Dr. Oumar Cherif Diop
Associate Professor of Twentieth Century Postcolonial Literature
A Study of Violence in African Literature: Abjection and Subjectivization

ABSTRACT: This project is a study of violence in African literature. Using Elizabeth Mudimbe-Boyi’s analysis of the rhetoric of violence in African literature, Julia Kristeva’s theory of abjection, Alain Badiou’s study of subjectivization, and Mark Ledbetter’s elaboration on the ethics of writing and reading, the author analyzes how the aesthetics of African literature of violence internalizes the rhythms and processes of traumatic experiences and how, through their fiction, African writers re-engage people with their own humanity while triggering processes of subjectivization.

Dr. Emron Esplin
Assistant Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies
Borges’ Poe: Two-Way Influence and the Reinvention of Edgar Allen Poe in Twentieth-Century Spanish America

ABSTRACT: Borges’ Poe is a comparative literary analysis that explores how Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges reshapes Edgar Allen Poe’s image and reception in Spanish America during the latter half of the twentieth century. The book creates conversations between several fields—e.g. U.S. literary studies, Latin American literary studies, comparative literature, inter-American or hemispheric studies, American Studies, and Latin American Studies—and demonstrates that literary influence runs both ways. Poe’s work has a profound effect on nineteenth and twentieth century literature in Spanish America, but Borges’ work affects Poe by forever altering his reputation in Spanish America and by changing how any reader of Borges reads Poe.

Dr. Maia Carter Hallward
Associate Professor of Middle East Politics
Contentious Politics in Action: Transnational Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Activism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Understanding Nonviolence: Contexts and Contours

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this project is to complete two book manuscripts. The first book manuscript, Contentious Politics in Action, documents, analyzes, and explains contestation over the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) movement aimed at ending the Israeli occupation using document analysis, observation at related conferences and events, and dozens of interviews conducted since 2010. The second project charts the history of the field of nonviolence in the opening chapters of a new text called Understanding Nonviolence that will be published by
Polity Press. Especially in the wake of the so-called “Arab Spring,” scholarly interest in the field of nonviolent action is increasing, although the field remains uncharted, with pockets of scholarship scattered across a number of different academic disciplines (i.e. sociology, philosophy, political science, literature), and most commonly written about in anthologies of previously-published texts and speeches or collections of case studies. The opening chapters of the text will integrate a variety of literatures dealing with nonviolence and will contribute to the institutionalization of nonviolence as a field of scholarship.

Dr. LeeAnn Lands
Associate Professor of History and American Studies
Poor People’s Movements in the Urban South

ABSTRACT: In summer 2013, I propose to further the development of my book manuscript, Poor People’s Movements in the Urban South, by completing one additional chapter as well as a related article intended for a top tier history journal. Poor People’s Movements in the Urban South examines how residents in Atlanta’s poorest neighborhoods organized in response to ongoing concentrated poverty, discrimination, and urban decline in an era that -- marked by the passage of the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act -- portended great change. This book-length monograph and article will add to the new wave of scholarship reexamining the causes of and responses to our cities’ “urban crisis” and contribute to the literature detailing movements inspired by black power and civil rights organizing. The chapter and article developed during summer 2013 will focus specifically on resident-led actions intended to influence welfare and housing policy, and the transfer of strategies and tactics between organizations and across space.

Dr. James R. Piecuch
Associate Professor of History
Competence, Conflict, and Confusion: British and Loyalist Command in Revolutionary South Carolina

ABSTRACT: During the American Revolution, South Carolina was the lynchpin of the British “southern strategy.” Secure possession of that state would insure British control of Georgia, while providing a base to extend British conquests northward. Success depended on the implementation of effective pacification policies by British and Loyalist officers while simultaneously repelling the Continental Army’s attempts to drive the British from the state. Despite numerous British victories on the battlefield, a combination of command factors resulted in Britain’s failure to retain control of South Carolina. These included personal and professional rifts within the officer corps, uncertainties over which policies to pursue, and the undermining of highly competent commanders by less skilled subordinates. This proposed book examines the above issues along with related matters such as the debate over the restoration of civil government in South Carolina, to demonstrate why the British proved unable to secure the state.
Dr. Heather Pincock
Assistant Professor of Conflict Management
*Making Better Citizens? Assessing Deliberation’s Educative Effects*

**ABSTRACT:** My book project examines the effects of deliberation on participants’ civic skills and capacities. Claims about the potential for deliberation to make “better citizens” of its participants have long been asserted, yet remain theoretically and empirically under-scrutinized. I seek to address this by developing empirically grounded insights about the educative potential that can realistically be attributed to deliberative processes. I argue that there are reasons to be skeptical about deliberation’s educative claims as they are currently formulated and that current conceptions of “good citizenship” are in need of revision. The project builds on my dissertation, which explores the educative effects of deliberation through interviews and observation at two community mediation organizations in Toronto. An additional empirical chapter will relate the dissertation’s empirical findings to a broader set of deliberative contexts and venues beyond mediation. An additional theoretical chapter will extend the normative arguments of the dissertation to defend avoidance as an ideal relational mode between citizens in deeply plural democracies.

Dr. Kenneth Williamson
Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Studies
*New Challenges in Immigration: Impact of Recent State and Federal Policy on Immigrant Families in Georgia*

**ABSTRACT:** This research project will examine the intersection of changes in state and federal immigration policy and the lives of immigrant families. Specifically, the project looks at the impact upon Brazilian immigrants living in Georgia as the result of recent changes in the immigration law and enforcement. This qualitative ethnographic study examines how immigrants, both documented and undocumented, react against and adapt to recent changes in local, state and national policies. Additionally, the study will contribute to the social, political, and scientific understanding of the intended and unintended consequences of changes in immigration policies.