

“Engaging Higher Education and Research in, on and with Africa”



Annual Report 2021 for the Forum for Africa Studies, Uppsala University:
Engagement without Borders

A promotional poster for the 'International West Africa Conference' titled 'BEYOND CRISIS AND INSECURITY'. The poster includes logos for Uppsala University, the Forum for Africa Studies, and MANSA (Association des Études Mandé / Mandé Studies Association). It lists the dates as June 16-19, 2021, from 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. GMT+2 each day, and mentions 150 speakers, 40 panels, and 25 countries. It also states that the conference will be live-streamed on Zoom with the hashtag #MANSAUppsala2021. A photograph of a blue street sign that reads 'PLACE DE LA LIBERTÉ' is included on the right side of the poster.

UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Forum
for Africa
Studies

MANSA
Association des Études Mandé
Mandé Studies Association

**BEYOND CRISIS
AND
INSECURITY**

International West Africa Conference
co-organized by the Mandé Studies Association &
Forum for Africa Studies, Uppsala University

June 16-19, 2021
2 P.M. to 8 P.M.
GMT+2 each day

150 speakers
40 panels
25 countries

PLACE
DE LA LIBERTÉ

Live Streaming on Zoom
#MANSAUppsala2021

Uppsala, June 2022

Introduction

Uppsala University's Forum for Africa Studies is a centre with a broad mandate to cover Africa research and higher education initiatives. Forum is organizationally located within the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, but with the broad aim to engage with research and higher education in, on, and with Africa at Uppsala University. Forum should facilitate contacts and the exchange of research information within and outside the university, and between universities and research institutes in Africa. It organizes lectures, seminars, round-tables, film screenings, workshops, and undergraduate courses in African Studies. It runs research projects in collaboration with different stakeholders. Currently, the Forum for Africa Studies leads a number of collaborative projects with partners in African countries, including Mozambique, Burkina Faso, and Mali. Despite the context of the pandemic, Forum developed events, building on already existing virtual seminar series (UU/UEM Virtual Seminars in Africa Studies, and the Francophone Séminaire virtuel du LACET). In June 2021, it hosted a big international online conference with 150 papers in 40 panel. Forum organized a number of public events in African countries, albeit at fewer occasions and countries, due to the pandemic. In 2021, the Forum for Africa Studies hosted, co-hosted or sponsored some 25 public events, including symposia, conference panels, research seminars and book launches. This annual report summarizes activities carried out in the year of 2021. The appendices include a list of all activities and meetings, a list of people involved, and a list of externally funded projects.

Organization and Scope

The Forum for Africa Studies aims to facilitate collaboration, communication and research between scholars and institutions inside and outside of Uppsala University, as to favor the consolidation of research environments, the development of courses focusing on Africa, and collaborations with colleagues at African universities and research institutes. It functions as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange, reflection, work and publication.

In terms of administrative organization, Forum's Board has one representative of each faculty¹ within the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as one joint representative of the faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy. In addition, PhD-students and undergraduate students have their representatives (Appendix 2). Since July 2018, the Board's Chairperson is Véronique Simon, Senior Lecturer of Education. The Board meets four to five times per year.

The daily running of Forum is led by its Director (Sten Hagberg) in collaboration with several Coordinators: Molly Sundberg (until June 2021), Ulrika Trovalla, and Oulia Makkonen. Forum's chairperson, Véronique Simon, also plays an important role in carrying out activities. In 2021, Forum organized events and activities, some within the strategic project *Health, Politics and Culture in Africa*. It was also engaged in research and research training projects in Mozambique, Burkina Faso, and Mali.

¹ The faculties within Humanities and Social Sciences at Uppsala University include: Arts, Educational Sciences, Languages, Law, Social Sciences, and Theology.

Inside and outside of the university

The Forum for Africa Studies works actively with communication through its website (www.afrikastudier.uu.se) and its Facebook page, as well as its email list with some 300 subscribers. Our Facebook-publications about events and activities often reach more than 1,000 viewers, and occasionally up to 5,000. We collaborate with the University's Communications Unit in relation to media coverage and public relations.

Forum is increasingly present at events and workshops in Africa. Three networks are particularly worth mentioning in this regard. The first network includes the myriad of activities and initiatives carried out in West Africa or with West African partners. The Francophone research lab entitled [*Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale \(LACET\)*](#), founded in 2018, is an institutional framework between the Forum for Africa Studies (Sweden), the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (Burkina Faso) and the Institut des Sciences Humaines (Mali). Second, the Forum organized an international conference [*Beyond Crisis and Insecurity: Cultural Creativity, Popular Struggle, and Social Change in West Africa*](#) in collaboration with the West African research network Mande Studies Association (MANSA). Currently, the Director of the Forum for Africa Studies, Sten Hagberg, is the MANSA President. Another important West Africa collaboration is the [*commissioned research carried out in Burkina Faso*](#) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

A second network is the research and research training with Mozambique. Forum participates in three collaborative research training programs with Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique) under the auspices of Sida. The main programme focuses on [*Municipal Democracy and Local Development in Mozambique*](#) (Cultural Anthropology) and others concern [*Bio-Cultural Heritage*](#) (Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology), and [*Population Dynamics and Socioeconomic Wellbeing*](#) (Global Health, Cultural Anthropology). Since 2019, the UU/UEM Virtual Seminar in Africa Studies is a major breakthrough in fostering a joint research environment between Uppsala and Maputo.

Forum is also involved in innovative projects in higher education that have been on stand-by during the pandemic: the Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD); the ERASMUS+ project with El Manar University of Tunis, and the ERASMUS+ project with the Nazi Boni University, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso.

Major Events

Since its launching in March 2012, Forum has hosted more than 250 public events, including seminars, lectures, round-tables, film-screenings, book launches, symposia, and international conferences. In 2021, we were involved more than 20 public activities and events.

Bamako Workshop in May 2021

Between 24 and 26 May, the Institut des Sciences Humaines (ISH) and the the [*Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale \(LACET\)*](#) with support from the University of Edinburgh hosted an International Workshop on Interregional mobilities around gold panning spaces: circulations of actors and resources in changing sociopolitical landscapes in West Africa. Papers presented research material from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, and Niger. Original research material was presented by speakers from these countries as well as from Sweden. Uppsala Anthropologist Sten Hagberg, Director of LACET, gave a key note

on engaged anthropology around artisanal gold-mining. LACET-members Almamy Sylla (Université des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Bamako), and N'gna Traoré (ISH), Fatoumata Camara (Université des Sciences Sociales et de Gestion de Bamako), Bintou Koné (ISH), and the LACET Mali Coordinator, Baba Coulibaly, Director of ISH, were in charge of the organization of the workshop.

West Africa Conference in June 2021

Between 16 and 19 June, the 11th [International Conference on Mande Studies](#) was hosted at Uppsala University. The conference was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Anders Hagfeldt, followed by an introduction to the conference theme BEYOND CRISIS AND INSECURITY IN WEST AFRICA, by Sten Hagberg. The opening talk was followed by Lydia Rouamba, Institut des Sciences des Sociétés, and Anders Themnér, Uppsala University, who presented their papers on Burkinabe women's political participation, and socializing Warlord Democrats respectively.

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 produce 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.

The call for papers generated 310 submissions, out of which 160 were accepted in a 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 around 300 participants. The quality of the papers was good, and the discussions were interesting. Main sponsors were Uppsala University (Forum for Africa Studies, Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Peace, and Justice) and Agence Française de Développement, as well as the Royal Society for the Humanities in Uppsala.



Vice-Chancellor Anders Hagfeldt inaugurated the West Africa Conference on 16 June 2021.

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).

Summer School in September 2021

Between 15 and 17 September, Forum co-hosted the 13th [European Summer School for the Anthropology of Development and Social Dynamics](#) with 22 PhD Students at 12 European Universities, drawing on ethnographic research in at least 18 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, RD Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Togo, USA, Chad, and Lesotho.

The Summer School is an intensive seminar for PhD students, organized and hosted every two years by one of the participating research institutions and universities. Since the 1990s, the Summer School has offered a forum of exchange to junior and senior scholars from European and non-European (mainly African) countries working on topics linked to development and social change in the countries of the Global South.

Partner universities are: Université d'Aix Marseille (France); University of Bayreuth (Germany); Université de Bordeaux (France); Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium); University of Copenhagen (Denmark); University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom); University of Leipzig (Germany); KU Leuven (Belgium); Université de Liège (Belgium); Université Catholique de Louvain/UCL (Belgium); Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz (Germany); Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales Marseille (France); Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociale/EHESS Marseille (France); Roskilde University (Denmark); and Uppsala University (Sweden).



Participants of the 13th European Summer School for the Anthropology of Development and Social Dynamics.

Friday Seminar in Africa Studies

In 2021, the Friday Seminar in Africa Studies series involved a range of scholars from multiple disciplines. In view of the pandemic, the seminar series were in the first half of the year moved online, which permitted the continuous organisation of seminars on a regular basis. The presentations had their roots from such disciplines as history, theology, cultural anthropology, literary studies, medicine, urban studies, peace and conflict, philosophy. The topics revolved around Black/African/Muslim/European identity, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone, pasts and presents of the city of Freetown, developments in African speculative fiction, poetry, but also the African literary take on the pandemic, Nairobi street aesthetics, African biblical and womanist hermeneutics, questions of African postcolonial theory and the decolonial turn, the Sungusungu movements in Tanzania, the consequences of skin-lightening practices from a medical point of view.

The online format benefited the seminar series by reaching an international and broader audience, as well as permitting to more readily invite scholars from different universities. Participants have joined from such countries as Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Ethiopia, as well as Europe and the Nordic countries.

The Friday Seminar in Africa Studies continued its tradition of keeping presentations and discussions informal and inclusive in nature. The online seminars are open to the public and do not require registration. The wider reach has contributed to the already engaged discussions and to a broadening of perspectives. With the pandemic relenting, the seminars have been slowly brought back to their initial *in situ* format, but not entirely.

Health politics and culture in Africa

The *Health, Politics and Culture in Africa* project is a strategic project supported by the Vice Chancellor's Office, linking the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacology. The project aims to foster interdisciplinary cooperation within the area of medicine and health. Since 2015, the project has focused on fostering meeting points between the different faculties. The work has given birth not only to interdisciplinary panels, workshops, seminars and seminar series, but also to research cooperation in terms of interdisciplinary networks and research projects. This work has also trickled down and resulted in cooperation on the level of teaching between the master program in Global Health and the course in African Studies. In 2021 (which was also the final year of the project), the work centered on two research areas: Suspicious Medical Matters and Skin Lightening.

Suspicious Medical Matters

The interdisciplinary project on *Suspicious Medical Matters* has been running since 2018, when a panel on this theme was organised during the Nordic Africa Days, followed by a publication workshop together with the nine panel contributions. As an outcome, Ulrika Trovalla, who is the coordinator of the *Health, Politics and Culture in Africa* project is a guest editor of a forthcoming special issue in the Nordic Journal of African Studies on the theme of *Suspicious Medical Matters*. During 2021 the publication has been peer-reviewed. Drawing from a multitude of field experiences from the African continent, the contributors to this special issue delves into the field of suspicion that surrounds medical matters: the complexes of suspicion, which connect to

patients, healthcare providers, healthcare institutions, donors, pharmaceutical companies, medicines, diseases, viruses etc.

Skin Lightening: Navigating Situated Geographies of Colourism

Since 2019, skin lightening has emerged as a larger interdisciplinary thematic research focus. The work aims at bridging a research gap that exist in Sweden regarding skin-lightening and to form an interdisciplinary international network. Cosmetic depigmentation, the practice of altering skin tone from one shade to a lighter shade for aesthetic reasons is widely spread on the African continent and in the African diaspora and with many times severe health consequences. The practice is linked to colourism – hierarchies and discrimination based on skin tone. The initiative has developed into a platform that connects researchers across continents and disciplines through a multitude of events:

- In February the seminar series on skin-lightening hosted Amna Elyas, Dermatologist at Skåne University Hospital and PhD student, Lund University; and Salma Eltahir Pharmacologist at the University of Khartoum and MSc Global Health, Uppsala University.
- A roundtable was organized at the MANSA conference focusing on local geographies and the situated perspective, as well as the multitude of perspectives, by bringing together viewpoints from researchers from different disciplines as well as with different geographical focuses. The round table was chaired by Clementina Amankwaah, Oulia Makkonen, and Ulrika Trovalla with papers by Salma Eltahir from Global Health at Uppsala University, Medical historian Sam Adu-Gyamfi at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, and Dermatologist Abla Sefako Akakpo from Université de Lomé, Togo; and
- A call for contributions to a publication on ‘Skin Lightening Practices: Navigating Situated Geographies of Colourism’ was formulated and distributed in early 2021. In an effort to include a multitude of voices, this publication will encompass a wide-range of writing styles and formats – personal reflections, poems, academic texts, photo essays, short stories etc. The publication will appear in the series Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies in 2022.

Research Training Collaboration in Mozambique

The Forum for Africa Studies is involved in research partnerships with Mozambique (2017-2022). Forum is a key partner in three partnerships.

Strengthening Municipal Democracy and Local Development

The Forum for Africa Studies coordinates one programme in partnership with Eduardo Mondlane University and the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology at Uppsala University. Two PhD students in Cultural Anthropology (Paulo Mahumane and Book Sambo) are supervised by Sten Hagberg. The programme also involves curriculum development, support to local master and PhD programmes in Maputo. Since 2019, the UU/UEM Virtual Seminar is a regular online seminar series. Three UU/UEM Virtual Seminar were organized during the year of 2021: on 15 March, *New Research at Eduardo Mondlane University*; on 31 May, *Two new PhD projects in Anthropology*; and on 13 December, *Threats to Heritage with papers*.

Population Dynamics and Socioeconomic Wellbeing

The project is carried out in partnership with Eduardo Mondlane University, Umeå University, University of Witwatersrand, the Dept. of Women's and Children's Health, the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, and the Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University with PhD student Márcia Manhique, Cultural Anthropology. Forum board member Birgitta Essén is coordinating program activities in Global Health at the International Maternal and Child Health (IMCH).

Biocultural Heritage in Mozambique

In partnership with the Dept. of Archaeology and Ancient History, and the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Forum is in charge of training a PhD student in Cultural Anthropology: Jossias Humbane. Board member Anneli Ekblom coordinates this program of the Dept. of Archaeology and Ancient History.

Burkina Faso seen from below

Since 2018, Forum (Sten Hagberg) leads a programme to support Sweden's development cooperation strategy in Burkina Faso through annual studies "from below" on specific topics. The programme "[Burkina Faso seen from Below](#)" aims to conduct annual thematic studies and to provide regular support and advice to the Embassy of Sweden in Burkina Faso. Forum implements the programme in partnership with the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique et technologique, Burkina Faso. The 2018 annual study focused on Security from Below: Citizen Perceptions and Perspectives on Security Challenges in Burkina Faso. The 2019 annual study focused on Women Leadership and Decentralization in Burkina Faso. In 2021, the book « *Femmes de devant !* »: *Combat du leadership féminin*, was published in the series Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies.

Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale (LACET)

In 2018, the Forum for Africa Studies (Uppsala), the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (Ouagadougou) and the Institut des Sciences Humaines (Bamako) founded a Francophone research laboratory on engaged, comparative and transnational anthropology. Departing from three institutions in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Sweden, the LACET aims to foster strong and dynamic research environments engaging with pertinent societal challenges. The research lab operates "on a shoestring" (*lacet*=shoestring) with a minimal budget but maximum engagement!

The research lab functions as an umbrella and academic framework, as to formalize and foster stronger bonds and better opportunities between researchers and institutions, while staying flexible and open to any collaboration with other actors. The purpose is to strengthen research in the social sciences and the humanities, particularly the comparative, engaged and transnational anthropology in Africa or in relation to African issues, including the African diaspora. LACET is established as an international research laboratory called [Le Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale](#).



LACET Members participated in a study of the Liptako-Gourma region in July-August 2021. Here is the Burkina team with Sten Hagberg.



Photo de famille at the West Africa Workshop in Bamako, Mali, in May 2021.

The LACET has quickly emerged as one of the most dynamic research networks in and on West Africa. It allows Uppsala University to play a key role in fostering research and research training in innovative ways, as a way to practically and concretely work to decolonize research and higher education.

Collaboration within the U4Society and ENLIGHT Networks

The U4Society is a university network consisting of five European universities with similar institutional profiles and interests, notably Uppsala University, Göttingen University (Germany), Ghent University (Belgium), University of Groningen (Netherlands), and University of Tartu (Estonia). It engages in a variety of collaborative activities in research and education, such as joint summer and winter schools, conferences, and workshops.

Since 2018, Forum has been involved in developing collaborations within the field of African Studies. During 2020, a larger European network was created that partly builds on U4Society, called the ENLIGHT Network. It encompasses the universities of the Basque Country (ES), Bordeaux (FR), Bratislava (SK), Galway (IE), in addition to the five U4Society universities. Together with partners at Göttingen University, Ghent University, and University of Groningen, Forum applied for funding to organize a digital seminar series about diversity in academia. The series aims to engage all ENLIGHT partner universities and started in the Fall of 2021. Each university was to tackle the question of diversity from different angles; three [digital seminars](#) were organised in Autumn 2021: Ghent focused on decolonisation, Groningen on social safety in the academic environment, and Göttingen on imageries of the Global South.

Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD)

The Forum for Africa Studies is actively involved in SANORD. This was strengthened by Vice-Chancellor Eva Åkesson's strong commitment, which in turn led to Uppsala University's hosting of the 2016 SANORD Conference; Forum took the lead as main organizer of the Uppsala Conference. In September 2021, Forum's chair-person, Véronique Simon, and its director, Sten Hagberg, attended the Bergen Conference.

Publications

In 2017, the Forum for Africa Studies launched the publication series [Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies](#), with the aim to publish, disseminate and make better known Africa research carried out at Uppsala University. Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies is published online and as hard copy. The collaborative dimension – across disciplinary borders and in joint research work with African colleagues – is a leading ambition of the series. Publication languages are English, French and Swedish. To date, six issues have been published. The series is distributed to journals and bookstores, and sold at [Uppsala University's Web Shop](#). The book on women leadership in Burkina Faso, entitled « [Femmes de devant !](#) », was published in 2021.

Forum also supported part of the publication of two monographs in the Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis: Per Brandström's [Mhola – The Utopia of Peace: An Ethnographic Exploration of the Sungusungu Movement in Tanzania](#), and the late Ann-Britt Bernhardsdotter's [The Power of Being: A Study of Poverty, Fertility and Sexuality among the Kuria in Kenya and Tanzania](#).

Courses in African Studies

In 2021, Forum's Sten Hagberg and Ulrika Trovalla led the course African Studies (30hp). Other Forum members involved: Anneli Ekblom, Nicklas Hållén, Dani Kouyaté, and Anna Baral. As an attempt to orient students, Forum compiled [a list of courses focusing on Africa](#), or at least with an important "African touch".

International Conference on Beyond Crisis and Insecurity in West Africa

Since 2019, Forum of Africa Studies worked with the conceptualization, preparation, fund-raising, organization, and evaluation of the papers for the 11th International Conference on Mande Studies. The conference took finally place online in June 2021. Jointly hosted by the Mande Studies Association (MANSA), and the Forum for Africa Studies, the conference explored the prospects for peace and progress in a region too often stereotyped as conflict-ridden and unstable. In 2023, the 12th International Conference on Mande Studies is planned to take place in Bamako, Mali. Forum will be involved in the organization as part of ongoing collaboration with Mali.

Other externally funded projects

Forum is involved in a number of individual research projects. Coordinator Ulrika Trovalla is involved in an externally funded research project on the materiality of suspicion in city landscapes in Zambia and Nigeria. Anthropologist Marie Deridder obtained a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship entitled NEGOMOB: Negotiating Mobility in Mali and Burkina Faso 2020-2023. The project is placed at the Forum for Africa. The Research School Programme Decolonizing Research Methodologies was granted support from Swedish Research Council 2022-2025.

Strategic work: Uppsala Graduate School in Africa Studies

Since early 2021, Forum has been intensely involved in strategic work as to secure future developments of the centre. A main strategy has been to work on the Uppsala Graduate School in Africa Studies (UPPGAS) as to develop, consolidate, and further strengthen the UU's transdisciplinary cluster in research, higher education, and institutional collaboration in and with Africa. UPPGAS aims to provide the appropriate institutional and academic framework for

consolidating and creating synergies between the multitude of activities and projects, initiatives and networks. It is expected to allow mobility and training programmes integrating different disciplines and approaches, countries and contexts. The Research School Programme [Decolonizing Research Methodologies \(2022-25\)](#) linking together researchers from UU, SLU, and SU, with universities and research institutes in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Tanzania, is a core group of partner universities – and their PhD Students – around which the UPPGAS will start up, and be developed.

The UPPGAS will be organized around seminars, courses and supervision team arrangements. It will strengthen PhD and postdoc research environments that could streamline initiatives and aspects from various funding sources. Such sources include the bilateral research collaboration with Mozambique, and other ongoing sandwich programmes (Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, etc.), those in the pipeline (Burkina Faso, Somalia, Zambia), and Forum’s soon-to-be-launched Sida funded five-year collaborative programme with Mali entitled *Perspectives citoyennes des défis de société au Mali*, linking together Malian and Swedish research groups. Moreover, an application is prepared for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network for European and African partner universities.

We are those working with Forum for Africa Studies
www.afrikastudier.uu.se
 Facebook: Uppsala Forum for Africa Studies



Sten Hagberg,
Director



Véronique Simon,
Chairperson



Ulrika Trovalla,
Coordinator

Oulia Makkonen,
Coordinator



Forum’s coordinating team is key to the centre’s initiatives and activities

Concluding remarks

The Forum for Africa Studies has grown since its launching in March 2012. Its scope has moved from a general mandate of making visible Uppsala University’s research in and on Africa to the role as facilitator and active partner in various projects and programmes. While collaboration and commitment are central tenets in Forum’s mission, externally funded research projects are key to developing the centre in terms of research and research training, teaching and public outreach.

The core funding of the Forum for Africa Studies remains remarkably low when considering the many activities and projects in which Forum is involved. In 2021, Hagberg (0%), Sundberg/Makkonen (30%) and Trovalla (30%) have been running the secretariat. The Chairperson of the Forum for Africa Studies (Véronique Simon) had no teaching reduction in 2021. The low core funding means that many activities are dependent on external funding. Forum’s sustainability in terms of work and engagement is therefore a bit shaky.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of Events 2021

- Friday 22 January, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies: *Black African Muslim European Identity, Culture and Heritage* with Dr Yahya Barry from the Centre of African Studies at the University of Copenhagen.
- Thursday 28 January, webinar on *West African Dynamics* co-hosted by the Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University, and the Mande Studies Association (MANSA). 90 participants.
- Friday 12 February, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies on *Skin-lightening from a medical perspective* with Amna Elyas, (resident in dermatology, Skåne University Hospital and PhD student Lund University) and Salma Eltahir (B.Pharm, University of Khartoum, MSc Global Health, Uppsala University)
- Friday 26 February, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies *Notes on from the Lock Down* with Associate Professor Nicklas Hållén, Karlstad University.
- Tuesday 9 March, LACET Virtual Seminar "*Femmes de devant!*" *Combat du leadership féminin au Burkina Faso* with S. Hagberg, L.O. Kibora, B. Koné, A. Konkobo, E Zongo, S. Barry, Y. Cissao and P. Kaboré. 50 participants.
- Monday 15 March, Virtual Seminar in Africa Studies (UU-UEM): *New Research at Eduardo Mondlane University*
- Friday 19 March, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies on *Southern African Speculative Fiction* with Joanna Woods, PhD student at Stockholm University.
- Friday 26 March, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies on *Readings of Biblical Texts by Malagasy Women* with Kjersti Wee, PhD student in VID Specialized University, Stavanger, Norway.
- Friday 9 April, lecture seminar with Nicklas Hållén on *Nairobi Street-Aesthetics: Distance and Proximity in the Aestheticisation of Everyday Life in the Green City*.
- Friday 16 April, launching of the book "*Mhola - The Utopia of Peace: An Ethnographic Exploration of the Sungusungu Movement in Tanzania*" by Uppsala Anthropologist Per Brandström
- Friday 23 April, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies on *Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone* with Associate Professor Anders Themner, Department of Peace and Conflict, Uppsala University
- Monday 24 May - Wednesday 26 May, LACET Workshop on *Mobilités interrégionales autour des sites d'orpaillage : circulations d'acteurs et de ressources dans des paysages sociopolitiques changeants d'Afrique de l'Ouest*. Uppsala Anthropologist Sten Hagberg gave a key note on *Retour aux sources d'une anthropologie engagée autour de l'orpaillage au Burkina Faso*. 70 participants.

- Monday 31 May, Virtual Seminar in Africa studies (UU-UEM): *Two new PhD projects in Anthropology*.
- Wednesday 16 June - Saturday 19 June. International Conference *Beyond Crisis and Insecurity: Cultural Creativity, Popular Struggle, and Social Change in West Africa*. International (online) Conference in Mande Studies. 150 papers and 40 papers, and a total of 300 participants.
- Wednesday 15 September - Friday 17 September. *The 13th European Summer School for the Anthropology of Development and Social Dynamics is hosted by the Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University*. A doctoral school bringing together 35 PhD students and faculty from European partner universities. 40 participants.
- Friday 22 October, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies with Dr. Douglas Kaze on *Slum Ecology in African poetry*.
- Thursday 4 November, *The Pasts and Presents of Freetown, Sierra Leone: Colonial Edges and Contested Practices of Governance* with PhD Students Milo Gough (Goldsmiths, University of London) and Nile Davies (Columbia University)
- Friday 12 November, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies *African Postcolonial Theory in Conversation with the Call for a Decolonial Turn* with Josias Tembo
- Monday 13 December, Virtual Seminar in Africa studies (UU-UEM) *Threats to Heritage with papers* by PhD Students within the research programme Biocultural Heritage, led by Prof. Anneli Ekblom, Uppsala University

Appendix 2: The Board and Management of the Forum for Africa Studies

The Board

Director: Professor Sten Hagberg

Faculty of Educational Sciences: Dr Véronique Simon, Chair (since July 2018)

Faculty of Languages: Associate Professor Ashleigh Harris

Faculty of Theology: Professor Kajsa Ahlstrand

Faculty of Law: Professor Daniel Stattin

Faculty of Arts: Associate Professor Anneli Ekblom

Faculty of Social Sciences: Associate Professor Anders Themnér

Faculty of Medical Sciences: Professor Birgitta Essén

Humanistiska Doktorandrådet: PhD Student Isis Lindfeldt

Medfarm: PhD Student Gbemisola Allwell-Brown

Student representatives: Oscar Rahm and Najma Abdi

Management/Coordination

Director Professor Sten Hagberg

Coordinator Dr. Molly Sundberg (February-June)

Coordinator Dr. Ulrika Trovalla

Coordinator Oulia Makkonen

Appendix 3: Externally funded projects hosted or co-hosted by the Forum for Africa Studies

-Four research training programs with Mozambique, totaling SEK 8 million (2017-22).
Coordinator: Sten Hagberg. NB The total amount of the programmes in which Forum is involved is SEK 40 million.

-One commissioned research program 'Burkina Faso seen from below', totaling SEK 4,3 million (2018-20). Project leader: Sten Hagberg

-Two ERASMUS+-projects: Nazi Boni University, Burkina Faso, totaling SEK 600.000 (2019-22), (Coordinator Sten Hagberg) and El Manar University, Tunisia, administered by the International Division (2018-21).

-One VR UFORSK project Career Movements and Networks in Contractual Development Work: On Ethics, Identity and Everyday Practice in For-Profit Aid, totaling SEK 2,789,000 (2020-23). Project leader: Molly Sundberg.

-One Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship entitled NEGOMOBI: Negotiating Mobility in Mali and Burkina Faso, totaling 305,778 euros (2020-2023). Project leader: Marie Deridder.

Do you want to know more?

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