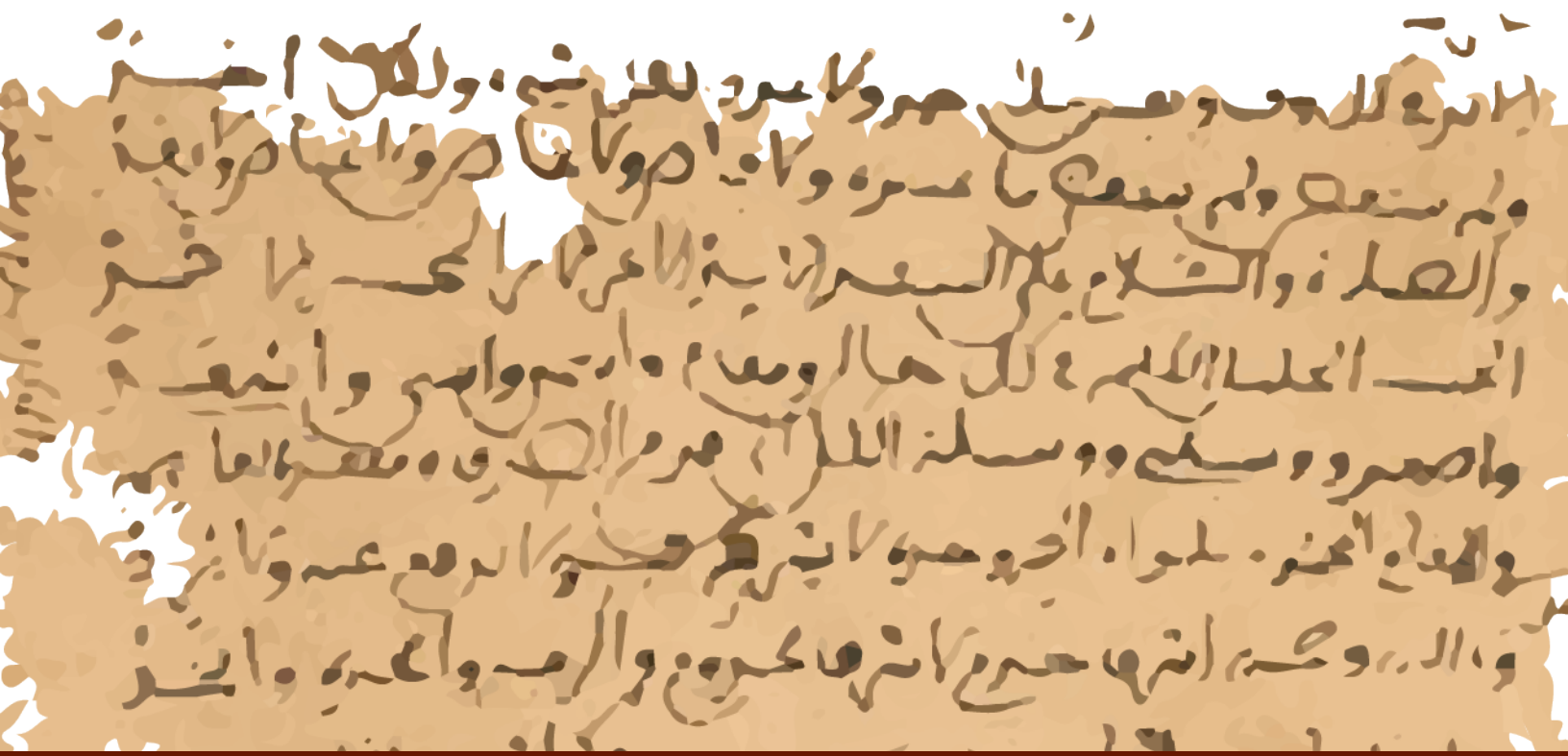


I ILLINOIS

Center for African Studies

HABARI NEWSLETTER
FALL 2018



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Teachers Ranked as Excellent [Spring, Summer 2018]	3
Faculty News	4
CAS Alumni Spotlight	9
Conference Review	10
CAS: New Students	11
CAS Staff Spotlight	12
Upcoming talks	12

TEACHERS RANKED AS EXCELLENT

Summer 2018

Barro, M- African Studies
Hermes, Z- TA Linguistics
Lutomia, A- TA Linguistics
Zerai, A- Sociology

Spring 2018

Akresh, R- Economics
Basu, M- English
Hassan, W- English
Wright, D- English
Brown, R- Gender and Women Studies
Wedig, T- Global Studies
Nobili, M- History
Brooks, J- Human Development and Family Studies
Dash, L- Journalism
Hermes, Z- TA Linguistics
Saadah, E- Linguistics
Shosted, R- Linguistics
Winters, M- Political Science
Bayat, A- Sociology
Dill, B- Sociology

FACULTY NEWS

Stanley Ambrose (Anthropology) is featured in Illinois News Bureau on “Ancient Herders Enriched and Restructured African Grasslands.” He has also published “Long-distance Stone Transport and Pigment Use in the Earliest Middle Stone Age.” Research involved tracing social networks by stone tool raw materials, which Professor Ambrose directed. Analysis of red ochre was conducted by Andrew Zipkin, a post-doctoral scholar at UIUC from 2015 to 2018.

Andrew Zipkin and Professor Ambrose are currently conducting archaeological research in Malawi, in collaboration with a research team directed by Dr. Jessica Thompson at Emory University. He is the principle investigator on the NSF grant that funds his part of this research.

Thomas Bassett (Emeritus, Geography and Geographic InfoSci) was awarded the 2018 Robert McC. Netting Award by the Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. The award recognizes the distinguished research and professional activities that bridge geography and anthropology. Bassett will present the McC. Netting Plenary Lecture at the 2019 AAG Annual Meeting.

He also published the following:

T. Bassett, M. Koné, and N. Pavlovic. (2018) Power Relations and Upgrading in the Cashew Value Chain of Côte d'Ivoire, *Development and Change* 49(5): 1223–1247. DOI: 10.1111/dech.12400

T. Bassett (2018) “Le boum de l'anacarde dans le bassin cotonnier du nord Ivoirien. Structures de marché et prix à la production.” *Afrique Contemporaine* (In Press).

Ken Cuno (History) published “Modernizing Marriage in Egypt,” in *Marriage, Law and Modernity*, ed. Julia Moses (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018), 129-148.

In June he presented “Abd Allah al-Nadim's ‘School for Girls’ (Madrasat al-Banat): domestic ideology in fin de siècle Egypt,” in a workshop on the Arab Nahda (Awakening) at the University of Oxford. During the past year he also gave guest lectures and participated in public events on US-Arab relations, Palestinian history, and the Six-Day War of June 1967.

Valerie Hoffman (Religion) published the following:

“A Sufism for Our Time: The Egyptian Society for Spiritual and Cultural Research,” at the World Congress of Middle East Studies in Seville, Spain, July 16-20, 2018.

“Religion, Ethnicity, and Identity in the Zanzibar Sultanate,” at an international conference on “Muslim Cultures in the Indian Ocean: Diversity and Pluralism, Past and Present,” at the Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London, September 12-14, 2018.

Laila Hussein Moustafa (Library) published the following:

“Research without Archives?: The Making and Remaking of Area Studies Knowledge of the Middle East in a Time of Chronic War.” LH Moustafa. *Archivaria*: 85, 68-95.

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/694334/summary>

“The Role of Middle East Studies Librarians in Preserving Cultural Heritage Materials.” *MELA NOTES* 2017 90, 15-23. https://www.jstor.org/stable/26407383?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

Jan Brooks (Human Development and Family Studies) and **Crystal Allen** (Animal Sciences) received CES Arlys Conrad International Teaching Enhancement Award, Design New Faculty Led HDFS/ANSC Program to Zimbabwe.



Jan, Instructor in Human Development and Family Studies, and Crystal, Lecturer in Animal Sciences, received funding through the ACES Office of International Program's Teaching Enhancement Grant to make a short trip to Zimbabwe in August with the purpose of scouting out service work sites, accommodations, tourism and activities for a new faculty-led early summer study abroad program. With the help of experienced providers VACorps and Tiritose, Jan and Crystal were able to lay the ground work for an early summer program for students with medical and health career interests and animal science and veterinary interests. They are designing a pre-departure course for the 2nd 8 week spring term, in which students will learn historical, social, and political constructs relating to community resources in health care, agriculture, and animal care in Zimbabwe. Visits will be included to Victoria Falls, Chinhoyi, and Harare. Pre-vet/animal science students will assist at an animal rescue farm and private game reserve's rhino conservancy project; pre-med/nursing/therapy students at a rural hospital and a children's hospital rehabilitation unit. The program application for ACES Faculty-Led Service Learning, Health Care, and Animal Rescue is open to undergraduate students on the Illinois Abroad and Global Exchange web page.

Al Kagan (Emeritus, Library) published the following:

Kagan, Al. "Progressive Library Organizations Update, 2013-2017." *Journal of Radical Librarianship*, v. 4 (2018): 20-53.

Kagan, Al. "ALA, IFLA, and South Africa." *Progressive Librarian*, no. 46 (Winter 2017/2018): 63-85.

Kagan, Al. "ALA, IFLA, and Cuba." *Progressive Librarian*, no. 45 (Winter 2016/2017): 46-65.

Kagan, Al. "ALA, IFLA, and Israel/Palestine." *Progressive Librarian*, no. 44 (Spring 2016): 68-92.

(ALA = American Library Association; IFLA = International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

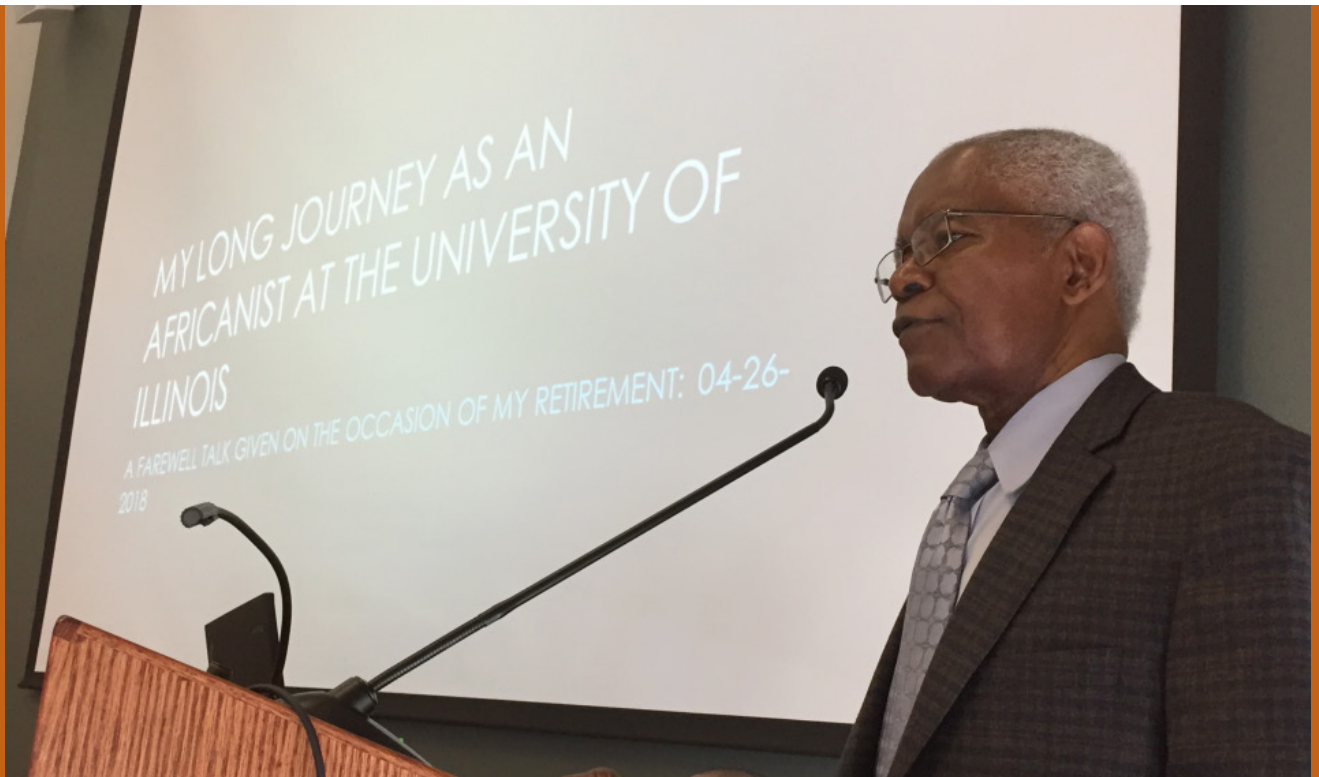
Krystal Smalls (Anthropology) has been named an IPRH Faculty Fellow 2018-2019.

Theme: "Race Work"

Project title: "The Pot and the Kettle: Young Liberians and the Semiotics of Anti/Blackness in the Making of Contemporary Black Diaspora"

... MORE FROM OUR FACULTY

On April 26, 2018, CAS celebrated the career and marked the retirement of our own **Professor Eyamba Bokamba**. Mzee Bokamba's 44 years at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign have been marked by many academic and professional achievements. But perhaps the most important have been the students he has guided and mentored, the colleagues he has worked so closely with, and the friendships he has made. UIUC's status in African Studies is due in no small part to his long labors in building African languages and linguistics on our campus. Kwa heri Mzee!



Summer Institute for Languages of the Muslim World (SILMW)

Michael Dell

The Summer Institute for Languages of the Muslim World (SILMW) will be held again in the Summer of 2019 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. We will be offering courses in Arabic, Persian, Swahili, Turkish and Wolof.

SILMW is an 8-week program, divided into two 4-week semesters. It offers daily language classes as well as a variety of daily co-curricular activities which are meant to enhance the classroom instruction and provide additional channels and contexts in which language can be practiced. In addition, the co-curricular activities provide a wide background related to the culture and traditions of the countries where the languages are spoken. Co-curricular activities include lectures on cultural topics, movies, cooking classes, different workshops, and more.

This year, in addition to their studies and cultural activities, students went on a field trip to Chicago. The trip began when students toured the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, where they got to see artifacts from the regions they studied. Later, they visited Harlem Street and visited a variety of Middle Eastern shops. Finally, they visited the Mosque and Cultural Center in Bridgeview. This trip offered our student a fun opportunity to get exposure to the languages and cultures they studied.

At the end of the program, the students participated in the SILMW Language Showcase Festival. This was an opportunity for the students to talk about their reflections on the program, and even show performances to demonstrate what they've learned over the summer to themselves, their families and their guests. Our past showcases can be seen on our youtube channel.

SILMW will take place again next summer, from June 10th 2019 to August 2nd. Interested students are welcome to apply! If you are interested or have any questions, see our website at <https://linguistics.illinois.edu/languages/summer-institute-languages-muslim-world>, or email us at silmw@illinois.edu.

“Restoring the African Past: A Synoptic Edition and Translation of Two West African Arabic Chronicles (17th-19th Centuries)”

Mauro Nobili (History)

In August 2018, I was awarded a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant, within the theme of “Scholarly Editions and Translations,” to further my research on the West African chronicle known as the *Tarikh al-fattash*. Edited and translated under the name of *La chronique du chercheur* in the early 20th century by two French orientalist, Octave V. Houdas and Maurice Delafosse, the chronicle was believed to be the work of a 16th century scholar from the region of Timbuktu named Mahmud Kati, then updated by later members of his family until the late 17th century.

La chronique du chercheur soon became one of the major primary sources for the history of pre-colonial Africa. Reprinted several times, it was also included in the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations) list of masterpieces of world literature. Scholars have spotted several inconsistencies in this edition, however, and have been unable to provide a fully satisfying explanation for them.

I have worked on this chronicle for several years now and my research, based on the study of manuscript material from different collections in West Africa, has proved that *La chronique du chercheur* is unfortunately a very unreliable edition that conflates two different works: the untitled chronicle of one Ibn al-Mukhtar, dating back to the 17th century, and the *Tarikh al-fattash*, which is in fact a 19th-century work produced by substantially rewriting the chronicle of Ibn al-Mukhtar. The latter chronicle was written by a Fulani scholar called Nuh b. al-Tahir who was part of the entourage of an important 19th-century polity usually referred to as Caliphate of Hamdallahi, located in today's Republic of Mali. Nuh b. al-Tahir composed his work to provide legitimacy to this caliphate by using an ancient prophecy. Eventually, he spuriously credited his work to the abovementioned Mahmud Kati to cover his work and give credibility to his claims.

These two chronicles are very different in regards to their historical relevance. The *Tarikh Ibn al-Mukhtar* documents the 17th century at the demise of the great West African empires, partially as a consequence of the expanding European presence on the Atlantic shores of the continent and the escalating trans-Atlantic slave trade. The *Tarikh al-fattash* bears witness to 19th-century West Africa, with the emergence of Islamic theocracies and the escalation of domestic slavery after the trans-Atlantic slave trade was abolished. However, in their current state, the *Tarikh Ibn al-Mukhtar* and the *Tarikh al-fattash* are thoroughly entangled and misinterpreted in *La chronique du chercheur*.

With NEH support, I have put together a team of three scholars, Dr. Ali Diakite (UIUC), Dr. Shahid Mathee (University of Johannesburg), and myself, to produce a synoptic edition and English translation of the *Tarikh Ibn al-Mukhtar* and the *Tarikh al-fattash* that will provide critical knowledge about two influential phases of West African history. Our work will correct the historical record and makes these documents available to scholars of African history—both Arabists and non-Arabists—in an accurate, accessible format for the first time.



Photo credit: Julieta Cervantes/performers: Niall Noel Jones, Duane Cyrus, Jonathan Gonzalez, Ni' Ja Whitson) of recent choreographic project **Virago-Man Dem**, which was presented at KCPA November 15.

Cynthia Oliver (Dance)

Professor Oliver's work was supported by New Waves Institute (Trinidad, W.I.) and Dancing While Black artist residencies, the Vermont Performance Lab, National Performance Network Creation Fund, the Rockefeller MAP Fund, New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project, The Mellon Foundation (where I was a Mellon Fellow) through the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (FSU), The University of Illinois Research Board and Center for Advanced Study. The piece was in development for two years 2015-2017 and premiered at Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival in the fall of 2017. It is currently nominated for two New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Awards—the dance and performance world's equivalent of an Oscar.

The work is choreographed and directed by Professor Oliver with collaborators across discipline—most at UIUC, a few elsewhere:

Music: Jason Finkelman (UIUC Music/Dance/ Robert E. Brown Center for World Music)
Visual Design: Black Kirby (John Jennings – UC Riverside - and Stacey Robinson – of UI Art + Design)
Projection Design: John Boesche (UIUC Theatre)
Lighting: Amanda Ringger
Costumes: Susan Becker (UI Art + Design)

CAS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Hapsatou Wane

Dr. Hapsatou Wane is a native of Senegal and grew up in Dakar. She first came to the United States as a participant in the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Université Gaston Berger in (Saint-Louis, Senegal) exchange program. Dr. Wane earned a Master's degree in English Studies (with concentrations in African literatures and civilizations) from the Université Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis, Senegal (2007), a Master's degree in African Studies (2009), a Master's degree in Comparative and World Literature (with concentrations in Francophone and Anglophone African and Caribbean literatures and Afro-Brazilian Literature) from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) (2012), and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Comparative and World Literature from UIUC (2017).

At the University of Illinois, Dr. Wane was the recipient of the Gendell Family and Shiner Family Fellowship awarded by the Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Initiative, UIUC, in 2014. She also received the Dr. Love Travel Grant Award for four-week research travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, UIUC. The same year, she received the Lemann Graduate Fellowship for Brazilian Studies from the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, UIUC.

At the University of Illinois, Dr. Wane taught a wide variety of courses. She taught Wolof at all levels, French composition, Literature of Asia and Africa, and Literature of Europe and the Americas. She received the Outstanding T.A. in Non-Western Languages Award.

In Fall 2016, Dr. Wane accepted a position as an assistant professor of Comparative Literature at Armstrong State University. Since the consolidation of Armstrong State University with Georgia Southern University, Dr. Wane has been an assistant professor of English in the Department of Literature affiliated with the Department of Foreign Languages at the new Georgia Southern University on the Armstrong campus in Savannah, Georgia.

With such diverse teaching experience, Dr. Wane continues to teach various courses at Georgia Southern University such as Africa and the Diaspora, Postcolonial Literature, World Literature, Literature and Composition, Introduction to Literary Studies, French at all levels, and Comics in the French and Francophone World. Her interdisciplinary background in African Studies allows her to develop new courses such as Urban Cultures: Hashtags to Rap in the French and Francophone World and Coming to America: Stories of Immigration.

Dr. Wane has also integrated her interdisciplinary training in African Studies into her scholarship. She has authored journal articles and has presented at conferences in English and French. Her recent articles are forthcoming in the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* and *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* in 2018 and 2019. Her book review on Mukoma Wa Ngugi's *The Rise of the African Novel: Politics of Language, Identity, and Ownership* will be published on Research Africa Review digital platform. Her latest work to be accepted for publication is "Decolonizing French: Afrophonics in Ken Bugul's Works" thus marking her refocus on Anglophone and Francophone African migrant literature.



CONFERENCE REVIEW

The “Caliphate of Hamdallahi”: A History from Within (April 6-7, 2018)

During Spring Semester 2018, the Center for African Studies (CAS), the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), and the Program of African Studies (PAS) at Northwestern University convened an exciting conference on pre-colonial West African history.

The conference was held on April 6-7, 2018 at the Levis Faculty Center. The purpose was to discuss the veracity of authorship of the *Tarikh al-fattash*, a 17th century Timbuktu chronicle from West Africa that describes the Songhay Empire from the middle to late 15th century. The chronicle also touches on the Mali Empire and covers the Caliphate of Hamdallahi, a polity established in the Mopti region of present day Mali. The polity originated as a result of an influx of Islamic reform movements in the 19th century. An additional, perhaps most significant, purpose of the conference was to elucidate various aspects of the history, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual life of the caliphate using a variety of sources—other historically important manuscripts from Timbuktu and more unexplored sources of the region to give an account “from within” of this pre-colonial West African society.

The conference brought together fifteen scholars from Africa, Europe, and North America. It was organized by Mauro Nobilli, Assistant Professor in the Department of History here at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in collaboration with Mohamed Diagayete, Senior Researcher at the Institut des Hautes Etudes et de Recherches Islamiques Ahmed Baba de Tombouctou, and Ali Diakite, Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The conference was organized into four panels/sessions. Speakers on the first panel focused on the life of the founding leader of Hamdallahi, Ahmad Lobbo also known as Seku Amadu—his affiliation to the order of Sufis (Islamic mysticism), the circumstances and conditions under which he came into power, and his politics.

Speakers on the second panel addressed regional perspectives on the Caliphate. This panel opened with a presentation on the nature of the economy, trade, and travel within the larger Middle Niger during the 19th century. Also examined were various Islamic legal literatures including written sources generated from rural areas which offered insight into the social, political, and cultural history of the area. This session closed with a presentation on the relationship between Hamdallahi and the Region of Hayre, a Fulani-led Kingdom in the 19th century.

The speakers on the third panel compared versions of the *Tarikh al-fattash* to uncover relationships between interlocutors and insight into how texts were/or might be integrated to determine the originating author and or leader of the Caliphate.

The final panel looked at Hamdallahi in later years through European and African sources. The session included a presentation on al-Hajj Umar, the Fulani leader whose army eventually toppled Hamdallahi, and the relationship between the Fula and the people of Massina. Also discussed was the complex relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims in the region.

This review does not capture specific comments of the speakers but rather attempts to summarize the topics that were discussed. The principle objective of the conference was to provide a forum for these scholars to share their analysis of multiple unpublished source materials and to produce a collective volume that can be used as reference materials for scholars.

CAS WELCOMES FOUR NEW STUDENTS THIS FALL

Nazma Ali

Nazma Ali's research interests focus on issues relevant to women's development in Sub-Saharan Africa. She is fluent in Swahili and is currently studying Arabic and Wolof. She plans to study abroad as much as possible during her graduate career. Nazma also hopes to pursue a doctoral degree upon completion of her MA program.



Peter Floess

Peter Floess is interested in Islamic art from Swahili-speaking Africa. Upon completion of his MA degree, he plans to work in the field of cultural outreach in a museum or in some other kind of public educational institution. He is currently studying Swahili. Peter's career goal is to teach at a community college.



Fatou Jobe

Fatou Jobe is interested in studying social movements in Africa with particular interest in the involvement of women in pan-Africanism. She will specifically examine how contemporary pan-Africanism can be redefined to include women in the forefront as an alternative for development. Fatou is fluent in Wolof and is currently studying Kiswahili with hopes of conducting a comparative study between countries in East Africa and West Africa. Upon completion of her MA in African Studies, Fatou plans to pursue a PhD in Historical Sociology.



Amber Scarborough

Amber Scarborough is a first-year MA student in African Studies. Her research interests include African women's literature and art with a particular focus on themes of diaspora and gender. She is studying Swahili and hopes to pursue a PhD after her completion of the MA. She is planning to complete her PhD at the School of African Studies in London.



CAS STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Neeti Menon is a second year M.Arch candidate at the Illinois School of Architecture, UIUC. Neeti's interests focus on design of the built environment for Health and Wellbeing. She intends to practice as an architect in Chicago soon after graduation. Born and raised in Mumbai, India, Neeti is a trained Classical Bharatanatyam dancer with over 40 performances throughout India to her credit. Her interest in African culture, coupled with her graphic skills, led to her being associated with the Center for African Studies as a **Graduate Assistant** for Spring and Fall 2018.



UPCOMING TALKS

NEW BOOKS IN AFRICAN STUDIES

FARMING AND FAMINE

LANDSCAPE VULNERABILITY IN
NORTHEAST ETHIOPIA, 1889-1991

DONALD CRUMMEY
Edited by James C. McCann



I ILLINOIS
Center for African Studies

Please join us
as we celebrate a new
publication in African Studies!

Date and Time:
January 24, 2019 at 4:30 pm

Venue:
Music Room, Levis Faculty Center
919 W Illinois St, Urbana