



Africa at Uppsala University

An Overview of Academic Activities

With, In and About Africa at Uppsala University

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INTRODUCTION

What does Uppsala University's current engagement with Africa look like? In the pursuit of this question, Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University embarked on a mapping exercise of all significant academic activities involving Africa (or a country or region therein) in the university's nine faculties. The mapping was undertaken during the autumn of 2016. Sources of data include interviews with a selection of researchers, a university-wide, online questionnaire, a review of doctoral dissertations published at Uppsala University between the years 2000 and 2016, and department websites and documents.

Forum for Africa Studies was launched in September 2011 by the Board of the Disciplinary Domain of Humanities and Social Sciences. It is led by a chairperson and a coordinator together with a board of members representing eight faculties at the university. Forum for Africa Studies offers a meeting place among researchers and students from various disciplines and perspectives, and actors and institutions from Sweden and Africa. Moreover, it seeks to gather and make visible research and higher education about Africa, and thereby help to identify new research areas and scientific inquiries. Its primary purpose is two-fold: To strengthen research and higher education in and about Africa at Uppsala University, and to promote research and higher education in Africa.

Since its creation, Forum's activities have grown in number, widened in scope, and diversified in form. Today, Forum constitutes an important actor for mobilising and making visible Africa research at Uppsala University. The strong Africa research environments at the university benefit from Forum's activities in that Forum helps external authorities and funders to find relevant Africa specialists and stay informed on the knowledge and competence available at Uppsala University. The less strong environments for Africa research at the university also profit from Forum's activities through the way Forum puts the spotlight on Africa and brings to attention the relevance of Africa research (see Hagberg 2016).

The result of Forum for Africa Studies' mapping of Africa activities at Uppsala University is presented in this report. It shows that Uppsala University has a quite broad engagement with Africa, spanning across all nine faculties and covering more than thirty countries in Africa. It also shows some patterns of concentration in terms of geographical spread on the continent, as well as in terms of disciplinary focus, and type of academic activity. Countries in Africa that attract the highest number of Uppsala researchers are located in the southern and eastern parts of the continent, with South Africa and Tanzania topping the chart. Many of these activities are hosted by a few key units, spread across four faculties: The Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology and the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History in the Faculty of Arts, the Department of Peace and Conflict and the Department of Government in the Faculty of Social Sciences, the International Maternal and Child Health in the Faculty of Medicine, and the International Science Programme in the Disciplinary Domain of Science and Technology. The mapping also shows that academic activities on, with, and in Africa are dominated by research, though many researchers are simultaneously engaged in teaching, supervision, and various networks. Finally, it indicates that the majority of Africa-centred activities at Uppsala University involve several collaborating partners in the African region or country with which they work. Meanwhile, relatively few activities involve collaborations across departments or faculties at Uppsala University, especially in terms of joint research projects.

PURPOSE AND METHODS

The mapping of Uppsala University's engagement with Africa has three objectives. First of all, it seeks to make activities and scholars working in, with, or on Africa more visible – both within the University and vis-à-vis external actors in Sweden and abroad. Secondly, it should facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborations among researchers working on Africa across faculties and departments at Uppsala University. Lastly, the mapping intends to offer an up-to-date picture of the strengths and potentials of the Uppsala University's Africa-oriented work, which can inform strategic decision-making within research and education at the university, and allow comparisons with other universities. This report is one step towards these objectives. Further steps should include mechanisms to ensure that information on Africa activities at Uppsala University can be continuously expanded and kept up-to-date, and be widely available and easily searchable. Recall Forum for Africa Studies' mandate to develop and make visible Africa research and higher education through e.g. its website and social media.

The mapping exercise is based on five methods of data collection: three principal ones, and two complementary. One of the main methods used was to interview a selection of researchers with considerable experience of Africa-oriented work and who are leading figures in Africa research at their respective faculty. Another main method used was an online questionnaire circulated widely within Uppsala University's faculties and departments, asking concerned researchers and teachers to answer seven questions regarding their work in, on, or with Africa (see Annex 1). In total, the questionnaire was filled out by 137 researchers.¹ The third main method of data collection consisted of a review of doctoral dissertations addressing a country, region or language in Africa, published at Uppsala University and registered in the Diva publication portal between the years 2000 and 2016. While doctoral projects only represent one part of all academic activities undertaken at a university, it gives an indication of the research interests at respective departments or units. The topics and regional focus of doctoral projects are decided by the senior researchers at the department, either directly (where PhD candidates are enrolled in ongoing research projects) or indirectly (by choosing PhD candidates with research interests similar to those of prospective supervisors). Moreover, PhD dissertations constitute a comparatively easy category of data to collect from the Diva database (see annex 3 for a list of criteria used in identifying Africa-centred dissertations). Finally, unlike other academic activities in higher education, which can vary considerably in scope, nature, specificity, structure and duration, doctoral projects are relatively homogenous, at least in terms of their scope and duration. As complementary sources of data, the mapping was also informed by websites and online documents published on the university website (www.uu.se), as well as by previous studies of Africa-oriented work at Uppsala University, including by Forum for Africa Studies (Hagberg 2016; Negash 2012a and 2012b) and the International Office at Uppsala University (Svensson and Noemdoe 2011).

FINDINGS: AFRICA AT UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

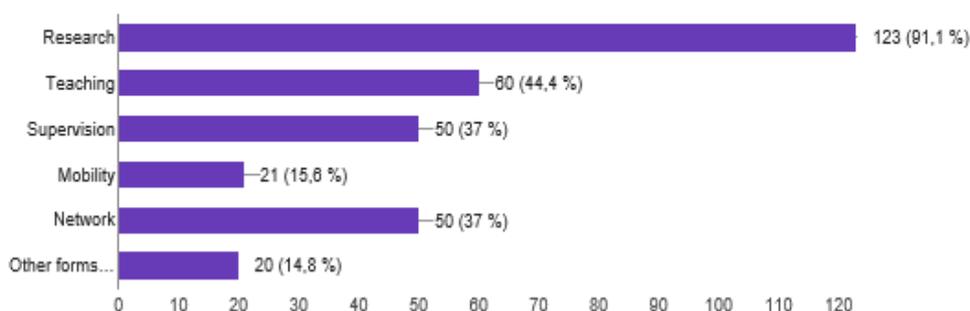
Forms of Activities

The mapping shows that Uppsala University's engagement with Africa is quite broad. Responses to the questionnaire indicate that the vast majority of activities concern research: Nine out of ten questionnaire respondents listed research as one of their Africa-oriented activities. Moreover, almost half of all respondents stated that their work with Africa concerned

teaching, i.e. that basic or advanced level education at their departments included teaching on Africa-centred topics. More than a third of respondents also mentioned supervision and networks as academic activities concerning Africa, and one in five stated that their engagement with Africa entailed mobility-oriented activities. The diagram below shows the accumulated responses to the questionnaire's question on types of activity.

Does your work involve research, teaching and/or other forms of collaboration?

(135 svar)



That research constitutes the principal form of academic engagement with Africa makes sense not least in light of the many doctoral research projects on, with, or in Africa that

have been completed since the turn of the millennium. A review of Diva publications shows that at least 1402 doctoral projects have been completed at Uppsala University during the past 16 years, which fully or partly address an African country or region (see Annex 3 for full list).

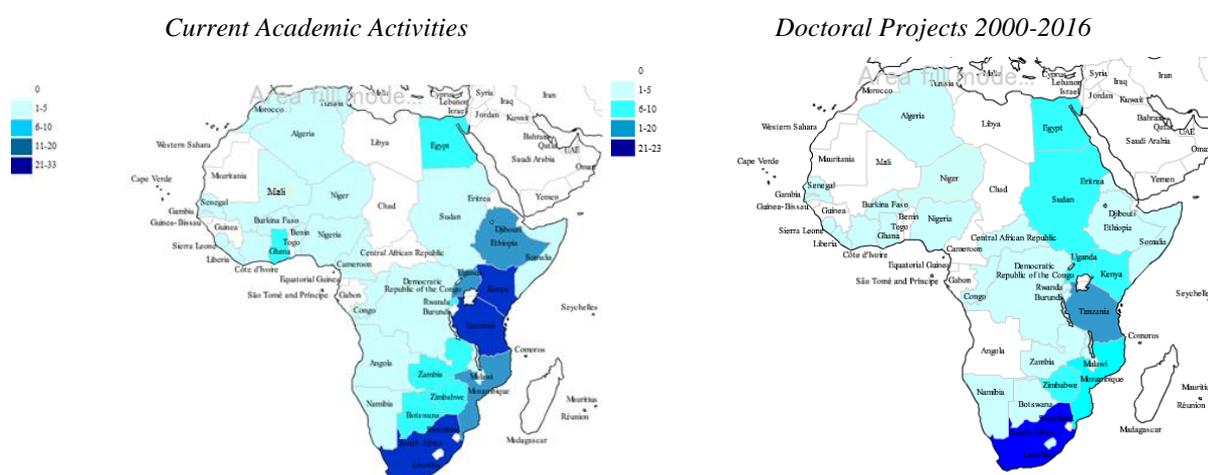
Team Composition

Many Uppsala researchers have built significant networks in the African region or country/ies they work in. More than two thirds of all survey respondents listed more than one “main institutional partner” in Africa and very few stated that they did not have any institutional partner at all on the African continent. The questionnaire did not specify the nature of an “institutional partner,” so this may range from loose affiliations (e.g. required to be included in one’s research permission application to the host country) to long-term, active and formalized collaborations. The vast majority of survey respondents (ca 85%) stated that their activities in and with Africa also involved other researchers in Sweden. Most of these Swedish partners were based at the same university department as the respondent. One third of the respondents stated cooperation with partners outside the department, and in those cases, often outside Uppsala University. A tentative observation is hence that Africa activities at Uppsala University tend not to encompass several universities, departments or faculties, but are limited to one’s immediate colleagues. Yet, it is often also the case, especially at doctoral and postdoctoral levels, that students and researchers from other universities, faculties or departments are brought in to work in a project for a limited number of years at a certain department. This could in one sense be seen as a collaboration that extends beyond the “home” department.

Geographical Spread

Survey responses show that Uppsala University is currently active in 32 African countries, and doctoral projects completed since the turn of the millennium have covered 31 African countries. This is a moderate estimate. The survey and review of doctoral projects exclude e.g. master level projects at the university that are based on fieldwork in Africa (many of which are funded by Sida's Minor Field Studies scholarship which sponsors master level research in developing countries). Moreover, many of the projects and activities listed by survey respondents stretch across several African states, and some are regionally oriented, focusing on for example West or Central Africa, the Great Lakes Region or the Maghreb. In fact, more than half of all questionnaire respondents listed more than one African country when asked where in Africa they were currently engaged. Almost a fifth of the doctoral projects (2000-2016) have covered more than one country or have concerned a particular region. When accounting for survey responses and doctoral theses that address a whole region in Africa, rather than a specific country, it is difficult to find any blank spots on the African map which have no links with Uppsala University. Also, some activities identified in the mapping do not address any particular country or region in Africa but rather a certain aspect of Africa or Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole. This was the case for 4% of questionnaire respondents and 7% of doctoral projects.

The two maps below indicate where in Africa current academic activities are based (left) and where completed doctoral projects have been centred (right). The maps only show the concentration of Uppsala researchers' engagement with specific African countries. The patterns on both maps suggest that the southern and eastern parts of Africa draw the most attention among scholars at Uppsala University, and have probably done so for at least two decades. South Africa and Tanzania are the target of most academic activity, while Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Mozambique also attract significant interest. Doctoral projects have been slightly more concentrated to eastern Africa while current academic activities in Africa show for a greater spread across the whole continent. This is reasonable given how current academic activities involve many different forms of scholarly work (as compared to doctoral projects which mainly concern research) and given that questionnaire respondents (many of which are established researchers) more frequently said to be involved in several countries in Africa (as compared to doctoral projects which generally involved fewer countries).

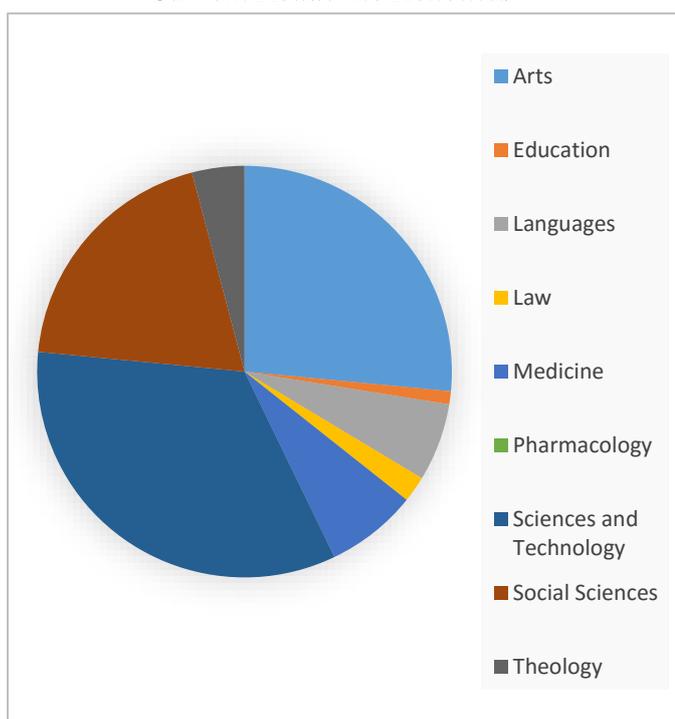


Spread Across Faculties

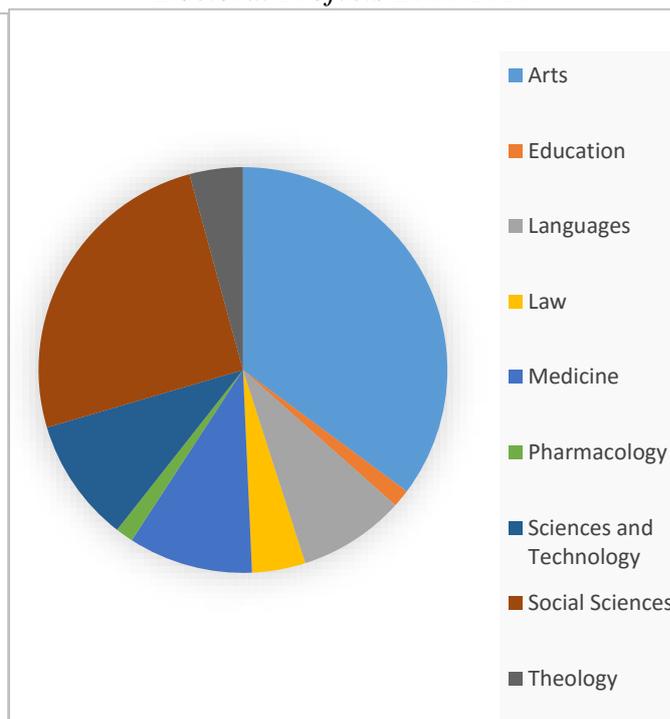
Africa is present in all of Uppsala's nine faculties and has been so for a long time. The pie charts below indicate the spread of current Africa-oriented activities (left) and completed doctoral projects since the year 2000 (right) across faculties at Uppsala.⁴ They suggest that Africa-related work is primarily found within four faculties: the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Disciplinary Domain of Science and Technology (with regards to current activities), and the Faculty of Medicine (with regards to completed doctoral projects). A closer look at these figures shows that *within* these faculties, Africa-oriented activities are concentrated to a few departments, notably the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology and the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History (in the Faculty of Arts), the Department of Peace and Conflict and the Department of Government (in the Faculty of Social Sciences), the Department of Women's and Children's Health/International Maternal and Child Health (in the Faculty of Medicine), and the International Science Programme (in the Disciplinary Domain of Science and Technology).

The distribution of completed doctoral projects indicates a pattern slightly different from that of current academic activities in Africa in the sense that in the latter case, the Disciplinary Domain of Science and Technology has a more prominent place. There may be several reasons for this. As will be described further below, the International Science Programme (ISP) in physics, chemistry and mathematics, is a major hub for collaborations with universities in Africa, and several survey respondents stated their involvement in the ISP. Moreover, estimates of current Africa activities are primarily based on the online questionnaire responses (with limited complementary research on department websites). Activities undertaken by researchers who did not fill out the questionnaire may hence not be included. Also, the distribution of current academic activities does not say anything about the nature and scope of these activities at the different faculties.

Current Academic Activities



Doctoral Projects 2000-2016



Strong Africa Research Environments at Uppsala University

On a broad level, the estimates above show that Uppsala University's engagement with Africa is widespread and covers all scientific areas and faculties. As mentioned above, within these faculties, Africa-oriented work tends to be concentrated to certain departments, centres and units. Often thanks to the initial interests, contacts, and efforts of individual researchers, some departments have developed a strong and active milieu of Africa research and teaching. In a few of these, academic activities in, on, and with Africa have formed an integral part of the department's work since its foundation. This is the case for e.g. the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, the Department of Women's and Children's Health/International Maternal and Child Health (IMCH), and the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology. Below follows a brief description of Uppsala University's strongest Africa research environments.

Department of Archaeology and Ancient History

The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History has a long tradition of Africa research. Recent decades' work has been led by Professor Paul Sinclair, chair of the African and Comparative Archaeology Unit at the department (retired in 2016). Since the late 1980s, the unit has been involved with archaeology departments and museum institutions in Africa, often in bilateral or multilateral research projects funded by e.g. the Swedish Research Council, Sida/SAREC,⁵ and the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2013, Professor Paul Lane assumed the chair of African and Comparative Archaeology and is currently leading, among other things, a five-year project called Resilience in East African Landscapes (REAL; 2013-2017). REAL is a Marie Curie Actions Innovative Training Network (ITN), funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme. The project explores how indigenous peoples have adapted to East Africa's unstable climate and land/water resources over the last millennium. The purpose of the project is to make informed predictions and plans for future long-term, sustainable use of East Africa's environment and resources. The project involves seven research centres in Europe and nine international associate partners, and it provides cross-disciplinary training to a number of young researchers in ecology, archaeology, anthropology, geography, history, and agronomy. Besides Professor Paul Lane, the project involves three researchers at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History in Uppsala, (two PhD students, and one post-doc), and one researcher at the Department of Human Geography at Uppsala University.

The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History is also about to embark on a three-year project called Adaptational Resilience to Climate Change, funded by the Swedish Research Council. The project is led by Professor Paul Lane and Associate Professor Anneli Ekblom. It is a collaboration with University of Dar es Salaam and York University (Stockholm Environment Institute). Research will focus on land management policies and the interaction between hunter-gatherers and farmers in Tanzania, Kenya, and Mozambique. By exploring how these aspects have evolved during the past three hundred years, the project aims to make predictions for land use practices during the next fifty to two hundred years.

With regards to teaching on Africa, the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History offers a graduate course entitled Africa, Food, Metals and Towns (7.5 ECTs).

Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology

The Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology is another research environment with a long history of research and teaching on Africa. Interests in Africa have spanned over many thematic areas, from customs, folk models and material culture (in the 1970s and 80s) to democracy and local politics, conflict, government, development, health, and Afrophobia (presently). Almost a third of the department's researchers (and almost half of its anthropologists) are involved in research based in Africa, with a strong focus on long-term ethnographic fieldwork. The department's Africa-oriented activities involve a number of large, formalized collaborations with universities in Africa. Professor Sten Hagberg has initiated partnerships with academic institutions in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Mozambique, involving field research, PhD supervision, guest researchers, and joint workshops. Other strong collaborative networks concern Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Uganda.

Several researchers also undertake applied research on Africa for e.g. Sida. In 2006, the department hosted a conference on anthropology and development together with Sida, which led to, among other things, an anthology co-authored by anthropologists and development practitioners. Several researchers working in West Africa are board members of the Association for the anthropology of social change and development (APAD), and the department recently hosted the Executive Secretariat of APAD during the five years when Professor Sten Hagberg was President.

Since many anthropologists at the department work in Africa, undergraduate and graduate courses often include case studies and theory from Africa. Moreover, the department offers a half-time, undergraduate course in African Studies in English (15 ECTS), and a full-time course in African Studies in Swedish, starting in 2017 (30 ECTS).

The department also hosts the secretariat of Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University, which is chaired by Professor Sten Hagberg. The Forum was established in 2011 with the mandate to support and make visible Africa-oriented activities at Uppsala University. Forum's work has so far ranged from organizing public lectures, seminar series and workshops, to developing cross-disciplinary research projects with scholars at Uppsala University and universities in Africa. In 2015, Forum initiated the project Health, Politics and Culture in Africa, which centres on health governance, the double burden of disease, media representations of health and Africa, and antimicrobial resistance. It is funded by the Vice Chancellor's Office of Uppsala University, and links together several departments in the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Medicine, and Pharmacology.

Forum for Africa Studies and the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology are involved in the Sida funded research collaboration with Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique. From 2017, Forum and the department have obtained funding which will imply a strong commitment to research training and building research environments. Other Uppsala departments that are involved in the coming phase of the Mozambique-Sweden research training collaboration include the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, the International Maternal and Child Health (IMCH), the Department of Gender Research, and the Department of Mathematics. The International Science Programme, which has provided coordination in the past, is likely to be involved too. Forum for Africa Studies will play a

specific role in offering PhD-courses in Maputo, coordinating a virtual seminar in African Studies, and assisting in the general reinforcement of research environments.

Department of Peace and Conflict Research

Since its establishment in 1971, the Department of Peace and Conflict Research has hosted a number of researchers working in, on, and with African countries. Current subjects of research include communal conflicts, regional peace complexes, reconciliation processes, climate change and conflict, electoral violence, and post-conflict governance. Some research projects at the department are oriented around specific case studies in Africa and are based on qualitative fieldwork in various countries in East, West, Central and Southern Africa. Other studies are based on quantitative analyses of different aspects of peace and conflict in Africa as a whole. Yet other studies include African case studies as part of larger, global comparative studies.

The Department is in charge of the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), an internationally renowned, free-access database on conflicts around the world. In collaboration with the Nordic Africa Institute, the department hosts the Claude Ake Visiting Chair, which invites social scientists at African universities studying issues of war, peace, conflict resolution, human rights, democracy and development in Africa. The visiting scholar spends three months doing research and interacting with researchers at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research and the Nordic Africa Institute, and gives a public lecture on his/her research at the end of the stay, called the Claude Ake Memorial Lecture.

In cooperation with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the Swedish consultancy firm Indevlop, the department is also in charge of Peace and Security in Africa (PASA), an advanced International Training Programme sponsored by Sida. The programme is intended for African inter- or non-governmental organizations working with peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa, and aims to build capacity within these organizations to prevent, manage, and resolve armed conflicts in their respective regions.

International Maternal and Child Health (IMCH)

International Maternal and Child Health is a research and education unit located within the Department of Women's and Children's Health at the Faculty of Medicine. Researchers at IMCH are engaged in a number of transdisciplinary research projects in, with, and about African countries. It is divided into two research groups, each including studies in or in relation to Africa. The research group of International Child Health and Nutrition currently collaborates with Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa. The research group International Maternal and Reproductive Health and Migration collaborates with ministries, hospitals and universities in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Kenya, the DRC, and Mozambique. Researchers work within the broad area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and many projects are transdisciplinary. The public health aspect as well as clinical studies often focus on resolving inequity in health, and socioeconomic and cultural aspects are crucial to understanding maternal mortality and prenatal care (Rwanda), overuse of caesarean deliveries (Tanzania), and abortion care and stigma (Rwanda). The group also pursues research on migration and the diaspora of African refugees in Western societies, with special focus on sexual and reproductive health among Muslim African immigrants in Sweden.

International Science Programme

The International Science Programme (ISP) has a national mandate to provide long-term support to the development of strong research environments and postgraduate education in developing countries within the fields of physics, chemistry, and mathematics. It is mainly funded by Sida, with additional support from Uppsala University and Stockholm University. While Uppsala University is the base of operation, many host institutions are found at other institutions of higher education in Sweden and in other Nordic and European countries. The focus of ISP is on institutions of higher education in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since its creation at the Department of Physics in Uppsala in 1961, it has provided support to the exchange of scientists; postgraduate training (e.g. sandwich model); and the purchase of equipment, consumables, literature, and computing tools for research institutions in various countries in Africa. Today, ISP is engaged in 27 African countries, though most activities are centred in Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Currently, the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology in Tanzania is represented on the ISP board, and researchers from South Africa and the Sudan are members of the reference groups evaluating ISP applications in chemistry and mathematics.

ISP is also in charge of coordinating bilateral research programmes between Sweden, on the one hand, and Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Tanzania respectively, on the other. At the University of Dar es Salaam, for example, the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology has a long history of collaboration with Uppsala University. The Head of the Department, Professor Anthony Manoni Mshandete, who attained his PhD at Lund University, has led collaborations with several Swedish universities, including Uppsala University. Within the frame of ISP, the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at UDSM currently cooperates with the Department of Systematic Biology at Uppsala University's Institute for Organismal Biology. The collaboration includes supervision of PhD students and a sandwich model doctoral programme where Tanzanian PhD students spend a majority of their programme period at Uppsala University. So far, research has focused on the areas of mushrooms and lichens. Tanzania is the host of a large variety of wild, edible mushrooms with high nutritional value, as well as various lichens with important medicinal properties. The aspiration is for UDSM to build scientific knowledge on plant and microbial natural products that can be used for the development of new drugs, and to build research capacity in identifying and commercializing high yielding strains of wild edible mushrooms that may contribute to food security in Tanzania. The Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology is also engaged in e.g. faculty exchanges with Uppsala University through the Swedish Research Links programme, which is a networking grant scheme promoting scientific collaborations between Swedish research institutions and institutions in low- and middle income countries.

Specific Cases of Interesting Africa Activities

There are a number of specific projects, programmes, and courses at Uppsala University which partly or fully involve African countries or questions with special relevance for Africa. These activities cannot be said to characterize the local academic environment in which they operate, but are rather the result of efforts by individual researchers. Below follow four examples of such activities.

Sweden-Rwanda Cooperation at the Department of Law

The Department of Law is part of the Sida-funded, bilateral University of Rwanda-Sweden Programme for Research and University Institutional Development that brings together twelve Swedish academic institutions and the University of Rwanda. The program started in 2003, and the Department of Law in Uppsala joined during the third programme phase (beginning in 2013). The collaboration covers doctoral and master level, and includes three sandwich PhD students from Rwanda currently doing research at the Department of Law in Uppsala within the fields of child law, international humanitarian law, supranational institutions, and human rights. It also entails capacity-building support to teachers and curriculum development within the two master programmes in law at the University of Rwanda: business law and administrative law.

Departments of English and Modern Languages

The Department of English will host a four-year (2017-2020) research project on African Street Literature and the Futures of Literary Form, led by Associate Professor Ashleigh Harris. The project explores new literary forms emerging in African cities with uneven development. Based on literary analysis and ethnographic field work in Johannesburg, Lagos, and Nairobi, the project studies how books circulate in practice outside the realm of publishing, and the many modes (written, audio-visual) and formats that literature may take thanks to e.g. YouTube and blogs. The literary material collected will be curated by the library of the Nordic Africa Institute and is planned to be used as the basis for a graduate course in African literature at the department. Currently, the department offers a graduate course in South African literature. The Department of English and the Department of Modern Languages are both engaged in the cross-disciplinary research program *Cosmopolitan and Vernacular Dynamics in World Literature* (2016-2021), financed by the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences and based at Stockholm University. The Department of Modern Languages is represented by Associate Professor Kristina Kullberg, who specializes in Caribbean literature and postcolonial theory.

Department of Theology

The Faculty/Department of Theology engages with Africa in a number of ways and especially through certain of its research areas and programmes. Within the Studies of Mission, research and collaborations with African countries are currently undertaken within the themes of e.g. theological education, religion and migration, peace and conflict, genocide, and international development cooperation. Within the research discipline Sociology of Religion, an ongoing programme called *The Impact of Religion: Challenges for Society, Law and Democracy* explores religious organizations as civil society actors and their interaction with and impact on contemporary society. Part of the programme centres on religious actors in Tanzania engaged in public welfare provision. With regards to teaching, the Department of Theology offers a master programme called *Religion in Peace and Conflict* which include studies from Africa. Moreover, the department is Uppsala University's host of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA), an international association of ten universities, which together offers the International Master Programme in Humanitarian Action. NOHA is sponsored by the European Commission, and among its partner universities is the University of Western Cape in South Africa.

CEMUS

The Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS) is a student-led, transdisciplinary centre at Uppsala University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, founded in the early 1990s. Through student-faculty collaboration, CEMUS offers courses, seminars, public events, and a research seminar for PhD students within the fields of environment and development. Some, though in recent years relatively few, of these activities have concerned African countries or regions.

Africa Networks

Uppsala University is also a host and member of various networks and associations in and with African countries. As indicated in the diagram on page 4, more than a third of survey respondents stated that their engagement in Africa included network activities. Hence, many international and regional networks and associations are present at Uppsala University through individual researchers who take an active part in building and maintaining contacts and collaborations across the world around African issues or areas. APAD, represented and formerly chaired by Sten Hagberg at the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, is one such example. Hagberg's strong regional collaboration with Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger serves as another South-South cooperation in which Uppsala University plays a key role.

Other Africa networks at Uppsala University are the product of central management. One such example is the Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD). SANORD is a member-based organization seeking to facilitate cooperation between institutions of higher education and research in the Nordic countries and Southern Africa. The Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University is currently the vice chair of SANORD (since 2017). The network has 42 members, and its central office is located at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa. SANORD seeks to stimulate multilateral and cross-disciplinary research and networking between scholars and students in Nordic and Southern African countries, and offers minor grants to this end. It also provides scholarships to master students at SANORD's member institutions in Southern Africa who wish to study at a Nordic member institution for 3-5 months. Another, more recent example of an Africa network founded at higher organizational levels is the Nordic Africa Research Network (NARN), a member-based organization launched in 2015. Though NARN is not an Uppsala University creation, and is still in its infancy, its ambition is to support Africanist scholars in the Nordic countries, including not least those based at Uppsala University.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In each faculty at Uppsala University we find scholars with a profound interest in and experience of Africa research. This engagement with Africa spans from long-term ethnographic fieldwork to mathematical modelling, from decades of investment in a single suburb or natural environment, to large-scale quantitative analyses encompassing the entire African continent. Depending on how one counts, then, Uppsala researchers work in all of Africa, or, at least, in 32 of its individual countries. Many of the current activities are found in the eastern and southern parts of the continent, with Anglophone South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya attracting the most academic activity. Most of these activities involve several actors in Africa, indicating that scholars at Uppsala University not only do research *on* Africa, but also *with* and *in* Africa. Moreover, research is indeed the dominant form of activity that Uppsala academics pursue in relation to Africa. Yet, results from the questionnaire also suggest that many persons are involved in teaching, supervision, and various networks (in addition to research). While academic investment in Africa is thematically broad, ranging from physics to literature studies, its strongholds can be found in a handful of units in four of the university's faculties: The Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology and the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History in the Faculty of Arts, the Department of Peace and Conflict and the Department of Government in the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Women's and Children's Health/International Maternal and Child Health in the Faculty of Medicine, and the International Science Programme in the Disciplinary Domain of Science and Technology. While a majority of these Africa-related activities are multi-member projects, relatively few include actors working beyond the "host" department or unit. In cases where they do, partners are as often found *outside* Uppsala University, at for example other Swedish universities or research institutes, as they are found inside the university. Though several of these projects and collaborations are cross- inter- or multidisciplinary, a minority are the result of collaborations across departments and faculties within Uppsala University, and many of those concern joint seminars or workshops, rather than full-blown research projects. This may have many reasons, but points to a potential area of opportunity – an opportunity for enhanced in-house, cross-disciplinary work on and in Africa. Africa scholars at Uppsala University could benefit from more actively tapping into one another's expertise, not only in the pursuit of knowledge exchange or academic debate, but as a way to develop new cross-disciplinary research inquiries, to advance existing studies by applying new scientific angles, and to share country expertise.

More can also be done to *facilitate* such cooperation and knowledge exchange across faculties and departments within the university. This mapping should serve as one step in that direction, though it is in no way exhaustive, and information on academic research is quickly outdated. In light of Forum for Africa Studies' mission to strengthen research and higher education in and about Africa at the university, Forum intends to continue staying informed on the landscape of Africa research at Uppsala University and making such information available to scholars and the general public. This can be done in a number of ways, and will most definitely include providing updated information on Africa activities at the university through Forum's website, social media platforms, and email list.

The findings from this mapping also suggest a need for a more systematic collection and dissemination of Africa activities at Uppsala University. Forum should consider using the data from this mapping as a starting point for providing regular, searchable and up-to-date information on Africa activities at Uppsala University, which specifies who works with what, with whom and where. Findings could be based on the more systematic use of data collection methods applied in this mapping. This would include e.g. an annual review of doctoral theses

published, and the regular distribution of an online questionnaire targeting: new Africa scholars at Uppsala University, researchers who have not filled out the questionnaire thus far, and scholars who have significantly changed their activities since last participating in the survey. The content of the surveys should be adjusted to the knowledge demands of concerned scholars. Such an information service would create greater possibilities for direct communication between researchers – as well as between researchers and anyone interested among the general public – and make it easier for those concerned to stay on top of, benefit from, and further develop Uppsala's engagement in Africa.

¹ 3 of the 137 respondents were Africa researchers active in Uppsala, though not formally employed at Uppsala University. One worked for an independent research institution, one was affiliated with a university in southern Europe, and one worked at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

² In addition to the 140 dissertations completed at Uppsala's nine faculties, there are three dissertations on Africa in Diva that are based on doctoral work at other universities, though published by the Swedish Institute of Mission Research. Since not all doctoral dissertations at Uppsala University are registered in Diva, the number of dissertations on Africa may be higher than what has been found in this mapping exercise.

³ Sida stands for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and is the state authority in charge of managing Sweden's public development cooperation.

⁴ The central administration of Uppsala University is also engaged in activities with several academic institutions in Africa. The Division for Quality Enhancement at the Department of Academic Teaching and Learning, for example, works with capacity building and building networks with a number of universities in South Africa. Together with the International Office of the Student Affairs and Academic Registry Division, it also collaborates with Makerere University in Uganda in strengthening quality assurance initiatives within teaching and supervision.

⁵ SAREC stands for Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries. It was an independent authority until 1995 when it became a department within Sida.

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ANNEX 1: ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What is your name, departmental and institutional affiliation (at Uppsala University, in Uppsala, or in Sweden)?
2. Does your work involve research, teaching and/or other forms of collaboration?
3. In which country(ies)/region(s) in Africa are you involved?
4. Which are your main institutional partners in Africa?
5. Besides you, who are the main actors involved at Uppsala University and/or in Sweden?
6. What is the subject and duration of the current project(s) in, with, or on Africa?
7. Please provide 4-5 keywords that summarise your expertise and research interests with regard to Africa

ANNEX 2: RESEARCHERS INTERVIEWED

The following persons were interviewed about their personal and their department's engagement with Africa:⁶

- Sten Hagberg. Professor at the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology
- Ashleigh Harris. Senior Lecturer at the Department of English
- Paul Lane. Professor at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History
- Birgitta Essén, (professor), Jessica Påfs (PhD student) and Elin Larsson (postdoc) all at the Department of Women's and Children's Health/IMCH
- Anders Themnér. Assistant Professor at the Department of Peace and Conflict
- Daniel Stattin. Professor at the Department of Law
- Anthony Manoni Mshandete. Professor at the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Dar es Salaam

ANNEX 3: DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS ON AFRICA

Below follows a list of doctoral dissertations in, with or about Africa, produced and published at Uppsala University during 2000-2016. The selection of dissertations were based on a number of criteria. Dissertations were included which:

- a. partly or fully address a country, region, language or culture in Africa. This includes cumulative dissertations where at least one manuscript or article concerns Africa, and monographies with several case studies where at least one case study pertains to Africa;
- b. concern e.g. plants, animals, diseases, or geological objects/phenomena which are described as found primarily in Africa;
- c. address a global or general phenomenon which has particular consequences for a country or region in Africa

Dissertations were NOT included which are based on:

- a) data from Africa where the origin of the data is not discussed or considered important
- b) biographical studies of persons who lived in Africa for a brief period of his/her career

⁶ Several more persons working at other faculties were approached for an interview, but for various reasons they were unable to participate.