Title: Pan-Africanism in One Country:
African Socialism, NeoLiberalism and Globalization in Ghana

Synopsis: In a May 2006, Time magazine article entitled “Ghana’s New Money” profiled the quickly expanding number of African American entrepreneurs and tourists, who have crossed the Atlantic in order to visit, settle and do business in the West African Republic, A prime example offered by the article was the story of Mona Boyd, who in 1993 left her Boston brownstone to established Land Tours Ghana, which arranged President Bill Clinton’s official visit in 1998 and earned 1.3 million dollars in 2005. Unlike African Americans who had made the trip “back to Africa” in previous generations, Boyd was not fleeing the oppression of Jim Crow or looking to help redeem the continent from colonialism; she was keenly serving a new market of affluent black consumers which has emerged since the Civil Rights Movement. As a historian, I am compelled to ask: what are the processes that make an American-African story like this possible? How has the function of Pan-Africanism changed during the long transition from African socialism to neo-liberalism? In what ways do the North American African Diaspora and the African continent engage each other in post-colonial and global ages?

Presenter: Justin Williams
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Brief Biography: Justin Williams is a Turner Fellow and a 4th year PhD candidate in the Department of History. His doctoral research concentrates on the changing historical role of Pan-Africanism in Ghanaian politics since 1945.