Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowship Program

2013-2014 Fellows | Accra, Ghana, July 1-5 2013

Fellow Project Abstracts

Dissertation Proposal Fellows

Ishaq Akmey Alhassan

*Participatory Local Development Planning in Ghana, 1996 - 2010*

Ghana’s decentralization system seeks to foster local peace, security and development through participatory development planning and administration. However, participation in this regard has been questioned. This study sets out to investigate how participatory planning has promoted (or threatened) peace, security and development since 1996 in the Kwahu North District in the Eastern Region. *What are the existing measures and structures for ensuring that some communities do not impose their preferences on others?* For example, a preliminary research in the district indicates that major towns and communities feel resentment from perceived neglect in the distribution of development projects in favor of others. Primary data for this study will be collected from members of Area/Town Councils and District Planning Coordinating Units through interviews and focused group discussions. These local structures are in charge of district planning and thus have adequate knowledge on participatory processes and their impact(s) on communities and their well-being.

Kwasi Amakye-Boateng

*State Legitimacy, Political Conflict and Democratization*

This study builds on the thesis of the imported nature of the Ghanaian state (like all sub-Saharan African states), a phenomenon, which makes the state suffer from deficits of state legitimacy. The post-colonial Ghanaian state has not evolved historically from the
indigenous political institutions of the land, and therefore leaving the new state is illegitimate. (Englebert, 2000). The public’s attitude towards political processes (defined in this study in terms of elections) and their role within the state, the political culture, is thus contingent on ethnicity. This study proceeds to argue that the political culture of the people of Ghana coincides with ethnic differences and that these differences provide Ghanaian politics with an enduring bitter political conflict (Almond et al., 2001; Agyekum, 2004; WANEP, 2006; Frimpong, 2007). The thrust of this study is therefore that politics in Ghana has an underlying bitter political conflict, which goes with intermittent pockets of violence (defined in verbal and physical terms); and that this is a function of the deficits of legitimacy the state has. The legitimacy deficits emanate from a gap between the modern Ghanaian state and the indigenous political institutions subsumed within the new “Westphalian” state. There is thus a clash of political traditions; a clash between the manifest political behavior of the people of Ghana, their practices, norms and values; in effect the political culture of the people of Ghana, on one hand, and on the other the demands of modern democratic state “democratic civic culture”, (the willingness of individuals and groups to tolerate and accommodate each other’s differences).

Scholastica Ngozi Atata

*Biafra Renaissance and development in democratizing south eastern Nigeria*

Struggle for secession and disintegration has continued to cause conflict in Nigeria since the genocidal civil war of 1970. As a result of this, it has become necessary to study the incessant quest to secede from the country by the South-East region known as ‘Biafrans.” This research will examine the contemporary Biafra renaissance and development in democratized South-Eastern Nigeria. This study will adopt qualitative research methodology; the study area will be in the South Eastern region of Nigeria. It will select all the five States in the South-Eastern region with four hundred respondents (male and female) purposively selected. Conflict, identity and system theory will be adopted in explaining this study. The findings of this research will be thoroughly analysed, it will help elucidate and enlighten Nigerians/ ‘Biafrans’ on the need for unity, peace and development in the nation.

Umesh Bawa

*Using Photovoice to Elicit Young People’s Representations of Peace and Security in their Communities*

Community psychology researchers have argued for the importance of creating opportunities for youth to have ‘voice’, to engage in critical dialogue with adults, and to work alongside adults to address harmful conditions in their communities. The value of
community-based participatory research (CBPR) has been demonstrated in the development of prevention and intervention programs for youth. Research has demonstrated that young people can become active co-researchers on youth-focused issues, and that working collaboratively with adults to identify and address problems in their community is experienced as empowering by youth. Photovoice is a CBPR method, wherein participants whose voices may be marginalized (including children, women, and impoverished communities) represent their experiences of their social world through photographs that they take and select. With guided facilitation, they then engage with researchers and each other in a critical analysis of, and dialogue about, the meanings of the photographs and of the social conditions that they represent. Participants may then identify appropriate actions that can be taken to develop, enhance and empower their communities. The Photovoice method reflects key principles of CBPR, including community empowerment and capacity building, partnership and co-learning between researchers and participants, and balancing research and action. This study aims to use of Photovoice methodology in two low-income communities in Kampala, Uganda and Maputo, Mozambique to elicit youths’ representations of peace, safety and security. Twenty youth, evenly distributed by gender and ranging in age from 13 to 15 years, will be conveniently engaged as participants. They will receive some photographic training, be provided with free disposable cameras, requested to take photographs in their neighborhood according to the study themes, and assisted by the researcher to develop narratives, which will be analyzed.

Elgidius Ichumbaki Bwinabona

*Built Heritage Assets as Part of Current Environmental Landscape: The Case of Central Coastal Tanzania*

The East African Coast, Tanzania in particular, has been in contact with other external worlds since the 1st century AD. This interaction resulted in various positive and negative impacts. One of these impacts was the establishment of permanent settlements some of which have left numerous evidences including built heritage assets. While few of these assets are known and properly used, the majority are neither known nor used. Unfortunately, those which are known and used have resulted to conflicts among heritage stakeholders. This is partly due to fact that until now there hasn’t been a project to better plan about their use. The proposed project therefore aims at researching on these built heritage assets to establish their potentials and develop a strategy towards a better use to bring socio-economic development and conserve them for future generation.
Prudence Kemigisha Byambwenu

**Land Rights and Food Security in Uganda: Assessing the influence of women’s land rights on food security in Bushenyi district**

This research seeks to examine the conceptual linkages between land rights and food security. The research will be carried out in Bushenyi district, Uganda. According to the study made by Kikafunda in 2005, 46% of the children that were surveyed from 400 households in Bushenyi district were stunted, though Bushenyi is considered as one of the food baskets of the country. Women as food producers are challenged because their rights to land as a key productive resource are limited. The study will aim at assessing the influence of women’s land rights on food security. The other moderating factors that influence food security other than women’s land rights will also be assessed. Qualitative and quantitative research methods will be employed to collect and analyze data. Conclusions and recommendations will be made depending on the research findings. Ethical issues will be considered before, during and after collection of the data.

Edmore Chitukutuku

**Rebuilding and Reliving memories of Militia Bases of Political violence in Zimbabwe: The search for political legitimacy and the Making of history in post-2000 crisis**

This research seeks to understand the relationship between the bases of the 1970s and the bases of 2008 as a way of interrogating the political legitimacy and patriotic history negotiated in contemporary Zimbabwe and across the history of ZANU-PF mobilization. This repetition in form is used as a way of understanding the way in which ZANU-PF’s attempt to create political continuity between the liberation struggle and their contemporary forms of violence function within the lives of ordinary Zimbabweans. I also seek to consider if the re-establishment of militia bases is a deliberate political and ideological geography and landscape work by ZANU PF through understanding how people actually remember and continue to engage with landscapes of past violence, outside of ZANU PF politicking. Qualitative ethnographic research methodology, which involves participant observation alongside qualitative interviews, will be used, to understand the social forms that cohere around the base. Focus will be on the Youth militia who were in these bases in the 2008 violence and the War Veterans and ordinary people who participated in the liberation struggle in the 1970s who were also part of the 2008 militia bases, because they are figured as political subjects because of their association with the base as a form.
Yaliwe Clarke

**Feminist notions of peace and security: Experiences of women’s rights activists in Uganda**

The research will explore the extent to which experiences of women’s peace activists offer a critique to hegemonic discourses on peace and security about armed conflict in Africa. Feminist theorists argue that the glaring absence of women’s experiences and presence in security discourse is due to a narrow state-centric approach to security that not only considers women as marginal agents of ‘security’ but also relies on stereotypical notions of women as people in need of protection, and men as brave, virile, competitive people that seek to protect women and society from violent attack. Drawing on critical feminist epistemologies, the research will problematize 15 women’s everyday choices about creating security, reducing violence and making peace in Northern Uganda. In-depth interviews will explore women’s gendered subjectivities performed across multiple roles and identities. Research participants will be drawn from Isis WICCE-Uganda – an organization that documents and responds to women’s experiences of armed conflict. The research will also review research reports produced by Isis-WICCE.

Mary Ejang

**Social Networks and Rural Livelihood Patterns in the Post-conflict Northern Uganda**

The study will be conducted in northern Uganda, Lango sub-region; Oyam district located at the Acholi-Lango borde—an area that has suffered two decades Lord’s Resistance Army insurgence and the Government of Uganda (1996-2006). The study focuses on the transition in community relations and livelihoods amidst displacement. During insurgence, the local communities were displaced from original homes into internally displaced people’s (IDP) camps, abducted, massacred, forcefully conscripted into the rebel activity and had their livelihood assets destroyed. This created suspicion and lack of mutual trust among family, friends and community members. Lack of cooperation and suspicion breed latent grounds for recurrence of conflict. While already vulnerable due to displacement, the new livelihood strategies can increase the risk of violence, abuse and exploitation hence exacerbating conflict. Using panel trend analysis and ethnography, this study intends to investigate the pre and post conflict forms of community relations, livelihoods patterns to harmonize the existing theories on integration of social cohesion in post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable peace.
Akin Iwilade

Civil Society and the Democratisation of Regional Security Governance in West Africa

This study addresses civil society’s role in shaping regional security governance in ECOWAS. In particular, it looks at the politics of inclusion and exclusion of specific sectors of civil society and tries to understand what this may mean for the democratization and ultimately, legitimation, of regional governance in West Africa. In addressing the growing participation of civil society in ECOWAS, the tendency has been to focus on its scope, rather than on the implications of such expanded engagement for democratization. Scholars have also examined regionalism from statist perspectives that ignore non-state dimensions and how these shape state-led regionalisms. While the role of non state armed groups in West African conflicts is well documented, there is little evidence that scholarship has dealt effectively with the role of civil society in designing and maintaining regional peace and security architectures in West Africa. This study hopes to fill this gap.

Idris Ahmed Jamo

Local Government and Service Delivery: A study of some selected Local Governments in the North Western Nigeria

Infrastructural facilities are among the basic requirements for development. Their availability ensures a conducive environment for productive activities and encourages investment and enhances movement of goods and people, and help in diversifying the economy. In Nigeria, local governments are responsible for providing social services (like infrastructural facilities) at the grass root level. In recent times, people’s dissatisfaction with the performance of Local Government has increased, and forms a source of threat to peace, security, and developmental activities across Nigeria. Conducting a study of this kind has significance by disclosing the relationship between the availability of infrastructure and nation’s peace and security as well as the overall development. In addition, the study will serve as a linkage between theories of good governance at one hand, and the role of local government in the actualization of good governance in Nigeria on the other hand. Three local governments will be randomly selected from three states in the North-western zone. Meanwhile, primary and secondary sources of data will be utilized. The results of the study will be analyzed using chi-square, Spearman’s correlation, and T-test, as tools for analysis to ascertain the validity of the findings.
Miraji Masudi Kitigwa

Different ‘Terrorisms’, Different ‘Wars’ on Terror: Why Tanzania Does Not Take Part in a War against Somalia’s Al-Shabaab

It is common knowledge that the concept of terrorism in the Western world view is in inverse proportion to the Arab world’s. As a graduate student in political science, I wish to contribute to the still unknown Tanzanian view on the matter: is it Western, Arabic, or neither of the two, or none at all? I wish to investigate the significance that three of the four Tanzania’s East African Community (EAC) Partner States (Burundi, Kenya and Uganda) are currently at war on Somalia’s Al-Shabaab – allegedly an Islamic fundamentalist/terrorist group. Despite the provisions in the Treaty Establishing the EAC (Article 5.1, Article 124.5-6 and Article 125.1) that require Partner States to cooperate in defense affairs and in combating terrorism Tanzania still seems not likely to take part in the Somali war against the purportedly global ‘terrorism’. Why this is so is a matter that deserves scientific inquiry.

Decide Mabumbo

Understanding the Dynamics of Large Scale Investments of Biofuels in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Biofuels have been widely promoted worldwide as solutions to a wide range of problems- climate change, energy insecurity and under development. Yet emerging evidence shows that bio fuels are aggravating the very social and environmental problems they were ostensibly supposed to alleviate. So why do we continue to observe large scale biofuel investments? Most studies on biofuels revolve around energy balance, carbon emissions, environmental cost benefits and devastating impact on food security and rural livelihoods. My proposed study to be carried out in Zimbabwe’s South Eastern Lowveld and South Africa’s Eastern Cape will use ethnography for data collection methods, and investigate the contestation surrounding biofuels by exploring the ways in which a few companies and communities are initiating and responding to biofuel projects.
Simangele Gladys Mayisela

**Corporal punishment: Socio-cultural practices and perspectives of South African primary school teachers.**

Teachers in South African primary schools continue to use corporal punishment, despite its legal abolition 17 years ago. Anecdotal evidence suggests that teachers, particularly those who have been culturally exposed to corporal punishment and other forms of violence, believe that corporal punishment is the best or only effective mode of disciplining children. Drawing on Vygotsky’s Cultural-Historical Activity Theory (CHAT), this study seeks to investigate the effects of cultural-historical genesis of higher psychological functions as a crucial contributory factor in the continuing use of corporal punishment in schools. A qualitative methodology, with in-depth observation and interviews, will be used at a public primary school in rural Mpumalanga, where teachers, parents and learners will be participants in the study. Data will be analysed thematically, within the CHAT framework, to address the main research question: What cultural-historical processes account for the propensity to use corporal punishment, and how does this practice impact on learning and development in South African primary schooling?

Wendo O Mlahagwa

**Re-examining Social Reintegration dynamics of formerly abducted Young Mothers in Post Conflict Northern Uganda**

The study re-examines social reintegration dynamics of formerly abducted girls in Northern Uganda who have returned to their home areas with children fathered by Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels. LRA abducted tens of thousands of children from 1988 until 2006 with the cessation of hostilities agreement. However despite the available literature on the reintegration, the formerly abducted young mothers have continued to experience rejection, stigma and marginalization from their communities because they are associated with rebels who committed atrocities in their own communities. This study identifies gaps in the manner in which communities have been disengaged, and why no clear strategies have been put in place to enable social reintegration of this category of formerly abducted persons. Interactions with various stakeholders in the field will unveil the gaps in the social reintegration process, which have deterred these formerly abducted persons from being successfully integrated.
Mildred Mushinga

*Dissident women’s sexualities? The (un) making of a new local sexual marketplace. Situating the “small house” in Zimbabwe*

My research intends to look at the motivations of middle-class single women involved in long term sexual relationships with married men in Zimbabwe. These women are locally referred to as ‘small houses’. This topic is of interest against a background of women’s sexualities and sexual behaviors, often researched from a moral, problematized and medical perspective. Such frameworks have often missed out on the nuances of women’s sexualities from women’s perspectives and lived experiences and hence have failed to recognize how the study of women’s sexual behavior can also be a tool to raise innovative questions about political and socio-economic relations in a society. My study intends to investigate these women’s motivations for getting involved in such seemingly risky and highly stigmatized relationships—with consideration to the fact that ‘small-house’ relationships are part of the infamous sexual networks and labeled as multiple concurrent sexual partnerships, (key drivers of HIV in Zimbabwe and sub-Saharan Africa at large). This is also because health and development discourses, especially in HIV and AIDS stricken regions, have pointed out the ‘feminization of poverty’ as one of the major structural drivers of HIV. This has led to an increased inflow of humanitarian support in Zimbabwe focusing on empowering women through education and increased livelihood strategies opportunities, which attempt to curb women’s vulnerabilities to HIV. Yet, a number of recent studies have shown a higher prevalence of HIV amongst women who are highly educated and of high socio-economic status. Hence the my study will address the need to understand women’s sexual behaviors, their motivations, desires, and practices beyond poverty at face value and explore other economic, political and socio-cultural dynamics operating in specific geopolitical contexts.

Abdul-Gafar Oluwatobiloba Oshodi

*Political Economy of Sino-Africa Infrastructural Development Partnership: A Study of Nigeria*

The contemporary presence of China in Africa has generated three broad arguments that speak to pessimism, optimism and caution. In most cases, Sino-Africa relations, which is political as well as economic, have the capacity of impacting the lives of Africans in multiple and sometimes contradictory ways. This research therefore aims to situate China’s rising role in infrastructure development in Africa. Meanwhile, due to concepts such as “manifest destiny” or “Pax Nigeriana,” it is expected that Nigeria
(owing largely to its population, resource endowment and location) will lead efforts at ensuring peace, security and development in Africa. However, infrastructure in Nigeria is just as challenging as in most African countries. Thus, with a study of Nigeria, this proposal interrogates two questions. First, what is the nature of China’s soft and hard infrastructure diplomacy in Africa? Second, how does this intervention impact the lives of Africans in terms of peace, security and development?

Madelein M Stoffberg

*The transformation of public space in South Africa*

In 1994 South Africa became a democracy under the rule of Nelson Mandela and the new dispensation of the African National Congress. During this period The Department of Public Works’ focus was to provide public services to previously disadvantaged groups who had no access to basic services and civic structures. This thesis will investigate the transformation of public space in South Africa by comparing structures built prior to the democratization with newly built projects. Public spaces in South African urban environments consist of different typologies and character such as public squares, the streetscape and civic buildings. These spaces represent the public sphere of life, being the point of social connection, a stage for political activity and judicial practices. The following three typologies and surrounding communal spaces will be investigated; schools, libraries and community centers within South African communities.

Nathaniel Umukoro

*Regime Types’ Human Rights Violation and Conflict Escalation in the Niger Delta, 1993-2007*

This study focuses on regime types’ human rights violation and conflict escalation in the Niger Delta. A scoping study of the literature on the Niger Delta reveals that no systematic study has been conducted on the extent to which regime types’ human rights violation influenced the scale of violent conflict in the region. Consequently this study attempts to fill this gap in knowledge by finding out if there is any difference between the extent to which human rights violation in military and democratic regimes influenced conflict escalation in the Niger Delta. It also seeks to ascertain if sustainable peace can be achieved in the Niger Delta without human rights protection. The study adopts a non-experimental research design using the multi-method research approach. This means that quantitative statistical analysis and qualitative approaches will be employed.
Dissertation Research Fellows

Patience Adzande

Analysis of the Determinants of Crime Pattern in Makurdi Town

Crime is a major component of urban insecurity that affects quality of life in the city. Research indicates that a large percentage of urban residents in developing countries have been victims of crime. In Makurdi town, preliminary spatial analysis of reported crimes suggests that particular types of crime tend to cluster in certain areas, or neighborhoods. This study sets out to investigate the relationship between the social and spatial characteristics of urban areas and the type and intensity of crime. I hypothesize this is because the social component influences the organization, perception and use of the physical environment. The primary objectives of the study are to delineate social areas in Makurdi, to examine criminal victimization in the social areas and to interrogate the relationships between the social and spatial characteristics and crime pattern in the study area. Data will be sourced from the residents on their socio-economic and demographic characteristics and criminal victimization through the use of questionnaires and focus group discussion. The spatial variables will be obtained through field observation and others will be extracted from the map of Makurdi. The data will be subjected to descriptive and statistical analysis using techniques such as factor analysis, cluster analysis and correlation. At the end of the study it should be clear what variables influence the occurrence of crime and criminal victimization in Makurdi. This will provide a knowledge base of site specific factors to avoid generalizations for the entire town.

Ngozi Ugo Emeka-Nwobia

A Pragmatic Analysis of the Perlocutionary Force in Nigerian Former President Olusegun Obasanjo's Political Speeches

In my study, I would like to interrogate the claim that language use cannot be characterized in terms of grammar alone; neither can meaning be adequately described in terms of formal grammatic description alone. I would like to view language from a "pragmatic perspective," which is the aspect of linguistics concerned with what people use language for, and how contextual factors interact with linguistic resource in the interpretation of speeches and utterances. This research work is geared towards ascertaining if what people speak really reflects in the interpretation given to it by the hearers. The work shall examine the role of language in restoration of peace and security using pragmatic theory. The theory of Pragmatics is a new linguistic description but its application in the interpretation of political speech using Speech act theory promises to be an interesting academic venture—especially as nothing of this kind has
been done when focusing on analyzing presidential speeches, and thematically using the speech act’s application to peace and conflict resolution. This work shall also consider the role of face work in the interpretation of political rhetorical since it is complementary to a clearer understanding of speech act. This work shall largely utilize Austin’s felicity conditions for analysis. However, references shall equally be made to Searlean illocutionary category and Gricean conversation implicature, face work, deixis and context.

SiphoKazi Magadla

The ‘combative mother’ and the aftermath of liberation: narrow and broader implications of the integration of female ex-combatants for the process of demobilization in post-apartheid South Africa

This critique focuses on the state assisted integration of female ex-combatants, as part of the larger goal in understanding the marginalization of women after wars of liberation where, even though “women fought side by side with men in the struggle...nationalism and political independence did not translate into particular feminist benefits for women” (Lyons, 2004: xxi-29). I aim to ask the questions: how have female ex-combatants been integrated into democratic South Africa? What processes has the state put in place for ex-combatants? What are the experiences of female ex-combatants in state-led processes of integration? What are female ex-combatant experiences in integration beyond the procedures provided by the state? To examine the female ex-combatant experiences of state led integration, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions will be conducted a sample of female ex-combatants from Mkhonto WeSizwe, Azanian People’s Liberation Army throughout South Africa, and Amabutho paramilitary group in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Iddy Ramadhani Magoti

Ethnic Identity and the State: The Dynamics of Intra- and Inter- Ethnic Relations in Mara River Basin, 1900 - 2010

The study focuses on Kuria and Maasai communities living in the Mara River Basin, which straddles both sides of Tanzanian -Kenyan border. It examines why ethnic relations in this area have oscillated between peaceful co-existence and hostile relationships. Furthermore, the study seeks to investigate how ethnic identities and the state have transformed over times and the extent to which the two aspects have influenced the existing intra- and inter- ethnic relations in the Mara river basin. The study employs an integrative approach of studying ethnicity, combining elements of primordial, constructivist, cultural and political ecology theories are in order to analyze ethnic relations in the area. The study is mainly historical and it employs qualitative
methods of data collection such as archival researches, secondary documentary reviews, oral interviews, focus group discussions and observations. Data will be analyzed qualitatively using content analysis technique.

Lindiwe D Makhunga

*Examining the Parliamentary Politics of Women’s Presence in Post-Genocide Rwanda and Post-Apartheid South Africa*

The period following major upheavals and sustained processes of destabilization, which induce regime change and/or political liberalization within a society, have been acknowledged as unique and rare opportunities for women to effectively advance gender equality and women’s rights in formal political institutional contexts. My proposed doctoral study aims to comparatively examine the relationship between the high presence of women in the post-conflict Rwandan and South African parliamentary institution and legislative outcomes that address gender inequality in Rwanda and South Africa. In debates premised on the ‘politics of presence’ argument and the ‘critical mass’ argument, influential strands of political feminism argue that women’s descriptive representation improves substantive parliamentary outcomes for women. This hypothesis establishes an empirical relationship that anticipates the substantial presence of women in parliament feminizing the political agenda, acting on behalf of women and eventually being accountable to women in pursuing women’s collective interests. Analyzing how women have situated themselves in relation to specific parliamentary outcomes that promote gender equality in these two settings allows a critical engagement with the substantive forms that women’s representation has taken in sub-Saharan Africa, which forms an under-researched theme in African knowledge production.

Richard Bruno Mbunda

*Peasant Agriculture and the Quest for Food Sovereignty in Tanzania*

Tanzania has vast land and a great potential for both seasonal and irrigation farming for the production of food crops. Over 80% of the food producers are peasants, who ironically are regularly affected by hunger. The general objective is this study is to investigate the causes of persistent food shortages in the country. As such, the research questions are structured in such a way that they seek to examine: first, whether the peasants have control of the production process such as land, seeds, and fertilizers to be able to augment their outputs. Second, whether state agriculture policies are geared towards transforming the peasants from being subsistent to commercial farmers. And third, the implications of international rules to which the Tanzanian state is a signatory, and the way these rules guide the state in its role related to the regulation or
deregulation of the agricultural sector. Cross-sectional research design is employed in order to allow flexibility in the data collection methods to be used. The data collection methods to be used for this study are questionnaires, interviews (structured and unstructured), document analysis and focus group discussion (FGD). Regarding data analysis, the study will use both qualitative and quantitative modes of data analysis.

Uche Thaddeus Okpara

*Climate Change, Water Resources and Conflict: Evidence and Proposed Policy Responses*

What are the security implications of climate change? What degree and type of hydro-conflict would climate change cause? How would the instability unleashed by climate change be tackled? While these questions have featured prominently in contemporary academic, media and policy discourses on climate change, water resources and security, empirically-based studies linking climate change and hydro-conflict, as well as the implications and potential of policy responses remain largely absent, thus making it somewhat difficult to provide evidence-based answers to these questions. The shrinking Lake Chad basin is one of the hotspots in Africa where climate change is expected to increase existing patterns of insecurity. By investigating implications of changing availability of water resources due to climate change for hydro-conflict in the context of Lake Chad (using qualitative and quantitative methods), this study unpacks the multiplicity of dynamics at work in the climate-conflict links, and the role of institutions in providing security.

Muazu Usman Shehu

*Religion and Land Degradation in Northeast Nigeria*

Associated livelihood crises and environmentally induced conflicts in developing countries—such as land degradation, resource depletion, deforestation, and water and soil pollution—demand a closer investigation in connection with the religious and cultural beliefs which shape how communities respond and understand these problems. Such crises also call for more research into the impact and role of religious resources in environmental conservation efforts. However, few empirical studies have, so far, been undertaken to examine these dimensions of the relationship between religion and environment in regions such as northeast Nigeria. It is against this background that my study adopts a mixed method approach to examine the connection between religious beliefs and worldviews and land degradation in northeast Nigeria. The findings of the study would help further our understanding of the connection between religious beliefs
and worldviews, and land degradation and the role of religious resources in promoting sustainable land use.

**Dissertation Completion Fellows**

**Adewale Michael Aderemi**

*Oil and the Politics of Economic Development in Rentier States: Nigeria and Indonesia in Comparative Perspective 1966-1998*

My research was instigated by the observation of the inverse variation in economic development between Indonesia and Nigeria over 32 years 1966 to 1998; which, coincidentally mirrors the Africa-Asia growth divergence over the same period. The research is pursued within the prism of the Rentier State thesis and seeks to test the conditions of validity/repudiation for the theory using primary evidence from the development experience of both countries. This study will attempt to fill the perceived niche of a sectoral comparison [with respects to the oil industry] in both cases of the literature. It will also attempt to complement the institutional, resource curse and econometric analysis of the Dutch disease that dominates the budding literature with regards to the two states. The research is largely based on data collected by direct interviews with policy makers, academicians and politicians in both countries, who were active in the study period. Extensive interviews were also conducted with personnel of the National Oil Companies in both countries. Secondary statistical data is also widely used.

**Godfrey Maringira**

*Soldiering in exile*: The life of exiled Zimbabwean soldiers in South Africa

This study explores the lives of exiled Zimbabwean soldiers who have deserted or resigned from the army after experiencing either victimization or torture in the army barracks in Zimbabwe under suspicion of support for the opposition political party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Many exiled soldiers migrated to find refuge in South Africa. Their lives have remained soldierly and soldiering— that is they continue to carry military ‘identities’ and bodies which resemble military traits. They experience a longing for the past, as well as suffer from nightmares about being chased by the military police and military intelligence. They live in fear. While the argument by many scholars is that once soldiers depart from the barracks, they can be integrated into civilians’ lives, here I argue that the ways in which soldiers are socialized through military training and war, makes it difficult to demilitarize them into civilians. Once soldiers are ‘made’, it is difficult to ‘unmake’ them because of the symbolic and material
resource they continue drawing from the military experience. My project employs Bourdieu’s (1990) habitus and field to understand the ways in which soldiers remained in, and enduring in a militaristic life. The research was done in Johannesburg city, South Africa, at a soldiers’ formed association called the Affected Military Men of Zimbabwe Association (AMMOZA). I will deploy ethnography through life histories, in-depth interviews, group discussions and ‘deep hanging-out’ were used to gather data. Having been a Zimbabwean soldier four ten years and fought in war, I understand these events of narration.

Jean Pierre Mlsago

*Migration, Governance and Violent Exclusion: Exploring the Politics of Xenophobic Violence in Post-Apartheid South Africa*

Xenophobic violence has become a prominent feature in post-Apartheid South Africa and efforts to explain its causes and meanings have intensified after unprecedented violence outbreaks in May 2008. However current explanations, focusing mainly on broad political, historical, structural, economic and generalized attitudinal factors do not adequately explain the occurrence of violence—which I propose falter when faced with empirical or logical interrogation. Through a qualitative comparative and interpretive multi-case study methodological approach (drawing on empirical data from 11 research sites) and a micro-level analysis of the drivers of the violence, my study reveals critical, theoretically informed and empirically grounded, insights into the proximate causes and triggers of the violence. By doing so, my study not only identifies missing critical elements of the violence causal chain, but also contributes to the general literature of collective violence by drawing our analytic attention to the often ignored localized political economy and micro-level processes.

Kalyango Ronald Sebba

*Returning Home: Gender and Choice Among IDPS in Northern Ghana*

This study seeks to gain a deeper understanding of gendered processes that influences internally displaced persons in the Gulu district, Northern Uganda, to return home despite socio-culturally ascribed gender roles which widen gender inequality. This study further examines how women and men interact within these institutional policies, which obscure their agency and capabilities to label themselves as vulnerable or mere recipients of relief.

This study is qualitative having employed mainly qualitative methods of data collection. Analysis was based on the gender relations framework to examine relations between
women and men; importance of the power context where development takes place and; how gender relations are conflictive and collaborative, as characterized by a constant process of bargaining and negotiation.

**Eria Serwajja**

**Examining the Land Question in Resettlement: A case Post-Conflict Northern Uganda**

This study examines the broader questions surrounding contemporary conflicts over land amidst return and resettlement of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in post-conflict northern Uganda. The research seeks to understand the causes, types and politics behind land conflicts; investigate the consequences of insecure access to land with particular interest in ‘commercial’ and ‘green’ land grabbing; and understand the strategies that people adopted to reconstitution of destroyed livelihoods and examines the gendered perspectives to dispossession and/or repossession of the formerly abandoned lands. The nature of investigation necessitated the adaption of a qualitative research design and methodology. The inquiry employed several methods of data collection, including key-informant interviews, semi-structured interviews and Focus Groups Discussions (FGD).

**Samaila Suleiman**

**The Nigerian History Machine: Institutional Practices and the production of Middle Belt Historical Discourse**

This project is conceived on the premise that historical writing and the production of historical knowledge is a basic social and political practice. The fragmentation of nations following the crisis of post-colonial nationhood has ushered in a new trend towards competing alternative historical discourses among local communities. This partisan version of historiography has been aptly described recently, in a rather implicit term, as a genre of “the third wave of historical scholarship on Nigeria”. But whether the surge in historical writing on Middle Belt communities represents an example of the third wave of historical scholarship on Nigeria or a new direction in historical thinking, methodology and theory is an interesting research question that remains unexplored. Students of historiography are rarely bothered about the processes of power relations and institutional practices involved in the production of history. This project is a study of how the Middle Belt counter-historical discourse is produced against the grain.
Identity construction is a recurrent trend among ethnic groups in Benue state. The ethnic groups in Benue state along with other ethnic groups in the Middle Belt region were designated as pagans and subsumed under the Hausa-Fulani in the defunct Northern region by the British colonialists. Today beyond the construction a Middle Belt identity—in an attempt to contest the hegemonic hold of the Hausa-Fulani—the ethnic groups in Benue state appear to be reconstructing their identity away from the middle belt identity towards a distinct ethnic group identity. Various mobilizations and violent contestations have emerged from these constructions leading to the loss of lives and property and the reconfiguring of social interactions among the ethnic group. This study is aimed at examining the dynamics of identity construction among ethnic groups in Benue state, Nigeria. The research design combined both primary and secondary data collection methods: focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KII), in-depth interviews (IDI), case studies, observation as the primary methods of data collection with Archival Research as the secondary method. Specifically 10 KII, 40 IDIs and 20 FGDs were held across the five ethnic groups of Tiv, Idoma, Igede, Etulo and Jukun to examine the dynamics of identity construction. Archival research provided historical information on the construction of identities of these ethnic groups.

Using a critical ethnographic design, the study examined cultural understandings of mental illness in a fragile context of pastoralist Karamoja, northeastern Uganda. Karamoja is a particularly sensitive geographic part of Africa. The area is characterized by armed conflict, famine, and suffering amidst chronic poverty. After decades of political marginalization, economic neglect and social exclusion, security remains fragile. And with turbulence in the great Lakes region, Karamoja has potential to impact peace progress in Uganda and elsewhere in the great Lakes region. To understand how these dynamics influence people’s understanding of mental illness in Karamoja, data was collected using six complementary qualitative methods. These include participant observation, conversations, life history interviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and secondary data review. Data were analyzed using Atlasti. The triangulation of the methods and data sources enabled a comparison of multiple perspectives and enhanced the validity of the study.
Longi Felix Tonsuglo Yakubu

*Mamprusi-Kusasi Relations, 1902-2000: A Study in Inter-ethnic Conflicts in Northern Ghana*

Post-colonial Africa has witnessed series of conflicts especially in the last fifty years. These conflicts have led to loss of lives and property, waste of the nation’s scarce resources and stunted development. A historiographical review of works on the subject has generally concluded that, the Mamprusi-Kusasi conflict in Bawku is a legacy of British Colonial policies in Northern Ghana. The main objective of this study is to examine this assertion and to probe other factors such as the attitude of post-colonial governments and the impact of education and urbanization. This study is relevant as it explores all the nuanced factors of the conflict to unearth new knowledge.