



Alain Patrice Nganang, Ph.D
Professor and Chair

Welcome to Fall 2021! We wish everyone a happy and safe return to the Stony Brook University campus. Please see what the AFS faculty and students have been up to this past eventful year. If you have a moment, stop by and introduce yourself! We always have time for your questions. As we like to say, a “stranger” is a friend we have not yet met.



Dr. George Aumoithe and Dr. Margaret Schedel

SBU, CAS Seed Grant for Interdisciplinary Research Teams, \$12,000 in start-up funding, on ‘Expanding the Map of Culture and Disease: An Immersive Display of COVID-19 in Suffolk County’



Dr. Abena Asare, Dr. Mark Chambers and Dr. Jenny Anderson (HIS) were awarded a 2021 Center for Changing Systems of Power Faculty Seed Grant. for work on a collaboration between Stony Brook University and the new Southampton African American Museum (SAAM).



Dr. Georges Fouon is the 2020-2021 COVID Teaching Hero Award from the Center for excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT).



Dr. Zebulon Miletsky and Dr. Robert Chase
Were awarded a Seed Grant of the Center for Changing Systems of Power for work on Carceral Education



Dr. Tracey L. Walters was named to the rank of Full Professor. Dr. Walters leads an interdisciplinary reading group on Critical Race Theory funded through a \$5,000 FAHSS grant award.

Dr. Alain Patrice Nganang (center left in photo), succeeding Dr. Walters as Chair offered a Review of World Bank’s WB SSI Profile Cameroon draft on Diversity, via Navanti Group, LLC.



Pictured with climate activists, Dr. Nganang and the Department of Africana Studies participated in the student-initiated Climate strike organized in collaboration with Sunrise SBU, Environmental Club, and Marine Science Club. The on-campus climate protest took place on Friday, September 24, at Staller Steps. The list of demands which will be sent to the administration called for the: Divestment of fossil fuels Push towards sustainable infrastructure and innovation

- Ending the relationship with Coca Cola
- Increasing the transparency of Stony Brook's environmental practices
- More climate and sustainability education
- More collaboration between students and administration
- *Large scale waste statistics*

Faculty Publications, Presentations and Community Service

Dr. Abena Asare



Thinking of Home and Nation with Chinua Achebe and James Baldwin,” Achebe Baldwin@40, Center for African Studies, University of Florida at Gainesville.

Stony Brook University

Virtual Town Hall: The Killing of George Floyd and the Resulting Protests for Social Justice.

<https://wordpress.com/post/abenaasare.net/182>

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Address at Building Bridges Brookhaven MLK Jr. Day Celebration

<https://abenaasare.net/2021/01/16/speech-at-the-building-bridges-brookhaven-mlk-jr-day-celebration-1-16-21/>

Sermon at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stony Brook

<https://abenaasare.net/2021/04/14/sermon-at-unitarian-universalist-fellowship-of-stony-brook-uufsb-april-11-2021/>

Co-founder (2020) of the Brookhaven Landfill Action & Remediation Group (BLARG): leading environmental justice organization in Long Island.

<https://www.instagram.com/landfillactiongroup>

2021 Published: “Prisons as Colonial Relics: Anti-Prison Thought and Ghanaian History in The Routledge International Handbook of Penal Abolitionism, eds. Michael J. Coyle and David Scott.



Dr. Mark Chambers

Facilitator – Humanities New York Reading & Discussion Program & The Long Island

Museum, Stony Brook, New York: guided participants through a series of thematically linked texts over the course of four sessions 2020 – 2021.

Ellen Kohl, Marianne Sullivan, Mark Milton Chambers, Chris Sellers, Alissa Cordner, Leif Fredrickson, Jennifer Liss Ohayon, and Jessica Varner, “The Problem of Accountability: Environmental Justice and the Trump Administration,” *Environmental Justice*, May 2021. <http://doi.org/10.1089/env.2021.0012>

Dr. Mark Chambers has been awarded a Civic Science Fellowship by a funding consortium led by the Rita Allen Foundation. Dr. Chambers will be working with his host organization for his

fellowship, the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative (EDGI), on a project that assesses whether or how well the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) public data infrastructure serves marginalized communities and suggests remedies for improving those services. Mark’s fellowship builds on his previous work on environmental justice issues with EDGI’s team of researchers and academics (organized with Professor Chris Sellers), especially their interview project with current and recent EPA staff and EJ activists.

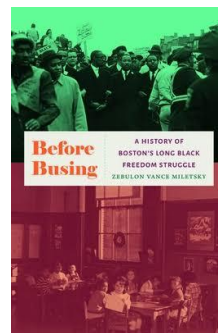


Dr. Georges Fouron

Haiti’s Painful Evolution from Promised Land to Migrant-Sending Nation. Migration Policy Institute (MPI).

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/haiti-painful-evolution-promised-land-migrant-sending-nation>

Dr. Zebulon Miletsky

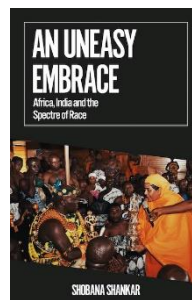


“How to Be a New Abolitionist: Whiteness Studies & the Origins of Antiracist Education” (Fall 2020) HISB “How 2020 Changed Us” (West Islip Library) (April 2021)

Led a session of “Divided Decades” series for Teachers with Primary Source, Boston, MA (March 2021)

The Black Family & The American Dream: Live! (Brentwood Public Library)

& Podcast (of graduate students) Feb 2021
Town of Brookhaven Black History Commission, Honoree, Speaker: “The Black Family: Representation, Identity & Diversity” (Feb 2021)
“Because of them We Can,” Keynote Speaker, Bellport Middle School Black History Month, February, 2021
Interracial Marriage: A Matter of the Heart (Molloy College), Jan 2021
“Strangers & Neighbors: A Mixed-Race Journey through the worlds of Blacks and Jews” OLLI at SBU Lecture Series, (April 2021)
Panelist, “Education and the Making of Working-Class Politics in Boston,” The Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA) May 2021
History of Abolition in New York and Long Island (June 2021) (Uniondale Library) Speaker, Juneteenth Celebration, Amherst, MA (June 2021)
Martin Luther King, Jr. and the History of Civil Rights (January 2020) Brentwood Public Library (and graduate students podcast)



Shobana Shankar’s book *An Uneasy Embrace: Africa, India and the Spectre of Race* (Hurst/Oxford University Press is published. Shobana will serve as program co-chair of the African Studies Association (US) annual meeting in 2023 with Professor Cheryl Hendricks, political scientist and head of the Human Services Research Council in South Africa.

Faculty Publications continued

Dr. Tracey Walters



Not Your Mother's Mammy:

The Black Domestic in Transatlantic Women's Media, New Brunswick:

Rutgers University Press, 2021.

“A Purposeful Education.

Black Women and the Classics”

The Classics in Society for

Classical Studies - President's

Panel

San Francisco (Jan 2022)

“Sapphic Sisters” Sappho of

Lesbos Has Talent” - Women's History Event

Regis College - (March 3, 2021)

“Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll: The Representation of Greco-Roman Myth in African American Media”

Durham University - (Feb 11, 2021)



Dr. Shimelis Gulema

“Ethiopia in Change: Reinventing Narratives, Remaking a Nation,” Ethiopia in the Wake of the Reform, eds. Melaku

Geboye Desta, Dereje Feyissa Dori, and Mamo Esmelealem Mihretu (Los Angeles: Tsehai Publishers, June 2020): 361-401.

“Beyond Exceptionalism: Interrogating the Entangled Making of Modern Ethiopia,” Ethiopia: Modern Nation-Ancient Roots, eds. Salah M.



Dr. Patrice Nganang

German translation of *Empreintes de crabe* (*Spur der Krabbe*, Wuppertal, Peter Hammer Verlag)



Dr. George Aumoithé

“The History of Healthcare in the Age of COVID-19: Racism, Settler Colonialism, and Crises in Healthcare with Maria K. John,” for The Center for Presidential History, Southern Methodist

University, February 25 “A Civil Right to Healthcare? Public Hospital Closure in the Long 1970s,” for

Humanities Institute, Stony Brook University, February 17 “Health & Wellness with Suhaly Bautista-Carolina and MutShat Shemsut-Gianprem Kaur,” for Mosaic Literary Conference: Black Utopia, December 12

Interview with Michel Martin, “[Half of Low Income Communities Have No ICU Beds. Why?](#),” Amanpour & Co., CNN and PBS, September 28 and 29 Op-ed,

“[The Racist History That Explains Why Some Communities Don't Have Enough ICU Beds,](#)”

Washington Post, September 16

Play, Efemèr, [yearning](#), Makeshifting Music, 2020, digital album, September 7

Presentation, “Debut Listening Party,” Efemèr, *yearning* EP, Zoom, October 1

Music Video, “[Keep](#),” *yearning*, Efemèr, October 9

Presentation, Africana Studies Presents... “The Making of Efemèr's Yearning EP: Historical Memory, Diaspora, and Protest in Black Music,” in conversation with Dr. Patrice Nganang, for Stony Brook University, Zoom, October 21

Dr. Adryan Wallace



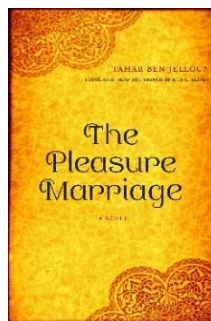
Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, (Virtual) Inaugural Lecture- “Gender Equality and Sustainable Growth: Dismantling Neoliberal Frameworks in

Approaches to Regional Economic Integration in Africa”,

Primary Source and the Boston University Africa Studies Center- Podcast episode, (Virtual) Interview- Women's economic activity in Africa and neoliberalism, January 2020

Using Mixed Methods in Contextualizing Content Analysis: Capturing the Diverse Experiences of Muslim Women's Movements, *Journal of Political Science Research Methods*, Cambridge University “Rewriting Gendered Political Scripts: Lessons from Female Candidate in Nigeria, *Journal of Politics & Gender*”

Gender Equality and Sustainable Growth: Dismantling Neoliberal Frameworks in Approaches to Regional Economic Integration in Africa”, *African Studies Review*



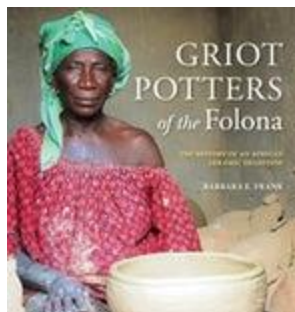
Dr. Rita Nezami

The Pleasure Marriage, a translation from French of a novel on racism and deportation by Tahar Ben Jelloun, published by Northwestern University Press, June 2021.

Organized two Zoom events --

"Conversation Between a Writer and His Translator: Tahar Ben Jelloun and Rita Nezami" moderated by Patrice Nganang, hosted by the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook. Date: 13 or 20 October, at 1:00-2:30.

"The Personal Essay Student Reading Series" in collaboration with SB Library. Nezami's research is on a culture-specific feminine space in Morocco, North Africa. Eventually this research will take her to South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh).



[Barbara E. Frank](#)

Griot Potters of the Folona
The History of an African
Ceramic Tradition
Published by: Indiana University
Press

Welcome **Fahiym Wasi** to our Adjunct Professor roster. Mr. Wasi, a graduate student in History joins Titiola Olosunde, Elisabeth Spetel, Antoine Johnson, Yalile Suriel and Aishah Scott to this important club. Without our adjuncts, we would not be what we are today!

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

Bliss Verdon Memorial Fellowship - (two outstanding students who demonstrate academic achievement and commitment to African issues):

Patrick Foley, outstanding student with a vast and deep knowledge of African affairs, and highly committed to African issues

Thoraya Tranquille, outstanding student, with the prospect of brilliant graduate studies

Richard B. Moore Scholarship - (two outstanding students of African heritage):

Tearah Harrigan, 'I think she has a bright future in the health field, and I am compelled to recommend her.' (Prof. Barbara Frank)

Infiniti Scarbo, excellent student and extremely passionate about AFS

AFS RESEARCH WORKING GROUPS

Critical Race Theory Faculty Reading Group (CRT Faculty Reading Group (co-organized by Tracey Walters, EK Tan, Robert Chase and Chrystal Fleming)

The Carceral State together with the Humanities Institute (headed by Zebulon Miletsky and Robert Chase)

AFS contributed to creating the SBU Diversity Survey: <https://forms.gle/yymdQGqdf2rdhfG19>

TEN POINTS PLATFORM

Mission Statement

Of the Department of Africana Studies at Stony Brook University

1. The Department of Africana Studies is a combination of African American studies, African studies, the study of the Black and African diasporas across the globe, and the study of the lived experiences of Black people inside and outside of the United States;
2. The Department of Africana Studies at Stony Brook University was established during the sixties as a consequence of the national demand for the study of the Black experience in both its national and international dimensions, and as such it is one of the oldest in the United States;
3. Proud of its rich critical intellectual and political traditions, and of the legacy of the highly respected scholars who defined its identity in the Black presence through research, teaching, political and community activism, the Department of Africana Studies intends to address current and future issues pertaining to race, gender, class, political systems, and the political economies that sustain unequal and oppressive systems;
4. The Department of Africana Studies is committed to collaborating with other academic departments through cross listing of courses and inviting more colleagues to become affiliated with us, while striving to have our faculty be affiliated, team-teach, collaborate on research proposals and exchange programs on campus and beyond, and to work with other faculty and academic departments;
5. The Department of Africana Studies is committed to interdisciplinary, comparative, global and international fields of knowledge, as we understand Black studies as located at the crossroads of multiple other disciplines and area studies, and see our work as being informed by the specificities and interconnectedness of the global Black experience in and outside of the United States;
6. The Department of Africana Studies is committed to a mix-methods approach, and not exclusively focused on quantitative or qualitative methodologies, but instead draws from behavioral and social sciences, at the intersection of class, gender, sexuality and ethnic studies;
7. The Department of Africana Studies is committed to the study, research and teaching of Black and African art, literature, history, sociology, cultural studies and politics in a comparative, transdisciplinary manner, and with a specific highlight on antiracist education and racial justice, green and sustainability, development and environmental justice, and the way they intersect with transnational structures that perpetuate poverty and inequality;
8. The Department of Africana Studies understands study abroad as its centerpiece and is committed to foster and encourage students and faculty to research abroad, and, in that spirit, to sustain and increase our partnership with people and institutions in the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia and on the African continent;
9. The Department of Africana Studies is committed to go beyond the usual student population and care about the needs of the Black community by offering a Masters degree that combines public health and Africana studies, including a diasporic outlook, by fostering a prison education program, and by sustaining a program for high schools;
10. Informed by the current and ongoing struggle of Black people inside and outside the United States, the Department of Africana Studies remains observant of the fact that Black Lives Matter and is committed to working towards the end of poverty, inequality and racism.

WELCOME NEW AFRICANA STUDIES AFFILIATES!

Dr. Rita Nezami
Writing and Rhetoric



Dr Robert Chase
History



Dr Kathleen Fallon
Sociology



Dr. Harvey Cormier
Philosophy



Dr. Kevin Holt
Music



Dr Maurie McInnis
University President



The Africana Studies Department at Stony Brook is inviting you to the opening reception of an art-documentary exhibit titled

Faces and Places - Beyond the Headlines, Haiti.

Introduction by the photographer, Ildi Tillmann, followed by an informal Q&A. Lunch will be served.

Date: October 4th 2021, 12pm
Location: SBS 8224, Richard B. Moore Library, SUNY Stony Brook

Ildi Tillmann is an author and documentary photographer. She was raised in Hungary. She graduated with an MA in APS in 2008. Over the past years she worked on a long-term project in Haiti, in collaboration with Junior St. Vil.

Her Tillmann's writings and photography have been published in *The Globe and Mail*, *Journal of Arts and Culture*, *The Caribbean Writer*, *The Caribbean Observer*, *The Haitian Times* and the *Haitian Observer*. Selected images from her project won *Honorable Mention* at the *International Photography Awards* in 2019.

Opening of New Photo Exhibit Monday October 4th, 12noon SBS S224

Join us for the opening of the new photo exhibit by former graduate student, Ildi Tillmann. Ms. Tillmann serves as both photographer and curator of this exhibit entitled **“Faces and Places Beyond the Headlines, Haiti”**. Funding for this exhibit is through the Africana Studies **Black Pulsations** grant \$10,000 through a programming grant offered by Stony Brook’s Diversity Initiative project. This grant enabled Africana Studies to schedule prominent speakers the first of whom is Philip Roessler of William and Mary, November 12th 4PM on ZOOM