



Preliminary Program
Southeast Regional Seminar for African Studies
Fall 2009 Meeting
Blacksburg, VA
Hosted by the Virginia Tech Africa Coalition (VTAC)

VTAC is composed of over 60 faculty, staff and students with research, teaching, and/or activist interest in Africa. Members come from across the disciplines, and gather to share information, research, and teaching strategies. VTAC is pleased to host SERSAS for its first meeting at Virginia Tech since 1976.

For their generous financial support, we offer our thanks to: The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, The Department of Sociology, Africana Studies, The Department of Political Science, The Department of History, The Department of Apparel and Housing Resource Management, The Institute for Policy and Governance, and The Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought

Schedule:

Friday, October 2:

Reception with light food and drinks, Cranwell International Center, 6 - 9 pm

Keynote speech: Dr. Karim Abdul Bangura (Howard University), "Creating a United States of Africa: The New Pan-African Push"

Saturday, October 3:

8-8:45 Registration, Graduate Life Center, Room G

8:45-9:15 Official Introductions, Graduate Life Center, Room G

Note: All Sessions will be Held in Room C

9:30-10:45 Economic Opportunities and Social Advancement in Contemporary Africa

Chair, Kea Gorden, College of Charleston; Sophia Anong, Virginia Tech, *Mobile Banking and the Unbanked in Africa*;

Amadou Beidy Sow, Ohio University, *Teachers as Political Leaders: The Case of Mali*

Emily Van Houweling, Virginia Tech University, *Gates and Keys: A Model for Understanding the Pathways Taken to Improve Livelihoods in Rural Mali*

11:00-12:30 Creative Agency in Contemporary Africa

Chair, Heather Switzer, Virginia Tech

Fanta Diamanka, Ohio University, *Broadcasting Change: Indigenous Language and Development in Senegal*

Peter Hoelsing, Florida State University, *Musical Diagnosis, Spiritual Etiology: The Social Reproduction of Health in Uganda*

Leah Lyons, Middle Tennessee State University, *Do African Women Have a Complex or Are They Really That Complex?*

Elizabeth Perrill, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, *Show Me How: The Role of Ceramic Demonstrations for Ceramic Success*

12:30-1:30 Lunch and Business Meeting Graduate Life Center, Room G

Note: All Sessions will be Held in Room C

1:30-3:00 Transnational and National Challenges in Africa

Chair, P.S. Polanah, Virginia Tech

Brittany Anderson and Caroline McCabe, Virginia Tech University, *HIV/AIDS Organizations in Voi, Kenya*

Kenly Greer Fenio, Virginia Tech University, *Human Trafficking in Southern Africa: The Role of Neoliberal Policy, Kinship Networks, and the Impending 2010 World Cup*

Kea Gorden, College of Charleston, *Intersections of Neoliberal Democratization and Indigenous Political Power in Post-Apartheid South Africa*

3:10-4:45 Tracing and Constructing Narratives in African History

Chair, Brett Shadle, Virginia Tech

Matthew Heaton, Virginia Tech, *History and Politics of Nigerian Psychiatry: The Case Brain Fog Syndrome*

Matthew Omelsky, Cornell University, *From African Ananse to Creole Anancy: Tracing an Akan Trickster through the Middle Passage to Colonial Jamaica*

Jeremy Rich, Middle Tennessee State University, *Anti-Colonial Racist, Imperial Suffragette, Plagiarized Expert: The Making of a Female Expert on Africa in Progressive Era America*