

Africa in the 21st Century Classroom

September 29th-October 1st 2017
St. Olaf College, Northfield Minnesota



Africa in the 21st Century Classroom

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

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

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

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

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

Schedule of Events

(All events in Buntrock Commons, St. Olaf College)

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

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

Chair Dianna Shandy, Macalester College

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

Susanna Fioratta

Bryn Mawr College

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

Lisa Mueller

Macalester College

“Teaching New Voices in Francophone African Studies”

Joelle Vitiello

Macalester College

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

Dianna Shandy

Macalester College

Notes/Discussion:

Dinner 6:30pm: Buntrock Commons

- Welcome Address from St. Olaf President David R. Anderson
- "Papa's Shadow"- excerpt from a documentary and discussion with a St. Olaf alumnus Filmmaker based on his experiences in Tanzania with Joseph Mbele
- Africa Network Board Meeting—Open to all participants

Post Dinner Reception: (Northfield Ballroom)

Address: 1055 MN-3, Northfield, MN 55057 <http://northfieldballroom.com/>

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

Chair: Matt Carotenuto, St. Lawrence University

John Aerni-Flessner
Michigan State University

Jennifer Hart
Wayne State University

Dave Eaton
Grand Valley State University

Gary Marquardt
Westminster College

Notes/Discussion:

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

Chair: Brandon Lundy, Kennesaw State University

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

Brandon D. Lundy

Kennesaw State University

“A model for Tertiary Education”

Solomon Negash

Kennesaw State University

“Kennesaw State Universities and its extensive global connection to Africa”

Ikechukwu Ukeje

Kennesaw State University

“Teaching Africa across the Disciplines”

Nyasha M. GuramatunhuCooper

Kennesaw State University

Notes/Discussion:

Lunch 12:15-1:30
(Buntrock Commons)

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

Chair: Alexander Wiseman, Lehigh University

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

Alexander W. Wiseman
Lehigh University

“Complicating the Single Story: African Development by Youth”

By Tshegofatso Thulare
Lehigh University

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

Reginold Royston
University of Wisconsin, Madison

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

Isaac Joslin
Arizona State University

Notes/Discussion:

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

Chair: Kathleen Keller, Gustavus Adolphus College

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

Kathleen Keller

Gustavus Adolphus College

“Teaching Africa in Scandinavian Studies courses”

Ursula Lindqvist

Gustavus Adolphus College

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

Robin Rhodes-Crowell and Khalid Kitito

St. Lawrence University

“Teaching African Sport History in a Kinesiology Department:

Opportunities, Challenges, and Questions”

Michelle Sikes

Stellenbosch University & Penn State University

Notes/Discussion:

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

Chair: Eric Washington, Calvin College

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

Eric M. Washington
Calvin College

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

Kalenda Eaton
Arcadia University (PA)

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

Joseph Mbele
St. Olaf College

“Decolonising Knowledge: Reflections on a Seminar”

Christian A. Williams
University of the Free State

Notes/Discussion:

Dinner 6pm: Buntrock Commons

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

Sunday October 1st

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

Chair: Fiona Vernal, University of Connecticut

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

Nuru Akinyemi

Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

Director, Center for African & African Diaspora Studies

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

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

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

Christine Ellen Cina

History Instructor

Madison College

Notes/Discussion:

Conference Notes/Discussion