

## ASA Women's Caucus Co-Convenors' Report

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Dear Women's Caucus Members:

This is our last co-convenors' report to you. We have worked hard to reorganize and reinvigorate the Women's Caucus over these past two years, and we have very much enjoyed our mutually supportive collaboration. We will now be moving on to become members of the Steering Committee for 2016 as Past Co-Convenors.

We look forward to seeing those of you who will be at ASA, and urge you to support all the Women's Caucus events: the luncheon, panels, marketplace, and our business and social meeting with our election of new Co-Convenors, a new Co-Convenor Elect, and three new Steering Committee members. Candidate statements by all of them are included below, as well as details about all the WC events.

We also urge you to attend the ASR Distinguished Lecture by Akosua Adomako Ampofo, longtime WC activist, former co-convenor and current member of our Advisory Committee—see the description of her talk below.

And don't forget the Saturday dance party! Come and join your WC sisters on the dance floor and dance the night away!

We heartily thank all our members for your support of the Women's Caucus and look forward to your continued participation.

All the best,  
Judith & Nwando

### **Women Caucus Marketplace – We need your donations!**

Last year we did very well at our marketplace, thanks to all the great items that members donated for sale. If you are coming to ASA, please look in those drawers and closets and shelves and bring something for the marketplace! We welcome donations of African jewelry, clothing, crafts, cloths, and copies of your books—whatever you have that you think someone else would love to buy! The marketplace table will be next to Registration and open to receive donations late Thursday morning (and thereafter). The WC table will be open from noon to 6pm Thursday, 10am to 6pm Friday, and 10am to noon on Saturday. If you have any questions or wish to tell us what you are bringing, contact Claire Robertson, our great marketplace organizer ([robertson.8@osu.edu](mailto:robertson.8@osu.edu)).

We will also be selling luncheon tickets, raffle tickets, accepting membership dues, and of course donations at the table. The raffle prizes will be on display as well. So far we are

still in the checks and cash age, although some day we certainly hope to be able to take credit cards at our table. So stuff your pockets with cash and come by and say hello and buy something wonderful!

### **Women's Caucus Luncheon**

The 2015 ASA Women's Caucus Luncheon Speaker will be Margaret "Peg" Snyder, the founding Director of UNIFEM and long-time supporter of the Women's Caucus.



Her lecture, "Four Decisive Decades: The Birth and Growth of a Global Women's Movement," will mark the fortieth anniversaries of the creation of UNECA's Women's Center, and the first global women's conference in Mexico City, and the formation of the African Studies Association's Women's Caucus. Please join us! Tickets are available online from the ASA at <http://www.africanstudies.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting-forms/2015-women-s-caucus-luncheon> We urge you to buy tickets online as we only have limited tickets to sell on site and we can only accept checks and cash, not credit cards. *If you buy your ticket online, please come to the WC table next to ASA registration and get your paper ticket for the luncheon.* The table will be open Thursday noon to 6pm, Friday 10am to 6pm, and Saturday 10am to Noon. We are trying to expedite getting people into the luncheon so we can start on time, by having everyone have a paper ticket.

### **Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize**

We are pleased to announce that Abosede George is the recipient of this year's Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize, which carries a \$500 award. Her book, *Making Modern Girls: A History of Girlhood, Labor and Social Development in Colonial Lagos*, is published in Ohio University Press's New African Series.



Please join us for the presentation of the Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize to Abosede George at the Women's Caucus Luncheon on Saturday, November 21.

We are also pleased to announce that Jennie E. Burnet, Associate Professor at Georgia State University, has been awarded Honorable Mention for her book, *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory and Silence in Rwanda*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press. Jennie Burnet will unfortunately not be at ASA, as she will be at the AAA.



Congratulations to both of these women for their important work! And many thanks to our 2015 Book Prize Committee, Heidi J. Nast, chair; Karen Flint, and Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome.

## **Women's Caucus Elections and Business Meeting**

As requested by many of you last year, we are combining our Meet and Greet with our Business Meeting in order to reduce meeting overload. We will gather at 8:30pm Friday (see ASA Program for room) for a half hour of socializing, then start our business meeting promptly at 9pm. After the business meeting, we will continue socializing, with refreshments. Business includes the treasurer's report, elections, discussion of luncheon speaker and panels for 2016, updates from the co-convenors after their meeting with the ASA Board, and new business brought up by those at the meeting.

Our Nominations Committee has recruited a slate for the election. The Co-Convenors worked with Lynda Day on the nominations for Co-Convenor and with Corrie Decker and Alicia Catharine Decker on the nominations for the Steering Committee. We're very pleased to tell you that Maria Cattell will be running for Co-Convenor for 2016 and 2017, to serve with Wangui wa Goro in 2016. As you know, Wangui was previously approved as Co-Convenor-Elect by the Steering Committee. She has chosen to serve a one-year term. With Maria doing two years, we will be able to return to overlapping terms for co-convenors from 2016 on. Corrie Decker, current SC member and chair of the Student Travel Award Committee, has agreed to run as Co-Convenor-Elect, so if elected she will then become second Co-Convenor in 2017 with Maria and continue in 2018 with a new second co-convenor. They have provided statements to introduce themselves to all our members.

**Wangui wa Goro.** I am currently an Independent Scholar and have served as a public intellectual, translator, editor, writer, social and cultural catalyst, advocate, academic, researcher and campaigner and critic for human and cultural rights. I have spoken extensively in Africa, Europe and the USA in public, private and voluntary capacities over the last thirty years. I currently work as an Editor in an international organisation.

I have held teaching positions in the UK, and received several fellowships including Honorary Fellowships at the University in London, Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, University of Kwazulu Natal, Witwatersrand University, London Metropolitan University and Middlesex University. My main interests are in literary translation and traducture scholarship and their application to interdisciplinary and intercultural knowledge management and their promotion. Of interest is their application to cosmopolitanism, inter/national development, migration, gender, sexuality, (in)equality and Diaspora. I have sat on a wide range of committees in academic bodies in different parts of the world, including the African Literature Association, the Translation Caucus of the ALA, the Executive Committee of the Women's Studies Association of the UK, the Translation Advisory Committee of the British Centre of Literary Translation, amongst others. I have been on the ASA Women's Caucus Steering Committee for the past two years. I have also provided consultancy services to governments and international institutions on policy issues.

I am also a practicing translator of award-winning authors between French, Italian,

English and Gikuyu, including Veronique Tadjo (*As the Crow Flies*) and Ngugi wa Thiong'o, through whose work *Matigari*, I broke new ground in relation to African literary production and scholarship. I am also a writer of fiction (short stories, poetry and novels) and non-fiction, including essays and journalism. I co-edited, with Suki Ali and Kelly Coate, *Global Feminist Politics, Identities in a Changing World* (Routledge (2001). I recently contributed to the African Development Bank's Gender Strategy and edited the ASA Women's Caucus 2014 Newsletter. My forthcoming publications include a book: *Mind the Gap: Translation and traducture in International Knowledge Management*, and an article, "Situating Motherhood in Gender, Land and Property Rights in Africa."

**Maria Cattell.** Hello, everyone. Sorry I can't be with you but the anthropology meetings conflict this year. I look forward to seeing you at ASA in 2016 and 2017.

My research in Western Kenya began in the early 1980s. The main focus has been on aging, gender, family life and social change, though I have pursued other matters (such as place and identity, religion, health) as they have come up. I also did a short-term research project among Zulus in South Africa and a community study of older people living in a Philadelphia neighborhood, both in the 1990s, and have been a researcher-practitioner on the culture of gardening in the US for many years. I earned my PhD from Bryn Mawr College and have been retired from teaching for some years.

I was a member of the Women's Caucus Steering Committee for 14 years and now serve on the Advisory Committee. I was co-convenor from 2005 to 2007. During that time the caucus had to deal with our traditional sit-down luncheons being priced beyond our means and the post-9/11 difficulties of establishing a bank account when ASA cut off coordinate organizations from their tax umbrella. I have also spent many hours at our Women's Caucus marketplace and served on the Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize Committee in 2012. The Caucus is dear to my heart, as you may guess, since I have agreed to serve again as co-convenor, if I am chosen.

I have been active in other organizations, too, and president of two of them: the Association for Africanist Anthropology and the Association for Anthropology and Gerontology. I have served on the executive boards of both these organizations for many years.

I have published many articles and book chapters on my research and have also given many presentations at professional meetings. I have three books to my credit: I am co-author of *Old Age in Global Perspective* and co-editor of *Social Memory and History* and *Women in Anthropology*. Other research-based writing projects are on hold at present, because I am working on something quite different: a family food memoir titled *In Grandma's Kitchen: Food and Family in Olden Times*. I am writing it for my children and grandchildren.

**Corrie Decker.** I am an Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Davis. I am also currently serving as the Director of the department's Cross-Cultural

Women's and Gender History (CCWGH) group and the Co-Director (with Rachel Jean-Baptiste and Monique Borgerhoff Mulder) of the Davis Humanities Institute's Africa-California Research Cluster. My book, *Mobilizing Zanzibari Women: The Struggle for Respectability and Self-Reliance in Colonial East Africa*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014. I have published articles and book chapters on the history of gender, childhood, education, development, sexuality, Islam, and colonialism, including works appearing in the *Journal of Women's History, Past and Present*, and the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. In addition to a book on the history of development in Africa that I am writing with Elisabeth McMahon for Cambridge University Press, I am currently researching and writing a monograph about the history of sex education in twentieth-century East Africa.

During the past year, I served on the ASA Women's Caucus Steering Committee and chaired the Student Travel Grant committee. I have been an active participant in the Women's Caucus for only a couple of years, but I have enjoyed the luncheons, panels, and other WC events for nearly a decade. Should I be elected Co-Convener of the Women's Caucus, I would work with senior and junior members of the Steering Committee and the organization as a whole to continue its legacy as an advocate for research and outreach work carried out by, for, and about African women. I hope to bring also a fresh perspective that promotes the innovative work of younger scholars and activists, and which strengthens the interdisciplinary and international collaborations afforded by the WC.

### **Steering Committee Candidates**

We have three excellent candidates for the SC, all running for three year terms, Elisabeth McMahon, Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué, and Donna Patterson. They will replace long time WC activists Lynda Day, Joyce Kirk and Claire Robertson, who ran for one-year terms last year, and who will become members of the Advisory Committee as of 2016. Below are the statements of the new SC candidates.

**Elisabeth (Liz) McMahon** I am an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in History at Tulane University in New Orleans. My book, *Slavery and Emancipation in Islamic East Africa*, was published in 2013 with Cambridge University Press. I currently have two research projects – a co-authored book on the History of Development in Africa to 1970 (co-author Dr. Corrie Decker) and a history of violence and emotions along the Swahili coast in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Women's Caucus has been an organizing part of my attendance at ASA since I was in graduate school. From purchasing items in the marketplace to the enriching luncheon lectures, the Women's Caucus has offered a community to women in African Studies. I would like to be part of carrying on this tradition by joining the Steering Committee and shouldering some of the work that goes into building a community of scholars. As a member of the Steering Committee I am interested in working with the newsletter and prize committees.

**Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué** I am an Assistant Professor of Modern African History at Baylor University. I am currently working on a book about gender, secessionism and

nationalism in Anglophone (English-speaking) Cameroon during the 1960s and 1970s. I have been a Visiting Scholar and Researcher at Northwestern University, Yale University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I have several articles out under review about gender and recalcitrant behavior in 1960s Anglophone Cameroon (e.g. women gossipers, jealous housewives, unruly female journalists). I have enjoyed being part of the WC community and I am interested in the following committees: Membership, Nancy “Penny” Schwartz Student Travel Award, and ASA On-Site Events.

**Donna A. Patterson** I am an Associate Professor of History and Director of Africana Studies at Delaware State University. I am also a Carnegie Fellow at the New America Foundation (Washington D.C. office) and I am a Visiting Researcher at the African Studies Center at Boston University. My book, *Pharmacy in Senegal: Gender, Healing and Entrepreneurship*, was published by Indiana University Press in 2015. My current research is on drugs (illicit and pharmaceutical) and I am exploring drug production, consumption, and global distribution networks. My research is focused on two regions: the Horn of Africa and West Africa. As a member of the Steering Committee, I would like to work with the Membership and ASA On-Site Committees. My participation in Women’s Caucus events over the years has enriched my professional development and I relish the opportunity to give back to this organization as a member of the Steering Committee.

### **Women's Caucus Panels**

In addition to our three sponsored panels, we have organized a special Roundtable on the History of Women in ASA, sponsored by the ASA Board. Please be sure to join us for that panel, directly after the luncheon, for good stories about the rich and sometimes troubled history of women in the ASA and the WC. We also urge your attendance at the ASR Distinguished Lecture by long-time WC activist Akosua Adomako Ampofo.

**Gender, Militarism, and the African State Part I: Contemporary Perspectives** (co-sponsored by the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars)  
Session V-Q-2, Friday 8:30-10:15am.

**Chair:** Alicia C. Decker (The Pennsylvania State University)

**Discussant:** Andrea Arrington (North Carolina School of Science and Math)

Amina Mama (University of California, Davis), “Terror from the Margins: Gender Politics and Global Militarism.”

Leslie Hill (Bates College), “Enhancing Security or Securing Militarism? Gendering State and Society via AFRICOM.”

Nada Ali (University of Massachusetts, Boston), “Engendering ‘Kleptocracy’: Gender, Militarization, and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in South Sudan.”

## **Gender, Militarism, and the African State Part II: Historical Perspectives**

Session VI-Q-2, Friday 10:30am-12:15pm/

**Chair:** Judith Van Allen (Cornell University)

**Discussant:** Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoue (Baylor University)

Elizabeth Williams (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), "Eating the Other": Rebel Drag and Pseudo-Gangsters in Kenya's Mau Mau Rebellion.

Tara Reyelts (Michigan State University), Gendered Motivations of the 1929 Igbo Women's War.

Rachel Sandwell (University of the Witwatersrand), Violence against Men/Violence against Women: Post-Apartheid Accounts of Abuse in the ANC Camps in the 1980s

### **Is There an African "Post-Sexist" State?: Complicating the Discussion of Representation and Rights**

Session X-Q-1, Saturday 10:30am-12:15pm. Please join us.

**Chair:** Andrea Arrington (Indiana State University)

**Discussant:** Pamela Scully (Emory University)

Judith Van Allen (Cornell University) "Progress" as Provocation? Rights, Representation and Rape in South Africa

Dina Refki (SUNY- Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy) Mapping the Substantive Representation of Women in the Ugandan Parliament

Robtel Neajai Pailey (University of London-SOAS) Patriarchy, Power Distance, and Female Presidency in Liberia

### **Roundtable: The History of Women in the African Studies Association**

(Sponsored by the ASA Board of Directors and the Women's Caucus)

Session XI-Q-1, Saturday 2-3:45pm

Chairs: Nwando Achebe (Michigan State University) and Judith Van Allen (Cornell University)

Akosua Adomako Ampofo (University of Ghana)

Edna Bay (Emory University)

Iris Berger (SUNY at Albany)

Judith Byfield (Cornell University)

Dorothy L. Hodgson (Rutgers University)

Gwendolyn Mikell (Georgetown University)

Mary Osirim (Bryn Mawr College)

Claire Robertson (Ohio State University)

## **African Studies Review Distinguished Lecture**

**Friday, November 20, 12:30-1:30pm**

The African Studies Review together with the ASA Board launched a distinguished lecture in 2011 featuring state of the art research in African Studies. This year, the speaker will be Dr. Akosua Adomako Ampofo. Her lecture is entitled “Re-viewing Studies on Africa, and Envisioning her Futures”. Dr Akosua Adomako Ampofo is Professor of African and Gender Studies, and Director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. An activist-scholar, she is a member of, and has worked with many organizations in Ghana and abroad, addressing African Knowledge systems; Identity Politics; Genderbased Violence; Women’s work; Masculinities; and Gendered Representations in Popular Culture (music and religion). She seeks to understand where some of our “gender trouble” has come from and the new “gender troubles” being invented. Earlier work looked at reproductive health issues, critiquing Eurocentric notions (that infantilized African women).

Dr. Adomako Ampofo received her BSc Architecture and MSc Development Planning from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, and her PhD in Sociology from Vanderbilt University, TN. Her recent publications include: Discourses in African Musicology. J.H.Kwabena Nketia Festschrift (w. Adjei, Godwin, Kwasi Ampene, and Albert Awedoba, University of Michigan Press, 2015), Transatlantic Feminisms: Women’s and Gender Studies in Africa and the Diaspora (Rodriguez, Cheryl, Dzodzi Tsikata ed., Lexington Books, 2015), “Changing Representations of Women in Ghanaian Popular music: Marrying Research and Advocacy” (Current Sociology, w. Asiedu, Awo, Vol. 60, 2012), “African Feminist Politics of Knowledge - Tensions, Challenges and Possibilities” (ed. w. Asiedu, Signe, Nordic Africa Institute, 2010). Dr. Adomako Ampofo has been a public speaker on campuses and other forums around the world, and is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships; she has been a Fulbright Junior and Fulbright New Century Scholar. In 2015-2016 she will be a Fulbright Scholar-in Residence at Concordia University, Irvine, CA. In 2010 she was awarded the Sociologists for Women in Society Feminist Activism award and in 2014 was a Mellon Fellow with the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town.

At the University of Ghana Dr. Adomako Ampofo has been a two-time elected member of the University of Ghana Council, the founding Head of the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, and serves on numerous boards and committees at home and abroad such as the Centre for African Studies, University of the Free State, South Africa; Ghana National AIDS Commission (2001 to 2008); the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowship Program (Social Science Research Council); International Steering Committee of the African Heritage Initiative (University of Michigan). Dr. Adomako Ampofo is a member of ASA’s cognate organizations—the Ghana Studies Association, where she was co-editor of the journal Ghana Studies with Stefan Miescher; and the Women’s Caucus, of which she has been co-convenor with Mary Osirim and subsequently Maria Cattell. Dr Adomako Ampofo is the founding Vice-President of The African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA; <http://www.as-aa.org/>), Co-president of the Research Committee on Women and Society of the International Sociological

Association with Josephine Beoku-Betts; Co-Editor, Critical Investigations into Humanitarianism in Africa blog, ([www.cihablog.com](http://www.cihablog.com)), and an honorary Fellow of the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa.

### **Women's Caucus Community: Website and Facebook Page**

Our website <http://asawomenscaucus.matrix.msu.edu/> continues to grow and in 2016 we expect to develop the page of publications by members as well as post more photos from 2014 and new ones of 2015 WC events. Judith Van Allen will be working on the website, so if you have suggestions or questions, please contact her ([jv43@cornell.edu](mailto:jv43@cornell.edu), after January 1!)

The Facebook page is now up <https://www.facebook.com/ASAwomenscaucus/> and growing as well, so check it out, like it and post. Contact Andrea Arrington ([Andrea.Arrington@indstate.edu](mailto:Andrea.Arrington@indstate.edu)) and Tara Reyelts ([reyeltst@msu.edu](mailto:reyeltst@msu.edu)) if you have suggestions for it.

To borrow a good sign-off, stay well, do good work and keep in touch.

Judith & Nwando