

## **Fallou Ngom, PhD**

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Director, African Language Program  
African Studies Center, Boston University  
270 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215

### **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 de Saint-Louis, Sénégal, 1996  
Licence d'anglais, Grammaire et Linguistique, Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Sénégal, 1994  
DEUG d'anglais, Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Sénégal, 1993

### **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

Tenured Associate Professor of Anthropology, and Director, African Language Program, Boston University, January 2008 – Present

Fulbright Lecturing and Research Scholar, Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Senegal, October 2007 – July 2008

Tenured Associate Professor of French and Linguistics, Western Washington University, Fall 2007 – January 2008

Assistant Professor of French and Linguistics, Western Washington University, 2002-2007

### **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Islam in Africa  
Ajami traditions of Africa  
Arabic and Ajami manuscripts in the Americas produced by enslaved Africans  
Interactions between African and non-African languages and cultures  
Language analysis for the determination of origin (LADO)  
Language variation and change in Africa

### **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	Basic
Latin	Good Knowledge (reading and writing)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Muslims beyond the Arab World: The Odyssey of 'Ajamī and the Murīdiyya* (Oxford University Press, expected May 2016).

(Co-edited with Toyin Falola) *Facts, Fiction, and African Creative Imaginations* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2010), 332 pages.

(Co-edited with Toyin Falola) *Oral and Written Expressions of African Cultures* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2009), 223 pages.

*Lexical Borrowings as Sociolinguistic Variables in Saint-Louis, Senegal* (Munich, Germany: Lincom Europa Academic Publishers, 2006), 188 pages.

*Wolof—Languages of the World/Materials, No. 333* (Munich, Germany: Lincom Europa Academic Publishers, 2003), 111 pages.

*Phonetic and Phonological Description of Mandinkakanj as Spoken in Ziguinchor* (Munich, Germany: Lincom Europa Academic Publishers, 2000), 82 pages.

### Books-in-progress

*Epic Islam: The Sufi Discipleship of Shaykh Ibrahima Fall, 1855-1930.*

*Praise, Prayer and Probity: The Ajami Poetry of Sëriñ Mbay Jaxate, 1875-1954.*

### Peer-reviewed Articles, Book Chapters, and Encyclopedia Entries

“Suffering as the Price of Sainthood in the Muridiyya Ajami Poetry,” under review for publication in *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute*.

“Afterword” in *African Asylum at a Crossroads: Activism, Expert Testimony, and Refugee Rights*, Iris Berger, Benjamin Lawrence, Tricia Redeker Hepner, and Meredith Terretta, editors (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*, Maja Kominko, editor (Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2015), 119-164.

(With Alex Zito), "Sub-Saharan African literature, 'Ajami,'" in *Encyclopaedia of Islam III*, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Everett Rowson, editors (Brill Online, 2013).

Review and update of "African Languages and Literatures: West Africa" (initially written by Mervyn Hiskett in 1994), *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*, Toyin Falola and Tyler Fleming, editors (New York: Routledge, 2012), 97-124.

"Murīd Identity and Wolof Ajami Literature in Senegal," in *Development, Modernism and Modernity in Africa*, Augustine Agwuele, editor (New York, NY: Routledge, 2012), 62-78.

"Ajami Scripts in the Senegalese Speech Community," in *Journal of Arabic & Islamic Studies*, Vol. 10 (1), 2010, 1-23.

"Taboo-Racism: The Mouride Perspective on Arabism," in *Arena Journal*, Vol., 33-34, 2010, 236-253.

"Ahmadu Bamba's Pedagogy and the Development of Ajami Literature," in *African Studies Review*, Vol. 52 (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*, Niyi Afolabi, Toyin Falola, and Aderonke A. Adesanya, editors (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2008), 219-237.

"Wolof" in *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics*, Vol. 4 (Leiden: 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*, Tome 1, 2006, 103-113.

"Les implications sociolinguistiques des emprunts du wolof au français," in *Safara: Revue Internationale de Langues, Littératures et Cultures*, 2005, 147-164.

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

"Language and Ethnic Identity in the Senegalese Speech Community," in *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, Issue 170, 2004, 95-111.

(With Diana Eades et al.), “Guidelines for the Use of Language Analysis in Relation to Questions of National Origin in Refugee Cases,” in *The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, Vol. 11 (2), 2004, 261-266.

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

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

“Linguistic Resistance in the Murid Community in Senegal,” in *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, Vol. 23 (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*, Vol. 158, 2002, 37-51.

“Les variables sociolinguistiques dans le journal satirique sénégalais: Le cafard libéré,” in *The French Review: The Journal of The American Association of Teachers of French*, Vol. 75 (5), 2002, 914-924.

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

(With Zsuzsanna Fagyal and Samira Hassa), “L’opposition [ɛ]-[e] en syllabes ouvertes de fin de mot en français parisien: Étude acoustique préliminaire,” in *XXIV èmes Journées d’Études sur la Parole*, Nancy, June 24-27, 2002, 165-168.

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

“Sociolinguistic Motivations of Lexical Borrowings in Senegal,” in *Studies in the Linguistic Sciences*, Vol. 30 (2), 2000, 159-172.

“Sociolinguistic Profile of the Senegalese Speech Community,” in *Studies in the Linguistic Sciences*, Vol. 29 (1), 1999, 131-146.

### **Reviews and Other Writings**

Review of Graziano Krätli and Ghislaine Lydon, ed., *The Trans-Saharan Book Trade: Manuscript Culture, Arabic Literacy and Intellectual History in Muslim Africa* (Leiden: Brill, 2011), in *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* (forthcoming).

(With Daivi Rodima-Taylor), "Remittances as Spiritual Investment: A Senegalese Perspective," in *Perspectives in Financial Inclusion Series: African Diaspora and Remittances* (Boston University Center for Finance, Law and Policy), October 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> [19 March 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*, Fall 2011/Spring 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 *Boston University African Studies Center Newsletter*, Issue 1, 2011, 6-11.

Review of Anne Storch, *Secret Manipulations: Language and Context in Africa* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), in *Journal of Sociolinguistics* Vol. 17 (2), 2013, 247-250.

"Sample Ajami page of Sëriñ Muusaa Ka," in *The History of Peoples: Recasting the Past: The UNESCO Courier*, Number 8, 2009, 10.

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

Review of Bathie Ngoye Thiam, *Le parricide* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2005), in *The French Review: The Journal of The American Association of Teachers of French*, 2007, Vol. 80 (4), 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.

"Art and Culture in West African Societies," in *The Japan Week 2003 Proceedings of Symposia and Special Lectures*, Western Washington University, 83-87.

(With Ablaye Diakité and Kéba Tounkara), *A Glossary of Mandinka*, translated from English to French (Dakar, Senegal: UNICEF, 1996).

## PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

“Ajami Literatures of East and West Africa Roundtable,” *The 58th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association*, November 19-22, 2015 (forthcoming).

(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 speech), “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,” *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.

(Invited 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.

(Panel chair), “Innovations in Institutions of Higher Education in Africa,” *The Sompatt 2010 Academic Forum*, Boston University African Studies Center, October 23, 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 speech), “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, 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: <http://dakar.usembassy.gov/root/pdfs/june-5th-invitation.pdf>.

“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.

“Sociolinguistic Profile of Senegal,” *The Graduate Students Conference*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Spring 1998.

“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.

## **WORKS IN AJAMI PEDAGOGY AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES, 2009-PRESENT**

- *Ajami Workbooks*: Led the effort to develop instructional materials for Ajami literacy. See 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 Mustapha Kurfi, *A Practical Guide to Learning Hausa Ajami*, supervised by Fallou Ngom and Peter Quella (expected Fall 2016).
- *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). See: <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. See: <http://www.bu.edu/200word/>.
- *African Language Materials Archive (ALMA)*: Contributed to the work of ALMA. See: <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. See <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. See: <http://aodl.org/>
- *African Ajami Library (AAL)*: Led the effort to create the AAL digital repository at Boston University, which hosts over 6000 pages of Wolof and Hausa Ajami texts. Over 1000 pages of already digitized Fuuta Jalon Fula Ajami texts will be added to the repository by the end of 2016. See: <http://eap.bl.uk/database/results.a4d?projID=EAP334;r=18467>, and <http://www.bu.edu/africa/alp/index1/african-ajami-library-aal/>.

### SELECTED FEATURED WORKS

- “Crossing Borders,” *College of Arts and Sciences Magazine*, Fall 2014: <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,” *Boston University Research Magazine 2012*: <http://www.bu.edu/research/magazine/2012/paper-trails/the-other-side-of-the-story/index.shtml>
- “The Rest is Poetry,” *College of Arts and Sciences Magazine*, Fall 2011: <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,” *PRI’s The World*: <http://www.pri.org/stories/2010-09-17/africas-ajami-writing-system>
- “Found in Translation,” *Boston University Research Magazine 2009*: <http://www.bu.edu/research/news-events/research-magazine/2009-toc/highlights/muslim-mosaic/>
- “Lost Language,” *Bostonia Magazine*, Summer 2009: <http://www.bu.edu/bostonia/summer09/ajami/>
- “Scholar Leads African Language Learning Project to Recover Lost Knowledge,” *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*: <http://diverseeducation.com/article/13121/>

## RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Regular fieldwork trips in Wolof, Mandinka, and Fulani communities of West Africa on language contacts and Ajami literary traditions, 2004 – present
- Participant in *The Fifth International Summer School in Forensic Linguistic Analysis* at the University of Lodz, September 7-11, 2005
- Research Assistant in Acoustic Phonology using CSL (Computerized Speech Laboratory) to study ongoing 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, suggesting corrections and reporting them to the programmer, 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

## GRANTS

- Principal Investigator: EAP334: Digital Preservation of Wolof Ajami Manuscripts of Senegal. The British Library and ARCADIA Endangered Archives Programme 2010 Major Project Award: £20,630 (\$33,307.16) for 7 months. Completed on February 9, 2012.
- Member of the leadership team of Boston University's African Studies Center Title VI program. The quality of the African Language Program I direct has played a central role in the two recent successful grant applications.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

### US-based Honors

- John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship 2011 (on leave: Spring 2012-Spring 2013)
- 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 for the academic year 2007-2008
- American Council of Learned Society/Social Sciences Research Council/National Endowment for the Humanities (ACLS/SSRC/NEH) International Area Studies Post-doctoral Fellowship to study Ajami literacy in Senegambia, West Africa, Fall 2004

- West African Research Association (WARA) Post-doctoral Fellowship to conduct fieldwork in Senegambia, West Africa, 2004
- Individual Faculty Development Grant, Western Washington University to present a paper and participate in *The International Summer School in Forensic Linguistic Analysis* in Lodz, Poland, September 7-11, September 2005
- Summer Research Grant, Western Washington University, Summer 2003
- Phi Kappa Phi, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign Chapter, initiated in 2001

### **International Honors**

- Invited to join the International Advisory Committee of *Islamic Africa*, a scholarly journal published by Brill, Fall 2015-Fall 2018
- Invited as a language expert by LINGUA (a unit of the Swiss government for analysis of origin), Federal Bureau for Migration, Switzerland, July 29-August 7, 2013
- “Murid Ajami Sources of Knowledge: The Myth and the Reality” was one of the 19 peer-reviewed articles selected (out of 244 projects) to highlight the significance of the works supported by the British Library and ARCADIA Endangered Archives Programme since its inception (see: <http://www.openbookpublishers.com/product/283>)
- Invited to serve as a Member of the Advisory Board of the Language & Asylum Research Group (LARG), based at the University of Essex, UK, since Fall 2011
- Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Performance as a Fulbright Scholar, delivered by the Rector (President) of the Université Gaston Berger of Saint-Louis, Senegal, July 2008

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

#### **At Boston University**

- AN 312-Cultures and People of Africa
- AN 327-Islam in Africa
- AN 521-Sociolinguistics
- AN 524-Language Contact in Africa
- AN 532-Literacy and Islam in Africa
- All levels of Wolof in Latin and Ajami scripts

#### **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**

- Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2014
- Middle East and North Africa Studies (MENA) Steering Committee, Fall 2014-Present
- Martin Luther King Jr. and Whitney Young Fellowship Committee, Spring 2014
- Graduate Admission and Aid Committee, Anthropology, 2010-Present
- African Studies Center Title VI and FLAS Fellowship Committees, Fall 2009-Present.
- 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 our FLAS fellows to participate in intensive language programs in Senegal, Spring 2009
- Overseeing all aspects of the African Language Program (including administrative leadership, material development projects, supervision of instructors, organizing FLAS fellows overseas programs, and working with the US Department of Education Title VI officers for approval of FLAS students' overseas travels), Fall 2008-Present
- Search Committee for African Studies Center Director, Fall 2008-Spring 2009
- College of Arts and Sciences Senior/Master Lecturer Promotion Committee, Fall 2008

### **Dissertation Committees and Other Exams**

- Prospectus Defense Committee for Mimi Stith, Anthropology, September 3, 2015
- Dissertation Defense Committee for Lynsey Farrel, Anthropology, May 11, 2015
- Advisor and first reader of Alex Zito's dissertation, University Professors Program, defended on November 16, 2011
- Mandinka MA Language Exam for Justin Tinsey, International Relations, Fall 2010
- Pulaar PhD Language Exam for Sarah Westwood, History, Fall 2010
- Dissertation Defense Committee for Nicole Hayes, Anthropology, Fall 2010
- Dissertation Defense Committee for Shelby Carpenter, Anthropology, Summer 2010
- Prospectus Defense Committee for Alex Zito, University Professors Program, Spring 2009
- Prospectus Defense Committee for Arianna Fogelman, Anthropology, Fall 2009

### **Service to Western Washington University**

- Member of the College Curriculum Committee, 2006-2007
- Member of the Faculty Affairs Council (FAC), Fall 2004-2006
- Ad-hoc Budget Committee of the Faculty Affairs Council, Winter 2004-2005
- Member of the Diversity Achievement Award Committee, Spring 2004-2005
- New Faculty Orientation Tour Leader, Fall 2003
- Alternate Member of the Student Academic Grievance Board, Winter 2004
- Participant in the Teaching-Learning Academy (TLA), Fall 2003

### **Service to the Department of Modern & Classical Languages**

- Advisor for French Majors/Minors, academic year, 2006-2007
- Member of Thesis Committees dealing with West Africa, 2005-2006
- Member of the Activities Committee, 2005-2006
- Member of the Organizing Committee, 18<sup>th</sup> North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL18), June 2006
- Participant in Western Preview to present information about the Department of Modern and Classical Languages to prospective students and their parents, April 2005
- Member of the Ad-hoc Committee for the Interlingua Newsletter, Spring 2004
- Mentoring a limited term faculty, Winter quarter 2003
- Temporarily coordinating first year French classes, Winter 2003
- Helped contact and bring speakers on campus, Spring 2003
- Supervised a student's project on Language and Ethnicity, Fall 2003
- Supervised several undergraduate students majoring in French & Linguistics to prepare their applications for graduate studies in French & Linguistics, 2002-2007

### **Service to the Profession**

- Chaired and led Boston University's team to host the Northeast Regional Consortium of Programs in African Languages (NERCPAL) Annual Meeting, April 12, 2014. Participant institutions: Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, and Wellesley College.
- Board of Directors of African Studies Association (ASA), 2012 to 2014
- West African Research Association Finance and Development Committee, Spring 2013
- Advisory Board of the Language & Asylum Research Group (LARG), University of Essex, Fall 2011-Present
- Reviewed abstracts for ALTA (African Language Teachers Association) Annual Conference, January 8-11, 2011
- Editorial Board of Diasporic Africa Press, Fall 2011-Present
- Search Committee for a Coordinator of the Library of Congress West African Acquisitions Pilot Project, December 2010
- Field Advisory Board of the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC), March 2010-Present
- Nomination Committee, African Language Teachers Association, 2010-Present.
- Fulbright Scholar Resource Person to share experience with 66 outgoing Fulbright lecturers and researchers, June 25-26, 2009
- Editorial Board, Carolina Studies on Africa and the Black World, 2009-Present
- Fellowship Committee, West African Research Association (WARA), 2008-2009
- Board of Directors, West African Research Association (WARA), 2006-2009
- Advisory Board, African Language Materials Archive (ALMA), 2005-Present

### **External Reviews for Journals and Publishers**

- Reviewed for *Palgrave Macmillan*, June 11, 2014
- Reviewed for the journal *Africa Today*, Spring 2011
- Reviewed for the journal *Islamic Africa*, Spring 2011

- Reviewed for the *Journal of African Language Learning and Teaching*, 2010-2011
- Reviewed for the journal *History Compass*, Summer 2010
- Reviewed for the *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, Fall 2010
- Reviewed the *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
- Reviewer for the *National African Language Resource Center*, 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 of Canada (SSHRC), July 18, 2009, and January 28, 2014
- Reviewed for the Council for International Exchange of Scholars for the selection of Fulbright scholars in Linguistics in the 2011, 2012 and 2013 competitions
- Reviewed for the National Science Foundation (NSF), August 8-26, 2012
- Reviewed for the US Department of Education Title VI program: International Research and Studies Field Reader, March 1-12, 2010

#### **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- African Language Teachers Association
- African Studies Association
- American Academy of Religion
- American Anthropological Association
- Association for Africanist Anthropology
- West African Research Association