Examined Fields: Medical anthropology, Complex societies, Anthropology of Africa
- Graduate Certificate in African Studies
- Field Languages: Chichewa (advanced) and Kiswahili (advanced)
- Other Languages: Spanish (advanced), French (reading)
- Dissertation: “The Production and Circulation of AIDS Knowledge in Malawi”

Bryn Mawr College
AB with honors, Anthropology, 2003
- Frederica de Laguna Award for promising work in Anthropology

RECENT AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Oberlin College Powers Grant for Multi-sited Research, Summer 2013 (Malawi, South Africa)
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Pembroke Center for Research and Teaching on Women, Brown University, 2011-2012
- Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2010-2011
- School for Advanced Research (SAR) Summer Resident Scholar, Summer 2009
- Critical Writing Program Teaching Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2009-2010
- Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2009
- Social Science Research Council (SSRC) International Dissertation Research Fellow, 2007-2008
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2007-2008
- Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant recipient, 2007-2008
- University of Pennsylvania Dissertation Research Fellowship (declined), 2007-2008
- GAPSA-Provost’s Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation, Honorable Mention, U of Penn, Summer 2006
- William Penn Graduate Fellowship, U of Penn, 2006-2007
- Field Funds Pre-dissertation research grant, Department of Anthropology, U of Penn, Summer 2005
- Health and Society in Africa Research Grant, U of Penn, Summer 2004

PUBLICATIONS


**SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS**

“Soap, Bloodsuckers, and Surveys.” Invited lecture at WISER, January 2013, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

“The Moral and the Material in African ‘Homophobia.’” April 2013 at the Northeast Workshop on Southern Africa (NEWSA), Burlington, VT.

“Chasing numbers: Standardization and mutability in AIDS research culture in Malawi.” November 2012 at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco, CA.

“Moral Economies of AIDS Research in Malawi.” April 2012 at the Society for Cultural Anthropology Meetings, Providence, RI.


“Culturing Global Health: Producing Local Knowledge in Malawi.” December 2010 at the 13th Annual Roundtables on Transnationality (Coninx Irmgard Foundation), Berlin, Germany.


“‘AIDS is Money!’ Navigating the marketplace of expertise in Malawi.” December 2009 at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Philadelphia.

“Seeing like a researcher: Enumeration in AIDS research in Malawi.” September 2009 at the Society of Medical Anthropology Conference, Yale University.

“When researchers meet the researched: Interpretations of gifts, information, and proper exchange in Malawi.” July 2009, School of Advanced Research Summer Colloquium Series, Santa Fe, NM.

“The challenges of doing gender research in Malawi.” Co-presented with Dr. Pierson Ntata November 2008 at the PhD Course on Ethics, Epistemology, and Social Reality at Ku Chawe, Zomba, Malawi. Organized by Bodo University College in Norway, University of Malawi, and Mzumbe University (Tanzania).


**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

University of Pennsylvania (2005-2011), Brown University (2011-2012), Haverford College (Spring 2010), University of Malawi (Fall 2008), Oberlin College (2012-present). Courses taught include: Intro to Anthropology, Culture Theory, Anthropology of Good Intentions, Anthropology of Epidemics, Empires of Science, and Medical Anthropology.
CURRENT POSITION

Swarthmore College, Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Swarthmore, PA
Assistant Professor of Anthropology September 2010- present

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Philadelphia, PA
Doctor of Philosophy; Anthropology May 2010

The Colorado College Colorado Springs, CO
Bachelor of Arts, Magna cum Laude; Anthropology, International Affairs Concentration May 1998
Phi Beta Kappa; Dean's List (1994-1998)
Senior Honor's Thesis: A Journey towards Change: Youth International Travel as a Rite of Passage

DISSERTATION

“The World is Upside Down: Women’s Participation in Religious Movements and the Search for Social Healing in Central Mozambique”
Chair: Sandra T Barnes; Readers: Steven Feierman, Carol Muller

RESEARCH and TEACHING INTERESTS

Anthropology of Africa; anthropology of religion; environmental anthropology; anthropology of development; medical anthropology; globalization; Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity; gender

RESEARCH GRANTS

National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant Spring 2008
Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship 2007-8
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship 2006-7
Pre-dissertation Field Research Grant, Department of Anthropology; U of Pennsylvania Summer 2004
Ford Foundation Field Research Grant, School of Arts and Sciences; U of Pennsylvania Summer 2003

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

Nominated by Penn Anthropology Department for CGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award, Council of Graduate Schools June 2010
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania Fall 2009
William Penn Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania 2007-8
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, (for study of Swahili) 2004-5
William Penn Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania 2002-4
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

- Anthropological Perspectives on Conservation, Swarthmore College Fall 2010, 2011, Spring 2013
- Culture and Religion in Africa, Swarthmore College Fall 2010
- Culture, Health and Illness, Swarthmore College Fall 2011, 2012
- Culture, Health and Illness, Honors Attachment Fall 2011
- Culture and Religion in Africa, Swarthmore College Spring 2012
- Seminar- Anthropology of Biomedicine, Swarthmore College Spring 2013

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Full-day conference: Anthropologies Across Decades and Disciplines: A Day in Honor of Sandra T. Barnes; UPenn African Studies Center and Department of Anthropology; April 2012

SESSIONS ORGANIZED


“Post-Patrons and Power,” panel co-organized with Crystal Biruk for the conference: Anthropologies Across Decades and Disciplines: A Day in Honor of Sandra T. Barnes; African Studies Center and Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania; April 2012.


INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Competing Visions: Women’s Participation in Religious Movements in Mozambique. Invited lecture for spring speaker series; African Studies Center; University of Pennsylvania, February 2012.

CURRICULUM VITAE
KALALA J. NGALAMULUME
Associate Professor
Africana Studies & History
Bryn Mawr College
kngalamu@brynmawr.edu

Education

Ph.D., Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 8/1996.
M.A., International Affairs, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 1989

Teaching experience

Associate Professor (tenured), Bryn Mawr College, Africana Studies/History, fall 2005-Present

Assistant Professor, Bryn Mawr College, Africana Studies and History, 2000-5

Assistant Professor, Central Washington University (Ellensburg), History Department, 1996-2000

Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University, History Department, 1990-3

Assistant (Junior Lecturer), National University of Zaire/IPN, History Department 1980-1985. Thereafter Chef de Travaux (Senior Lecturer), 1985-;

Selected Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

Social Science Research Council for the dissertation, 1993-95
The Rockefeller Foundation for the dissertation, 1993-95
Dean's Travel Grant, Central Washington University, 1997
The 1999 Summer Institute on Infusing Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum, University of Honolulu, for three weeks.
Start-Up Grant, Bryn Mawr College, 2000
Summer Research Grant from the Alice Hardenbergh Clark Fund, Bryn Mawr College, 2001
Mellon Trico Fellowship (seed grant), 2004
Grant from the Social Science Center to organize a conference on Black Identities
Grant from the Social Science Center to organize a conference on Health and Medicine in Africa
Mellon Tri-Co Seed Grant to support innovative faculty projects relating to teaching, curriculum, research, or service/governance, 2007-08

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books


Health and Medicine in Africa: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, eds. by Paula Viterbo (editor) and Kalala Ngalamulume (editor and author) (East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press; Munster: LIT Verlag, 2010), 226 pp.

Referred Articles


Book Chapters


Curriculum Vitae

China Rose Scherz
Reed College
Department of Anthropology
3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.
Portland OR 97202-8199
cscherz@reed.edu
(574) 309-5119

EDUCATION

2004- 2010  Universities of California at San Francisco and Berkeley
Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology

1998- 2002  University of California at Berkeley
B.A. in Anthropology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Reed College – Department of Anthropology
Assistant Professor (Fall 2011 - Present)
Visiting Assistant Professor (2010-2011)
Anthropology 340: Anthropology of Sub-Saharan Africa: Care and Power
Anthropology 341: Medical Anthropology
Anthropology 343: African Temporalities
Anthropology 382: Anthropology of Ethics
Anthropology 386: Anthropology of Development and Humanitarianism
Anthropology 211: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology

Indiana University - South Bend, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Adjunct Faculty (2008-2010)
Anthropology E105: World Cultures (3 Sections, 150 Students)
Anthropology B399: Obligation and Belonging: Children as Kin, Citizens, and Humans

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

DISERTATION
ARTICLES


BOOK REVIEWS


SELECTED AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

UCSF President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship (2009-2010)
University of California, San Francisco Kozloff Fellowship (2007-2008)
Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Language Fellowship (2007)
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2004 – 2007)
Society for Medical Anthropology Rivers Prize (2002)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

INVITED PAPERS PRESENTED

“Having People, Having Heart: Charity and the Problem of Dependence in Buganda”

“Having People, Having Heart: Charity and the Problem of Dependence in Buganda”

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED


EDUCATION
2003  Ph.D.  Socio-Cultural Anthropology, University of Chicago
      Dissertation: National Audiences and Consuming Subjects: A Political Genealogy of Performance in Neoliberal Ghana

1997  M.A.  Socio-Cultural Anthropology, University of Chicago
      Thesis: Civilized Art in Primitive Spaces: Art Missionaries and the Politics of Aesthetics in Oshogbo, Nigeria

1992  A.B. Distinguished Honors, Cultural Anthropology, Brown University
      Honors Thesis: Ideology and Scientific Discourse: Evolutionary Theory and Western Epistemology

RECENT PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS
2013- Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies, Columbia University, New York, NY

2012- Associate Professor of Anthropology, Haverford College

2011-2 Leader Humanities Center Faculty Seminar, Year-long program: “Changing Technologies of Power in the Entrepreneurial Age.” Hurford Humanities Center, Mellon Faculty Seminar, Haverford College

2010-2012 Coordinator of Africana Studies & Penn Africana Studies Consortium, Haverford College

2009-10 Humanities Center Fellow, Year-long program. Hurford Humanities Center Mellon Faculty Seminar, Haverford College

2008-12 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Haverford College

2004-5 Chair of Curriculum Committee, International Human Rights Exchange (IHRE), University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

2004 Lecturer, International Human Rights Exchange (IHRE), University of Cape Town and University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa. June-July

2001-03 Residential Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American & African Studies, University of Virginia

2001 Program Coordinator, Lecturer, and Residential Head, University of Chicago Study Abroad Program, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED AWARDS AND GRANTS
2011 Co-Author, Institutional Grant, National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) for Hip Hop Africa Museum Project, Co-writer with Lisa Binder to research and co-curate major exhibition at Museum of African Art, New York, New York

2010 Faculty Research Support Fund, Centre for Peace and Global Citizenship, Haverford College. April

2010 Provost’s Research Grant, filming and researching the FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Provost’s Office, Haverford College, May-August

2009 Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wenner Gren Foundation, New York, NY January-September

2006-9 Initiator and Co-Author Major Institutional Grant, Ford Foundation Institutional Grant for establishing the Chinua Achebe Institute at Bard College
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
Book Length Projects


2010  Ethics of Scale: Relocating Politics After Liberation. Volume Editor, Special Issue of Anthropological Quarterly, [contributors: Achille Mbembe, Jean Comaroff, Rosalind Morris, Kamari Clarke, Hylton White, Anne Maria Makhulu, Sareeta Amrute]

Under review  Mediating Freedom: Performance and Public Authority in 20th Century Ghana. (Complete Manuscript under review)

Peer Reviewed/Journals

2013  “Television Tricksters: Parody and Inversion in Ghanaian Melodrama.” Social Text (Forthcoming late 2013)

2013  “Digital Circulation and the Art of Repetition in Ghana’s Azonto Dance Craze.” American Ethnologist 40:2


2009  "Comedians, Pastors, and the Miraculous Agency of Charisma in Ghana,” Cultural Anthropology


2004  “From Visuality to Postcolonial African Politics.” Public Culture 16:1

Peer Reviewed Essays in Edited Volumes


Other Chapters in Edited Volumes

In Progress  Invited essay, “Value and Performance.” In Arts in Contemporary Society: A New Reader in the Anthropology of Art Edited by Marina Peterson