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 Aumothe 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://www.instagram.com/landfillactiongroup


Dr. Mark Chambers


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).


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


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 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**


**Dr. Shimelis Gulema**


“Beyond Exceptionalism: Interrogating the Entangled Makingof 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 Aumoithe**


**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


**Dr. Rita Nezami**


Organized two Zoom events --


"Conversation Between a Writer and His Translator: Tahar Ben Jellouun 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).

Welcome Fahiyim Wasi to our Adjunct Professor roster. Mr. Wasi, a graduate student in History joins Titidiola 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/yymdOGqdf2cdhiG19

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 comines 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.

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<th>Dr. Rita Nezami</th>
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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