

Issue Winter Quarter 2023
University of California Los Angeles International Institute

AFRICAN STUDIES

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NEWS AND EVENTS



Check out the Spring Issue of the African Arts Journal!



Galaan Hayle, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in history at UCLA, spent the summer of 2022 on a coffee farm about 70 to 80 miles outside of Addis Ababa, conducting research on coffee checkpoints. Click [here](#) to read more about his research.



Senior Practicum: Sustainable Agriculture in Cameroon

A team of 5 UCLA students collaborated with Agriculture for Africa in the Nkongsamba region of Cameroon for their Senior Practicum. Read more about their project [here](#)!



AL Roberts (Emeritus Distinguished Professor of World Arts and Cultures) and WAC PhD candidate Amira Hassnaoui undertook brief research in Tunisia in March of 2023, concerning a community of sub-Saharan heritage living in the west-central Tunisian town of Tozeur.

The community performs Benga (Banga) as trance-inducing performances that bring the saint's blessings to bear on individual and collective problems while providing them with a sense of solidarity in today's turbulent local and national politics.



ALUM SPOTLIGHT



Jeremy Peretz, a recent alum from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance, was recognized by the Caribbean Studies Association with their Best Dissertation Award 2022! The dissertation is a historical ethnographic exploration of Komfa, a Guyanese ritual performed largely by Afro-descendant women. Jeremy served the African Studies Center as co-editor-in-chief of *Ufahamu* from 2014-2016 along with Dr. Nana Osei-Opare. Jeremy is also an award winning poet, whose verse was recognized by the American Anthropological Association's Ethnographic Poetry Competition in 2018. You can read Jeremy's poems in the most recent issue of *Ufahamu*, as well as in *Anthropology and Humanism*, *Postcolonial Text*, *Caribbean Quarterly*, *African American Review*, and elsewhere. Since Fall 2021 he has been teaching in the University of Guyana's Faculty of Education and Humanities, with courses in cultural and Caribbean studies.

FACULTY NEWS



Congratulations to Professor Dominic Thomas for being named Officer in the Order of Academic Palms by the French Government. He is currently the Madeleine L. Letessier Professor in the Department of European Languages and Transcultural Studies. [Read more on this prestigious honor!](#)

Associate Professor Ayala Levin in the Department of Architecture and Design has a new book out entitled, *Architecture and Development Israeli Construction in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Settler Colonial Imagination, 1958-1973*. Click [here](#) to learn more about her book and click [here](#) to learn more about her research.



Professor Steven Commins has recently co-authored a [blog](#) on Safety and Security in African Cities. He is currently the Associate Director of Global Public Affairs at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.



Professor Edith Mukudi Omwami



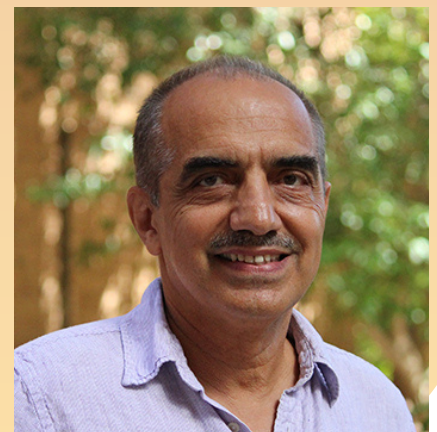
Professor Edmond Keller

Professors Edith Mukudi Omwami, Edmond Keller, and Catherine Pauline Anena (not pictured) have coauthored a forthcoming article entitled, "The Gordian Knot Empowering South Sudan Refugee Women and Girls in Uganda?".



Professor Oumar Boum recently spoke about his two newest publications: a co-edited volume and a graphic novel on the history of the Holocaust in North Africa during World War II. Click [here](#) to learn more about his books.

Professor Victor Agadjanian's new research project, funded by a five-year grant from the National Institute of Aging, will investigate the effects of middle-aged women's informal social ties on their psychosocial wellbeing in rural Mozambique. Click [here](#) to learn more about his project.



FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Summer/Fall 2023 Judith Boyajian Travel Fellowship

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.

Application Opens: January 15, 2023

Deadline: 5pm PST, Friday March 17, 2023.

Summer/Fall 2023 Dr. Elizabeth Woldemussie Centennial Global Health Fellowship

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.

Application Opens: January 15, 2023

Deadline: 5pm PST, Friday March 17, 2023.

For more information, click [here](#).

Judith Boyajian Travel Fellowship 2022 Awardee

Adam Benjamin (MA African Studies), Comoros and Madagascar.

Dr. Elizabeth Woldemussie Centennial Global Health Fellowship 2022 Awardee

- Eden Tefera (BS Neuroscience), Ethiopia
- Michael Mengual (PhD Epidemiology), Democratic Republic of Congo
- Sydney Merritt (MA Public Health), Democratic Republic of Congo
- Galaan Hayle (PhD History), Ethiopia

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