

*“Engaging Higher Education and Research in, on and with Africa”*



***Annual Report 2020 for the Forum for Africa Studies, Uppsala University:  
Engaging with Africa in corona times!***



**Uppsala, May 2021**

## **Introduction**

Uppsala University's Forum for Africa Studies – launched in March 2012 – is a center for Africa researchers with a broad mandate to cover Africa research and higher education initiatives. The Forum for Africa Studies is located within the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, but with the broad aim to engage with research and higher education in, on, and with Africa at Uppsala University. Forum should facilitate contacts and the exchange of research information within and outside of the university, and between universities and research institutes in Africa. It organizes lectures, seminars, round-tables, film screenings, workshops, and undergraduate courses in African studies. It runs research projects in collaboration with different stakeholders. Forum furthermore leads research application processes, fostering knowledge exchange and collaborations among researchers and students, disciplines and perspectives, actors and institutions. Currently, the Forum for Africa Studies leads a number of collaborative projects with partners in African countries, including Mozambique, Burkina Faso, and Mali.

In 2020, the Forum for Africa Studies hosted, co-hosted or sponsored some 20 public events, including symposia, conference panels, research seminars and book launches. With the outbreak of the global corona pandemic in March 2020, Forum quickly transformed many planned events into virtual ones, building on already existing virtual seminar series (UU/UEM Virtual Seminars in Africa Studies, and the Francophone Séminaire virtuel du LACET). The trend that the Forum for Africa Studies organizes a number of public events in African countries continued, albeit at fewer occasions and countries, due to the pandemic.

This annual report summarizes activities carried out in the year of 2020; the appendices include a list of all activities and meetings, a list of people involved, and a list of externally funded projects.

## **Organization and Scope**

The Forum for Africa Studies aims to facilitate collaboration, communication and research between scholars and institutions inside and outside of Uppsala University, as to favor the consolidation of research environments, the development of courses focusing on Africa, and collaborations with colleagues at African universities and research institutes. It functions as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange, reflection, work and publication.

In terms of administrative organization, Forum's Board is composed of one representative of each faculty<sup>1</sup> within the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as one joint representative of the faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy; PhD-students and undergraduate students have their representatives (Appendix 2). Since July 2018, the Board's Chairperson is Véronique Simon, Senior Lecturer of Education. The Board meets four to five times per year.

The daily running of Forum is led by its Director (Sten Hagberg) in collaboration with several Coordinators: Molly Sundberg, Ulrika Trovalla, Erik Bengtson, and Oulia Makkonen. Forum's

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<sup>1</sup> The faculties within Humanities and Social Sciences at Uppsala University include: Arts, Educational Sciences, Languages, Law, Social Sciences, and Theology.

chairperson, Véronique Simon, also plays an important role in carrying out activities. In 2020, the Forum management team organized events and activities, some within the strategic project *Health, Politics and Culture in Africa*. It is also engaged in research and research training projects in Mozambique, Burkina Faso, and Mali.

### Inside and outside of the university

The Forum for Africa Studies works actively with communication through its website ([www.afrikastudier.uu.se](http://www.afrikastudier.uu.se)) and its Facebook page, as well as its email list with some 300 subscribers. Our Facebook-publications about events and activities often reach more than 1,000 viewers, and occasionally up to 5,000. We collaborate with the University's Communications Unit in relation to media coverage and public relations. Since 2015, the successful collaboration with Upsala Nya Tidning around afrophobia and racism in Sweden has substantially extended Forum's public outreach.

Uppsala Forum for Africa Studies  
Liked 2K likes  
Education and Research

Uppsala University  
Forum for Africa Studies  
Eduardo Mondlane University

WELCOME TO THE  
VIRTUAL SEMINAR IN AFRICA STUDIES

A SPACE FOR THEORETICAL-METHODOLOGICAL EXPLORATION AND ACADEMIC EXCHANGE IN THE FIELD OF AFRICAN STUDIES

The Virtual Seminar is part of the Sida-funded research training programme "STRENGTHENING MUNICIPAL DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ON GOVERNANCE, DECENTRALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT" between the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Eduardo Mondlane University (EMU) in Mozambique, and the Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University (UU) in Sweden.

The Virtual Seminars primarily target sandwich PhD students and researchers enrolled in this programme, but they are also open to other students and researchers with an interest in the seminars' topics. The Virtual Seminars are implemented via video conference link between two classrooms in UU and UEM respectively. Two seminars are organized each semester.

TWO NEW PHD PROJECTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY:  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOCAL ADAPTATION STRATEGIES IN GAZA PROVINCE  
AND  
'PREGNANT BODIES': BETWEEN REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES, VULNERABILITIES, AND SUBJECTIVITIES IN MAPUTO

WHEN: Monday 31 May, 16:15-18:00

WHERE: Online. Click on this link to enter the virtual classroom: <https://join.zoom.us/j/69995212665>

PRESENTERS:

Jossias Humbane, PhD candidate in Cultural Anthropology and member of the programme "Biocultural Heritage in Mozambique: Developing New Heritage Industries"

Mária Manhique, PhD candidate in Cultural Anthropology and member of the programme "Population Dynamics and Socioeconomic Wellbeing in Mozambique"

MODERATOR: Molly Sundberg, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, UU

Literature to read as preparation for the seminar will be shared with registered participants.  
For registration and more information send an email to UU Coordinator, Molly Sundberg ([molly.sundberg@antro.uu.se](mailto:molly.sundberg@antro.uu.se))

*The Forum for Africa Studies is actively communicating research results and scholarly events, job announcements and op-eds, on its Facebook page with thousands of followers.*

Forum is increasingly present at events and workshops in Africa. Three networks are particularly worth mentioning in this regard. The first network includes the myriad of activities and initiatives carried out in West Africa or with West African partners. The Francophone research lab entitled [Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale \(LACET\)](#), officially founded in 2019, is an institutional framework between the Forum for Africa Studies (Sweden), the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (Burkina Faso) and the Institut des Sciences Humaines (Mali). Second, the Forum is organizing an international conference [Beyond Crisis and Insecurity: Cultural Creativity, Popular Struggle, and Social Change in West Africa](#) in collaboration with the West African research network Mande Studies Association (MANSA). Currently, the Director of the Forum for Africa Studies, Sten Hagberg, is the President of the Mande Studies Association. The conference was to take place in June 2020, but had to be rescheduled twice due to the corona pandemic. The conference will take place as a webinar in June 2021. Another important West Africa collaboration is the ongoing [commissioned research carried out in Burkina Faso](#) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

A second network is the research and research training with Mozambique. Forum participates in three collaborative research training programs with Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique) under the auspices of Sida. The central program is focusing on [Municipal Democracy and Local Development in Mozambique](#) (Cultural Anthropology) and the other programs concern [Bio-Cultural Heritage](#) (Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology), and [Population Dynamics and Socioeconomic Wellbeing](#) (Global Health, Cultural Anthropology). Since 2019, the UU/UEM Virtual Seminar in Africa Studies is a major breakthrough in fostering a joint research environment between Uppsala and Maputo.

Forum is involved in innovative projects in higher education that have been on stand-by during the pandemic: the Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD); the ERASMUS+ project with El Manar University of Tunis, and the ERASMUS+ project with the Nazi Boni University, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Vice-rector of Nazi Boni University (Prof. Patrice Toé) visited Uppsala in March 2020 to plan for staff and student mobility just before the corona pandemic broke out.

### **Major Events**

Since the start in March 2012, the Forum for Africa Studies has hosted more than 220 public events, including seminars, lectures, round-tables, film-screenings, book launches, and symposia.. In 2020, we were involved in some 20 public activities and events. No major physical events were hosted in Uppsala in 2020, due to the corona restrictions.

A public seminar drawing some 70 participants was organized in Bobo-Dioulasso in November 2020 around the collaborative book [Sécurité par le bas: Perceptions et perspectives citoyennes des défis de sécurité au Burkina Faso](#), by S. Hagberg, L.O. Kibora, S. Barry, Y. Cissao, S. Gnessi, A. Kaboré, B. Koné and M. Zongo.

In September 2020, a public seminar was organized addressing the ongoing research on the Malian political crisis. Some 60 participants attended at the Institut des Sciences Humaines in

Bamako, Mali. The engaged research on the 2000 political crisis is a joint activity of the LACET team.

In December 2020, the Forum for Africa Studies co-hosted the AIMDay on Local Democracy together with the [Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy \(ICLD\)](#), and [UU Innovation](#). Local Democracy is an interdisciplinary research field focused on people's ability to influence political decisions affecting them. Some 100 local politicians, civil servants, activists, and academics gathered in this virtual AIMDay.

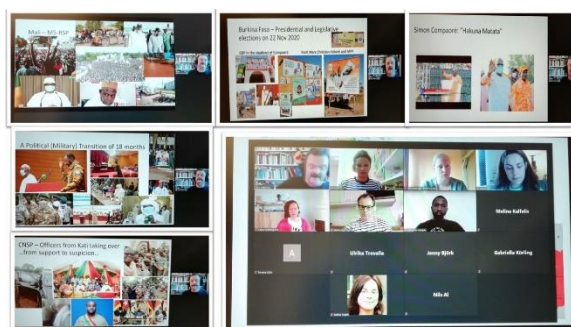
### Friday Seminar in Africa Studies

The Friday Research Seminar series in 2020, as in previous years, involved a range of scholars from multiple disciplines. With the pandemic, the seminar series moved online, but the seminars were still organized on a regular basis. The presentations focused on such topics as women and children's health in the Kingdom of Eswatini, human rights and arts, development and for-profit aid, as well as aid policy in Tanzania, images of skin-lightening, peace, and democracy and mobility in Mali and Burkina Faso. The online format benefited the seminar series by reaching an international and broader audience, as well as permitting to more readily invite scholars from different universities. Participants have joined from such countries as Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Ethiopia, as well as Europe and the Nordic countries.

The Friday Seminar in Africa Studies continued its tradition of keeping presentations and discussions informal and inclusive in nature. The online seminars are open to the public and do not require registration. The wider reach has contributed to the already engaged discussions and to a broadening of perspectives.



*Friday Seminar on the NEGOMOBI: Negotiating Mobility in Mali and Burkina Faso on 13 November with Marie Deridder.*



*Friday Seminar on Anthropological Engagements on 27 November with Sten Hagberg.*

### Health politics and culture in Africa

The *Health, Politics and Culture in Africa* project is a strategic investment by the Vice Chancellor's Office of Uppsala University that links the faculties of the Humanities and Social Sciences with the faculties of Medicine and Pharmacology. The essence of the project is to foster and create platforms for interdisciplinary cooperation within the area of medicine and health. Since 2015,

the project has focused on fostering meeting points between the different faculties. The work has given birth to interdisciplinary panels, workshops, seminars and seminar series, but also research cooperation that has emerged into interdisciplinary networks and research projects. This work has also trickled down and resulted in cooperation on the level of teaching between the master program in Global Health and the bachelor course in African Studies. In 2020, the work centered on three research areas: Sexual and Reproductive Health, Suspicious Medical Matters, and Skin Lightening.

### *Sexual and Reproductive Health*

During 2000, in connection with the thematic research area of Sexual and Reproductive Health, the *Health, Politics, and Culture in Africa* project has developed a deeper working relationship with International Maternal and Child Health (IMCH), Uppsala University. Mats Målqvist, Professor of Global Health, gave a research seminar on his newly published book “Proud to be a Siphilile Woman!” and his work with mentor mothers in Kingdom of Eswatini, who set an example of how maternal and child health can be improved. The cooperation also resulted in an interdisciplinary research application, which crossed the boundaries between medical science and humanities. The application – *Reconciling Childbirth Traditions: Synergies Between Traditional and Medically Educated Midwives in Sierra Leone* – was submitted to the Swedish Research Council’s development research call. Sierra Leone has very high maternal mortality rates and the quality of care has been listed as one of the main reasons for this situation. The project hypothesizes that these facets of health care could be significantly improved if communities and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) were considered as resources rather than obstacles. The project was unfortunately not granted funding.

In 2018, the Forum for Africa Studies and International Maternal and Child Health (IMCH) at Uppsala University and Centre for Sexology and Sexuality Studies at Malmö University jointly hosted the Ninth Network Meeting on research on female genital cutting (FOKO) in Höör, Sweden. The theme of this year’s conference was *Female Genital Cutting: The Global North & South* and presentations focused on themes including sexuality and reproductive health in relation to female genital cutting, and how research, healthcare and interventions can be designed to work in an optimal way. Thirty researchers coming from different Nordic countries and different disciplines participated. As an outcome of this conference, in 2020, the edited volume *Female Genital Cutting: The Global North and South* (edited by Sara Johnsdotter) was published. In this volume, the chapter by Professor Birgitta Essén, one of the *Health, Politics, and Culture in Africa* project’s scientific leaders, and Forum board member, is entitled *One Genital, Two Judgments: Why Do “Expert Witnesses” Draw Different Conclusions in Suspected Cases of Illegal Cutting of Girls’ Genitals?*

### *Suspicious Medical Matters*

An interdisciplinary project on *Suspicious Medical Matters* has been running since 2018, when a panel on this theme was organized during the Nordic Africa Days, followed by a publication workshop together with the nine panel contributions. As an outcome, Ulrika Trovalla, Coordinator of the *Health, Politics and Culture in Africa* project, is guest editor of a special issue in the *Nordic Journal of African Studies* on the theme of “Suspicious Medical Matters”. Suspicion – which in its essence is a manifestation of the ambiguity of life – is the uneasy inkling or hunch of things not being what they appear to be, or of concealed malevolent intent by known or unknown agencies. Suspicion in its essence is about survival – to be critical to the world as it appears.

Drawing from a multitude of field experiences from the African continent, the contributors to this special issue delves into the field of suspicion that surrounds medical matters: the complexes of suspicion, which connect to patients, healthcare providers, healthcare institutions, donors, pharmaceutical companies, medicines, diseases, viruses etc. In these medical landscapes, suspicion emerges as something that implicates neighbors, fellow citizens, the nation-state, foreign countries as well as international NGOs and companies. The effects of suspicions are very real and no matter who enters these medical landscapes has to consider suspicion as a factual part of life. States, donors, producers or sellers of medicine, healthcare providers, patients or ordinary citizens alike all have to relate to, operate in, and try to maneuver in these medical landscapes of suspicion.

### *Skin Lightening: Navigating Situated Geographies of Colourism*

In 2019, skin lightening emerged as an interdisciplinary thematic research focus to bring researchers from Humsam and Medfarm together. The practice of altering skin tone from one shade to a lighter shade for aesthetic reasons is referred to, in medical terms, as cosmetic depigmentation, a global practice that is intrinsically linked to colourism, that is, hierarchies and discrimination based on skin tone. In Sweden, from the perspective of all disciplines this is an extremely neglected and understudied phenomenon. Across the whole Swedish field there is only one scholarly publication. The research focus that has been initiated by the Forum for Africa Studies aims to fill this research gap and initiate a formation of a strong Swedish research environment around these issues, and, at the same time, create an interdisciplinary international network on skin lightening.

Acknowledging that skin lightening practices are grown out of colonial power hierarchies, structures and processes, the aim with this research focus is to move beyond generalized discourses and instead position the practices of skin-lightening within localized experiences of the world. To further move beyond singular moralizing narratives and to create a greater and more inclusive understanding of skin lightening practices, the work strives to embrace voices

from a multitude of academic disciplines – including the medical, social science, and humanities fields – but also from the voices by activists and practitioners of skin lightening. During 2020 a number of activities were initiated.

- The Forum for Africa Studies worked to create an interdisciplinary global research network on skin lightening, as a platform that connects researchers across continents and disciplines.
- A literature seminar series on skin lightening was hosted to bring together researchers across the globe around different approaches on skin lightening.
- A call for a special issue on skin lightening was prepared; the publication is planned in *Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies* in the fall of 2021.
- A roundtable will be hosted at the conference Beyond Crisis and Insecurity in West Africa in June 2021. In order to have an encompassing approach to the complex phenomenon of skin-lightening, the roundtable underscores local geographies and the situated perspective, and stresses the multitude of perspectives, by bringing together viewpoints of activists, as well as scholars of medical and social sciences, and the humanities.

### **Research Training Collaboration in Mozambique**

The Forum for Africa Studies is involved in research partnerships with Mozambique (2017-2022). Forum is a key partner in three partnerships:

#### [Strengthening Municipal Democracy and Local Development](#)

The Forum for Africa Studies coordinates one programme in partnership with Eduardo Mondlane University and the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology at Uppsala University. Two PhD students in Cultural Anthropology (Paulo Mahumane and Book Sambo) are supervised by Sten Hagberg. The programme also involves curriculum development, support to local master and PhD programmes in Maputo.

An online PhD course on *Doing Anthropology on Democracy and Public Engagement* was offered to all PhD students in Cultural Anthropology with Sten Hagberg as main lecturer. The four Mozambican PhD students in Cultural Anthropology (Jossias Humbane, Paulo Mahumane, Márcia Manhique, and Book Sambo) attended the course.

The UU/UEM Virtual Seminar was launched on 25 February 2019. Two UU/UEM Virtual Seminar were organized during the year of 2020:

- Monday 25 May, UU/UEM Virtual Seminar in African Studies: “Democracy and Public Engagement in Times of Crisis,” with Prof. Carla Braga, Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology, UEM and Prof. Sten Hagberg, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, UU; and
- Monday 28 September 2020, UU/UEM Virtual Seminar in African Studies: “Development in Neoliberal Times: Anthropological Critiques and Lessons from Rwanda”, with Anna



Berglund, Dept. of Sociology, Division of Social Anthropology, Lund University, and Molly Sundberg, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University.



*The UU/UEM Virtual Seminar on Security from Below on 25 May with Carla Braga and Sten Hagberg.*



*The UU/UEM Virtual Seminar on Development in Neoliberal Times on 28 September with Anna Berglund and Molly Sundberg.*

In November-December 2020, Sten Hagberg participated in the annual Sweden/Mozambique digital meeting hosted by Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo. Major discussions concerned administrative and financial issues related to fieldwork expenses for the PhD students.

### [Population Dynamics and Socioeconomic Wellbeing](#)

The project is carried out in partnership with Eduardo Mondlane University, Umeå University, University of Witwatersrand, the Dept. of Women's and Children's Health, the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, and the Forum for Africa Studies at Uppsala University. The recruitment of PhD student Márcia Manhique, Cultural Anthropology, was finalized in the winter 2020. The candidate started the PhD program on 1 April 2020. Forum board member Birgitta Essén is coordinating program activities in Global Health at the [International Maternal and Child Health \(IMCH\)](#).

### [Biocultural Heritage in Mozambique](#)

In partnership with the Dept. of Archaeology and the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology at Uppsala University, the Forum for Africa Studies is in charge of training a PhD

student in Cultural Anthropology. The recruitment of PhD student Jossias Humbane, Cultural Anthropology, was finalized in the winter 2020. The candidate started the PhD program on 1 April 2020. Board member Anneli Ekblom coordinates this program of the [Dept. of Archaeology and Ancient History](#).

### **Burkina Faso seen from below**

Since 2018, the Forum for Africa Studies (Sten Hagberg) leads a three-year program to support Sweden's development cooperation strategy in [Burkina Faso through studies "from below"](#) on specific topics (security, women leadership, social inclusion). The program consists of one annual thematic study and regular support and advice to the Swedish Embassy in Burkina Faso. Forum collaborates with the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique et technologique, Burkina Faso, in conducting the program.

The 2018 annual study focused on Security from Below: Citizen Perceptions and Perspectives on Security Challenges in Burkina Faso. The study was published (in French) as a book in the Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies in December 2019. The book was presented at two different seminars in West Africa: in Bamako (Mali) on 20 February; and in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso) on 10 November.

The 2019 annual study that focused on Women Leadership and Decentralization in Burkina Faso and included ethnographic fieldwork in 14 municipalities across the country, was presented on a workshop in Ouagadougou with 100 participants, including key stakeholders, like women politicians, grassroots activists, NGOs, state officials, civil society movements, and researchers. The report was submitted to the Embassy in early March; the book « *Femmes de devant !* »: *Combat du leadership féminin*, was published in January 2021 in the series Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies.

### **Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale (LACET)**

In 2019, the Forum for Africa Studies (Uppsala), the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (Ouagadougou) and the Institut des Sciences Humaines (Bamako) created a Francophone research laboratory on engaged, comparative and transnational anthropology. Departing from three institutions in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Sweden, the LACET aims to foster strong and dynamic research environments engaging with pertinent societal challenges. The research lab operates "on a shoestring" (*lacet*=shoestring) with a minimal budget but maximum engagement!

The LACET functions as an umbrella and academic framework, as to formalize and foster stronger bonds and better opportunities between researchers and institutions, while staying flexible and open to any collaboration with other actors. The purpose is to strengthen research in the social sciences and the humanities, particularly the comparative, engaged and transnational anthropology in Africa or in relation to African issues, including the African diaspora. The LACET is established as an international research laboratory called [Le Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Comparative, Engagée et Transnationale](#).

The official launching of LACET took place on Tuesday 17 March 2020, by kick-starting the *Séminaire virtuel du LACET* simultaneously in Bamako, Ouagadougou, and Uppsala. From June 2020 onwards, the LACET engaged in collaborative research on the Malian Crisis as to carry out engaged, ethnographic research on dramatic political events that eventually led to the military takeover in August 2020.

In total, LACET hosted three virtual seminars, and five in situ seminars and workshops during the year. The virtual seminars are attended by people across Africa and Europe with up to 40 participants each time. Seminars and workshops in situ and in persona have been attended by 50 to 100 people each.



*The engaged research on the Malian crisis focused, amongst other things, on its epicenters, including the Independence Square in the center of Bamako.*



*The LACET Seminar in Bobo-Dioulasso in November 2020 around the book *Security from below* in Burkina Faso drew some 70 participants.*



*The LACET Mali team that carried out research on the 2020 Malian Crisis.*



*The LACET Burkina Faso team met at the Nazi Boni University of Bobo-Dioulasso.*

The LACET has quickly emerged as one of the most dynamic research networks in and on West Africa. It allows Uppsala University to play a key role in fostering research and research training in innovative ways, as a way to decolonize research and higher education.

### **Collaboration within the U4Society and ENLIGHT Networks**

The U4Society is a university network consisting of five European universities with similar institutional profiles and interests, notably Uppsala University, Göttingen University (Germany), Ghent University (Belgium), University of Groningen (Netherlands), and University of Tartu (Estonia). It engages in a variety of collaborative activities in research and education, such as joint summer and winter schools, conferences, and workshops.

Since 2018, the Forum for Africa Studies has been involved in developing collaborations within the field of African Studies. During 2020, a larger European network was created that partly builds on U4Society, called the ENLIGHT Network. It encompasses the universities of the Basque Country (Spain), Bordeaux (France), Bratislava (Slovakia), and Galway (Ireland), in addition to the five U4Society universities. Together with Africa studies representatives at Göttingen University, Ghent University, and University of Groningen, Forum has been granted funding to organize a digital seminar series about diversity in academia. The series aims to engage all ENLIGHT partner universities and start in the autumn of 2021.

### **Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD)**

The Forum for Africa Studies is actively involved in SANORD. This was strengthened by Vice-Chancellor Eva Åkesson's strong commitment, which in turn led to Uppsala University's hosting of the 2016 SANORD Conference; the Forum for Africa Studies took the lead as main organizer of the Uppsala Conference. In 2020, Forum's chair-person, Véronique Simon, and its director, Sten Hagberg, submitted papers to the Bergen Conference in September, but as so many other events, the 2020 SANORD Conference was postponed due to the corona pandemic, and will take place in September 2021.

### **Publications: Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies**

In 2017, the Forum for Africa Studies launched the publication series [Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies](#), with the aim to publish, disseminate and make better known Africa research carried out at Uppsala University. Uppsala Papers in Africa Studies is simultaneously published online and in hard copy. The collaborative dimension – across disciplinary borders and in joint research work with African colleagues – is a leading ambition of the series. Publication languages are English, French and Swedish. Series Editor is Sten Hagberg. To date, six issues have been published.

The series is distributed to journals and bookstores, and sold at Uppsala University: <https://acta.mamutweb.com/Shop/List/-Uppsala-Papers-in-Africa-Studies/159/1>

### **Courses in African Studies**

In 2020, Forum was involved in the course Afrikanistik (30hp) that was first taught in the fall of 2017. From the spring of 2021, the course is taught in English and each of the course's four modules (à 7.5hp) can also be taken individually. Ulrika Trovalla and Sten Hagberg are coordinating the course with other Forum members involved: Anneli Ekblom, Nicklas Hållén, Dani Kouyaté, and Anna Baral.

As an attempt to orient students, Forum has started to compile [a list](#) of courses focusing on Africa, or at least with an important “African touch”.

### **International Conference on Beyond Crisis and Insecurity in West Africa**

Since 2019, Forum of Africa Studies has worked a lot with the conceptualization, preparation, fund-raising, organization, and evaluation of the papers for the 11th International Conference on Mande Studies that should have taken place in June 2020. Jointly hosted by the Mande Studies Association (MANSA), and the Forum for Africa Studies, the conference aims to explore the prospects for peace and progress in a region too often stereotyped as conflict-ridden and unstable. Over the last decades, West Africa has undergone multiple crises and insecurities, including civil war, population displacement, political turmoil, popular insurrection, and health epidemics. The Conference aims to produce new understandings of how West Africans assert their ability to mobilize resources from all domains of their lives in order to strategize and struggle to find solutions to ongoing challenges. The purpose is to stimulate scholarship that explores society and culture, so as, to highlight processes that build, construct, and affirm agency, peaceful coexistence, and social innovation.

More than 300 panel and paper abstracts were submitted to the conference abstract portal; 160 were accepted in early 2020. Yet due to the corona pandemic, the conference was rescheduled twice: first to January 2021, and then to June 2021. The conference will be organized as a webinar with 160 participants presenting papers in six parallel panels.

### **Other externally funded projects**

The Forum for Africa Studies’ management team is involved in a number of individual research projects. Coordinator Molly Sundberg works in Rwanda and Tanzania with questions pertaining to the aid industry; she obtained new funding for a three-year VR project on Ethics, Identity and Everyday Practice in For-Profit Aid in Tanzania and Sweden (2020-23). Coordinator Ulrika Trovalla is involved in an externally funded research project on the materiality of suspicion in city landscapes in Zambia and Nigeria.

Anthropologist Marie Deridder obtained a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship entitled NEGOMOBI: Negotiating Mobility in Mali and Burkina Faso 2020-2023. Deridder was granted the project in early 2020, and started the project in September. The project is placed at the Forum for Africa, and Sten Hagberg is Uppsala University supervisor of the NEGOMOBI.

Other externally funded projects have benefitted from the interdisciplinary research environment created by the Forum for Africa Studies. One example is Ashleigh Harris’ and Nicklas Hållén’s Swedish Research Council (VR) project on African Street Literature (2017-2020) that focuses on literary infrastructures and forms of literature that emerge and are shaped by the specific factors determining everyday life in sub-Saharan Africa’s megacities. Ashleigh Harris is board member of the Forum for Africa Studies, representing the Faculty of Languages. Other examples include PhD projects that are in various ways supported by the Forum, such as Oulia

Makkonen's research on religion in African cinema, and Henrik Makokha-Sandell's research on the use of vacuum extraction in emergency obstetric care in Tanzania.

### **Conclusion**

The Forum for Africa Studies has grown since its launch, and its scope has moved from a general mandate of making visible Uppsala University's research in and on Africa to the role as facilitator and active partner in various projects and programs. While collaboration and commitment are central tenets in Forum's mission, externally funded research projects are key to developing the center in terms of research and research training, teaching and public outreach.

The core funding of the Forum for Africa Studies is low. In 2020, Hagberg (0%), Sundberg/Bengtson/Makkonen (20%) and Trovalla (30%) have been running the secretariat. The Dept. of Education is supporting the Chairperson of the Forum for Africa Studies (Véronique Simon) through 5% teaching reduction. The low core funding means that many activities are dependent on external funding.

The Forum for Africa Studies has successfully applied for and obtained external grants. In 2020, the total amount of external funding administered by the Forum for Africa was some SEK 12 million for the programs in Mozambique (five years) and Burkina Faso (three years).<sup>2</sup> The collaboration with Uppsala University's International Division on student and staff mobility is strategic.

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<sup>2</sup> The total amount of external funding of the Mozambique programs in which the Forum for Africa Studies is involved include 40 million SEK in five years.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: List of Events 2020

- Friday 7 February, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies with Mats Målqvist, Professor of Global Health, Uppsala University, on “Proud to be a Siphilile Woman!”.
- Thursday 20 February, Book presentation in Bamako, Mali. “Sécurité par le bas: Perceptions et perspectives citoyennes des défis de sécurité au Burkina Faso,” by Hagberg, L.O. Kibora, S. Barry, Y. Cissao, S. Gnessi, A. Kaboré, B. Koné and M. Zongo.
- Friday 13 March, Open Lecture with Dr. Anna Baral, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Århus University, on “Love on the Move: Intimacy and mobility in Jinja (Uganda)”
- Saturday 14 March-Friday 20 March, Visit of Vice-rector of Nazi Boni University (Prof. Patrice Toé) visited Uppsala to plan the ERASMUS+ project supporting staff and student mobility.
- Tuesday 17 March, Launching of the LACET Virtual Seminar: “Vers une anthropologie comparative, engage et transnationale” with Prof. Sten Hagberg, Forum for Africa Studies, UU; Associate Professor Ludovic Kibora, Institute of Social Sciences, Ouagadougou; and Associate Professor Baba Coulibaly, Institute of Human Sciences, Bamako.
- Friday 3 April, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies with Artist Michel Östlund “Human Rights by Art: the First Exercise in Africa”.
- Friday 15 May, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies with Dr. Molly Sundberg, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University. “Development through Contracting? On Ethics, Identity and Everyday Practice in For-Profit Aid”.
- Monday 25 May, Virtual Seminar in African Studies: “Democracy and Public Engagement in Times of Crisis,” with Prof. Carla Braga, Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology, UEM and Prof. Sten Hagberg, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, UU.
- Tuesday 26 May, LACET Virtual Seminar: “Ethnographies des (in)sécurités” with Sten Hagberg, Ludovic Kibora, Yaouaga Félix Koné and Bintou Koné.
- Tuesday 25 August, LACET Virtual Seminar: “Alternance par la rue?” On engaged field research conducted on the Malian crisis in 2020 with Sten Hagberg, Baba Coulibaly, Bintou Koné, Yaouaga Félix Koné, N’gna Traoré, Almamy Sylla, Fatoumata Camara, Ludovic Kibora.
- Wednesday 16 September, LACET Writing Workshop, Mali, with Prof. Sten Hagberg on academic article writing and publishing held at the Institute des Sciences Humaines in Bamako, Mali.
- Wednesday 16 September, LACET Virtual Seminar: Pouvoirs des urnes, de la rue et de la barrack. Preliminary notes on a collaborative research on the Malian crisis with the LACET team: Sten Hagberg, Baba Coulibaly, Fatoumata Camara, Bintou Koné, Félix Koné, Almamy Sylla, and N’gna Traoré.
- Friday 25 September, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies with Dr. Linda Engström, Dept. of Urban and Rural Development, SLU. “Privatised Development Narratives? Reflections on the Ethnography of Aid Policy and Practice through a Large-Scale Agro-Investment in Tanzania”.
- Monday 28 September 2020, Virtual Seminar in African Studies: “Development in Neoliberal Times: Anthropological Critiques and Lessons from Rwanda”, with Anna Berglund, Dept. of Sociology, Division

of Social Anthropology, Lund University, and Molly Sundberg, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University

- Friday 9 October, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies with Oulia Makkonen, Clementina Amankwaah, and Ulrika Trovalla on "Images through the Lens of Colourism and Skin-lightening Practices".
- Tuesday 10 November, LACET Conference Debate on Security from below in Burkina Faso, around the book "Sécurité par le bas au Burkina Faso" with S. Hagberg, L.O. Kibora, S. Barry, Y. Cissao, S. Gnessi, A. Kaboré, B. Koné et M. Zongo.
- Friday 13 November, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies with Dr. Marie Deridder Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University. Presentation of the project "The Euro-African Migration, Development, Security Nexus in West Africa: Negotiating Mobility in Mali and Burkina Faso".
- Friday 27 November, Friday Seminar in Africa Studies with Prof. Sten Hagberg, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University on "Prospects for Peace and Democracy in Mali and Burkina Faso: Anthropological Engagements".
- Thursday 17 December, AIMday on Local Democracy, organized by the Forum for Africa Studies in collaboration with the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) and UU Innovation.
- December, publication of Johndotter S. (Eds.). 2020. Female Genital Cutting. The Global North and South pp. 259–287. Malmö: Centre for Sexology and Sexuality Studies, Malmö University.



## **Appendix 2: The Board and Management of the Forum for Africa Studies**

### The Board

Director: Professor Sten Hagberg

Faculty of Educational Sciences: Dr Véronique Simon, Chair (since July 2018)

Faculty of Languages: Associate Professor Ashleigh Harris

Faculty of Theology: Professor Kajsa Ahlstrand

Faculty of Law: Professor Daniel Stattin

Faculty of Arts: Associate Professor Anneli Ekblom

Faculty of Social Sciences: Associate Professor Anders Themnér

Faculty of Medical Sciences: Professor Birgitta Essén

Humanistiska Doktorandrådet: PhD Student Isis Lindfeldt

Medfarm: PhD Student Gbemisola Allwell-Brown

Student representatives: Oscar Rahm and Najma Abdi

### Management/Coordination

Director Professor Sten Hagberg

Coordinator Dr. Molly Sundberg (March-September)

Coordinator Dr. Ulrika Trovalla

Coordinator Dr. Erik Bengtson (January-March)

Assistant Oulia Makkonen (July-December)

## **Appendix 3: Externally funded projects hosted or co-hosted by the Forum for Africa Studies**

Four research training programs with Mozambique, totaling SEK 8 million (2017-22). Coordinator: Sten Hagberg

One commissioned research program 'Burkina Faso seen from below', totaling SEK 4,3 million (2018-20). Project leader: Sten Hagberg

Two ERASMUS+-projects: Nazi Boni University, Burkina Faso, totaling SEK 600.000 (2019-20), (Coordinator Sten Hagberg) and El Manar University, Tunisia, administered by the International Division (2018-21).

One VR UFORSK project Career Movements and Networks in Contractual Development Work: On Ethics, Identity and Everyday Practice in For-Profit Aid, totaling SEK 2,789,000 (2020-23). Project leader: Molly Sundberg.

One Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship entitled NEGOMOBI: Negotiating Mobility in Mali and Burkina Faso, totaling 305,778 euros (2020-2023). Project leader: Marie Deridder.

Do you want to know more?

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