

David S. Agum, Ph.D.

Department of Africana Studies, University at Albany, 1400 Washington Ave, Albany NY 12222. (267) 467-8501. dagum@albany.edu

Education

Temple University; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ph.D. African American Studies, 2013

Dissertation: "African Social and Political History: The Novelist (Chinua Achebe) as Witness"

University of Iowa; Iowa City, Iowa

M.A. African American World Studies, 2002

Thesis: "Wright's Africa and the Politics of Identity in Africa Diaspora Literature: A Reassessment of Richard Wright's *Native Son*."

University of Jos; Jos, Plateau (Nigeria)

B.A. English/Linguistics (Combined Honors), 1995

Undergraduate Thesis: "Self Determination and Violence: A Basis for the African-American Struggle Against Oppression as Portrayed in Richard Wright's *Black Boy*"

Professional and Academic Positions

➤ August 2016 - Present, Lecturer, University at Albany, SUNY

➤ January 2015 - August 2016, Visiting Assistant Professor, University at Albany, SUNY

➤ August 2013 – May 2014, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Temple University, Philadelphia

➤ August 2009 – May 2013, Adjunct Instructor, Temple University, Philadelphia

August 2003 – 2008, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Temple University, Philadelphia (African American Studies Department)

Research Interests

African and African Diaspora Literatures, African and African Diaspora Social and Intellectual History and Culture, African Social and Political Thought.

Publications

"Mali Empire." In *Encyclopedia of Black Studies*, eds. Molefi K. Asante and Ama Mazama, pp229-238, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2004

"African Studies Association," In *Encyclopedia of Black Studies*, eds. Molefi K. Asante and Ama Mazama, pp.289-296, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2004

Research in Progress

“Africa Centered Perspective: A Tool for Analyzing the African Historical Experience.”

“The African Experience and the Challenges of Identity in the Twenty-First Century: Towards an Africa Centered Historiography.”

“Africana Studies in Contemporary American Academy: Problems, Prospects, and Implications for the Future of the Discipline.”

"An Africa-Centered Interpretation of Contemporary Political Trends in Africa."

"Understanding the Impact of Slavery in and on Africa in the Current Era."

“The African Renaissance Movement and its Relevance for the African World in the 21st Century.”

Invited Presentations

"The African Worldview as Cultural Difference: Highlighting "Differences" in African Culture" Lecture, Fort Devens, Massachusetts, September 11, 2016

“The Tiv of Nigeria: Culture, Resilience, Colonial and Post-Colonial Experiences.” Class on African Civilization, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 28, 2014

“Boko Haram and the Bring Back Our Girl’s Phenomenon: A Nation in Crisis – The Review of Nigeria’s Response to Islamic Extremism.” The Molefi Kete Asante Institute for Afrocentric Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 21, 2014

“The Crisis of Leadership in Contemporary Africa and Matters Arising: Towards a New Leadership Orientation.” The Annual Leadership Conference of the Society of Emerging Leaders (SEAL) at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 4, 2014

“The African – African American Experience in America: A Critical Evaluation of the Relationship between Continental Africans and Africans in America.” The Unity Gala of the African Culture and Traditions Club, Community College of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 21, 2013

“The Democratic Republic of the Congo: A Crisis in Progress.” The Annual Conference of the Conflict Free Campus Initiative, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 16, 2012

“Re-envisioning Africana Activism and the Lesson for Africa: A Response to Margaret Washington’s *Sojourner Truth’s America*.” The 7th Annual Underground Railroad and Black History Conference at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 3, 2010

“The African American Woman and the Politics of Identity in African Diaspora Literature: Alice Walker’s *In Search of Our Mother’s Gardens* in Perspective.” Seminar on the African American Woman, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. October 4, 2004.

Peer-Reviewed Abstracts and Presentation at Scholarly Conferences

"The Africa-Centered Perspective as a Tool for Analyzing and Reinterpreting African Politics." National Council for Black Studies 40th Annual Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina, March 19, 2016

"Towards a Resurgent African Renaissance: Lessons for African Unity." International Conference on Pan-Africanism and Negritude: Dialogues Between Africa and the African Diaspora (Past, Present, Future)," Howard University, Washington, DC. November 5, 2015

"The African Renaissance Movement and its Relevance for the African World in the Twenty-First Century." The 27th Annual Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 16, 2015

"Rethinking Africa-Centeredness in Teaching the African Experience." The 40th Annual Conference of the New York African Studies Association, Albany Law School, April 4, 2015

“Bigger Thomas and the African Mind: Richard Wright’s *Native Son* in Perspective.” The 35th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA) The University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 2009

“The Africa Centered Perspective as Methodology.” Regional Geographic Studies: Africa, Geography Earth Science Department at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, November 25, 2008.

“Historical Fact and the Representation of Fiction in Chimamanda Adichie’s *Half of a Yellow Sun*.” The 34th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA), Macomb, Illinois, April 26, 2008

“Achebe’s ‘Okonkwo’ and Wright’s ‘Bigger’ as Africana Revolutionary Literary Thought.” The 33rd Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA), Morgantown, West Virginia, March 16, 2007

“Wright’s Africa and the Politics of Identity in African Diaspora Literature: A Critical Assessment of Richard Wright’s *Black Power*.” The 27th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA), Richmond, Virginia, April 5, 2001

“Rereading Ayi Kwei Arma’s *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* and Festus Iyayi’s *The Contract* for the 21st Century.” The 26th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA), Lawrence, Kansas, April 3, 2000

Presentations at the University at Albany

"SUNY Albany Africana Studies Alumni Panel Webinar," (Moderator), Black History Month, Department of Africana Studies, University at Albany, SUNY, February 23, 2022).

"Africana Studies in the 21st Century: Challenges, Relevance, and Prospects." Thirteenth Annual Africana Studies Research Symposium, University at Albany, SUNY, October 29, 2021

"The Contributions of Africa's Ancient Civilizations: The Case of Egypt" Black History Presentation," University at Albany, SUNY, February 24, 2021

"Understanding the Impact of Slavery in and on Africa in the Current Era." Eleventh Annual Africana Studies Research Symposium, University at Albany, SUNY, October 23, 2019

"The Challenges of Writing a Critical Black Essay." Guest Lecture, University at Albany, SUNY, September 13, 2018

"African Civilizations: Its Contributions to World Civilization." Guest Lecture, University at Albany, SUNY, September 13, 2018

"The Sahel in Global Context" Symposium Social and Political Issues in the Sahel, University at Albany, SUNY, April 7, 2018

"Female Genital Mutilation Malpractice in Africa: Where do We Cross the Line on Cultural Practices?" Women and Children's Rights in Africa, University at Albany, SUNY, April 19, 2017

"Problems and Successes in Selected African Countries," Black History Month Lecture, University at Albany, SUNY, February 10, 2016

"The African Family: Structure and Significance" Guest Lecture, University at Albany, SUNY, October 1, 2015

"Boko Haram and the Nigerian Crisis: Implications for Africa." Black History Panel, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, New York, February 17, 2015

Courses Initiated

AAFS 101: *Introduction to Africana Studies* - Spring 2017

Radio and Television Appearances

"New York Minute in History: Slavery in New York and Resistance the Resistance to it" WAMC Northeast Public Radio Podcast, January 2, 2020.

<https://wamcpodcasts.org/podcast/slavery-in-new-york-and-resistance-to-it-a-new-york-minute-in-history/>

Community Presentations and Activities

"The Impact of Slavery on Africa" Guest Lecture, Capital District of New York Caribbean American Cultural Association, Inc, May 9, 2020.

Independent Study Projects Supervised

AAFS 697 – "African American Literature in Secondary School Curriculum."
(Keianna Noble, MA Candidate) – Spring 2022

AAFS 694 - "Women at War: A comparative analysis of the experiences and role of African women as war heroes during the Biafra War, the Second Italo-Ethiopian War and the Somali Civil War in Destination Biafra, *The Shadow King* and *The Orchard of Lost Souls*." (Mazuba Kapambwe, MA Candidate) - Spring 2020

AAFS 694 - "The Historical and Contemporary Condition and Role of Africa in Global Affairs" (DaVonte Lyons, MA Candidate) - Fall 2018

AAFS 694 - "Feminism and Gender Nonconformity: A Close look at the Differences in Beliefs Regarding Modern Day Feminism and Gender Nonconformity Between African and European Cultures." (Araba Aidoo-Apau, MA Candidate) - Fall 2017

AAFS 694 - "Revolutionary Pan-African Leadership in Colonial Africa: A Case Study of Steve Biko." (Franklin Berkeley, MA Candidate) - Spring 2017

AAFS 694 - "Racism on the African Continent." (Ammanuel Haile, MA Candidate) - Spring 2016

AAFS 697 - "The Making of Africa" (Aminah Wallace, MA Candidate) - (Spring 2016)

Courses Taught:

Fall 2022, *Introduction to Africana Studies* (AAFS 101)

Fall 2022, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)

Fall 2022 8 Week 2, *Life in the Third World* (AAFS 150)

Summer 2022, *Introduction to African American History* (AAFS 219)

Summer 2022, *African Civilizations* (AAFS 286)

Spring 2022, *Afro/Afro-American Literature* (AAFS 142)

Spring 2022, *African Civilizations* (AAFS/AHIS 286)

Spring 2022, *Topics in African History* (AAFS 533)

Fall 2021, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)

Fall 2021, *Introduction to Africana Studies* (AAFS 101)

Fall 2021, *African American Literature* (AAFS 596)

Summer 2021, *Introduction to African American History* (AAFS 219)

Summer 2021, *African Civilizations* (AAFS 286)

Spring 2021, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)

Spring 2021, *African Civilizations* (AAFS/AHIS 286)

Spring 2021, *Afro/Afro-American Literature* (AAFS 142)

Winter 2021, *African Civilizations* (AAFS 286)

Fall 2020, *Topics in African History* (AAFS 533)

Fall 2020, *Afro/Afro-American Literature* (AAFS 142)
Fall 2020, *Introduction to Africana Studies* (AAFS 101)
Summer 2020, *Introduction to African American History* (AAFS 219)
Summer 2020, *African Civilizations* (AAFS 286)
Spring 2020, *African Politics* (AAFS 624)
Spring 2020, *African Civilizations* (AAFS/AHIS 286)
Spring 2020, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)
Winter 2020, *African Civilizations* (AAFS 286)
Fall 2019, *Topics in African History* (AAFS 533)
Fall 2019, *Afro/Afro-American Literature* (AAFS 142)
Fall 2019, *Introduction to Africana Studies* (AAFS 101)
Summer 2019, *Introduction to African American History* (AAFS 219)
Summer 2019, *African Civilizations* (AAFS 286)
Spring 2019, *African Civilizations* (AAFS/AHIS 286)
Spring 2019, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)
Spring 2019, *African American Literature* (AAFS 596)
Fall 2018, *Introduction to Africana Studies* (AAFS 101)
Fall 2018, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)
Fall 2018, *Topics in African History* (AAFS 533)
Summer 2018, *African Civilizations* (AAFS 286)
Spring 2018, *Introduction to Africana Studies* (AAFS 101)
Spring 2018, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)
Spring 2018, *African Politics* (AAFS 624)
Fall 2017, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)
Fall 2017, *Sub-Saharan Africa* (AAFS 342)
Fall 2017, *Topics in African History* (AAFS 533)
Summer 2017, *Introduction to African American History* (AAFS 219)
Spring 2017, *Introduction to Africana Studies* (AAFS 101)
Spring 2017, *Africa in the Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)
Spring 2017, *Africa in World Politics* (AAFS 623)
Fall 2016, *Africa in Modern World* (AAFS/AHIS 287)
Fall 2016, *Sub-Saharan Africa* (AAFS 342)
Fall 2016, *Topics in African History* (AAFS 533)
Spring 2016, *African Politics* (AAFS 624)
Spring 2016, *Sub-Saharan Africa* (AAFS 342)
Spring 2016, *Life in the Third World* (AAFS 150)
Fall 2015, *Topics in African History* (AAFS 533)
Fall 2015, *African Civilizations* (AAFS/AHIS 286)
Fall 2015, *Afro/Afro-American Literature* (AAFS 142)
Spring 2015, *Sub-Saharan Africa* (AAFS 342)
Spring 2015, *African Civilizations* (AAFS/AHIS 286)
Spring 2015, *Life in the Third World* (AAFS 150)

University at Albany, Department Service

- September 12, 2022 – present, Councilor Representing Department of Africana Studies, CAS Faculty Council
- September 20, 2022 – present, Member, Academic Support Committee, CAS Faculty Council
- April 10, 2022 - Department Representative, University at Albany Spring Open House II
- March 26, 2022 - Department Representative, University at Albany Spring Open House I
- February 2022 – Member, Fall 2022 Africana Studies Faculty Search Committee
- November 2020 - Department Representative, University at Albany Fall Open House
- February 2020 – Member, Fall 2020 Africana Studies Faculty Search Committee
- September 2019 - Present, Member, Graduate Committee, Department of Africana Studies
- October 2019 - Department Representative, University at Albany Fall Open House
- April 2019 - Department Representative, University at Albany Spring Open House
- January 2019 – present – Webmaster, Department of Africana Studies
- October 2018 - Department Representative, University at Albany Fall Open House
- April 2018 - Department Representative, University at Albany Spring Open House
- April 2017 - Department Representative, University at Albany Spring Open House
- April 2016 - Department Representative, University at Albany Spring Open House

Awards, Honors

2016 – Chair's Award, Department of Africana Studies, University at Albany, SUNY

May 2007 – Temple University College of Liberal Arts Certificate of Merit in Teaching

Membership in Professional Organizations

- Member, African Literature Association (ALA)
- Member, National Council for Black Studies (NCBS)
- Member, African Studies Association (ASA)
- Member, New York African Studies Association (NYASA)

References

Marcia Sutherland, PhD
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