

PRESS RELEASE

January 12, 2012

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) is pleased to announce the inaugural cohort for our Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowships. Dedicated to the strengthening of higher-education institutions in Africa, these fellowships address a severe shortfall in the numbers of African faculty who hold a PhD, providing support at three key training junctures for faculty at universities in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda whose research addresses peace, security, and development issues.

A distinguished selection committee representing leading social scientists in Africa and North America selected thirty-three Fellows: eight faculty members were nominated for a dissertation proposal development award, fourteen for a dissertation research award, and eleven for a dissertation completion award. These Fellows represent nineteen disciplines and come from a wide array of universities, ranging from Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria to the University of Western Cape in South Africa.

Projects selected in this first year of the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa program include work on refugee camps in Ghana, conflicts over natural resources in the Niger Delta, homelessness and insecurity in South Africa, land use and conservation in Tanzania, and the reintegration of former child combatants in Uganda.

The president of the SSRC, Craig Calhoun, has noted that “nothing is more important to the future of Africa or the world than educated leaders who understand pressing social issues. The next generation of African social scientists will be key to peace, economic development, and a just and prosperous future. We are honored to join with our colleagues in CODESRIA, the African Union, and other institutions to support African university teachers as they complete advanced research and acquire state-of-the-art skills.” This emphasis was reinforced by a recent World Bank publication that found that strong tertiary education in African universities is important for longer-term development goals and the vitality of societies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Thomas Asher, director of the fellowships program, observed that while universities in North America and Europe produce more individuals with doctoral degrees than the university systems can absorb, that is not the case in Africa, where fewer than half of all faculty members hold a PhD. And yet, he points out, this shortage of highly trained faculty does not indicate an absence of research capacity: “There are extraordinarily good researchers, working out of an array of institutions, but these individuals often are insufficiently aware of one another’s work. Our goal is to cultivate individual careers while developing a network linking the Fellows so that these researchers can efficiently share their findings with one another and collaborate. Ultimately, this network will be embedded within institutions in order to strengthen the research capacity of African universities individually and across the continent.”

The Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowships program is funded through Carnegie Corporation of New York. Further information is available on the program website: <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/nextgenafrika/>.

A COMPLETE LIST OF NOMINATED FELLOWS

Proposal Development Fellowship Category:

Isaac Addo

“Finding Durable Solutions to Refugee Problems in Buduburam Camp of Ghana: Refugees, Ghana Refugee Board, and UNHCR's Perspectives”

University of Cape Coast

Population and Health

Rosemary Wamuchii Kimani

“Communicating for Sustainable Behaviour Change: A Process Evaluation of the Anti-FGM Interventions in Tharaka District of Eastern Kenya”

Central University College

Communication

Edwin Estomii Ngowi

“The Interface between Information and Communication Technologies and Sustainable Agro-Livestock Livelihoods: A Study of Selected Rural Areas of Tanzania”

University of Dodoma

Development Studies

Lukmon Oderinde

“Taxation and the Economics of Oil Investment Projects in Nigeria”

Redeemer's University

Economics

Robert Ojambo

“The Land Question in the Socio-Political Conflicts In Bugisu and Bukedi in Eastern Uganda: 1900–1998”

Kyambogo University

History

Natasha Issa Shivji

“From Merchant Capital to Finance Capital: The Hawala system in Somalia from 1991–2001 from a Historical and Comparative Perspective”

University of Dodoma

History

Natalie Zähringer

“An Investigation into the Institutionalization of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Norm”

University of Witswatersrand

International Relations

Research Fellowship Category:

Neissan Besharati

“Evaluating Effectiveness of Development Institutions in South Africa”

University of Witwatersrand

Development Management

Elias Courson

“The Geography of Conflicts in Nigeria's Niger Delta”

Niger Delta University

Geography

Oluyemi Oyenike Fayomi

“The Diaspora and Nigeria-Ghana Relations (1979–2009)”

Covenant University

International Relations

Peter Jide Jimoh

“An Interrogation of Commitment to Conflict-Sensitive Journalism in the Nigerian Print Media Coverage of the Jos Violent Crisis”

Lagos State University

Mass Communication

Maluke Emmanuel Letete

“Essays on Political and Economic Institutions, Macroeconomic Policy and Economic Development in Kenya”

University of Cape Town

Economics

Godfrey Maringira

“The Life of Exiled Zimbabwean Ex-Soldiers in South Africa: Coping with the Repressed Memories of War and Political Violence”

University of the Western Cape

Sociology

Fankie Lucas Monama

“Wartime Propaganda in the Union of South Africa, 1939–45”

Stellenbosch University

History

Kemi Ogunsola

“ICT Deployment: Readiness, and Quality of Service as Predictors of Use of E-Government Services Provided by Selected Government Agencies in Nigeria”

University of Ibadan

Information Science

Ebunoluwa Popoola

“The Protection of Environmental Rights under International Law: A Comparative Study of Industrial Pollution Control in Nigeria and South Africa”

Ahmadu Bello University

Law

Suleiman Samaila

“The Middle Belt in Nigeria: An Alternative Historiography”

Bayero University

History

Eria Serwajja

"Examining the Land Question in Resettlement: A Case of Post-Conflict Northern Uganda"

Busitema University

Development Studies

Gugulethu G. Siziba

“Language and the Politics of Identity in South Africa: The Case of Shona and Ndebele Migrants in Johannesburg”

Stellenbosch University

Anthropology/Sociology

Erima Comfort Ugbem

“Dynamics of Identity Construction Among Ethnic Groups in Benue State”

Benue State University, Makurdi

Anthropology/Sociology

Iornumbe Joseph Usar

“An Economic Analysis of Retail Pharmaceutical Market in Nigeria: Towards Access Expansion and Policy”

University of Jos

Health Economics

Completion Fellowship Category:**Benjamin O. Ajal**

“Local Community Participation in Forest Conservation in the Mount Elgon National Park”

Islamic University in Uganda

Development Studies

Stephen Akoth

“Human Rights Modernities: Practices of the Luo Council of Elders in Contemporary Western Kenya”

University of Western Cape

Anthropology

Michael Ayamga

“Land Tenure, Farm Investment and Technical Efficiency in Ghana”

University of Development Studies

Development Economics

Bernard Dubbled

“Becoming Homeless: Superfluity, Governance, and the Experience of Insecurity in Glendale, South Africa”

Stellenbosch University

Anthropology

Cleophas Karooma

“Rwandan Refugees in Southwestern Uganda: Their Attitudes and Responses to Repatriation 1994–2011”

Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Conflict and Peace Studies

Igeme Katagwa

“From the Bush to Community: Framework for the Reintegration of Former Child Rebel Combatants (FCRCs) in Northern Uganda”

Makerere University

Social Science

Kathleen Lorne McDougall

“Familiar Present, Familial History: Change, Afrikaner Culture Politics and the Threat of History Repeating”

Stellenbosch University

Anthropology

Erich Awich Ochen

“Life Beyond the Bush: Examining the Challenges and Opportunities for Reintegration of Formerly Abducted Child Mothers in Northern Uganda”

Makerere University

Social Work and Social Administration

Fabius Alya Okumu

“Access to Justice in Northern Uganda: Restorative and Retributive Justice Discourse in International Law”

Gulu University

Law

David Kani Olema

“Organised Violence and Mental Health of Families Living in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Northern Uganda”

Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Psychology

Mathew Agripinus Senga

“Social Networks and Collaboration in Management of Natural Resource and Protection of Livelihoods:
Reflections from Rural Communities in East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania”

University of Dar es Salaam

Sociology

Verdiana Tilumanywa

“Land Use and Livelihood Changes in the Mount Rungwe Ecosystem, Tanzania”

University of Dar es Salaam

Geography and Environmental Studies