



MANSA Kibaru

MANDE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

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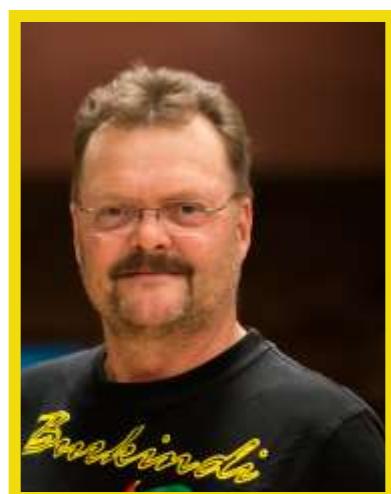
Despite two years of a worldwide pandemic, MANSA has been able to pursue its work, that is, to produce new research, engage in scholarly debate, develop research networks, publish original papers, and organize international meetings. As President of this fascinating group of scholars spread out across the globe and attached to a wide range of institutions, I am grateful for all the hard work done. In 2021, many people have contributed to MANSA's mission, and many new members have joined MANSA. At the time of writing this introduction (mid-December 2021), MANSA has 170 dues-paying members, which represents a 70% increase since 2020 and more than a doubling since 2019 (see Marcia Tiede's report on p. 29).

In this newsletter, there is ample information about the work and research of MANSA as an organization. It contains updates of the activities of ongoing members (p. 13 onwards), and a presentation of many new members (p. 9 onwards). To say the least, MANSA is up and running!

Among the activities in 2021, I would like to mention, first and foremost, the successful organization and implementation of the 11th International Conference at Uppsala University 16-19 June 2021, which was a relief for all of us involved. The conference theme on Beyond Crisis and Insecurity: Cultural Creativity, Popu-
lar Struggle, and Social Change in West Africa attracted lots of scholarly interest well beyond the usual membership. There were 150 papers presented in 40 panels, totaling 300 participants in this open and free-of-charge online conference (see my detailed report on p. 34).

We have updated and polished the MANSA website to serve as a more efficient tool for making MANSA known and for documenting what we are actually doing. Our own *noro-norotigi* (Webmaster) Jesse Miller has made substantial contributions behind the scenes, as it were, to the website.

The list serve is finally migrating from Texas State University to mande-studies-association@googlegroups.com (see Bill Moseley's report on p. 4). Many thanks to Rich Warms for keeping us connected over the past two decades (see p. 31).



WE DID IT! ON L'A FAIT! AN N'Y A KE! — by Sten Hagberg (cont.)

The MANSA Facebook page is active and alive with regular postings of publications and members' activities, and events of interest. Yet I would like to urge all members to keep us posted on events and activities with pertinence to MANSA, to be shared there.

Mande Studies — our flagship journal — requires continuous work and commitment under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Rosa de Jorio. Issue 23, 2021, will contain important new research. Dues-paying members of MANSA get the journal as hard copy sent to them (or to the focal points in West Africa). The journal constitutes a main road to keep updated on current research on West Africa.

On 28 January 2021 we co-hosted a [Webinar on West African Dynamics](#), as an *amuse-gueule* for the conference. The webinar included two roundtables: *Prospects for Peace, Democracy and Gender Equality?*, chaired by Kajsa Hallberg-Adu with Carole Ammann, William Moseley, Ludovic Kibora, Joseph Hellweg, and Bissè Blanche Danielle Adoh; and *African Studies in the Global Village?*, chaired by Véronique Simon with Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Baba Coulibaly, Rosa de Jorio, Chérif Keïta, and Alain Sissao. These prominent MANSAdenw made important contributions that also attracted lively discussions with the 90 people who attended the webinar.

Over the year we have also tried to put MANSA's organizational structures to work: regular meetings with our five officers; the first joint meeting in years with our Advisory Board and the Officers on 6 March 2021; and the appointment of a committee to revise the bylaws, led by Bill Moseley with Baba Coulibaly, Joseph Hellweg, and Maria Grosz-Ngaté. MANSA's bylaws require an update in order to fit into other organizational cultures and modus operandi than its US origins. We are not there yet, but soon we will organize a vote on the new bylaws amongst members.

Two MANSA-sponsored panels were organized at the African Studies Association's Annual Meeting in November 2021: *Renewing Mande Studies: Resisting Stasis, Re-centering Places*, chaired by Baba Coulibaly and Joseph Hellweg, with Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Alioune Sow, Susan Gagliardi, Rosa de Jorio, and Sten Hagberg; and *The Life and Work of Djibril Tamsir Niane: Memories and Reflections*, chaired by Ryan Skinner and Joseph Hellweg, with Elara Bertho, David Conrad, Stephen Bulman, and Jonthan Repinecz.

The planning for the 12th international conference will soon enter a concrete, operative phase. It will take place in collaboration with the MANSA focal point in Bamako (Institut des Sciences Humaines) in June 2023. While the exact dates and theme are yet to be decided, I suggest that you save the date of June 2023. More information will follow in early 2022.

Let me end this introductory note by thanking Joseph Hellweg, who, after six years of hard work and committed service as MANSA President-Elect (2014-17) and President (2017-20), stepped down in January 2021. Yet Joseph never took a break from MANSA. He is continuously a source of inspiration and commitment not only to scholarly discussions and debates, but also in his role as Associate Editor of *Mande Studies* and as a member of the bylaws revision committee. At the ASA in 2021, Joseph co-chaired the roundtable on renewing the field of Mande studies, an important discussion that is welcome and challenging at the same time. We are grateful that Joseph's "stepping down" is in fact followed by an ongoing commitment. That is MANSAya. Chapeau, Joseph!



Malgré deux années de pandémie mondiale, MANSA a pu poursuivre son travail, c'est-à-dire produire de nouvelles recherches, s'engager dans des débats scientifiques, développer des réseaux de recherche et organiser des rencontres internationales. En tant que président de ce groupe fascinant d'universitaires et de chercheurs répartis dans le monde entier et rattaché à un large éventail d'institutions, je suis reconnaissant pour tout le travail acharné accompli. En 2021, de nombreuses personnes ont contribué à la mission de MANSA et de nombreux nouveaux membres ont rejoint MANSA. Au moment de la rédaction de cette introduction (mi-décembre 2021), MANSA compte 170 membres à jour de leurs cotisations, ce qui représente une augmentation de 70 % depuis 2020 et plus du double depuis 2019 (voir le rapport de Marcia Tiede en p. 29). Dans ce bulletin, vous trouverez de nombreuses informations sur le travail et la recherche de MANSA en tant qu'organisation et sur les membres individuels de MANSA. Il contient des mises à jour des activités des membres actuels (à partir de la p. 13) et une présentation de nombreux nouveaux membres (à partir de la p. 9). Pour le moins, MANSA est opérationnel!

WE DID IT! ON L'A FAIT! AN N'Y A KE! — by Sten Hagberg (cont.)

Parmi les activités en 2021, je voudrais mentionner, en premier lieu, l'organisation et la mise en œuvre réussies du 11e Colloque international à l'Université d'Uppsala du 16 au 19 juin 2021, qui a été un soulagement pour nous tous impliqués. Le thème du colloque sur *Au-delà des crises et des insécurités : créativité culturelle, lutte populaire et changement social en Afrique de l'Ouest* a suscité beaucoup d'intérêt parmi les universitaires bien au-delà des membres habituels. Il y avait 150 communications présentées dans 40 panels, totalisant 300 participants à ce colloque en ligne ouverte et gratuite (voir mon rapport détaillé en p. 34).

Nous avons mis à jour et peaufiné le [site Web de MANSA](#) pour en faire un outil plus efficace pour faire connaître MANSA et documenter ce que nous faisons réellement. Notre propre *noronorotigi* (Webmaster) Jesse Miller a apporté des contributions substantielles dans les coulisses, pour ainsi dire, au site Web. Le serveur de liste migre enfin de la Texas State University vers mande-studies-association@googlegroups.com (voir le rapport de Bill Moseley à la p. 4). Un grand merci à Rich Warms pour nous avoir gardés connectés au cours des deux dernières décennies (voir p. 31).

La page Facebook de MANSA est active et vivante avec des publications régulières de publications et d'activités des membres, et d'événements d'intérêt. Pourtant, je voudrais interroger tous les membres à nous tenir au courant des événements et des activités en rapport avec MANSA, pour y être partagés.

Mande Studies — notre revue phare — nécessite un travail et un engagement continu sous la direction de la rédactrice en chef Rosa de Jorio. Le numéro 23, 2021, contiendra d'importantes nouvelles recherches. Les membres cotisants de MANSA reçoivent le journal sous forme papier qui leur est envoyé (ou aux points focaux en Afrique de l'Ouest). La revue constitue une voie principale pour se tenir au courant des recherches en cours sur l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le 28 janvier 2021, nous avons co-organisé un [webinaire sur les dynamiques de l'Afrique de l'Ouest](#), en guise d'amuse-gueule pour la conférence. Le webinaire comprenait deux tables rondes: *Perspectives de paix, de démocratie et d'égalité des genres?*, présidée par Kajsa Hallberg-Adu avec Carole Ammann, William Moseley, Ludovic Kibora, Joseph Hellweg et Bisse Blanche Danielle Adoh;

et *African Studies in the Global Village?*, présidé par Véronique Simon avec Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Baba Coulibaly, Rosa de Jorio, Chérif Keïta et Alain Sissao. Ces MANSA éminents ont apporté des contributions importantes qui ont également suscité des discussions animées avec les 90 personnes qui ont assisté au webinaire.

Au cours de l'année, nous avons également essayé de faire fonctionner les structures organisationnelles de MANSA: réunions régulières avec nos cinq agents; la première réunion conjointe depuis des années avec notre conseil consultatif et les dirigeants le 6 mars 2021; et la nomination d'un comité de révision des règlements intérieurs, dirigé par Bill Moseley avec Baba Coulibaly, Joseph Hellweg et Maria Grosz-Ngaté. Les règlements de MANSA nécessitent une mise à jour afin de s'adapter à d'autres cultures organisationnelles et modus operandi que ses origines américaines. Nous n'en sommes pas encore là, mais bientôt nous organiserons un vote sur les nouveaux règlements parmi les membres.

Deux panels parrainés par MANSA ont été organisés lors de la réunion annuelle de l'African Studies Association en novembre 2021 : *Renewing Mande Studies: Resisting Stasis, Recentering Places*, présidé par Baba Coulibaly et Joseph Hellweg, avec Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Alioune Sow, Susan Gagliardi, Rosa de Jorio et Sten Hagberg; et *La vie et l'œuvre de Djibril Tamsir Niane: souvenirs et réflexions*, présidé par Ryan Skinner et Joseph Hellweg, avec Elara Bertho, David Conrad, Stephen Bulman et Jonathon Repinecz.

La planification du 12e colloque international entrera bientôt dans une phase concrète et opérationnelle. Elle se déroulera en collaboration avec le point focal MANSA à Bamako (Institut des Sciences Humaines) en juin 2023. Alors que les dates exactes et le thème restent à déterminer, je vous propose de retenir la date de juin 2023. Plus d'informations suivront début 2022.

Permettez-moi de terminer cette note d'introduction en remerciant Joseph Hellweg, qui, après six ans de travail acharné et de service dévoué en tant que président élu de MANSA (2014-17) et président (2017-20), a démissionné en janvier 2021. Pourtant, Joseph n'a jamais pris une pause de la MANSA. Il est continuellement une source d'inspiration et d'engagement non seulement pour les discussions et les débats scientifiques, mais aussi dans son rôle de rédacteur en chef adjoint de *Mande Studies* et de membre du comité de révision des règlements intérieurs. À l'ASA en 2021, Joseph a co-présidé la table ronde sur le renouvellement du terrain de recherche des études mandé, une discussion importante, bienvenue et stimulante à la fois. Nous sommes reconnaissants que la «démission» de Joseph soit en fait suivie d'un engagement continu. Ça c'est la MANSAya. Chapeau, Joseph!

Présentation du président élu de MANSA, William (dit Bill) Moseley

Salutations, amis et collègues (*aw ni ce !!*). C'est avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme et d'humilité que j'assume le rôle de président élu de MANSA. Je suis professeur de géographie et directeur du programme sur l'alimentation, l'agriculture et la société au Macalester College à Saint Paul, MN, USA (mais je vis actuellement dans le sud de la France où je suis chercheur invité à l'Université de Montpellier). Je suis géographe spécialiste de l'environnement humain et je m'intéresse à l'agriculture tropicale, à la sécurité alimentaire, à l'environnement et au développement.

J'ai rencontré la région du Mandé pour la première fois en 1987 en tant que volontaire du Corps de la Paix (Peace Corps) au Mali, où j'ai appris le bamanankan et me suis passionné pour les systèmes agricoles ouest-africains. Après avoir travaillé pendant 10 ans comme praticien du développement, je suis retourné à l'université pour obtenir mon doctorat en géographie en 1998. Je suis impliqué dans MANSA et l'ASA depuis 1999. J'ai été un acteur périphérique du groupe pendant de nombreuses années (en partie à cause de jeunes enfants et de ressources financières plus limitées), mais je suis devenu plus actif avec le temps. J'ai été membre du conseil consultatif de MANSA de 2012 à 2015, j'ai fait des présentations aux conférences de MANSA en 2014, 2017 et 2021 et j'ai participé à de nombreuses sessions organisées par MANSA lors des réunions annuelles de l'ASA.

En tant qu'universitaire, j'ai publié huit livres et plus de 100 articles et chapitres de livres dans des revues à comité de lecture. Mes travaux de terrain au Mali, au Burkina Faso, en Afrique du Sud et au Botswana ont été financés par la National Science Foundation et le programme Fulbright-Hays. J'ai reçu le prix Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang Distinguished Scholar Award de l'Association américaine des géographes en 2016. J'ai été également rédacteur en chef de la *Revue géographique africaine* et rédacteur en chef adjoint de *Food Policy*. Je fais actuellement partie du comité de rédaction de *l'African Studies Review* ainsi que de trois autres revues. Dans ma vie personnelle, je note que je suis marié et que j'ai deux enfants d'âge universitaire. Dans mon temps libre, j'aime faire du vélo, du ski de fond et de la randonnée.



Présentation du président élu de MANSA, William (dit Bill) Moseley (cont.)

J'ai au moins deux priorités pour les années à venir. Premièrement, je m'engage à accroître le nombre de membres de l'association en accueillant de jeunes chercheurs ainsi que des personnes issues de disciplines sous-représentées. En tant qu'organisation interdisciplinaire, nos échanges seront enrichis par des membres plus jeunes à l'avant-garde de la création de connaissances et par l'implication d'un plus large éventail de disciplines. Deuxièmement, l'association doit dépasser ses racines historiques d'organisation savante américaine pour devenir une organisation qui représente et engage plus pleinement ses membres en Afrique de l'Ouest, en Europe et en Amérique du Nord. J'ai bon espoir que certaines révisions de la structure de direction puissent nous aider à atteindre cet objectif.

Au cours de mes dix premiers mois en tant que président élu, j'ai largement consacré mon temps à deux initiatives qui se rapportent d'une certaine manière aux priorités susmentionnées. Premièrement, nous avons enfin mis en place une nouvelle liste de diffusion par courriel. Nous avons créé

cette nouvelle liste pour un certain nombre de raisons, notamment: a) il ne sera bientôt plus possible de maintenir l'ancienne liste gérée par la Texas State University; b) nous voulions créer une liste qui ne soit pas rattachée à une université et qui puisse facilement être transmise d'une équipe de direction de MANSA à l'autre; et c) bon nombre de nos nouveaux membres n'ont pas pu se joindre à l'ancienne liste, ce qui signifie que les messages envoyés n'atteignaient qu'une partie de nos membres.

Deuxièmement, j'ai dirigé un sous-comité de MANSA (composé de Baba Coulibaly, Maria Grosz-Ngate, Joseph Hellweg et moi-même) pour mettre à jour et réviser les règlements de MANSA, une première étape essentielle dans la réimagination de la structure de leadership de MANSA. Ces révisions sont encore à l'état d'ébauche et elles seront présentées, discutées et votées lors d'une série de réunions futures de MANSA. J'ai hâte de travailler avec vous et j'aurai besoin de votre soutien pour aller de l'avant. Comme nous le savons tous, *bolokoni kelen te se ka bεle ta*.

Introducing MANSA president-elect, William (dit Bill) Moseley

Greetings, friends and colleagues (*aw ni ce!!*). I am thrilled and humbled to be taking on the role of MANSA president-elect. I am a professor of geography, and Director of the Program for Food, Agriculture and Society, at Macalester College in Saint Paul, MN, USA (although currently living in southern France where I am a visiting fellow at the University of Montpellier). I am a human-

environment geographer with research interests in tropical agriculture, food security, environment and development.

I first encountered the Mande region in 1987 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, where I learned Bamanankan and became enthralled with West African farming systems. After working for 10 years as a development practitioner, I returned to university

Introducing MANSA president-elect, William (dit Bill) Moseley (cont.)

for my PhD in geography in 1998. I have been involved with MANSA and the ASA since 1999. I was a peripheral actor to the group for many years (partially due to young children and more limited financial resources), but I grew more active with time. I served as a MANSA advisory board member from 2012-2015, presented at MANSA conferences in 2014, 2017, and 2021 and I have participated in numerous MANSA organized sessions at ASA annual meetings.

As a scholar, I've published [eight books](#) and over [100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters](#). My fieldwork in Mali, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Botswana has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the Fulbright-Hays Program. I received the American Association of Geographers' Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang Distinguished Scholar Award in 2016. I have also served as editor of the *African Geographical Review* and associate editor of *Food Policy*. I currently sit on the editorial board for the *African Studies Review* as well as three other journals. In my personal life, I am married and have two university-aged children. In my spare time, I enjoy cycling, cross-country skiing and hiking.

I have at least two priorities in the coming years. First, I am committed to expanding the membership of the association by bringing in younger scholars as well as those from under-represented disciplines. As an interdisciplinary organization, our exchanges will be enriched by younger members at the forefront of knowledge creation and by involving a broader range of disciplines.

Second, the association needs to grow beyond its historical roots as an American scholarly organization to one that more fully represents and engages its members in West Africa, Europe and North America. I'm hopeful that some revisions to the leadership structure may help us achieve this goal.

In my first ten months as president-elect, I have largely devoted my time to two initiatives that relate in some ways to the aforementioned priorities. First, we finally have a new email listserv up and running. We have created this new list for a number of reasons, including: a) it will soon no longer be possible to continue the old list run by Texas State University; b) we wanted to create a list that was not attached to a university and could easily be passed down from one MANSA leadership team to the next; and c) many of our newer members were not able to join the old list, meaning that messages sent only reached a portion of our membership.

Second, I have been leading a MANSA sub-committee (composed of Baba Coulibaly, Maria Grosz-Ngate, Joseph Hellweg and myself) to update and revise the MANSA bylaws, a critical first step in reimagining the leadership structure of MANSA. These revisions are still in draft form and they will be presented, discussed and voted on in a series of future MANSA meetings. I look forward to working with you and I will need your support moving forward. As we all know, *bolokɔni kelen tε se ka bεlε ta*.



Atelier de formation sur l'écriture scientifique

À ma qualité de coordonnateur zone Afrique de MANSA, j'ai organisé un atelier de formation sur la **Méthodologie de rédaction d'articles scientifiques** le vendredi 22 juin 2018, s'est tenu de 09 h à 15h 00, à l'amphi C de l'Université Jean Lorougnon Guédé de Daloa.

Cet atelier a été rehaussé par la présence des responsables académiques de l'Université, notamment du Professeur Tidiani KONE, Vice-président de l'Université Jean Lorougnon Guédé, le Professeur Issiaka KONE, Directeur de l'Unité de Formation et de Recherche (UFR) de Sciences Sociales et Humaines (SSH), mais aussi des Chefs de Département de Sociologie-Anthropologie et d'Histoire avec une bonne représentation des enseignants-chercheurs et chercheurs de ladite Université et de celle de Péléforo Gon Coulibaly de Korhogo. L'atelier proprement dit a été animé par deux formateurs : le Professeur Joseph HELLWEG, Président de la MANSA et le Professeur Jean-Martial K. KOUAME, Directeur de l'Institut de Linguistique Appliquée de l'Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny.

Le premier intervenant

La première intervention est revenue au Professeur Jean-Martial K. KOUAME qui a déroulé son enseignement en 7 points :

1. Qu'est-ce qu'un article scientifique ?
2. Objectifs d'un article scientifique
3. Ce qu'un article scientifique n'est pas
4. Pourquoi c'est important de faire un article scientifique ?
5. Les attentes des revues scientifiques
6. La structure d'un article scientifique
7. Que retenir ?

Les trois premiers points ont permis au formateur de définir ce que c'est que l'article scientifique, ses objectifs et de relever ce qu'il n'est pas. De la définition de l'article scientifique, l'on retiendra qu'il s'agit d'un écrit publié, relativement concis qui fait état d'une recherche dans un domaine particulier sur un sujet précis. En termes d'objectif, l'on a noté que l'article scientifique sert à diffuser les résultats d'une recherche ; à rendre compte d'une analyse critique de l'état de la documentation scientifique dans un domaine particulier et à diffuser une modélisation

théorique. La finalité étant de susciter le débat et la critique au sein de la communauté scientifique dans une discipline de référence.

4) Pourquoi est-il important de faire un article scientifique? A cette question, le formateur a relevé que l'article scientifique :

- ◊ permet à son auteur d'exister sur le plan scientifique ;
- ◊ confère de la notoriété sur le terrain de la science ;
- ◊ offre des opportunités ;
- ◊ fait avancer la science.

Ainsi dit, le chercheur apporte, par ses productions scientifiques, sa contribution au développement de son domaine de spécialité.

5) Les écrits scientifiques sont généralement mis en lumière dans les revues scientifiques qu'il faut définir comme des organes de promotion et de publication du savoir de haute portée résultant des travaux de recherche réalisés dans le monde universitaire. Ces Revues fonctionnent selon des grilles d'évaluation d'articles qui diffèrent d'une revue à une autre. Dans la plupart des cas, cette grille d'évaluation cherche à noter les points forts et les points faibles de l'article en tenant surtout compte de l'originalité du sujet, la pertinence de la problématique, le cadre théorique, la méthodologie, l'analyse des données et la documentation en vue de valider ou non la publication du document dans la revue.

6) La structure d'un article scientifique comprend :

- ◊ Le titre de l'article
- ◊ Le résumé de l'article (200 – 250 mots, généralement en français ou en anglais)
- ◊ Les mots clés
- ◊ L'introduction (500 – 1000 mots)
- ◊ Revue critique de la littérature / cadre théorique (1000 – 2000 mots)
- ◊ Méthodes et matériels (500 – 1000 mots)
- ◊ Résultats (1000 et 2000 mots)
- ◊ Discussion (1000 et 1500 mots)
- ◊ Conclusion

7) Pour terminer son propos, le Pr. KOUAME a souligné que l'écriture scientifique est une écriture objective, innovante et qui s'appuie sur des données factuelles. Sa rédaction requiert des phrases courtes, bien écrites et accessibles qui laissent voir la clarté

Atelier de formation sur l'écriture scientifique (cont.)

des idées dans l'exposé des résultats. Les jugements de valeur, les points de vue subjectif, mais aussi le style oral (nous disons que ; il parle de ...), etc. sont à éviter. Raison pour laquelle, chaque mot écrit doit être minutieusement pensé pour s'assurer qu'il renvoie bien au sens que le chercheur a souhaité lui donner.

Le deuxième intervenant

Pour sa part, le Professeur Joseph HELLWEG, a axé son propos sur une méthode pratique de rédaction d'articles scientifiques. Revenant sur certains points clés évoqués par son prédécesseur, il a relevé que le projet d'écrire un article appelle généralement l'interrogation suivant : comment et par où commencer ce travail ?

A cette interrogation, le formateur a proposé un schéma pragmatique prenant en compte les éléments suivants : **titre – cadre théorique – données de recherche – résultats ...**

Le Pr HELLWEG a souligné que pour écrire un article, l'on n'est pas tenu de commencer par un point figé. Mais il faut d'abord partir de ce qu'on a comme acquis à l'entame du projet de rédaction de l'article suivant les éléments composant le schéma qu'il a présenté. Le déroulement des différents niveaux de cette technique pratique de l'écriture scientifique a donné suite à des temps d'exercices d'application qui a permis des échanges fructueux à travers la présentation de :

- ◊ titres d'articles,
- ◊ cadres théoriques et méthodologiques,
- ◊ données à analyser,
- ◊ hypothèses de recherche,
- ◊ résultats, etc. issus des projets d'articles en cours des participants.

Durant cette deuxième section de la formation, des éléments de réponses à diverses questions ont été apportés par le formateur concernant justement des projets d'articles ; mais l'on a aussi noté des contributions libres entre participants qui ont permis d'enrichir la formation.

Après l'intervention du deuxième formateur, le Doyen de l'UFR, Pr. Issiaka KONE a pris la parole pour

remercier, au nom de la Présidente de l'Université et en son nom propre, d'abord :

les formateurs pour les riches enseignements qu'ils ont dispensés,

les participants pour avoir pris part à cet atelier, avant de féliciter le comité d'organisation dans son ensemble pour cette initiative et pour avoir œuvré à la réussite de l'événement.

Avant la clôture de la formation, le comité d'organisation a invité tous les participants à un déjeuner au réfectoire de l'université dans une ambiance de gaïeté et de satisfaction.

Le rapport de cette activité scientifique a été présenté par Dr Kouacou N'Goran Jacques de l'Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny de Cocody et moi-même.

Par ailleurs, à la veille du **11ème Colloque International de l'Association des Études Mandé (MANSA)** prévu, au départ, du 10 au 14 juin 2020 à Uppsala, un autre atelier de formation avait été prévu. Mais, cette rencontre scientifique n'a pas pu être organisée à cause des difficultés rencontrées lors sa préparation. La date choisie par Joseph Hellweg, l'animateur de l'atelier, était le jeudi, le 25 juillet 2019. Les travaux devraient s'articuler autour de deux grands axes :

- ◊ aperçu des méthodes de base dans le domaine de la recherche qualitative ;
- ◊ comment entamer une enquête de terrain ?

En accord avec le comité exécutif de la MANSA, des tables rondes et journées scientifiques en ligne sont prévues pour redynamiser notre Association pendant cette période marquée essentiellement par la crise sanitaire. Après le dernier colloque, une réunion-bilan est prévue avec les membres ouest-africains pour planifier ensemble la prochaine rencontre de notre Association qui aura lieu à Bamako, si l'on s'est tient au propos de Sten Hagberg, Président de MANSA.

KOUAKOU Yao Marcel

Coordonnateur zone Afrique de la MANSA
Maître-assistant en Histoire contemporaine
Université Jean Lorougnon de Daloa

KOUACOU N'Goran Jacques

Maître-assistant en Sociolinguistique
Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny

Some new members / Quelques nouveaux membres

This is a sampling of recently joined members. Most of these descriptions are as provided from the user profiles on the MANSA website. Please feel free to send information about yourselves to 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. La plupart de ces descriptions sont fournies des ‘profils d’utilisateurs’ sur le site Web de MANSA. N’hésitez pas à envoyer des informations vous concernant à 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.

Diana Ayeh

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
 - Ethnographies of corporate capitalism
 - The role of ethics in global mining governance
 - Mining conflicts in Burkina Faso and Germany

Fatoumata Bamba

Université Julius Nyéréré de Kankan
 Enseignante-chercheuse historienne en Histoire de l’Afrique contemporaine.

Jesper Bjarnesen

Nordic Africa Institute
 I am an anthropologist working mainly on migration and mobility through wartime and peace in West Africa. Other interests are wartime displacement, intergenerational relations, rural-urban connections, informal labour recruitment, transnational migration and urban land rights. I am also the co-founder of the AMMODI network.

Vladimir Blaiotta

UNICT/EHESS
 Research interests: security; migration.

Catherine Bolten

Associate Professor, Anthropology and Peace Studies

Director of Doctoral Studies

Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

University of Notre Dame

<https://kroc.nd.edu/faculty-and-staff/catherine-bolten>

I have worked in north-central Sierra Leone since 2003. My initial interests centered on DDR and development in the post-war period, and then moved into youth, education, work, and rights for the next decade. Since 2014 I have worked on issues of family, education, and food security in the context of environmental degradation and wildlife competition in a rural chiefdom.

Emma Christopher

University of New South Wales

Research interests: Sierra Leone, African diaspora, slave trade.

Alice Degorce-Kaboré

IRD ; Institut des mondes africains (IMAF), Aubervilliers
 Domaines de recherche: anthropologie, religions, migrations, parole.

Marie Deridder

Uppsala University

My core expertise is in political socio-anthropology and critical development studies ‘from below’ with a focus on practices and representations of actors. This includes the study of policy-making processes, power balance and political actions, tactics and strategies of actors; transformations of the ‘development industry’ including NGOs and trade unions; and scales articulations, from local to global. After 6 years of research on Mali, I defended a PhD dissertation that analyses political transformations in rural Mali, linked to the decentralization of the State largely promoted by Western donors. Currently, I am interested in the making of the migration-development-security nexus in West Africa, in particular in Mali and Burkina Faso, and its practical negotiations in a postcolonial setting. I am also interested in the neo-liberal reform of the Belgian cooperation and its practical negotiations/contests over the last decades.

Some new members / Quelques nouveaux membres (cont.)

Anna Dessertine

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
<https://www.prodig.cnrs.fr/anna-dessertine/>
 Chargée de recherche en anthropologie à l'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (UMR 215 Prodig, France) et actuellement affectée à l'Institut National d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme de Rabat au Maroc (INAU), mes travaux portent sur les activités minières informelles au Maroc (exploitation informelle de charbon), ainsi qu'en Guinée et en Côte d'Ivoire (orpailage). En adoptant une perspective socio-territoriale, mon objectif est d'analyser les effets multiples de ces activités, aux niveaux local et domestique. Mes travaux s'inscrivent aussi dans une réflexion interdisciplinaire sur la notion de "ressource", en collaboration avec des géologues et des biologistes dans le cadre du Laboratoire Mixte International "Activités minières Responsable au Maroc" (LMI AMIR).

Naminata Diabate

Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Literature; Core Faculty, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (FGSS); Cornell University

<https://complit.cornell.edu/naminata-diabate>
 My current teaching and research interests focus on forms of gendered, sexual, and racialized agency in a variety of cultural products (oral tradition, literary fiction, filmic and social media). These explorations in Malinke, Nouchi, French, English, Spanish, and Latin take the trans African context as their points of departure to make broader contributions to transnational reflections on questions of agency and resistance.

Recently published works:

"Nudity and Pleasure." *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art*, 46 (May 2020)

Naked Agency: Genital Cursing and Biopolitics in Africa (Duke University Press, 2020)

Alhagi Manta Drammeh

Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, Dundee, Scotland

Research interests: Islamic thought, international relations, methodologies in dealing with Islamic sources, political Islam.

Deborah Goffner

IRL "Environnement, Santé, Sociétés", CNRS France and Stockholm Resilience Centre

Je suis intéressée par des approches transdisciplinaires pour guider la gestion des ressources naturelles en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Devon Golaszewski

Loyola Marymount University

<https://www.devongola.com/>

I am a historian of gender, sexuality, and health in Mali. My research focuses on the history of women's expertise in Sikasso, Koulikoro and Kayes regions, especially the work of midwives, manyamagaw (nuptial counselors) and excisers in the 20th century. I am especially interested in the continuity of their work over the twentieth century, even as the introduction of biomedical maternal and reproductive health created other forms and norms around maternity and sexuality for Malian women and their families. I am also interested in researching and teaching indigenous medicine, including Islamic sciences. I graduated from Columbia, where my advisor was Gregory Mann. I conducted research in Mali from 2016-2017 (as well as living in Bamako prior to graduate school from 2008-2013). I am also co-organizing a project to conserve the archives of Malian women activists, with the CNDIFE (Centre Aoua Keita) in Bamako.



Kajsa Hallberg Adu

Nordic Africa Institute /Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)
<https://kajsaha.com/>

Research interests: Higher Education in Africa. Youth, Youth Migration and Mobility. Digital Humanities and Social Media. Inclusive Sustainable Economic Development, Democratization and Ghanaian Politics. Member of the Conference Organizing Committee (Uppsala 2021).

Some new members / Quelques nouveaux membres (cont.)

Niklas Hultin

George Mason University

Research interests: The Gambia, political culture, ethnicity, human rights

Monica Labonia

Université Nice Côte d'Azur

Je travaille principalement sur le groupe joola-ajamaat (Sénégal-Guinée-Bissau).

Domaines de recherche: religion, politique, conflits, environnement.

Antoinette Danebaï Lamana

Université de Douala / Université de Lille

Research interests : cadets sociaux et confrontations en milieux rural.

Friederike Lüpke

University of Helsinki

Professor of African Studies (since August 2019)

<https://researchportal.helsinki.fi/en/persons/friederike-k%C3%A4te-evelyn-marie-luise-l%C3%BCcke>

My research and teaching focus on the description and documentation of West African languages in their cultural contexts. I specialise in the study of Mande and Atlantic languages, particularly in verbal argument structure and nominal classification. I have written a grammar of argument structure of the Mande language Jalonke spoken in Guinea, which also contains its first sketch grammar. Currently, I am conducting research on Baïnouk Guaher, an Atlantic language of the Nyun cluster spoken in Senegal and Guinea Bissau. My research on rural multilingualism in Senegal has been central for the emerging inter- and multidisciplinary field of small-scale multilingualism studies.

Since becoming aware of the exographic writing practice of Jalonke speakers in the Futa Jalon, many of whom write Fula Ajami, I have developed an interest in writing from a social perspective, especially regarding grassroots practices and writing choices in multilingual settings. ...

Together with a local team of transcribers, researchers and members of the association LILIEMA ("Language-independent literacies for inclusive education in multilingual areas") I am developing a repertoire-based literacy program for highly multilingual situations that is currently expanding on the request of several local communities and community associations.

Anais Menard

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Brussels

I have worked on issues of internal migration and autochthony in post-war Sierra Leone. I am interested in rural-urban relations, ethnicity and integration and multicultural settings, with foci on ritual matters and land conflicts. More recently, I have worked with associations of the Sierra Leonean diaspora in Europe, on issues of transnationalism, social upward mobility and gender.

Mary Moran

Colgate University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Research interests: Gender and politics in Liberia, cultural and political anthropology.

Hannah Nelson

Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, Dallas International University

I am currently beginning a master's thesis on the symbolic representation of food in the Sunjata epic.

Érika Nimis

UQAM, Université du Québec à Montréal

<https://lafi.uqam.ca/erika-nimis/>

My research interests are focused on histories of photographies in Africa, and African histories from a photographic perspective.

Jérémi Fahed Sagna

University of Helsinki

Titulaire d'un master en sociologie à l'université Assane Seck de Ziguinchor/Sénégal. Je suis assistant de recherche à l'université de Helsinki pour le compte de l'association LILIEMA (liliema.com), qui intervient dans la promotion de la pratique libre de l'écrit pour une éducation inclusive dans les zones multilingues en Casamance /Sénégal.

Some new members / Quelques nouveaux membres (cont.)

Anders Themnér

Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University
Post-civil war peacebuilding, in particular DDR, transitional justice, and democratization.

Anja Veirman

LUCA School of Arts / KuLeuven

Research: Textile practices, divination and knowledge systems, making perspectives and audiovisual co-creation, Senufo-area and broader for teaching. Teaching: Anthropology of Art, Cultural Textile studies, Decolonisation and the Arts.

Miriam Weidl

University of Helsinki

I am a (socio)linguist with a background in African Studies and Anthropology, currently working as a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer at the University of Helsinki. My research is based in West Africa, with a focus on the languages and cultures represented in southern Senegal. My interest is aimed at multilingualism and languaging, the use of multiple languages in different situations of life, the diversity of individuals' linguistic repertoires and the alternation of language during conversations which is highly connected to people's social realities, experiences, aims in conversation and even momentary mood. In 2018 I finished my PhD at SOAS, University of London as part of the Crossroads Team (soascrossroads.org) in which I was concerned with the role of Wolof as one among many other languages in the village of Djibonker. Resulting from experiences gained during the Crossroads project, I am a founding member of the LILIEMA association ('Language-independent literacies for inclusive education in multilingual areas'), which constitutes the basis of my postdoctoral research. Through LILIEMA we distribute a writing system suitable to read and write all the languages represented in individual repertoires, adapted to the speakers' needs. Currently I am investigating (trans)languaging practices and the connectedness of multilingual language use and social settings. Through in-depth qualitative ethnographic research I focus on a better description and understanding of multilingualism linguistic realities.

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Autres nouveaux membres, basés en Afrique (pas encore mentionnés)

Ludmilla Adjei

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Taiba Germain Ainyakou

Université Péléforo Gon Coulibaly Korhogo
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Fatoumata Camara

FHG / USSGB
MALI

Ibrahima Abdoul Hayou Cissé

MALI

Lassina Coulibaly

Université Péléforo Gon Coulibaly Korhogo
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Abian Anne-Marie Ettien

Université Péléforo Gon Coulibaly Korhogo
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Boris Oliver Glodé

Université Félix Houphouet-Boigny
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Boubacar Haidara

Les Afriques dans le Monde (Bordeaux); Université de Ségou; FRANCE / MALI

Akissi Amandine Konan

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Seydou Kone

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Hermann Moussa Konkobo

Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou
BURKINA FASO

Romaine Konseiga

LAAP (Laboratoire d'anthropologie prospective), Université catholique de Louvain
BURKINA FASO / BELGIUM

Antoinette Danebaï Lamana

Université de Douala /Université de Lille
CAMEROON / FRANCE

Koffi Parfait N'Goran

Université Alassane Ouattara
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

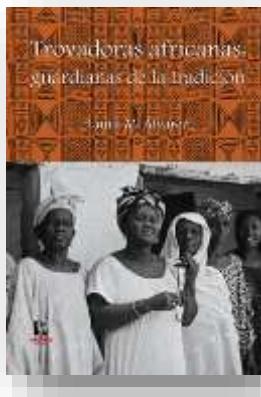
Kouadio Raphaël Oura

Université Alassane Ouattara, Centre de Recherche pour le Développement
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Member updates / Mise à jour des membres

Laura Álvarez has published *Trovadoras africanas: guardianas de la tradición*, a study of 'griottes' in Casamance, Senegal (Montevideo: Perro Andaluz Ediciones, 2020). The book also includes recordings of their songs. Related [article](#):

Género, música tradicional y tabúes de la Sociedad Mandé en África occidental. *Rev. urug. Antropología etnografía*, 2019, Año IV, no 2:119-127. doi: 10.29112/RUAE.v4.n2.7



Carole Amman, SNSF Postdoc-Mobility Fellow, Amsterdam Institute of Social Science Research (AISSR), University of Amsterdam, has co-edited 'Masculinities in Africa beyond crisis: complexity, fluidity, and intersectionality', a themed issue for the journal *Gender, Place & Culture*. The introduction is open-access available:

Ammann, Carole, and Sandra Staudacher. 2021. "Masculinities in Africa beyond crisis: complexity, fluidity, and intersectionality." *Gender, Place & Culture* 28 (6):759-768. doi: 10.1080/0966369X.2020.1846019

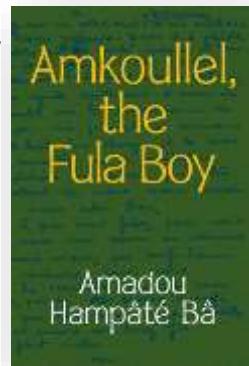
The issue also includes articles on Sierra Leone (Kristen McLean), Ghana (Katharina Gartner), and Mali (Susanne U. Schultz). The entire issue can be accessed [here](#).

She is also co-author of: Ammann, Carole, Aïdas Sanogo, and Barbara Heer. 2021. "Secondary Cities in West Africa: Urbanity, Power, and Aspirations." *Urban Forum*:1-17.

doi: 10.1007/s12132-021-09449-1

Ralph Austen, Professor Emeritus of History and African Studies, University of Chicago, has contributed an introduction to *Amkoullé, the Fula Boy* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2021), the welcomed English translation (by Jeanne Garane) of Amadou Hampâté Bâ's classic memoir, *Amkoullé, l'enfant peul*.

Chérif Keïta, William H. Laird Professor of French and the Liberal Arts, Carleton College, provided a '4ème de couverture' text: "Amadou Hampâté Ba has long been recognized as one of



the most authoritative voices about Mali, Islamic West Africa, Fulani culture, orality, and the dialogue between religions. Jeanne Garane's masterful translation of Ba's rich and captivating memoir presents a vivid picture of the mechanisms of social change in Mali and many neighboring countries. The publication of *Amkoullé, the Fula Boy* is truly a blessing."

Fatoumata Bamba (Université Julius Nyéréré de Kankan) and **Lucy Durán** (SOAS, University of London) were panelists in the webinar, **African Literature Association Remembers Djibril Tamsir Niane**, May 8, 2021. ([Available](#) on YouTube.) Maria Grosz-Ngate and Joseph Hellweg were acknowledged for their help in identifying potential speakers.

Ladjি Bamba est chercheur-enseignant à l'Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny/ UFR Criminologie, est Maître de Conférences depuis septembre 2021. Il est aussi Directeur de la communication, des relations publiques, de la documentation et des archives, Ministère de l'Artisanat (Côte d'Ivoire), depuis 2019.

Articles récents:

« Réussir son parcours académique et débouchés en Criminologie.» *Revue Africaine de Criminologie*, no 24, juin 2019, pp. 102-113.

« Réforme du secteur de la sécurité et tranquillité sociale : le cas de la Côte d'Ivoire.» *Revue de Criminologie, Victimologie et Sécurité*, vol. XIII, no 2, mai-août 2019. (avec Konan Kouadio Isidore)

Laurence Becker, Professor of Geography, Oregon State University, Corvallis, has published an [article](#) on increased pressures on shea tree culture and conservation, "Shea trees are falling fast across Africa, victims of new pressures (commentary)", appearing on September 22 in *Mongabay*, a non-profit news platform for environmental and conservation issues.

Jody Benjamin, Assistant Professor of History, University of California, Riverside, is the lead PI for a year-long Mellon Foundation funded Sawyer Seminar that will be held at UC Riverside next year. It is called "[Unarchiving Blackness](#)" and concerns the role of archives in African and African Diaspora Studies.

Member updates / Mise à jour des membres

(cont.)

Coleman Donaldson, linguistic anthropologist, has:

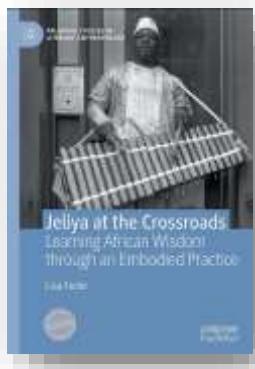
- ◊ Created and released an online Beginner Bambara class: ankataa.com/course. He revised and expanded it this fall, adding a certificate option.
- ◊ Released a new version of the Bambara/Jula-English-French dictionary: dictionary.ankataa.com
- ◊ Published 19 Manding language education videos on the *An ka taa* YouTube channel: youtube.com/ankataa, which has now reached over 6,300 subscribers (!)
- ◊ Begun a documentary film project on Manding-speaking West Africans in the greater Paris area, where he is now living.



Armelle Faure a publié *Révolution et sorcellerie—une ethnologue au Burkina Faso* (Elytis, 2020), un mémoire de ses expériences en pays Bissa comme jeune ethnologue à l'époque de Thomas Sankara. "Affinant son regard sur la société africaine et sur le rapport du continent avec l'Occident, à ce moment charnière de l'histoire burkinabée, Armelle Faure évoque, avec nombre d'anecdotes et une grande précision historique, ces années à vivre l'Afrique au coeur, exubérante et pétrie d'espoir." Ceci a gagné le [Prix Louis Castex](#) (histoire-sociologie) de l'Académie Française 2021. Brava!

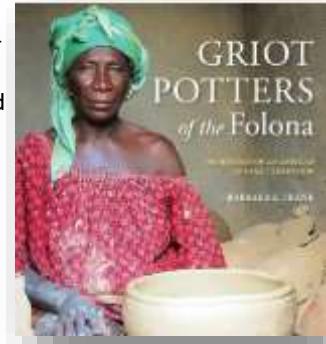


Lisa Feder, American cultural anthropologist and researcher based in France who works with Manding griots (*jeli*) internationally, has published her first [book](#), *Jeliya at the Crossroads: Learning African Wisdom through an Embodied Practice* (Palgrave MacMillan Press, 2021). It is geared toward those doing fieldwork in West Africa, particularly among Mande people, and is described by MANSAden Barbara Hoffman as "a refreshing auto-ethnography."



Barbara Frank's book, *Griot Potters of the Folona: the History of an African Ceramic Tradition*, is due out in early 2022 from Indiana University Press.

Griot Potters of the Folona reconstructs the past of a particular group of West African women potters using evidence found in their artistry and techniques. [Although] the potters of the Folona region of southeastern Mali ... identify themselves as Mande, the unique styles and types of objects the Folona women make, and more importantly, the way they form and fire them, are fundamentally different from Mande potters to the north and west. Through a brilliant comparative analysis of pottery production methods across the region, ... Barbara Frank concludes that the mothers of the potters of the Folona very likely came from the south and east, marrying Mande griots (West African leatherworkers who are better known as storytellers or musicians), as they made their way south in search of clientele as early as the 14th or 15th century CE. While the women may have nominally given up their mothers' identities through marriage, over the generations the potters preserved their maternal heritage through their technological style, passing this knowledge on to their daughters, and thus transforming the very nature of what it means to be a Mande griot. This is a story of resilience and the continuity of cultural heritage in the hands of women.



Janet Goldner, multimedia artist and longtime collaborator with Malian contemporary artists, has had 8 exhibitions this year, including at [Ségou'Art](#) / Festival sur le Niger (Feb. 2021), and presented several papers; all are described on her [website](#). Presentations include "Gala: importance of indigo in Malian culture" (12th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS12)), and "I ni ce, thank you, merci: an ongoing dialogue about art, life and building bridges" (Fulbright Association annual conference, Fulbright at 75).



At Ségou'Art 2021 — Janet Goldner with Mme. Kadiatou Konaré, Ministre de la Culture, du Tourisme et de l'Artisanat; and one of Janet's welded steel book sculptures.

Member updates / Mise à jour des membres (cont.)

Maria Grosz-Ngaté's article "Knowledge and Power: Perspectives on the Production and Decolonization of African/ist Knowledges" was published in *African Studies Review*, vol. 63, no. 4, December 2020, pp. 689-718. This is a revision of her presidential lecture at African Studies Association's 2019 annual meeting.

She co-authored the Introduction to «Conflits armés et insécurité dans le Sahel ouest-africain: Défis et implications pour la recherche et l'éducation» with **Boubacar Haidara**, a special issue of *Études Maliennes*, no. 89 (December 2020) which they co-edited. The issue is based on an October 2019 conference held at the Institut des Sciences Humaines in Bamako, Mali.

She also made two virtual conference presentations in 2021: "Transforming Practices, Changing the Balance of Power?" at the VAD-Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland (Association of African Studies in Germany) bi-annual meeting, June 11; and on June 18, for the Roundtable "Publish or Perish in the Post-Colony: Struggling to Decolonize African Studies" at the 11th Mande Studies international conference.

Sten Hagberg (Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Director of Forum for Africa Studies, Uppsala University) has pursued co-publishing with colleagues in Burkina Faso and Mali of the *Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale* (LACET). In early 2021, the collective work on Burkinabe women's leadership struggles was published. Most recently, Hagberg is coordinating an anthropological study of the populations of Liptako-Gourma with research teams in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. In 2020 and 2021, he has been able to carry out shorter fieldwork stints in Mali on the political crisis, as well as in Burkina Faso on the presidential and legislative elections. Publications:

Hagberg, S. 2021. Governance and Democratization. In *The SAGE Handbook in Cultural Anthropology*, (eds) L. Pedersen and L. Cliggett. Los Angeles and London: SAGE.

Hagberg, S. 2021. Alternatives to Consultancy and NGOing: Developing Anthropological Team Research in West Africa. In *NGOs and Lifeworlds: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, (eds) Melina C. Kalfelis and Kathrin Knodel. Oxford: Berghahn.

Hagberg, S. 2020. Le travail en équipe en zone rouge: Opportunités méthodologiques et épistémologiques des recherches de terrain au Burkina Faso et au Mali. *Études malienne*s 89, 72-83. Bamako: Institut des Sciences Humaines.

Hagberg, S., L.O. Kibora, B. Koné, A. Konkobo, E. Zongo, S. Barry, Y. Cissao et P. Kaboré 2021.

«Femmes de devant !»: Combat du leadership féminin.

Uppsala Papers in African Studies 6. Uppsala: Uppsala University.



Genevieve Hill-Thomas teaches art history at the Ringling College of Art and Design, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA. She is returning to MANSA after a decade in other fields. Her research interests include textiles, indigo, silk, kapok, cotton, Burkina Faso, social uses of textiles, textiles in the marketplace, fashion, and identity.

Michelle C. Johnson, Professor of Anthropology and Associate Dean of the Faculty, Social Science Division, Bucknell University, has co-edited (with Edmund (Ned) Searles) *Reciprocity Rules: Friendship and Compensation in Fieldwork Encounters* (Lexington Books, 2021). Her chapter, « Predestined debt : cosmology and constraint in transnational fieldwork, » concerns Mandinga peoples in Guinea-Bissau and as immigrants in Portugal.

Agnès Kedzierska-Manzon's appointment as research associate at Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC has been renewed for 3 more years. The title of her Chair at the EPHE (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes) in Paris is changing from Religious Ethnology of Sub-Saharan Africa to Religious Anthropology of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Co-organizer of: Anthropologie des formes relationnelles : colloque en hommage à Michael Houseman, 24-25 septembre 2021, Paris, Nanterre.

Symposium: *Possession: Les avatars du sujet dans la pratique de la transe*. 13 octobre 2021, Institut National de l'Histoire de l'Art, Paris.

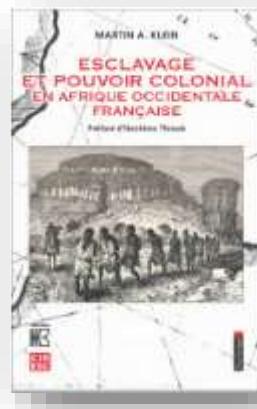
Publications:

« Dieux-matière sans cesse reconfigurée: les fétiches en pays mandingue (Afrique de l'Ouest) ». *Cahiers d'anthropologie Sociale*, n° 19, pp. 124-140.

« Entre évitement et alliance : formes mineures du divin en Afrique et ailleurs ». *Annuaire de l'Ecole Practique des Hautes Etudes*, n° 128.

Member updates / Mise à jour des membres (cont.)

Ludovic O. Kibora, Directeur et Maître de recherche, Institut des sciences des sociétés (INSS/CNRST), Ouagadougou, et **Alice Degorce**, IRD/Institut des mondes africains, ont co-édité *Migrations, mobilités et réseaux religieux au Burkina Faso* (Dakar : Amalion, 2021). Ceci a été réalisé dans le cadre du projet ANR (Agence nationale de la recherche, France) « L'insertion par le religieux des migrants au Burkina Faso » (ANR Relinsert), 2018-2021.



Martin Klein, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Toronto. His book, *Slavery and Colonial Rule in French West Africa* (published in 1998), has been published in a French translation as *Esclavage et Pouvoir Colonial en Afrique Occidentale Française*; translated by Charles Becker and Lysa Hochrath (Karthala, 2021).

Dolores Koenig, Professor Emerita, American University. Recent article: "Labor-saving technologies in Manantali, Mali." *Economic Anthropology*, special issue: Convenience as a Driver of Social Economies. Volume 8, Issue 2, June 2021, pp. 219-233.

Yao Marcel Kouakou, chercheur-enseignant d'histoire, Université Jean Lorougnon Guédé de Daloa, et Coordonnateur d'Afrique de l'Ouest pour MANSA, a été promu au grade de Maître Assistant (CAMES) en septembre 2021. Nos félicitations!

Rachel Laget, independent researcher, in the region of Sigiri, Kankan region of Guinea. She works mostly with the Kouyaté-Konkoba family around the history and network of this family, its Konkoba mask and performances, also in Brussels, where one of the family members lives.

Frédéric Madore is now a Research Fellow at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in the *Religion, Morality and Boko in West Africa: Students Training for a Good Life* project. He is currently working on Salafism and Pentecostalism on university campuses in Benin and Togo since the 1970s. He is also developing an open-access database hosted by the University of Florida libraries, now containing more than 2,500 archival materials, newspaper articles, Islamic publications, photographs, and 200 bibliographical references related to Islam in Burkina Faso. Publications: Madore, Frédéric (2020/2021), "Muslim Feminist, Media Sensation, and Religious Entrepreneur: Aminata Kane Koné as a Figure of Success in Côte d'Ivoire", *Africa Today*, 67 (2-3): 17-38.

<https://doi.org/10.2979/africatoday.67.2-3.02>

Madore, Frédéric (2021), "'Good Muslim, Bad Muslim' in Togo: Religious Minority Identity Construction amid a Sociopolitical Crisis (2017–2018)", *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 59 (2): 197-217. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X21000094>

Charles Riley, Catalog Librarian for African Languages, Yale University Library, was a guest on a YouTube show, *Focus on Liberia*, hosted by Dennis Jah out of Atlanta, Georgia on September 5th. He was interviewed about the history and use of the Vai script of Liberia, which dates to the 1830s. He was involved as a co-author on a proposal to bring the script into the Unicode Standard, and has been working on various projects to maintain and extend its use as a writing system across different digital platforms.

<https://bit.ly/3Blal52>

Related article, with Andrij Rovenchak and Tombekai Sherman: "The diary of Boima Kiakpomgbo from Mandio Town (Liberia): a quantitative study of a Vai text." *Journal of Quantitative Linguistics* 25:3, 271-287 (2018).

Member updates / Mise à jour des membres

(cont.)

Just announced (thanks to Barbara Hoffman for sharing this): The **2021 Prize for the Best Article Published in the ASR (African Studies Review)** is shared between two outstanding authors. We are pleased to announce that Coleman Donaldson's "[The Role of Islam, Ajami Writings, and Educational Reform in Sulemaana Kantè's N'ko](#)" in Volume 63, Issue 3, and Oumar Ba's "[Contested Meanings: Timbuktu and the Prosecution of Destruction of Cultural Heritage as War Crimes](#)" which appeared in Volume 63, Issue 4, are the joint recipients of this year's award. Nos grandes félicitations!

Thèses

Nous avons appris que **Séraphin Ngoma**, enseignant-chercheur en sciences de l'information et de la communication à la Faculté des Lettres et des sciences humaines, l'Université Marien Ngouabi de Brazzaville, a soutenu son thèse de doctorat sur "La communication pour le changement de comportement des populations face au VIH et SIDA en République du Congo: cas de la commune de Sibiti," le 30 janvier 2021. Il est l'auteur de *L'ivoirité et les crises sociopolitiques en Côte d'Ivoire* (Taschenbuch, 2017).



Aussi, **Romaine Konseiga**, doctorante en anthropologie à l'Université catholique de Louvain et ancienne chercheure à Uppsala Forum for Africa Studies, a soutenu sa thèse doctorale le 4 décembre 2020, sur "Le barrage de Ziga et l'invention d'une paysannerie sans terre au Burkina Faso." Sten Hagberg a servi sur la commission d'examen.



The Golden Secret of Kri Koro, by Stephen Belcher

(Van Velzer Press, 2021). With photos by the author.

I announced the publication of my novel, *The Golden Secret of Kri Koro*, on the Mansa listserve some time ago, and I thank all the members who wrote in with approval.

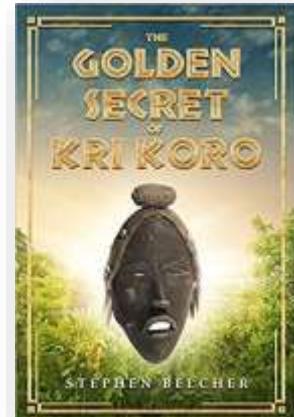
It is a fantasy-adventure novel set ca 1900, as French colonial rule was being established in Mali-Guinea. It is my response to the African adventure novels I read as a child (Rider Haggard, Burroughs, P.C. Wren) that all featured English heroes performing exploits in Africa. I wanted an African adventure story set in Africa with African heroes. I found the imaginative spark for the story while going over the transcripts of the SCOA conferences of the 1970s: a golden throne that had vanished. I decided to

construct a less probable and venal explanation, and that led me into the legend of Wagadu: the head of the *bida* serpent, cut off by the questionably heroic Mamadi Sefa Dekote, that flew into the air and landed... where? Legend says it is the source of the gold in the Bambouk and the Bure. Did it? and what happened to it? And the princess who was to be sacrificed... Here the theme of the immortal princess/priestess, going back to Herodotus (who placed her in North Africa), picked up by Rider Haggard (*She*, novel and movie) fit into place.

I wrote the novel several years before the release of the movie *Black Panther*. I did not want a Wakanda-style imaginary Africa. The magic in the story is of course imaginary. The landscape in which it takes place is as real as I could make it, and for many of the details I am deeply indebted to the Mansa-dew whose works I have consulted.



Il y a quelques mois, je me suis servi du list-serve Mansa pour annoncer la parution d'un roman, *Le secret de l'or de Kri Koro*, et je remercie tous les membres qui ont signifié leur approbation.



C'est un roman dans le genre 'Fantaisie-Aventure' qui se place vers 1900, quand le régime colonial s'établissait dans le Soudan (Mali-Guinée). C'est ma réponse aux romans d'aventure en Afrique que j'avais lu, enfant (auteurs anglophones: Rider Haggard, Burroughs, P.C. Wren) dont les romans offraient des héros blancs et anglo-saxons accomplissant des exploits en Afrique. Je voulais un histoire d'aventure Africaine avec des héros africains. C'est en lisant les transcriptions des congrès SCOA des années 1970 qu'une étincelle m'a inspiré l'histoire: un trône d'or avait disparu du village qui le préservait. J'ai trouvé une explication bien moins probable et moins vénale, qui m'a amené dans la légende de Ouagadou: la tête du serpent *bida*, tranchée par Mamadou Sefa Dekote, qui ne paraît pas héroïque dans la légende, s'est envoyée dans l'air pour atterrir ... où? La légende dit qu'elle est la source de l'or dans le Bambouk et le Bouré. Où est-elle tombée? Qu'est-ce qui lui est arrivé? Et la princesse offerte en sacrifice... Ici je me sers du thème de la princesse/prêtresse immortelle qui remonte aux écrits d'Hérodote (qui la situait en Afrique du nord), repris par Rider Haggard (le roman *She*).

Pensez-vous qu'une traduction en français serait bien reçue ?

Spirits of the Red Savanna: Art and Culture of the Bamana People of Mali

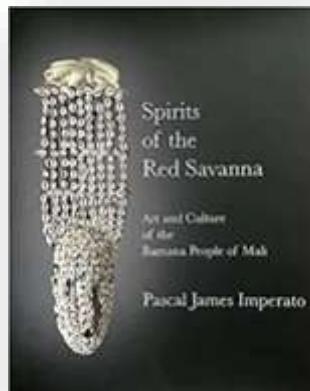
By Pascal James Imperato; with essays by Gavin H. Imperato and Austin C. Imperato; foreword by Dr. Faustino Quintanilla. (New York: QCC Art Gallery, Queensborough Community College, The City University of New York; Manhasset, NY: Kilima House Publishers, 2022). xxviii, 342 pages, 336 color and black-and-white photographs, map, bibliography. Released in September 2021.

Pascal James Imperato is well known for his extensive research on Mali and especially on the Bamana people and their art. This is reflected in his numerous publications over the years, especially in *African Arts* magazine. He has also published several books on Mali and the Bamana. *Spirits of the Red Savanna* represents his opus on Bamana art and culture and as such is comprehensive in nature. This book is divided into two broad sections. An extensive text of 29 chapters is beautifully illustrated with 166 photographs, mostly by the author, interspersed with historical photographs from the early 20th century. The author's field photographs are excellent, a legacy no doubt of his deep interest in photography beginning in his teenage years and based on advice he received from his friend, Eliot Elisofon, a renowned Time-Life photographer.

The following Catalogue section is illustrated in color with 170 beautiful objects, ranging from wooden sculptures to textiles, collected by the author during the 1960s in Mali and presented in groups reflecting the organization of the text. Detailed captions are presented at the end of this section which include geographic provenance within Mali. This volume accompanies an exhibition of Bamana art to be held in 2022 at The CUNY QCC Art Gallery.

The sweep of coverage in these chapters is impressive and meticulously referenced. Beginning with a discussion of Bamana identity and *Bamanaya*, the author then discusses the transformative influences that have modified the Bamana way of life over many years. There are chapters on smithing and the creation of art, sculpting centers, artistic fame and anonymity among smiths, and two unique substyles of Bamana art. The latter include the well-known Segou substyle, and the Macina substyle proposed by the author. Subsequent chapters thoroughly cover the initiation societies and power associations and the objects used in their ceremonies, including *boliw*. Also covered are the masks and other sculptures of the *tonw* (youth associations), twin statues, door locks and textiles. Some sections of chapters are informed by the author's memories of events that occurred during the six years he lived and worked in Mali and during his return visits.

Overall, this volume reflects not only the author's deep knowledge of the Bamana and their art, but also his skills as an epidemiologist, specialist in internal medicine, tropical medicine, and public health, and his commitment to scholarly rigor.



The author with an *N'Tomo* performer and *ton* leaders Bakary Traoré (with hat) and Amadou Coulibaly (with movie camera), village of Senou, Djitoumou, 1969.

The author was intentionally chosen by the Centers for Disease Control to oversee a smallpox eradication and measles control program in Mali because of his educational and experiential credentials and his fluency in French. Mali then had a Marxist government, which created an adverse environment for Americans against the background canvas of the Cold War and the war in Vietnam. Imperato was a trained internist, had a degree in public health and tropical medicine, had previously worked in a remote corner of northern Tanzania and in Colombia, and had studied medical anthropology under Dr. William McEwan. Having been trained at the CDC by the Epidemic Intelligence Service, he also possessed excellent epidemic investigatory skills easily applied to anthropological field studies. During his time in Mali, he was respected for his diplomatic skills, formed close relationships with many Malian colleagues, and played major roles in controlling epidemics of cholera, yellow fever, and meningitis. All of this background is reflected in the thorough and meticulous manner in which he presents the art and culture of the Bamana people. *Spirits of the Red Savanna* is an excellent book containing a wealth of information about the Bamana and their art and presented in an engaging manner that will appeal to a broad range of readers.

Pascal James Imperato is Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Founding Dean and Distinguished Service Professor, School of Public Health, SUNY, Downstate Health Sciences University.

His published books include *A Wind in Africa: A Story of Modern Medicine in Mali* (1975), *African Folk Medicine: Practices and Beliefs of the Bambara and Other Peoples* (1977), *Dogon Cliff Dwellers: The Art of Mali's Mountain People* (1978), *Mali: A Handbook of Historical Statistics* (1982, with Eleanor M. Imperato), *Buffoons, Queens and Wooden Horsemen: The Dyo and Gouan Societies of the Bambara of Mali* (1983), *Mali: A Search for Direction* (1989), *Legends, Sorcerers, and Enchanted Lizards: Door Locks of the Bamana of Mali* (2002), *African Mud Cloth: The Bogolanfini Art Tradition of Gneli Traore of Mali* (2006), *Victor Forestier Sow: A Pioneer Malian Painter* (2014, with Austin C. Imperato), and *Historical Dictionary of Mali*; 4th ed. (2008, with Gavin H. Imperato).

Festschrift for Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias

Landscapes, Sources and Intellectual Projects of the West African Past: essays in honour of Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias / edited by Toby Green, Benedetta Rossi. Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2018. (African history ; v. 6)

All that glitters is not gold : facing the myths of ancient trade between North and Sub-Saharan Africa / Sonja Magnavita and Carlos Magnavita -- African archaeology and the 'chalk line effect' : a consideration of Mali city and Sigilmasa / François-Xavier Fauvelle -- The 'Pays Do' and the origins of the Empire of Mali / Kevin C. MacDonald, Nikolas Gestrich, Seydou Camara, Daouda Keita -- Imitation and creativity in the establishment of Islam in Oyo / Insa Nolte -- Fante 'origins' : the problematic evidence of 'tradition' / Robin Law -- The unknowns of the modern era in the greater Western Sahara : reassessing the territorial location of the Wlad Dlaym (15th-17th centuries) / Benjamin Acloque -- Inscribing the now and the hereafter : first writings in early African history / Ghislaine Lydon -- New reinventions of the Sahel : reflections on the ta'rīḥ genre in the Timbuktu historiographical production, seventeenth to twentieth centuries / Mauro Nobili -- Calibrating the scholarship of Timbuktu / Charles C. Stewart -- Rethinking the place of Timbuktu in the intellectual history of Muslim West Africa / Bruce S. Hall -- Examples of Sahelian book collectors over two centuries / Shamil Jeppie -- The time-tested traditionist : intellectual trajectory and mediation from the early empires to the present day / Mamadou Diawara -- The next generation : young griots' quest for authority / Jan Jansen -- In praise of history; history as praise / Karin Barber -- From essentialism to pluralisms : new directions in precolonial West African history from the oral history archive at Fajara, The Gambia / Toby Green -- Dreamworlds : cultural narrative in Asante visionary experience / Thomas C. McCaskie -- The life of a text : Carsten Niebuhr and 'Abd al-ra'man Aga's Das Innere von Afrika / Camille Lefebvre -- The Kano Chronicle revisited / Paul E. Lovejoy -- Slavery or death in Sokoto and Borno : tactics, legalities and sources / Murray Last -- A story of exile, a story in exile : Louis Hunkanrin, Mauritania and 'un forfait colonial' (revisited) / E. Ann McDougall -- Edmond Fortier (1862-1928) : photographer, documentarian and creator of stereotypes in West Africa / Daniela Moreau. -- Afterword: Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias' publications and interview / Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias -- Interpreting sources of the African past : an interview with Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias / by Benedetta Rossi.

Forthcoming publication:

Corpus of Early Accounts of the Sunjata Epic, 1889-1959 / edited by Stephen Bulman, Stephen Belcher and Valentin Vydrin. British Academy, expected 2022.

Contains English translations of all 20 extant versions of the Sunjata narrative published between 1889 and 1959. Each version is introduced and annotated. French translations by Stephen Belcher. Manding language translations by Valentin Vydrin. With a foreword by Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias.

From Lisbon to Senegal to Amsterdam: A Sephardic African Diaspora

Elka Klein Memorial Lecture
Congregation Darchei Noam, Toronto

Peter Mark, cultural and art historian, delivered this talk on Sunday, June 20, 2021 as part of an endowed lecture series created by **Martin Klein** and Suzanne Klein to honor their late daughter Elka Klein, an historian of medieval Iberian Jewry. Peter's longtime research partner, **José da Silva Horta**, was also in attendance.

The lecture is [available](#) on YouTube. Here is the preliminary synopsis:

In the 16th century 50,000 Sephardic Jews chose exile to escape forced conversion; one such refuge for about 40 Portuguese Jews was Senegambia. Some married local women, but preserved and transmitted their Jewish identity, adapting to an alien culture and climate. What were their relations with their African hosts? Was skin colour an important factor in these relations?

By 1620 most had migrated to join the thriving Amsterdam community, again adapting to the new situation, as Euro-African Jews. How successfully did they integrate? What role does this small diasporic community play in the articulation of Black-White relations in the years before the massive expansion of the African slave trade?

Namballa Keita: A Soldier and His Village

—a film by Chérif Keïta (2020 ; 85 min.)

BBC Weekend [interview](#), aired June 12, 2021

BBC : The Senegalese riflemen were an infantry corps in the French colonial army. They existed from the 1850s until the 1960s. Despite the name, the corps was made up not just of troops from Senegal, but from throughout France's African colonies. They served with honor in many conflicts, but also suffered discrimination. A new documentary film about one particular rifleman, Namballa Keita from Mali, is due out soon. He served in Europe in World War II, and then set up schools and a medical center when he returned to Mali. The film is called "A Soldier and His Village", and it's been made by his son, Chérif Keita, who is a professor of French at Carleton College in Minnesota, in the United States. So why did you make the film?

CK: My father's story, I realized, went beyond just the family story. It became the story of the whole generation – a generation that acted as agents of social change, but that were not recognized as such. Because, after all, it's the sacrifice of that generation, by the participation in the war effort to defend Europe against the Nazis, that really brought about some changes in the colonial relationship.

BBC: Presumably there were things that you found out about your father, after he died, that you hadn't known about.

CK: Yes. At his funeral, I really saw, first of all, how popular he had become. He had really truly become a hero. And also I realized, as I was doing research, the level of resistance to his idea for innovation – the idea of a school, which people resisted, beyond my wildest imagination. It's because, in a rural area, farmers would rather have their kids with them on the farm than putting them in school. And I realized also the tenacity of my father – how he resolutely kept going.

BBC: How did he change minds in that situation, when he was faced with resistance to the idea of a school and a better education?

CK: I realized that my success in school, I was proof that he could show to people, that we are not sending your kids in the wrong direction. It was also clear that he could show other young people that he had pushed along, there were already some generations that had succeeded. In this remote area of Mali, he could show us all those other examples.



CK: My father – he was in Senegal at the time, he was a farm laborer, had never been to school – he enlisted, and then was sent to the Italian front. That's where he fought. They were fighting really to free Europe from the Nazi occupation. They were not treated well. They were used to 'mollify' the enemy; so, which means that, they became cannon fodder. And they lost a lot of soldiers.

BBC: And their role wasn't properly appreciated.

CK: No, in fact, there is this very famous massacre in 1945, called the massacre of Thiaroye, which was a group of Senegalese riflemen who, upon being sent back to Africa, asked for their pensions to be paid. And that was seen as disobedience. And, they shot them! And of course we know that the pensions they were given were peanuts, in comparison with what was paid to their European counterparts.

BBC: There was one thing that I read in an interview that you did about the film and about the role that your father and people like him played. You said that they were important early mediators between the colonizer, in this case France, and the colonized people at the time.

CK: What I mean by that is that they were among the first to come to Europe and see the European masters at their weakest. Being, literally, colonized by other colonizers.

So that moment of realization made them see that the colonial master is not invincible, after all.

BBC: I wanted to ask you about one particular scene in the film, where the now famous Malian singer Salif Keita literally sings your father's praises. How did they know each other?

CK: My father was the head of the medical center in the village where Salif was born. Salif's parents and my parents became very, very close. In fact, Salif was one of those young kids in the village whose education was once promoted by my father. I'm looking forward to the launching of the film in Bamako at the National Museum this summer. And also, in December I'm going to take it to Senegal, where, December 1st, is the official day of celebration of the Senegalese riflemen, the Tirailleurs sénégalaïs.



Voici un [entretien en français](#) de Chérif Keïta publié au *Journal de Mali* suite de la projection du film le 12 août 2021 au Musée national, Bamako.

In Memoriam

The Epic Life of D. T. Niane

Joseph Hellweg
Florida State University

Djibril Tamsir Niane was a public intellectual of global significance: a champion of education, political dissident, and luminary scholar. His life calls us all to moral courage, social engagement, and academic productivity.

He was born in Conakry on January 9, 1932, to a Manding-speaking mother, Saran Keita, whose family hailed from Guinea and Mali. His Fulbe-speaking, Senegalese father, Daouda Tamsir Niane, was a citizen of Senegal's Four (French) Communes who helped build Conakry's Ignace Deen Hospital while a soldier in the French colonial army.

Niane attended primary school in Siguiri, high school in Conakry, and earned his *diplôme d'études supérieures* at the University of Bordeaux. After evading conscription for the French war in Algeria, due to his anti-colonial principles, he returned to newly independent Guinea. There he taught history at, and became principal of, Conakry's Lycée Classique de Donka. There he wrote *Souniata ou l'épopée du Manding* (1960), based on a version of the story told by griot Mamadou Kouyaté, but Niane also drew on tellings by other griots, who regrettably remained unnamed in the book.

Very quickly, Niane became a political dissident when he and other leaders of Guinea's Teachers' Union called publicly for better salaries in 1961. President Sékou Touré had Niane arrested, along with other union leaders, and sentenced, with them, to seven years' detention in Conakry's notorious prison and torture center, Camp Boiro. Three years later, President Touré freed Niane to join the Polish-Guinean archaeological excavations at Niani from 1965 to 1967. Meanwhile, Niane helped lead what is today Conakry's Gamel Abdel Nasser University and the Guinean state's Division of Social Sciences.

David Conrad and D. T. Niane, Conakry, 2005.
Niane is holding Conrad's edited translation,
Sunjata: a West African epic of the Mande peoples,
narrated by Djanka Tassey Condé (2004), and *Somono
Bala of the Upper Niger* (2002).

In 1972, after Sékou Touré publicly hanged suspected opponents of his regime in Conakry, Niane found his life under threat yet again. He and his wife, Aïssatou Diallo, planned their escape. He headed to Dakar from Bucharest, to which he had flown for medical treatment, and she fled, unobtrusively, from Conakry, with their children, to meet him in Dakar. In Senegal, Niane worked for the Senegalese state until President Touré died in 1984.

Back in Conakry, Niane created the first independent publisher in Guinea In 1990, the Société Africaine d'Édition et de Communication. But adversity struck again when his daughter, the supermodel Katoucha Niane, who had collaborated with Yves Saint-Laurent and Christian Lacroix, vanished after having last appeared near her houseboat on the Seine in early February of 2008. Her body surfaced in the river later that month. Although authorities ruled her death an accidental drowning, Niane claimed that his daughter's body could have lain in the river for no more than twenty-four hours.

Through hardship and joy, Niane wrote. He published textbooks in civic education, geography, and history for the Guinean state. He edited volume four of UNESCO's *General History of Africa*, with Joseph Ki-Zerbo, and he wrote *Histoires des Mandingues de l'Ouest* for Karthala; the plays, *Chaka* and *Sikasso*; and *Méry*, a short-story collection, among many other works. For his work, he received Senegal's National Order of the Lion, France's Legion of Honor, and honorary professorships at Washington, DC's Howard University, and Tokyo's Meiji University. We revere him here, and regret his passing, in particular, as a hero who made the field of Mande Studies possible.



In Memoriam

D. T. Niane (1932-2021) - cont.

Commemorative events:

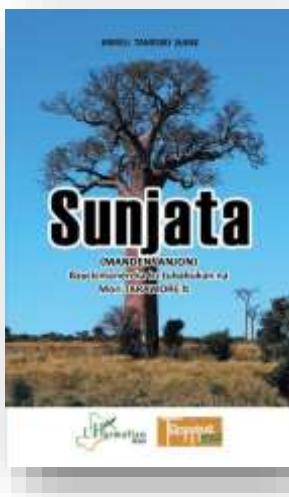
Webinar, **African Literature Association Remembers Djibril Tamsir Niane**, May 8, 2021, with participation by MANSA members Fatoumata Bamba and Lucy Durán. ([Available on YouTube](#))

MANSA-sponsored session at the African Studies Association's annual meeting: **Roundtable: The Life and Work of Djibril Tamsir Niane: Memories and Reflections**. November 20, 2021. Chairs: Ryan Skinner, Ohio State University and Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University; Elara Bertho, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique; David Conrad, State University of New York at Oswego; Stephen Bulman, Lancaster University; Jonathon Repinecz, George Mason University.

A related session of the *11th International Conference on Mande Studies*, planned before Niane's death, was **Sundiata at Sixty / Les soixante ans de Soundjata** (June 16, 2021). Participants were Stephen Bulman, Jan Jansen, Jonathan Repinecz, Stephen Belcher, and David Conrad.



D. T. Niane's *Soundjata* has just been [published](#) in a Bamana translation: ***Sunjata : (Manden janjon)*** / Jibirili Tamisiri Nane ; bayel'manen ka bɔ tubabukan na Mori Tarawore fɛ. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2021.



Description on back cover:

Yan, Jibirili Tamisiri Nane y'a ta ke Afiriki kɔrɔlen lamenni ye. A be kuma minnu dajira an na, olu ye jeliw ka kumaw ye. Anw be Mandenba Benbake ka tariku dɔn, ce min ka kobaw y'a latemè Julu Kara Nani kan ; Sigi den, Waraba den, Sunjata ka tariku, "ce tɔgɔcamantigi, suyaw ma si tige min na".

Gerald Cashion (1941-2019)

Gerald (Gerry) Cashion served on the initial cohort of Advisory Board members for the newly formed Mande Studies Association, in 1986-1988. Per David Conrad's detailed organizational [history](#), MANSA was born out of an informal meeting in Cashion's hotel room during the ASA meeting in Madison, Wisconsin in 1986. He first went to West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone (1965-1968). He later did several years of research in Mali, including on Bambara and Malinke hunters, and earned a Ph.D. in African Folklore from Indiana University (1984). In 1985 he was hired as a project development officer in the USAID Bureau for Africa. He worked with USAID in various positions in Nigeria, Barbados, Madagascar, Morocco, Kenya, and Botswana, retiring in 2008.

Photos of Gerry Cashion by family and friends can be viewed [here](#).

Lamin Sanneh (1942-2019)

Lamin O. Sanneh was a MANSA Advisory Board member in 1994-1997. Born in the Gambia, he converted from Islam to Christianity when young. He studied at Near East School of Theology (Beirut), then earned an M.A. at University of Birmingham and a Ph.D. in Islamic history at the University of London. He was Professor of History and of International and Area Studies at Yale Divinity School. He taught at Aberdeen, Legon, and Harvard prior to arriving at Yale in 1989.

He was the author of many articles and books, including *West African Christianity: the religious impact* (1983), *The Jakhanke Muslim clerics: a religious and historical study of Islam in Senegambia* (1989), *The crown and the turban: Muslims and West African pluralism* (1997), and *Beyond jihad: the pacifist tradition in West African Islam* (2016). His memoir, *Summoned from the margin: homecoming of an African*, was published in 2012.

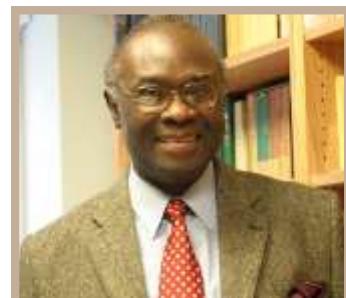


Photo source:
Yale Divinity School website

In Memoriam

Dr Moussa SOW : un chercheur émérite, un pionnier du terrain

Une carrière scientifique remplie et accomplie

Né en 1953 à Fassoudébé (Cercle de Diéma, région de Kayes, Mali) et décédé le 19 août 2021 à Bamako, à l'âge de 68 ans, Dr Moussa SOW fut une figure scientifique et intellectuelle majeure pour le Mali.

Après un doctorat en sociolinguistique à l'Université de Lyon 2 (France), il rentre au Mali et devient chercheur à l'Institut des Sciences Humaines (ISH) en 1981, notamment au département de recherche sur les langues et les traditions orales, qui a changé plusieurs fois de nom. Il fut en effet chef du département des traditions orales, de la linguistique et des traditions orales, puis de linguistique et de la littérature orale de l'Institut des sciences humaines. Il a assuré également la fonction du Directeur Adjoint dudit Institut de 1985 à 1991. A partir de cette date il entama une carrière administrative de haut niveau dans les cabinets ministériels où il passa neuf (09) ans avant de revenir à l'ISH avec enthousiasme pour renouer avec la recherche, son métier.

Dr Moussa SOW est l'auteur d'une riche œuvre scientifique qui va marquer certainement plusieurs générations de chercheurs. Ses publications scientifiques et ses rapports de terrain couvrent globalement les champs de la linguistique, de la culture, de la religion, de l'anthropologie et de l'histoire.

Spécialiste en linguistique, Dr Moussa SOW était un scientifique polyvalent et cultivé qui étonnait par la profondeur de sa maîtrise des sciences humaines et sociales. Abordant toujours les débats scientifiques avec modestie, et sans prétendre en être spécialiste, il démontrait à chaque fois qu'il était un chercheur émérite en Sciences et Humaines à travers ses arguments théoriques et empiriques en anthropologie, en histoire, en sociologie, le linguistique...

La disparition de Dr Moussa SOW est une énorme perte intellectuelle, scientifique et humaine pour la communauté scientifique. C'était un citoyen valeureux, un éminent chercheur, un érudit, d'une grande humilité qui a

servi dignement son pays. Je garde de lui le souvenir d'un travailleur dévoué qui avait une immense culture et son sens très élevé de la profondeur dans les analyses. Dans le domaine des Sciences Humaines et Sociales au Mali, Dr Moussa SOW incarnait la "référence" dans l'humilité. Il relevait d'un autre gabarit qui n'avait pas d'égal à travers son style et son désir de précisions et de vérité dans le travail. Chercheur très dense qui acceptait de se prêter aux règles de la science, il aimait le débat d'idées et encourageait l'émergence de nouvelles figures dans l'arène des sciences sociales au Mali.

Puisse qu'il avait une plume fine, Dr Moussa SOW a été à l'origine de la conception de plusieurs programmes de recherche et d'études à l'ISH. J'ai eu la chance de collaborer avec lui sur certains programmes. Le terrain était la passion de Dr Moussa SOW. C'était le lieu à la fois d'inspiration, de travail, d'organisation, de production, et par moment de repos pour lui. Mais le repos dans le travail. Il aimait le dire, je cite : « le terrain, c'est le laboratoire des chercheurs en Sciences Humaines et Sciences ».

Le credo d'un citoyen modèle pour la jeunesse

Dr Moussa SOW était un modèle pour la jeune génération de scientifique. Il incarnait les valeurs d'humilité et de générosité. Il était disponible pour tout le monde, en particulier pour la jeunesse dont la formation le préoccupait. Son œuvre représente une grande richesse soutenue par le souvenir de sa grande bonté, particulièrement envers les jeunes chercheurs. Sa clairvoyance et sa modestie faisaient de lui un citoyen modèle, inégalé.

C'est pourquoi, en prenant la direction de l'ISH en 2016, Dr Moussa SOW avait élaboré avec mon concours, un plan de redynamisation de l'institution. Une dimension dudit plan était consacrée à ce qu'il a appelé « une politique jeunes chercheurs. » Je cite un extrait de ce document :



*Au colloque MANSA,
Grand Bassam, 2017.
Photo: Facebook, MANSA*

In Memoriam

Dr Moussa SOW (cont.)

En termes de stratégie, il s'agit de sortir de l'état d'esprit d'attente et de relative résignation et agir en mobilisant les travailleurs autour de la dynamique imprimee par le nouveau Département, et pour atteindre les objectifs fixés par le Ministère. Pour ce faire, il s'agira entre autres de pratiquer une politique « jeunes chercheurs » visant la relève, par conséquent la pérennité, des missions fixées à l'Institut. Dans ce cadre, un directeur adjoint jeune et académiquement outillé a été identifié. Sa nomination sera proposée dans les plus brefs délais à la Tutelle. Il constituera un tandem avec le Directeur, lequel tandem sera complémentaire dans la perception et l'analyse des réalités, et pourra ainsi encadrer plus efficacement, à travers les Départements de recherche, les rares jeunes de l'ISH, en même temps qu'il attirera d'autres jeunes, surtout des doctorants volontaires et engagés pour la recherche. Déjà, de jeunes doctorants ont exprimé le désir d'être mutés à l'ISH. L'arrivée de certains est imminente.

De l'estime à la collaboration

Dr Moussa SOW avait de l'estime pour ma modeste personne. Il a été nommé Directeur de l'ISH par le Conseil des Ministres du 27 avril 2016, lorsque qu'il s'apprétait à aller sur le terrain avec une équipe dont je faisais partie. L'annonce de cette bonne nouvelle ne l'a pas emmener à abandonner cette mission, car selon son credo, le terrain est toujours primordiale. Nous avons effectué le voyage ensemble le 28 avril sur le village de Konodimini (Cercle de Ségou) où nous devrions mener des enquêtes sur la place et le rôle des Conseils de village dans la mise en œuvre de la décentralisation. Tout au long du voyage, les commentaires sur sa nomination à la tête de l'ISH ont dominé les causeries. Une fois débarqué au village sur le terrain, à peine une heure après, qu'il me prena de côté, comme on dit en apartheid pour m'annoncer ceci : « Je vais te proposer comme mon Adjoint » ; comme si cette décision était quelque chose de préparer ; et il me l'a semblé. Perturbé par le message auquel je ne m'attendais pas car je ne relevais même plus administrativement de l'ISH depuis 2 ans, j'ai commencé à appeler mes amis et parents proches pour des conseils. C'était le début d'une nouvelle aventure avec Dr Moussa SOW.

Par ailleurs en 2014, Dr Moussa SOW me proposa de relire son texte (portant sur l'Etat de Ségou et ses chefferies périphériques), celui qu'il soumettait pour l'obtention de son HDR à l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) à Paris, alors que je venais fraîchement de soutenir ma thèse en 2013. Jeune docteur en géographie sans expérience, et moins proche des questions d'histoire et d'anthropologie , je ne me sentais pas et me posais la question de savoir pourquoi moi ?. En effet je me suis donné le temps de lire cet immense travail, qui se situe au carrefour de l'histoire et de l'anthropologie, en y apportant mes observations, qu'il a bien appréciées. Et j'ai compris par la suite que cet élan à mon égard s'appelait de l'estime.



Photo: Facebook, MANSA

En ma qualité de Directeur Général Adjoint auprès de lui entre 2016 et 2018, Dr Moussa SOW m'a formé durablement au double plan scientifique et administratif. Pendant cette période de collaboration directe, il m'a toujours associé à la lecture de ses articles scientifiques. Je pense à titre d'exemple à l'article intitulé : « L'évolution du culte de Tyanaba à Samafoulala, au Mali : un cas exemplaire de patrimonialisation d'un mythe ». Il a mis mon pieds à l'étrier concernant la rédaction administrative où il était d'une finesse et d'une précision inouïes. Dr Moussa SOW m'a considéré comme son jeune frère et m'a toujours donné des conseils pratiques dans la vie professionnelle et sociale. Je n'oublie pas ses efforts qui ont consisté à m'insérer dans des réseaux scientifiques.

Comme il l'a toujours souhaité dès le premier jour de notre collaboration, je suis nommé Directeur Général de l'ISH en 2019, non pas pour remplacer Dr Moussa SOW, je n'en ai pas la prétention, mais pour le succéder simplement et consolider l'œuvre de redynamisation de l'ISH qu'il avait entamé avec moi.

Pour terminer mon propos, je voudrais sincèrement rendre hommage à la mémoire de Moussa SOW, et adresser mes plus sincères condoléances à sa famille et à ses proches.

Dr Baba COULIBALY

Directeur Général de l'ISH, Bamako

Œuvre de Moussa Sow: *L'Etat de Ségou et ses chefferies aux XVIIIe et XIXe siècles: côté cour, côté jardin.* (Pessac: Presses universitaires de Bordeaux, 2021). (Études culturelles)

Par Anne Doquet, IRD, Institut des mondes africains, et auteur de la postface.

Moussa Sow était auteur d'une quarantaine d'articles et codirecteur de trois ouvrages. Intégré à l'ISH en 1981, où il mena une série d'études, individuelles ou collectives, sur de multiples aspects des sociétés maliennes, il fut en parallèle impliqué, dans les années quatre-vingt, dans des programmes d'anthropologie réciproque en France et en Italie, où il accomplit différentes enquêtes. Ce double ancrage dans une socio-anthropologie du Mali et dans un réseau d'anthropologie inversée lui valut une culture hors du commun, nourrie par sa curiosité sans bornes et ses lectures avides des anthropologues, des sociologues, des historiens, mais aussi des littéraires. La grande érudition, l'exigence scientifique de Moussa Sow, combinées à l'élégance de son style et sa passion pour le terrain rendent ses écrits précieux. Au-delà de la diversité de ses objets d'études, il ne s'est jamais départi de son objectif initial de nourrir l'anthropologie politique par une lecture fine des textes de tradition orale, auquel seul un travail de terrain acharné pouvait permettre d'aboutir. Dans les années 2000, après une forte implication dans des postes administratifs, il put enfin entreprendre et diriger, à la faveur de financements nationaux, des études collectives avec des enquêtes de terrain répétées, dans un premier temps avec le programme « Sosso village et Sosso royaume : quels rapports? » (2002-2006), où furent recueillis d'importants matériaux oraux qu'il considéra par recoulements à la fois comme un fonds ancien et comme un répertoire de bricolages identitaires contemporains. En 2009, naîtra le second programme, « Chefferies périphériques et État de Ségou : recherches pluridisciplinaires à partir des sources orales du Fadougou, Bélé-dougou et Méguétan », dans lequel l'imposante recherche de Moussa Sow sur les relations entre le royaume de Ségou et ses périphéries trouvera ses fondements. C'est de ces études menées sur le long terme



qu'est issu l'ouvrage *L'Etat de Ségou et ses chefferies aux XVIIIe et XIXe siècles - Côté cour, côté jardin*, malheureusement paru post-mortem. Ce livre, qui fera date, prolonge en effet l'histoire du royaume de Segu (Mali) au XVIIIe et au XIXe siècles à travers une analyse novatrice des rapports entre le centre du royaume et sa périphérie, et plus particulièrement du rapport paradoxal des chefferies périphériques au pouvoir central. Grâce à un renversement de perspective, il rend compte avec une minutie impressionnante des discontinuités politiques, géographiques et historiques existant entre les différentes provinces du « pouvoir de Ségou » et entre celles-ci et la dynamique centrale de l'Empire. En conjuguant une réflexion théorique constante à un minutieux souci du détail, il réexamine à échelle locale et dans un spectre quasi microscopique les notions classiques de l'anthropologie politique. La force de ce texte doit beaucoup au croisement entre sources orales et écrites. Ayant recours aux importants écrits sur Segu, il les confronte à la diversité des sources de la transmission orale dans des espaces restreints, éclairant en même temps les rapports des répertoires locaux à la trame centrale de transmission et de reconstruction des récits autour du champ politique de l'Etat de Segu, et les apports de la mémoire périphériques aux institutions et aux pratiques de pouvoir de l'Etat central. Si Moussa Sow considérait ce livre, qualifié dans la préface d'Emmanuel Terray de « contribution exemplaire à l'histoire et à l'anthropologie politique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest précoloniale », comme l'œuvre de sa vie, il s'est ces dernières années penché sur les problématiques maliennes contemporaines, comme l'Islam ou la gouvernance locale, et a mené une réflexion constante sur la crise, que ses années de militantisme l'amenaient à observer avec amertume. Modeste et discret sur ses activités scientifiques comme politiques, Moussa Sow nous donne en héritage cet ouvrage, qui ne comblera qu'une partie de l'immense vide qu'il laisse dans la recherche, au Mali comme à l'international.



Moussa Sow avec Anne Doquet (à gauche), et Maria Grosz-Ngaté et Dolores Koenig (à droite), Grand Bassam, 2017.
Photos: M. Tiede

In Memoriam

Et le Grand arbre a été arraché ! Et où vont s'abriter les oiseaux ?

**En mémoire du Professeur Moussa Sissoko,
Institut supérieur pour la formation et la
recherche appliquée, directeur d'études,
co-directeur de Point Sud, Bamako**

[†25 janvier 2019]

Moussa, tu nous as quittés inopinément, promptement et discrètement, comme tu as vécu. Tu nous laisses un vide qui nous rappelle le néant de notre existence et la fragilité de la vie sur terre. Mais les beaux destins ne vivent que l'espace d'un matin. Et nous voici étonnés et impuissants, en train de scruter les mystères de la nature qui reste insensible à nos larmes. Tu nous précèdes, là où le Destin jaloux a décidé que nous nous rencontrions tous, un jour, chacun à son tour.

Der Boss, Le Patron. Ainsi t'avaient surnommé des collègues juristes et anthropologues de l'Université Goethe de Francfort, un jour de l'an 2009. Ils participaient à une école doctorale internationale du *Cluster d'excellence* de l'Université de Francfort, intitulé *L'émergence des ordres normatifs*. Les collègues allemands rendaient ainsi hommage à ton calme olympien avec lequel tu organisais avec maîtrise l'institution que tu contribuas à fonder en novembre 1997, *Point Sud, Muscler le savoir local*. Depuis, ton nom y est resté intimement associé. Que dire ? Ta semaine de travail comptait plus de cinq jours. Ta journée démarrait avant cinq heures. Pour toi, arriver sur le chantier à temps, qu'il s'appelle bureau, classe ou terrain, restait sacré. Tu y veillais scrupuleusement.

Natif de Oualia et scolarisé à Mahina, sur les rails du chemin de fer Dakar-Niger, tu as appris très tôt la fonction de l'école pour l'enfant du village que nous fûmes. De ta modeste taille, tu nourrissais patiemment une grande âme qui te conduit à l'école de Bafoulabé, puis à l'internat du lycée de Badalabougou, dans la capitale. Cette fulgurante ascension inhabituelle sous ces latitudes sociales te mena à l'École normale supérieure (ENSUP) de Bamako dès 1973. Tu avais la croyance en la nécessité du labeur et de l'école. Depuis, nos chemins se sont croisés pour toujours.



Photo: Stefan Schmid

Attaché à la terre et aux tiens, tu rédigeas un mémoire de fin d'études en Géographie intitulé *Etude du monde paysan de Oualia* qui te valut, à peine ta formation terminée, d'être retenu comme Observateur analyste à l'Organisation de mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS), dans la région de Matam, au Sénégal. Ton goût du village dont tu es issu s'allie avec celui du terrain que tu ne cesses de

connaître et de cultiver au Sénégal. Tu consolidas ton expérience internationale, en compagnie de tes collègues des pays riverains du Sénégal, et de nombreux experts, occidentaux notamment.

Fort de cette expérience de géographe, tu te lançais à tes frais dans des études universitaires en Belgique, puis en France. Tu devins chercheur associé au Laboratoire de Géographie et de Sociologie africaines du CNRS à Paris. En 1984 tu soutins sa thèse de doctorat en Géographie de l'École des hautes études en sciences sociales de Paris. À ton sens du sacrifice de l'enfant du village s'ajoute celui de l'étudiant africain qui se débat pour financer ses études.

Ton avenir à l'étranger était tout tracé, tu avais obtenu un poste dans la coopération française. Tu préféras cependant retourner à Bamako où tu officias au Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur, avant de rejoindre ta chère épouse agronome qui venait d'obtenir une bourse d'études au Canada. Tu poursuivis, cher Moussa, ta formation sur place en te lançant dans une filière d'étude intitulée « Mesure et évaluation » à l'Université Laval, à Québec. À ton retour, tu réintégras ton service d'origine. Tu devins coordinateur du suivi environnemental au Projet de gestion des ressources naturelles (PGRN) en charge de plusieurs projets dont le *Projet transfrontalier de conservation de la biodiversité dans le gourma malien et le sahel burkinabé*. Là également tu renforças ton expérience internationale, mais aussi celle de terrain, puisque l'équipe que tu dirigeais suivait littéralement sur le terrain ces grands mammifères au mépris des frontières nationales.

In Memoriam

Moussa Sissoko (cont.)

Doté de cette riche expérience, tu participas à la fondation, avec des amis et collègues, en novembre 1997, de Point Sud, le Centre de recherche sur le savoir local, que tu codirigeas jusqu'à ton dernier souffle. Grâce à ton sens d'écoute, tu as été très généreux envers des jeunes doctorants et post-doctorants, africains et autres. Cette qualité première te permit de sauver nombre de carrières, enrichissant à la fois humainement et matériellement l'établissement.

Ton sens de la rigueur commandait le respect. Oui. Le Boss. Servir était ton crédo que tu ne clamas jamais. Dans ta discréction innée, tu traitais les chercheurs avec la même bienveillance qu'envers les autres familiers de la maison. Ta compétence te permettait d'enseigner, de former tes doctorants à Bamako, de participer à des jurys de thèse à l'étranger, notamment en France, de mettre en œuvre et d'organiser des conférences internationales, mais aussi de signer des accords de coopération avec des institutions étrangères.

Ce sens de l'effort désintéressé, Moussa, tu l'as cultivé patiemment au-delà du Mali, en te distinguant dans toutes les capitales et universités partenaires du dense réseau que tu contribuas à tisser sur le terrain. Pour preuve, les innombrables messages de sympathie et de condoléances qui pleuvent des quatre coins du monde, depuis ton départ inopiné à l'aube du 25 janvier 2019, à peine venais-tu d'entamer ta retraite de la fonction publique malienne.

Ton penchant et ton sens de devoir d'aimer et d'aider autrui ne se limitaient pas au monde universitaire. Moussa, tu tiens tes vertus de ton village, que tu pratiquais, chez les gens du commun, dans ta région, ton pays et bien au-delà. Je t'imagine me faisant signe de me taire sur tes qualités sociales et humaines. Il nous en souvient de tes actions en faveur des jeunes, des femmes de ton pays. Qui ignorerait ton engagement en faveur du «développement» de ta région d'origine, ton engagement sans faille auprès des travailleurs abandonnés par la compagnie ferroviaire ? Tu assumais soigneusement ton rôle de ciment social, partout et à tout prix. Ton engagement sans faille avait pour théâtre les salles de



Photo: M. Tiede

conférences ou de réunions où tu distillais ça et là de précieux conseils. Tu es resté fidèle à un engagement que tu n'avais jamais exprimé : préférer l'ombre aux rampes et à la proie de la (mise en) scène, politique notamment. Ton engagement prenait une forme d'ascèse, au point que les habitués du réseau et tes amis du pays chahutaient Le Grand Monsieur à la barbe fleurie.

Homme de terrain, tu as choisi de cultiver ta présence sur le théâtre des opérations. Ces quatre derniers mois, tu tins à boucler le cycle de six conférences annuelles du Programme Point Sud, financées par l'Université Goethe de Francfort et par la Fondation allemande pour la recherche (DFG), organisées à Niamey, Libreville et Dakar. Sans relâche, tu t'es battu jusqu'au bout, sans gémir, sans crier, en silence.

Xamarin Kende, tu laisses plus d'orphelins que ta seule petite famille de Bamako, plus d'orphelins que ta seule famille de Oualia et du cercle de Bafoulabé, plus que ceux de la grande famille de Point Sud. Éplorée est la communauté scientifique toute entière et bien au-delà. Mais ta mémoire reste gravée en nous. Le tombeau qu'on a refermé comme pour marquer un terme t'ouvrirait le firmament et inaugurerait une nouvelle ère pour toi.

Et le Grand arbre nous a été arraché ! Et où vont s'abriter les oiseaux ?

Puisse ton âme reposer en paix.

Professeur Dr. Mamadou Diawara

Point Sud, Bamako, Mali

Goethe Universität Frankfurt, Allemagne

(Version édité de l'article original: *Les Echos*, 18 février 2019)

In Memoriam

Nafadji Sory Condé, membre de l'Académie centrale N'ko et Directeur Programmes N'ko à l'Université Kofi Annan de Guinée, nous a annoncé:

L'écrivain d'expression N'ko **Amadou Karadou Camara** a tiré sa reverence. L'auteur et chercheur Amadou Karadou Camara, fonctionnaire à la direction nationale de la recherche scientifique et technique, membre chevronné de l'académie N'ko, écrivain et traducteur de textes scientifiques, est décédé dimanche 27 juin 2021 à Conakry à l'âge de 70 ans. Il avait proposé sans succès en 2011 au Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la recherche scientifique un projet de création d'un centre de recherche et de vulgarisation de l'alphabet N'ko.

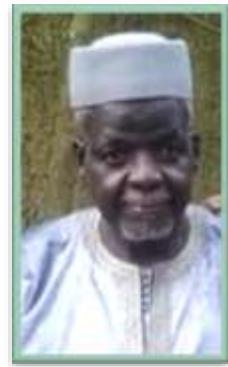
Il est né en 1952 à Sigiri, Niagassola. Il fit ses études primaires et secondaires à Sigiri avant de bénéficier en 1976 d'une bourse de formation pour la Russie (ex URSS) où il sort avec un diplôme d'étude supérieure de machinisme agricole en 1980. Revenu en Guinée la même année, il est engagé à la fonction publique en 1982 au Ministère des travaux publics. Il sera plus tard victime des conséquences néfastes de la politique d'ajustement structurel du FMI appliquée par le CMRN, la junte au pouvoir, qui licencia de nombreux fonctionnaires Guinéens y compris Amadou Karadou Camara qui se retrouva au chômage et de surcroît "déflaté". Il s'en est suivi une longue traversée du désert. Il fut même porte-parole du mouvement des fonctionnaires déflatés. Il s'alphabetisa en N'ko, mena beaucoup de recherches linguistiques et publia en 1999 "Sory ni Saran", le tout premier roman photo en N'ko, qui fit un immense succès.

Il réintégra la fonction publique en 2000. Il intégra plus tard l'académie N'ko dont il s'occupe des corrections d'œuvres avant leurs publications. Les œuvres de Karadou Camara :

- 1- Sory ni Saran, roman photo, 1999.
- 2-Le N'ko pour tous en 15 leçons, 2007.
- 3-la traduction en Nko du recueil de conte "Leuk le lièvre" de Senghor et de Abdoulaye Saadji, "Ndɔsan ni kɔsuluku".
- 4-livre de science en N'ko, 2010.
- 5-les fonctions du pronom personnel "i" dans la grammaire mandingue.
- 6- le pléonasme dans la langue mandingue.

Il fit la correction de la traduction N'ko de certains textes juridiques guinéens: la constitution de 2010, le code minier. Il animait aussi des rubriques dans le journal *N'ko daloukende*.

Que l'âme de notre doyen Amadou Karadou Camara repose en paix.



Janet Goldner shared news of the sudden passing of artist Klétigui Dembélé on November 19, 2020:

Klétigui Dembélé was a founding member of the Groupe Bogolan Kasobane. His deep knowledge of and love for Malian culture, plants and healing, bogolan and indigo will be missed. He was an excellent educator, dedicated to learning and truth. He was my dear friend, colleague, teacher, student, and partner in all things cultural and artistic. May his soul rest in peace.

His work with indigo has just been featured in the International Institute for Asian Studies newsletter.



The IIAS newsletter 87 (Autumn 2020) [article](#), "Lifelong learning with indigo in Mali. Seeing blue and more with Groupe Bogolan Kasobane," was written by Baba Coulibaly and Mohomodou Houssouba of the Institut des Sciences Humaines du Mali, Bamako.

Photo: Janet Goldner

Membership Report

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 November 2021, there are 172 members in 23 countries, distributed geographically in Africa (56), Europe (50), and North America (65), as well as Australia (1).

Rapport d'adhésion

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 partir de novembre 2021, il y a 172 membres dans 23 pays, répartis géographiquement en Afrique (56), en Europe (50), et en Amérique du Nord (65), aussi bien qu'Australie (1).



***A big thank-you to these members who have contributed at
the higher 'metallic' levels (Gold, Silver, Bronze) in 2021:***

Mary Jo Arnoldi	Maria Grosz-Ngaté	Susan McIntosh
Eric Charry	Joseph Hellweg	Ingrid Monson
David Conrad &	Jan Jansen	Saidou N'Daou
Barbara Wechsberg	Agnès Kedzierska Manzon	Hannah Nelson
Paul Davis	Chérif Keïta	Aly Sanoh
Barbara Frank	Candace M. Keller	Marcia Tiede
Kornelia Giesing	Dolores Koenig	Jeanne Toungara

Members / Membres 2021

Ludmilla Adjei	Rosa de Jorio	Ludovic Kibora
Bissè Blanche Danielle N'guessan	Alice Degorce-Kaboré	Martin Klein
Adoh	Kama Dembelé	Dolores Koenig
Kajsa Hallberg Adu	Marie Deridder	Akissi Amandine Konan
Taiba Germain Ainyakou	Anna Dessertine	Bintou Koné
Laura Inés Álvarez	Naminata Diabate	Kassim Koné
Carole Ammann	Coleman Donaldson	Moussa Kone
Samuel Mark Anderson	Alhagi Manta Drammeh	Seydou Kone
Amognima Armelle Tania Andoh	Sainey M. Drammeh	Hermann Moussa Konkobo
Mary Jo Arnoldi	De Blaganqueaux Soho Rusticot	K. Romaine Konseiga
Laura Arntson	Droh	Theodore Konkouris
Ralph Austen	Lucy Durán	N'Goran Jacques Kouacou
Diana Ayeh	Rose de Lima Esso Nome	Franck Kouadio
Dougoukolo Alpha Oumar Ba	Ablan Anne-Marie Ettien	Yao Marcel Kouakou
Konaré	Paulo Fernando De Moraes Farias	Koia Jean-Martial Kouamé
Fatoumata Bamba	Lisa Feder	Sory Kourouma
Ladji Bamba	Lorenzo Ferrarini	Masaran Diémory Kouyaté
Sidi Barry	Edda Fields-Black	Valérie Koffi Kra
Wenda Bauchspies	Jolande Florusbosch	Esther Kühn
Laurence Becker	Barbara Frank	Monica Labonia
Stephen Belcher	Susan Gagliardi	Alisa LaGamma
Jody Benjamin	Kornelia Giesing	Rachel Laget
Maike Birzle-Zante	Boris Olivier Glodé	Antoinette Danebaï Lamana
Jesper Bjarnesen	Deborah Goffner	Robert Launay
Vladimir Blaiotta	Devon Golaszewski	Benjamin Lawrance
Heidi Bojsen	Josee Golay	Robert Leopold
Catherine Bolten	Janet Goldner	Jenny Lorentzen
Sarah Brett-Smith	Alma Gottlieb	Brandon D. Lundy
Joseph Brunet-Jailly	Maria Grosz-Ngaté	Friederike Lüpke
Stephen Bulman	Sten Hagberg	Frédéric Madore
Fatoumata Camara	Boubacar Haidara	Peter Mark
Eric Charry	Joseph Hellweg	Tamba M'bayo
Emma Christopher	Geneviève Hill-Thomas	Susan McIntosh
Yacouba Cissao	Barbara Hoffman	Mark McNaughton
Ibrahima Abdoul Hayou Cissé	Joseph Hoover	Patrick McNaughton
Modibo Galy Cissé	José da Silva Horta	Nicolas Médeville
Nafadji Sory Condé	Niklas Hulton	Youssouf Méité
David Conrad & Barbara	Pascal Imperato	Anais Menard
Wechsberg	Jan Jansen	Jesse Miller
Baba Coulibaly	Cathryn Evangeline Johnson	Sanne Molenaar
Lassina Coulibaly	Foba Antoine Kakou	Ingrid Monson
Wayarga Coulibaly	Amédée Soumahoro Kando	Mary Moran
Paul Davis	Chérif Keïta	William Moseley
Robyn d'Avignon	Candace M. Keller	Boukare Nacoulma

Members / Membres 2021

(cont.)

Otha Nash
 Saidou N'Daou
 Tiécoura N'Daou
 Adouobo Christophe N'doly
 Hannah Nelson
 Séraphin Ngoma
 Koffi Parfait N'Goran
 Érika Nimis
 Syna Ouattara
 Soumaila Oulalé
 Kouadio Raphael Oura
 Jonathon Repinecz
 Charles Riley
 Lydia Rouamba

Patrick Royer
 Jérémi Fahed Sagna
 Mamadou Lamine Sané
 Aïdas Sanogo
 Aly Sanoh
 Hannah Sinare
 Alain Sissao
 Ryan Skinner
 Tone Sommerfelt
 Paul Stoller
 Molly Sundberg
 Almamy Sylla
 Tal Tamari
 Anders Themnér
 Marcia Tiede

Jeanne Toungara
 Karim Traore
 N'gna Traoré
 Rokia Traoré
 Tiemoko Traoré
 Anja Veirman
 Valentin Vydrin
 Miriam Weidl
 Katja Werthmann-Kirscht
 Elizaveta Volkova
 Bruce Whitehouse
 Stephen Wooten
 Don Wright
 Cyrille Yoro

MANSA Chi Wara Award :

Richard Warms

A year ago, then-President Joseph Hellweg announced this special award to acknowledge the long service of **Richard Warms**, Professor of Anthropology, Texas State University San Marcos, as manager of MANSA's listserv, and former administrator of MANSA's website. Rich began in this role a full two decades ago, in 2001.

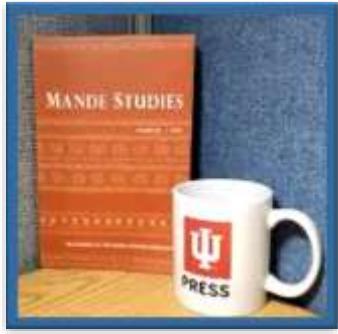
As MANSA now transitions to the new Google listserv initiated by President-elect Bill Moseley in early November 2021, we are pleased to enact the award at last. In addition to a certificate of gratitude and the award of \$500 (half of this from an anonymous donor), the award is made tangible as a small bronze lost-wax cast *chi wara* figurine from Mali (also an anonymous gift).

Many thanks to Rich Warms for his vital support to MANSA lo these many years!



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.



Supporting Rosa de Jorio in her role as editor-in-chief are Stephen Belcher, former editor and the ‘institutional memory’ of the journal; editor, Patrick Royer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), anthropologist and specialist on Burkina Faso, experienced in both French and American academic traditions; and Joseph Hellweg, now an official editor, whose careful editing work is significantly contributing to the journal. Trish Lewis and Meridith Murray copy-edit English texts; and Nicolas Médeville and N’goran Jacques Kouacou, MANSA members, are contributing/copy editors for French.

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. Volume 22 (2020) was an open issue with contributions by Lydia Rouamba, Tara F. Deubel and Micah Boyer, Elizabeth Rosner, Sebastian Prothmann, Stephen Wooten, Noël Okobé Dattro, Yacouba Cissao, and Boubacar Haidara; with a special feature on Chérif Keïta (Dianna Bell, Joseph Hellweg, William G. Moseley, Bruce Whitehouse, and Ryan T. Skinner). Future issues are in preparation, with anticipated themes to include the roundtable on the future of Mande studies (ASA, 2021) and the life and work of D. T. Niane.

Please consider submitting your work to *Mande Studies*, as individual papers or in suggested dossiers. Film or book reviews are also welcome. To submit your manuscripts:

- ◊ 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.
- ◊ Expect a process of review and resubmission.

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.

Rosa de Jorio est soutenue dans son rôle de rédactrice en chef par Stephen Belcher, ancien rédacteur et la «mémoire collective» de la revue; éditeur, Patrick Royer (Institut polytechnique Rensselaer), anthropologue et spécialiste du Burkina Faso, expérimenté dans les traditions académiques françaises et américaines; et Joseph Hellweg, devenu rédacteur officiel, dont le travail d’édition minutieux contribue à la revue de manière significative. Trish Lewis et Meridith Murray sont des éditeurs de textes anglais; et Nicolas Médeville et N’goran Jacques Kouacou, membres du MANSA, sont des rédacteurs contributeurs / éditeurs français.

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 afin de faciliter une participation plus large. Volume 22 (2020) a été un numéro ouvert, avec des contributions de Lydia Rouamba, Tara F. Deubel et Micah Boyer, Elizabeth Rosner, Sebastian Prothmann, Stephen Wooten, Noël Okobé Dattro, Yacouba Cissao, et Boubacar Haidara; avec un dossier spécial sur Chérif Keïta (Dianna Bell, Joseph Hellweg, William G. Moseley, Bruce Whitehouse, et Ryan T. Skinner). Des futurs numéros sont en préparation, avec comme thématiques anticipées la table ronde sur l’avenir des études mandé (ASA, 2021) et la vie et l’œuvre de D.T. Niane.

Veuillez penser à soumettre vos travaux à *Mande Studies*, sous forme d’articles individuels ou de dossiers suggérés. Les critiques de films ou de livres sont également les bienvenues. Pour soumettre vos manuscrits:

- ◊ 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.
- ◊ Attendez-vous à un processus d’examen et de nouvelle soumission.

MANSA at African Studies Association (ASA) 64th Annual Meeting

Theme: Re-Centering Africa : Resistance and Renewal in a World beyond Covid-19

November 16-20, 2021 (*held virtually*)

MANSA-sponsored events:

IX-T-8 Roundtable: Renewing Mande Studies: Resisting Stasis, Recentering Places

Thursday, November 18, 12:00-1:45pm Eastern

Chairs: Baba Coulibaly, Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako and Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University

Sponsored by: Mande Studies Association

Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Indiana University

Alioune Sow, University of Florida

Susan Gagliardi, Emory University

Rosa de Jorio, University of North Florida

Sten Hagberg, Uppsala University

XXI-L-9 Roundtable: The Life and Work of Djibril

Tamsir Niane: Memories and Reflections

Saturday, November 20, 2:00-3:45pm Eastern

Chairs: Ryan Skinner, Ohio State University and Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University

Sponsored by: Mande Studies Association

Elara Bertho, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

David Conrad, State University of New York at Oswego

Stephen Bulman, Lancaster University

Jonathon Repinecz, George Mason University

Other MANSA participation:

XIV-Q-5 New Forms of Religious Expertise and Ritualization in Africa

Friday, November 19, 10:00-11:45am Eastern

Chairs: Benjamin Soares, U Florida and Agnes Kedzierska Manzon, EPHE/IMAf, Paris

Neither Sufi nor Salafi: the “cadre unitaire” and the search for a consensual Islam in Senegal
Cheikh Anta Babou, University of Pennsylvania

Transaction and Therapy in Equatorial Africa
Florence Bernault, Sciences Po (Paris)

“New Age” in Africa?: The uncanny aesthetics of new religious entrepreneurs in Mali
Agnes Kedzierska Manzon, EPHE/IMAf, Paris

Towards an Understanding of Religious Excess: Media and the Production of Sacred Surplus in Africa (Author Meets Critic)
Asonzeh Ukah, U Cape Town

Naminata Diabate, Cornell University; Naked Agency: Genital Cursing and Biopolitics in Africa (Author Meets Critic)

Martin Klein, University of Toronto; Women as Slave-Owners and Entrepreneurs: the Signares of Senegal; on panel, Active Participants: African Women, Slave Labor, and the Commerce in Dependents, Part I

Benjamin Lawrance, University of Arizona; chair, panel: African Studies Keywords (sponsored by *African Studies Review*)

Tamba M’Bayo, West Virginia University; roundtable: Histories of Medicine in Africa/African Histories of Medicine

**Mande Studies Association
Annual Business Meeting**

Via Zoom

Sunday, November 21, 2021

9.00-10:00 PST / 11.00-12.00 CST /
12.00-13.00 EST / 17.00-18.00 GMT / 18.00-19.00 CET

**Report from the 11th International Conference on
Mande Studies:
*Beyond Crisis and Insecurity: Cultural Creativity,
Popular Struggle, and Social Change in West Africa,*
Uppsala University, 16-19 June 2021**

By Sten Hagberg
MANSA President
13 November 2021



Introduction

This report summarizes the high points of the 11th International Mande Studies Association Conference 16-19 June 2021 at Uppsala University, Sweden. This MANSA Conference was co-hosted with the Forum for Africa Studies, Uppsala University. It was initially planned to take place in June 2020, but the Covid-19 pandemic made us postpone it twice: first to January 2021; and then to June 2021, with the firm ambition to host a physical conference. In March 2021, however, we were obliged to make the decision to organize the conference online.

To allow strong participation of Africa-based scholars, this international conference was generously sponsored by various sources of funding. With its turning into a digital event, as to facilitate strong participation of West African colleagues, the decision was taken to host the conference free of charge. The digital transformation on the other hand involved a substantial increase in the resources allocated to the technical, logistical, and planning support team by the conference organizers. Hence, the Uppsala University budget was reallocated to cover such expenses. All participants were nevertheless obliged to become MANSA members to present a paper.

The Theme

The overall theme of the conference – “Beyond Insecurity and Crisis” – was about exploring the prospects for peace and progress in West Africa, a region too often stereotyped for conflict and instability. Over the last decades, this West African region has undergone multiple crises and insecurities, including civil war, population displacement, political turmoil, popular insurrection, and the health epidemics. The 11th International Conference on Mande Studies aimed to pro-

duce new understandings of how West Africans have been asserting their ability to mobilize resources from all domains of their lives in order to strategize and struggle for new solutions to ongoing challenges. The purpose was to stimulate scholarship that explores society and culture, so as to highlight processes that build, construct, and affirm agency, peaceful coexistence, and social innovation.

Facts and Figures

The call for papers generated 310 submissions, out of which 160 were accepted in a thorough review process that took place already in early 2020. Despite the fact that the Conference was delayed one year, we were still able to host 150 research presentations divided into 40 panels. In total, the conference had in total around 300 participants. Overall, the quality of the papers was good, and the discussions were interesting.

In line with the transformation to digital mode, the programme was organized into three parallel Zoom sessions per day: 14.00-15.30; 16.00-17.30; 18.00-19.30. This turned out to be a good strategy to make sure that the sessions were not too long and that sufficient time for coffee breaks was allocated. In addition, one session took place on Thursday 17 June, 20.00-21.30, to accommodate participants from California and Australia.

The main sponsors of the event were Uppsala University (Forum for Africa Studies, Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Peace, and Justice) and Agence Française de Développement, as well as a local Uppsala academy, namely the Royal Society for the Humanities in Uppsala. MANSA did not contribute funding for the organization of this conference, but benefitted from a more than 50% increased membership; this year MANSA has some 170 paying members.

Report from the 11th International Conference on Mande Studies

By Sten Hagberg (*cont.*)

Five Plenary Sessions

The conference were organized in five plenary sessions, and 35 parallel sessions. On 16 June, the first plenary session started with the conference opening with Uppsala University's Vice-Chancellor Anders Hafeldt, followed by MANSA President, Sten Hagberg's introduction to the conference theme, *Beyond Crisis and Insecurity in West Africa: Key Challenges*. Lydia Rouamba then presented her paper, *La lutte des femmes au Burkina Faso: Les principaux défis*, and Anders Themnér talked about *Socializing Warlord Democrats: explaining violent discursive practices in post-war democratic politics*.

On 17 June, the second plenary session on "Relativizing the Universal: Reconciling Human Rights, the Public Sphere, and the State in West Africa" was chaired by Rosa de Jorio and Joseph Hellweg, with four papers: Rosa de Jorio's *Human Rights as Memoryscapes for the Future*; Zakaria Soré's *Les droits de l'Homme à l'épreuve des perceptions populaires et la lutte contre l'insécurité au Burkina Faso*; Bruce Whitehouse's *Marriage, Gender, and the Law in Bamako*; and Joseph Hellweg's *Panic at the Wedding: Queer Marriage, Human Rights, and the Language of Belonging in Côte d'Ivoire*.

On 18 June, the third plenary session was organized by Bettina Engels, entitled "Contestation over the 'Mining Boom' in West Africa: Actors, Discourses, and Governance" with an introduction by the panel organizer followed by three papers: Moussa Konkobo's *Violences et discriminations à l'égard de la femme dans l'exploitation minière artisanale*; Anna Dessertine's *Territorialisation extractive et mobilités d'orpaillage en Haute-Guinée (République de Guinée)*; and Diana Ayeh's *After the Boom Comes the Bust? Notions of "Security" in Mining Investment Decisions*.

On 19 June, the fourth plenary session was a round-table on "Publish or Perish in the Postcolonial: Struggling to Decolonize African Studies" chaired by Sten Hagberg with panelists who intervened as editors of journals: Rosa de Jorio, *Mande Studies*; Fatoumata

Ouattara, *Anthropologie & Développement*; Baba Coulibaly, *Études malienne*s; and Maria Grosz-Ngaté, *Africa Today*.

The fifth plenary session was organized by Ryan Skinner on "The Plasticity of Aesthetic Engagement: Contemporary & Historical Cases of Artistic Production" with five papers: Eric Charry's *A New Global Presence in Hip Hop with Guinean, Senegalese, and Malian Roots*; Ryan Skinner's *Cinematic Griot, Afropolitan Subject: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Dani Kouyaté*; Lassina Coulibaly's *La fictionnalisation du terrorisme dans 'La route des clameurs' de Ousmane Diarra*; and Franck Kouadio's *Désaliéner autrement avec Cheikh Anta Diop*.

The conference was concluded with final remarks by me as MANSA President. I also announced that the next conference is planned to take place in Bamako in 2023.

Final Remarks

In my double capacity as MANSA President and Director of Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University, I am glad that my university could cover the costs and that MANSA could save funds that are badly needed to develop the association further, not the least for supporting activities and initiatives in West Africa. In addition, given that there were as many as 150 papers presented, we have decided that no conference proceedings will be produced. Instead, we would like to see many more submissions to *Mande Studies*, our flagship journal. An abstract book of all those who presented papers at the conference will soon be available on the website.

Thematically, we had a particularly broad mixture of papers and panels. While many were directly in line with the conference theme, others were providing strong scholarship on other aspects of Mande Studies. And despite the digital mode, we did also get some of the good feeling and human warmth of seeing old friends and making new acquaintances. It reminded us all about the comradeship that is so strong in MANSA. We missed you, MANSAdenw, but we are also glad to have been able to see you, to interact with you, and to listen to and learn from you.

11th International Conference on Mande Studies — *images*



Anders Hagfeldt, Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University,
opening the conference



Frédéric Madore chairing panel , “Re-inventing Islam: Muslims as Agents of Change in 20th & 21th Century West Africa” with Monica Labonia and Mamadou Lamine Sané, Jesse Miller, Sulaiman Adewale Alagunfon, and himself.



Adjara Konkobo, “Jeunes filles et leadership à Yako ... Burkina Faso.” Panel, “Sahel (en)quête de changement – des citoyens qui s’assument face aux crises”- Part 2; chairs Sten Hagberg, Ludovic O. Kibora; avec Oumarou Hamani.



Audience: Pauline Poupart, Siaka Gnessi.



Sampling of participants

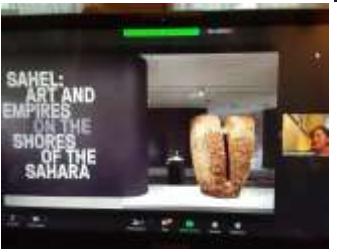
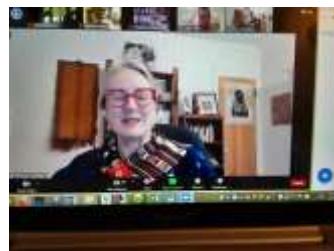
11th International Conference on Mande Studies — *images*



Sunjata at Sixty / Les soixante ans de Soundjata.
David Conrad, Stephen Belcher, Jan Jansen, Stephen Bulman, Jonathan Repinecz. Audience: Valentin Vydrin.



The Plasticity of Aesthetic Engagement: Contemporary & Historical Cases of Artistic Production.
Eric Charry (presentation), Ryan Skinner (and presentation), Franck Kouadio, Lassina Coulibaly.



Arts and Artists in Action in the Mande and the Sahel: The Currency of Artistiya during Crisis and Beyond.
Lucy Duran (and presentation), Barbara Hoffman (and presentation), Alisa LaGamma (presentation), Paul Davis (presentation).



11th International Conference on Mande Studies — *images*



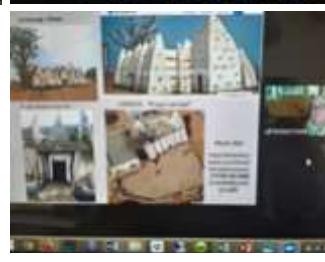
Secret Societies in Sierra Leone: Cultural Strengths and the Limitations of Change. Catherine Bolten, Benjamin Lawrence (and presentation), Emma Christopher. Audience: Joseph Hellweg, Véronique Simon.



Archives and Mande Cultural Heritage / Archives et patrimoine culturel mandé—Part 1.
Candace Keller (and presentation), Youssouf Sakaly (and presentation), Robert Leopold. Chairs, Barbara E. Frank and (not pictured) Mary Jo Arnoldi.



Archives and Mande Cultural Heritage / Archives et patrimoine culturel mandé—Part 2.
Erika Nimis (and presentation), Joseye Tienro (and presentation), Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi (presentation), Barbara Frank, chair (presentation).

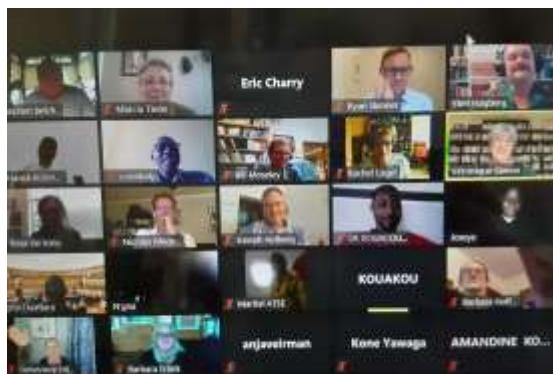


11th International Conference on Mande Studies — *images*



Roundtable: Publish or Perish in the Postcolony: Struggling to Decolonize African Studies.

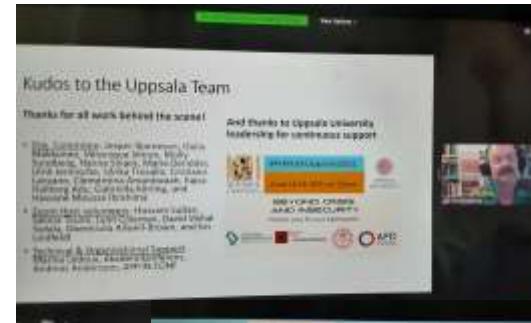
Rosa de Jorio (*Mande Studies*), Fatoumata Ouattara (*Anthropologie & Développement*), Baba Coulibaly (*Études malienne*s), Maria Grosz-Ngaté (*Africa Today*). Chair: Sten Hagberg. Audience: Bill Moseley, Marie Deridder.



11th International Conference on Mande Studies — *images*



Sten Hagberg in situ, 'tour de contrôle'



Lettres d'attestation
de participation,
enfin...



Oulia Makkonen, local
organizing committee,
Uppsala University



Thank-you picnic for the
local organizing committee
and support staff, Uppsala
University

MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2020

16 déc. 2020, 17H00 GMT /

Dec. 16, 2020, 12:00 Noon Eastern Time (US & Canada)

(virtual, via Zoom)

Minutes

Attending: Mary Jo Arnoldi, Laura Arnston, Ralph Austen, Stephen Belcher, Dianna Bell, Stephen Bulman, David Conrad, Baba Coulibaly, Rosa de Jorio, Coleman Donaldson (briefly), Rose de Lima Eso Nome, Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Barbara Hoffman, Ladj Kamaté, Chérif Keïta, Dolores Koenig, Bintou Koné, Yao Marcel Kouakou, Sten Hagberg, Joseph Hellweg, Ludovic Kibora, Franck Kouadio, Bill Moseley, Tiécoura N'Daou, Alain Sissao, Alioune Sow, Marcia Tiede, Jeanne Toungara, Rich Warms, Bruce Whitehouse.

Joseph Hellweg welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the other officers. He announced a change in the Agenda, reversing items 2 (Last call for voting) and 3 (Approval of minutes from 2019 meeting), and changing the resulting item 3 to Discussion of election for next president-elect.

Approval of agenda: Approved (thumbs/hands virtually raised).

Approval of minutes from 2019 business meeting: Approved.

Discussion of election for next president elect (Chérif Keïta)

Chérif Keïta, as previously selected election observer (along with Maria Grosz-Ngaté), delivered his remarks first in French, then in English. MANSA is an academic organization, and its strength is in its unity and its diversity. We realized that MANSA's bylaws and officers had failed to take into account certain unforeseen circumstances. There are now more options for online communication and a more diverse membership. We are no longer an organization that can count on resolving its issues at an in-person business meeting in the U.S. There were unanticipated issues in the election process in a particular geographic zone and for a particular candidate. While there may be differences in university and political cultures, this risked creating division and inequality in the organization.

The decision was made to annul the election, without announcing the result; and to repeat the election, with clearer guidelines, from Sunday, January 10 to Saturday, January 16. On January 17, Marcia Tiede will share the results with himself and Maria Grosz-Ngaté, prior to announcing the result by email to all members. The candidates will have until December 23 to put forth new or updated statements of candidacy (no more than 450 words), in French and English, to Marcia, who will then share them on the listserv, in the form received. The declaration should present a global vision of the organization. Members should base their decision on the candidates' declarations and be free to vote based on the declarations' merit and the vision presented, without pressure or influence. Only members who have previously paid their dues for 2020 will be eligible to vote. Others can still pay

their dues for 2020 or 2021, but they are not eligible to vote. Our intention is to create a less partisan and better regulated election, to maintain the number of members currently eligible to vote, and to permit the two candidates to put their best foot forward. Only if one of the candidates withdraws would we open the election to new candidates.

Joseph opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Frank Kouadio inquired whether the candidates had been notified of this decision. Chérif: No, we're just announcing it now. Normally in such organizations, there's not this kind of campaigning; so we decided just to stop it. We really want to avoid sectarianism, and let the candidates' statements speak for themselves. It's better to have a delay than to create a situation that we will regret. We hope that the two candidates will accept this decision.

Barbara Hoffman expressed gratitude to the MANSA leadership for the wisdom of the decision, and thinks that it needs to be accepted. Given that essentially there is not a president-elect, would Joseph be willing to continue as president until January, until the next election? Joseph proposed that since it was time for Sten to take over as president, perhaps he (Joseph) could step back into the role of president-elect. But he would prefer that Sten become president. Sten is not in a hurry to assume the presidency. He thinks it's more logical for Joseph to continue as president during the interim. Joseph is willing to do so. Chérif thanked him for his support of the organization.

Jeanne Toungara thinks that the issue she's hearing is the participation of our members on the Continent. There is the issue of how ready they are to pay dues for and participate in our principal organ, the African Studies Association, based in the U.S. She hasn't seen a conversation about that. But we need to think about what our expectations are for our officers to engage in ASA. That should be clear in our documents, what would be expected of someone assuming the presidency of MANSA.

Yao Marcel Kouakou said that the game rules should be defined before an election, not at the end of it. People have voted, and the results of the election should be announced. Rosa de Jorio thinks that the rules were there, but they were not made explicit because it was assumed that we had the same understanding of how MANSA functions. When we saw that there was an influence campaign going on, we needed to respond. We wished to see the election take place in a fair way.

Sten is in agreement with the observers that an academic organization should not be turned into an organization where political campaigns are carried out. As someone who will soon become president, he has no preference for one or the other candidate. But the organization must be united and open, collegial and respectful. He agrees that the voting procedures need to be reviewed. It's good that there are two candidates, and we encourage both candidates to run again. He will be happy to work with whichever one wins.

MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2020***Minutes (continued)***

Baba Coulibaly agrees that the decision made was a good one; elections should be fair and transparent, equal to everyone, notably to each candidate. It's a delay, but better than a situation that we would regret. Waiting a few weeks to put things in order is not a problem.

Dianna Bell (*in Bamanankan, summarized by CK*): There is the question of financial support, grants. E.g., Sten gets support for the conference. The person must be able to work in both languages, in order to be able to support the organization. West African members would be at a disadvantage in that role. She suggests creating a new position for someone bilingual to write grants. Chérif: Have we ever considered that? Joseph: no; but it's a good idea. There will be another effort at revision of the by-laws, so that might be the moment to consider that.

Jeanne doesn't think these elections were well prepared, for reasons she stated earlier that haven't yet been addressed. We now have an impressive membership of West African colleagues, which is important and critical to all of us. She suggests that we have three vice-presidents, and from them we select a president; and that that should be enshrined in the bylaws. One of those three could be elected to preside in the next year. One of the main qualifications would be to have membership in the ASA, because we need to maintain a strong presence there, with our leadership firmly anchored in the ASA. With three vice presidents representing the three continents, everyone would feel represented. Is it written in the bylaws that our president must be a member of ASA?

Joseph: One of our members has an idea about managing the president and vice-president roles. He finds it difficult to insist that West African members must be members of ASA. Distance, expense, etc. would normally prevent them from participating. But he is totally in support of the idea of a more equitable representation of our three great regions within the organization.

Sten finds the proposal interesting. He's considered enlarging the Board – transforming the Advisory Board into a real Board, to work with the officers on a more regular basis. The ideas presented so far are relevant. We hope to revise the bylaws in June. An organization that is trying to grow needs to adapt to the situation. It's very positive that we have engagement on three continents. We need to consult the members before putting out a firm proposal.

Rosa: We were in the process of thinking along the lines of Jeanne. We understand that we need to change the organization radically in order to become more inclusive. She appreciates that Joseph has included more people in the discussion.

Bill Moseley pasted his proposal for restructuring MANSA leadership in the chat:

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Proposition de restructuration de l'exécutif de MANSA pour une plus grande représentation géographique.

La proposition consiste à remplacer la structure exécutive actuelle par un vice-président, un président et un ancien président qui accompliraient chacun un mandat de deux ans et - en commençant par le vice-président - la personne progresserait progressivement dans les rangs sur une période de six ans. Ces postes seraient occupés par des universitaires basés en Afrique de l'Ouest, en Europe et en Amérique du Nord. Des élections auraient lieu tous les deux ans pour pourvoir le poste de vice-président et approuver l'élévation du vice-président au rang de président et celle du président au rang de président sortant. Cette structure de représentation tripartite présenterait au moins trois avantages : 1) elle refléterait mieux les trois principales circonscriptions géographiques de l'organisation et nous aiderait à évoluer à partir de nos racines historiques nord-américaines, 2) elle garantirait la mémoire institutionnelle ; 3) alléger la charge du président.

Barbara sees the logic in this proposal. The reason a mandate of 3 years was established in the past was so that the president would have the opportunity to participate in organization of the triennial conference. She doesn't know whether that's important, but wanted to mention it. Joseph appreciates mention of that. If the three presidents in rotation work together to organize the congress, everyone will be involved. Even if the outgoing president isn't still president when the conference takes place, they could play a presidential role at the conference.

Maria Grosz-Ngaté finds it a good idea. She doesn't want to pronounce on the duration -- 2 vs. 3 years -- but the proposed structure reflects the structure of ASA. She has just finished her mandate as ASA vice-president, president, former president, and it worked quite well. She learned a lot from her predecessor and works with her successor; and tasks are shared, delegated. There is regular contact, joint decision-making. Also there's an Executive Committee, the heads of the various committees in ASA. They meet once a month (except summer) and discuss issues. Some of these ideas could be borrowed by MANSA.

Joseph asked if Jeanne was suggesting (earlier) that we vote on annulling the election. Jeanne: Yes, that can't be the decision of a few persons. This is a critically important decision that will have repercussions with our West African membership. She agrees that lobbying can't take place. We need to admit that we made a mistake, and not now, but in the future, change our regulations, and have a vote on that. Right now, we don't have a choice. Both candidates need to be members of ASA, despite the heavy financial responsibilities etc. We are an organization based in the U.S., and the president needs to be a member of ASA. If we were joining an organization based in West Africa, we would need to follow the regulations of that country.

MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2020 Minutes (continued)

Sten thinks that the pertinent thing to do is to change the bylaws. The ambition is that it be done before the June conference, or at the conference at the latest.

Joseph noted that there was a candidacy proposal deadline of December 9, and nothing was to be added. But one of the candidates sent out further remarks about his candidacy to the current member listserv. So it is not true that there were no rules in place. From that moment he saw that there was a problem.

Marcel shares the opinions of his colleagues; that what happened was by ignorance. It's not a competition; the point is to find a leader that we can all work with together. Things have become quite clear. Chérif acknowledged that as a wise decision, and asked Jeanne if that was all right. Jeanne wanted to hear the opinion of the candidates. Both replied that they had no problem with redoing the election. Alain said that as he's listened to the conversation, he's come to understand that there were issues. Supporting MANSA is the most important thing.

Chérif passed the floor to the president. Joseph thanked him and Maria for their guidance; as well as all who participated in the conversation, and in particular the two candidates, and Jeanne.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (Marcia Tiede, Yao Marcel Kouakou)

Marcia presented summaries on membership (112 members for 2020), finances (a total balance of just over \$18,000), and communication – a chronological listing of ways that communication takes place within MANSA, including the listserv, newsletter, journal, Facebook, meetings and conferences. Communication is uneven; not everyone knows about or can get access to the listserv, and membership payment and communication for Africa-based members is generally separate from that of other members. The full report is appended at the end of these minutes.

Marcel added some details about Africa-based memberships. He had just received 40,000 FCFA from a member and deposited it in the Ecobank account. So the Ecobank balance is now 1,074,287 FCFA [*corrected in final report*]. Four members (1 from Burkina Faso, 1 from Côte d'Ivoire, 2 from Mali) have paid their dues for both 2020 and 2021; this is something to encourage. Regarding the focal points, it is good that they were created, but not all individuals in that role have paid MANSA membership; they should be setting an example for other members. The Covid-19 crisis has caused some to be hesitant about paying dues this year, given travel restrictions and the uncertainty around the postponed conference in Uppsala. Someone in Guinea had wanted to send dues but had issues with connectivity.

Joseph added that he had just talked to someone at ASA who had suggested that it may be possible to connect Orange Money with PayPal, which would permit Africa-based members to pay directly. He will pursue verifying that.

Outgoing President's Report (Joseph Hellweg)

Summary of Events Since 2017

Awards:

- ◊ Chi Wara Award to **Richard Warms**: Richard has managed our listserv and (previously) our website since 2001 at Texas State University, San Marcos. A gift of \$500 accompanies this prize (\$250 from MANSA + \$250 anonymous gift). This is too little for all the work and expenses that he has assumed in this role. We hope to be able to relieve him from this responsibility very soon, and hope to be able to present this award to him in a more formal way at the Uppsala conference.
- ◊ Anonymous gift of \$500 in honor of MANSA's past presidents **Kassim Kone** (2008-2014) and **Barbara Hoffman** (2014-2017), who have long supported the organization.
- ◊ Anonymous gift of \$500 to support *Mande Studies* editor **Rosa de Jorio** with expenses incurred.

He also recognized the many "metallic" (higher-level) members.

Member acknowledgements:

Two close collaborators in our organization have recently stepped down from their roles in MANSA:

Peter Mark (editor-in-chief of *Mande Studies*, 2011-2018).

He saved the journal from cancellation, and (with Barbara Hoffman) moved it to Indiana University Press and JSTOR access.

Dianna Bell (secretary-treasurer, 2012-2019). She took a research fellowship at the University of Cape Town (2017-2019), and is now a law student there. We wish her well in her new profession.

Joseph also acknowledged the following:

Yao Marcel Kouakou (université de Daloa) for his role in the organization, and adding to its membership. He and Marcel opened an account together at Ecobank in 2017. They did an arduous transfer of funds from the Ecobank account to the principal US Bank account in 2019, in hopes that those funds could be applied to the Uppsala conference planned for June 2020. Unfortunately that has not been realized.

Jody Benjamin (UC Riverside) for serving as MANSA's ad hoc representative on the ASA Task Force for the Protection of Academic Freedom; but due to the pandemic, that committee did not meet this year.

MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2020

Minutes (continued)

Joseph spoke to **Bissè Blanche Adoh** (université de Korhogo), member of our Advisory Board, and **Bintou Koné** (Institut de sciences humaines, Bamako and doctoral student, université de Ouagadougou), who have agreed to the possibility of directing a Committee for African Women's Initiatives. Maria Grosz-Ngaté has agreed to serve as an advisor.

Focal points (Ouagadougou, Abidjan, Conakry, Bamako), established through the efforts of Sten Hagberg, to create a network in West Africa, in order to assure the delivery of our journal *Mande Studies* to our West African members. Rosa de Jorio also communicated with Indiana University Press to bring this about. He thanked **Ludovic Kibora** (ISS/CNRST, Ouagadougou), **Baba Coulibaly** (ISH, Bamako) – both present at the meeting – and **Kando Soumahoro** (LAASSE, Abidjan) and **Ibrahima Sory II Condé** (Université Kofi Annan, Programme N'ko, Conakry) for serving in this role.

Coleman Donaldson has kindly associated MANSA with his project on Mandé orthography standardization.

Marcia Tieude was thanked for her work on the upcoming MANSA newsletter (aided by Barbara Hoffman who supplied the template used in previous newsletters), as well as David Conrad, for his call for the newsletter's return after a hiatus. He thanked her also for creating a paid members' listserv.

Rosa de Jorio was thanked for her role as editor-in-chief of the journal *Mande Studies* (an enormous work), and for opening the first? online portal for open submissions, as well as a bilingual online guide for authors, which he worked on with her.

Uppsala conference update: Joseph will leave Sten to talk about this; but he outlined several dates in the now-extended planning process: March 25, 2020: postponed provisionally until January 2021; October 28, 2020: Sten sent a full report on preparation planning to the Advisory Board; Nov. 10: postponed again until June 16-20 (still uncertain as to whether in-person or virtual). Sten has proposed to hold a virtual event on Jan. 14 or 15, to be announced. He thanked Sten and asked him to communicate thanks also to the local planning committee for their efforts despite all the difficulties.

MANSA presence at ASA: Each year, Joseph has tried to organize at least one panel sponsored by MANSA. This year he organized three, which were postponed to next year. But he, Sten, Rosa, Lamine Savané (Université de Ségou, Mali), and Nii Akouetteh (African policy analyst/activist) held a MANSA-sponsored round-table at this year's virtual ASA meeting, on security issues in three West African countries: "West African Security Now: Recent Shifts in Peace & Democracy in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso and Their Regional Implications." He encourages MANSA

members to propose panels, for exchange of ideas, and for emphasizing MANSA's presence at ASA.

Bylaws revision: Several changes were proposed: 1) expansion of MANSA's mission; 2) addition of 2 new officer positions: a) coordinating secretary-treasurer for West Africa (the position currently served in by Marcel Yao Kouakou) and b) editor-in-chief of *Mande Studies* (Rosa de Jorio's contributions as part of the conference organizing committee and other officer meetings were vital); 3) addition of a new Advisory Board member for a total of 7 to prevent a split vote; and 4) more inclusive language given the marginalization of trans people. An online vote was conducted, and of the 102 members in good standing, 32 were for and 1 against. A 2/3 vote (a minimum of 67) was required to pass the revision; not attained. Comments by several members had indicated further details to address.

Listserv migration: We've been searching for options to relieve Richard Warms (Texas State University San Marcos) from administering this. It would be better to have it not based at a particular university or institution. Joseph is exploring the possibility of MANSA having a listserv on H-NET, H-MANSA.

***Mande Studies* Editor-in-Chief Report (Rosa de Jorio)**

a. Report on current issue

Rosa shared the journal's page on the Indiana University Press website, with links to author guidelines and to the press portal in order to submit manuscripts. Due to the efforts of Peter Mark and Barbara Hoffman, *Mande Studies* is now available on important electronic resources such as JSTOR and Project Muse. She is expanding the team of editors. The journal has always been able to count on the expertise of Stephen Belcher, the 'walking institutional memory' of the journal. She has happy that she has now been able to add Patrick Royer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), an expert on Burkina Faso, trained as an anthropologist. He is French but obtained his doctorate in the U.S., so he brings together those two traditions, from French and English language sources. The journal is really the work of a community. She has great admiration for those who have edited the journal alone before her; but it is not the work of a single person. English copy editing is now done by Trish Lewis and Meridith Murray (MLM Indexing). French language copy editing is done by our colleagues Nicolas Médeville (East Carolina University) and N'goran Jacques Kouakou (Institut de Linguistique Appliquée, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, who provide wonderful support.

There has been significant growth in the number of copies; for volume 21, edited by her, there were 256 copies ordered. For that issue there was a thematic dossier, "Même pas peur! Ethnographies of security in the Sahel," organized by herself and Sten Hagberg, with diverse contributors;

MANSA Business Meeting, ASA 2020

Minutes (continued)

as well as an open section for general articles. This latter is to encourage members to submit manuscripts for each issue even if thematic. The upcoming volume 22 (2020 – to be published March 2021) is an open issue, with many quality contributions. It also has a feature on Chérif Keïta, with contributions about him as author and mentor by a younger generation who have benefitted from his work. Volume 23 (2021) will have a dossier on mining, “Contestation over the ‘mining boom’ in West Africa : actors, discourses, and governance,” with special editor Bettina Engels (Freie Universität Berlin); some articles have already been received.

b. Call for manuscripts for next issue

There are two ways to submit manuscripts: use the submission portal at <https://iupress.org/journals/mandestudies/>, or email rdejorio@unf.edu. There is extensive editorial and peer review; expect to resubmit. We need your support in helping to identify good possible contributions.

Incoming President’s Report (Sten Hagberg)

a. Details of January 2021 Uppsala Online Event

The year ahead of us: Rather than holding an event around January 15, we propose to hold it on January 28, 2021 – a Webinar on West African Dynamics. We’re in the process of organizing two roundtables; working titles: “Prospects for Peace, Democracy and Gender Equality in West Africa – Collaborative Research, Grounded Policy, and Citizen Mobilization,” and “The Relevance of Regional Studies in the Global Village – Transdisciplinarity and the Decolonization of Epistemologies.” This will take place via Zoom, 14:00-18:00 (Sweden), 8:00 AM-12:00 PM (U.S.), with simultaneous translation provided. His motive, given the postponed conference, is to create momentum, in Sweden and elsewhere, despite Covid.

b. Uppsala Conference Update for June 2021

The conference “Beyond Crisis and Insecurity” will take place on June 16-20, 2021. 160 papers were accepted, and 20 round-tables. It would be held at the Campus Engelska Parken, Uppsala University, next to the Nordic Africa Institute. Three downtown hotels have been booked. Planned events include book sales, film screening, ‘mingles’, sightseeing. Our ambition is to have an in-person conference. *But*, if the situation doesn’t permit that, we will be obliged to hold a virtual conference, of the same size. The decision as to in-person or virtual will be made by March 31. Since the beginning of 2020, there was evaluation of the submissions, prioritizing of financing, and considerable fund-raising, some supplied by research programs. Regarding sponsoring of

Africa-based participants, there is a limited number, and they will be considered individually with possibility of partial funding. Priority would be given for those leading panels.

Planning under COVID and beyond: the deadline for proposals to Africa Studies Association (18-20 November 2021) is in March; he encourages members to propose panels. We would like to explore organizing virtual seminars (MANSA alone or joint ventures); and co-hosting of workshops and training sessions. Joseph Hellweg has already done this in Côte d’Ivoire. The journal *Mande Studies* and the MANSA newsletter are ongoing. Sten manages MANSA’s Facebook page. If members have a new publication, or someone has defended a thesis, or a seminar or other event is planned, send him an email and he will share it on Facebook, to publicize activities by or of interest to MANSA.

Other new undertakings:

- ◊ There will be another MANSA Conference in 2023, so planning needs to begin for that.
 - ◊ MANSA and the African Studies Association (ASA): this relationship was raised earlier by Jeanne Toungara. Currently MANSA is an affiliate organization of ASA, but for several years MANSA has explored becoming a coordinate organization. [Comment in Zoom chat by Barbara Hoffman: *MANSA did become a coordinate organization; she can provide the details.*]
 - ◊ Committees / commissions / task forces: already begun, as mentioned by Joseph; the idea is to have more members actively involved.
 - ◊ Fund-raising for MANSA activities (training, workshops): increase these activities; demonstrate that MANSA is an international, transnational organization.
 - ◊ Strengthening the focal points.
 - ◊ Diaspora involvement: the Mande region is one of the regions in the world; and the world is also in the Mande region.
-

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

General Discussion: None. Joseph offered to stay in the session after adjournment in case anyone wanted to continue conversation. He thanked everyone for their participation in the discussion, and again thanked Chérif and Maria as election advisors, and the candidates for president.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned after 2 hours and 11 minutes.

Submitted by Marcia Tiede

MANSA Business Meeting, 2020

Secretary-Treasurer Report

December 16, 2020
Submitted by Marcia Tiede

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 112 members. They are distributed geographically as follows:

AFRICA-BASED	39	NON-AFRICA BASED	73
Burkina Faso	7	Canada	1
Côte d'Ivoire	21	Denmark	1
Mali	9	France	3
Senegal	1	Germany	3
South Africa	1	Great Britain	7
		Italy	1
		Netherlands	1
		Norway	2
		Sweden	3
		Switzerland	3
		United States	48

*This count includes a Swiss member, Noemi Steuer, who passed away on July 14th.

[Addendum: 4 more Africa-based members were added in late Dec. 2020, and 4 more retroactively in early 2021.]

This compares to 35 Africa-based members and 48 non-Africa-based members in 2019.

By percentage:

- ◊ 43.7% live in North America (United States, Canada)
- ◊ 34.8% live in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, South Africa)
- ◊ 21.4% live in Europe (Great Britain, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands)

We already have 17 members with dues paid for the coming year, 2021.

FINANCES

U.S. Bank:	\$ 14,155.91 USD
PayPal:	\$ 2,406.66 USD
Ecobank:	1,074,287 FCFA/XOF (~\$ 1,983 USD)
Total balance:	~\$ 18,546 USD (~10,015,000 FCFA/XOF)

This compares to a total balance of \$12,590.82 at the end of 2019.

We received a \$500 donation in honor of past presidents Kassim Kone and Barbara Hoffman, a \$250 donation toward a 'Chi Wara Award' in honor of Richard Warms (listserv/web administrator), and \$360 in various donations to put toward travel funds for the now-postponed Uppsala conference; as well as a \$500 donation to support administration of our journal, *Mande Studies*.

Nine members paid at the Bronze level (\$100), two at the Silver level (\$200), and five at the Gold level (\$300).

COMMUNICATION

Membership information is conveyed to the Secretary-Treasurer by different means:

- ◊ Yahoo email (mansa_treas@yahoo.com) and user profiles on MANSA website, linked to PayPal (~non-Africa-based members)
- ◊ Emails from MANSA Coordinator for Africa, Marcel Yao Kouakou (~Africa-based members)

Secretary-Treasurer sends email acknowledgements of dues payment to non-Africa-based members, based mostly on Yahoo/PayPal notices; but that has not been the case with Africa-based members.

Secretary-Treasurer has generally sent the call for membership renewals to the listserv. Not all members are on the listserv.

New? approaches:

- ◊ Contact members from the previous year who have not yet renewed for the current year, mid-year —>
- ◊ Communicate to members about listserv (etc.) at the same time as acknowledgement of membership payment.

Other information sources:

- ◊ **Newsletter, MANSA Kibaru** 1986 —>
- ◊ **Annual business meeting** 1986 —>, held at African Studies Association (U.S.) every fall. This year is the first time, as with many organizations, that we are holding it online.
- ◊ **Triennial international conference** 1993 —>, held in West Africa or Europe.
- ◊ **Journal, Mande Studies** 1999 —>
- ◊ **Website** ~200-? —>; not 'live', needs updating, perhaps add blog / announcement component
- ◊ **Listserv**, ~2001 —>; no requirement to be a MANSA member; doesn't necessarily overlap with current members distribution list. No systematic communication about it. Needs to be moved to new platform, 2021?

MANSA Business Meeting, 2020

Secretary-Treasurer Report (cont.)

- ◊ **Facebook**, ~2014? —> ; informal – events, articles etc. that may or may not relate to MANSA.
- ◊ **Focal points** (Bamako, Abidjan, Ouagadougou, Conakry), 2018 —> – for distribution of *Mande Studies* to members; regional events ?
- ◊ **Current member email distribution list**, 2020? —> ; apparently was created also for previous election(s)

Language use: Official emails/communications have been bilingual French/English in recent years. *Mande Studies* has had contributions in French, English, and Portuguese.

Cela se compare à 35 membres basés en Afrique et 48 membres non basés en Afrique en 2019.

Nous avons déjà 17 membres dont les cotisations ont été payées pour l'année à venir, 2021.

En pourcentage :

- ◊ 43,7 % vivent en Amérique du Nord (États-Unis, Canada)
- ◊ 34,8% vivent en Afrique (Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sénégal, Afrique du Sud)
- ◊ 21,4 % vivent en Europe (Grande-Bretagne, France, Allemagne, Suède, Suisse, Norvège, Danemark, Italie, Pays-Bas)

Réunion d'affaires MANSA, 2020

Rapport du Secrétaire-Trésorier

16 décembre 2020

Soumis par Marcia Tiede

ADHÉSION

Nous comptons actuellement 112 membres. Ils sont répartis géographiquement comme suit:

Basé en Afrique	39	Pas basé en Afrique	73
Burkina Faso	7	Canada	1
Côte d'Ivoire	21	Danemark	1
Mali	9	France	3
Sénégal	1	Allemagne	3
Afrique du Sud	1	Grande Bretagne	7
		Italie	1
		Pays Bas	1
		Norvège	2
		Suède	3
		Suisse	3
		États-Unis	48

* Ce décompte comprend une membre suisse, Noemi Steuer, décédée le 14 juillet.

[Addendum: 4 autres membres basés en Afrique ont été ajouté fin 2020, et 4 autres rétroactivement début 2021.]

FINANCES

U.S. Bank:	\$ 14,155.91 USD
PayPal:	\$ 2,406.66 USD
EcoBank:	1,074,287 FCFA/XOF (~\$1,983 USD)

Solde totale: ~ \$ 18,546 USD
(~10,015,000 FCFA /XOF)

En comparaison, le solde total s'élevait à \$12,590.82 USD à la fin de 2019.

Nous avons reçu un don de \$500 en l'honneur des anciens présidents Kassim Kone et Barbara Hoffman, ainsi que \$360 de dons divers, destinés à financer les frais de voyage pour la conférence d'Uppsala, désormais reportée, et un don de \$500 pour soutenir l'administration de notre revue, *Mande Studies*. Neuf membres ont payé au niveau Bronze (\$100), deux au niveau Argent (\$200) et cinq au niveau Or (\$300).

COMMUNICATION

Les informations sur les adhésions sont transmises au secrétaire-trésorier par différents moyens :

- ◊ Courriel Yahoo (mansa_treas@yahoo.com) et profils d'utilisateurs sur le site web de MANSA, liés à PayPal (~membres pas basés en Afrique)
- ◊ Emails du coordinateur de la MANSA pour l'Afrique, Marcel Yao Kouakou (~membres basés en Afrique)

Réunion d'affaires MANSA, 2020

Rapport du Secrétaire-Trésorier (*cont.*)

Le secrétaire-trésorier envoie par courriel des accusés de réception du paiement des cotisations aux membres non basés en Afrique, en se basant principalement sur les avis de Yahoo / PayPal ; mais cela n'a pas été le cas pour les membres basés en Afrique.

Le secrétaire-trésorier a généralement envoyé des appels de renouvellement d'adhésion au listserv (liste électronique de diffusion). Tous les membres ne sont pas inscrits sur le listserv.

Nouvelles? approches :

- ◊ Contacter les membres de l'année précédente qui n'ont pas encore renouvelé leur adhésion pour l'année en cours, vers juin —>.
- ◊ Communiquer aux membres au moment d'adhésion à propos du listserv (et cetera).

Autres sources d'information :

- ◊ **Bulletin d'information, MANSA Kibaru** 1986 —>
- ◊ **Réunion d'affaires annuelle** 1986 —>, qui se tient chaque automne à African Studies Association (U.S.). Cette année, comme pour de nombreuses organisations, c'est la première fois que nous la tenons en ligne.
- ◊ **Conférence internationale triennale** 1993 —>, qui s'est tenue en Afrique de l'Ouest ou en Europe.
- ◊ **Journal, Mande Studies** 1999 —>
- ◊ **Site web** ~200- ? —>; pas « en direct », doit être mis à jour, peut-être ajouter un blog / un élément d'annonce
- ◊ **Listserv**, ~2001 —>; il n'est pas nécessaire d'être membre de MANSA ; ne recoupe pas nécessairement la liste de distribution des membres actuels. Pas de communication systématique à ce sujet. Doit être déplacé vers une nouvelle plateforme, 2021 ?
- ◊ **Facebook**, ~2014 ? —>; informel — événements, articles, etc. qui peuvent ou non être liés à MANSA.
- ◊ **Points focaux** (Bamako, Abidjan, Ouagadougou, Conakry), 2018 —> pour la distribution des études sur le Mandé aux membres ; événements régionaux ?
- ◊ **Liste de distribution des membres actuels par courriel**, 2020 ? —>

Utilisation des langues : Les courriels et les communications officielles sont bilingues français/anglais depuis quelques années. *Mande Studies* a eu des contributions en français, en anglais et en portugais.

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Chérif Keïta, Carleton College, USA

Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Indiana University, USA / Germany
Nafadji Sory Condé, Université Kofi Annan, Guinée

Listserv manager / Gestionnaire du liste courriel

Richard Warms, Texas State University, USA

Website administrator / Administrateur du site

Jesse Miller, Florida State University, USA

www.mandestudies.org

Focal Points / Points focaux

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 Maison des Langues, attn. Nafadji Sory Condé – Conakry, **Guinée**

LAASSE, Institut pour la bonne gouvernance, le développement et la prospective, attn. Kando Amédée Soumahoro Abidjan, **Côte d'Ivoire**

Newsletter editor / Rédacteur du bulletin:
Marcia Tiede, MANSA Secretary-Treasurer