



From the President's Desk, with Temitope Oriola

I was quite delighted to see a number of Black cluster hiring advertisements from various Canadian universities in the last couple of weeks. Every tenured or tenure-track academic knows someone from their graduate school days or circle of friends and acquaintances who somehow never got a full-time academic position despite impressive credentials. That reality humbles (or at least should) all of us who managed to secure tenure-track positions. The inability to secure tenure-track positions is particularly acute for Black PhDs. The current trajectory of hiring at some Canadian universities and ongoing conversations in others speak to and acknowledge the impediments that have kept the number of Black people in the professoriate of several universities to less than 1%. It was always clear to any objective observer that this was a superficially low figure given the number of Black people with PhDs, their performances during graduate studies and the credentials of new hires.



DR. TEMITOPE ORIOLA, CAAS PRESIDENT

As several colleagues and I noted in a June 2020 statement following the death of George Floyd that inhibitions against minorities in general and Black people in particular, are products of the intricate interactions of a range of institutional and non-institutional action (*continued on page 7*)

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Faculty Profile

Dr. Nathan Andrews



Dr. Andrews is an assistant professor of global and international studies at the University of Northern British Columbia (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*.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH DR. ANDREWS

What are your reflections on academic pedagogy?

I approach pedagogy from a decolonial perspective. As noted by Robert Cox, theory is always for someone and for some purpose. I believe knowledge is power and that the process of producing and disseminating knowledge (which is inherent to various pedagogical practices) should be representative, plural, inclusive and overtly anti-racist.

What alternative career pathways would you take?

I would be a Hollywood star, journalist, or popular novelist. I have experience in acting and broadcast journalism and I see myself picking one of these professions up if my academic career does not go far!

What is your relationship to Africa?

I was born/raised in Ghana and a proud product of the University of Ghana. I lived there till August 2008 when I arrived in Canada for my master's program. And my research, family and professional connections take me home to Ghana (and sometimes South Africa) every year or so.

Any memories about Africa?

I am an ardent foodie so one of my warmest memories of growing up in Ghana is the abundance of street food such as kelewele (spiced fried plantains with groundnuts), waakye (rice and beans but not quite the same), and Hausa koko and koose (millet porridge with fried bean puffs), just to name a few. I always (*continued on page 7*)

Student Profile

Andriamisandratoa Herizo, MA



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH ANDRIAMISANDRATOSIA

What are your research interests?

The lack of knowledge about the matrix of culturality and mutability awakens my interest and pushes me to do research on the identification of the related paradigms, their respective management and their modes of development that could shed light on the possible shift or change of paradigm.

What are your future aspirations and career path?

With my doctoral studies and experiences in management and development, diplomacy, and international relations, I aim to pursue a career in diplomacy, international solidarity and development.

Andriamisandratoa is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar. His research focuses on paradigm shifts, diplomacy, and international relations and cooperation.

Do you have any relationship to or warm memories of Africa?

As an African, my trajectory is intertwined with that of Africa. Thus, my accomplishments are dedicated to Africa. I have dedicated my project to revitalizing and enhancing the local values of young Africans by reinforcing culturality and mutability within and outside the university environment. Due to my commitment to Africa development, I was nominated and certified as a creator of wealth and hope for Africa at the Harubuntu Trophy in 2012.

What would you typically do on a day you want to take your mind off (academic) work?

To get away from the academic and professional routine, I do sports such as martial arts and soccer, but also spiritual activities, family, and social activities.

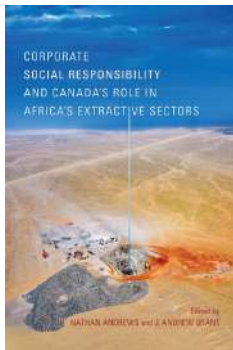
Which do you prefer, tea or coffee?

For moments of calm, reflection, and conception, drinking tea makes me feel good. On the other hand, during animations and production, coffee is preferred.



Membership News

Book Chapter Publication: Timothy Adivilah Balag'kutu, Adjunct Lecturer, Babson College



T.A. Balag'kutu (2019), "Canada, Human Security and Artisanal and Small-scale Mining in Africa," in *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Canada's Role in Africa's Extractive Sectors*, eds. Andrews &

A. Grant, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press), 124-148.

Abstract

Africa's natural resource sectors are experiencing unprecedented levels of foreign investment and production. Hailed as a means of reducing poverty and reliance on foreign aid, the role of foreign corporations in Africa's extractive sector is not well understood and important questions remain about the impact of such activities on people and on the environment.

With reference to global governance initiatives aimed at promoting ethical business practices, this volume offers a timely examination of Canada-Africa relations and natural resource governance. Few Canadians realize how significant a role their country plays in investing in Africa's natural resource sector. The editors and contributors consider

the interplay between public opinion, corporate social responsibility, and debates about the extraction and trade of Africa's natural resources.

[Purchase the book, here.](#)

Book Chapter Publication: Timothy Adivilah Balag'kutu



T.A. Balag'kutu, J.O. Asaka, L.H. Holcombe, J.J. McSparren, S.D. VanDeveer (2018), "Environmental Conflict and Peacebuilding in Africa," in *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Conflict and Peacebuilding* (New York, NY: Routledge Press), 267-282.

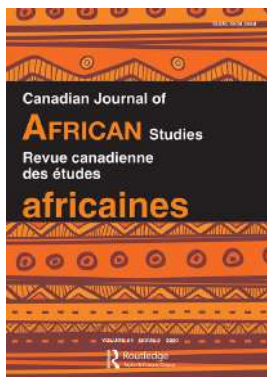
First paragraph

The ongoing acceleration of climate change, and debate raging about the massive human impacts on ecosystems from local to global sometimes denoted by the "Anthropocene" concept, are making the connections between human security, environmental change and resource exploitation and consumption increasingly apparent (Adger et al. 2014; Andrews-Speed et al. 2015; VanDeveer 2015). As such, environmental and resource-based factors seem (*continued on next page*)

Membership News

(continued from previous page) likely to proliferate, with influences on violent conflict, conflict mitigation and peacebuilding activities. Research on environmental and resource-related causes of conflict, and on the peacebuilding opportunities presented by greater attention to environmental and resource-related cooperation, has produced a rich analytical literature over the last twenty-plus years (Krampe 2016, 2017; Alie 2007; Weinthal et al. 2013; Chalecki 2013; Matthew et al. 2010). However, many ongoing peacebuilding and conflict mitigation initiatives – and many existing transnational governance initiatives – remain unconnected to these areas of inquiry and uninformed by them. This chapter seeks to illustrate both this lack of attention to existing initiatives and the tremendous potential for learning in research and practice by making such connections more explicit.

Article Publication: Martin Evans, Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader, International Development Studies, University of Chester



Martin Evans
(forthcoming),
“Displacement in
Casamance, Senegal:
Lessons (Hopefully)
Learned, 2000-2019,”
Canadian Journal of

African Studies 55.

Abstract

The paper reflects on fieldwork conducted since 2000 with displaced communities in Lower and Middle Casamance, Senegal, amid arguably West Africa’s longest-running civil conflict. While this is a small conflict in a geographically confined space, Casamance presents a microcosm of dynamics common to other displacement situations in Africa. In this context the paper explores how the understandings, lived experiences and practices of the displaced transcend normative categories used by aid actors to define and manage such situations. Five thematic areas are examined: enumeration of the displaced; complex mobilities, both rural-urban and transnational; historiographic understandings of displacement; political manipulation of displacement situations; and the dynamics of return and reconstruction. The paper concludes by summarising failures of understanding in these areas among much of the aid community, and their consequences. It argues that well-grounded and socially nuanced understandings of displacement may inform more effective aid interventions and enhance the peace process.

[Keep an eye out for this article, here.](#)

(continued on next page)

Membership News

Op-Ed Publication: Christopher Webb, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics



Christopher Webb and Natasha Vally (7 May 2020), “South Africa has raised social grants: why this shouldn’t be a stop-gap measure,” *The Conversation* online.

First paragraph

South African president Cyril Ramaphosa recently announced a significant package of social and economic measures to address the fallout from the country’s COVID-19 lockdown. The package includes a R50 billion increase to the value of existing social grants, a new grant and delivery of food parcels to poor households. All will last for six months.

The news came after civil society organisations, researchers and unions expressed concerns about the shortfall in existing welfare support.

The social grant increases are particularly necessary now. They will keep millions from starvation. But after the crisis has abated people will face rising levels of unemployment and food costs.

To deal with South Africa’s persistent inequality, high unemployment, and the economic aftermath of the pandemic, grant increases must remain in place after the six month period.

[Read the full article, here.](#)

Op-Ed Publication: Shimelis Mulugeta Kene, Visiting Fellow, McGill University and Solen Feyissa, Academic Technologist, University of Minnesota



Shimelis Mulugeta Kene and Solen Feyissa (30 September 2020), “**Commentary: The Pitfalls of Ethiopian Elites’ War of Narratives,**” *Addis Standard* online.

First paragraph

There is an enduring disunity among Ethiopian elites regarding its history and future. Informed by its long, and contentious multi-ethnic history, and fueled by recent shifts in the political landscape in the country, a war of narratives has been reignited. As we explain in this article, the narrative war is fought between adherents of what we have termed (*continued on next page*)

(continued from previous page) “Pan-Ethiopianists” and “Ethno-nationalists”. The spillover effect of this increasingly toxic debate has had a negative impact on the lives of everyday Ethiopians and continues to destabilize the country. Indeed, narratives surrounding ethnic identities and ethnic politics in Ethiopia is the one thing that demands the most attention. As it stands today, the way and environment in which the debate is occurring, and the actors involved in it indicates we may be approaching a threshold that cannot be uncrossed.

Articles continued from previous pages

From the President’s Desk (continued from page 1)

...and actors — some of them professionals with mastery of the language of social justice.

I know that I speak for my colleagues on the CAAS executive that the Black cluster hiring wave, which is currently in its teething stage, is a welcome development. A word of caution though. Some Black scholars work in the area of race and its many existential social ramifications. Most do not. Therefore, new positions should reflect the breadth and depth of scholarship, particularly in the social sciences. Universities also need to open tenure-track positions in law, sciences, engineering, and medicine, etc. It is time to give some bite to the fine-grain mission statements, the EDID policies, and well-manicured strategic plans. The George Floyd moment beckons.

Temitope Oriola
CAAS president

Faculty Profile: Dr. Nathan Andrews (continued from page 2)

...why the omelette by the street vendor smelled and tasted so good compared to when it is prepared at home.

What are your Hobbies?

Netflix and chill. It is a bit of a guilty pleasure (perhaps something an academic should not indulge in) but I honestly do de-stress by watching movies and TV shows - from random/goofy ones to serious political drama. I also enjoy running and other sports, including literally running around the house after my two little boys.

Job Opportunities

Communication and Media Policy

Sessional Assistant Professor

Location: York University, ON

Date posted: 5 November 2020

Advertised until: 3 February 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

Afrofeminist Studies

Assistant Professor (full time)

Location: University of Ottawa, ON

Advertised until: 1 February 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

Linguistics

Assistant Professor

Location: York University, ON

Date posted: 22 September 2020

Advertised until: 15 January 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

Black Studies

Queen's National Scholar, Chair

Location: Queen's University, ON

Advertised until: 5 February 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

Cluster Hire across Faculties

Multiple ranks

Location: McMaster University, ON

Date posted: 23 December 2020

Advertised until: 22 February 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

Indigenous Public Administration, Community Development and Government

Assistant Professor (Limited Hire)

Location: University of Victoria, BC

Date posted: 1 December 2020

Advertised until: 31 March 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice

Associate Professor

Location: University of British Columbia, BC

Date posted: 14 December 2020

Advertised until: 31 January 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

English & Film Studies

Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Black
Studies

Location: University of Alberta, AB

Date posted: 8 January 2021

Advertised until: 15 February 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

Cluster Hire across Faculties

Multiple ranks

Location: Mount Saint Vincent University, NS

Date posted: 18 December 2020

Advertised until: 17 February 2021

[See full posting, here.](#)

[For more job postings, check here!](#)

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 us!
- 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!

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