IAS Launches New Office Space & the Pius Adesanmi Resource Centre

Carleton University’s Institute of African Studies has launched a new office space and the Pius Adesanmi Resource Centre.

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On this occasion of the first anniversary of my appointment as the Director of Carleton’s Institute of African Studies (IAS), it gives me great pleasure to introduce this new issue of the IAS Newsletter designed as an annual round-up to keep readers abreast of notable activities, events, and developments within and around the institute. Importantly, aside from this newsletter being a communicative bridge between us and our communities, it also serves as an avenue for measuring our progress and evaluating our policies and programmes.

Although some of you may have followed some of our weekly newsletter published every Friday during the regular academic calendar months, you would agree that it is refreshing to textually revisit the annual milestones alongside associated visuals in a single volume. Our valued readers can also journey with us and feel the pulse of our pursuits (in line with Carleton University’s strategic plan) within the pages of this IAS Newsletter.

Highlights of the newsletter include the September edition of our popular Knowing African Series with the theme “Writing as the Practice of Freedom: Archiving Black Women’s Lives in South African History” and featuring Shireen Hassim (the organiser), Barbara Boswell and Athambile Masola. From October 2022, we revisit the celebration of Nyerere @ 100 with a public lecture on the legacy of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. From November 2022, we spotlight a dialogue on the cultural space afforded to Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o. From January 2023, we feature a news story on Professor Cati Coe’s Brownbag talk on The Figure of the Lonely Elder: The Politics of Aging Policy in Ghana.

The importance of Nigeria’s election to Africa’s political landscape was examined in a webinar organized by Carleton University’s Institute of African Studies (IAS), in collaboration with The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Also, in February 2023, we hosted the launch of IAS’s new office space and the Pius Adesanmi Resource Centre. Remarkably, photos from the launch of the IAS new office space adorn the cover page of this newsletter – a milestone, of course!

In March 2023, we celebrated Ghana @ 66 with a public lecture on “Outside gentility, home cry”: The Progress and Problem with Ghana’s Democracy and the Role of China. In the spring of 2023, we celebrated three of Carleton FASS faculty members who won Connection Grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).
Carleton University’s Institute of African Studies has launched a new office space and the Pius Adesanmi Resource Centre.

The new office space and the Pius Adesanmi Centre were unveiled on February 17, 2023, to the delight of guests, students and staff of the institute who were treated to African music and dance.

Named to honour the memory of Professor Pius Adesanmi, the Pius Adesanmi Resource Centre is aimed at making IAS a hub for our students, visiting researchers and community members for research and networking. Prof. Pius Adesanmi was among 18 Canadians killed in the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet at the Addis Ababa airport.

At the time of his death, he was the director of the Institute of African Studies and a faculty member in The Department of English Language and Literature.

Among them as our erstwhile colleague at IAS, Chambi Chachage. About the same time, IAS Director Nduka Otiono was announced a winner of the 2023 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Research Excellence Award and his new book of poetry, DisPlace, was announced winner of the African Literature Association (ALA) Book of the Year Award—Creative Writing.

A preview of the newsletter does not give adequate measure of its content and value. Thus, I invite you to holistically enjoy this newsletter which we have painstakingly curated for you.

I am grateful to IAS administrative staff, Femi Ajidahun and Gabriel Habiyaremye for the great work they do at the Institute and for their commitment to ensuring that this newsletter turns out right.

I am particularly grateful to our production editor, Kolade Olanrewaju Freedom for his patience and professionalism in packaging this newsletter.

Thank you for your invaluable support.

Nduka Otiono
Director, Institute of African Studies
July 2023
The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is pleased to share that three of our faculty members have won Connection Grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Congratulations to Professors Chambi Chachage (Institute of African Studies), Rebecca Merkley (Department of Cognitive Science) and Carmen Robertson (School for Studies in Art and Culture; School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies; Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture)!

Read more.

Prof. Pius Adesanmi was a remarkable writer, poet and political commentator. He is celebrated for his eloquence and fearlessness in speaking truth to power.

To honour the memory of Professor Pius Adesanmi, a fund is being established which will support students and continue his life’s work.

Read more.
The Director of the Institute of African Studies, Dr. Nduka Otiono, has been announced as one of the winners of the 2023 Faculty of Arts and social sciences (FASS) Research Excellence Award. The announcement was made in a statement issued by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), Dr. Pauline Rankin. According to Dr. Rankin, “The impressive number of high-quality applications, adjudicated by the FASS Executive and ODFASS, made decisions very challenging.” These annual awards recognize outstanding researchers from Carleton’s academic staff.

In another development, Otiono, has been awarded the Best Book of the Year Award – Creative Writing 2023 by the global intellectual body, African Literature Association (ALA), for his book, DisPlace. The award, which took place on Saturday May 27, 2023, at the end of ALA annual conference in Tennessee, USA, was awarded “for an outstanding book of literature by an African writer published last year.” In his acceptance speech, Prof Otiono said: “DisPlace is a testament of these tributaries of the self, as well as a verbal collage of the flow of the river from my hometown Ogwashi-Uku in the Anioma area of Delta State, Nigeria, to the wide expanse of Obodo Oyibo.”

Brief Recap of 2023 Summer Study Abroad Course – Ghana 2023

This “Africa Study Abroad” course will immerse students in the vibrant musical culture and community life in Dagbamete, an Ewe village in the Volta Region of Ghana as well as offer opportunities to explore the urban musical culture of Ghana’s capital city, Accra.

This “Africa Abroad” course is open to Carleton undergraduate students in African Studies, Music and other programs with second-year standing or higher. No prior knowledge of music is required.

Read more.
Over the past two years, Prof. Samuel Ojo Oloruntoba of Carleton’s Institute of African Studies has curated different grant-funded research projects in Indigenous knowledge systems and youth entrepreneurship in marginalized communities in Africa, African Union and European Union Actorness in International relations in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and a project focused on Investigating Government Policies and Programs on Black Entrepreneurship in Canada. The research projects which has Prof. Oloruntoba working collaboratively with colleagues in Canada and some African countries, are sponsored by The Mastercard Foundation, the European Union under the Jean Monnet Chair, and The Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub at Carleton University’s Sprott Business School.

African Indigenous Youth: Sustainable careers, employment, and entrepreneurship. With an external grant provided by the Mastercard Foundation, I am working with partners in ten universities in Africa to develop an African Indigenous Knowledge Research Network to map out the ecosystem of Indigenous knowledge systems among marginalized communities in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. The project is aimed at co-creation of knowledge in partnership with elders, knowledge holders and indigenous youth on entrepreneurship, employment and livelihood in the marginalized communities. The next stage of the project involves co-creation of knowledge on methodology of research in ways that ensure that the marginalized communities are no longer seen as mere objects of research but partners and co-creators in the research process. We also aim to identify the various opportunities that are available in building entrepreneurship capacity through existing but less recognized African indigenous knowledge systems.

The second project on African Union and European Union Actorness in International relations in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area was funded by the European Union under the Jean Monnet Chair. The project was done in partnership with the Centre for the study of Governance Innovation at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. The project examines the roles of the African Union and the European Union in reshaping the faltering multilateral order in ways that can foster more agency for the former and promote more inclusive development. Policy briefs and edited books are being prepared from the papers presented during an international webinar and conference organized on the project.

The third project is funded by the Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub at Carleton University’s Sprott Business School. The project is set within the context of the need to understand the ecosystem of knowledge on the gap in policies and programs required to unlock the massive potentials in Black entrepreneurship in Canada. At the end of the project, it is expected that the result will inspire policymakers to create change based on quantitative and qualitative evidence of the gap in existing policies and programs on Black entrepreneurship in Canada. This is expected to engender a better entrepreneurial ecosystem that empowers Black Canadian communities to maximize their economic potential through entrepreneurship. This will also be in the best interest of Canada, as it will reduce overall unemployment and associated social problems among Blacks in the country.

Building on the success and mandate of the Institute’s research vision and sustained interest in graduate studies in the field of African Studies, we are excited to announce the commencement of the collaborative PhD with Specialization in African Studies. This program is a first of its kind at a graduate level in Canada.

The inaugural cohort of the PhD program will be welcomed in the 2023/24 academic year across three collaborating units – Anthropology, Sociology & International Affairs. The Collaborative PhD with a Specialization in African Studies is designed for graduates of Masters programs in the humanities and the social sciences who, through interdisciplinary research wish to enrich and deepen their training in a particular discipline or area of study by developing expertise in African Studies.

Read more.
We are pleased to announce the arrival of the first cohort of Queen Elizabeth Scholars (QES) West African Women Scholars at Carleton University where they will be working together to find solutions to the world’s increasingly complex challenges.

The QES West African Women Scholars include:

**Sophia Abiri-Franklin**
- (An early career researcher who recently obtained her PhD from Babcock University)

**Rashidat Sumbola Akande**
- (Kwara State University, Department of Economics and Development Studies, Lecturer)

**Mawuenyega Makafui Butu**
- (University of Ghana, Department of Economics, PhD candidate in Development Economics)

**Oluyemisi Idowu Majebi**
- (University of Ibadan, Department of Early Childhood and Educational Foundations, Lecturer II)

**Odile Raphaëlle Ngueda Djeuta**
- (Lomé, Togo University, Department of Biology in the Faculty of Sciences, Early Career Researcher)

**Helena Osei-Egyir**
- (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Department of History and Political Studies, PhD Candidate)

**Claude Winnie Pefolé Fotsing**
- (University of Douala-Cameroon, Faculty of Law, Department of Private Law and Criminal Sciences, PhD Candidate)

The project is led by Nduka Otiono, a distinguished scholar in Carleton’s Institute of African Studies in collaboration with colleagues at Carleton who constitute a Governing Committee, and various African partners including Aisha Fofana Ibrahim, assistant deputy vice-chancellor of Fourah Bay College at the University of Sierra Leone. Carleton’s Heloise Emdon serves as Manager International, while Stephanie Pineau has been the Project Coordinator.
The September edition of the Knowing African Series themed Writing as the Practice of Freedom: Archiving Black Women’s Lives in South African History was held on September 21, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST.

The conversation, moderated by Shireen Hassim, featured Barbara Boswell – a feminist literary scholar and creative writer, and Athambile Masola – a published poet and researcher with a keen interest in black women’s historiography and intellectual history from the 19th and 20th century.

Carleton University’s Institute of African Studies on October 12, 2022 hosted a virtual conversation titled Land Dispossession in the Post-Apartheid City via Zoom. Speakers at the event were Zachary Levenson (Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina, Greensboro) and Thembela Kepe (Professor & Chair, Department of Human Geography, University of Toronto Scarborough).
New Leaders, New Dawns? & Mugabe’s Legacy

N
ew Leaders, New Dawns? & Mugabe’s Legacy edited by David Moore, Chris Brown and Linda Freeman was launched on October 19, 2022, at Dunton Tower. The book launch was attended by alumni, current students and staff of the Institute of African Studies and members of the Carleton community.

In late 2017 and early 2018, South Africa and Zimbabwe both experienced rapid and unexpected political transitions. New Leaders, New Dawns? explores these political transitions and the way they were received.

The books were discussed by Shireen Hassim (Canada 150 Research Chair in Gender and African Politics; Carleton University), Ruth Murambadoro (Centre for Feminist Research, York University) and Brian Raftopoulo (Zimbabwean scholar and commentator, Author at African Arguments).

Research Talk with Dr. Bryan Mukandi: “That Gurnah, not Ngũgĩ, Won the Nobel Prize: On Taste and Distaste for Africanaity”

On Thursday, November 3, 2022, the Institute of African Studies and the Department of English at Carleton University hosted a dialogue on the cultural space afforded to Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o.

The event featured a talk by Dr. Bryan Mukandi (School of Languages and Cultures, University of Queensland) followed by a conversation between Dr. Mukandi and Dr. Sarah Brouillette of Carleton’s Department of English.
On Wednesday, October 26, 2022, the Institute of African Studies at Carleton University collaborated with the High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania to Canada to organize a one-day event celebrating the inspiring life of Mwalimu Nyerere at Carleton University’s Dominion-Chalmers Centre from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The event marked the posthumous centenary of the birth of the Father of the Tanzanian Nation and first President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere. It attracted members of the diplomatic corps in Canada, academics, students, and members of our communities and was headlined by a former President of Tanzania, H. E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete.
African Policy Innovation and the Political Economy of Public-Private Policy Partnerships

The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in partnership with the Institute of African Studies hosted a conversation with Dr. Fred Olayele about his latest book African Policy Innovation and the Political Economy of Public-Private Policy Partnerships on Thursday, September 29th from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST at 5320 Richcraft Hall.

Dr. Fred Oyedele’s research interests and practice areas cover trade policy, innovation, FDI, urban policy, political economy, and inclusive development. He is the Director of the Centre for African Research and Business at the Sprott School of Business, Carleton University.

Seeing the Child: A Conversation with Bryan Mukandi, University of Queensland

The Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies on November 23, 2022 organized a round-table discussion with Dr. Bryan Mukandi (Visiting scholar, Institute of African Studies) at Dunton Tower 517.

The talk, titled Seeing the Child, focused on answering questions, including How do we see children? Who is included in the category of “child,” and who is excluded? How do legacies of colonialism, conflict, capitalism, and climate change shape the ways adults understand childhood?

Other discussants were IIS faculty members Evelyn Namakula Mayanja (Human Rights and Social Justice) and Julie C. Garlen (Childhood and Youth Studies).

Bryan Mukandi Public lecture: African Identity, Colonial Histories and Subjectivities

Dr. Mukandi spoke about African subjectivity, conceptions of African identity and the rupture brought about by the Middle Passage and Colonialism. The well-attended virtual event was hosted by Adrian Harewood.
As part of the African Studies Brownbag Seminar Series, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) on Wednesday, March 08 organized a hybrid event (in-person and online) by Dr. Isaac Odoom (Assistant Professor of Political Science at Carleton University) on “Outside gentility, home cry”: The Progress and Problem with Ghana’s Democracy and the Role of China.

The public lecture brings Ghana’s 66 years of independence into context while examining Ghana-China relations. Given China’s policy of “non-interference,” the country is often charged with undermining democratization in Africa and enabling human rights abuse through the export of Chinese (surveillance) technology. This talk, against the backdrop of Chinese influence, addressed these contradictions in Ghana.

Celebrating the Black Canadian Experience: An Evening of Poetry

The Umoja Black Community Engagement Program and the Institute of African Studies on March 5, 2023, hosted an evening of poetry at Carleton University Art Gallery.

While addressing the theme of The Black Experience, local and student poets spoke about the good and bad of experiencing Blackness and celebrating our differences.

The event was free and restricted to students, staff and community members who identified as African, Caribbean, or Black.
Professor Cati Coe of the Department of Political Science at Carleton University was a guest of the Institute of African Studies where she delivered a talk on The Figure of the Lonely Elder: The Politics of Aging Policy in Ghana on January 25, 2023. With Ghana as the case study, the talk focused on programs animated and justified by the figure of the lonely elder developing within churches and the effects of those programs in raising the visibility of some older adults. It also explored these initiatives’ potential to influence state policy on aging. Ultimately, the talk argued that these innovations in elder care are happening in fits and starts in episodic and scattered ways, visible in certain circles more than others, but are indicative of social change on aging and kin care.

EVENTS & LECTURES

Rethinking Print Culture, Media, Digital Oral History as Archive, Evidence, and Method: From Africa to the World

A workshop on Rethinking Print Culture, Media, Digital Oral History as Archive, Evidence, and Method: From Africa to the World was held at John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD from April 27 – 28.

Featuring Dr. Msia Kibona Clark, the workshop explored two central methodological questions. First, how do scholars from within the humanities and social sciences access and imagine what constitutes print culture, media, digital and oral history to produce new understandings of the relationship between pasts, presents, and futures? In part, this question constitutes a call to re-imagine archives as varied forms of media which exist in multi-lingual (isiZulu, Yoruba, and Kiswahili, for instance) and multi-material spaces (textile, images, oral traditions, living objects, and performance). Second, how do new archives produce novel understandings of public cultures and audiences, social and political organizing (from gendered and sexual lives to anti-colonial and decolonial strategies and movements), mobility and belonging, health and healing, environmental phenomenon and crisis, and modes of governance or authority building practices prior to and in 21st century? By new archives, we mean innovative methods for re-reading media, and/or new analytical tools for re-think what can constitute an archive across disciplinary boundaries.

BROWBAG SEMINAR

The Figure of the Lonely Elder: The Politics of Aging Policy in Ghana

Professor Cati Coe of the Department of Political Science at Carleton University was a guest of the Institute of African Studies where she delivered a talk on The Figure of the Lonely Elder: The Politics of Aging Policy in Ghana on January 25, 2023.

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...Coe's Book Wins the Toyin Falola Book Prize.

Cati Coe’s book Changes in Care: Aging, Migration, and Social Class in West Africa (Rutgers UP 2021) has been awarded the 2022 Toyin Falola Africa Book Award. The prize is awarded by the Association of Global South Studies for “the best book on Africa published during the preceding year”. Congratulations, Cati!
The Institute of African Studies on Thursday June 29 hosted the launch of a new book "Handicapped " by Claude Winnie Pefole F. at Dunton Tower 1723 and online from 12h00-13h30.

Handicapped contains the stories of seven characters that highlight social evils affecting females in general and those of Cameroon in particular. Moving recounts underscore the life of many women who may be a mother, a sister, a daughter, a friend, etc. This book offers a different perception of femininity which, far away from being a disability, embodies a world of opportunities for those who are often overshadowed in society.

Politics of Turbulent Waters: Reflections on Ecological, Environmental and Climate Crisis in Africa

The Institute of African Studies organized a book launch for Politics of Turbulent Waters: Reflections on Ecological, Environmental and Climate Crises in Africa on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, from 11:00 to 1:00 PM.

Politics of Turbulent Waters, a HOMEF publication edited by Nnimmo Bassey, is a compendium of selected articles in the 36 issues of the Eco-instigator published from 2013 to 2022.

Firoje Manji (Publisher, Daraja Press) and Asume Osuoka participated in the event as a discussant and a reviewer respectively.

About the Author
Claude-Winnie Pefolé F. is a Cameroonian legal expert and Magistrate who graduated from the National School of Administration and Magistracy of Cameroon, NSAM. Very committed to promoting youth and young girls’ welfare, she runs ReKnow (Reference of Knowledge) an association created for that purpose. She is a doctoral student at the University of Douala. She is currently a scholar, in Queen Elizabeth Scholarship-Advanced Scholars Program.

Leave My Bones in Saskatoon

The Institute of African Studies and the Ottawa Black Book Club hosted the launch of a new book by Michael Afenfia on Saturday June 10, 2023 at

Carleton-Dominion Chalmers Centre from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST.

Leave My Bones in Saskatoon – a story of loss, sacrifice and continued resilience – was published by Griots Lounge Publishing, Canada.
September 28, 2022, marks the 50th anniversary of the first group of Ugandan Asian refugees to arrive in Canada after being expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin. This was Canada’s first major resettlement of non-European and largely non-Christian refugees in the postwar period. To consolidate power in Uganda, after leading a military coup in 1971, Idi Amin accused 80,000 Ugandans of South Asian descent of economic sabotage and a failure to integrate socially. He subsequently announced on August 4, 1972, that they would have 90 days to leave the country or face dire consequences. Canada’s rapid response to the expulsion order led to the resettlement of nearly 7,500 Ugandan Asian refugees between 1972 and 1974.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the expulsion of Asians from Uganda the conference Beyond Resettlement: Exploring the History of the Ugandan Asian Community in Exile explored the historical context of the expulsion, Canada’s response and reception of a large number of these refugees, the larger diaspora of Ugandan Asian refugees, and the lived experiences of the community in Canada over the past 50 years. Read more.
In light of the importance of Nigeria’s election to Africa’s political landscape, Carleton University’s Institute of African Studies (IAS), in collaboration with The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, has organized a webinar under the IAS Umeme series. The webinar brought together scholars, members of civil society, the media, and other stakeholders in Nigeria’s democratic project who answered many burning questions about the regional and continental implications of the Nigerian presidential election.

On March 18, 2023, Carleton University’s Institute of African Studies collaborated with York University African Studies program and McGill University African Studies Program to host an Umeme Flashpoint Roundtable on the crisis in Sudan. Since, the December 2018 Uprising, the Sudanese people have been struggling for freedom, peace, and justice, attempting to carry out a democratization process and transition to a civilian-led government.

During the event, the scholarly panelists reflected on the ongoing effects and legacies of (neo)colonialism and the challenges of decolonization in Africa, not only in politics and international relations, but also in digital information as the Internet and social media are grounds for such conflicts, crises, and struggles.
Nigeria’s Vice President Visits Carleton University

Nigeria’s Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo visited Carleton University in November 2022 as part of his 3-day official visit to Canada. It was an opportunity to engage in critical conversations on the knowledge economy and to explore ways in which strategic institutional collaboration can yield mutually beneficial returns for Nigeria and Canada with Carleton University as a gateway.

On February 8, 2023, the Institute of African Studies at Carleton University hosted Hone Mandefro (Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University) to a talk titled “Everyone has Become a Hyena”: Change and Continuities in Neighbour Relationships in Newly Emerging Condominium Neighbourhoods in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Drawing on six months of doctoral ethnographic fieldwork in a condominium neighborhood in Addis Ababa that was established 11 years ago, this talk discussed the change and continuities in everyday neighboring practices in condominiums.