



# MANSA Kibaru

## MANDE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 72

2017-2020

### Inside this issue:

Parting Remarks as President / Remarques de départ en tant que président — Joseph Hellweg	1-2
Notes on the State of MANSA, 2017 to 2020	2-7
New president / Nouveau prési- dent Sten Hagberg	8-9
LACET	10-11
2020 Conference Update / Mise à jour de la conférence 2020	11
MANSA on Facebook	12
West African Dynamics / Dyna- miques ouest-africaines (webinar)	12
Two Major Exhibitions (Inter- rupted) on West Africa's Middle Ages	13-17
Some New Members / Quelques nouveaux membres	18-19
Member Updates / Mise à jour des membres	19-24
In Memoriam	25
Membership Report / Rapport d'adhésion	26-29
WARC in Need of Funding	29
<i>Mande Studies</i> —Journal Update	30-31
MANSA at ASA	32-37
10th Conference / 10e Congrès, Grand-Bassam, 2017	38-44
2019 Business Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Report	45-48

### Parting Remarks as President — Joseph Hellweg

It has been a pleasure, adventure, and education to serve as MANSA's president since November of 2017. Having Sten Hagberg as president-elect, Marcia Tiede and Dianna Bell as secretary-treasurers, and Rosa de Jorio as editor of *Mande Studies* made running MANSA frank, fun, and fruitful, especially this last year during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Yao Marcel Kouakou's expansion of our membership in Africa and the input of our advisory board members have been equally crucial over the past three years in responding to emerging challenges. I will miss my exchanges as president with all of my MANSA colleagues and fellow members.

I want to remind our members what a precious organization MANSA is. We host international conferences, publish a bi- and sometimes trilingual journal (in English, French, and Portuguese), and have significant membership on three continents. We are growing, however, and the work involved in running MANSA requires more than three officers. The officers need collaborators more than ever – to submit and review articles for *Mande Studies*, serve in ad hoc committee roles, prepare for conferences and other events, and propose panels for the annual African Studies Association meeting. Please volunteer to help keep our association alive and well, and invite your colleagues and students to do so!

Finally, I offer my apologies for any misstatements in these notes or missteps over my past six years as president and president-elect. I extend to my fellow officers, the advisory board, and members of MANSA my most profound thanks for the opportunity to serve MANSA, and I look forward to doing so in the future.



**Joseph Hellweg**  
Florida State University, Tallahassee

## Remarques de départ en tant que président — Joseph Hellweg

C'était un plaisir, une aventure et une éducation d'être président du MANSA depuis novembre 2017. Avoir Sten Haggberg comme président élu, Marcia Tiede et Dianna Bell comme secrétaires-trésorières, et Rosa de Jorio comme rédactrice en chef de *Mande Studies* a fait diriger MANSA franc, amusant et fructueux, en particulier au cours de cette dernière année pendant la pandémie COVID-19. En outre, l'élargissement par Yao Marcel Kouakou du nombre de nos membres en Afrique et l'apport des membres de notre conseil consultatif ont été tout aussi cruciaux au cours des trois dernières années pour répondre aux défis émergents. Mes échanges en tant que président avec tous mes collègues et des membres du MANSA me manqueront.

Je tiens à rappeler à nos membres à quel point MANSA est une organisation précieuse. Nous



organisons des conférences internationales; nous publions une revue bilingue et parfois trilingue (en anglais, français et portugais); et nous comptons des membres importants sur trois continents. Nous grandissons, cependant, et le travail impliqué dans la gestion de MANSA nécessite plus de trois officiers. Les officiers ont plus que jamais besoin de collaborateurs — pour soumettre et réviser des articles pour *Mande Studies*; pour siéger dans des rôles de comité ad hoc; pour préparer des conférences et autres événements; et pour proposer des panels pour la réunion annuelle de African Studies Association. Faites du bénévolat pour aider à maintenir notre association vivante et en bonne santé, et invitez vos collègues et étudiants à le faire!

Enfin, je vous présente mes excuses pour toute inexactitude dans ces notes ou des faux pas au cours de mes six dernières années en tant que président et président élu. J'adresse à mes collègues officiers, au comité consultatif et aux membres du MANSA mes plus sincères remerciements pour l'opportunité de servir le MANSA, et j'ai hâte de le faire à l'avenir.

À Grand-Bassam, août 2017

## Notes on the State of MANSA, 2017 to 2020

### I. Special Thanks to MANSA Officers & Members

#### **First MANSA Chi Wara Award — to Richard Warms, MANSA's Listserv & Web Manager**

MANSA bestows the first Chi Wara Award for outstanding service by a member to Richard Warms, for his perennial management of our listserv and website — which he has sustained since 2001 and from which we hope to liberate him early this year. Thank you so much, Richard, for your exemplary, essential, long-standing devotion to MANSA!

With this award comes a \$250 prize for your work in particular, along with an anonymous donation of \$250, for a total of \$500. This award aims to compensate you, if only symbolically, for the costs

you incurred in sustaining our website. No one has contributed more to maintaining communication among our members than you have, Richard! *I ni ce kosèbè.*

Richard Warms is Professor of Anthropology at Texas State University. He has published *Theory in Social & Cultural Anthropology: An Encyclopedia* (co-ed. with R. J. McGee, SAGE, 2013), numerous articles on merchants and war veterans in Mali, and four well-known textbooks: *Cultural Anthropology* (with S. Nanda, SAGE, 2019, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.), *Anthropological Theory* (with R. J. McGee, Rowman & Littlefield, 2019, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.), *Culture Counts* (with S. Nanda, Cengage, 2018, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.), and *Sacred Realms* (with J. Garber & R. J. McGee, Oxford, 2008, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Our enduring thanks go to this prodigious scholar and teacher whom we are proud to call MANSAden!

## Notes on the State of MANSA, 2017 to 2020 (continued)

### Gift to Honor Past Presidents Kassim Kone & Barbara Hoffman

MANSA also wishes to thank an anonymous donor for a generous gift to MANSA of \$500 to honor past presidents Kassim Kone (2008-2014) and Barbara Hoffman (2014-2017). The gift celebrates their many years of leadership in our association. They sustained MANSA following David Conrad's presidency (1986-2008), diversifying its management, ensuring a regular rotation of officers, and professionalizing its journal. Since their presidencies, they have remained active in MANSA. Kassim's work with Dolores Koenig to ensure the transport of our Guinean and Malian colleagues to our triennial conference in Grand-Bassam in 2017, as well as Barbara's recent comments on our bylaws revisions, her help with preparing this newsletter, and her thoughts about our election procedures are examples of their continued service, for which we are ever grateful.

We had hoped to find a way to publicly acknowledge this gift, and the newsletter seemed like the ideal venue. We apologize for its delayed publication given the year's events and express our warmest, deepest, and abiding thanks for our anonymous colleague's magnanimous gesture!

### Gifts through MANSA Memberships and for *Mande Studies*

MANSA also gratefully acknowledges the Gold, Silver, and Bronze memberships that members have purchased over the past three years! Others responded to a call to donate toward the Uppsala conference, or donated duplicate dues payments. Such gifts have contributed to MANSA's healthy financial status and helped Rosa de Jorio pay copy-editing costs associated with *Mande Studies*.

MANSA is equally grateful for a third anonymous gift of \$500 to support the journal, for Rosa de Jorio to use at her discretion for that purpose. Our journal's welfare is key to MANSA's future.

### Editor & Officer Transitions

#### *Peter Mark, Former Editor-in-Chief of Mande Studies*

In December of 2018, Peter Mark stepped down as editor-in-chief of *Mande Studies* after serving as editor since 2011. When he became editor, the journal was publishing four years behind schedule. Its publisher, the University of Wisconsin's African Studies Program, was threatening to cancel it. During a sabbatical, Peter published three issues in six months, assembling articles by internationally recognized scholars to enhance the journal's profile. In 2015, due to his efforts, the University of Wisconsin Press assumed the journal's publication. In 2017, with help from Barbara Hoffman, Peter moved the journal to its current home, Indiana University Press (IUP) (<https://journaltransfer.issn.org/TID/1299>), which resulted in *Mande Studies* appearing for the first time in JSTOR. Peter has consequently had a lasting impact on the journal that will endure long past his work as editor. We at MANSA are forever in his debt for putting *Mande Studies* on the publishing map in African Studies. We wish him the best in his retirement from Wesleyan University and congratulate him on his Humboldt Fellowship at Goethe-University (2020) and Visiting Cathedratric Professorship at the University of Lisbon (2014-2019).

#### *Dianna Bell, Former Secretary-Treasurer of MANSA*

In 2019, Dianna Bell concluded her tenure as MANSA's secretary-treasurer at our business meeting at the African Studies Association (ASA) meeting in Boston. Marcia Tiede succeeded her. Dianna had served as secretary-treasurer since 2012 and through two international triennial conferences, in Bobo-Dioulasso and in Grand-Bassam, where her help with registration and logistics proved indispensable. After completing a four-year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at Vanderbilt University, she moved to South Africa



*Dianna Bell, Grand-Bassam, 2017*

## Notes on the State of MANSA, 2017 to 2020 (continued)

in 2017, where her husband, Joe, had accepted an astronomy position at the University of Cape Town (UCT). At UCT, she became a research affiliate in the university's Religious Studies Department, then stepped down as secretary-treasurer to pursue a law degree at UCT. We thank her for eight years of MANSA service, wish her the best in her new profession, and hope she will return to Mali and the US to visit!

### Ad Hoc Appointments

#### ***Yao Marcel Kouakou, Ad Hoc Coordinating Secretary-Treasurer for West Africa***

Yao Marcel Kouakou participated in MANSA's triennial Bobo-Dioulasso conference, where his dynamism became apparent to Barbara Hoffman. In 2016 and 2017, when Barbara and Joseph Hellweg were preparing for the 2017 Grand-Bassam conference, Marcel played a key role in preparations. Thanks to his initiatives, MANSA witnessed the impressive and unprecedented participation of Ivoirian scholars at Grand-Bassam. Afterward, Marcel volunteered to recruit members and collect membership fees in West Africa. He and Joseph opened an account at Ecobank in Abidjan in 2017 for that purpose, and transferred its funds to MANSA's US Bank account in 2019 to help finance our upcoming Uppsala meeting, or, should that meeting be online, the next in-person triennial conference. The recently proposed revisions of our bylaws outlined a new officer position, that of "coordinating secretary-treasurer for West Africa," thanks to Marcel's work.

In 2019, Marcel presented a paper and addressed our business meeting at the ASA conference with funding from MANSA and an ASA Coordinate and Affiliate Organizations Small Grant of \$500 for which Joseph applied. We thank the ASA for making that encounter possible.

#### ***Jody Benjamin, Ad Hoc Rep. to the ASA Task Force for the Protection of Academic Freedom***

In 2018, the ASA formed the Task Force for the Protection of Academic Freedom to "defend and advance scholars' ability to freely pursue, distribute, and discuss their research in academia and in public life." The Task

Force "monitors infringements on academic freedom in Africa, in the United States, and worldwide" against "governmental refusal to allow scholars of Africa to conduct research, publish their findings, deliver academic lectures, and travel to international scholarly meetings." We are pleased that Jody Benjamin agreed to represent MANSA on this task force and thank him for doing so.

#### ***Ad Hoc Coordinator for the Committee for African Women's Initiatives***

Joseph Hellweg asked Bissè Blanche Adoh (Université de Korhogo Pelefero Gon Coulibaly), Bintou Koné (Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako), and Fatoumata Bamba (Université Julius Nyerere de Kankan) to organize a committee for African women's initiatives. Maria Grosz-Ngaté (past president, African Studies Association; Indiana University) has agreed to be available for consultation. Ideally, the committee will reflect on the needs of our West African women colleagues and offer a series of proposals on how better to address those needs, in all areas of professional life, including education, research, publication, job seeking, and collegiality.

### Other Initiatives

#### ***MANSA Focal Points – Sten Hagberg***

Thanks to Sten's initiatives dating back to 2018, he, Dianna Bell, Rosa de Jorio, and Joseph Hellweg have established a network of focal points at academic institutions in the four West African cities listed below to which Indiana University Press can mail journals and where these institutions' directors can distribute them to our members:

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: Laboratoire de sociologie économique et d'anthropologie des appartenances symboliques (LAASSE), Abidjan – Kando Soumahoro (assistant to director Roch Yao Ghabéli)

Bamako, Mali: Institut des sciences humaines (ISH), Bamako – Baba Coulibaly

Conakry, Guinea: Université Kofi Annan, Programme N'ko, Conakry – Ibrahima Sory II Condé

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: Institut des sciences des sociétés/Centre national de la recherche scientifique et technologique (CNRST), Ouagadougou – Ludovic Kibora



## Notes on the State of MANSA, 2017 to 2020 (continued)

Receiving the journal offers our members palpable recognition for their membership payments. Thank you, Sten, for leading this effort!

### ***Standardization of Mande Orthography – Coleman Donaldson***

In late 2018, Coleman Donaldson agreed to affiliate his initiative to standardize Mande orthography with MANSA. We are proud to associate ourselves with his project and hope to spread word of his work.

### **Renewed Newsletter**

MANSA wishes to thank David Conrad for suggesting that we resume publication of MANSA's newsletter after Barbara Hoffman's last version in 2015. The task is a daunting one. Barbara's skill at doing so will be difficult to match. Our new secretary-treasurer Marcia Tiede, however, has made this newsletter possible, collating information sent by our officers and members who responded to her call. Thank you all for your contributions!

## **II. Uppsala Triennial Conference**

### ***Preparations***

The executive organizing committee for MANSA's triennial conference, on which Sten Hagberg, Rosa de Jorio, and Joseph Hellweg have served, has met often since January. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we proceeded as if our conference scheduled for June 2020 would occur. Sten sought conference funding in Europe, the committee evaluated paper and panel submission, and Joseph organized free-standing, accepted papers into panels, to which Sten added pre-organized panel proposals.

### ***West African-Based Funding***

In the summer of 2019, a self-funded, month-long research trip to West Africa by Joseph Hellweg became a recruitment and publicity trip for the conference and a search for funding from state ministries, NGOs, and businesses, inspired by Barbara Hoffman's attempts to secure funding in Côte d'Ivoire for our Grand-Bassam conference in 2017. Joseph spoke at LAASSE in Abidjan, the Université Julius Nyerere in Kankan, and the Institut des Sciences

Humaines in Bamako. In Abidjan, conversations with Jacques N'Goran and Yao Marcel Kouakou led Joseph to write roughly a dozen funding requests there and in Kankan which he left with MANSA members to present to in-country donors. He had to email such letters to Bamako after his departure. In Kankan, Nongo Camara and Sory Kourouma helped with editing, as did Baba Coulibaly, director of ISH, from Bamako. In Abidjan, Joseph delivered several of these letters to their destinations along with Jacques and Marcel.

Despite initial interest from two sources in Abidjan, the only target to make concrete inquiries was a ministry in Guinea. Rosa and Joseph also sent a funding inquiry to one US-based foundation without receiving a reply, although we curtailed our efforts at Sten's request to avoid undermining his chances of finding funding in Europe. The task of identifying and contacting donors to support travel and other costs of our conferences and other work deserves a standing committee. It should be a constant preoccupation for MANSA, regardless of whatever other fund-seeking efforts may be underway.

### ***Postponing the Uppsala Conference***

By March of 2020, we needed to reschedule the conference given rising COVID-19 statistics in Sweden, Europe, Africa, and the US. I sent updates on developments via our listserv and suggested postponing the meeting to the advisory board; they agreed. On March 25, I indicated that the conference executive and local organizing committees had postponed the conference provisionally until January of 2021.

Then, after much discussion from late summer into the fall with the conference executive committee and Marcia, I contacted the board in October to say that we would postpone once more. On October 28, Sten sent the board a report of the extensive preparations that he, the local organizing committee, and the conference executive committee had undertaken. On November 10, I informed members that the Uppsala meeting would occur from June 16 to 20, 2021, whether in person or virtually. In the meantime, Sten will organize a [webinar](https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/64816428128) with two roundtables on 28 January, which we invite you all to attend! You may join at the following url: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/64816428128>. Meeting ID: 648 1642 8128.

MANSA recognizes the substantial investments of time, energy, and resources that Sten, his Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University, and the local organizing committee have devoted to the conference. We salute and thank Sten and his team for their perseverance, forbearance, and largesse!

## Notes on the State of MANSA, 2017 to 2020 (continued)

### III. Future Virtual and Other Events

#### *MANSA Workshops & Colloquia*

Although we missed the “collective effervescence” (Durkheim’s phrase) of a triennial conference this year, we found new possibilities for virtual communication. Rosa de Jorio and Joseph aim to hold online workshops at which future authors can consult with senior MANSA members about works in progress as potential submissions for *Mande Studies*. Sten and Joseph have likewise discussed hosting online colloquia. Joseph looks forward to hosting such events through Florida State University, and Sten looks forward to doing so from Uppsala. We encourage other members to do so too! Please let our officers know of your ideas.

#### *Future Triennial & Other International MANSA Meetings*

Given the growing number of MANSA members in Africa and the challenges of assuring their travel to meetings beyond Africa, we should consider holding every third triennial meeting in Europe after two in West Africa – a more equitable approach than alternating meetings between continents. Our past three triennial meetings have been in West Africa (<http://mandestudies.org/past-conferences/>). Dakar is a site worth considering. Joseph Hellweg, Sten Hagberg, and Yao Marcel Kouakou have also discussed the possibility of holding in-person or online MANSA conferences in West Africa between triennial meetings. Such meetings would likely be initiatives of our West African-based colleagues, although MANSA and local funders may be able to support such efforts.

### IV. Our Journal, *Mande Studies*

While Joseph Hellweg was president-elect, Peter Mark and he sought an associate editor to work with Peter to learn to manage the journal under his tutelage before he stepped down. At our ASA business meeting in 2017, Peter and Joseph spoke with one candidate who later declined due to other responsibilities. After Joseph became president in 2017, Rosa de Jorio agreed to work as Peter’s associate for two years before becoming editor. Joseph

therefore asked Indiana University Press to make Peter editor-in-chief and Rosa associate editor. In December of 2018, when Peter stepped down, Rosa became editor-in-chief, which MANSA deeply appreciates!

As Rosa sought to complete the first issue under her editorship, Stephen Belcher offered his invaluable editorial assistance which continues to this day. Thank you, Stephen, for your long, continuing association with *Mande Studies*.

Together, Rosa and Joseph also developed and posted what were, as far as we know, the journal’s first public, bilingual guidelines for authors. And Rosa opened — also for the first time to our knowledge — an online submission portal through IUP. Since then, Joseph has helped to solicit manuscripts, copy-edit and review manuscripts, and recruit copy-editors and reviewers. I look forward to helping the editorial process however I can in the future, and invite members of the journal’s editorial board to do so as well!

### V. MANSA at the African Studies Association

Each year as president, Joseph Hellweg organized, or helped to organize, with colleagues or students, more than one MANSA-sponsored panel — often with Rosa de Jorio and Sten Hagberg — at the African Studies Association annual meeting. He postponed the three that he co-organized for this year’s meeting with Rosa de Jorio, Barbara Frank, and Cherif Keita until 2021. But Rosa, Sten, and he organized an online session on security in West Africa as an “AfricaNow!” event, which the ASA included as a live, online session instead, for which MANSA thanks Alix Saba and Maria Grosz-Ngaté. The aim of MANSA’s officers each year was to maintain a visible MANSA presence at the conference. We were also happy to confer MANSA sponsorship on other events, with several members proposing such panels. Yet, given the expansion of MANSA’s networks and new online possibilities, MANSA hopes to see more ASA panels proposed by MANSA members in the future.

## Notes on the State of MANSA, 2017 to 2020 (continued)

### VI. Governance, Communication & Participation

#### *Revision of the Bylaws*

Developments in MANSA over the past four years, and in light of our recent election of a new president-elect, have suggested the following revisions of our bylaws:

- Clear guidelines for holding elections, for those who manage them as well as for candidates and voters.
- Expansion of MANSA's mission in accord with the goals of the Grand-Bassam conference.
- Addition of two new officer positions: (a) the coordinating secretary-treasurer for West Africa, and (b) the editor-in-chief of *Mande Studies*, who has not previously been an officer.
- Addition of a new advisory board member position for a total of seven to prevent a split vote: the current number of six has violated our bylaws since the last presidency but enabled us to represent West African countries with major MANSA memberships, Europe, and the US.
- More inclusive language given the marginalization of trans people in Africa, Europe, and the US.

Agreeing to revisions took repeated editing on Joseph Hellweg's part and several meetings last fall among officers and our journal's editor-in-chief. After requesting input from the advisory board and members by November 18, we proceeded to a vote ending in early December. Among 102 paying members, thirty-two voted in favor and one against. We needed sixty-seven votes in favor to achieve a two-thirds majority to pass them. The initiative therefore failed — likely for the best.

Maria Grosz-Ngaté pointed out concerns in the original bylaws that had escaped the officers' attention, and Bisè Blanche Adoh and Barbara Hoffman made other insightful suggestions. Sten Hagberg will therefore oversee further revisions and proceed to a vote when possible. MANSA thanks all those members who took the time to consider the revisions and vote. We hope you will do so again!

#### *Creating a New Listserv*

Since January of 2020, while facing other challenges, Joseph Hellweg has explored other options for hosting and moderating our MANSA listserv and website, to relieve Richard Warms from these tasks. None of the options proved cost effective or appealing. He is therefore in the process of applying for a MANSA network on H-Net. We hope to hear results in early 2021. Our goal is to maintain a listserv beyond any single university.

#### *Advocacy & Translation*

During Joseph's time as president, he wrote two letters to advocate on behalf of Malian citizens who suffered abuse at the hands of the US Department of Homeland Security and US State Department. The former protested the dis-mantlement of Ballaké Sissoko's kora on February 4, 2020 by the Transportation Security Administration, cosigned by former MANSA presidents. The latter criticized the rude treatment of our colleague Bintou Koné at the US Embassy in Bamako while she was applying for a visa to attend the 2019 ASA conference. MANSA has a powerful voice that it may use on behalf of such causes.

Joseph also tried in all of his communications to write them consistently in both French and English to accommodate as many members as possible. It is his hope that future officers will continue to do so.

*Joseph Hellweg as president-elect, speaking at a fundraising event for the Grand-Bassam conference, Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire, Washington, DC, November 2016.*



## New MANSA President Sten Hagberg

Sten Hagberg is professor in Cultural Anthropology at Uppsala University. Since 1988, he has conducted anthropological research in Burkina Faso and since 2008 also in Mali. He holds a [PhD thesis](#) (1998) on dispute settlement between farmers and herders in Burkina Faso, but has since then worked on a wide range of themes and topics. Nowadays his research focuses on political culture, municipal democracy, local development and popular struggle. Hagberg is the Director of Uppsala University's [Forum for Africa Studies](#), an interdisciplinary centre whose purpose is to support Uppsala University's research in, on and with Africa, and to facilitate contacts and research exchange between departments as well as outside of the university. The Forum for Africa Studies leads research projects, organizes lectures and roundtables, and hosts its seminar series, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies. Furthermore, it regularly organizes international meetings. The Forum for Africa Studies is the co-organizer of the [11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Mande Studies Association](#) in Uppsala, 16-20 June 2021.

Theoretically and practically, Hagberg is interested in methodological developments including field research in insecure terrains and epistemological challenges of team research. A special interest is research that engages with societal challenges. He acts as PhD supervisor and research leader. In the period 2017-2022, he is leading research programmes in Mozambique where five PhD students in Cultural Anthropology from the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo are trained. In 2018-2020, he leads the programme "[Burkina Faso seen from below](#)" in collaboration with the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and is currently

leading research on the Malian political crisis in collaboration with the Institut des Sciences Humaines in Bamako.

Hagberg is the Director of the [Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale \(LACET\)](#), a research initiative founded by Burkinabe, Malian and Swedish colleagues to create a common research environment around engaged anthropology (see elsewhere in this newsletter).

He is one of the Editors-in-Chief of [kritisk etnografi: Swedish Journal of Anthropology](#), a peer-review journal owned and published by [Svenska Sällskapet för Antropologi och Geografi](#), and Series Editor of [Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology](#) and [Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies](#). He is a member of the scientific council of [Afrique contemporaine](#), and corresponding member of [Cahiers d'Études africaines](#).

For six years (2007-2013), he was President of the [Association for the Anthropology of Social Change and Development \(APAD\)](#), and for four years (2013-2017), President of the [Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography \(SSAG\)](#). President-Elect since 2017, Hagberg now takes over as MANSA President:



*I am honoured to serve as MANSA's President for the coming years. We have lots of initiatives to develop while consolidating the many achievements and legacies of MANSA. Key areas where I would like to put my energy concern training and mentoring of researchers and research institutions in West Africa, as well as fostering ongoing conversations within the MANSA research community through virtual seminars and roundtables in order to complement in-situ and in-person meetings.*



## Président nouveau de MANSA Sten Hagberg

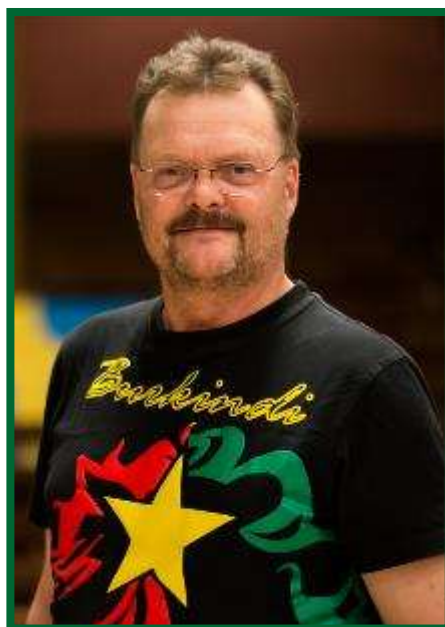
Sten Hagberg est professeur d'anthropologie culturelle à l'Université d'Uppsala. Depuis 1988, il mène des recherches anthropologiques au Burkina Faso et depuis 2008 également au Mali. Il est titulaire d'une thèse de doctorat (1998) sur le règlement des conflits entre agriculteurs et éleveurs au Burkina Faso, mais il a travaillé depuis ce temps sur un large éventail de thèmes et de sujets. De nos jours, ses recherches portent sur la culture politique, la démocratie municipale, le développement local et la lutte populaire. Hagberg est directeur du Forum for Africa Studies de l'Université d'Uppsala, un centre interdisciplinaire dont le but est de soutenir la recherche de l'Université d'Uppsala en Afrique, sur et avec l'Afrique, et de faciliter les contacts et les échanges de recherche entre les départements ainsi qu'en dehors de l'université. Le Forum for Africa Studies mène des projets de recherche, organise des conférences et des tables rondes et accueille sa série de séminaires, le Friday seminar in African studies. De plus, il organise régulièrement des rencontres internationales. Le Forum for Africa Studies est le co-organisateur de la 11e Colloque internationale de l'Association des Études Mandé à Uppsala du 16 au 20 juin 2021.

Théoriquement et pratiquement, Hagberg s'intéresse aux développements méthodologiques, y compris la recherche sur le terrain dans les terrains non sécurisés et les défis épistémologiques de la recherche en équipe. Un intérêt particulier est la recherche qui aborde les défis de société. Il agit en tant que directeur de thèse et responsable de recherche. Dans la période 2017-2022, il dirige des programmes de recherche au Mozambique où cinq doctorants en anthropologie culturelle de l'Université Eduardo Mondlane de Maputo sont formés. En 2018-2020, il dirige le programme "Burkina Faso vu d'en bas" en collaboration avec l'Institut de Sciences des Sociétés de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, et mène actuellement des recherches sur la

crise politique malienne en collaboration avec l'Institut des Sciences Humaines de Bamako. Hagberg est le directeur du Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale (LACET), une initiative de recherche fondée par des collègues burkinabés, maliens et suédois pour créer un environnement de recherche commun autour de l'anthropologie engagée (voir ailleurs dans ce bulletin).

Il est l'un des rédacteurs en chef de kritisk etnografi: Swedish Journal of Anthropology, une revue à comité de lecture détenue et publiée par Svenska Sällskapet för Antropologi och Geografi, et éditeur de deux séries: Uppsala Studies in Cultural Anthropology et Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies. Il est membre du conseil scientifique de Afrique contemporaine et membre correspondant des Cahiers d'Études africaines.

Pendant six ans (2007-2013), il a été président de l'Association pour l'anthropologie du changement social et du développement (APAD), et pendant quatre ans (2013-2017), président de la Société suédoise d'anthropologie et de géographie (SSAG). Président élu depuis 2017, Hagberg prend désormais la relève en tant que président de MANSA:



*Je suis honoré d'être président du MANSA pour les années à venir. Nous avons beaucoup d'initiatives à développer tout en consolidant les nombreuses réalisations et héritages de MANSA. Les domaines clés dans lesquels je voudrais mettre mon énergie concernent la formation et le mentorat des chercheurs et des instituts de recherche en Afrique de l'Ouest, ainsi que la promotion des conversations en cours au sein de la communauté de recherche MANSA à travers des séminaires virtuels et des tables rondes afin de compléter des réunions in-situ et face à face.*

## LACET — Sten Hagberg

In 2019, a new research lab was created by three main research institutions – the Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University (Sweden), the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (Burkina Faso), and the Institut des Sciences Humaines (Mali) – working in West Africa. The new lab is entitled Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale (LACET, <https://www.lacet.org/>) and brings together twenty engaged researchers as members.

The purpose is to support research in social and human sciences, particularly comparative, engaged and transnational anthropology in Africa or in relation to African issues, including the diaspora. The LACET promotes the collective endeavor as to complement the individual research trajectories. A specific focus is to encourage and train female researchers in West Africa.

While the LACET is the articulation of many years of joint research, the formalization into a research lab is a step forward in consolidating research and research training. The LACET Virtual Seminar is open to the public. The LACET is led by a Coordination composed of Sten Hagberg (Director), Dr. Ludovic Kibora, and Baba Coulibaly.



En 2019, un nouveau laboratoire de recherche a été créé par trois principales institutions de recherche – le Forum for Africa Studies de l'Université d'Uppsala (Suède), l'Institut des Sciences des Sociétés du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (Burkina Faso), et l'Institut des Sciences Humaines (Mali) – travaillant en Afrique de l'Ouest. Le nouveau laboratoire s'intitule Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale (LACET, <https://www.lacet.org/>) et regroupe vingt chercheurs engagés comme membres.

L'objectif est de soutenir la recherche en sciences sociales et humaines, en particulier l'anthropologie comparative, engagée et transnationale en Afrique ou en relation avec les questions africaines, y compris la diaspora. Le LACET promeut l'effort collectif pour compléter les trajectoires de recherche individuelles. Un objectif spécifique est d'encourager et de former des chercheuses en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Si le LACET est l'articulation de nombreuses années de recherche conjointe, la formalisation en laboratoire de recherche est un pas en avant dans la consolidation de la recherche et de la formation à la recherche. Le séminaire virtuel LACET est ouvert au public. Le LACET est dirigé par une Coordination composée de Sten Hagberg (Directeur), Dr Ludovic Kibora et Baba Coulibaly.



Malian LACET team / Equipe malienne LACET, Bamako, Mali (Institut des Sciences Humaines), September 2020.



Burkinabè LACET team / Equipe burkinabè LACET, Léo, Burkina Faso, August 2019.



## LACET (continued)

A particular focus of LACET is the promotion of women scholars / researchers.

Un accent particulier de LACET est la promotion des femmes universitaires / chercheuses.

Left to right / De gauche à droite:  
Adjara Konkobo, Bintou Koné,  
Pascaline Kaboré and Eulalie Zongo.

## 2020 Conference Update

As already announced, the MANSA Conference at Uppsala University has been postponed to 16-20 June 2021, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We still nurture the ambition to organise an in-situ and in-person conference in Uppsala as the first option. Yet if public health authorities in Sweden, and Uppsala University leadership, still maintain public health and travel restrictions in late March 2021, we will organise the MANSA Conference online 16-20 June 2021. The theme of the Conference “Beyond Crisis and Insecurity: Cultural Creativity, Popular Struggle, and Social Change in West Africa” is more urgent than ever. More info at the Conference web site: <https://mansaconference2020.home.blog/>

## Mise à jour de la conférence 2020

Comme déjà annoncé, la conférence MANSA de l'Université d'Uppsala a été reportée du 16 au 20 juin 2021, en raison de la pandémie COVID-19 en cours. Nous nourrissons toujours l'ambition d'organiser une conférence in situ et en personne à Uppsala comme première option. Pourtant, si les autorités de santé publique en Suède et la direction de l'Université d'Uppsala maintiennent toujours les restrictions de santé publique et de voyage à la fin mars 2021, nous organiserons la conférence MANSA en ligne du 16 au 20 juin 2021. Le thème de la conférence «Au-delà de la crise et de l'insécurité: culturel La créativité, la lutte populaire et le changement social en Afrique de l'Ouest » est plus urgente que jamais. Plus d'informations sur le site Web de la conférence: <https://mansaconference2020.home.blog/>



Joseph Hellweg (president), Sten Hagberg (president-elect), and Rosa de Jorio (editor-in-chief of *Mande Studies*), organizers of the 2020 MANSA Conference—postponed until June 2021.



## MANSA on Facebook

The [Official Facebook page of MANSA](#) publishes information about events as well as ongoing developments in West Africa. We publish between 5 to 10 posts per week. Currently we have some 700 followers. The Facebook page complements discussion and debate on the listserv, as it aims to share news articles too. The Facebook page is an efficient way to follow what MANSA and its community of scholars are doing on a day-to-day basis.



La [page Facebook officielle du MANSA](#) publie des informations sur les événements ainsi que sur les développements en cours en Afrique de l'Ouest. Nous publions entre cinq et dix articles par semaine. Actuellement, nous avons quelque 700 abonnés. La page Facebook complète la discussion et le débat sur le listserv, car elle vise également à partager des articles de presse. La page Facebook est un moyen efficace de suivre ce que MANSA et sa communauté de chercheurs font au quotidien.



**Mande Studies Association**  
**[www.mandestudies.org](http://www.mandestudies.org)**

@MANSA25 · Organisation

## West African Dynamics / Dynamiques ouest-africaines (webinar)

Uppsala University

MANSA

Welcome to Webinar / Bienvenue au séminaire

**West African Dynamics /  
Dynamiques ouest-africaines**

co-hosted by  
Forum for Africa Studies and Mande Studies Association

Thursday 28 January / jeudi le 28 janvier 2021, 14:00-18:00 CET

Join: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/64816428128>  
Meeting ID: 648 1642 8128  
Simultaneous translation / Traduction simultanée

**PROGRAMME**  
14:00 – Zoom in: Technical introduction and simultaneous translation services  
14:15 – Introductory Remarks  
14:25 – 15:55 – Round-table 1: Prospects for Peace, Democracy and Gender Equality? Collaborative Research, Grounded Policy, and Citizen Mobilization  
16:15-17:45 – Round-table 2: African Studies in the Global Village? Transdisciplinarity and the Decolonization of Methodologies and Epistemologies  
17:45 – 18:00 – Closing Remarks

[www.africastudies.uu.se](http://www.africastudies.uu.se)  
<https://www.mandestudies.org>

Join our Webinar on West African Dynamics on Thursday 28 January 2021, 14.00-18.00 (Central European Time), with two round-tables focusing on the prospects for peace, democracy and gender equality; and on the relevance of African Studies in a globalized world.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/64816428128>

Invitation: <https://www.lacet.org/.../Webinar-West-African-Dynamics...>

Detailed programme: <http://www.afrikastudier.uu.se/Download.aspx?dialog=false&id=WB8lvRN7451%3d>

### Round-table 1: Prospects for Peace, Democracy and Gender Equality? – Collaborative Research, Grounded Policy, and Citizen Mobilization

**Chair:** Kajsa Hallberg Adu, Nordic Africa Institute (Sweden).

**Participants:** Carole Ammann, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands); William Moseley, Macalester College (USA); Ludovic Kibora, Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (Burkina Faso); Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University (USA); and Bissè Blanche Danielle Adoh, Université Peleforo Gon Coulibaly (Côte d'Ivoire).

### Round-table 2: African Studies in the Global Village? Transdisciplinarity and the Decolonization of Methodologies and Epistemologies

**Chair:** Véronique Simon, Uppsala University (Sweden).

**Participants:** Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Indiana University (USA); Baba Coulibaly, Institut des Sciences Humaines (Mali); Rosa de Jorio, University of North Florida (USA); Chérif Keïta, Carlton College (USA); and Alain Sissao, Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (Burkina Faso).



## Two Major Exhibitions (Interrupted) on West Africa's Middle Ages

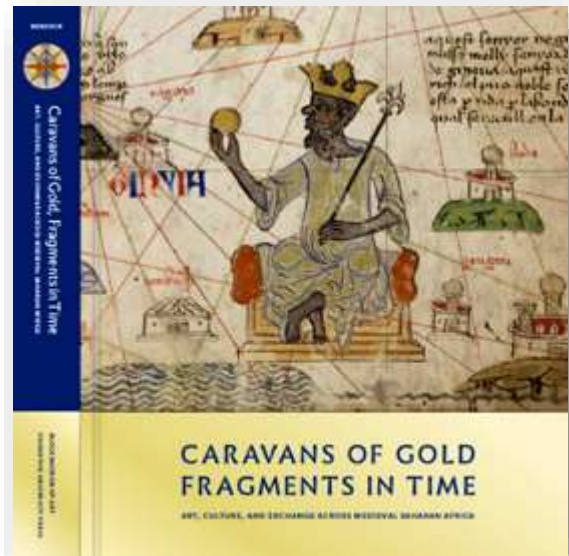
### ***Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time : Art, Culture, and Exchange Across Medieval Saharan Africa***

"This is the first major exhibition addressing the scope of Saharan trade and the shared history of West Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Weaving stories about interconnected histories, the exhibition showcases objects and ideas that connected at the crossroads of the medieval Sahara and celebrates West Africa's historic and under-recognized global significance. Presenting more than 250 artworks spanning five centuries and a vast geographic expanse, the exhibition features unprecedented loans from partner institutions in Mali, Morocco, and Nigeria, many of which will be seen in North America for the first time." (*from Northwestern/Block Museum of Art exhibition flyer*)

The exhibition was curated by Kathleen Bickford Berzock, Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University (previously curator of African art, Art Institute of Chicago), and involved years of planning. Contributing institutions in Mali include the Musée national du Mali, Centre culturel du Kangaba, Institut des sciences humaines, and Institut des hautes études et des recherches islamiques Ahmed Baba (IHERI-AB). The exhibition was designed around archaeological items—'fragments'—from former sites of trans-Saharan trade, particularly of gold and salt, with traded objects coming as well from as far as China and Britain.

The Block Museum launched the exhibition January 26 – July 21, 2019, and created an extensive [website](#). It then traveled to the Aga Khan Museum (Toronto, Ontario), September 21, 2019 – February 23, 2020. It was to conclude at the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, April 8 – November 29, 2020. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic its opening was postponed, and it is now 'online only.' (See their exhibition [website](#).) A virtual opening took place November 19, 2020.

A substantial catalogue was published by the Block Museum and Princeton University Press (2019). It includes contributions from MANSA members Robert Launay and Ralph Austen.



**Contents:** Caravans of gold, fragments in time : an introduction / Kathleen Bickford Berzock — Uncertain fragments : a divination / Chris Abani — Views from afar : reading medieval trans-Saharan trade through Arabic accounts / Robert Launay — The sources of gold : narratives, technology, and visual culture from the Mande and Akan worlds / Ralph A. Austen — Fragments at risk : the protection of cultural heritage in Mali, Morocco, and Nigeria / Mamadi Dembélé, Ahmed Ettahir, Youssef Khiara, and Yousuf Abdallah Usman — The Sahara as a cultural zone / Cynthia Becker — Sijilmasa's role in the African gold trade / Ronald A. Messier and Abdallah Fili — Essouk-Tadmekka : a southern Saharan center of the early Islamic camel caravan trade / Sam Nixon — Gao, a middle Niger city in medieval trade / Mamadou Cissé — Urbanization and trade networks in the inland Niger Delta / Mamadi Dembélé — Politics and trade in medieval Northern Nigeria / Detlef Gronenborn — Gold, ivory, and copper, materials and arts of trans-Saharan trade / Sarah M. Guérin — Dinars as historical texts : documenting the African gold trade / Ronald A. Messier — Gold processing at the early Islamic market town of Tadmekka, Mali : preliminary results from experimental replication / Gianluca Pastorelli, Marc Walton, and Sam Nixon — Medieval glass bead production and exchange / Adidemi Babatunde Babalola — The written word : Islamic literacy and Arabic manuscripts in West Africa / Mauro Nobili — Red gold : things made of copper, bronze, and brass / Raymond Silverman — Gnawa material culture : innovation across the Sahara / Cynthia Becker — Saharan crossing : the realities of migration today / Galya Ben-Arieh.

Screen shots from the virtual opening of *Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time* – National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, November 19, 2020 (M. Tiede)



Bronze figure, late 13th-14th century, possibly from Ile-Ife; found at Tada, Nigeria. Collection: National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Abuja, Nigeria.



Equestrian ceramic figure (detail), Djenné, Mopti region, Mali, 13th-15th century. Collection: National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.



Glass fragments excavated at Essouk-Tadmekka, Mali. Collection: Institut des sciences humaines, Mali.



Curator Kathleen Bickford Berzock and exhibition collaborators at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 2019.



## *Sahel : Art and Empires on the Shores of the Sahara*

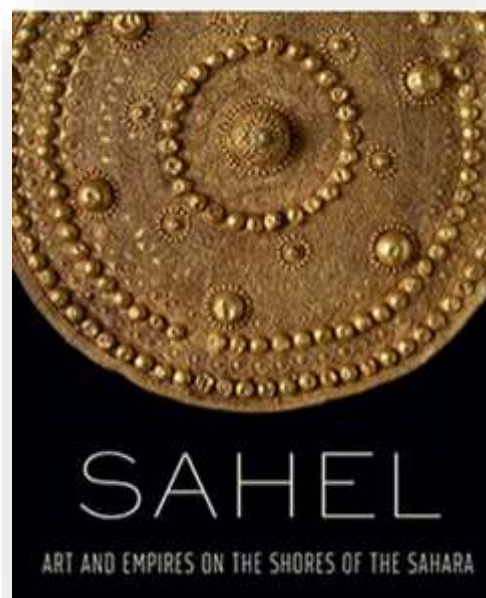
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, January 30 - May 10, 2020; extended to October 26, 2020

From the exhibition [website](#): “From the first millennium, the western Sahel—a vast region in Africa just south of the Sahara Desert that spans what is today Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger—was the birthplace of a succession of influential polities. Fueled by a network of global trade routes extending across the region, the empires of Ghana (300–1200), Mali (1230–1600), Songhay (1464–1591), and Segou (1640–1861) cultivated an enormously rich material culture.

“*Sahel: Art and Empires on the Shores of the Sahara* is the first exhibition of its kind to trace the legacy of those mighty states and what they produced in the visual arts. The presentation brings into focus transformative developments—such as the rise and fall of political dynasties, and the arrival of Islam—through some two hundred objects, including sculptures in wood, stone, fired clay, and bronze; objects in gold and cast metal; woven and dyed textiles; and illuminated manuscripts.

“Highlights include loans from the region's national collections, such as a magnificent ancient terracotta equestrian figure (third through eleventh century) from the Institut de Recherches en Sciences Humaines, University of Niamey, Niger; and a dazzling twelfth-century gold pectoral that is a Senegalese national treasure, from the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire, in Dakar.”

The exhibition was curated by Alisa LaGamma, Ceil and Michael E. Pulitzer Curator in Charge of the Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She had planned to participate in MANSA's 2020 conference in Uppsala regarding the exhibition. A contribution by her follows.



The exhibition catalogue (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2020) includes contributions by MANSA's David C. Conrad, Roderick McIntosh, and Paulo F. de Moraes Farias, as well as curator LaGamma and others. *Sahel* was [listed](#) as a 'best of show' exhibition, and its catalog was [cited](#) as one of 2020's best art books, by Holland Cotter of the *New York Times*.

**Contents:** Introduction / Alisa LaGamma — Local perceptions of early times : odes to Sahelian empires / David C. Conrad — On the shoreline of history : the state of archaeology in the Sahel / Roderick McIntosh and Mamadou Cissé — Pre-Islamic artistic patronage / Alisa LaGamma — Islam in the West African Sahel / Paulo F. de Moraes Farias — Architecture in focus : four Sahelian landmarks / Giulia Paoletti — Sahelian diasporas : migrations from ancient Ghana and Mali / Alisa LaGamma — Collecting the Sahelian past : myth building and primary sources / Yaëlle Biro and Ibrahima Thiaw — From the rise of Songhay to the fall of Segou / Alisa LaGamma — Praying for life / Souleymane Bachir Diagne.

Many years in the making, “Sahel: Art and Empires on the Shores of the Sahara” opened at the end of last January only to be disrupted by an unprecedented global crisis a month into its launch. The project was developed as part of the lineup of special initiatives planned to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s founding. This international collaboration with an interdisciplinary team of specialists and cultural institutions in Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger was sparked by one of many conversations with archaeologist Roderick McIntosh in New York City nearly eight years ago. Meetings with museum directors, curators, researchers, and government ministers in Dakar and Niamey followed. In parallel, curators and archivists in France were enlisted in searches of collection databases and storerooms at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and Musée du Quai Branly for works necessary to bring to life a many-layered history.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the project’s principal advisors assembled in Williamstown, Massachusetts to workshop the catalogue essays and discuss the content in development at the Clark Art Institute. Team Sahel’s weekend retreat was memorable for the arrival of that year’s first snow and the esprit de corps of its eminent participants that included Ralph Austen, Mamadou Cissé, David Conrad, Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Mamadou Diouf, Paolo Moraes de Farias, Joseph Hellweg, Roderick McIntosh, Giulia Paoletti, Abdourahmane Seck, and Ibrahima Thiaw. On that occasion Met architects presented its exhibition design as a work in progress. That physical presentation was conceived as an introduction to the western Sahel as a global crossroads through the lens of major landmarks by its visual artists. Its structure sought to present complex historical content and paid tribute to the highly original Sahelian monuments ranging from prehistoric tumuli to adobe architecture.

In the months that followed, countless logistical challenges were addressed, from the suspension of cargo flights out of Niamey to the shipment by sea and three-month voyage of an 8,000-pound stone megalith from the entrance of IFAN Dakar to that of the exhibition. A summer and early fall devoted to writing exhibition texts benefited from the generous editorial review by David Conrad and David Robinson. By early December Oumy Mbaye and Mahoumet Traoré, doctoral candidates in archaeology at Cheikh Anta Diop University, joined the Metropolitan’s team for a six-month residency to participate in preparations to install the exhibition

and engage in educational outreach. The exhibition launch brought together the leaders of the major lending institutions from the Sahel: Oumarou Amadou Ide, Chef du Département d’Art et d’Archéologie of IRSH in Niger; Daouda Keita, Director of the National Museum of Mali; Mamadou Hadya Kane, Directeur Général de l’Office National des Musées of Mauritania; Abdoulaye Touré, IFAN/Université Cheikh Anta Diop; and Abdel Kader Haidara of the Mamma Haidara Library.

Among the gallery installation’s many striking features was its central axis – a grand avenue of equestrian figures evocative of a cavalry spanning the eras of the ancient Ghana empire to that of the Bamana Segou state. The works came to life to sounds of the region’s dynamic contemporary performers. This culminated with master kora players Toumani Diabate and Ballake Sissoko’s *New Ancient Strings*, and included a listening station devoted to griot-inspired performance as well as the joyous sounds of Jenne’s citizenry resurfacing its Great Mosque. A highlight of the programming planned was a performance by Baaba Maal, which took place to a full house only days before all of New York City closed down.

The beauty and power of “Sahel” was transcendent for some 80,000 visitors who were able to experience it. Those exposed to its radiance were connected to the meaningful nature of a collaboration that foregrounded the achievements of brilliant creative ingenuity and an impressive body of scholarship that immeasurably enriches and transforms our understanding of its significance. From March until the end of August the installation sat in a shuttered Metropolitan while life in New York City came to a grinding halt and months later a coup took place in Mali. We were able to extend the loans through October and reopen for the early fall to a transformed world. In that context I had the opportunity to sit in the galleries and engage in a virtually broadcast interview with Manthia Diawara, who shared his deep personal reflections on the exhibition’s content. Exhibitions are ephemeral and sadly “Sahel” has now been dismantled. The partnerships the project forged will be enduring, however, and the narratives it addressed are more relevant than ever to conversations of the intertwined nature of Africa’s history and that of the U.S.

Alisa LaGamma

Cecil and Michael E. Pulitzer Curator in Charge  
Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY



Installation views of

## ***Sahel***

*Photos: Anna-Marie Kellen, Imaging  
Department, The Metropolitan Museum  
of Art*



## Some New Members / Quelques nouveaux membres

This is intended as a sampling of recently joined members. Several of these descriptions are as provided in the user profiles on the MANSA website. We are aware of a lack of balance here, from several sources: there is no formal way to know that someone is a new member (as versus a lapsed member who is now renewing); some members (especially newer ones) are not subscribed to the MANSA listserv, where the call for newsletter contributions was issued; and Africa-based members generally do not have a user profile on the MANSA website because of a separate system for paying membership.

Please feel free to send information about yourselves to [m-tiede@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-tiede@northwestern.edu), for inclusion in a future issue – either to be noted as a new member, or for member updates.



Voici un échantillon de membres récemment rejoints. Plusieurs de ces descriptions sont fournies dans les 'profils d'utilisateurs' sur le site Web de MANSA. Nous sommes conscients d'un manque d'équilibre ici, provenant de plusieurs sources: il n'y a aucun moyen formel de savoir qu'une personne est un nouveau membre (et pas un membre caduc qui vient de renouveler l'adhésion); certains membres (en particulier les plus récents) ne sont pas abonnés à la liste de diffusion MANSA, où l'appel à contributions au bulletin a été lancé; et les membres basés en Afrique n'ont pas généralement un 'profil d'utilisateur' sur le site Web du MANSA en raison d'un système distinct pour payer l'adhésion.

N'hésitez pas à envoyer des informations vous concernant à [m-tiede@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-tiede@northwestern.edu), pour inclusion dans un prochain numéro — soit pour être noté en tant que nouveau membre, soit pour les mises à jour des membres.

### Dougoukolo Alpha Oumar Ba Konaré

Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO)

Psychologue clinicien et Chargé de cours en langues et sociétés peules à l'INALCO, France. Ses travaux ont porté sur l'étude du fait religieux, la psychologie interculturelle, et les problématiques identitaires dans la nation peule. ([profile](#), [The Conversation](#))

### Jacien (Jay) Carr

"I am a Ph.D. student with the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, currently a Visiting Scholar with the African Studies Program at Indiana University. My research is a comparative historical analysis of the Poro and Sande Society in Liberia and Sierra Leone during the nineteenth century."

### Cathryn Evangeline Johnson

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Louisville; [faculty page](#).

"I am a political scientist with research interests in gender and politics, rural livelihoods and development, and colonial legacies. My current research project, based on a year of immersive field research in Mali and Burkina Faso, explores variation in women's political participation in the two countries with a dual focus on disaggregating French colonial legacy and understanding how



engagement in associational life and livelihood pursuits shapes women's contemporary political participation. In the fall of 2020, I began a tenure-track assistant professor position at the University of Louisville."

*Giving a try at spinning cotton with a Senufo village spinning group, Burkina Faso, 2017*

### Sanne Molenaar

"After having completed two BA's in Art History and African Languages and Cultures at Leiden University, the Netherlands, I am currently doing an MA in the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas at the University of East Anglia, UK. My research is focused on contemporary art in francophone West Africa. I am mainly interested in identity, the relation between art and politics, postcolonialism, changing traditions and migration."

### Ralph Ricardo

"I traced my matrilineal ancestry back to the Mende of Sierra Leone, and conduct research to help educate myself, my family, and others on the history and culture of Mande peoples."

**Patrick Royer**

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

“Research interests: Anthropological history of the colonial period in West Africa with a focus on Burkina Faso / Local religious and prophetic movements in Burkina Faso, Mali and Cote d'Ivoire.”

**Elizaveta Volkova**

Institut des mondes africains

« J'ai soutenu, en 2018, une thèse de doctorat consacrée aux relations à plaisanterie chez les Mandinka et Joola en Casamance (Sénégal). »



## Member Updates / Mise à jour des membres

**Carole Ammann** (Department of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam) has received a Postdoctoral mobility fellowship with the research project: *Doing Fatherhood in the 21st Century: Connecting the Global North and the Global South*, by the Swiss National Science Foundation (duration 2 years).

**Recent publications:**

- Ammann, Carole (2020): *Women, Agency, and the State in Guinea: Silent Politics*. London: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Women-Agency-and-the-State-in-Guinea-Silent-Politics-1st-Edition/Ammann/p/book/9780367189594>
- Ammann, Carole (2018): Political Parties and Participation: Guinea. In: *Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures (EWIC)*. Brill online. [https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/encyclopedia-of-women-and-islamic-cultures/\\*-COM\\_002159](https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/encyclopedia-of-women-and-islamic-cultures/*-COM_002159)
- Förster, Till and Carole Ammann (2018). African Cities and the Development Conundrum: Actors and Agency in the Urban Grey Zone. In: *International Development Policy* 10: 3-25.
- Ammann, Carole (2018). Challenges and Opportunities of Doing Fieldwork as a Woman on Women in Guinea. In: Ruth Jackson and Max Kelly (eds.): *Women Researching in Africa. The Impact of Gender*. London: Palgrave Macmillan: 217-234.
- <https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783319945019>

**Rosa de Jorio** (Professor of Anthropology, University of North Florida) has recently published:

De Jorio, Rosa. 2020. “Of Rumors and Transfers: The Short Life of Western-Educated Women’s Associations in

French Sudan (1955–1960).” *Kritisk Etnografi: Swedish Journal of Anthropology* 3 (1): 63-82.

De Jorio, Rosa. 2019. Conflict-related Gender-based Violence in Mali and the Limits of the Global System of Law. *Mande Studies*: 21: 33-54.

De Jorio, Rosa, and Sten Hagberg. 2019. Introduction: *Même Pas Peur!* Ethnographies of Security in the Sahel. *Mande Studies* 21:7–12.

**Coleman Donaldson** has been Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Hamburg since February 1, 2018 (ending November 2020). He maintains the research blog [ajami.hypotheses.org](http://ajami.hypotheses.org), and the Manding-language educational website [An ka taa](http://AnkaTaa.com), which also features his “Na baro kè” video series of street conversations, and his “Basic Bambara” videos and podcasts.

**Publications:**

- 2020. The role of Islam, Ajami writings, and educational reform in Sulemaana Kantè’s N’ko. *African Studies Review*:1-25.
- 2019. Linguistic and civic refinement in the N’ko movement of Manding-speaking West Africa. *Signs and Society*, 7(2):156-185.
- 2019. Book review: Beyond Jihad : the Pacifist Tradition in West African Islam. By Lamin Sanneh. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016. *Religious Studies Review* 45(2):217-218.

**Media interviews/appearances:**

- Interview on Language Teaching Inspiration podcast (2020, Feb. 1)
- Interview on RFI Mandenkan (2019, Oct. 27)
- Le mandingue écrit: YouTube, N’ko et Ajami. (Interview “Africa4” Blog of Libération - 2019, Aug. 18).
- Interview segment on Cherifla’s “N’ko Laseli” - (2018, May 30)

**Cornelia Giesing** (collaborator-researcher, Centro de História, Universidade de Lisboa) has published “The Wolf in the Sheepfold”: Narrations and Identities of the Bijaa, Conquering Subjects of the Ancient Kingdom of Kasa in Senegambia. Tribute to Stephan Bühnen (1950-2015). Also in French, as: « Le loup dans la bergerie » : Narrations et identités des sujets de l’ancien royaume de Kasa en Sénégal. In *Varia Historia* (Belo Horizonte), vol. 36, no. 71, May/Aug. 2020. Special issue. [https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci\\_issuetoc&pid=0104-877520200002&lng=pt&nrm=iso](https://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_issuetoc&pid=0104-877520200002&lng=pt&nrm=iso)

## Member Updates / Mise à jour des membres

(continued)

**Cornelia Giesing** (cont'd) — Presentation with similar title, but emphasis on slavery: « Le loup dans la bergerie » : Narrations et identités des sujets de l'ancien royaume de Kasa en Sénégal (panel 'História oral e experiências do tráfico e da escravidão'). I Simposio Internacional CACHEU CAMINHO DE ESCRAVOS, Histórias e memórias da escravidão e do tráfico na África Ocidental, Cacheu, Guiné-Bissau, 19-22 February 2020. (PowerPoint, French / Portuguese)

**Sten Hagberg** (Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Director of Forum for Africa Studies, Uppsala University) has co-published a series of joint books with colleagues in Burkina Faso and Mali on ongoing societal challenges, as well as co-edited with Rosa de Jorio a special issue of *Mande Studies*:

Hagberg, S., L.O. Kibora, S. Barry, Y. Cissao, S. Gnessi, A. Kaboré, B. Koné and M. Zongo 2019. Sécurité par le bas: Perceptions et perspectives citoyennes des défis de sécurité au Burkina Faso. Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies 5. Uppsala: Uppsala University.

De Jorio, R. and S. Hagberg 2019. Dossier: Même pas peur! Ethnographies of Security in the Sahel. Mande Studies: Journal of Mande Studies Association 21.

Hagberg, S., L.O. Kibora and G. Körling (éd.) 2019. Démocratie par le bas et politique municipale au Sahel. Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies 4. Uppsala: Uppsala University

Hagberg, S., L. Kibora, S. Barry, S. Gnessi and A. Konkobo 2018. 'Nothing will be as before': Anthropological perspectives on political practice and democratic culture in 'a new Burkina Faso'. Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies 3. Uppsala: Uppsala University.

Hagberg, S., L. Kibora, S. Barry, S. Gnessi and A. Konkobo 2017. Transformations sociopolitiques burkinabè de 2014 à 2016: Perspectives anthropologiques des pratiques politiques et de la culture démocratique dans "un Burkina nouveau". Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies 2. Uppsala: Uppsala University.

Hagberg, S., Y.F. Koné, B. Koné, A. Diallo and I. Kansaye 2017. Vers une sécurité par le bas?: Étude sur les perceptions et les expériences des défis de sécurité dans deux communes maliennes. Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies 1. Uppsala: Uppsala University.

**Barbara G. Hoffman** (Professor and Director of Anthropology, Cleveland State University) has published the chapter on family and kinship for the new (6<sup>th</sup>) edition of *Understanding Contemporary Africa*.

Her book, *Griots at War : Conflict, Conciliation, and Caste in Mande* (Indiana University Press, 2001) has just been published in French translation, as *La Guerre des Griots de Kita 1985 : conflits, conciliation, et caste au Mandé / Kita Jeliw ka Keleba 1985 : kele, kuma, ni Mande siya* (Presses universitaires du Sahel; La Sahélienne, 2000). It includes texts of speeches and songs in Bamanankan with parallel French translation, as well as an 'approbation' in French and Bamanankan by Kassim Koné, who worked with Hoffman three decades ago in translating the 'polished, subtle, archaic language' employed by the *jeliw*.

**Résumé:** *L'Assemblée de Djinns* de Massa Makan Diabaté raconte une version littéraire d'un combat pour la chefferie des griots du cercle du village de Woudi "au beau pays de Koumbia" qu'il désigna une confrontation des djinns. Sur la couverture de son roman on voit la photo de Makanjan Diabaté assis devant la belle porte du *jeliblon* de Kita, site des événements réels révélés et analysés dans cette étude ethnographique et ethnolinguistique des personnages, discours, chants, et danses de la célébration de la réconciliation des lignées des griots qui se querellaient, se maudissaient entre eux, et même s'entretuaient pendant trois ans avant le 7 avril 1985 quand les deux candidats pour la chefferie se sont données la main et la paix fut déclarée. Les *jeliw*, maîtres de la parole et gardiens du système de *danbe* qu'on appelle en français le caste, sont sur scène pour jouer leurs rôles: experts de l'art de parler en public, aussi du châtiement de ceux qui osent transgresser les règles que le *danbe* impose.





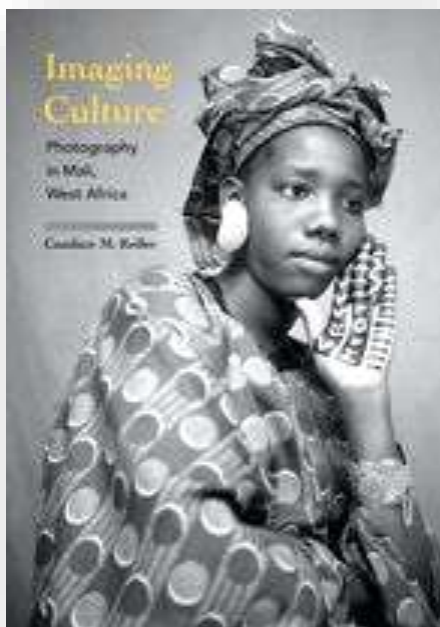
## Member Updates / Mise à jour des membres

(continued)

**Pascal James Imperato** is the author of a new book on Bamana art that will be released in January of 2021: *Spirits of the Red Savanna: Art and Culture of the Bamana People of Mali*. (New York: QCC Art Gallery/ The City University of New York, 2021); 342 pages, map, bibliography, 337 color and black and white photographs, and essays by Gavin H. Imperato and Austin C. Imperato. He is currently Distinguished Service Professor and Founding Dean, School of Public Health, and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University.

**Candace Keller** is directing The Archive of Malian Photography (AMP), a digital preservation and access project funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities and the British Library that is available [online](#), with text in French/English. (This project was described in *MANSA Kibaru* 71, page 27.) Thus far, the collection includes 120,000+ negatives from the archives of five Malian photographers: Abdourahmane Sakaly, Mamadou Cisse, Adama Kouyate, Malick Sidibe, and Tijani Sitou. The digitized archive of Felix Diallo will be added soon.

Keller's book, *Imaging Culture : Photography in Mali, West Africa*, is scheduled to be published by Indiana University Press in July 2021.



Cover—portrait by Tijani Sitou.

**Dolores Koenig** (Professor Emerita of Anthropology, American University, Washington, DC) and colleagues are authors of a special issue of *Études Maliennes*, Numéro special 87 (Bamako : Institut des Sciences Humaines, Avril 2020). The theme is « Dynamiques du changement dans la zone du barrage de Manantali au Mali trente ans après le recasement. » These articles are based on a joint research project between American University (Washington DC) and the Institut des Sciences Humaines (Bamako) funded by the US National Science Foundation (BCS-1560543).

The research looked at the changes at Manantali since the forced resettlement in 1986-87 of 8500 people who had lived in the reservoir area of the Manantali dam. Very preliminary versions of these articles were presented by the authors at the 2017 MANSA conference in Grand Bassam in a double panel, entitled Identité et société à Manantali au Mali : trente ans après la réinstallation / Identity and Society in Manantali, Mali: Thirty Years after Resettlement. The panels were jointly chaired by Dolores Koenig and Tiéman Diarra.

### Contents of the issue:

- Avant-propos / Moussa Sow, Baba Coulibaly
- Introduction / Tiéman Diarra
- Trente ans plus tard : Satisfaction et niveau de vie parmi les populations réinstallées par le barrage de Manantali / Dolores Koenig
- Prologomènes sur un avenir promis. Perceptions et perspectives des notables autour de deux ressources : l'eau et la terre / Tiéman Diarra
- La place des lieux de mémoire dans le grand récit du Bafing et ses conséquences sur les perceptions du recasement / Moussa Sow
- Pression foncière, mobilité et dynamique des groupes domestiques dans les villages recasés de la zone du barrage de Manantali / N'gna Traoré
- Les femmes dans l'économie domestique dans la zone du barrage de Manantali : Impacts et perspectives 30 ans après le recasement / Rokia Traoré
- Périmètre irrigué de Manantali, positionnement des acteurs et enjeux, 30 ans après le recasement / Kama Dembélé

## Member Updates / Mise à jour des membres

(continued)

**Frédéric Madore** (Banting Postdoctoral Fellow Center for African Studies & Sahel Research Group, University of Florida) is author of:

- Madore, Frédéric, and Louis Audet Gosselin. "Le religieux sur Internet et dans les NTIC au Burkina Faso." In *Rencontres religieuses et dynamiques sociales au Burkina Faso*, edited by Alice Degorce, Ludovic O. Kibora, and Katrin Langewiesche, 269–96. Dakar: Amalion, 2019. [http://www.amalion.net/catalogue\\_en/item/rencontres-religieuses-et-dynamiques-sociales-au-burkina-faso/](http://www.amalion.net/catalogue_en/item/rencontres-religieuses-et-dynamiques-sociales-au-burkina-faso/)
- Madore, Frédéric. "Francophone Muslim Intellectuals, Islamic Associational Life and Religious Authority in Burkina Faso." *Africa* 90, no. 3 (2020): 625–46. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0001972020000108>

**William Moseley** (Professor of Geography and International Studies, Macalester College) has a recent article:

Morgan, J. and W.G. Moseley 2020. "The Secret Is in the Sauce: Foraged Food and Dietary Diversity Among Female Farmers in Southwestern Burkina Faso." *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02255189.2020.1781600>

As of November 2019, Moseley serves on the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (**HLPE**), a scientific advisory board to the UN Committee on World Food Security. The Committee issued a draft report in early December 2020:

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/discussions/youth-engagement-employment-v0>



## Deux thèses de doctorat remarquables soutenues à Bamako /

### Two PhD theses in anthropology successfully defended in Bamako

**Almamy Sylla:** « C'est devenu si je savais » : les trajectoires de réinsertion des rapatriés maliens de la Côte d'Ivoire et de la Libye entre 2002 et 2017.

**N'gna Traoré:** Politique minière et gouvernance de l'orpaillage dans le Cercle de Kadiolo : enjeux, dynamiques et logiques d'acteurs.

Les anthropologues maliens N'gna Traoré et Almamy Sylla (tous les deux membres de MANSA) ont brillamment soutenu leurs thèses de doctorat le 21 juin 2019. Prof. em. Yaouaga Félix Koné était le directeur de thèse des deux candidats. Parmi les membres de jury, il y avait le président élu du Mansa Prof. Sten Hagberg et le point focal du Mansa au Burkina Faso Dr. Ludovic Kibora, en plus des collègues universitaires maliens Prof. Bréhima Bérédogo, Prof. em. Soli Koné et Dr Kawélé Togolola. Félicitations, chapeau aux nouveaux docteurs!!!



On Midsummer eve 21 June 2019, Uppsala anthropologist Prof. Sten Hagberg participated as Faculty Examiner and PhD Committee Member in two PhD theses at the Institut de pédagogie universitaire (ex-ISFRA) in Bamako, Mali, by Malian anthropologists N'gna Traoré and Almamy Sylla (both MANSA members). This marked an important step in a long-term commitment to Malian anthropology in collaboration with institutions like the Point Sud, the Institut des Sciences Humaines and the Institut de pédagogie universitaire (ex-ISFRA). Two strong theses on pertinent topics were successfully defended in the beautiful premises of the Kabala Campus, just outside the Malian capital.

*L'entrée principale au Campus de Kabala /  
Main entrance to the Kabala Campus  
(Photo: Bintou Koné)*

## Member Updates / Mise à jour des membres

(continued)

### Deux thèses de doctorat à Bamako / Two PhD theses in anthropology in Bamako



*Ludovic Kibora, Soli Koné,  
Almamy Sylla, Sten Hagberg,  
Yaouaga Félix Koné*



*Kawélé Togoloa, Ludovic  
Kibora, Bréhima Bérédogo,  
N'gna Traoré, Sten Hagberg,  
Yaouaga Félix Koné*

*(Photos: Bintou Koné)*

Nous avons appris que **Serge Noël Ouédraogo** a soutenu sa thèse de doctorat en histoire le 7 avril 2018 sur le sujet, « La migration des Burkinabè (Voltaïques) vers le Ghana (Gold Coast) de 1919 à 2010: origines, gouvernance migratoire et stratégies d'intégration » à l'université Ouaga I Pr Joseph Ki-Zerbo.

## Member Updates / Mise à jour des membres

(continued)

**Stephen Belcher** reports that an English version of the book *Le non de la Guinée* by **Lansiné Kaba** is now available, with a more cumbersome, but appropriate title: *The Day Guinea Rejected De Gaulle of France and Chose Independence*. It is a delightfully detailed account of the events leading up to the Referendum of 1958 on a new French Constitution and provisions for the colonies. Lansiné Kaba covers the politics in Paris (the threatened rebellion of the military in Algeria that brought down the 4th Republic) and in the colonies, and brings the period into vivid life. The book is available through Diasporic Africa Press, in New York. It includes illustrations, which were not part of the original edition.

Kaba, a founding member of MANSA, calls this a 'co-translation' that he worked on with Belcher around the time of Guinea's sixtieth anniversary of independence in 2018, while Kaba was Thomas Kerr Distinguished Career Professor at Carnegie Mellon University at Qatar. He describes it as an excellent example of two scholars interested in the same subject and working together according to the best dictates of scholarship. Belcher also found the process instructive and rewarding.

The first edition of *La Guinée dit "non" à de Gaulle* (cover title: *Le "non" de la Guinée à de Gaulle*) was published in 1989 (Paris : Editions Chaka). A revised and expanded edition was published in 2012 (Paris : Alfabarre).

The sixtieth anniversary of Guinea's independence brought renewed attention to Guinea's status as one of Africa's first independent countries, and to Kaba's book. He was [interviewed](#) by BBC for its Witness History series, and by Al-Jazeera. The publication of *Le non de la Guinée à de Gaulle* in English makes it newly available to a broader public.

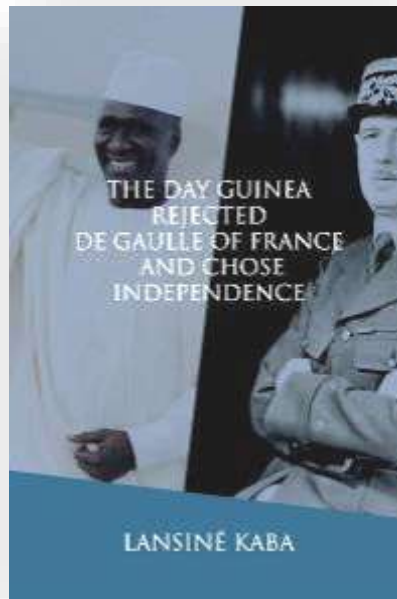


**Stephen Belcher** nous informe qu'une version anglaise du livre *Le non de la Guinée* de **Lansiné Kaba** est maintenant disponible, avec un titre plus lourd, mais convenable: *The Day Guinea Rejected De Gaulle of France and Chose Independence*. C'est un récit admirablement détaillé des événements qui ont mené au référendum de 1958 sur une nouvelle Constitution française et des dispositions pour les colonies. Lansiné Kaba couvre la politique à Paris (la menace de rébellion des militaires en Algérie qui a fait tomber la 4e République) et dans les colonies, et fait revivre la période. Le livre est disponible auprès de Diasporic Africa Press, à New York. Il comporte des illustrations qui ne faisaient pas partie de l'édition originale.

Kaba, membre fondateur du MANSA, appelle cela une "co-traduction" sur laquelle il a travaillé avec Belcher à l'occasion du soixantième anniversaire de l'indépendance de la Guinée en 2018, pendant que Kaba était Professeur titulaire de la Chaire Thomas Kerr à l'Université Carnegie Mellon au Qatar. Il décrit la traduction comme un excellent exemple de deux chercheurs intéressés par le même sujet et travaillant ensemble selon les meilleurs principes de la recherche. Belcher a également trouvé le processus instructif et enrichissant.

La première édition de *La Guinée dit "non" à de Gaulle* (titre de couverture: *Le "non" de la Guinée à de Gaulle*) a été publiée en 1989 (Paris : Editions Chaka). Une édition revue et augmentée a été publiée en 2012 (Paris : Alfabarre).

Le soixantième anniversaire de l'indépendance de la Guinée a attiré une attention renouvelée sur le statut de la Guinée en tant que l'un des premiers pays indépendants d'Afrique, et sur le livre de Kaba. Il a été [interviewé](#) par la BBC pour sa série Witness History et par Al-Jazeera. La publication de *Le non de la Guinée à de Gaulle* en anglais le rend nouvellement accessible à un public plus large.





## In Memoriam

Our beloved and enormously respected friend, colleague, and MANSA member **David Rawson** died on 16 September 2020.

I met and became friends with David during my field research in Mali, 1975-76 when he was serving as political affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bamako. Rawson's next tour in Africa was as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Somalia (1986-88), and back in Washington D.C., he was Director of the Office of West African Affairs in the State Department (1989-91). Rawson was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda 1983-96, including the genocide year of 1994 when he was evacuated before returning to provide emergency help and negotiate peace.

In his next post David served as an unusually popular U.S. Ambassador to Mali (1996-99) during the Alpha Konaré administration. In those memorable years, Barbmuso (Barbara Wechsberg) and I enjoyed the ambassador's hospitality at the residence in Bamako, as did several other MANSAdenw. In 1998, Rawson joined several MANSAdenw including Rod McIntosh, Kassim Koné, David Robinson, and Tim Geysbeek, to participate in a Mali seminar at Michigan State University on the occasion of the presentation of an Honorary Doctorate to President Alpha Konaré.

— David Conrad

David Rawson most recently taught at George Fox University in Oregon; here is their [announcement](#) of his death.



(Photo: George Fox University, News Releases, Sept. 18, 2020)

Our colleague **Noemi Steuer** of the Centre for African Studies, University of Basel, [passed away](#) on July 14, 2020.

Noemi was an actress in theater, television and film from her teens through the 1990s. She then obtained degrees in African studies (Cologne) and social anthropology (Basel). Her doctoral research was on social and psychological aspects of HIV and antiretroviral therapies in Mali. Her 2011 thesis, *Krankheit und Ehre: über HIV und soziale Anerkennung in Mali*, was published in 2012 (Transcript Verlag).



(Photo: Société suisse d'études africaines, Newsletter 2/2020)

Noemi and **Claudia Roth** (also a MANSA member, died 2012) developed the project "Construire Son Avenir." This concluded with [publication](#) of *Dealing with Elusive Futures: University Graduates in Urban Africa* (Transcript Verlag, 2017), co-edited with Michelle Engeler and Elisio Macamo, on African college graduates "negotiating the future" in conditions of uncertainty. Noemi was an editor (along with Claudia's husband, Manfred Perlik) of Claudia Roth's posthumous [publication](#), *Urban Dreams: Transformations of Family Life in Burkina Faso* (Berghahn, 2018), focused on Bobo-Dioulasso.

MANSAden Carole Ammann recalls participating on a panel at a conference in Bayreuth, Germany, with Noemi and the other editors of what would become *Dealing with Elusive Futures*. She describes that as "one of the many examples of how Noemi tried to bridge the gap between scholars working in the 'Global North' and the 'Global South.'" Noemi was also founding president of the [Fondation Oumou Dilly](#), supporting young African scholars.

Nous venons d'apprendre de la [disparition](#) de **Petionille Adja Kouamé**, membre de MANSA en 2018, le 23 juin 2018 à Paris. Elle était cadre de la Cellule de Coordination, de Suivi et de Réinsertion (CCSR), Côte d'Ivoire. Elle a étudié à l'université nationale de Cocody-Abidjan.



(Photo: Necrologie.ci)

## Membership Report

The former arrangement of regular, student, sponsoring, and sponsored members was replaced in 2017 with a new structure including Africa-based membership. (This idea emerged at a business meeting during the 2014 conference in Bobo-Dioulasso; see *MANSA Kibaru* 71, p. 26.) Marcel Yao Kouakou offered to serve as coordinator of memberships in Africa, with members sending dues to him via Orange Money, and an account at Ecobank. (MANSA's main account is at US Bank.)

The current membership levels are as follows:

Africa-based	US \$35 / 20,000 FCFA
Student	\$20
Student + journal	\$30
Regular (income < \$40,000)	\$40
Regular (income > \$40,000)	\$60
Bronze Level	\$100
Silver Level	\$200
Gold Level	\$300

As of the end of 2020 there are 112 members in sixteen countries, distributed geographically in Africa (40), Europe (23), and North America (49).



## Rapport d'adhésion

L'ancien arrangement de membres réguliers, étudiants, sponsors, et sponsorisés a été remplacé en 2017 par une nouvelle structure comprenant l'adhésion basée en Afrique. (Cette idée est née à une réunion d'affaires lors de la conférence de 2014 à Bobo-Dioulasso; voir *MANSA Kibaru* 71, p. 26.) Marcel Yao Kouakou a proposé de servir de coordinateur des adhésions en Afrique, les membres lui envoyant des cotisations via Orange Money, et un compte chez Ecobank. (Le compte principal de MANSA est à US Bank.)

Les niveaux d'adhésion actuels sont les suivants:

Basé en Afrique	US \$35 / 20,000 FCFA
Etudiant(e)	\$20
Etudiant(e) + revue	\$30
Régulier (salaire < \$40,000)	\$40
Régulier (salaire > \$40,000)	\$60
Niveau Bronze	\$100
Niveau Argent	\$200
Niveau Or	\$300

À la fin de 2020, il y a 112 membres dans seize pays, répartis géographiquement en Afrique (40), en Europe (23), et en Amérique du Nord (49).

### A big thank-you to these members who have contributed at the higher 'metallic' levels in 2019 and/or 2020:

Carole Ammann	Maria Grosz-Ngaté	Saidou N'Daou
Mary Jo Arnoldi	Joseph Hellweg	Hannah Nelson
Eric Charry	Barbara Hoffman	Aly Sanoh
Paul Davis	Jan Jansen	Noemi Steuer
Rosa de Jorio	Chérif Keïta	Marcia Tiede
Barbara Frank	Martin Klein	Jeanne Tougara

**Members / Membres 2020**

Bissè Blanche Danielle N'guessan  
Adoh  
Carole Ammann  
Amognima Armelle Tania Andoh  
Mary Jo Arnoldi  
Laura Arntson  
Ralph Austen  
Dougoukolo Alpha Oumar Ba  
Konaré  
Sidi Barry  
Wendy Bauchspies  
Laurence Becker  
Stephen Belcher  
Dianna Bell  
Heidi Bojsen  
Sarah Brett-Smith  
Joseph Brunet-Jailly  
Stephen Bulman  
Shelby Carpenter  
Eric Charry  
Yacouba Cissao  
David Conrad  
Sara Coulibaly  
Wayarga Coulibaly  
Inoussa Dabone  
Robyn d'Avignon  
Rosa de Jorio  
Kama Dembelé  
Coleman Donaldson  
Lamine Doumbia  
Sainey M. Drammeh  
Lucy Durán  
Rose de Lima Esso Nome  
Paulo Fernando De Moraes Farias  
Lorenzo Ferrarini  
Barbara Frank  
Susan Gagliardi  
Souleymane Ganou  
Josee Golay  
Alma Gottlieb  
Maria Grosz-Ngaté  
Sten Hagberg  
Joseph Hellweg  
Barbara Hoffman  
Joseph Hoover  
Pascal Imperato

Jan Jansen  
Michelle Johnson  
Cathryn Evangeline Johnson  
Ladji Kamaté  
Chérif Keïta  
Ludovic Kibora  
Martin Klein  
Dolores Koenig  
Bintou Koné  
Issiaka Koné  
Kassim Koné  
Franck Kouadio  
Yao Marcel Kouakou  
Koia Jean-Martial Kouamé  
Valérie Koffi Kra  
Alisa LaGamma  
Robert Launay  
Jenny Lorentzen  
Frédéric Madore  
Tamba M'bayo  
Mark McNaughton  
Patrick McNaughton  
Nicolas Médevielle  
Méké Méité  
Sanne Molenaar  
William Moseley  
Saidou N'Daou  
Tiécoura N'Daou  
Adouobo Christophe N'doly  
Hannah Nelson  
Syna Ouattara  
Serge Noël Ouédraogo  
Soumaila Oulalé  
Marc Gniondjibohoui Ounnebo  
Alix Pecquet  
Ralph Ricardo  
Charles Riley  
Alfredo Rojas  
Lydia Rouamba  
Patrick Royer  
Aïdas Sanogo  
Aly Sanoh  
Susan Schraiber  
Jonathan Aser Engelvin Seri  
Alain Sissao  
Ryan Skinner

Tone Sommerfelt  
Noemi Steuer  
Paul Stoller  
Almamy Sylla  
Tal Tamari  
Madina Thiam  
Marcia Tiede  
Jeanne Tougara  
Ya Eveline Johnson Touré  
Abou Traore  
Karim Traore  
Rokia Traoré  
Tiemoko Traoré  
Elizaveta Volkova  
Katja Werthmann-Kirscht  
Bruce Whitehouse  
Amy Williams  
Don Wright  
Kouakou Daniel Yahau  
Valy Yeo  
Cyrille Yoro  
Zidy Didié Armand Zadou

**Members / Membres 2019**

Bissè Blanche Danielle N'guessan  
Adoh  
Carole Ammann  
Amognima Armelle Tania Andoh  
Mary Jo Arnoldi  
Laura Arntson  
Shane Auerbach  
Ralph Austen  
Saley Boubé Bali  
Ladji Bamba  
Sidi Barry  
Wenda Bauchspies  
Laurence Becker  
Stephen Belcher  
Dianna Bell  
Jody Benjamin  
Joseph Brunet-Jailly  
Stephen Bulman  
Shelby Carpenter  
Jacien Carr

**Members / Membres 2019**

(cont'd)

Modibo Galy Cissé  
 David Conrad  
 Baba Coulibaly  
 Sara Cissoko Epse. Coulibaly  
 Wayarga Coulibaly  
 Yalamoussa Coulibaly  
 Robyn d'Avignon  
 Paul Davis  
 Rosa de Jorio  
 Baday Diane  
 Coleman Donaldson  
 Sainey Mbemba-Teeda Drammeh  
 De Bloganqueaux Soho Rusticot Droh  
 Lucy Durán  
 Lorenzo Ferrarini  
 Barbara Frank  
 Susan Gagliardi  
 Souleymane Ganou  
 Josee Golay  
 Alma Gottlieb  
 Maria Grosz-Ngaté  
 Sten Hagberg  
 Soubar Justin Wenceslas Hein  
 Joseph Hellweg  
 Barbara Hoffman  
 Robin Hoffman  
 Salifou Idani  
 Pascal Imperato  
 Jan Jansen  
 Cathryn Evangeline Johnson  
 Michelle Johnson  
 Kouakou Marcellin Kangah  
 Chérif Keïta  
 Mohamed Keita  
 Ludovic Kibora  
 Salif Kiendreogo  
 Martin Klein  
 Diola Konaté  
 Binetta Koné  
 Issiaka Koné  
 Kassim Koné  
 Moussa Koné  
 Franck Kouadio  
 Yao Marcel Kouakou

Ludovic Kibora  
 Salif Kiendreogo  
 Jean Félix Koménon  
 Diola Konaté  
 Issiaka Koné  
 Moussa Koné  
 Franck Kouadio  
 Yao Marcel Kouakou  
 Robert Launay  
 José Rivair Macedo  
 Peter Mark  
 Tamba M'bayo  
 Mark McNaughton  
 Patrick McNaughton  
 Méké Miété  
 Youssouf Miété  
 Séverin Konan Mlan  
 Léon Charles N'cho  
 Tiécoura N'Daou  
 Séraphin N'Goma  
 Kouamé Christophe N'guessan  
 Serge Noël Ouédraogo  
 Soumaila Oulalé  
 Marc Gniondjibohui Ounnebo  
 Charles Riley  
 Aïdas Sanogo  
 Aly Sanoh  
 Alain Sissao  
 Ryan Skinner  
 Tone Sommerfelt  
 Noemi Steuer  
 Tal Tamari  
 Marcia Tiede  
 Jeanne Toungara  
 Fatoumata Traoré  
 N'gna Traoré  
 Katja Werthmann-Kirscht  
 Bruce Whitehouse  
 Donald Wright  
 Kouakou Daniel Yahau  
 Valy Yeo  
 Habibatou Yoda  
 Cyrille Julien Sylvain Yoro

**Members / Membres 2018**

Pétionille Adja Kouamé  
 Ange Barnabé Adoffi  
 Bissé Adoh  
 Amognima Armelle Tania Andoh  
 Mary Jo Arnoldi  
 Laura Arnston  
 Shane Auerbach  
 Ladji Bamba  
 Wenda Bauchspies  
 Stephen Belcher  
 Dianna Bell  
 Jody Benjamin  
 El Hadji Ousmane Bore  
 Isaac Broune  
 Joseph Brunet-Jaillly  
 Brahim Camara  
 Fabou Camara  
 Shelby Carpenter  
 Maria Luisa Ciminelli  
 David Conrad  
 Inoussa Daboné  
 Mark Davidheiser  
 Robyn d'Avignon  
 Issiaka Diarra  
 Alain Trésor Diby  
 Baboucar Diouf  
 Coleman Donaldson  
 Sainey M. Drammeh  
 Lucy Durán  
 Paulo Farias  
 Mariame Tata Fofana  
 Susan Gagliardi  
 Daouda Gary-Toungara  
 Sten Hagberg  
 Joseph Hellweg  
 Barbara Hoffman  
 Joseph Hoover  
 Jan Jansen  
 Adrien Kamano  
 Banhouman Kamaté  
 Ludovic Kibora  
 Dadié Paul Koffi  
 Diola Konaté  
 Bintou Koné  
 Diakaridia Koné



**Members / Membres 2018**

(cont'd)

Issiaka Koné  
 Kassim Koné  
 Moussa Koné  
 Yaouaga Félix Koné  
 Adjara Konkobo  
 Theodore Konkouris  
 Aka Kouakou  
 Daniel Yao Kouakou  
 Yao Marcel Kouakou  
 Ohinéne Anasthasie Christelle  
 Koudou  
 Sory Kourouma  
 Valérie Koffi Kra  
 Bamba Ladji  
 Frederick Lamp  
 Robert Launay  
 Tamba M'bayo  
 Roderick McIntosh  
 Mark McNaughton  
 Méké Miété  
 Jesse Miller  
 Séverin Konan Mlan  
 Moussa Moumouni  
 Hannah Nelson  
 Séraphin N'Goma  
 Kouamé Christophe N'guessan  
 Serge Noël Ouédraogo  
 Tone Sommerfelt  
 Kando Amédée Soumahoro  
 Noemi Steuer  
 Tal Tamari  
 Guy Oscar Sical Toukpo  
 Jeanne Tougara  
 Ya Eveline Touré  
 Karim Traore  
 N'gna Traoré  
 Katja Werthmann-Kirscht  
 Bruce Whitehouse  
 Donald Wright  
 Cyrille Julien Sylvain Yoro  
 Kreпка Dorcas Zriga

**West African Research Center (WARC)  
 in need of funding**

Letter from WARA board member Hilary Hungerford, shared recently by Bill Moseley on MANSA's listserv:

As you may know, I serve on the governing board of the West African Research Association (<https://www.westafricanresearchassociation.org/>), a non-profit organization and the administrative arm of the **only** overseas American research center in all of sub-Saharan Africa, the West African Research Center (WARC). If you have been there, you will know that WARC is a vibrant hub of intellectual activity for students and researchers from the US, West Africa and beyond.

**WARC is at risk of having to close its doors in early 2021.** The cessation of all activities this year due to COVID-19 has led to a slow diminishing of WARC's financial resources with no hope in sight. We need your help to keep WARC open and capable of resuming its crucial programming once the world returns to normal.

Aside from being a center for intellectual activity in Dakar, WARC has partnered with organizations in the region to promote environmental sustainability, genocide awareness, gender representation, organic food resilience, and the memory of slave trade. For the last 30 years, WARC has been supporting local youth organizations by offering coaching and meeting spaces without charge. Without this space, these young people will have nowhere to go.

Please consider giving if you can. **You can donate online** (<https://www.westafricanresearchassociation.org/donate>) **or send a check to:**

West African Research Association  
 Boston University | African Studies Center  
 232 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215

Thank you for considering a donation to support scholarly exchange and research on West Africa. Together, we can ensure that important research by West African scholars and students reaches the broadest possible audience and that American scholars and students do not lose the support they need to conduct research in West Africa.

Sincerely,

Hilary Hungerford  
 she/her/hers  
 WARA Board Member  
 Associate Professor, Dept. of Earth Science  
 Utah Valley University  
[hilary.hungerford@uvu.edu](mailto:hilary.hungerford@uvu.edu)



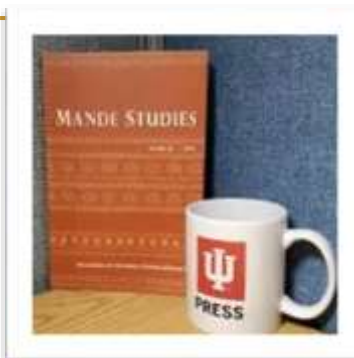
(From WARC Facebook page)

Note: as of early January 2021, WARA had obtained donations of \$86,000 toward their goal of \$100,000 for WARC funding.



## Mande Studies—journal update

*Mande Studies* is published annually by Indiana University Press. Current MANSA members (other than 'student without journal') receive that year's issue, as well as online access via [JSTOR](#) to all back issues. A password to access the journal online is supplied by JSTOR directly to individual members when the hard copy is mailed out, and is good for one year.



*Mande Studies* est publié chaque année par Indiana University Press. Les adhérents de MANSA (autre que «étudiant sans journal») reçoivent le numéro de cette année, ainsi qu'un accès en ligne via [JSTOR](#) à tous les numéros précédents. Un mot de passe pour accéder à la revue en ligne est fourni par JSTOR directement aux membres individuels lorsque la copie papier est envoyée par la poste, valable pour un an.

To submit your manuscripts to *Mande Studies*:

- Follow the style guide and submission guidelines, available on the websites of MANSA ([English](#) and [French](#)) and [Indiana University Press](#).
- Use the submission portal, <https://iupress.org/journals/mandestudies/>
- Or, send it via email to Rosa de Jorio, [rdejorio@unf.edu](mailto:rdejorio@unf.edu).
- Expect a process of review and resubmission.

Supporting Rosa in her role as editor-in-chief are Stephen Belcher, former editor and the 'institutional memory' of the journal; a new editor, Patrick Royer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), anthropologist and specialist on Burkina Faso, experienced in both French and American academic traditions; and various copy editors. Trish Lewis and Meridith Murray copy-edit English texts; and Nicolas Médevielle and N'goran Jacques Kouacou, MANSA members, are contributing/copy editors for French. Rosa hopes to further expand the editorial team.

Beginning with volume 21, the journal is structured around a thematic dossier and a section of general contributions or 'varia', with occasional open issues to facilitate wider participation. The dossier for **volume 21 (2019)** is "*Même pas peur! Ethnographies of security in the Sahel*." The volume's table of contents is available [here](#). Future issues are in preparation:

**volume 22 (2020):** open issue: feature on Chérif Keïta as inspiring teacher and mentor for a new generation of scholars, as well as contributions on a wide range of topics: agriculture, coming of age rituals; dress, body and culture; etc. (Coming in March 2021)

**volume 23 (2021):** "Contestation over the 'mining boom' in West Africa: actors, discourses, and governance," edited by Bettina Engels (Freie Universität Berlin).

Pour soumettre vos manuscrits à *Mande Studies*:

- Suivez le guide de style et les directives de soumission, disponibles sur les sites Web de MANSA ([anglais](#) et [français](#)) et [Indiana University Press](#).
- Utilisez le portail de soumission, <https://iupress.org/journals/mandestudies/>
- Ou, envoyez-le par courriel à Rosa de Jorio, [rdejorio@unf.edu](mailto:rdejorio@unf.edu).
- Attendez-vous à un processus d'examen et de nouvelle soumission.

Rosa est soutenue dans son rôle de rédactrice en chef par Stephen Belcher, ancien rédacteur et la «mémoire collective» de la revue; un nouvel éditeur, Patrick Royer (Institut polytechnique Rensselaer), anthropologue et spécialiste du Burkina Faso, expérimenté dans les traditions académiques françaises et américaines; et des éditeurs de copie. Trish Lewis et Meridith Murray sont des éditeurs de textes anglais; et Nicolas Médevielle et N'goran Jacques Kouacou, membres du MANSA, sont des rédacteurs contributeurs / éditeurs français. Rosa espère élargir encore l'équipe éditoriale.

À partir du volume 21, la revue est structurée autour d'un dossier thématique et une section de contributions générales ou «varia», aussi bien que des numéros ouverts de temps en temps afin de faciliter une participation plus large. Le dossier du **volume 21 (2019)** est "*Même pas peur! Ethnographies de la sécurité au Sahel*." La table des matières du volume est disponible [ici](#). Des futurs numéros sont en préparation:

**volume 22 (2020):** numéro ouvert: article sur Chérif Keïta en tant que professeur et mentor qui a inspiré une nouvelle génération de chercheurs, ainsi que des contributions sur un large éventail de sujets: agriculture; rites de passage; l'art du corps; etc. (Disponible en mars 2021)

**volume 23 (2021):** «Contestation sur le 'boom minier' en Afrique de l'Ouest: acteurs, discours et gouvernance,» édité par Bettina Engels (Freie Universität Berlin).

## Mande Studies—contributions

### Volume 19 (2017)

Editor's first word / Peter Mark

#### **Dossier: Reshaping political order in Mali**

Reshaping political order in Mali 2012 and after — what does a (post-) crisis stand for? / Johanna Siméant, Isaline Bergamaschi

Beyond vote-buying: personalized political ties and party activists' interpretations of gift-giving in the 2013 elections in Bamako / Laure Traoré

From the streets to the dialectics of national conference during and after the crisis: the double performativity of street mobilizations in Mali (2012-2014) / Julien Gavelle, Johanna Siméant

A strong northern anti-rebellion voice during the Mali crisis: the *Collectif des Ressortissants du Nord* (COREN) in Bamako / Marianne Saddier

Donors between a wake-up call and business as usual: talking about politics, imagining the state and revamping aid in Bamako, 2012-2013 / Isaline Bergamaschi

#### **Dossier: Forum on Contemporary Mande Marriage Trends**

Introduction: Forum on Contemporary Mande Marriage Trends / Barbara G. Hoffman

Living away from family is not good but living with it is worse: debating conjugality across generations of West African migrants in France / Aïssatou Mbodj-Pouye, Stefan Le Courant

The trouble with monogamy: companionate marriage and gendered suspicions in Bamako, Mali / Bruce Whitehouse

Popular music and expectations of love, marriage, and money in post-war Sierra Leone / Shelby Elizabeth Carpenter

*An jera cɛla* (we share a husband): song as social comment on polygamy in southern Mali / Lucy Durán

The Rachel Tanur Memorial Prize

### Volume 20 (2018) : First Fieldwork in West Africa

Editor's introduction / Peter Mark

Pourquoi j'ai choisi l'histoire de l'Afrique / Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch  
Discovering Africa / Martin Klein

Interviewing, intermediaries and documents: Senegal and Mali / David Robinson

We called it "fieldwork": stumbling along the trail of history in Senegambia / Don Wright

First fieldwork experience / Peter Mark

Setting out on the *Awase* path: conducting field research in Diola communities in Senegal / Robert M. Baum

Stalking oral artists in Mali: excerpts from a research journal, 24 May 1975-3 May 1976 / David C. Conrad

Adventures of the 'salt lady': memories of first-time fieldwork in Mali-Mauritania (1977-8) / E. Ann McDougall

Masks, puppets and masquerades: reflections on field research in Mali; 1978-1980 / Mary Jo Arnoldi

Processing privilege: reflections on fieldwork (early, and otherwise) among Beng villagers of Côte d'Ivoire / Alma Gottlieb



### Volume 21 (2019)

Foreword by the editor-in-chief / Rosa de Jorio

#### **Dossier: *Même pas peur! Ethnographies of security in the Sahel***

Introduction: *Même pas peur!* Ethnographies of security in the Sahel / Rosa de Jorio and Sten Hagberg

Ethnography in/of the red zone: challenges, frustrations and engagements / Sten Hagberg

Conflict-related gender-based violence in Mali and the limits of the global system of law / Rosa de Jorio

Réactions populaires aux attaques terroristes de janvier 2016 à Ouagadougou / Ludovic Ouhonyioué Kibora

La commune rurale à l'épreuve: des maires face aux insécurités multiples au Mali / Bintou Koné et Sten Hagberg

Enquête anthropologique et documentation visuelle sur la sécurité chez les Koglweogo au Burkina Faso / Heidi Boisen et Ismaël Compaoré

Faillite sécuritaire de l'état et résistance citoyenne au Mali / Yaouaga Félix Koné

#### **General Articles**

The seat of drought: religious thought and the Sahelian famine (1968-74) in Mali, West Africa / Dianna Bell

Negotiating national identity and local belonging in contemporary Liberia / Maarten Bedert

#### **Research Notes**

Environmental change and the cashew sector: a case study in Manding-speaking Côte d'Ivoire / Alfredo Rojas, Colin Thor West, Joseph Hellweg, Philip McDaniel, and Aaron Moody



## MANSA at African Studies Association (ASA)

**ASA, November 19-21, 2020** —held virtually

*(Individuals are included in this section according to their membership status for a given year. Apologies for any inadvertent omissions.)*

### MANSA-sponsored event:

**Roundtable (AfricaNow! session): West African Security Now: Recent Shifts in Peace & Democracy in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso and Their Regional Implications"** (chair: Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University. Presenters: Nii Aku-etteh, George Washington University; Sten Hagberg, Uppsala University; ) Rosa de Jorio, University of North Florida; Lamine Savané, Université de Ségou.

Bruce Whitehouse, Lehigh University, presented *"Is the Malian man viscerally polygamous?" Explaining persistent polygamy in Bamako, Mali*, in the panel Islam, Gender, and Sexuality in West Africa.

### ASA, November 21-23, 2019, Boston

Maria Grosz-Ngaté served as African Studies Association president in 2019, and delivered a presidential lecture, "Knowledge and Power: Perspectives on the Production and Decolonization of African/ist Knowledges."

*(Photo: Indiana University Bloomington, African Studies Program)*



### MANSA-sponsored events:

**Between the Lines: African Languages in Ajami Manuscripts and Quranic Education** (chair: Coleman Donaldson, University of Hamburg)

*Deciphering Soninke ajami manuscripts: glosses, languages, scholars* / Darya Ogorodnikova, University of Hamburg

*Ajami as an everyday writing practice* / Fiona McLaughlin, University of Florida

*New pathways to religious knowledge: music-derived literacy, technorality and the use of Wolof ajami in the Senegalese diaspora* / Gana Ndiaye, Boston University

**Being and Becoming Citizens on the Margins: Intersectionality and States of Democracy in West Africa** (chair: Rosa de Jorio, University of North Florida; co-chair: Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University; discussant: Laura Grillo, Georgetown University)

*Citizenship and ethnic stigmatization in contemporary security regimes in Mali and Burkina Faso* / Sten Hagberg, Uppsala University

*"The assailants screamed Allahu akbar": the power of the words and local practices after an armed attack in a Burkinabé municipality* / Bintou Koné, Institut des Sciences Humaines de Bamako *[unable to attend due to denied visa]*

*Gender-based violence, transitional justice, and the culture of dialogue in Mali* / Rosa de Jorio, University of North Florida

*Against onto-democracy: on "democratic becoming" by queer activists, healer-linguists, and hunters on the margins of West African states* / Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University

## MANSA at African Studies Association (ASA)

### ASA, November 21-23, 2019, Boston (continued)

**Roundtable: Scholar, Mansaba, and Master of the Word: Chérif Keïta's Life in Mande and African Studies** (chair: Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University; co-chair: Dianna Bell, University of Cape Town). Presenters: Bruce Whitehouse, Lehigh University; Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University; Ryan Skinner, Ohio State University; William Moseley, Macalester College. (With participation by Chérif Keïta himself! as well as numerous members of the audience.)

### Other member participation:

Barbara E. Frank, Stony Brook University: *Mapping the contemporary to untangle the past*; in a panel, Art and Evidence, chaired by Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi, Emory University

Jan Jansen, Leiden University, was part of an Author Meets Critic discussion on Michael Gomez's book, *African Dominion: A New History of Empire in Early and Medieval West Africa*

Yao Marcel Kouakou, Université Jean Lorougnon Guédé : *Belonging in Côte d'Ivoire : presidential positions on being and becoming Ivoirian, from 1960 to 2015*

Ryan Skinner, Ohio State University: Roundtable: Becoming African, Becoming Black: Theorizing Performance and Belonging between Africa and Its Diasporas

*Marcel Yao Kouakou (coordinator of membership in West Africa) and Joseph Hellweg (president), ASA 2019, Boston*



## MANSA at African Studies Association (ASA)

**ASA, November 21-23, 2019, Boston** (continued)

Roundtable: Scholar, Mansaba, and Master of the Word:  
Chérif Keïta's Life in Mande and African Studies



*Dianna Bell and Bruce Whitehouse*



*Chérif Keïta responding to audience tribute*



*Bill Moseley, Ryan Skinner and Joseph Hellweg*



*David Conrad and Chérif Keïta*

*(Photos: M. Tiede)*



## MANSA at African Studies Association (ASA)



*MANSA business meeting at ASA, Atlanta, 2018 (Photo: Sten Hagberg)*



*Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Barbara Hoffman  
(Photo: Marcia Tiede)*

### ASA, Nov. 16-18, 2017, Chicago

#### MANSA-sponsored events:

**Author Meets Critic: Twenty Years—and Counting—of Viewing the Global through the Local in Niumi, The Gambia**  
(chair: Asan Sarr, Ohio University)

Heather Streets-Salter, Northeastern University  
Matthew Carotenuto, Saint Lawrence University  
Kalala Ngalamulume, Bryn Mawr College  
Nancy Elaine Wright, Long Island University  
Donald Wright, Independent

**Local Language Movements of Trans-Saharan Africa** (chair: Coleman Donaldson, University of Pennsylvania;  
discussant: Derek Peterson, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor)

*Pulaar language activism's fledgling mediascape: bringing a minority language into the media and entertainment business in a globalized 'Système D'* / John Hames, University of Florida

*'N'ko is (not) Maninka': Manding language activism across Mali, Guinea and Burkina* / Coleman Donaldson, University of Pennsylvania

*Moroccan language activists and the specter of comparison* / Kristin G. Hickman, University of Chicago

## MANSA at African Studies Association (ASA)

**ASA, Nov. 29 – Dec. 1, 2018, Atlanta**

### MANSA-sponsored panel:

**Energies of Political Activism in States of Emergency: Dispersed Governmentalities in Contemporary and Future West Africa** (chairs: Rosa de Jorio, University of North Florida, and Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University; discussant: Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Indiana University, Bloomington)

*Power and play in post-war Côte d'Ivoire: Dozo mines, state politics, and a genealogy of rebellion and reconstruction* / Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University

*The rise and fall of a political party: insurgent activism, political transition, and municipal governance in Burkina Faso* / Sten Hagberg, Uppsala University

*The role of diasporic activism in sustaining national political life in West Africa: the case of the Association of Guineans of Canada and their influence at home* / Mamadou Oury Sow, Laval University

*Gender, violence and governmentality in Malian cyber space and civil society* / Rosa de Jorio, University of North Florida

### MANSA-related panels:

**Sex, Death, Jinns, and the Environment: Incorporating Local Perceptions and Transforming Power to Build African Futures** (chair: Jesse Miller, Florida State University; discussant: Rosa de Jorio, University of North Florida).

*Côte d'Ivoire* / Alfredo Rojas, University of North Carolina

*Funerals as pre-natal care: enabling future Mossi generations* / Jesse Miller, Florida State University

**(Re) Constructions of Marriage in Contemporary African Societies** (chair: Barbara Hoffman, Cleveland State University)

*Foundations of habitat and kinship in early colonial construction of urban centers* / Barbara Hoffman, Cleveland State University

*The myth of female overpopulation: gender devaluation and polygyny in a West African city* / Bruce Whitehouse, Lehigh University

### Other member participation:

Ralph Austen, University of Chicago: *The sources of gold for medieval trans-Saharan trade: economic history with unreliable narrators*

Jody Benjamin, Harvard University: *Global textiles and the centripetal pull of the Western African savannah, 1740-1780*; also part of Roundtable: *Fabric, Style, and the Future of African Fashion Studies*.

Robyn d'Avignon, New York University: discussant for panel, *Frontiers of Sovereignty* (Part 1 of 2)

Coleman Donaldson, University of Pennsylvania: *Debating translation and Islam in the N'ko movement of Manding-speaking West Africa*

Jan Jansen, Leiden University: *Teaching the Sunjata epic: oral traditions as history*

Cathryn Evangeline Johnson, Indiana University: *Transformations in local government and women's livelihoods in rural Mali and Burkina Faso*

Tamba M'bayo, West Virginia University: *The West African Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic, 2013-2016: discourses and the production of knowledge*

William Moseley, Macalester College: *Improving food production under geopolitical isolation: a political ecology of crop livestock integration in Burundi*. Chair of panel, *The Political Ecology of Agro-Pastoralism in Africa South of the Sahara*

Jeanne Tountara, Howard University: *Land tenure policy in Côte d'Ivoire: kinship, gender, migration and development*. Chair of panel, *Rural Development Contested*

## MANSA at African Studies Association (ASA)

**ASA, Nov. 16-18, 2017, Chicago**

### Other member participation:

Ralph Austen, University of Chicago: *University of Chicago social scientists and Africa: engagement from a querulous ivory tower and the cultural cold war*

*Colonial invention and local level taxation: native treasures and sociétés indigènes de prévoyance*

Discussant for panel: Archaeologies of Africa Part 3: From Genealogy to Stratigraphy: Building Chronologies in the Medieval West African Past (sponsored by History in Africa)

Robyn d'Avignon, New York University: *Geologists and diviners: archiving 'artisanal' mining in West Africa*

Discussant for panel: Constitutive Relationships Between Law and Medicine in Colonial West Africa

Lamine Doumbia, University of Bayreuth – Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies

(BIGSAS): *Bureaucratic practices and urban land tenure from the grassroots' perspective in Bamako, Mali*

Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi, Emory University, with Constantine (Costa) Petridis, Art Institute of Chicago:

*Mapping Senufo*

Jan Jansen, Leiden University: *Fifty years of Sunjata research versus Ibn Khaldun: a reassessment of genealogies of rulers in Mande/Mali.*

Roundtable: Publish That Article! (*History in Africa*)

Cathryn Evangeline Johnson, Indiana University: *New norms for women's local-level associational activity:*

*resiliency and agency in political life, commerce, and agricultural production in rural Mali and Burkina*

*Faso.* Also chair of that panel: New Data on Women's Political and Military Activities in Africa Today.

Martin Klein, University of Toronto: *James Searing's work on slavery*

Benjamin Lawrance, University of Arizona: *A path to protection? Marriage strategies among West African LGBTI asylum seekers*

Chair of panel: Good Marriage Material I: Adjudicating Marriage and Colonial Marital Disputes

Roundtable: Expert Witnessing in the Age of Trump: an African Studies Teach-in

Roundtable: Publish That Article! (*African Studies Review*)

Tamba M'bayo, West Virginia University: *Post-Ebola Syndrome, the enigma of Ebola survivors, and public health in Sierra Leone*

Roundtable: *Intersections in Resistance, Anti-Slavery and Transnationalism in Sierra Leone History,*

*Roundtable in Honor of Professor Arthur Abraham, Part II*

William Moseley, Macalester College: *The new green revolution for Africa and Burkina's women rice farmers: a feminist political agronomy perspective*

Discussant for panel: Transforming Identities, Institutions, and Interactions Through Environmental Governance

Discussant for Roundtable: Reports from the Field: Critical Perspectives on Food and Agricultural Development in Ghana

Chair of panel: Author Meets Critic: Paul Richards' "Indigenous Agricultural Revolution" Three Decades On

Ryan Skinner, Ohio State University: *Griots of the north: the socio-musical roots and routes of Sweden's Senegambian community*

Bruce Whitehouse, Lehigh University: *Multiple marriage and multiple forms of marriage in Bamako, Mali*

Roundtable: Power and the Framing of African Migration (ASA Board sponsored)



## MANSA's 10th Triennial Conference, Grand Bassam, August 2017

The Mande Studies Association held its tenth triennial conference August 2-6, 2017 at the International University of Grand Bassam (IUGB) in Côte d'Ivoire, with the welcome assistance of grants from the ASA, the Department of State, and contributions from numerous individual donors.



*Coffee break, IUGB*

The theme of the conference, particularly apt for the time and place, was ***Intersecting Identities: Coexistence, Conflict and Reconciliation in West Africa and Its Diasporas***. The last two decades in West Africa have been marked by violent conflicts rooted in the politics of identity. Civil wars in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali immediately followed those in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Briefer combats and coup d'états have occurred in Niger and Burkina Faso. Smaller acts of violence based on differences grounded in religion, ethnicity, and gender also occur on a regular basis throughout the region. Such acts have included violence against civilian populations carried out by militant jihadi groups in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Niger, among others. Meanwhile, international capital, neoliberalism, and the return of overseas donors and investors are increasingly shaping dynamics in the region, where France and the United States have been actively consolidating their military interests.

The panels and papers of the conference explored the processes, practices, situations, and ideologies through which peoples and societies distinguish themselves from each other, and how those distinctions sometimes lead to conflict and at other times to alliances and reconciliation. They proposed contributions toward a peaceful

future for the region that academics, opinion leaders, and citizens can make in the face of issues of identity.



*Presentation by Akou Don Franck Valéry Loba*

This was the largest conference MANSA has ever held, with some 150 presentations by scholars from ten West African countries and thirteen countries of the Global North. The largest contingent was the Ivorian scholars, fifty of them holders of doctorates, twenty-seven of them doctoral students. Most of the participants roomed and boarded on the campus of IUGB for all five days of the conference, offering constant opportunities for discussion and networking outside of formal panel sessions. Many had never attended an interdisciplinary conference before and were enthusiastic about the opportunities for cross-discipline collaboration presented by the African Studies model. We look forward to seeing many of these scholars at future MANSA triennials and ASA conferences!

*Submitted by Barbara Hoffman, MANSA President (as of 2017), for ASA blog.*



*Bill Moseley and Benjamin Lawrance — hotel breakfast*

## 10e Congrès triennale du MANSA, Grand Bassam, août 2017

L'Association des Etudes Mande a tenu sa dixième Congrès triennale du 2 au 6 août 2017 à l'Université internationale de Grand Bassam (IUGB) en Côte d'Ivoire, avec l'aide bienvenue de subventions de l'African Studies Association, du Département d'État et des contributions de nombreuses donateurs individuels.



*David Conrad et Kassim Koné, anciens présidents de MANSA, IUGB*

Le thème de la conférence, particulièrement adapté à l'époque et au lieu, était **Aux Carrefours des Identités : Cohabitation, Conflit et Réconciliation en Afrique de l'Ouest et dans les Diasporas**. Les deux dernières décennies en Afrique de l'Ouest ont été marquées par de violents conflits enracinés dans les politiques identitaires. Les guerres civiles en Côte d'Ivoire et au Mali ont immédiatement suivi celles du Libéria et de la Sierra Leone. Des combats plus brefs et des coups d'État ont eu lieu au Niger et au Burkina Faso. De plus petits actes de violence fondés sur des différences basées sur la religion, l'appartenance ethnique et le sexe se produisent également régulièrement dans toute la région. Ces actes comprennent des violences contre les populations civiles perpétrées par des groupes militants djihadistes au Mali, en Côte d'Ivoire, au Burkina Faso et au Niger, entre autres. Parallèlement, le capital international, le néolibéralisme et le retour des donateurs et des investisseurs étrangers façonnent de plus en plus la dynamique de la région, où la France et les États-Unis consolident activement leurs intérêts militaires.

Les panels et les documents de la conférence ont exploré les processus, les pratiques, les situations et les idéologies par lesquels les peuples et les sociétés se distinguent les uns des autres, et comment ces distinctions conduisent parfois à des conflits et parfois à des alliances et à la réconciliation. Ils ont proposé des contributions à un avenir pacifique pour la région que les universitaires, les leaders d'opinion et les citoyens peuvent apporter face aux problèmes d'identité.



*N'gna Traoré, Kama Dembelé, Dolores Koenig*

Ce fut la plus grande conférence MANSA n'a jamais eu lieu, avec quelque 150 présentations par des chercheurs de dix pays ouest-africains et treize pays du Nord. Le contingent le plus important était constitué des universitaires ivoiriens, cinquante d'entre eux titulaires d'un doctorat, dont vingt-sept doctorants. La plupart des participants ont logé et logé sur le campus de l'IUGB pendant les cinq jours de la conférence, offrant des opportunités constantes de discussion et réseautage en dehors des séances de groupe formelles. Beaucoup avaient n'ont jamais assisté à une conférence interdisciplinaire auparavant et ont été enthousiasmés par les opportunités de collaboration interdisciplinaire présentées par le modèle des études africaines. Nous avons hâte de voir bon nombre de ces chercheurs aux futures triennales du MANSA et aux conférences de l'ASA!

— *Barbara Hoffman, Présidente de MANSA (en 2017)*



***Photos from the 10<sup>th</sup> International Mande Studies Association Conference***  
 August 2-6, 2019, International University of Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire



*Conference presenters (Adjara Konkobo, N'gna Traoré, Kama Dembelé) in front of the minibus that brought MANSA colleagues from Guinea and Mali to Grand-Bassam to attend the conference.*



*Exterior view of the International University of Grand-Bassam, which hosted the conference.*



*The bus from the International University of Grand-Bassam that shuttled participants between the conference hotel, Afrik-land, and the University for their panel sessions and lunches.*



*Sam Koffi, Chief Operating Officer of the International University of Grand-Bassam (with translator Isaac Broune), welcomes participants to the University and conference at the opening ceremonies. He and the University were extraordinarily welcoming as hosts.*

*(Photos accompanying report by Barbara Hoffman)*



*Conference participants gathered in the dining hall of the International University of Grand-Bassam for lunch. The dining hall proved to be one of the most important places where participants could share ideas and contacts across international and disciplinary boundaries.*

***Photos from the 10<sup>th</sup> International Mande Studies Association Conference***  
 August 2-6, 2019, International University of Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire



*Conference participants gathered in the amphitheater of the International University of Grand-Bassam for panel presentations.*



*A “family” photo after the closing ceremonies of the conference. Front row, left to right: Yao Marcel Kouakou (Côte d'Ivoire; member of MANSA's advisory board and vice-president, local organizing committee), Barbara Hoffman (USA; MANSA's president at the time of the conference), Joseph Hellweg (USA; MANSA's president-elect at the time of the conference and current president), Dianna Bell (USA/South Africa; MANSA secretary-treasurer), and Jacques N'goran Kouacou (Côte d'Ivoire; secretary, local organizing committee). (Photos accompanying report by Barbara Hoffman)*



## 10e Conférence triennale du MANSA, Grand Bassam, août 2017



*Pause café, IUGB – Anne Doquet, Moussa Sow (directeur de l'ISH, Bamako—maintenant en retraite), Adjara Konkobo, Jody Benjamin (à gauche); Monica Blackmun Visconà, Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Charles Riley (à droite)*



*Theodore Konkouris, Paul Davis*



*Participants de Russie—Artem Davydov, Olga Zavyalova*



*Participants de Bénin—Monique Ouassa Kouaro, Florent Tasso*



*Laura Grillo, Barbara Frank, David Conrad  
(Photo: Barbara Wechsberg)*



*Alassane Diabaté, Jean Baptiste Seka, Till Förster, Serge Noël Ouédraogo*



## 10e Conférence triennale du MANSA, Grand Bassam, août 2017



*Fatoumata Dembelé et Nafogo Coulibaly avec leur fils (Photo: Barbara Frank)*

*À l'arrière: Nafogo Coulibaly, Daouda Keita, Jacques Djidjé Kazio, Kouakou Siméon Kouassi, Barbara Frank. À l'avant: Sombéwendin Hubert Ouedraogo, Gninin Aïcha Toure, Tiantio Sanogo, Fatoumata Dembelé.*



*Participants*



*Publications à vendre*





## 10e Conférence triennale du MANSA, Grand Bassam, août 2017



*Audience*



*Jody Benjamin — présentation sur le commerce de textiles de coton, côte de Haute Guinée*



*Aminata Kaba, Nafadji Sory Condé, Moussa Balandou Diallo, Faya Ismaël Tolno — panel sur le mouvement N'ko*



*Monica Blackmun Visconà, Ladji Kamaté*



*Sten Hagberg, Ludovic Kibora*

## MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2019

### Minutes

Friday, November 22, 2019  
Boston, MA

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth Room, 7:30-8:30 PM

**Attending:** Ralph Austen, Dianna Bell, David Conrad, Rosa de Jorio, Coleman Donaldson, Barbara Frank, Laura Grillo, Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Sten Hagberg, Joseph Hellweg, Allen Howard, Jan Jansen, Cathryn E. Johnson, Cherif Keita, Yao Marcel Kouakou, Balla Kouyaté, Peter Mark, Aïssatou Mbodj, Bill Moseley, Liz Rosner, Ryan Skinner, Sarah Then Bergh, Marcia Tiede, Abou Traore, Bruce Whitehouse.

Officers and West Africa coordinator Yao Marcel Kouakou were introduced. David Conrad introduced Balla Kouyaté, son of Sekou Kouyaté (keeper of the first balafon), a direct descendant of Balla Faséké, and a recipient of this year's National Heritage Fellowship, awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

**Approval of agenda:** approved.

**Approval of minutes from 2018 meeting:** approved.

**Secretary-Treasurer's report** (Dianna Bell): *[full report attached at end of minutes]*

This is the second year with the new payment structure, Africa-based and non-Africa-based. There are currently 83 members – 35 Africa-based, 48 non-Africa-based. 42% are in Africa, 38% in North America, and 20% in Europe. Financial health: US Bank account balance is \$11,210. Paypal balance is \$936.24.

We no longer have sponsoring and non-sponsoring memberships; Gold, Silver and Bronze are simply membership levels. These still need to be changed on the website. There is a lot of clutter on the website. We paid \$2000 to have a professional help with website design and payment interface several years ago. The photos currently on the site are mostly from three people; please submit more / new photos. Reminder: do not start a new account every time you pay membership; many members now have multiple profiles on the site. If you forget your password, it can be resent. Addresses are not mandatory, but non-Africa-based members will not get the journal mailed to them if the address is not filled in, and will have to pay to have it sent out separately from the general mailing.

Dianna has been in the secretary-role for around a decade (!) She would recommend that people helping with the journal be compensated a little, set aside around \$1000 for the editor-in-chief and managing editor; copy editors set their own prices.

Dianna interviewed Chérif Keita ahead of the MANSA-sponsored roundtable that she co-organized, to take place the next day. He said that only about five percent of what he films actually gets into the documentaries that he produces. She advises finding a professional organization that will really support you, such as MANSA – one of the warmest, kindest organizations that she has ever encountered. She described the encounter of Chérif and David Conrad, and how Chérif immediately felt at home with MANSA. People can “send” people on a path without realizing it.

**New Secretary-Treasurer election** (Joseph Hellweg):

Marcia Tiede was named acting Secretary-Treasurer earlier, as part of transition post-Dianna Bell. Vote to approve her as new Secretary-Treasurer: approved.

**President's report** (Joseph Hellweg):

**New Uppsala conference submission deadline:** extended from December 1 to December 29; decisions will be made by early February 2020.

**New Advisory Board members:** The following new members were approved for two-year terms: Alain Sissao (INSS/CNRST, Burkina Faso); Baba Coulibaly (Institut des Sciences Humaines, Mali); Bissè Blanche Adoh (Université Péléforo Gbon Coulibaly de Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire); Cherif Keita (Carleton College, United States); Maria Grosz-Ngaté (Indiana University / Germany); and Nafadji Sory Condé (Université Kofi Annan, Guinea).

**Focal points:** As previously announced, MANSA now has a focal point in each of four West African countries. They provide systematized points of delivery for *Mande Studies* as well. They are:

LAASSE (Laboratoire de sociologie économique et d'anthropologie des appartenances symboliques), attn. Kando Soumahoro – Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



## MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2019

### Minutes (continued)

Institut des sciences des sociétés/CNRST, attn. Ludovic Kibora – Ouagadougou, **Burkina Faso**

Institut des sciences humaines, attn. Baba Coulibaly – Bamako, **Mali**

Université Kofi Annan de Guinée, Programme N'ko Maisson des Langues, attn. Ibrahima Sory Il Conde – Conakry, **Guinea**

**Proposed bylaws revision and vote in 2020:** Over the next few months, we will be proposing changes to the bylaws:

Editor-in-Chief —> officer

Marcel Yao Kouakou has been appointed West Africa coordinator; he organized the MANSA 2017 conference in Grand Bassam, and has been indefatigable in promoting membership.

Member-at-Large position has been vacant as long as Joseph can remember, while the Advisory Board, which is supposed to have 5 positions, has had 6 for some time; —> permanent change.

**ASA Small Grant Award for Yao Marcel Koukou's visit:** Joseph applied for a grant of \$500 to help cover expenses for Marcel, MANSA's West Africa coordinator, to attend ASA, which was approved. (Marcel presented at a panel, The Politics of Belonging in Africa; topic: *Belonging in Côte d'Ivoire: presidential positions on being and becoming Ivoirian, from 1960 to 2015.*)

**MANSA newsletter, early 2020:** Joseph would like to start this up again. It lapsed with issue 71, 2014/2015, due to lack of contributions. (All issues are posted on the MANSA website.) David Conrad hailed the idea of bringing the newsletter back, and said that having a newsletter was an important part of the idea behind creating the association. Q: would the newsletter be bilingual? Will accept French contributions. (Note: in MANSA newsletter number 1, November 1986, it is stated that "submissions may be made in English, French, or Bamanakan.") Up until 2008, David kept a record of all PhDs earned by MANSA members (that list is included at the end of his history of MANSA on the website); it would be good to bring that list up to date. He'd be willing to help with that; all present could help.

**MANSA-related events beyond the ASA:** Joseph Hellweg and Rosa de Jorio organized two events just before ASA, on November 15 and 18: "Table ronde sur les droits de l'homme en Afrique de l'Ouest : perspectives ethnographiques," along with Sten Hagberg (Uppsala University) and Jean Francois Cheuwa, Florida State University (Cameroon), at University of North Florida; and "Human Rights in West Africa : Global Principles, Local Realities" at Florida State University, with additional speakers Sten Hagberg, Zoë Walker (Florida State University), and Abidemi Fasanmi (Morehouse School of Medicine).

**MANSA post-business-meeting dinner:** Lucy Ethiopian Café, 334 Massachusetts Avenue.

### Mande Studies Editor-in-Chief report (Rosa de Jorio):

Rosa introduced Peter Mark in the audience, previous editor of *Mande Studies*, and thanked him for all she had learned from him, and his outstanding work for *Mande Studies* and the organization. *Mande Studies* now has a submission portal on the Indiana University Press site. Rosa also thanked Maria Grosz-Ngaté, editor of *Africa Today*, for sharing her experience with that journal, which inspired some of the reorganization of *Mande Studies*. Rosa also wished to thank Joseph Hellweg and Stephen Belcher for their generous help with Volume 21. She is also very grateful to Nicolas Médevielle, Jacques N'goran Kouacou, Trish Lewis, Marcia Tiede, and Meridith Murray for their copy-editing work.

Volume 21 is now in press; there are ten contributions, with the largest-ever number of contributions from West African scholars. The journal is organized in a Dossier, with the theme: "Même pas peur! Ethnographies of security in the Sahel", and two other sections, "General Articles" and "Notes from the Field." The journal is open to emerging as well as senior scholars. The call is open for submissions for Volume 22, also to be a thematic issue. Rosa is welcoming contributions in both French and English; will accept suggestions for future thematic issues.

Sten: the idea is now to always have an open section, "varia." Regarding budget, Rosa thinks it would be good to have funds for copy editors; she doesn't think that the editor-in-chief should be paid. She has identified a managing editor. Peter commented that the work required to produce the journal increased exponentially as a result of the move from University of Wisconsin--Madison to Indiana University Press.

## MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2019

### Minutes (continued)

**President-Elect's report (Sten Hagberg):** Sten would like to urge people to share things with him for Facebook, so that it's more diverse, and he'll share it on the MANSA page. The Facebook MANSA page builds an ongoing sense of community; it's more general than the listserv, about what's going on in (and about) West Africa.

**Uppsala conference update:** there is a submission portal for the 2020 conference; the deadline (firm) for proposal submission is December 29<sup>th</sup>. Panel and paper proposals are encouraged. He is working on funding for bringing West African colleagues to Uppsala. He echoed the idea of Maria Grosz-Ngaté's brilliant ASA Presidential Lecture of the previous hour, "Knowledge and Power: Perspectives on the Production and Decolonization of African/ist Knowledges," to go beyond discussion of the "crisis." He shared a PowerPoint re: MANSA 2020 @ Uppsala. The conference will be held at Engelska Parken, Campus of the Humanities, in Irehall conference room. He has booked blocks for two hotels: Citystay and Akademihotell. He is planning an outing to Old Uppsala, tombs of chiefs about 1500 years ago. There is "some likeliness to have nice weather." The conference is anticipated to include: a high-level panel at Aula Magna conference hall (holds about 1800), plenary sessions and panels, roundtables, book presentations, a keynote talk, screening of films, and a book fair and mingle area. The conference fee is \$250 (five days of lunches, dinners, and "serious" coffee breaks Swedish style). Accommodations range from about \$70 to \$150 a night.

Barbara Frank mentioned that she has been attending Society of African Archaeologists conferences; they are bilingual. If speaking in English, it is helpful to make one's PowerPoint in French, and vice versa. Dianna has also attended conferences like that.

#### Report on ASA coordinate and affiliate organizations

**meeting:** Sten attended this, and reported that MANSA is, in fact, an affiliate organization. If MANSA were a coordinate organization, we would have to process funds through MANSA. ASA would like to help us more; we can use the ASA website for outreach. There should be a small presentation rather than just a link to our "steam-driven" website. Sten was thanked for attending this meeting; Joseph wanted to attend Coleman Donaldson's presentation (as did Sten...).

Malian member Bintou Koné was to present on one of the MANSA-sponsored ASA panels, but her visa application was rejected by the U.S. Embassy in Bamako; very discriminatory. ASA supports us in that; there was a positive response re: advocacy with the State Department. There were consular messages to the Bamako embassy. Back in May, Lucy Duran had sent out notice that Malian singer Hawa Diabaté, who was to perform at Kronos Festival 2019 on June 1<sup>st</sup>, had gotten her visa but then was required to produce fifteen years' worth of travel documentation, which torpedoed her trip. Joseph sent an email to the Bamako embassy on July 4<sup>th</sup>, got no response. This was part of a new policy, "extreme vetting." [Kronos Quartet [press release](#)]

**West African Regional Coordinator's report (Yao Marcel Kouakou):** Marcel was introduced by Joseph. He had been named by Dianna Bell to coordinate West African finances and membership. He anticipates that by 2020 there will be at least 60 MANSA members in West Africa. As regional coordinator he works to create transparency, via emails, and encourages West Africans to enroll as members. The diploma of participation that was provided at the end of the MANSA conference in Grand Bassam (August 2017) was "very interesting" to West Africans. At conferences he solicits members, has been successful everywhere but in Guinea. The cost is 20,000 CFA (roughly \$35) for Africa-based members. He transferred 1,500,000 CFA to the U.S. account. There are new members about every two weeks. It is attractive that MANSA research is open, not sealed off. MANSA membership / sharing of research is very encouraging.

**Old business:** None.

**New business:** Marcia Tiede showed a copy of the exhibition catalogue for *Caravans of Gold : Fragments in Time* (2018), organized by the Block Gallery at Northwestern University, touring to the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto (September 21, 2019 – February 23, 2020) and concluding at the National Museum of African Art, Washington DC (April 8 – November 29, 2020). It includes contributions by MANSAdenw Robert Launay and Ralph Austen.

Submitted by Marcia Tiede  
February 11, 2020

## MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2019

### Treasurer's Update

An update on our membership numbers and demographics:

This was our second year working with restructured membership payment and sending journals to members based in Africa. Our membership is primarily divided as "Africa Based" and "Non-Africa Based." However, for members living outside of Africa, we offer varying membership levels (student, regular, bronze, silver, and gold). We have 83 members.

We are divided as follows:

Africa Based	35 members
Non-Africa Based	48 members

Where is our membership?

42% lives in Africa (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, South Africa)

38% lives in North America (United States and Canada)

20% lives in Europe (Norway, France, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Sweden)

### Financial Health

We have \$11,210.08 in our US Bank account, \$936.24 in Paypal, and 240,000 francs CFA in our Ecobank account.

### Reminder on Membership Levels

**Africa-Based Membership** - 20 000 XOF

**Gold** - \$300 per year

**Silver** - \$200 per year

**Bronze** - \$100 per year

**Regular Membership** (income > \$40,000) - \$60 per year

**Regular Membership** (income < \$40,000) - \$40 per year

**Student Membership** (with journal) - \$35 per year

**Student Membership** (without journal) - \$20 per year

### Website "Clutter"

We have paid a subscription service to help us manage our members, yet the service is only as good as members are about making complete profiles only once. If you have an account, use it to login each year to pay your dues. This way no one is double entered and it's easier for us to assess our membership.

### Addresses and Option to Sign Up for Electronic Journal Distribution

Please note that the addresses are not mandatory fields when you complete your online profile owing to the diversity of our membership and the variation internationally in how addresses are formatted. You will not receive a mailed copy of the journal if you do not completely fill in your address on your own.

All members are automatically mailed a physical copy of *Mande Studies*. Please write the secretary-treasurer if you would like to opt to receive only a digital copy instead. Receiving a digital copy of the journal helps to cut our costs and also saves natural resources.

### New Secretary-Treasurer

Announce Marcia!

Submitted by Dianna Bell

*Minutes and treasurer reports from the MANSA annual business meetings at ASA for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are available on the MANSA [website](#).*

*Editor / Rédacteur:*

*Marcia Tiede, MANSA Secretary-Treasurer*

We are recommending this newsletter after a hiatus of several years. This issue includes the time of Joseph Hellweg's presidency, as well as the 2017 conference during Barbara Hoffman's presidency. We regret any gaps, omissions or errors.



Nous recommandons ce bulletin après une interruption de plusieurs années. Ce numéro comprend le temps de la présidence de Joseph Hellweg, aussi bien que la conférence de 2017 pendant la présidence de Barbara Hoffman. Nous regrettons toute lacune, omission ou erreur.

*Photos: Marcia Tiede, Barbara Hoffman, Sten Hagberg, other contributors to MANSA's Facebook page, and as credited.*