



From the President's Desk

Welcome to the newsletter of the Canadian Association of African Studies, and our first series submission from our President, Dr. Temitope Oriola

I am delighted to write this column in the relaunched CAAS Newsletter. The aim is to foster greater communication and community among CAAS members. The annual conference thus becomes the culmination and celebration of our community rather than its sole expression. Speaking about community, the global community was thrown into a once-in-a-



DR. TEMITOPE ORIOLA

lifetime pandemic in December 2019 when the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome associated with Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-19 or COVID-19) started spreading from China. It soon spread through Asia, Europe and North America. COVID-19 made its way to Africa in February 2020. The World Health Organization (WHO) designated COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. Our world has not been the same since the start of this year. As of the time of writing, nearly 24 million people had been infected and over 814,000 people had died globally.

Families with young children in particular continue to be severely impacted by the lockdown and associated restrictions. Academic life has been transformed as remote learning has gone mainstream. While we were adjusting to the new normal, people paid to protect the public murdered George Floyd in Minneapolis. CAAS released a [statement](#) in "solidarity with Black communities in the United States, Canada, and other countries facing, now as ever and in particularly stark form, the realities of systematic racism and racist policing." (*cont. on next page*)

From the President's Desk, pp. 1-2

Our Executive Team, pp. 3-4

Meet everyone who helps run the CAAS

Our Newsletter Team, pp. 4-5

Meet the team making content!

Living History, pp. 6-8

The Origins of CAAS, 1962-1970 - Roger Riendeau

Tribute to Donald Savage, p. 9

By Chris Youé

Faculty Profile, p. 10

Dr. Vanessa Oliveira

Student Profile, p. 11

Lani Akande

Membership News and Opportunities, p. 12

See what other members are up to!

Call for content, p. 13

(cont. from previous page) Global protests against police violence and other forms of oppression have since ensued. This moment calls attention to the need for a fairer and more equitable world. CAAS continues to stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

This maiden edition of the relaunched CAAS newsletter contains research and publication news. Roger Riendeau, Managing Editor of the Canadian Journal of African Studies, has written a fine a fine piece on "The Origins of CAAS, 1962-70". We welcome submissions of a historical and/or autoethnographic nature from senior colleagues, who were part of the fabric of CAAS in the last fifty years or thereafter. Feel free to share your research and other news with us.

The year 2020 marked the 50th anniversary of CAAS. The 2020 conference was cancelled due to COVID-19. We will symbolically mark the 50th anniversary at the 2021 conference. We will also celebrate Roger's retirement. Nicole Haggerty has graciously accepted to host us at Western University, the venue of the 2021 annual conference. The 2021 conference planning committee comprises Nicole Haggerty, Philippe Frowd (University of Ottawa, Review chair), Khalid Medani (McGill University, Program chair) and Isaac Bazié (vice president of CAAS and co-chair).

Mark Hunter's book *Race for Education: Gender, White Tone, and Schooling in South Africa* won this year's Joel Gregory Prize. In the letter I had the pleasure of sending to Mark as chair of the adjudication committee, I noted that the "book expertly engages with discussions on race and class dynamics in South Africa in an insightful way. It is extremely empirically rich and a pleasure to read. The methodology is sound, rigorous, and clearly articulated." Philippe Frowd's book *Security at the Borders: Transnational Practices and Technologies in West Africa* was runner up. Adjudicators were impressed with the originality of the book and its engagement with the core question of how/why borders in West Africa had become sites of security interventions. The socio-technical focus was insightful in reflecting on the discursive and material underpinnings of the transnationality of border control. I appreciate Nadège Compaoré's outstanding work on the adjudication committee and the willingness of Uwafiokun Idemudia to step in as alternate adjudicator when Meredith Teretta had to withdraw due to the unexpected COVID-19 interruption on all of our lives.

Uwafiokun Idemudia handed over the presidency of CAAS to me in one piece in July 2020. I intend to do the same next year. I am grateful for Uwa's continuing support. Meredith Teretta encouraged me to put my name forward for election as vice president. I would not be in a position to write this without her support. I am deeply indebted to Nathan Andrews who provided the initial stimulus to serve on the board of CAAS. Miriam Grant and Audace Getavu continue to help keep the association running. I appreciate the newsletter committee, which comprises Carla Joubert (University of Western Ontario), Damson Ayoyo (University of Alberta), Gladys Akua Akyeiwaa Denkyi (Central University & University of Ghana), Diana Ajuna (University of Ottawa & Open Air), Esther Ekong (University of Ottawa & Open Air) and Katrina Keefer (Trent University).

Finally, my thoughts return to the current human condition. May those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 find comfort. May those who are sick recover and may this cup pass over our world. Enjoy the revamped CAAS newsletter. Cheers!

Temitope Oriola
CAAS President

Meet Our New Executive Team

PRESIDENT: DR. TEMITOPE ORIOLA, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Temitope is joint Editor-in-Chief of *African Security Journal* and associate professor at the University of Alberta. Oriola's book *Criminal Resistance? The Politics of Kidnapping Oil Workers* is one of a small number of book-length sociological investigations of political kidnapping in the English language. His research focuses on policing (use of force & weaponization), resource conflicts, political kidnapping and terrorism studies. Oriola aims to foster a strong community of Africanists and enhance the visibility of CAAS around the world. He aims to increase the strong and indisputable profile of CAAS as the clearinghouse of African studies in Canada. Oriola intends to enhance collaborations between CAAS and relevant organizations within and outside North America.

VICE-PRESIDENT: DR. ISAAC BAZIÉ, UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À MONTRÉAL

Isaac holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. He has taught in Europe, Africa, and North America. He became a faculty member at UQAM in June 2001. From 2009 to 2015, he was chair of the Department of Literary Studies at UQAM and supervisor of the BA Program in Education (French). In 2016, Isaac Bazié co-created LAFI (Laboratoire des Afriques Innovantes, www.lafi.uqam.ca), which gathers professors and young scholars from diverse disciplines related to Africa. He became a Full Professor in 2015. Professor Bazié specializes in Francophone African Literatures, World Literature and Africa in Global discourse.



SECRETARY-TREASURER: DR. MIRIAM GRANT, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Miriam is a Professor (Geography) in the Department of Community, Culture and Global Studies, UBC Okanagan. With a PhD from Queen's University, she was a faculty member at the University of Calgary for twenty years before moving to UBCO to become Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (2011-2018). She is an urban social Geographer whose Zimbabwe-based research includes low-income housing, social and economic vulnerability of youth, gendered aspects of HIV/AIDS caregiving, the urban elite in Bulawayo, and linkages between migration and urban food security in Southern

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: NADÈGE COMPAORÉ, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Nadège Compaoré is an incoming Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Toronto, where she is completing a Provost Postdoctoral Fellowship. Her research lies at the intersection of International Relations theory, the global governance of extractive resources, as well as gender and race in global politics.



MEMBER-AT-LARGE: NATHAN ANDREWS, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Nathan Andrews is an assistant professor of global and international studies at the UNBC. His current research focuses on the international political economy/ecology of natural resource extraction and development, with publications in such journals as *International Affairs*, *World Development*, *Resources Policy*, *Energy Research and Social Science*, and *Third World Quarterly*.

Meet Our New Executive Team, cont.

FINANCE CHAIR: DR. BONNY IBHAWOH, MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

Bonny is the Messecar Professor in History and Global Human Rights at McMaster University. He has taught in universities in Africa, Europe and North America. Previously, he was a Human Rights Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs, New York, and Research Fellow at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen. Dr. Ibhawoh is a member of the College of New Scholars of the Royal Society of Canada, and recipient of the Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award for “distinguished contribution to research and the promotion of African affairs.” As a scholar with senior University administrative experience, Bonny hopes to bring his skills as manager of human and financial resources to CAAS.



2021 CONFERENCE ORGANIZER: DR. NICOLE HAGGERTY, WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Haggerty is an Associate Professor in Information Systems and Director of the Africa Institute at Western University. Since she left the private sector to pursue a second career in Academia, she has studied how to maximize the effectiveness of IT enabled organizational performance. Dr. Haggerty is a social innovator who runs The Ubuntu Management Education Initiative (www.ivey.uwo.ca/ubuntu) with a goal of collaboratively building capacity for case-based education in African Universities and Business Schools. As Director of the Africa Institute at Western University (<https://www.uwo.ca/africainstitute/>) she fosters interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and graduate students, across every Faculty who partner with and study African issues.

Meet Our Newsletter Team

DIANAH BYARUHANGA AJUNA, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

Dianah is a PhD (law) candidate, research fellow and Queen Elizabeth Scholar - Advanced Scholar with Open African Innovation Research (Open AIR) Network - at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. She is also a Graduate Students Representative for CAAS. Her research focuses on international laws governing cybersecurity and cybercrime. Dianah specializes in international governance of cyberspace and its relation to the African context. She is also an enrolled advocate of the High Court of Uganda and the founder of the ICT Law Centre Uganda. She has worked as a law lecturer. She represented Uganda as an international visitor to the United States in the U.S. Department of State's Premier Professional exchange program on promoting cybersecurity in May 2019. Dianah is a rollerblading enthusiast.



DAMILOHUN DAMSON AYOYO, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Damilohun is a doctoral candidate and assistant lecturer in criminology and socio-legal studies, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta.. His research interests encompass the nuanced impacts of social movements, terrorism and insurgencies, and policing. His works appear in scholarly journals, such as Police Practice and Research, Social Movement Studies, Societies, Sociology among others. His current research interrogates the political processes affecting social movements in Africa. He doubles as a research and executive assistant to the CAAS president. Damilohun is an Arsenal football club fan who enjoys watching and playing soccer, listening to and watching (political) news, and working out when he is outside the work zone.

Meet Our Newsletter Team, cont.

GLADYS AGYEI WAA DENKYI-MANIESON, CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, GHANA

Gladys is a faculty member at the Department of Communications Studies and Languages, Central University, Ghana. She is also a third-year doctoral candidate at the University of Ghana. Her thesis is on “Northrop Frye and Ngugi wa Thiong’O: a study in Archetypal Criticism”. Her interest area includes African literary studies, film criticism, and comparative literature. Her research articles appear in journals such as *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, *Central Inquiry*, *Current Research Journal of Social Sciences*, among others. Her doctoral dissertation seeks to validate the early novels of Ngugi wa Thiong’O as the mythos of tragedy. Gladys is a graduate student’s Africa representative for the Canadian Association of African Studies.



ESTHER EKONG, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA



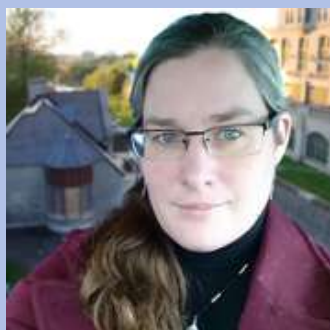
Esther is a PhD (Law) candidate at the University of Ottawa, Canada. Her dissertation is titled: *The role of intellectual property rights as a development tool for women entrepreneurs in developing countries: The case of the cosmetics sector in Nigeria*. Esther is a Nigerian who holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria; Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Benin, Nigeria and a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from the Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria. Prior to relocating to Canada for her doctoral studies, she worked as a Research Fellow at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal studies, Lagos, Nigeria. Esther currently holds the positions of the New and Emerging Research Group Ombudsman, Open AIR, and Graduate Students Representative, CAAS.

CARLA JOUBERT, WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Carla is a PhD Candidate who studies the comparative roles of white women in the settler colonisation of the *Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek* and Alberta, Canada. She is passionate about Southern African history, culture, and society. She is a specialist on the content of the Louis Trichardt diary, and the Indigenous-settler relations of the Trichardt trek party and the Dzanani VhaVenda. She is the Digital Fellow for the Society for the History of Children and Youth, technical support and digital research assistant for the public history project, *Hear, Here*, in London, Ontario, and La Crosse, Wisconsin, technical project manager for the Medical Artifacts Lab and technical intern for faculty transitioning online during the COVID-19 pandemic, both in the History Department at Western University.



DR. KATRINA HB KEEFER, TRENT UNIVERSITY, AND CAAS DIGITAL INNOVATOR



Katrina Keefer is an Adjunct Professor for both the History and Cultural Studies programs at Trent University. She is a cultural historian and game studies scholar who specializes in identity, representations of ethnicity in digital media, slavery, and initiatory societies in West Africa. She is a contributor to the *Liberated Africans Project* and the *Studies in the History of the African Diaspora—Documents* projects, both of which engage with tracing identities through the trans-Atlantic slave trade. She is principal investigator for a major digital initiative entitled “*Decoding Origins*,” one portion of which includes, “*The Language of Marks*,” a SSHRC-funded project that analyzes permanent body marks to better discern origins and birthplace. Keefer is developing other projects for the hub, including one specifically pertaining to the practice of branding during the period of slavery. She has previously published on body marking, Africa within RPGs, the Poro initiatory society, and identity.

Living History: The Origins of CAAS, 1962-1970

By: Roger Riendeau, Managing Editor of the Canadian Journal of African Studies

The Canadian Association of African Studies / L'Association canadienne des études africaines (CAAS / ACEA) was officially established in 1970. Accordingly, 2020 is the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of CAAS / ACEA, which would surely have been cause for celebration at the annual conference if it could have been convened this year. Since so many significant events have had to be cancelled or postponed in this year of the pandemic, it would perhaps be appropriate to have a belated golden anniversary celebration at CAAS Conference 2021. Then, the following year, 2022, CAAS / ACEA could celebrate its sixtieth anniversary. This apparent celebratory confusion reflects the reality that CAAS / ACEA originated organically over a span of nearly eight years that represents the pioneer stage of African Studies in Canada.

Writing about the study of Africa within Canadian universities in 1963, Professor Ronald Cohen, an anthropologist at McGill University, was somewhat pessimistic:

I can characterize the present situation as impoverished, naive, and "colonial." There is at present no planned policy of African studies at any Canadian university. Instead, there is a rather naive assumption that if some man on staff is interested in African studies then he can proceed to build his empire, and, if he is good and the subject is important, then it will expand and succeed. The result of this policy is that there is no single

university in the country with a proper research library devoted to Africa. No single university has devoted a significant portion of its resources to the development of African studies. There are no funds for research support allocated specifically for African studies.... Most of the pathetically small group of trained African specialists in the country could easily be attracted away from it; courses in universities and colleges devoted to African subjects in the social sciences and humanities are very scarce; and no Africanist scholar now in Canada received his specialist's training in this country. In other words, the country lacks autonomy in this, as in many other areas of higher education, and the situation is getting worse, not better.

His perspective was expressed in the original publication of a new bilingual organization known as the Committee on African Studies in Canada / Le Comité des études africaines au Canada (CASC / CEAC). With assistance and encouragement from the Social Science Research Council of Canada and the Overseas Institute of Canada, CASC / CEAC was launched at an informal meeting of ten scholars representing seven Canadian universities convened at McGill University on 1 December 1962. The original stated purposes of CASC / CEAC were:

... the promotion of African studies in Canada, the creation of a national organization for interested scholars in Canadian universities, the facilitating of

Canadian representation in the International Congress of Africanists, and the publication of a newsletter to include information on developments in African studies in Canada and papers prepared by scholars in Canadian universities.

Members of the Committee elected Professor Cohen as the inaugural Chairman and Professor Donald Savage, who taught African history at Loyola College (now part of Concordia University), as the Executive Secretary. With the support of the Social Research Council of Canada, the Committee also decided to create a newsletter to be known as the *Bulletin of African Studies in Canada / Bulletin des études africaines au Canada (BASC / BEAC)* "to inform the members about the development of African studies in other Canadian universities than their own and to print information about African materials in Canada and occasional articles by Canadian scholars." University of Alberta historian Professor Donald L. Wiedner agreed to serve as the first Editor of this semi-annual, bilingual publication that produced its first issue in November 1963 (the second issue came out in May 1964). While serving in this capacity in the first two years of the *Bulletin*, Professor Wiedner was also elected Chairman of the Committee in its second and third year of operation. Besides serving as Executive Secretary for the first two years, Professor Savage took on the responsibility of organizing the inaugural annual CASC / CEAC (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)
Conference convened with the Canadian Learned Societies at Laval University in June 1963. At this annual meeting held in conjunction with the Canadian Political Science Association, the general membership of CASC / CEAC gathered to formally ratify the constitution of the organization. Within a span of only six months, the basic framework of CASC / CEAC as the earliest coordinated effort to foster university interest and scholarly research relating to the African continent within Canada took shape.

The next seven years would feature a series of decisions that would facilitate the evolution of a growing collection of scholars and students from a pioneering national "Committee" to into a more encompassing international "Association." On the organizational front, the Executive position of Vice-Chairman was added in 1964 with the election of Professor Bernard Charles, a political scientist at the Université de Montréal. By 1966, the Executive Officers had been renamed President, Vice President, and Secretary Treasurer. The election of Father Joseph-Marie Quirion, Dean of Social Science and Dean of Arts at the University of Ottawa, as the first francophone Chairman (President) of CASC / CEAC for 1965-66 (the fourth year of its operation) reflected a growing interest in the idea of alternating bilingual leadership. Over the next four years, Professor Cranford Pratt (Political Science, University of Toronto), Professor Louis Molet (Anthropology, Université de Montréal), Professor Edouard

Laberge (Political Science, University of Ottawa), and Professor Gerry Helleiner (Political Science, University of Toronto) were elected President of CASC / CEAC. Curiously, the natural succession from Vice President to President was apparently not the norm as only Professors Molet and Laberge followed that path during the eight years of CASC / CEAC operation. Another enduring modification to the CASC / CEAC Executive in 1966 was the addition of a Member-at-Large, the first of which was Professor Savage who a year later began a three-year stint as Secretary Treasurer.

Professor Savage demonstrated further versatility in CASC / CEAC administration by assuming the role of Editor to produce the third volume of the *Bulletin* in 1965. Out of a concern that it did not have sufficient resources to function as a typical peer reviewed scholarly publication, *BASC / BEAC* was originally mandated to be a newsletter focused on producing bibliographic material and acting as a forum for information about the development of African studies in Canada. But as the "occasional" research article submissions became more frequent, Professor Savage urged that the publication become "one of the agencies for the development of African scholarship in Canada and for rendering the academic world more aware of the scope and importance of these studies in the Canadian university context." To this end, at its annual meeting held in Sherbrooke in June 1966, CASC / CEAC decided to transform *BASC / BEAC* into the *Canadian Journal of African Studies / La Revue canadienne des études*

africaines (CJAS / RCEA), which was published biennially in 1967 and 1968 and expanded to three issues in 1969. Professor Savage continued on as the Editor of the new scholarly periodical with able editorial support from Professor Frank Chalk (History, Sir George Williams University). Indeed, *CJAS / RCEA* was well on its way to becoming the intellectual flagship of the organization and of African studies in Canada.

The other major intellectual endeavour of CASC / CEAC proved to be more challenging to develop. From 1964 to 1968, the annual CASC Conference, like the inaugural meeting, was held under the organizational umbrella of the Learned Societies but independently of any other scholarly association, notwithstanding the Laval meeting in 1963. The annual conference was designed to play a vital role in showcasing Canadian scholarship, fostering international intellectual exchange, and generally building informal research networks. Despite the transnational geographical location of the annual meetings – Charlottetown (1964), Vancouver (1965), Sherbrooke (1966), Ottawa (1967), and Calgary (1968), Professor Savage complained that they "have been only marginally successful largely because of the thin attendance." Particularly concerned with the timing of the meetings in June when Africanist scholars tended "to pursue research abroad" during the summer months, he suggested that the "logical time to meet is in October" immediately before or after the annual meeting of the African Studies Association of the (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)
 United States [ASA], preferably “in a Canadian city within striking distance of the American venue, which “would allow academics to take in both meetings on one travel grant from their university.” For this reason, many CASC / CEAC members were receptive to the idea of a joint conference with the ASA in Montreal in October 1969.

By that time, some CASC / CEAC members were considering whether to retain organisational independence or to become an autonomous “Canadian” section of the much larger ASA community of scholars. By deviating from the customary annual conference in conjunction with the Canadian Learned in June, CASC / CEAC was hoping to advance its scholarly networking goals and to improve participation in an October meeting, as Professor Savage had recommended. The extent to which CASC / CEAC could easily become a marginalised partner in the same bed with the ASA elephant became abundantly clear as racialized controversy erupted between white and black American scholars even though they were guests on Canadian soil. Neither side seemed concerned about offending the sensibilities of their Canadian hosts who generally exhibited greater appreciation of the cultural diplomacy necessary to navigate their own linguistic diversity. At times, the clash between the emerging black power advocates and the traditional white power elite was charged with a level of political drama and comedy that not only disrupted conference panels and workshops to the point of attracting undesirable media attention but also highlighted to

CASC / CEAC members the value of adopting a more independent organizational course. While the colourful story of ASA 1969 in Montreal deserves a more detailed analysis, suffice it to say that out of this turmoil the Canadian Association of African Studies / L'Association canadienne des études africaines was born.

Understandably, CASC / CEAC decided that convening its customary annual meeting in June 1970, so soon after its co-hosting of the conference with ASA, would be too much of a strain on financial and human resources. However, the organization did take the opportunity to transform from a Committee to an Association. What might have been a momentous change appears to have been conducted rather seamlessly with little drama or fanfare. Professor Helleiner, the final president of CASC / CEAC was elected the first President of CAAS / ACEA. While Professor Fraser Taylor (Geography, Carleton University) succeeded Professor Savage as Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Savage remained the lead Editor of the *Canadian Journal of African Studies La Revue canadienne des études africaines*, which was in the process of producing its fourth volume. The old CASC / CEAC constitution underwent some revisions, but not a major overhaul, to become the CAAS / ACEA constitution (CAAS / ACEA was not officially incorporated until 1988). In a case of history repeating itself, the inaugural CAAS Conference was convened at Université Laval in February 1971 under the direction of resident sociologist Professor Alf Schwartz, a future CAAS / ACEA President and *CJAS / RCEA* Editor.

That the CAAS Conference met outside the auspices of the Learned, and well before it, was a portent of a common practice to organize an independent annual meeting at a Canadian university in April or May. Otherwise, the transformation of CASC CEAC into CAAS / ACEA could be considered a matter of the more things change, the more they remain the same.

So, when was CAAS / ACEA actually born? While CAAS / ACEA acquired its official identity in 1970, most of its core organizational values and functions took root during CASC / CEAC era. Even viewing the evolution in metaphorical life terms does not necessary offer a resolution to the question of origin. On the one hand, the nearly eight years CASC / CEAC operation can be viewed as a process of maturation from childhood and adolescence into adulthood, in which case 1962 becomes the primary milestone anniversary. On the other hand, the CASC / CEAC era can be viewed as an embryonic stage of conception and gestation before the actual birth occurs, in which case 1970 becomes the recognized milestone anniversary. Why not celebrate both anniversaries for different reasons? The formation of CASC / CEAC in 1962 certainly can be celebrated as marking the origins of African studies in Canada, while the transformation into CAAS / ACEA in 1970 represents the emergence of an enduring scholarly organization that has steadily grown in stature and influence to play a frontline leadership role in the development of the academic (continued on page 12)

A Tribute to Donald Savage (1932-2018)

By: Chris Youé, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Memorial University

Editorial Note: This memorial presentation at the Canadian Association of African Studies Conference in Kingston on May 4, 2018 was the final contribution of Professor Chris Youé to the organization which he had served in an Executive capacity (twice as President) for almost three decades and as an Editor of the *Canadian Journal of African Studies* for over two decades. A little over six months later Professor Youé succumbed to a lung ailment that he had been struggling to overcome for several years. A memorial tribute to him is available at <https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/rcas-christopher-youe-vsji/>.

Donald Savage, who died on March 13, 2018, was one of the founders of African studies in Canada. He was among the first teachers of African History in Canada, an Associate Professor at Loyola College from 1961 to 1970. He established Loyola's Centre for African History, and he prepared many CUSO volunteers to serve in Africa, all while teaching and inspiring all three of Loyola's Rhodes Scholars. His field research brought him close friendships with many leaders of the newly independent African nations, particularly in Kenya, notably Tom Mboya, and allowed him to collect rare archival material for Loyola's Vanier Library.

Professor Savage was one of the founding organizers of the Committee on African Studies in Canada (CASC) at a meeting of small group of Africanists on

December 1, 1962 at McGill University. Even then, Don's budding organizational acumen was evident as he became the first Executive Secretary of the Committee (which was the forerunner of the Canadian Association of African Studies [CAAS] established in 1970). He served in that capacity for two years and returned for an encore performance from 1967 to 1970. In the meantime, Don organized the Committee's first annual conference at Laval University in 1963 (in effect the first CAAS Conference), and he served as Editor of the Committee's publication, the *Bulletin of African Studies in Canada (BASC)* in 1965-66, producing Volume 3. When the Bulletin was transformed into the *Canadian Journal of African Studies (CJAS)* in 1967, Don was the logical choice to be its first Editor. He also wrote the first article, an editorial entitled "African Studies in Canada," published in Volume 1 Number 1. When the current *CJAS* editors compiled a 50th-anniversary Virtual Issue, published earlier this year, the first entry just had to be Don's seminal article.

Indeed, besides being a founder of CAAS, Don appears to have been the workhorse of CAAS, serving as the *CJAS* Editor for the publications first six years. Upon his retirement as the lead Editor of *CJAS* in 1973, the other Editors and the CAAS Executive thanked Don for his outstanding contribution to African studies in Canada, recognizing him as "the founder

and first editor of this journal and the midwife of African studies in Canada ... lui qui fut l'un des pionniers des études africaines au Canada."

All the while that he was a major organizational builder of CAAS and *CJAS*, Donald Savage found time to contribute to African scholarship. He collaborated with Anthony Clayton, a colonial and military officer, on a research project that became the lengthy and massively detailed book, *Government and Labour in Kenya, 1895-1963* (London: Frank Cass, 1974). For anyone researching Kenyan colonial labour history today, this is still the go-to book, with an encyclopedic empiricism lacking in more recent theoretical works.

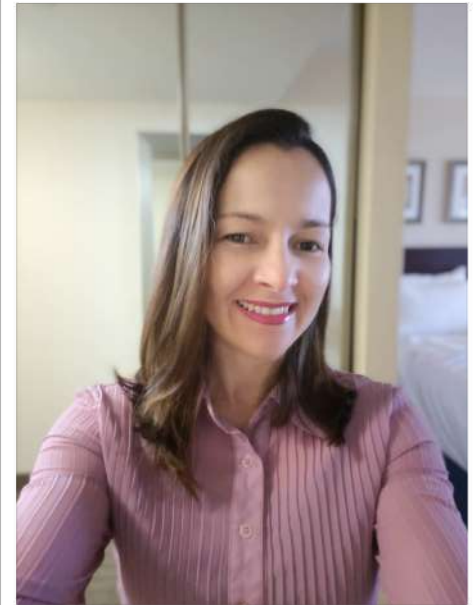
While he remained interested in African studies, Don's intellect and administrative skill would be in demand on a larger stage. He helped to draft the founding charter of Concordia University, formed in 1974 as a result of the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University. But Don was best known for his work as the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) from 1972 to 1997. He proceeded to write definitive works on academic tenure and freedom of expression and worked creatively and sensitively to resolve numerous crises in Canadian universities. Upon Don's retirement in 1997, CAUT created the Donald C. Savage Award for "outstanding achievement in the promotion of (continued on page 12)

Faculty Profile: Dr. Vanessa Oliveira

Welcome to our first Faculty Profile. Our inaugural profilee is Dr. Vanessa Oliveira, an Assistant Professor of African History at the Royal Military College of Canada

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Oliveira obtained her PhD in history from York University in 2016 and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto from 2016 to 2018. She is currently assistant professor of African history at the Royal Military College of Canada, teaching courses on early and modern Africa, European colonialism, and African women’s history. Dr. Oliveira has published on women merchants, interracial marriage, and slavery in Luanda, Angola. Her book *Slave Trade and Abolition: Gender, Commerce and Economic Transition in Luanda* is under preparation with the University of Wisconsin Press, scheduled to appear in December 2020. She has been a member of the Canadian Journal of African Studies editorial board since June 2019.



DR. VANESSA OLIVEIRA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

West Central Africa, Angola, South Atlantic, Slavery, African Women’s History, Gender and interracial

WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVE CAREER PATH OR PROFESSION YOU CONSIDERED?

Besides history, I had an interest in psychology. So if I was not a historian I'd probably have become a psychologist. I'd likely have entered academia anyway as my interest has always lain on research.



NAME A WARM MEMORY OF AFRICA?

My first trip to Luanda was special to me. It was wonderful to see the airplane approaching the city, the view of the bay and Luanda island. I read so many descriptions of the city penned by foreign travelers and I was finally there.

WHAT IS A HAPPY CHILDHOOD MEMORY?

The school holidays on my grandparents' farm in northeastern Brazil were the best. I have good memories of the time I spent there with my grandparents, uncles, aunties, and cousins.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

Play with my children, Matthew and Sophia, and watch Netflix after they go to bed.

Student Profile: Lani Akande

Welcome to our first Student Profile. This week, we'll profile Lani Akande, a PhD Candidate from York University in Toronto, Ontario.



LANI AKANDE

BIOGRAPHY

Lani is a PhD Candidate at York University, Toronto. His research interests include Nollywood's film form, the use of African philosophies and epistemologies in understanding African Cinema(s), and the indigenization/de-Westernization of academia. He is a filmmaker who likes to explore the connecting boundaries between the theory and practice of films. He has presented papers in conferences such as ASUK (2016), Cambridge, UK, and Screen Studies Conference (2018), Glasgow UK. His articles have appeared in *Film Education Journal* and *Journal of African Cultural Studies*.

WE ASKED LANI 11 QUESTIONS, THIS IS WHAT HE HAD TO SAY FOR EACH OF THEM:

1. Can you reflect on pedagogy in your field?

I am increasingly exploring Indigenous and non-Western pedagogical approaches in the study of film.

2. What are some warm memories you have of Africa?

Visiting the village in Nigeria, and the beautiful, fresh and rejuvenating earthy smell that fills the air after the rains.

3. What are your life's aspirations?

To become an academic that can help make thinkers out of students.

4. How has your understanding of Africa been changed or reinforced since you began your doctoral studies?

A more intensive exploration of African knowledge and art forms

has further made me appreciate the complexities of African cultures. It also reveals there is still a lot about Africa to be learned.

5. What would you choose as an alternative career to being a professor?

An adviser on African affairs, or a consultant on African cinema and its film production.

6. What fiction have you loved, recently?

It's been so long that I can't recall, thanks PhD!

7. What does Nafisa typically do in a day away from work?

Those are the rare occasions. I enjoy the randomness of life. Sometimes, exploring backroads and enjoying the views.

8. Can you give advice to new or young Black African graduate students on the challenges of graduate studies in Canada?

Endeavour not to go into your research guided by too many presumptions of your object of study. It takes a lot to undo those presumptions, and they restrict your work to conform to your presumptions. Instead, go into it with a great deal of curiosity, and let that be your guide.

9. What is your life philosophy?

Everyone knows something.

10. What is one happy childhood memory?

The last day of school term was always a delight! The irony of life.

11. What do you prefer? Tea, coffee, or neither?

I prefer tea to coffee.

Membership News and Opportunities

CONGRATULATIONS ARE EXTENDED TO DR. VANESSA OLIVERIA

Congratulations to Vanessa Oliveira ! Vanessa gave birth to her beautiful daughter, Sophia, on March 26, 2020 in Kingston, Ontario.

E-RACE-SURES CALL FOR PAPERS

- *The Goose: A Journal of Arts, Environment, and Culture in Canada* seeks submissions for issue 19.1, entitled "e-Race-sures," for publication in April 2021.
- Seeking critical or creative submissions
- Seeking book reviews
- Deadline for submission is November 15, 2020
- To submit, please consult their [style guide](#) before submitting, then make your submission through their [online publication system](#).

For full details, [consult this link](#).

LIVING HISTORY

(continued from page 8) discipline of African Studies, both nationally and internationally. Therefore, CAAS / ACEA can celebrate its golden anniversary belatedly at the annual conference in 2021 and the diamond anniversary of African studies in Canada at the annual conference in 2022.

Sources

1. "Le Comité des Etudes Africaines au Canada: Organisation et Développement." *Bulletin des Études Africaines au Canada*. 1, no. 1 (Novembre 1963): 30-37.
2. Cohen, Ronald. "Les études afro-asiatiques au Canada." *Bulletin des Études Africaines au Canada* 1, no. 1 (Novembre 1963): 4-29.
3. Savage, Donald C. "African Studies in Canada," *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 1, no.1 (March 1967): 5-11.
4. Wiedner, Donald L. "African Studies in Canada." *African Studies Review* 8, no. 3 (December 1965): 71-75.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Department of African American and African Studies Professor, University of California, Davis

The University of California, Davis invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor of African Studies to begin July 1, 2021. Disciplinary field and specialization within Social Sciences are open, although preference will be given to candidates working in comparative and applied social sciences and policy. Applicants must hold the Ph.D. or equivalent degree in a relevant field. Candidates must have PhD in hand by July 1, 2021.

For the full recruitment letter and further details, [consult this link](#).

TRIBUTE TO DONALD SAVAGE

(continued from page 9) in the promotion of collective bargaining in Canadian universities and colleges." In 2017, my Memorial University colleague, Jon Church, won that prestigious award.

Somehow, he found the time to return to his roots to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of CAAS, succeeding Fraser Taylor from 1986 to 1993. In the early days of CAAS, before email and internet, Don handled CAAS financial statements, correspondence, and executive meeting Minutes out of his CAUT office on Albert Street in Ottawa; in effect, his office was the headquarters of CAAS. No doubt, Don's impact on CAAS and *CJAS* has been formidable intellectually, administratively, and spiritually. If CAAS had a Hall of Fame, he would probably (continued on next page)

TRIBUTE TO DONALD SAVAGE

(continued from previous page) be the first inductee. Rest in peace Don old friend and colleague, and thanks for your enduring contributions to CAAS and CJAS.

The CAAS newsletter team wants to hear from you!

We want to share the worlds of our members!

CONTENT WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Faculty profile participants
- Student profile participants
- Member news: something good or important that has happened in your personal or professional life that you would like to share with other CAAS members. Did you happen upon a strange discovery? Or recently publish something? Perhaps you went on a great vacation and made a friend. Let us know!
- Academic news: Is there a CFP you would like to share, or an academic opportunity? E-mail!
- News from across Africa: we want the good, the bad, the beautiful, the problematic. Has something happened somewhere in Africa that you think is worth sharing? Perhaps an important political event or just a happy story? Share with us!

Contact Information:

Newsletter team: caasnewsletter@gmail.com

Damilohun Damson Ayoyo: ayoyo@ualberta.ca