

About the Contributors

Akintúndé Akínýémí is Professor of Yoruba Language and Literature in the Africa section of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and an affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies where he directs the African Flagship Languages Initiative domestic intensive summer programs funded by the US Department of Defense National Security Education Program (NSEP) through the Institute for International Education in Washington. His research interests include Yoruba language, literature, and culture as well as African literature, popular culture, and the Yoruba Diaspora in the New World. Between 1999 and 2001, he was a postdoctoral research fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Institute of African Studies, University of Bayreuth in Germany and the Center for West African Studies, University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. He is the author of *Orature and Yoruba Riddles* (Palgave Macmillan, 2015), *Yoruba Royal Poetry: A Socio-historical Exposition and Annotated Translation* (Bayreuth African Studies Series (BASS), 71, 2004); co-author of a French-Yoruba dictionary, *Dictionnaire usuel Yoruba-français* (Karthala-IFRA, 1997); and co-editor of *Encyclopedia of the Yoruba* (Indiana University Press, 2016), three volumes of essays, “Emerging Perspectives on Femi Osofisan” (Africa World Press, 2010), “Sango in Africa and the African Diaspora” (Indiana University Press, 2009), and “Emerging Perspectives on Akinwumi Isola” (Africa World Press, 2008). He is a co-editor of the journal *Yoruba Studies Review*. For the next few years, his research interest will be focused on Yoruba Diaspora in the New World and popular culture, especially Yoruba video-films

Carlos Almeida, Historian, PhD in Anthropology from the NOVA University of Lisbon. Researcher at the Centre for History of the University of Lisbon, coordinator of the research group Cultural Encounters and Intersecting Societies. His main field of research deals with early modern West Central African history, combining particularly the fields of cultural and religious history. Main research areas are: cross-cultural encounters; religious missions; travel writing and development of ethnographic discourse on African societies; material culture. Recent publications include: “Christianity in Kongo,” in: *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History* (forthcoming); “Inhabitants of this Black Ethiopia,

Descendants of Ham' – Ham's Curse in the Missionary Literature on the Central-Western Region of the African Continent (16th-17th Centuries)," in: *Estudos Ibero-Americanos*, Porto Alegre, v. 44, n. 3, p. 409-420, set.-dez. 2018, and "'Fit to the form of Christian living.' Catholic mission and resistance in African lands," in: *Cadernos de Estudos Africanos*, 33, 2017. Currently he is preparing the publication of a revised edition of his thesis entitled "'A happy unhappiness.' The image of Africa and Africans in missionary literature on west central Africa (XVI-XVIIIth century)."

Aparajita Biswas is Professor and has taught at the Centre for African Studies of Mumbai University for the past 30 years, where she demonstrated continued commitment to promoting African Studies in India. She has also taught as a Visiting professor at various universities in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Her major research interest is on India-Africa Relations, Africa and the Indian Ocean, Africa's international relations, human rights issues in Africa, and the Indian Diaspora in Africa. She has been invited by numerous institutions and universities across the world to share her views on African issues and, especially, on India-Africa relations. Biswas is the author of many books and articles.

Rina Cáceres, has a PhD in History, and she coordinates the Chair of African and Caribbean Studies at the University of Costa Rica in San José. Teacher at the School of History, University of Costa Rica, she is a member of the International Scientific Committee of the Slave Route Project: Resistance, Freedom, Heritage. She is also UNESCO Member of the Afro-Descendant Studies Commission of the Ministry of Public Education in Costa Rica.

Yongkyu Chang from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Division of African Studies, Seoul, is Professor and an anthropologist working on African belief systems and cultural change. He got his PhD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa in 2002 and conducted fieldwork in parts of Africa on related topics. His recent academic interest is focused on the issue of diasporic and migratory movements in and out of Africa and its cultural encounters with host communities. As an academic service, he is acting as the President of the Korean Association of African Studies and tries to bridge with African associations in other countries, especially in Asian countries, for academic collaboration. He has published and translated on African and anthropological studies in Korea, including: *South Korea's Engagement with Africa: A History of the*

Relationship in Multiple Aspects (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020); “Asia-Africa Relations – the way Korean and African encounter”, in: T. Iwata (ed.), *New Asian Approaches to Africa* (Vernon Press, 2020, pp. 111-134).

Marta E. Cordiés Jackson, is Professor at Universidad de Oriente, a historian, doctor in pedagogical sciences, and the director of the Centro Cultural Africano “Fernando Ortiz” in Cuba. She is also President of the Technical Advisory Council of Provincial Culture, since 2011 and a former Vice President of UNEAC in Santiago de Cuba until 2016. Member of the Aponte UNEAC Commission, Santiago de Cuba Province. She has extensively taught courses, on Afro-Caribbean Studies, Creole linguistics, and Literature.

Ute Fendler is Professor of Romance Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Bayreuth since 2006. Her research interests cover literatures and film cultures of the Caribbean, West Africa, the Indian Ocean, and South America and often leans on comparative approaches. More recent research deals with questions of inter- and transmediality, popular cultures, iconographies, with a regional focus on the Indian Ocean and East Asia as well as on transoceanic approaches. Some recent publications: “Lusophone filmmaking in the realm of transnational African cinemas: from ‘global ethnic’ to ‘global aesthetics.’” In: Livia Apa/ Paulo de Sousa Aguiar de Medeiros: *Contemporary Lusophone African Film: Transnational Communities And Alternative Modernities*. Routledge, 2020, 33-51; “SM Entertainment: From Stage Art to Neo Culture Technology (NCT).” In: *Culture and Empathy* 2(3) 2019, 206-219. DOI: 10.32860/26356619/2019/2.3.0005; with Katharina Fink/Nadine Siegert/Ulf Vierke: *Revolution 3.0: Iconographies of social utopia in Africa and its diasporas*. München: AVM, 2019.

John H. Hanson is Professor in the African Studies Program and the Department of History at Indiana University. His scholarship concerns the religious imagination and social initiatives of West African Muslims. His most recent book, *The Ahmadiyya in the Gold Coast: Muslim Cosmopolitans in the British Empire*, explores African contributions to the arrival and expansion of a South Asian Muslim reform movement in colonial Ghana. His most recent English translations of West African Arabic texts appear in the Africa Online Digital Library (<http://aodl.org>). Hanson served for years as an editor of two journals, *Africa Today* and *History in Africa*, as well as the director of the African Studies Program.

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Doris Löhr holds a PhD in African linguistics from Goethe-University Frankfurt, where she worked within the Collaborative Research Centre SFB 268 'History of Culture and Language in the Natural Environment of the West African Savannah,' funded by the DFG from 1994-2002. She published a grammar of the Malgwa language (Chadic language family) spoken in North-Eastern Nigeria. She then held a position as a post-doctoral lecturer at the Institute of African Studies at Leipzig University before she joined a DFG-funded joint project at University of Hamburg (with the SOAS, London) as research fellow. Within the topic, "A study of Old Kanembu in Early West African Qur'anic manuscripts and Islamic recitations (Tarjumo) in the light of Kanuri-Kanembu dialects spoken around Lake Chad," she worked on a dialectological description of Kanembu. Löhr has extensive teaching experience. Later she became the academic coordinator/managing director of the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies (funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research) at the University of Bayreuth, a position she held for six years. Since 2019, she works as academic coordinator at the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, University of Bayreuth.

Lungisile Ntsebeza is Professor and the holder of the AC Jordan Chair in African Studies at the University of Cape Town. He is also the holder of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Research Chair in Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa. He has conducted extensive published research on the land question in South Africa around themes such as land rights, democratization, rural local government, traditional authorities and land, and agrarian movements. His book, "Democracy Compromised: Chiefs and the Politics of Land in South Africa" was published by Brill Academic Publishers, Leiden in 2005 and the HSRC Press in 2006. Ntsebeza has also co-edited two books: *The Land Question in South Africa: the Challenge of Transformation and Redistribution* (HSRC Press, 2007), with Ruth Hall and *Rural Resistance in South Africa: The Mpondo Revolts after Fifty Years* with Thembele Kepe (Brill Academic Publishers, 2011 and UCT Press, 2012). His current research interests, apart from land and agrarian questions, include an investigation of Afri-

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Livio Sansone received his PhD from the University of Amsterdam in 1992. Sansone has been living in Brazil since 1992, where he is Professor of Anthropology at the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA). He is the head of the Factory of Ideas Program – an advanced international course in ethnic and African Studies – and coordinates the Digital Museum of African and Afro-Brazilian Heritage – www.museuafrodigital.ufba.br. He has published extensively on youth culture, ethnicity, inequalities, international transit of ideas of race and antiracism, anthropology and colonialism, and globalization, with research based in the UK, Holland, Suriname, Brazil, Italy and, recently, Cape Verde, Senegal, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau. His best-known book in English is *Blackness Without Ethnicity. Creating Race in Brazil* (Palgrave, 2003). Other more recent articles in English are available in the online journal *Vibrant.org.br*.

José da Silva Horta is Associate Professor of History of Africa at the School of Arts and Humanities of the University of Lisbon (FLUL), director of the FLUL BA in African Studies, and he coordinates the History of Africa branch of the postgraduate program in History. He is also a researcher and deputy director of the Centre for History of the University of Lisbon. He was Visiting Professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. His work has been devoted to the early history of Greater Senegambia/Upper Guinea Coast, 15th to 17th centuries. His publications include *The Forgotten Diaspora: Jewish Communities in West Africa and the Making of the Atlantic World* (Cambridge University Press, 2011, 2013) with Peter Mark; *A 'Guiné do Cabo Verde': Produção Textual e Representações (1578-1684)* (Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and FCT, 2011); *A Representação do Africano na Literatura de Viagens do Senegal à Serra Leoa (1453-1508)* (Mare Liberum, 1991). A recent paper: "A 'Racial' Approach to the History of Early Afro-Portuguese Relationships? The Case of Senegambia and Cabo Verde in the Late Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries," *The Sephardic Atlantic: Colonial Histories and Postcolonial Perspectives* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018) (co-author: P. Mark).

Petr (Peter) Skalník, political anthropologist and Africanist, specialising in state and chiefdom studies. Educated in Prague, Leningrad, and Cape Town. Taught African Studies, social anthropology, and political

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Céline Thiriot, Associate Professor of Political Science at Sciences Po Bordeaux, is a specialist in political transitions in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has particularly worked on issues of democratization and demilitarization of power, comparing the process in five countries: Burkina Faso, Congo (Brazzaville), Ghana, Mali, and Togo. Her research focuses on the processes of consolidation (democratic or authoritarian) of post-transition regimes in sub-Saharan Africa, and more particularly on the institutionalization of new regimes: role and place of the armed forces in the new regimes, nature and the role of civil society, electoral processes, institutional or unconventional innovations in the management of social, political, and electoral conflicts. She has participated in several research projects on democratic transitions, Islam in the Sahel, elites, armed forces and conflicts, elections, and comparative politics. Thiriot was in charge of the Risk Management in Southern Countries course of the Master's degree at Sciences Po Bordeaux between 2001 and 2011, and participates in the supervision of the Country Risk/Project Risk studies of the M2. In this perspective, her research focuses on the issue of political risk and political insecurity in Africa. Thiriot is also Director of LAM (UMR 5115 CNRS/Sciences Po Bordeaux) and Deputy Director of GIS Africa.