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EDUCATION

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Ph.D., May 2007, Anthropology

Examination fields: Anthropology of Africa, Anthropology and Population Studies,
Anthropology of Globalization

A.M., 2003, Anthropology

Master's Thesis: "Staying Soninké: Migration, Multilocality and Identity in a
Community of the West African Sahel"

Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota

B.A., magna cum laude, 1993, major in English with minor in French Studies

DISSERTATION

Exile Knows No Dignity: African Transnational Migrants and the Anchoring of Identity.

Chair: Daniel Jordan Smith. Committee: David I. Kertzer, Nicholas Townsend, Robert Launay.

Transnational migration is often perceived as a uniquely contemporary phenomenon, and there is uncertainty over whether and how transnational activity may be transmitted from one generation to another. Using ethnographic research methods in Congo and Mali, I uncover a century-long pattern of transnational migrants moving from the West African Sahel to the Congo Basin and back. I demonstrate how these migrants' economic activities, Islamic practices, and interpretations of identity have helped to anchor them to their West African communities of origin and to reproduce a condition of strangerhood in Congo over multiple generations. This research helps to disprove the notion that transnationalism is a tactic largely limited to first-generation immigrants moving only from poor southern to wealthy northern countries.

RESEARCH AREAS

Transnational migration; Islam; identity and locality; globalization; population processes; marriage; domestic structure and households; states in Africa; entrepreneurs; the western Sahel; the Congo Basin; Nigeria

TEACHING AREAS

Globalization; transnationalism; immigration; modernization and development; anthropology of Africa; anthropology of Muslim societies; demographic anthropology; medical anthropology; political economy; postcolonialism and state power; ethnicity and identity formation

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Field research in Bamako, Mali on urban marriage and polygyny, July 2010 and August 2011-June 2012
- Postdoctoral field research in southern Nigeria on women's experiences of infertility, June – August 2007
- Dissertation field research in Bamako, Mali and Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on transnational migration between West Africa and the Congo Basin, January 2005 – January 2006
- Pre-dissertation research in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, on West African immigrant communities in the Congo Basin, July – August 2003
- Field research in Koulikoro region of Mali on household organization and social cohesion in a migrant-sending community, May – August 2002

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Fulbright U.S. Scholar, University of Bamako, Mali, 2011-2012
- Faculty Research Grant, Center for Global Islamic Studies, Lehigh University, 2011-2012
- Course Development Grant, Center for Global Islamic Studies, Lehigh University, 2010-2011
- Faculty Research Grant, Center for Global Islamic Studies, Lehigh University, 2010-2011
- Postdoctoral research fellowship, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University, 2007 – 2008
- Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School, Brown University, 2006 – 2007
- Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, 2004
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, 2004
- Supplemental research funds, Andrew Mellon Program in Anthropological Demography, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University, 2002 and 2003
- Fellowship for graduate study, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health, 2002 – 2004
- Fellowship for graduate study, Graduate School, Brown University, 2001 – 2002

PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 ·« Approche comparative des familles dispersées (Mali/Congo) : Education et espaces nationaux », *Autrepart* 57/58: 233-246.
·“Enterprising Strangers: Social Capital and Social Liability Among African Migrant Traders.” *International Journal of Social Inquiry* 4(1): 93-111.
- 2010 ·“Suffering infertility: the impact of infertility on women's life experiences in two Nigerian communities.” *Journal of Biosocial Science* 42(6): 787-814 (Ulla Larsen, Marida Hollos, Oka Obono and Bruce Whitehouse).
- 2009 ·“The problem of infertility in high fertility populations: Meanings, consequences and coping mechanisms in two Nigerian communities,” *Social Science & Medicine* 68: 2061-2068 (Marida Hollos, Ulla Larsen, Oka Obono and Bruce Whitehouse).

- « Migrants et insécurité existentielle : le cas de Brazzaville », *Hommes et Migrations* 1279: 80-87.
- “Discrimination, despoliation and irreconcilable difference: host-immigrant tensions in Brazzaville, Congo,” *Africa Spectrum* 1/2009: 39-59.
- “Transnational childrearing and the preservation of transnational identity in Brazzaville, Congo,” *Global Networks* 9(1): 82-99.
- 2008 ·“(In)fertility and the modern female life course in two southern Nigerian communities,” *Ethnology* 47(1): 23-43 (Marida Hollos and Bruce Whitehouse).
- “Republic of Congo,” chapter in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Children’s Issues Worldwide: Sub-Saharan Africa*, pp. 145-163. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.
- 1996 ·“France and Africa: A 1996 Update,” *CSIS Africa Notes* no. 191 (published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC).
- 1995 ·“Who’s Who, and Where: A Guide to Key Personalities in U.S.-Africa Relations,” *CSIS Africa Notes* no. 177 (Bruce Whitehouse and M. H. Yam).
- 1994 ·“Zaire at the Crossroads,” *CSIS Africa Notes* no. 166 (Shawn McCormick and Bruce Whitehouse).

Forthcoming

- *Migrants and Strangers in an African City: Exile, Dignity, and Belonging* (tentative title), monograph under contract with Indiana University Press.
- “Overcoming the economic fallacy: Social determinants of voluntary migration from the Sahel to the Congo Basin.” Chapter in *African Migration Today: Patterns and Perspectives*, edited by Todd Leedy and Abdoulaye Kane, to be published by Indiana University Press.
- “Centripetal Forces: Reconciling cosmopolitan lives and local loyalty in a Malian transnational social field.” Chapter in *West African Migrations: Transnational and Global Pathways in a New Century*, edited by Olufemi Vaughan and Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome, to be published by Palgrave MacMillan.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor

Lehigh University

- ANTH 1 *Introduction to Anthropology*, undergraduate lecture course, Fall 2008, Summer 2009, Spring 2010
- ANTH 106 *Cultural Study and Globalization*, undergraduate seminar, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Summer 2011 (cross-listed with Global Studies)
- ANTH 160 *Health, Illness and Healing*, undergraduate seminar, Fall 2009, Spring 2011
- ANTH 183 *Peoples & Cultures of Africa*, undergraduate seminar, Fall 2010 (cross-listed with Africana Studies)
- ANTH 198 *Contemporary Issues in African Societies*, undergraduate seminar, Spring 2009 (cross-listed with Africana Studies)
- ANTH 320 *Global Capitalism*, undergraduate seminar, Fall 2010 (cross-listed with Global Studies)
- ANTH 397 *Globalization and Development in Africa*, undergraduate seminar, Fall 2009 (cross-listed with Africana Studies and Global Studies)
- SSP 126 *Political Economy of Globalization*, undergraduate seminar, Spring 2011 (cross-listed with Global Studies)

Brown University

- *African Issues in Anthropological Perspective*, undergraduate course, Spring 2008
- *Globalization and Society in the 21st Century*, Summer Studies, Summer 2006

Workshop organizer

- *Belonging in the Contemporary World: Exploring the Relationship Between Identity and Territory* (interdisciplinary workshop for graduate students, funded by the Mellon Foundation), Brown University, 2006 – 2007 academic year

Advising

- Senior thesis advisor, Lehigh University, Spring 2011
- MA thesis advisor for College of Education student, Lehigh University, Summer 2010
- Teaching Consultant, Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Brown University, 2004-2006
- Senior thesis advisor, Brown University, Spring 2006

Teaching Certificates

- *Sheridan Teaching Seminar*, Certificate I, Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Brown University, Spring 2004
- *Classroom Tools Seminar*, Certificate II, Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Brown University, Spring 2007
- *Professional Development Seminar*, Certificate III, Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Brown University, Spring 2007

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS & OTHER CONFERENCES

Papers given at professional conferences

- *Diaspora as a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: Sahelian West Africans in the Congo Basin*. African Studies Association, San Francisco, November 2010
- *Coming to Terms with Fertility Problems: Subfertile Women, Childless Mothers and Social Stigma in Two Southern Nigerian Communities*. Medical Anthropology in Global Africa Conference, Lawrence, Kansas, September 2010
- *The Stranger's Code: Explaining the Persistence of Distinct Identity among West African Traders in Brazzaville, Congo*. European Social Science History Conference, Ghent, April 2010
- *Bridging the Distance: A Comparison of Domestic and Transnational Split Households in Bamako, Mali and Brazzaville, Congo*. American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 2009
- *In the Wake of Rapatriement: Causes and Effects of Mass Deportation of West African Immigrants from Brazzaville, Congo*. African Studies Association, New Orleans, November 2009
- *Discussion: Mobile Bodies and Sovereign States*, Globalization and Social Change Initiative conference on Global Tensions, Lehigh University, October 2009
- *Strangers in Brazzaville: Maintaining identity and community transnationally*. Canadian Association of African Studies, Queens University, May 2009

- *Hollow citizens: West African immigrants, nativism and the state in Brazzaville, Congo.* Racism, Immigration and Citizenship Conference, Johns Hopkins University, April 2009
- *Metonymical Transnationalism: Culture, Identity and the State in Contemporary African Cross-Border Migration.* International Studies Association-Northeast, Baltimore, October 2008
- *Brazzaville, plaque tournante des flux migratoires maliennes en Afrique centrale.* Workshop on Malian migration, Bamako, Mali, June 2008
- *“Dirty Foreigners”: Immigrants, Scapegoats and Stereotypes in Brazzaville, Congo.* Society for Applied Anthropology, Memphis, March 2008
- *Social Determinants of Voluntary Migration in Africa.* Part of the 2008 Carter Lectures, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, February 2008 (invited participant)
- *When reproduction is not a choice: Infertility in sub-Saharan Africa* (with Marida Hollos, Ulla Larsen, and Oka Obono). Union for African Population Studies, Arusha, Tanzania, December 2007
- *Children of Exile: The Quest for Belonging Among Descendants of West African Migrants in Congo* (for panel I organized entitled “Ambiguous Identities: Second-Generation Immigrants and the Dynamics of Difference in African Societies”). American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, November 2007
- *The Perils of Strangerhood: Belonging, Rights, and Citizenship for Second-Generation West African Immigrants in Brazzaville, Congo.* African Studies Association, New York, October 2007
- *Blood and Soil: How Migration De- and Re-Territorializes Households in Contemporary Mali.* African Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, November 2006
- *Muslim Identities and Muslim Values in the Lives of Transnational Malian Migrants* (for panel I organized entitled “Transnational Processes and Muslim Identities in the Modern World”). American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 2006
- *Articulations Between Identity and Territory in a Transnational Social Space: The Case of Malian Migrants.* Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on Space as a Category of Analysis, Brown University, April 2006
- *Centripetal Forces: The Construction of Hometown Loyalty in a West African Migrant-Sending Community.* Population Association of America, Boston, MA, March 2004
- *Staying Soninké: Migration, Multilocality and Identity in a Sahelian Village.* American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, November 2003

Other presentations

- “Coming to Terms with Fertility Problems: Subfertile Women, Childless Mothers and Social Stigma in Two Southern Nigerian Communities.” Presentation to the Working Group on Anthropology and Population, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University, October 1, 2010
- “Globalization and Culture: Anthropological Reflections.” Presentation to incoming first-year students in the Lehigh University Global Preclusion program, August 23, 2010
- “The Issue of Belonging in Contemporary African Societies.” Address to the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVAIC) Africana Group, October 29, 2009
- “The Anchoring of Identities: Migration and the Politics of Non-Belonging in Post-Colonial Africa.” Presentation to the Africa Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, September 25, 2009
- “The Stranger’s Advantage: Migration, Entrepreneurs, and Social Capital in Brazzaville.” Presentation to the Globalization and Social Change Initiative, Lehigh University, February 19, 2009

- “Durable Transnationalism? The Case of West African Immigrants in Brazzaville, Congo.” Presentation to the Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University, October 11, 2007
- “Exile Knows No Dignity: Transnational African Migration and the Anchoring of Identity.” Lecture to sociology course taught by Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College, April 17, 2007
- “Transnational Ethnic Enterprise in Africa: The Role of Negative Social Capital.” Presentation to the Working Group on Anthropology and Population, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University, September 22, 2006

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. Peace Corps, Mali. Regional Representative (Sikasso Region), 1999 – 2000

U.S. Peace Corps, Mali. Natural Resources Management Extension Agent, 1997 – 1999

Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC. Research Assistant in African Studies, 1993 – 1996

LANGUAGES

Fluent in French and Bambara; elementary modern standard Arabic