

established in 1968  
advancing knowledge  
for development

## **The Functional Liberian State: Historical Lessons, Current Best Practices, and Future Paths**

**April 22-24, 2021  
10:00am - 5:00pm**

**Registration  
required**



# Liberian Studies Association

<https://liberiestudies.squarespace.com/>  
[liberianstudiesassociation@gmail.com](mailto:liberianstudiesassociation@gmail.com)

Since 1968, our goal has been to advance scholarship for service and development in Liberia.

The Liberian Studies Association is a non-profit, scholarly organization created to provide a means for effective cooperation among persons interested in furthering research in all scholarly disciplines, including the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, on topics relevant to the Republic of Liberia and adjacent areas; to publish and otherwise disseminate the results of such research; to cooperate with scholarly organizations, and cultural, scientific, and educational institutions, nationally and internationally, having mutual interests in the exchange and presentation of information and ideas resulting from research in the subject field; to encourage interest in Liberian affairs; and, to stimulate and facilitate academic contacts and educational exchanges between Liberia and the outside world.

The Liberian Studies Association produces the second oldest African studies journal published continuously in the United States, the *Liberian Studies Journal*.





## Conference Welcome

*April 22, 2021*

To the esteemed presenters and guests,

I would like to extend my greetings and thanks to you, for joining us for the **52nd annual conference of the Liberian Studies Association**. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conference is presented virtually. I pray that you and your loved ones are all safe and well, and for those who have experienced loss during the pandemic, I hope that you have also been granted comfort and compassion in your grief.

The conference theme reminds us that ongoing development of a functional Liberian state depends on our intellectual, social, political, material and such contributions. We are especially honored that Dr. Jyotirmoy Pal Chaudhuri will present the keynote address. Dr. Chaudhuri has held leadership positions at Vidyasagar University, Midnapore (India), and at University of Liberia and Cuttington University. His expertise and insight will be invaluable as we engage in discussion.

I would like to thank the LSA Board, the LSA Conference Sub-Committee, and all the conference organizers and presenters who have worked so diligently to ensure that the 2021 conference is successful. We are also immensely grateful to the Institute of African Development (IAD), under the leadership of Dr. N'Dri Assie-Lumumba and to Cornell University for hosting the conference. We highly value our long-lasting relationship with the IAD and with Cornell.

I am hopeful that we will all continue to participate in the meaningful work to promote the advancement of the Liberian state. I am also hopeful that we find joy in connecting with friends and colleagues, and in making new relationships during the time we spend together.

Thank you and my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danielle Taana Smith".

Dr. Danielle Taana Smith

## Thursday, April 22, 2021

10:15am

Welcome Remarks

*Danielle Taana Smith*, President, Liberian Studies Association

*N'Dri Assie-Lumumba*, Director, Institute for African Development, and Professor, Africana Studies, Cornell University

### **10:30am – 11:30pm** Session I: Liberian History

**Moderator: *Robtel Neajai Pailey*, Assistant Professor in International Social and Public Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science**

The Road Not Taken: The PRC's Decision to Hold onto Power in 1984

*Yekutiel Gershoni*, Professor Emeritus, Tel Aviv University

The Colony at Mesurado was not Purchased at Gunpoint

*Jacien G. Carr (Jay)*, PhD Candidate, Department of History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Visiting Scholar - African Studies Program Indiana University, Bloomington

### **11:30pm-1:00pm** Session II: Law and Society

**Moderator: *George Klay Kieh, Jr.*, Dean, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, Texas Southern University & AME University (Liberia)**

Does Jalloh v. King-Akerele Grant Dual Citizenship to Liberians?

*Mohamedu F. Jones, Esq.*

Jurisprudential Considerations in Judicial Review of Liberian Statutory and Constitutional Provisions

*William Wagner*, Distinguished Professor Emeritus (Constitutional Law), Western Michigan University, Cooley Law School

Liberia: A Republic, If You Can Keep It

*Mark S. Turner*, Assistant Reporter of Judicial Decisions, Office of the Reporter of Judicial Decisions, Connecticut Supreme & Appellate Courts

### **1:00pm – 2:30pm** Session III: Building a Resilient Health Care System

**Moderator: *Banti Zehyoue*, Director of Clinical & Crisis Support Services, Georgia Community Support and Solutions**

Emergency Disaster Response: The Case of Ebola in Liberia

*Tolbert G. Nyenswah, MPH*, Senior Research Associate at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and former Assistant Minister of Health and Incident Manager of Liberia's National Ebola Response

Building a Resilient and Responsive Health Care System in Liberia  
*Robin Toft Klar DNSc, RN, FAAN, Clinical Assistant Professor, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing*

Rabies in Liberia and the Potential for its Control  
*Garmie Voupawoe, PhD Candidate, Epidemiology, Swiss Tropical and Public Health*

**2:30pm – 4:00pm Session IV: A Global Meeting Place: Creating a Digital Platform for Liberian and African American Students**

**Moderator: Michael Wannah, Professor, Associate Professor, Bilingual Education, Chicago State University**

Advancing Technological Support for Liberian Scripts on Computers: The Cases of Vai, Bassa, Kpelle, and Loma  
*Charles Riley, Catalog Librarian, Yale University Library and CEO, Athinkra, LLC*

*Baruti Kopano, Professor and Chair, Department of Multiplatform Production, School of Global Journalism and Communication, Morgan State*

*Welma Redd, Associate Professor, School of Global Journalism and Communication at Morgan State University*

*Herbert Brewer, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Geography and Coordinator of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Program, Morgan State University*

**Friday, April 23, 2021**

**10:00am – 12:00pm Session V: Monograph Panel: Development, (Dual) Citizenship and Its Discontents in Africa: The Political Economy of Belonging to Liberia**

**Moderator: David Harris, Senior Lecturer in African Studies, University of Bradford**

*Robtel Neajai Pailey, Assistant Professor in International Social and Public Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science*

*George Klay Kieh, Jr., Professor of Political Science, Texas Southern University*

*Yolanda Covington-Ward, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh*

*Sakui Malakpa, Professor of Special Education, University of Toledo*

*David Harris, Senior Lecturer in African Studies, University of Bradford*

**12:00pm – 2:00pm      Session VI: Reconstruction, Decentralization and Security**

**Moderator: Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr. Development Economist, Instructional Professor, Delaware State University**

Security Without the State – The Security Impact of State and Non-state Actors in Liberia  
*Felix Gerdes, Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT) University of Liberia*

We Were Running and Running: Rural-Urban Imaginaries and Strategic Mobility During the Liberian Civil War  
*Mary Moran, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Colgate University*

Alternative Paths for Liberia's Post Conflict Reconstruction  
*T. Debey Sayndee, Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation, University of Liberia*

A Case Study of the Impact of Civil War on the Economic Performance of Liberia  
*Teaway Zehyoue Collins, Doctoral Student and Graduate Teaching Assistant Southern University and A & M College*

**2:00pm – 4:00pm      Session VIII: Power, Security and the State**

**Moderator: Emmanuel Oritsejafor, Professor, Political Science and Public Policy, North Carolina Central University**

Liberian Participation in Trans-border Networks in the Course of the Civil War (1989-2003) Outside of Conflict Economy Narrative  
*Alexander Shipilov, Junior Fellow Researcher, Laboratory for Institutional Studies of the 20th century, PhD Candidate, Centre for African Studies, Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia, Moscow)*

Liberia's Power Dynamics: The Race to the Top - Defining Liberia's Grand Strategy  
*Steve Marvie, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University*

State Fragility in Post-Civil War in Liberia  
*George Klay Kieh, Jr., Texas Southern University & AME University (Liberia)*

Rethinking elite capture in decentralisation: Legislators, local officials and elite capture in Liberia  
*Ibrahim Al-bakri Nyei, Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS, University of London, Adam Smith Fellow in Political Economy, George Mason University*

Perceptions of Public Policy and Citizens' Political Participation in a Fragile Conflict-Affected Setting  
*Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr. Development Economist, Instructional Professor, Delaware State University*

**4:00pm – 5:30pm Session VII: Colonization, Dissent, and Nationhood: Liberia’s Construction as a Modern African State**

**Moderator: Mohamedu F. Jones, Esq.**

“Africa is Neither our Nation nor Home”: Nineteenth-Century Black Reformers and the Liberia Question

*Joan Bryant, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies (AAS), Syracuse University*

The American Colonization Society's Efforts to Educate Black Physicians for Liberia  
*William B. Hart, Professor Emeritus of History, Middlebury College*

The Functional Liberian State: Historical Lessons and Future Paths from the Writings of Dr. K-Moses Nagbe

*Danielle Taana Smith, Professor, Department of African American Studies (AAS), Syracuse University*

## Saturday, April 24, 2021

Introduction of Keynote Speaker: *Mohamedu Jones, Esq.*

10:00am

*Keynote Address*

### **Exercising Truncated Sovereignty**

***Jyotirmoy Pal Chaudhuri***

*Former Vice Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore;  
former Chair, Department of History, University of Liberia;  
former Chairman, Social Science Division,  
Cuttington University, Suacoco, Liberia; and,  
former Dean & Acting President, Cuttington University*

### **Questions and Answers**

**12:00pm – 1:00pm Session IX: Women, Public Policy and Society**

**Moderator: Mary Moran, Professor, Anthropology, Colgate University**

Secret Societies and Public Politics: Progressive and Conservative Women in Post-War Liberia and Sierra Leone

*Rebecca Christina Nielsen, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia*

“The Petticoats”: Black and White Women in the Colonization of Liberia

*Susan Lindsey, Author and Historian*



**1:00pm – 1:30pm Session XI: Development and Agriculture**

**Moderator: Jacien Carr, PhD Candidate, History, SOAS, University of London**

“Growth Without Development”? A Revisit of Clower’s 1966 Thesis

*Samuel G. Toe, Director & Assoc. Professor, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB) Graduate School of International Studies, University of Liberia.*

*Impact of Housing on the Economic Development in Post War Countries: A Single Case Study on Duazon Community, Liberia, West Africa"*

George Kemoh Toto, Doctoral Candidate, College of Doctoral Studies  
Grand Canyon University

The Need to Retain and Expand the Hevea Rubber Heritage of Liberia

*Cyril E. Broderick, Sr., Associate Professor, Agriculture, Delaware State University*

**2:30pm – 5:00pm Session X: Education, Literacy and Development**

**Moderator: Jackie Sayegh, Institute for African Development, Cornell University**

Determining our Path: A Comparative Analysis of Higher Education Structure in Liberia and other West African Anglophone Countries

*Johnny C. Woods, Jr. & Zuleka R. Woods, PhD candidates, Virginia Tech.*

Challenges and Tensions of Liberia’s Education in Relation to the Global Educational Context: Prioritizing the Teaching Profession and Reforming the Curriculum

*Michael Adolu Wannah, Associate Professor of Education, Department of Teaching, Learning and Diversity Concordia University Chicago*

Educating the Country’s Leadership: Nineteenth-Century Visions for Liberia College

*Jessica Farrell, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities*

Education as Development: The Liberian Case in Africa

*Donald L. Cassell, Jr., M. Div., Architect, AIA - Senior Fellow, Director Liberian Initiatives, Sagamore Institute, Indianapolis, Indiana; Adjunct Professor Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana*

The Warp and Woof of the University of Liberia: J. Max Bond’s Quest for Light in Darkness

*Brooks Marmon, PhD Candidate, Center of African Studies, University of Edinburgh*

**Closing Remarks: Danielle Taana Smith, President, Liberian Studies Association**

**LSA Elections (Members of LSA only)**

## FAQs

All inquiries regarding the Liberian Studies Journal should be sent to the LSJ Editor:  
Emmanuel Oritsejafor [eoritsejafor@NCCU.EDU](mailto:eoritsejafor@NCCU.EDU)

For other information about the Liberian Studies Association, please send inquiries to  
[liberianstudiesassociation@gmail.com](mailto:liberianstudiesassociation@gmail.com)

### **Hosting the LSA conference:**

While the officers of the LSA do not look to the annual conference as a source of income, we also cannot afford to subsidize the meetings while still producing our bi-annual journal. As a small scholarly organization run entirely by volunteers, the LSA has no paid staff and relies heavily upon the hosting institution to provide most of the logistics for the annual meeting. Therefore, we expect the host institution to provide resources and other support as agreed upon in the letter of intent to host.

The letter of intent must be from an academic professional or professor or senior member with the backing of his or her institution. For more information, please send inquiries to  
[jsb25@cornell.edu](mailto:jsb25@cornell.edu)

### **Eligibility of Members for Positions**

Members vying or being nominated for positions on the LSA Board must be members of good standing . Nomination must be accompanied by a statement of why the candidate wants to be considered for the position.

### **Fees:**

Conference Registration fees: *All panelists and attendees must register for the conference*

- Students - \$50.00
- Retirees and community members - \$75.00
- Professionals - \$100

LSA Membership:

- Students - \$50
- All Others - \$100

Please note that conference registration does not entitle one to LSA membership. To be a member, the LSA membership fee must be paid.

Only members are allowed to vote and take part in LSA steering meetings.

Paid by check to: LSA, 14 Goodrich Way, Dryden, NY 13053  
By Cashapp: \$Montserrado45 (please list LSA as the purpose)  
By Zelle: Forthcoming



# LIBERIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Liberian Studies Association is a non-profit, scholarly organization that provides a means for effective cooperation among persons interested in furthering research in all scholarly disciplines on topics relevant to the Republic of Liberia. It is one of the oldest African [scholarly](#) organization in the United States.

## LSA Advisory Board

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## Abstract Review

Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr., Chair

Become a member today of Liberia's oldest scholarly association.

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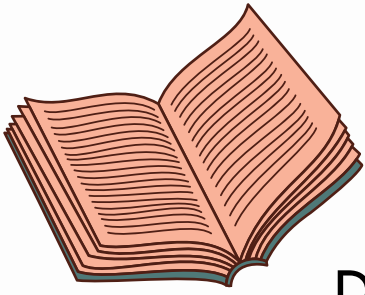
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# Liberian Studies Association

## Emerging Scholars 2020



**Samuel Wai Johnson, Jr.**

### David Foley Emerging Scholar Award

(In 1968, Professor David M. Foley of the University of Georgia, and Svend E. Holsoe, then of DePaul University, obtained a Carnegie Foundation grant and launched the Liberian Studies Journal, a precursor of the Liberian Studies Association)

**Alexander Shipilov**

### Svend Holsoe Emerging Scholar Award

(Svend Holsoe - co-founder of the Liberian Studies Association and Liberian Studie Journal in 1968. Served as editor of the Journal from 1968-80, received the Liberian Studies Association Annual Lifetime Achievement Award)

**Brooks Marmon**

### Mary Antoinette Brown Emerging Scholar Award

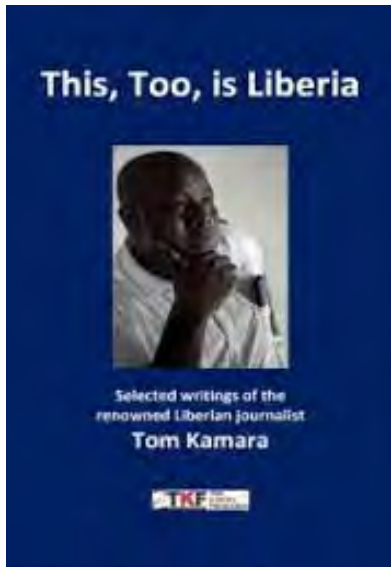
(Liberian educator, and the first woman to serve as president of a university in Africa, the University of Liberia)

**Ibrahim Al-bakri Nyei**

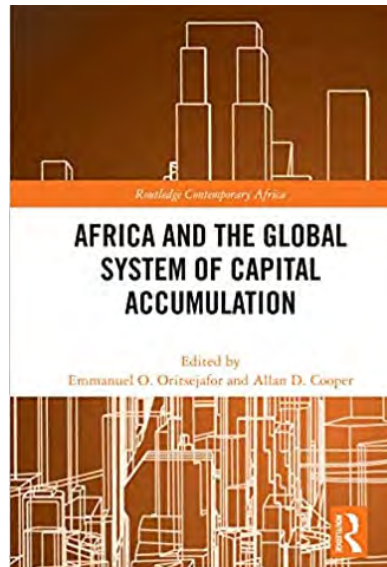
### D. Elwood Dunn Emerging Scholar Award

(Deputy Minister of State for Presidential Affairs/Director of Cabinet, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs/Chief of Staff to President William R. Tolbert, Jr.  
Elder member of the LSA, former editor of the Liberian Studies Journal)

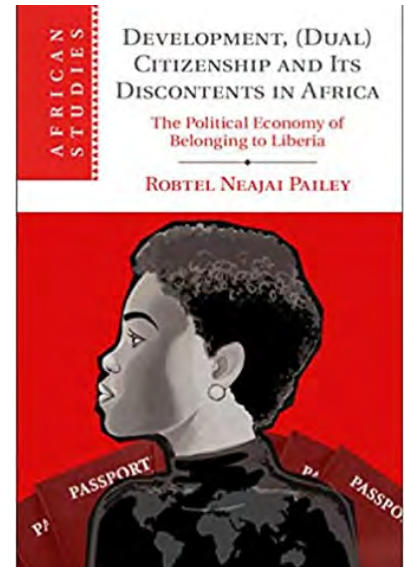
# New Publications



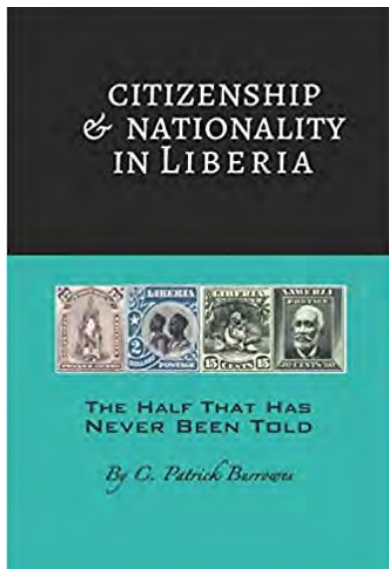
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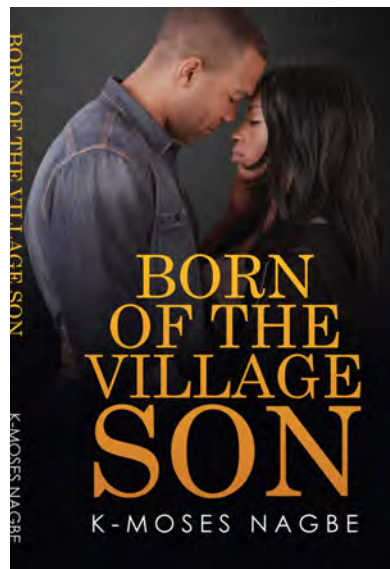
ASIN : B08PC3SK3H  
Publisher : Routledge; 1st edition (April  
Language : English  
BN-13: 978-0367430900  
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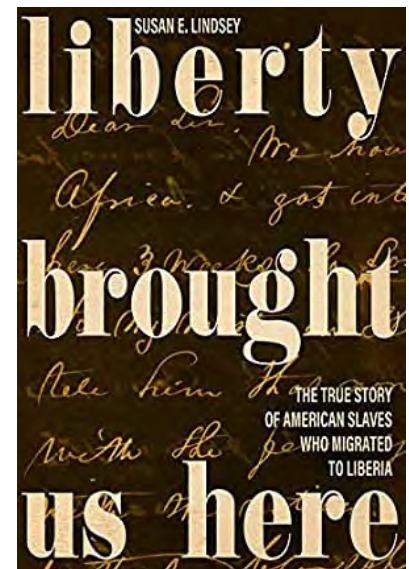
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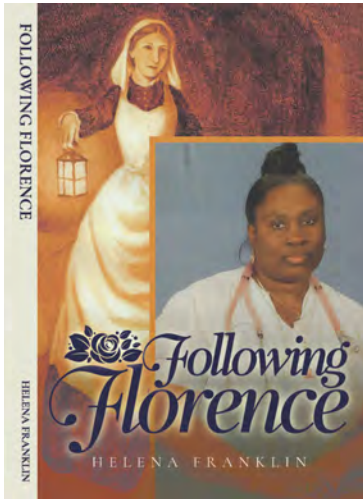
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### **Liberian Studies Association**

LSA strives to offer balanced, informative, and thought-provoking conferences focused on practical and theoretical approaches to development in Liberia, across a broad spectrum of disciplines and contexts. The abstract selection committee includes academic professionals with a range of backgrounds and areas of expertise.

LSA proposals reviewed criteria:

- relevance and significance to conference theme;
- the rigor of the analysis;
- potential for practical, policy-oriented, innovative and transformative outcomes;
- the extent to which proposals reflect diverse perspectives, innovations, disciplines, and strategies for change; and,
- the significance of the conclusions as well as their relevance to issues affecting Liberia.

### **Liberian Studies Journal**

The Liberian Studies Journal is a scholarly journal dedicated to the publication of original research on social, political, economic, scientific and other issues about Liberia, or with implications for, Liberia.

Manuscripts submitted for publication should not exceed 25 typewritten, double-spaced pages, with margins of one and a half inches. The page limit includes graphs, references, tables and appendices. Authors may, in addition to their manuscripts, submit an electronic version of their work preferably in MS Word or Word Perfect 8.0 (or higher) for Windows. Notes and references should be placed at the end of the text with heading. Notes, if any, should precede the references.

The journal is published in June and December. Manuscripts should include a cover page that provides the title of the text, author's name, address, phone number, email address, and affiliation. Anonymous referees will review all works. Manuscripts are accepted in both French and English. Manuscripts must conform to the editorial style of either the Chicago Manual of Style (CMA), the American Psychological Association (APA), or Modern Language Association (MLA).

All manuscripts should be sent to: Prof. Emmanuel Oritsejafor at [eoritsejafor@NCCU.EDU](mailto:eoritsejafor@NCCU.EDU)



## Selected LSA past conferences venues:

Indiana University, 1976

North Carolina Central University, 2004

Temple University, 2010

Cornell University, 2012

Rutgers University, 2013

Ramapo College of New Jersey, 2017

Rochester Institute of Technology, 2018

Concordia University, 2019



“To the question why study Liberia, or why a forum devoted to the study of Liberia, the answer inevitably is two-fold: one, to serve the end of disinterested pursuit and advancement of knowledge, and two, to serve the end of development of the nation and people of Liberia.”  
- D. Elwood Dunn





