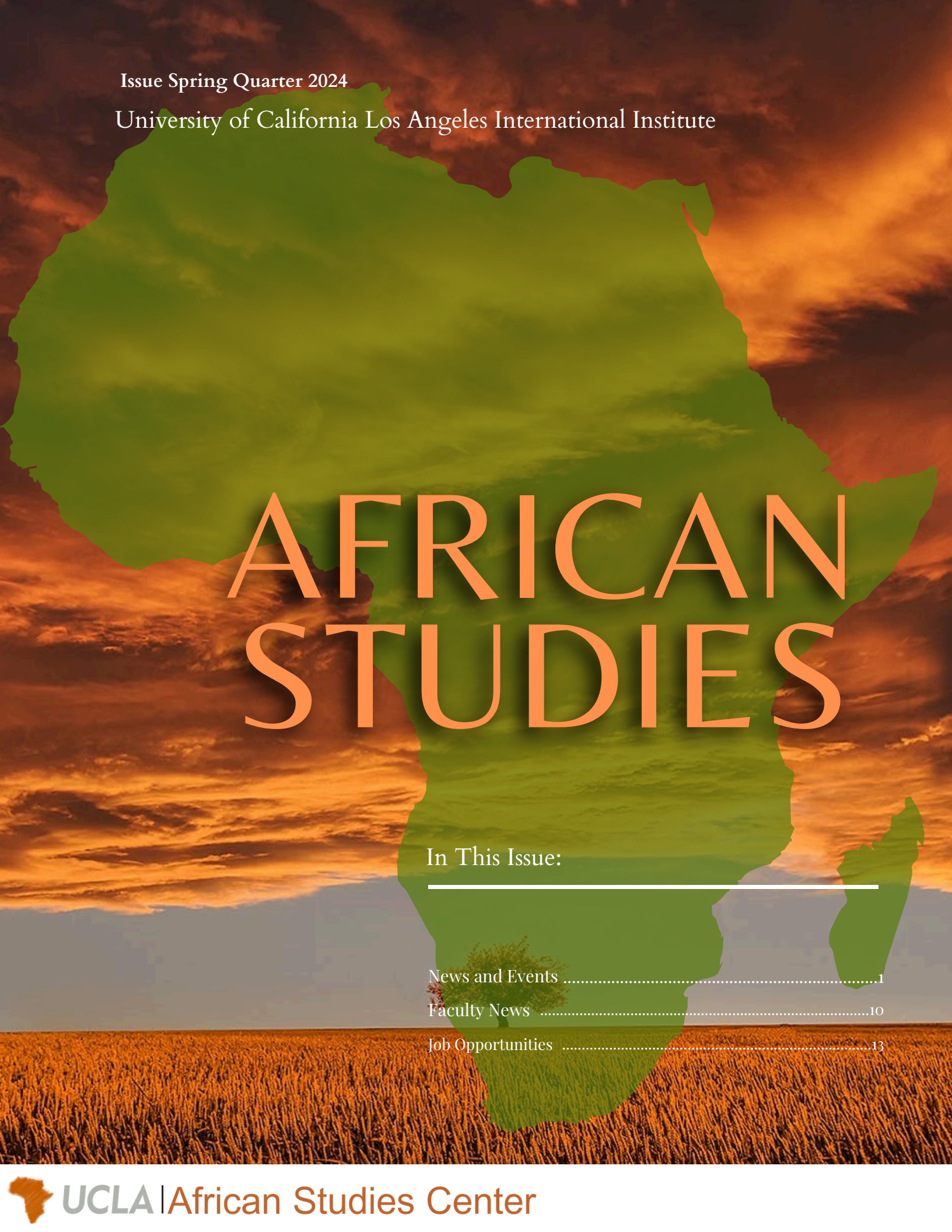


Issue Spring Quarter 2024

University of California Los Angeles International Institute



AFRICAN STUDIES

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NEWS AND EVENTS

EDUCATIONAL PATH LEADS TO FASCINATION WITH USE OF URBAN SPACE



Mustapha Outbakat, a UCLA graduate student from Morocco's Amazigh community, is a notable example of educational dedication. Growing up in a Souss-Mass village speaking Tamazight, he faced significant linguistic challenges when introduced to Arabic, the language used in Moroccan education. This barrier, common among his community members, influenced his understanding of the Amazigh's historical marginalization in Moroccan academia. Outbakat's educational achievements are remarkable: he is the first in his family to advance past middle school, earning undergraduate degrees in sociology, anthropology, and philosophy, followed by master's degrees in political science and sociology from renowned Moroccan universities. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in anthropology at UCLA.



Outbakat's doctoral research explores the postcolonial urban landscape of Morocco, focusing on the lasting impacts of colonial-era city planning on the nation's political and economic structures. His fieldwork, funded by the Judith Boyajian Travel Fellowship, involves in-depth engagement with street vendors in Agadir, aiming to understand their socio-economic situations within the urban context. Outbakat's diverse experiences in cities such as Agadir, Rabat, Doha, and Los Angeles enrich his analysis, offering a unique lens on the study of urban spaces and the political economy of space. His work, blending personal experiences with academic research, promises valuable insights into urban planning and societal structures in the postcolonial Middle East and North Africa.

Click [here](#) to read more!

Outbakat (right) with a member of the street vendor community.
(Photo courtesy of M. Outbakat.)

Back in November 2023, together with the UCLA Department of Anthropology, we held a panel discussion on the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

 **UCLA** African Studies Center

 College | Social Sciences
Anthropology

Sudan Update: Understanding the war in broader historical and transnational context

Panelists



Dr. Nisrin Elamin
University of Toronto

Dr. Alden Young
UCLA African American Studies

Dr. Sondra Hale
UCLA Anthropology

Please join us for a panel discussion on the ongoing conflict in Sudan. What do we need to know to understand the present moment? All experts on Sudan, the panelists bring a range of perspectives from feminist movements to Sudanese and regional economic history to the conflict's transnational connections and roots.

Moderated by



Dr. Sobukwe Odinga
UCLA African American Studies

Tuesday, November 28, 2023
12.00 PM.

Young Research Library
Presentation Room
UCLA Campus

A light lunch will be served.



Professor Victor Agadjanian's Recent Publications

“Long-term consequences of men’s migration for women’s well-being in a rural African setting”

This 12-year study in rural Mozambique explores the long-term impact of husbands' labor migration on women's well-being. It assesses material security, economic status perception, life satisfaction, and future household expectations, using both objective (remittances) and subjective (women's assessment) measures. Findings reveal that objective migration quality positively affects household assets and life satisfaction, but not economic standing or future outlook. Conversely, subjective quality positively impacts all areas, highlighting the nuanced gendered effects of migration on non-migrant women. Click [here](#) to read more.

“The Covid-19 pandemic, social ties, and psychosocial wellbeing of middle-aged women in rural Africa”

This study examines the societal impact of COVID-19 in the Global South, focusing on the long-term effects on social ties and psychosocial well-being. Data from rural Mozambican middle-aged women revealed a negative impact of pandemic-driven economic decline on relationships with close family but not distant social actors. Better family ties positively influenced life satisfaction, with marital relations uniquely affecting future household expectations. The findings highlight the specific vulnerabilities of women in low-income, patriarchal contexts. Click [here](#) to read more.

“Linking labor migration and food security in rural Mozambique: Do agricultural investment, asset building, and local employment matter?”

This study explores how labour migration affects the food security of households left behind in rural Mozambique. Analyzing survey data, the research investigates three potential links: agricultural investment, household assets, and women's local employment. Findings reveal a significant positive correlation between successful migration, indicated by remittances, and food security, primarily mediated through increased household material assets. The study underscores the complex dynamics between migration, economic gains, and the well-being of families in the migrants' home communities. Click [here](#) to read more.

DON'T CLOSE THE CURTAINS ON KENYA'S ACROBATS



In Kenya's resort hotels, the Burning Spear Acrobats showcase traditional and evolved Kenyan acrobatics, captivating tourists with their skill and artistry. Despite their talent and dedication, these performers face financial instability due to insufficient wages, reflecting a broader issue within the tourism sector exacerbated by challenges like terrorism and the COVID-19 crisis. Many acrobats come from impoverished backgrounds, choosing this path for creativity and cultural pride, despite the lack of formal training facilities and safety measures. Their situation is worsened by stagnant salaries, rising living costs, and ethnic discrimination. While international opportunities offer some relief, the local industry struggles, threatening the survival of this cultural heritage. Efforts like the Sarakasi Trust Foundation in Nairobi provide some support, but broader recognition and investment in circus arts are crucial for the sustainability of Kenyan acrobatics. The performers' fight for fair compensation and respect for their art underscores the need for systemic change to preserve and honor this significant cultural expression.

Click [here](#) to read more!

by NINA BERMAN and MICHA ESPINOSA; PHOTOGRAPHS by SABINE SKIBA

“Some Will Say I'm Too Small” Education and the Politics of Inclusion for Young Women in Sierra Leone

In February this year, together with the UCLA Department of Anthropology, we hosted a seminar where Dr. Christiana Kallon Kelly presented her insights on the limits and possibilities of secondary schooling for young women in Africa

 **UCLA** African Studies Center

 **UCLA** College of Social Sciences
Anthropology

"Some Will Say I'm Too Small"

Education and the Politics of Inclusion for Young Women in Sierra Leone



Dr. Christiana Kallon Kelly draws on ethnographic evidence from Sierra Leone to discuss the limits and possibilities of secondary schooling for young women in Africa. This talk is part of the the Cultural, Power, and Social Change (CPSC) seminar series hosted by the Department of Anthropology and is co-sponsored by the African Studies Center.

February 29th, 2024

Christiana Kallon Kelly, Ph.D.
UCLA Department of African American Studies



SUMMER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN RWANDA FOR U.S. STUDENTS

Founded in 1959 as a U.S. National Resource Center, the James S. Coleman African Studies Center (ASC) engages a global network of students, scholars, educators, policymakers, entrepreneurs, artists, and activists committed to the imperatives of transformative research. As an Organized Research Unit (ORU) of the University of California, the ASC's mission is threefold: 1) promote and disseminate cutting-edge Africanist research and scholarship; 2) develop community outreach and service programs, including public diplomacy initiatives, international conferences, teacher-training workshops, and dialogues with the performing and visual arts; and 3) connect UCLA students and their counterparts in Africa with opportunities for academic and professional enrichment. Our collaborative projects build bridges between STEM fields, professional schools, social sciences, the humanities, and the arts. The ASC also publishes various journals, namely the African Arts (art history journal), Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, and Atlas Africa (multimedia magazine). As we celebrate 60 years of connecting communities of world-renowned faculty and experts, passionate students, and dedicated local and global allies, we invite you to join us in charting a course for the future of #UCLAforAfrica.

PROGRAMS

Celebrate Black History Month with POV's special collection, showcasing films that delve into Black history, identity, and culture. Stream these insightful perspectives for free on the POV website and PBS App. Connect with us on social media for exclusive content and filmmaker interviews. Share your thoughts and ideas at feedback@pov.org. #BlackHistoryMonth #POVFilms

Brief Tender Light

At the elite MIT, America's premier technological university, four African students strive to graduate into agents of change for their home countries. But what changes come from living in two different worlds?

After Sherman

A meditative visual essay, join filmmaker Jon-Sesrie Goff as he explores his Gullah/Geechie roots against the backdrop of generational trauma and America's violent past.

Are You Down?

Celebrate the life and work of Jamaican-American sculptor Michael Richards. Are You Down? details the spirit of an artist and the lasting impressions he made on those around him.

Click [here](#) for more information.



FELLOWSHIPS

Summer/Fall 2024 Judith Boyajian Travel Fellowship

Application is now open.

Deadline: 5pm PST, Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

The fellowship will provide up to \$4,000 to cover travel and approved related expenses and fellows are expected to spend a minimum of 45-days in-country. Preference will be given to students working/studying in Morocco.

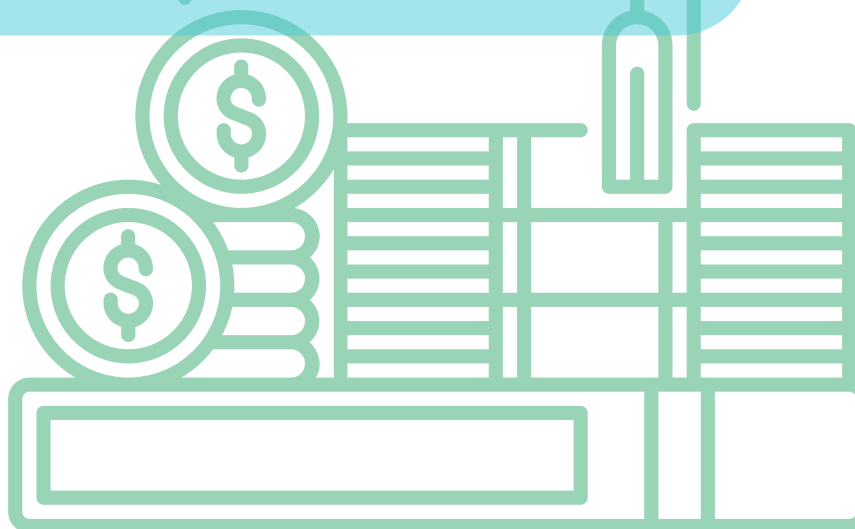
Summer/Fall 2024 Dr. Elizabeth Woldemussie Centennial Global Health Fellowship

Application is now open.

Deadline: 5pm PST, Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

The fellowship will provide up to \$4,000 to cover travel and approved related expenses and fellows are expected to spend a minimum of 45-days in-country. Preference will be given to students working/studying in Eritrea and/or Ethiopia.

Click [here](#) for more details!



CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF AFRICAN STUDIES AT UCLA 1959 - 2024

ASC Staff

Harold Torrence, Director

Erica Anjum, Deputy Director

Sheila Breeding, Budget & Program Manager

Dirsa Deandaru, Graduate Student Assistant

James McCann, Student Assistant

African Arts Journal

Leslie Ellen Jones, Editor



Visit our [website](#)
for events and
announcements!