

Fallou Ngom, PhD  
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## **EDUCATION**

PhD, French Linguistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2002  
MA, French (with emphasis on linguistics), University of Montana, 1997  
Maîtrise d'anglais, Grammaire et Linguistique, Université Gaston Berger, Sénégal, 1996  
Licence d'anglais, Grammaire et Linguistique, Université Gaston Berger, Sénégal, 1994  
DEUG d'anglais, Université Gaston Berger, Sénégal, 1993

## **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

Professor of Anthropology, Boston University, 2017-present  
  
Professor of Anthropology and Director, African Studies Center, Boston University, 2017-2020  
  
Associate Professor of Anthropology (with tenure) and Director, African Language Program,  
Boston University, 2008-2017  
  
Associate Professor of French and Linguistics, Western Washington University, 2007-2008  
  
Assistant Professor of French and Linguistics, Western Washington University, 2002-2007

## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Arabic & Ajami Archives of Africa  
Ajami Studies and Islam in Africa  
African Muslims in the Americas  
African Linguistics and Sociolinguistics  
Islam and African Traditional Religions

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Wolof	Written, spoken (native)
Mandinka	Written, spoken (fluent)
French	Written, spoken (fluent)
English	Written, spoken (fluent)
Fula (Fuuta Jalon variety)	Written, spoken (fluent)
Portuguese Creole (Crioulo)	Written, spoken (fluent)
Arabic	Conversational
Spanish	Conversational
Seereer	Conversational
Joola Fofñi	Basic

Mankagne  
Latin

Basic  
Good Knowledge (reading and writing)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Single-authored Books (in progress)

*Beyond African Orality: The 'Ajami Poetry of Sëriñ Mbay Jaxate* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)

*Beyond Rituals: The African Sufi Odyssey of Shaykh Ibra Faal* (in progress)

### Published Single-authored Books

*Muslims beyond the Arab World: The Odyssey of 'Ajami and the Muridiyya* (New York: Oxford University Press, July 2016).

**Winner of the 2017 Melville J. Herskovits Prize for the best scholarly book in African Studies.** Reviewed in International Journal of Middle East Studies, Islamic Africa, Journal of Islamic Studies, Reading in Religion, Religious Studies Review, and Research Africa Reviews.

*Lexical Borrowings as Sociolinguistic Variables in Saint-Louis, Senegal* (Munich, Germany: Lincom Europa Academic Publishers, 2006).

*Wolof—Languages of the World/Materials, No. 333* (Munich, Germany: Lincom Europa Academic Publishers, 2003).

*Phonetic and Phonological Description of Mandinkakan as Spoken in Ziguinchor* (Munich, Germany: Lincom Europa Academic Publishers, 2000).

### Special Issues and Edited Volumes

*Special Issue: 'Ajami Literacies of West Africa: Part 2*, edited by Fallou Ngom, Daivi Rodima-Taylor, David Robinson, and Rebecca Shereikis. Islamic Africa, Volume 15, No. 1 (Dec 21, 2023).  
<https://brill.com/view/journals/iafr/15/1/iafr.15.issue-1.xml>

*Special Issue: Ajami Literacies of Africa: Part 1*, edited by Fallou Ngom, Daivi Rodima-Taylor, David Robinson, and Rebecca Shereikis. Islamic Africa, Volume 14, No. 2 (2023).  
<https://brill.com/view/journals/iafr/14/2/iafr.14.issue-2.xml>

*Special Issue: Travelling Islam: The Circulation of Ideas in Africa*, edited by Annachiara Raia, Fallou Ngom, Mayke Kaag, and Maarten Kossmann. Islamic Africa, Volume 14, No. 1 (2023).  
<https://brill.com/view/journals/iafr/14/1/iafr.14.issue-1.xml>

*Edited Volume: The Palgrave Handbook of Islam in Africa*, edited by Fallou Ngom, Mustapha H. Kurfi and Toyin Falola (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020).

*Special Issue: 'Ajamiization of Islam in Africa*, edited by Fallou Ngom and Mustapha H. Kurfi, *Islamic Africa*, No. 8 (2017). <https://brill.com/view/journals/iafr/8/1-2/iafr.8.issue-1-2.xml>.

*Edited Volume: Facts, Fiction, and African Creative Imaginations*, edited by Toyin Falola and Fallou Ngom (New York, NY: Routledge, 2010).

*Edited Volume: Oral and Written Expressions of African Cultures*, edited by Toyin Falola and Fallou Ngom (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2009).

### **Peer-reviewed Articles and Book Chapters**

"African Language Archives and the Decolonization of African Studies," in *Langues Nationales, Culture et Enseignement au Sénégal et en Afrique: Mélanges offerts à Aram Fal*, edited by Anna Marie Diagne et Adjaratou Omar Sall, *Mémoire de l'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire* (forthcoming).

"Ahmadu Bamba," in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*, 1-28. January 30, 2024; <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.336>

"Introduction: 'Ajami Literacies of Africa: The Hausa, Fula, Mandinka, and Wolof Traditions,'" by Fallou Ngom, Daivi Rodima-Taylor, and David Robinson, in *Special Issue: Islamic Africa*, Volume 14, No. 2 (2023): 119-143. <https://doi.org/10.1163/21540993-20230002>

"The Geographic Spaces of 'Ajami in West Africa," by Karen Barton and Fallou Ngom, in *Special Issue: Islamic Africa*, Volume 14, No. 2 (2023): 144-161. <https://doi.org/10.1163/21540993-20230003>

Raia, Annachiara, Fallou Ngom, Mayke Kaag, and Maarten Kossmann. "Introduction to Travelling Islam", *Islamic Africa*, Volume 14, No. 1 (2023): 1-4, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/21540993-20230011>

"Introduction," in *The Palgrave Handbook of Islam in Africa*, edited by Fallou Ngom, Mustapha H. Kurfi and Toyin Falola (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), 1-15.

"Digital Archives for African Studies: Making Africa's Written Heritage Visible," in *Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age*, edited by Susan L. Mizruchi (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), 83-107.

"Beyond African orality: Digital preservation of Mandinka 'Ajami archives of Casamance," by Fallou Ngom and Eleni Castro, in *History Compass* (2019): 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12584>.

"Ajami Literacies of West Africa," in *Tracing Language Movement in Africa*, edited by Ericka A. Albaugh and Kathryn M. de Luna (Oxford University Press, 2018), 143-164.

"Introduction," by Fallou Ngom and Mustapha Kurfi, in *Special Volume: 'Ajamiization of Islam in Africa*, *Islamic Africa*, Volume 8 (2017): 1-12. [https://brill.com/view/journals/iafr/8/1-2/article-p1\\_1.xml?language=en&ebody=full%20html-copy1](https://brill.com/view/journals/iafr/8/1-2/article-p1_1.xml?language=en&ebody=full%20html-copy1).

“West African Manuscripts in Arabic and African Languages and Digital Preservation,” in *Oxford Research Encyclopedias: African History*, edited by Thomas Spear (Oxford University Press, 2017). <https://www.bu.edu/pardeeschool/files/2017/10/Oxford-Research-Encyclopedia-article.pdf>.

“Afterword,” in *African Asylum at a Crossroads: Activism, Expert Testimony, and Refugee Rights*, edited by Iris Berger, Benjamin Lawrence, Tricia Redeker Hepner, and Meredith Terretta (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2015), 247-256.

“Murid Ajami Sources of Knowledge: The Myth and the Reality,” in *From Dust to Digital: Ten Years of the Endangered Archives Programme*, edited by Maja Kominko (Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2015), 119-164.

“Sub-Saharan African Literature, ‘Ajāmī,” by Fallou Ngom and Alex Zito, in *Encyclopaedia of Islam III*, edited by Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Everett Rowson (Brill, 2013).

Review and update of “African Languages and Literatures: West Africa” (initially written by Mervyn Hiskett in 1994), in *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

“Popular Culture in Senegal: Blending the Secular and the Religious,” in *Music, Performance and African Identities*, edited by Toyin Falola and Tyler Fleming (New York: Routledge, 2012), 97-124.

“Murid Identity and Wolof Ajami Literature in Senegal,” in *Development, Modernism and Modernity in Africa*, edited by Augustine Agwuele (New York, NY: Routledge, 2012), 62-78.

“Ajami Scripts in the Senegalese Speech Community,” in *Journal of Arabic & Islamic Studies*, Volume 10, No. 1 (2010): 1-23.

“Taboo-Racism: The Mouride Perspective on Arabism,” in *Arena Journal*, Volume 33-34 (2010): 236-53.

“Ahmadu Bamba’s Pedagogy and the Development of Ajami Literature,” in *African Studies Review*, Volume 52, No. 1 (April 2009): 99-124.

“Forensic Language Analysis in Asylum Applications of African Refugees: Challenges and Promises,” in *Migrations and Creative Expressions in Africa and the African Diaspora*, edited by Niyi Afolabi, Toyin Falola, and Aderonke A. Adesanya (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2008), 219-237.

“Wolof,” in *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics*, Volume 4 (Brill, 2007): 723-725 (appeared online in 2011).

“Loanwords in the Senegalese Speech Community: Their Linguistic Features and Sociolinguistic Significance,” in *Language, Communication and Information*, Volume 1 (2006): 103-113.

“Les implications sociolinguistiques des emprunts du wolof au français,” in *Safara: Revue Internationale de Langues, Littératures et Cultures*, Volume 4 (2005): 147-164.

“Linguistic and Sociocultural Hybridization in Senegalese Urban Spaces,” in *Urbanization and African Cultures*, edited by Toyin Falola and Steve Salm (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2005), 279-294.

“Ethnic Identity and Linguistic Hybridization in Senegal,” in *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, Issue 170 (2004): 95-111.

“Guidelines for the Use of Language Analysis in Relation to Questions of National Origin in Refugee Cases,” with Diana Eades et al., in *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, Volume 11, No. 2 (2004): 261-266.

“The Social Status of Arabic, French and English in the Senegalese Speech Community,” in *Language Variation and Change*, Volume 15 (2003): 351-368.

“Fulani,” in *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century African History*, edited by Paul Tiyambe Zeleza and Dickson Eyoh (New York, NY: Routledge, 2003), 227-229.

“Linguistic Resistance in the Murid Community in Senegal,” in *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, Volume 23, No. 3 (2002): 214-226.

“Linguistic Borrowing as Evidence of the Social History of the Senegalese Speech Community,” in *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, Volume 158 (2002): 37-51.

“Les variables sociolinguistiques dans le journal satirique sénégalais: Le cafard libéré,” in *Journal of The American Association of Teachers of French*, Volume 75, No. 5 (2002): 914-924.

“Lexical Borrowings as Pathways to Senegal’s Past and Present,” in *Africanizing Knowledge: African Studies Across the Disciplines*, edited by Toyin Falola and Christian Jennings (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2002), 125-147.

“Pulaar,” in *Encyclopedia of the World’s Languages: Past and Present*, edited by Carl Rubino (New York: H.W. Wilson, 2001), 572-575.

“Sociolinguistic Motivations of Lexical Borrowings in Senegal,” in *Studies in the Linguistic Sciences*, Volume 30, No. 2 (2000): 159-172.

“Sociolinguistic Profile of the Senegalese Speech Community,” in *Studies in the Linguistic Sciences*, Volume 29, No. 1 (1999): 131-146.

### **Book Reviews and other Writings**

Mamadou Lo, *Un Aspect de la Poésie “Wolofal” Mouride: L’Éducation Morale et Spirituelle de l’Aspirant (al Murid) dans la Production de Sëriñ Mbay Jaxaté* (Paris/Dakar: L’Harmattan Senegal, 2020), *Islamic Africa* (2021): 1-4.

“Nàttoo di Kerkeraani Awliyā-i: Hardship is the Price of Sainthood: Excerpts from Muusaa Ka, with translation and scholarly context,” in *Bellingham Review*, Issue 80 (Spring 2020): 104-109.

Graziano Krätli and Ghislaine Lydon, eds, *The Trans-Saharan Book Trade: Manuscript Culture, Arabic Literacy and Intellectual History in Muslim Africa*, in *Medieval Encounters Journal: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* (Brill, 2018): 335-355.

“Deciphering Wolof Ajami Texts,” *British Library Endangered Archives Blog*: <http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/endangeredarchives/2016/01/deciphering-wolof-ajami-texts.html>.

“Remittances as Spiritual Investment: A Senegalese Perspective,” in *Perspectives in Financial Inclusion Series: African Diaspora and Remittances*, with Daivi Rodima-Taylor (Center for Finance, Law and Policy: Boston University, 2015), 5-6.

“Training in Less Commonly Taught Languages for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” *African Studies Association*: <http://www.africanstudies.org/blog?start=25>. March 19, 2014.

“Past Achievements and New Directions,” in *Boston University African Studies Center Newsletter*, Issue 3 (Fall 2013): 9-11.

“The African Ajami Library Project,” in *West African Research Association Newsletter* (2012): 5.

“Le corpus wolof de la littérature mouride: Un océan de sagesse et de baraka pour l’humanité,” in *Actes du 1<sup>er</sup> Colloque International du Grand Magal de Touba sur le Soufisme* (2012): 172-185.

“African Ajami Library-AAL,” in *BU African Studies Center Newsletter*, Issue 1 (2011): 6-11.

Anne Storch, *Secret Manipulations: Language and Context in Africa* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), in *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, Volume 17, No. 2 (2013): 247-250.

“Sample Ajami page of Sëriñ Muusaa Ka,” in *The History of Peoples: Recasting the Past: The UNESCO Courier*, NO. 8 (2009): 10.

“My Visit to Timbuktu: The City of the 333 Saints,” in *West African Research Association Newsletter* (Fall 2008): 13.

Bathie Ngoye Thiam, *Le parricide* (Paris: L’Harmattan, 2005), in *The Journal of The American Association of Teachers of French*, Volume 80, No. 4 (2007): 958-959.

“The Secular Use of Ajami Writings in Senegal,” in *West African Research Association Newsletter*, (Spring 2005): 17-18.

“Arabic-based Writing Scripts in Senegal,” in *West African Research Association Newsletter* (Fall 2004): 13.

*A Glossary of Mandinka*, translated from English into French by Fallou Ngom, Ablaye Diakité, and Kéba Tounkara (Dakar, Senegal: UNICEF, 1996), 1-162.

## CONFERENCES, LECTURES, AND SCHOLARLY PANELS

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Archives and Knowledge Production about Africa,” sponsored by the Program in African Studies & Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), Princeton University, March 21, 2024.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Beyond Oral Sources: Ajami Manuscripts as New Mines of African Knowledge,” Sesquicentennial Lecture sponsored by the Department of History and the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities, University of Memphis, November 9, 2023.

**(Invited panelist)**, “Omar: Scholar Perspectives on the Writings of an Enslaved African,” sponsored by the Boston Lyric Opera and the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, April 26, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cDRua880rM>.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Manuscripts on Magic: Healing, Divination, and Protection Techniques in Wolof & Mandinka Manuscripts,” Digital Lecture Series, British Library, March 6, 2023/ [via Zoom]. [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6lQZb2bmnsI\\_UzbVNv9gso\\_Rlye73E1J](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6lQZb2bmnsI_UzbVNv9gso_Rlye73E1J)

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Traditions of Africa,” sponsored by CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Centers) and WARC (West African Research Center), Dakar, Senegal, January 13, 2023 [via Zoom].

**(Keynote lecture)**, “Digital Archives of Muslim Africa: Making Africa’s Ajami Manuscripts Visible,” Digital Preservation of Religious Collections: Conversations and Collaborations, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, 30 June 2022 [via Zoom].

**(Keynote lecture)**, “African Languages as Pathways into African Knowledge Systems,” African Language Teachers Association Annual conference, April 16, 2022 [via Zoom].

**(Invited lecture)**, “L’Importance des Sources Ajami dans l’Étude de l’Afrique,” Unité de Recherche en Ingénierie Culturelle et en Anthropologie (URICA), Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal, September 17, 2021 [via Zoom].

**(Keynote lecture)**, “The Significance of Ajami Sources in the Study of Muslim Africa,” LUCIS keynotes, Leiden University, June 24, 2021 [via Zoom].

**(Opening lecture)**, “Book Launch: The Palgrave Handbook of Islam in Africa,” Islamic Studies Center, Duke University, May 14, 2021 [via Zoom].

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Archives of Muslim Africa: Their Significance in African Studies,” Insitute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University, May 5, 2021 [via Zoom].

**(Invited lecture)**, “African Ajami Sources: New Sources of Global and Humanistic Perspectives,” Translating Africa/Africa in Translation Symposium, Rutgers University, April 1, 2021 [via Zoom].

**(Keynote lecture)**, “The Odyssey of Ajami,” Center for African Studies, SOAS Festival of Ideas, University of London, October 19, 2020 [via Zoom].

**(Invited lecture)**, “Beyond African Oral Traditions: Ajami Sources as New Mines of African Knowledge,” Center for International Studies, Ohio University, February, 25, 2020.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Manuscripts and the Illusion of Illiteracy in Africa,” for the Faculty Development Seminar sponsored by CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Centers) and WARC (West African Research Center), Dakar, Senegal, January 10, 2020 [via Zoom].

**(Distinguished Lecture)**, “Beyond Orality: Non-Europhone Sources and African Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” The 62<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Marriot-Copley, Boston, November 22, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Beyond Oral Traditions: Lessons from Ajami Sources of Africa,” African Studies Center, Michigan State University, October 17, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “The New Field of Ajami Studies and the Transformation of African Studies,” National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, September 18, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Nàttoo di Kerkeraani Awliyā-i: Hardship is the Price of Sainthood,” Colloque: Le Contact entre Colonisateurs Européens et Colonisés Musulmans en Afrique de l’Ouest, Université de Nantes, France, June 26, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Beyond African Orality: Ajami Traditions of Muslim Africa,” The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA, April 12, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Beyond Orality: Ajami Sources of Knowledge in Muslim Africa,” Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, April 4, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Sources and African Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Association of African Studies Programs Spring Meeting, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC, March 29, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “The Odyssey of Ajami and the Muridiyya,” Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, March 11, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “West African Ajami Traditions: Longue Durée and Local Innovations,” The Transregional Politics of Literary Language: Comparative Work Across African and Asians Contexts, Harvard University, Boston, MA, February, 21, 2019.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Manuscripts and the Illusion of Illiteracy in Muslim Africa,” Faculty Development Seminar organized by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and the West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal, January 9, 2019.

**(Panel Chair)**, “Islam in Africa: Sectarianism, Identity-making and Local/Global Influences,” 61<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, December 1, 2018.



**(Invited lecture)**, “Manuscripts of Muslim Africa: Their Writers, Forms, and Contents,” The British Library, London, October 1, 2018.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Manuscripts as Major Sources of African Knowledge Systems,” Reason and Embodiement Conference, Universität Tübingen, September 28, 2018.

**(Invited lecture)**, “African Sources of Knowledge in Ajami Script: The Case of the Muridiyya,” University of California, Los Angeles, May 16, 2018.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Muslims Beyond the Arab World,” Comparative Approaches to the Literatures of Africa, the Middle East, and the Global South, New York University, May 7, 2018.

**(Invited lecture)**, “The Meaning of Arts in the Muridiyya Sufi Order of Senegal,” Sufi Stories of West Africa: Senegal’s Muridiyya, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 12, 2018.

**(Keynote lecture)**, “Non-Europhone Sources and Knowledge Production about Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Graduate Students in African Studies 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, Indiana University, March 24, 2018.

**(Invited lecture)**, “African Odysseys: African Languages, Arabic Scripts, and Epic Poetry in West Africa,” Vernacular Islam Workshop, University of Michigan, March 6, 2018.

**(Invited lecture)**, “The Odyssey of Ajami in Muslim Africa,” African Studies Center, University of Florida, Gainesville, March 2, 2018.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Muslims beyond the Arab World: Language, Arts, and Music in Senegal,” Forum for Scholars and Publics, Duke University, January 30, 2018.

(Panel Chair), “Ajami Sources of Sub-Saharan Africa,” The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 17, 2017.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Digital Scholarship: Challenges and Opportunities,” Recording Lives: Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age, Boston University Center for the Humanities, October 6, 2017.

**(Keynote lecture)**, “Language Analysis for the Determination of Origin (LADO): A New Subfield of Forensic Linguistics,” Education and Africa’s Transformation, Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, Nigeria, July 3, 2017.

**(Distinguished lecture)**, “Beyond ‘Europhone’ Sources: African Sources of Knowledge in Ajami and Indigenous Scripts,” Epistemology and Methodology: Seminar on Decoloniality, Faculty Distinguished Personality Lecture, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, June 30, 2017.

**(Invited lecture)**, “African Languages in Knowledge Production about Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges and Opportunities,” Distinguished Lecture Series, Lagos State University, Nigeria, June 28, 2017.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Forensic Linguistics and Asylum Seeking: Language Analysis for the Determination of Origin (LADO),” Rhodes College, April 26, 2017.

Discussant Professor Ousmane Kane’s book *Beyond Timbuktu: An Intellectual History of Muslim Africa* (Harvard University Press, 2016), Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, April 3, 2017.

**(Keynote lecture)**, “Languages and Scripts as Pathways into African Epistemologies,” The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Africa Conference at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, April 1, 2017.

**(Keynote lecture)**, “The African Library, the Europhone, and the Non-Europhone Intellectuals,” The First Conference of the Northeast Consortium for Programs in African Languages, Columbia University, March 25, 2017.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Sources of Knowledge: The Case of the Murdiyya Tradition,” Yale University Library's SCOPA group, Yale African Students Association, and Yale Muslim Students Association, Yale University, February 23, 2017.

**(Distinguished lecture)**, “Language Detectives: Forensic Linguistics in African Asylum Cases in Europe,” Schulze Speaker Series, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO January 17, 2017.

“Intellectual Self-Deportation in Post-Colonial Africa,” The 59th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, DC, December 3, 2016.

“Ajami Texts as Sources of African History,” The 59th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, DC, December 1, 2016.

**(Keynote lecture)**, “Language Analysis in Asylum Cases and African Ajami Literatures,” The South East, African Languages, and Literatures Forum (SEALLF) Conference, Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina, September 30, 2016.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Identifying, Collecting and Studying Ajami Manuscripts,” Ajami Workshop, Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Universität Hamburg, Germany, October 24-26, 2016.

“Ajami Sources and Knowledge Production about Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Innovation, Transformation, and Sustainable Futures in Africa Conference organized by the American Anthropological Association (AAA), the African Studies Association (ASA), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), and the West African Research Center (WARC), Novotel, Dakar, June 2, 2016.

“Visual Aesthetics of the Word in the Muridiyya,” Sacred Word: The Changing Meanings in Textual Cultures of Islamic Africa, Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University, Evanston, April 21, 2016.

“Ajami Literatures of East and West Africa Roundtable,” The 58th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, San Diego, California, November 20, 2015.

“Agencies of Cultural Patrimony: Elites and Cultural Archives in Africa Roundtable,” The 58th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, San Diego, California, November 20, 2015.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Emergent Frameworks in Language and Literature Studies Roundtable,” Beyond Medieval and Modern: Rethinking Global Paradigms of Political Economy and Culture, a Sawyer Seminar funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Thursday, October 22, 2015.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Ajami Literacies of Africa: Their Emergence, Expansion and Functions,” Mapping Language Movement in Africa, Bowdoin College, September 25, 2015.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Sanctified Suffering: The Response to Violence in Murid Ajami Poetry,” Islam and Peace: Perspectives from African Muslim Nonviolence Traditions Conference, Columbia University, September 12, 2015.

“A Shibboleth Test for Asylum Seekers: Language Analysis in Asylum Cases,” National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary, Hilton, Washington Dulles Airport, April 24, 2015.

“Ajami Writings as Major Sources of African Knowledge: The Case of the Murid tradition,” The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program Faculty Seminar Series, Harvard University, November 12, 2014.

**(Keynote lecture)**, “Ajami Sources of Knowledge and the Myth of Illiteracy of Africa,” Boston Pan-African Forum 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, UMass Boston, October 24, 2014.

“Ajami sources: ‘Writings of Illiterate Africans,’” African Languages in the Disciplines Conference, Harvard University, April 24, 2014.

“Islam and African Sources of Knowledge in Ajami Script,” Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations Faculty Lunch Talk, Boston University, April 7, 2014.

Language expert in the “Asylum and Expert Testimony Panel,” The 56th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, November 24, 2013.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Africa’s Sources of Knowledge in Ajami Scripts,” Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues, Dickinson College, March 21, 2013.

**(Invited lecture)**, “Enhancing the Reliability of Language Analysis for the Determination of Origin,” Department of French and the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 13, 2012.

**(Invited lecture)**, “African Languages in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities,” ESTEL: École Supérieure des Métiers du Management et des Langues, Dakar, Senegal,

December 21, 2012. "Language, Asylum Law, and International Migration," African Languages in the Disciplines Conference, Harvard University, April 20, 2012.

"Le corpus wolof de la littérature mouride: Un océan de sagesse et de baraka pour l'humanité," Le 1<sup>er</sup> Colloque International du Grand Magal de Touba sur le Soufisme, Hotel Méridien-Président, Dakar, Senegal, December 23-26, 2011.

**(Invited lecture)**, "Enhancing the Reliability of LADO: Examples from Fula and Wolof Cases," Research Seminar: Language Analysis of Asylum Applicants: Foundations, Guidelines and Best Practice, funded by UK Economic & Social Research Council, University of Essex, November 26, 2011.

**(Invited lecture)**, "Ajami Literary Traditions of West Africa," West African Muslims and their Contribution to U.S. Culture Symposium, Howard University, October 11, 2011.

"Ajami Literacy and the Myth of Illiteracy in Islamized Africa," African Languages in the Disciplines Conference, Harvard University, April 22, 2011.

**(Distinguished lecture)**, "African Sources of Knowledge in Non-Latin Scripts: The Case of Wolof Ajami in Senegambia," Africa Awareness: Distinguished Lecture, Bridgewater State University, March 24, 2011.

**(Invited lecture)**, "Opening the Ajami World to the World: West African Ajami Sources of Knowledge," Department of French and the Department of Linguistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 10, 2011.

**(Invited lecture)**, "West African Ajami Intellectual Traditions: The Case of Wolofal," Cosmopolitanism and Diversity in the African World Lecture Series, Kent State University, January 25-26, 2011.

**(Invited lecture)**, "Ajami Literary Traditions of Sahelian Africa: The Case of Wolofal," Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (CMENAS), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, January 12, 2011.

**(Invited lecture)**, "Wolofalu Soxna Maimunatu Mbàkke [The Wolof Ajami Poetry of a Sufi Woman: Soxna Maimunatu Mbàkke]," Sufi Literature of Senegambia: Texts and Contexts Workshop, organized by Northwestern University's Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa and WARC (West African Research Center), Dakar, Senegal, December 15-16, 2010.

"Wolof Cultural Autonomy and Ajami Literature in Murid Communities," Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference, Binghamton University, October 6-8, 2010.

**(Invited lecture)**, "International Migrations and the New Field of Forensic Linguistics," Séminaire International: Regards croisés sur les migrations féminines internationales et la protection sociale, Université Gaston Berger, Senegal, June 29-30, 2010.

(Panel chair), "Culture and Society Session," Good News from Africa, Pardee Center for the Study of Longer-Range Future, Boston University, April 16, 2010.

**(Invited lecture),** “African Ajami Sources of Knowledge and Contemporary African Studies Scholarship,” Crossroads: Migration, Language, and Literature in Africa, Center for African Studies, Rutgers University, February 26, 2010.

“The Sufi Orders of Senegal,” Fulbright Hays lecture to 16 American teachers traveling to Senegal, sponsored by WARA (West African Research Association) and the US Department of Education, Boston University, June 27, 2009.

**(Keynote lecture),** “African Languages & Linguistics and Knowledge Production about Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 9, 2009.

“Murid Wolof Ajami: the Scholars, their Work and Research Methods,” The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 13-16, 2008.

“Les potentialités de recherche et d’enseignement en ajami en Afrique de l’ouest: Le cas de la tradition wolofal au Sénégal,” Bibliothèque de Manuscrits Mamma Haidara, Timbuktu, Mali, July 28, 2008. Trip organized and funded by the U.S. Embassies in Dakar and Bamako, Mali through the Fulbright Exchange Program.

**(Invited lecture),** “Le système éducatif américain: Quelles perspectives et contraintes pour le modèle sénégalais?” West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal, June 5, 2008. Talk sponsored by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Senegal.

(Invited lecture with Jeanne L. Clark, Vice Consul of the US Embassy in Senegal), “Études aux U.S.A,” CESAG: Centre Africain d’Études Supérieures en Gestion, Dakar, Senegal, April 23, 2008. Talk sponsored by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Senegal.

(Invited lecture with Joseph W. Lanning, World Education Fund Director), “Les stratégies de réussite dans le processus sélectif d’inscription dans les universités américaines,” Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Senegal, November 14, 2007. Talk sponsored by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Senegal.

“Popular Culture in Senegal: Blending the Secular and the Religious,” Popular Culture in Africa Conference, University of Texas at Austin, March 30-April 1, 2007.

“Ajami in Africa: the Research and Educational Potentials,” The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, San Francisco, November 16-19, 2006.

“Enhancing the Reliability and Objectivity of Language Analyses in Asylum Cases: An English-Speaking Asylum Seeker Claiming to Come from Sierra Leone,” Second European International Association of Forensic Linguists Conference, Institut Universitari de Lingüística Aplicada, Barcelona, September 14-16, 2006.

“Language Analysis in Asylum Cases: A Recent Development in Forensic Linguistics,” Distinguished Lecture Series, Western Washington University, April 12, 2006.

“Forensic Language Analysis in Asylum Applications of African Refugees: Challenges and Promises,” Conference on Movements, Migrations and Displacements in Africa, University of Texas at Austin, March 24-26 2006.

“Issues in Using Sociolinguistic Evidence to Determine Nationality: The Case of a Sierra Leonean Fula Asylum Seeker,” Language and Law 2005 Conference: East Meets West, University of Lodz, Poland, September 13, 2005.

“Forensic Linguistics: A Question and Answer Introduction to a Rapidly Growing Field,” The Linguistics Speaker Series, Western Washington University, Fall 2005.

“Arabic-based Scripts in Senegalese Muslim Communities: The Case of Wolofal,” Annual Meeting of Michigan Linguistic Society, University of Michigan-Flint, October 16, 2004.

“Wolof Variation and Change in the Senegalese Speech Community,” The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Harvard University, April 02-04, 2004.

“Arabic-based Scripts in the Senegalese Speech Community,” The Linguistics Speaker Series, Western Washington University, Fall 2004.

“Les variétés linguistiques du français au Sénégal et leurs implications sociolinguistiques,” Association for French Language Studies Symposium, Université de Tours, France, September 25-27, 2003.

“Linguistic and Socio-cultural Hybridization in Senegalese Urban Spaces,” The African Urban Spaces: History and Culture Conference, University of Texas at Austin, March 28-30, 2003.

“Art and Culture in West African Societies,” The Japan Week 2003 Symposia and Special Lectures, Western Washington University, April 28-May 1, 2003.

“Language and Identity in Senegal,” International Conference on Language and Identity, Baruch College, New York, October 2-5, 2002.

(With Zsuzanna Fagyal and Samira Hassa), “On the Prosodic Conditioning of the [ɛ]-[e] Merger in Open-syllables in Parisian French,” NWAV (New Ways of Analyzing Variation), North Carolina State University, October 2001.

“Learners’ Individual Differences in Language Classrooms,” The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual African Language Teachers Association Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Spring 2001.

“Lexical Borrowings as Pathways to Senegal’s Past and Present,” Pathways to Africa’s Past Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2001.

“Lexical Borrowings as Sociolinguistic Variables,” The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania Linguistic Colloquium, Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2001.

“The Sociolinguistic Motivations of Lexical Borrowings in Senegal,” The Thursday Linguistic Seminar, Department of Linguistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Fall 2000.

“Religious and Linguistic Behaviors as Means of Anti-Colonial Resistance in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of the Murids,” The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Boston University, Spring 2000.

“Les variables sociolinguistiques dans le journal satirique sénégalais: Le cafard libéré,” The 3<sup>rd</sup> University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate Student Conference on African and African Diaspora Issues, Spring 2000.

“Linguistic Resistance as an Expression of Political, Cultural and Religious Resistance in Senegal,” The African Studies International Conference, Michigan State University, Fall 1999.

“Wolof Native Speakers' Problems in the Acquisition of English Situation-bound Utterances,” International Pragmatic Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Fall 1997.

“Multilingualism in Africa: The Example of Senegal,” The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Foreign Languages Days, University of Montana, Missoula, Spring 1997.

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES WORKS AND AJAMI STUDIES

- *NEH Project Resources*: Led the research, selection, Latin script transcriptions, annotated translations into French and English of 80 major West Ajami manuscripts, video recitations of selected poems, and making them available worldwide through a multimedia website. Completion date: November 30, 2022: <https://sites.bu.edu/nehajami/>
- *African Ajami Library (AAL)*: founder and leader of the African Ajami Library, the largest digital archives of African Ajami texts in North America. The site hosts over 30,000 pages of African manuscripts and has been visited by over 637,000 people around the world as of November 15, 2023. These materials are among the most consistently accessed on OpenBU. For their global impact, click on “show statistical information” at the bottom of the webpage: <https://open.bu.edu/handle/2144/1896>
- *Ajami Workbooks*: led the effort to develop pioneering instructional materials for Ajami literacy at BU: (1) Fallou Ngom and Alex Zito, *Diving Into the Ocean of Wolofal: The First Workbook in Wolofal—Wolofal Ajami* (Boston, MA: African Studies Center, Boston University, 2010); and (2) Mustapha Kurfi, *A Practical Guide to Learning Hausa Ajami*, supervised by Fallou Ngom and Peter Quella (Boston, MA: African Studies Center, September 2017).

- *African Proverbs Project*: led the effort to develop multimedia instructional materials for advanced Amharic, Hausa, Wolof, IsiZulu, IsiXhosa, and Swahili learners (six priority languages as defined by the US Department of Education): <http://www.bu.edu/africa/alp/african-proverbs-project/>
- *The 200-Word Multimedia Project*: Led the effort to develop multimedia instructional materials to improve first-year students' recognition and pronunciation of 200 common keywords across our six priority African languages: <http://www.bu.edu/200word/>
- *African Language Materials Archive (ALMA)*: Contributed to the work of ALMA: <http://alma.matrix.msu.edu/alma-authors#ajami>
- *Africa's Sources of Knowledge (ASK-DL)*: Collaborated with the Director of the African Language Program at Harvard University to document African languages written in Ajami script (Wolof and Mandinka): <http://www.ask-dl.fas.harvard.edu/>
- *African Online Digital Library (AODL)*: Collaborated with MATRIX at Michigan State University and West African Research Association at Boston University to develop multimedia galleries exemplifying Ajami literacies and peaceful Muslim practices in Senegambia: <https://aodl.org/islamictolerance/>

## RESEARCH AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Field trips in Wolof, Mandinka, and Fulani communities of West Africa, 2004-present
- Archival research in Trinidad and Barbados, Summer 2022
- Participant in *The Fifth International Summer School in Forensic Linguistic Analysis* at the University of Lodz, Poland, September 7-11, 2005
- Research Assistant in Acoustic Phonology using CSL (Computerized Speech Laboratory) to study changes in French phonology, Department of French, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Spring & Summer 2001
- Volition Inc. Freelance French Language Tester responsible for identifying ungrammatical structures, Fall 2001
- Dissertation fieldwork in Saint-Louis, Senegal to interview and record 200 Wolof speakers, describe the phonological, lexical and other linguistic traits in their spontaneous speech, and study their sociolinguistic significance, Senegal, Fall 2000
- Certificate of Completion of Study in African Language Program Administration, delivered by the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC) and the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA), University of Wisconsin, Madison, July 2000
- Freelance Abstractor for Linguistics and Language Behaviors Abstracts, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Western Region Office, San Diego California, Summer 2001
- Internship in Linguistic Competence in Six Senegalese National Languages, 1995-1996
- MA thesis fieldwork in the Republic of Guinea Bissau to collect Mandinka spontaneous speech and compare it with that of speakers in Ziguinchor, Senegal, and to write a comparative phonological description of the language, Summer 1995
- Participant in Advanced and Vocational Training in Foreign Language Teaching Methods, Centre de Linguistique Appliquée de Dakar (CLAD), Dakar, Senegal, 1995



## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- PI, Project EAP1430: Digital Preservation of Fuuta Jalon Scholars' Arabic and Ajami Materials in Senegal and Guinea. British Library Endangered Archives Programme. Duration: May 2023-May 2025. Amount awarded: £107,920 (\$129,504)
- PI, Project RIA: Readers in Ajami and Companion Multimedia Website. US Department of Education. Duration: 10/01/2020-09/30/2023. Amount awarded: \$178,900
- PI, Ajami Literature and the Expansion of Literacy and Islam: The Case of West Africa, National Endowment for the Humanities: Collaborative Research Grants. Duration: 09/01/2019-12/31/2022. Amount awarded: \$250,000
- PI, Boston University National Resource Center for Africa, US Department of Education. Duration: 08/15/2018-08/14/2022. Amount awarded: \$994,000
- PI, Boston University Foreign Language and Area Studies program, US Department of Education. Duration: 08/15/2018-08/14/2022. Amount awarded: \$ 1,212,000
- PI, Project EAP1042: Digital Preservation of Mandinka Ajami Materials of Casamance, Senegal, British Library Endangered Archives Programme. Duration: 01/01/2018-03/31/2019. Amount awarded: £44,000 (\$57,000)
- PI, Project EAP334: Digital Preservation of Wolof Ajami Manuscripts of Senegal, British Library Endangered Archives Programme. Duration: 07/10/2011-02/09/2012. Amount awarded: £20,630 (\$33,307.16)
- Guggenheim Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 01/10/2012-12/31/2012. Amount awarded: \$40,000
- Fulbright Lecturing and Research Fellowship, US Department of State. Duration: 2007-2008. Awarded amount: \$71,600
- ACLS/SSRC/NEH International Area Studies Post-doctoral Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies. Duration: Fall 2004. Amount awarded: \$19,500

## AWARDS AND HONORS

### Selected US-based Honors

- Awarded the 2024 Provost's Scholar-Teacher of the Year, Boston University
- My chapter, "West African Manuscripts in Arabic and African Languages and Digital Preservation," is part of *Oxford Encyclopedia of African Historiography: Methods and Sources* that won the 2021 Leland Prize of the American Historical Association
- My NEH Grant Proposal Featured as a Model for future applicants by the NEH Collaborative Research Grant Program, 2020
- Invited Distinguished Lecture, African Studies Association, November 22, 2019

- Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Faculty Member, BU Chapter, inducted on May 18, 2018
- Nominee for the Metcalf award for excellence in teaching, 2018
- Invited Keynote Lecture, Columbia University, March 25, 2017
- Invited Distinguished Lecture, University of Northern Colorado, January 17, 2017
- Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award, University of Texas, Austin, 2017
- Winner of the 2017 Melville Herskovits Prize of the best book in African studies for *Muslims beyond the Arab World* (Oxford University Press, 2016)
- Special Recognition Award in Appreciation of Outstanding Service & Commitment to the African Studies Association Board of Directors, November 2015
- Plaque in Recognition of Outstanding Scholarship in the Area of African Languages, History, and Culture and Leadership and Commitment to the Promotion of Pan Africanist Ideals, Boston Pan African Forum, Inc., October 24, 2014
- John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship Award, 2011
- Nominated and elected as member of the board of directors of the African Studies Association (ASA), the flagship organization for Africanist scholars, 2012-2014
- Fulbright Lecturing & Research Award to Senegal, 2007-2008
- American Council of Learned Societies International Area Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship to study Ajami literacy in Senegambia, Fall 2004
- West African Research Association (WARA) Post-doctoral Fellowship to conduct fieldwork in Senegambia, West Africa, 2004
- Phi Kappa Phi, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, initiated in 2001

### **Selected International Honors**

- Invited as a Language Expert by LINGUA (a unit of the Swiss government), Bern, Switzerland, Sep 17-22, 2006; Jul 29-Aug 7, 2013; and Aug 28-Sept 1, 2023
- Editorial Board Member by invitation, Oxford Research Encyclopedias, 2016-present
- Advisory Board Member by invitation, Islamic Africa journal, 2015-present
- Advisory Board Member by invitation, Language & Asylum Research Group, 2011-now
- Invited Keynote Lecture, Royal Irish Academy, June 30, 2022
- Invited Keynote Lecture, Leiden University, June 24, 2021
- Invited Keynote Lecture, SOAS, University of London, October 19, 2020
- Invited Lecture, British Library, London, October 1, 2018
- My article, “Murid Ajami Sources of Knowledge: The Myth and the Reality,” included in 19 peer-reviewed publications selected (out of 244 projects) to showcase the significance of the works supported by the British Library Endangered Archives Programme, 2015
- Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Performance as a Fulbright Scholar, College of Arts and Sciences, Université Gaston Berger, Senegal, July 2008

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **At Boston University**

- AN 312-Peoples and Cultures of Africa
- AN 327-Islam in Africa
- AN 521-Sociolinguistics (cross-listed with LX 341/LX 641)
- AN 524-Language Contact in Africa

- AN 532-Literacy and Islam in Africa

### **At Université Gaston Berger of Saint-Louis, Senegal**

- Seminar in Language Variations
- Seminar in Phonetics and Phonology
- Seminar in Sociolinguistics
- Seminar in Structures of African Languages
- Seminar in Syntax

### **At Western Washington University**

- French Phonetics and language
- Generative Phonology
- Seminar in Forensic Linguistics
- Seminar in Sociolinguistics
- Seminar in the History of French

## **SERVICE**

### **Service to Boston University**

- Financial Aid Committee (FLAS Fellowships), African Studies, Fall 2009-present
- Fulbright Student Program Review Committee, Provost Office, Fall 2018-present
- Appointment and Promotion Reviews, Department of Anthropology, 2019-present
- Faculty Grievance Committee, Provost Office, Fall 2021-present
- Visiting Researchers Committee, African Studies, June 25, 2021-present
- APT (Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure), CAS, September 2023-August 2024
- UAPT (University Appointments, Promotion, & Tenure), Fall 2021-May 2023
- APR (Academic Program Review), Provost Office, Nov 28, 2023-Dec 1, 2023
- Ad Hoc Committee Member for Promotion to Professor, Linguistics, BU, 2023
- Search Committee, Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Oct 2022-Feb. 2023
- MLK Jr. and Whitney Young Fellowship Committee, Provost Office, 2014-2022
- Search Committee, Africanist, History Department, Fall 2021-February 1, 2022
- Faculty Mentor, Fulbright Scholar from Mali, September 11, 2021-June 11, 2022
- Director, African Studies Center, Boston University, July 2017-June 2020
- Executive Committee Member, BU Center for the Humanities, 2017-2020
- Chair, Outreach Manager Search Committee, African Studies, Spring 2019
- Faculty Mentor, Fulbright Scholar from Russia, August 31, 2018-May 31, 2019
- BU Librarian Search Committee, Provost Office, Fall 2017-Spring 2018
- Chair, Assistant Director Search Committee, African Studies, Fall 2017
- Search Committee, Wein Chair in African American Studies, CAS, Fall 2016-Spring 2017
- Graduate Admission and Aid Committee, Anthropology, 2010-2017
- Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, CAS, Fall 2014
- Search Committee Member for a Europeanist Anthropologist, Fall 2010
- Search Committee Member for an Africanist Anthropologist, Fall 2009

- Initiated the signing of the MOU between Boston University/Gaston Berger University of Saint-Louis, Senegal to facilitate faculty research and enable BU FLAS fellows to participate in intensive language programs in Senegal, Spring 2009
- Search Committee for Director, African Studies, Fall 2008-Spring 2009
- Lecturer Promotion Committee, CAS, Fall 2008

### **MA and PhD Theses Committees and Exams**

- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Margaret Rowley, Ethnomusicology, May 16, 2023
- PhD Prospectus Defense Committee, Aizaz Younas, Anthropology, May 9, 2023
- PhD Prospectus Defense Committee, Martin Aucoin, Anthropology, December 13, 2022
- PhD Qualifying Exam Committee, Ousmane Cisse, Linguistics, September 5, 2022
- PhD Qualifying Exam Committee, Nairan Wu, Linguistics, July 23, 2022
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Gana Ndiaye, Anthropology, June 15, 2022
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Emily Williamson, Anthropology, June 15, 2022
- PhD Prospectus Defense Committee, Mahtab Sirdani, Anthropology, Dec 1, 2021
- PhD Qualifying Exam Committee, Mahtab Sirdani, Anthropology, May 17, 2021
- PhD Prospectus Defense Committee, Anya Bounar, Anthropology, June 17, 2021
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Sheila Otieno, School of Theology, April 19, 2021
- PhD Qualifying Exam Committee, Anya Bounar, Anthropology, November, 2020
- MA Thesis Defense Committee, Corina Moron, Pardee School, September 11, 2020
- MA Thesis Defense Committee, Mary G. Rezk, Pardee School, April 8, 2020
- MA Thesis Defense Committee, Kira Levin, Pardee School, April 1, 2020
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Claire S. Lim, Political Science, March 27, 2020
- PhD Qualifying Exam Committee, Josh Castillo, History, December 12, 2019
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Mimi M. Stith, Anthropology, December 4, 2019
- PhD Qualifying Exam Committee, Gana Ndiaye, Anthropology, October 7, 2019
- PhD Qualifying Committee, Margaret Rowley, Ethnomusicology, May 13, 2019
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Sarah Westwood, History, May 2, 2018
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Mustapha Kurfi, Sociology, March 19, 2018
- PhD Prospectus Defense Committee, Claire S. Lim, Political Science, May 30, 2017
- PhD Prospectus Defense Committee, Mimi Stith, Anthropology, September 3, 2015
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Lynsey Farrel, Anthropology, May 11, 2015
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Alex Zito, University Prof. Program, Nov. 16, 2011
- MA Mandinka Language Exam, Justin Tinsey, International Relations, Fall 2010
- PhD Pulaar Language Exam, Sarah Westwood, History, Fall 2010
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Nicole Hayes, Anthropology, Fall 2010
- PhD Dissertation Defense Committee, Shelby Carpenter, Anthropology, Summer 2010
- PhD Prospectus Defense Committee, Alex Zito, University Prof. Program, Spring 2009
- PhD Prospectus Defense Committee, Arianna Fogelman, Anthropology, Fall 2009

### **Service to the Profession**

- Peer reviewer, ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Innovation Fellowships, Dec 1, 2022-Jan 9, 2023
- Advisory Board, National African Language Resource Center (NALRC), 2018-2022
- Advisory Board, African Language Materials Archive (ALMA), 2005-2022

- External review for promotion, Brandeis University, May 25-August 15, 2022
- NEH review panel, Collaborative Research Grant, January 4, 2022-March 31, 2022
- External reviewer, Title VI National Resource Center, Howard University, Spring 2022
- External evaluator for promotion & tenure, University of Colorado, Boulder, Summer 2021
- External evaluator for promotion to Master Lecturer, University of Florida, Summer 2021
- Steering Committee Member, Second International Colloquium on African Studies jointly organized by BU's African Studies Center, the Program of Studies on Asia and Africa of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and UMass Boston, Spring 2021
- Best Article Committee, African Studies Review, October 15-31, 2021
- African Studies Review Committee for the Best Africa-focused Anthology, 2020-2021
- External reviewer for promotion and tenure, University of Illinois at UC, Summer 2020
- Editorial Review Board, African Studies Review, January 2018-December 31, 2020
- African Studies Association Committee for the Best book prize, Fall 2019-Spring 2020
- External reviewer for a senior faculty above-scale promotion, UCLA, August 2018
- External reviewer for promotion, University of Florida, July 2018
- Program co-chair, Africa in the World, jointly organized by the American Anthropological Association and African Studies Association, Johannesburg, SA, 2017-2018
- American Anthropological Association and African Studies Association Planning Meeting for South Africa 2018, Baltimore, May 11, 2017
- Member of the Steering Committee and one of the founding members of Islam in Africa Studies Group (IASG), December 3, 2016-November 2017
- External reviewer, Federally funded African Language Program, Howard University, 2016
- Led Boston University's team to host the Northeast Regional Consortium of Programs in African Languages (NERCPAL), April 12, 2014 and February 26-27, 2016
- Board of Directors of African Studies Association, 2012 to 2014
- West African Research Association Finance/Development Committee, Spring 2013
- Reviewer, abstracts for ALTA (African Language Teachers Association) Annual Conference, January 8-11, 2011
- Search Committee member, Coordinator of the Library of Congress West African Acquisitions Pilot Project, December 2010
- Fulbright Scholar Resource Person to share experience with 66 outgoing Fulbright lecturers and researchers, June 25-26, 2009
- Fellowship Committee, West African Research Association, 2008-2009
- Board of Directors, West African Research Association, 2006-2009

### **External Reviews for Journals, Publishers, and Professional Organizations**

- Reviewed book manuscript for Indiana University Press, August 1-December 23, 2022
- Reviewed book manuscript for University of North Carolina Press, Feb 22-June 11, 2022
- Reviewed for Oxford Research Encyclopedias: African History, September 2020
- Reviewed article for Oral Tradition journal, May 2020
- Reviewed book manuscript for Ohio University Press, August 29, 2019
- Reviewed book proposal for Oxford University Press, May 27, 2019
- Review article for African Studies Review, March 31, 2019 and May 2020
- Reviewed book manuscript for University of Michigan Press, January 27, 2019
- Reviewed abstracts for 2018 ASA/AAA conference, Joburg, SA February 18, 2018

- Reviewed for Oxford Research Encyclopedias: African History, August 5, 2017
- Reviewed book proposal for Cambridge University Press, June 4, 2017
- Reviewed Abstracts for Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics, April 3, 2017
- Reviewed for Revue Internationale de Langues, Littératures et Cultures, Fall 2016
- Reviewed for Bloomsbury Publishing, Fall 2016
- Reviewed for Islamic Literatures: Texts and Studies Series, Brill, Fall 2016
- Reviewed for Palgrave Macmillan, Summer 11, 2014
- Reviewed for Africa Today journal, Spring 2011
- Reviewed for Islamic Africa journal, Spring 2011 and Summer 2020
- Reviewed for Journal of African Language Learning and Teaching, 2010-2011
- Reviewed for History Compass journal, Summer 2010
- Reviewed for Canadian Journal of African Studies, Fall 2010
- Reviewed 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics Proceedings, Spring 2010
- Reviewed for University of Rochester Press, Spring 2009
- Reviewed for Journal of African Languages and Linguistics, Winter 2007
- Reviewed for National African Language Resource Center (NALRC), 2002

### **External Reviews for Foundations and Government Agencies**

- Reviewed the US Census Bureau's classification list for the Black/African American population and made recommendations for improvement, September 4, 2014
- Reviewed for the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa, August 29, 2014
- Reviewed for the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council, Canada, 2009 and 2014
- Reviewed Linguistics applicants, Fulbright Scholars Program, 2011; 2012; and 2013
- Reviewed for the National Science Foundation (NSF), August 8-26, 2012
- Field reader for the US Department of Education, International Research and Studies, March 1-12, 2010

### **SELECTED WORKS FEATURED IN MEDIA OUTLETS**

- “What might you learn if you discovered a hidden language?,” BBC News World Service, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0gj91g>
- “Unearthing a Long-Ignored African Writing System,” Brink, Boston University, <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2022/fallou-ngom-discovers-ajami-african-writing-system/>
- “An African Spiritual Odyssey: The Ajami Traditions of African Islam,” Akbar’s Chamber: Experts Talk Islam with Nile Green (UCLA), <https://akbarschamber.podbean.com/e/an-african-spiritual-odyssey-the-ajami-traditions-of-african-islam/>
- “African Studies Review Distinguished Lecture, Fallou Ngom (2019),” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BxeeOHgbCE>
- “Eye on Africa,” October 17, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibML-qA0x5s>
- “A Key to Human Knowledge,” *Fall 2019 Arts and Sciences Magazine*, <https://www.bu.edu/cas/arts-sciences/fall-2019/a-key-to-human-knowledge/>

- “Digital Preservation of Mandinka Ajami Materials of Casamance, Senegal,” *British Library Endangered Archives Programme*, <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP1042>
- “Digital Preservation of Wolof Ajami Materials of Senegal,” *British Library Endangered Archives Programme*, <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP334>
- “Ajami-Tradition in Afrika-Auf der Suche nach der vergessenen Schrift,” <https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten/heute/auf-der-suche-nach-der-vergessenen-schrift-in-afrika-100.html>
- “Libraries and Archives Meet the Digital Age,” *Center for the Humanities, Boston University*: <https://www.bu.edu/today/2017/recording-lives-in-the-digital-age/>
- “Ajami Digital Scholarship: Challenges and Opportunities,” *Recording Lives: Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age*, October 6, 2017, Boston University: <http://sites.bu.edu/humanitiesforums/fallou-ngom/>
- “Nos archives sont des désastres,” *Interview with BBC Afrique*, June 9, 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/afrique/region-40340963>
- “Episode 108: Ajami in African History,” *Africa Past & Present-African Online Digital Library (AODL)*, March 3, 2017, <http://afripod.aodl.org/tag/fallou-ngom/>
- “Crossing Borders,” *Fall 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Magazine*, <http://www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/fall14/languages/>
- “African Sources of Knowledge in Ajami Script,” *Clark Forum for Contemporary Issues Lecture at Dickinson College*, <http://clarke.dickinson.edu/fallou-ngom/>
- “The Other Side of the Story,” *2012 Boston University Research Magazine*, <http://www.bu.edu/research/magazine/2012/paper-trails/the-other-side-of-the-story/index.shtml>
- “The Rest is Poetry,” *2011 College of Arts and Sciences Magazine*, <http://www.bu.edu/cas/magazine/fall11/poetry/index.shtml>
- “African Language Scholar Wins Guggenheim Fellowship,” *BU Today*, <http://www.bu.edu/today/2011/african-language-scholar-wins-guggenheim-fellowship/>
- “The Lost Script,” *The Boston Globe*, [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/01/10/the\\_lost\\_script/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/01/10/the_lost_script/)
- “African Ajami Writing System,” *The World*, <http://www.pri.org/stories/2010-09-17/africas-ajami-writing-system>
- “Found in Translation,” *2009 Boston University Research Magazine*, <http://www.bu.edu/research/news-events/research-magazine/2009-toc/highlights/muslim-mosaic/>

- “Lost Language,” *Summer 2009 Bostonia Magazine*, <http://www.bu.edu/bostonia/summer09/ajami/>
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## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS**

- American Academy of Religion
- American Anthropological Association
- West African Research Association
- Affiliated faculty, BU Linguistics Program

**REFERENCES:** Available upon request