

## **GAMBIA JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (GJHSS)**

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### **Short Biographies of Members of Both Editorial and International Advisory Boards**

**Dr Nwando Achebe** is the Jack and Margaret Sweet Endowed Professor of History, Michigan State University. A multi-award-winning historian and teacher, she also serves as the Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as the Faculty Excellence Advocate (FEA) for the College of Social Science. Achebe is co-director of the Christie and Chinua Achebe Foundation; the founding editor-in-chief of the Journal of West African History (Michigan State University Press); member of the Executive Board of the Association for the Study of the World-Wide African Diaspora (ASWAD); past member of the African Studies Association's (ASA) Board of Directors; and past co-convenor of ASA's Women's Caucus. She was convenor of the April 8-9, 2016 Journal of West African History International Launch Conference. Dr Achebe received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2000. In 1996 and 1998, she served as a Ford Foundation and Fulbright-Hays Scholar-in-Residence at The Institute of African Studies and History Department of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She is also a 2000 Woodrow Wilson Women's Studies Fellow. In the summers of 2014 and 2017, Dr. Achebe was Visiting Professor at Sichuan University, Chengdu, China. Dr Nwando Achebe's research interests involve the use of oral history in the study of women, gender, and sexuality in Nigeria. She is the author of six books.

**Dr Raphael Kolade Ayeni** is an Associate Professor in the department of Economics, School of Business and Administration, University of The Gambia. He holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc.) degree in Agric. Economic, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (1993), Master of Science (MSc. Economics) and PhD. (Economics), University of Ado Ekiti (Now Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti) Nigeria, 2003 and 2006 respectively. He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria, (2009). He is also a Fellow, Institute of Economist of Nigeria, an economic professional body in Nigeria He started his teaching career in 1996 as a High School teacher and later moved to College of Education as a Lecturer. He became an Associate Professor, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria in 2017, from where he moved to the University of The Gambia on a National assignment under the Nigeria government Technical Aid Corps program. As a scholar, his areas of teaching specialization include: Research and Econometric Analysis, Industrial Economics, Mathematical Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomic modeling, Statistics in Economics, Production Economics and Operation Research. He has taught so many graduates in the field of Economics at the undergraduate and post graduate levels. He has authored many books in the field of Macroeconomics, Production Economics, Statistics for Economics, Econometrics and Mathematical Economics. He has published so many articles in both local and international learned journals and has served as reviewer for so many international journals. One of them is the Cogent Economics. He has also attended and presented papers in both local and international conferences.

**Dr Tanure Ojaide** is a poet and academic noted for his unique stylistic vision and for his intense criticism of imperialism, religion, and other issues. He has won the 2018 Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa with his collection *Songs of Myself: A Quartet* (2017). He is currently the Frank Porter Graham Professor of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Tanure Ojaide has been the Frank Porter Graham Professor of Africana Studies since 2006. His twenty poetry collections include *The Fate of Vultures* (1990), *The Blood of Peace* (1991), *The Tale of the Harmattan* (2007), *Waiting for the Hatching of a Cockerel* (2008), *The Beauty I Have Seen* (2010), *Songs of Myself: Quartet* (2015), and *The Questioner: New Poems* (2018). He was educated at the University of Ibadan, where he received a bachelor's degree in English, and Syracuse University, where he received both the M.A. in Creative Writing and Ph.D. in English.

**Dr Souleymane Bachir Diagne** is a full-Professor, Chair, Department of French & Romance Philology, and also Director of the Institute of African Studies, Columbia University, USA. Souleymane Bachir Diagne received his academic training in France. An alumnus of the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, he took his Ph.D (*Doctorat d'état*) in philosophy at the Sorbonne (1988) where he also took his BA (1977). His field of research includes Boolean algebra of logic, history of philosophy, Islamic philosophy, African philosophy and literature. He is the author of *Boole, l'oiseau de nuit en plein jour* (Paris: Belin, 1989) (a book on Boolean algebra), *Islam and the Open Society: Fidelity and Movement in the Philosophy of Muhammad Iqbal* (Dakar, Codesria, 2011), *African Art as Philosophy: Senghor, Bergson, and the Idea of Negritude* (Seagull Books, 2011), *The Ink of the Scholars: Reflections on Philosophy in Africa* (Dakar, Codesria, 2016), *Open to Reason: Muslim Philosophers in Conversation with Western Tradition* (New York, Columbia University Press, 2018). His book, *Bergson postcolonial: L'élan vital dans la pensée de Senghor et de Mohamed Iqbal* (Paris: Editions du CNRS, 2011) is forthcoming in an English version to be published by Fordham University Press. That book was awarded the Dagnan-Bouveret prize by the French Academy of Moral and Political Sciences for 2011 and on that same year professor Diagne received the Edouard Glissant Prize for his work. Professor Diagne's current teaching interests include history of early modern philosophy, philosophy and Sufism in the Islamic world, African philosophy and literature, twentieth century French philosophy. His areas of Specialization include: History of Logic; Boolean algebra of logic; French philosophy; Islamic philosophy and Sufism; African philosophy

**Dr Toyin Falola** is a world-renowned *Africanist* historian and Professor of African Studies. He is currently the Jacob and Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities at the University of Texas at Austin. He earned his B.A. and Ph.D. (1981) in History at the University of Ife, Ile-Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), in Nigeria and is a Fellow of the Historical Society of Nigeria and of the Nigerian Academy of Letters. Falola is author and editor of more than one hundred books, and he is the general editor of the Cambria African Studies Series (Cambria Press).

**Dr Fatima Denton** is currently the Director of the Institute for Natural Resources in Africa at the United Nations University (UNU), Ghana. She is an accomplished senior leader in the UN system, respected across the research and implementation branches of the organization. She has depth of expertise in natural resource management, as well as deep knowledge of research and policy development, and the African region. Prior to joining UNU-INRA, Dr Denton worked with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Ethiopia since

2012. Her roles at UNECA included Director of the Natural Resource Management Division and Coordinator of the African Climate Policy Centre. Before joining UNECA, Dr Denton was a Programme Leader with the Canada-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC), (Senegal) where she managed high-impact action research, including a major climate change adaptation research programme managing over 100 action research initiatives encompassing 40-plus projects across 33 countries in Africa. She also worked as an energy scientist with the United Nations Environment Programme Risoe Centre (Denmark) and as an energy programme manager with Enda Tiers Monde (Senegal). Dr. Denton is a lead author for the IPCC special report on climate change and land, a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, Working Group III, and a lead author for the Working Group II Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports and for the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation. She has served on numerous scientific committees and boards, including the Independent Scientific Committee of the CGIAR Climate Change and Food Security Programme, and is a current member of the advisory board of Future Earth and a trustee of UK-based International Institute on Environment and Development. Dr. Denton has written more than 50 peer-reviewed articles, reports, and books. Born and raised in The Gambia, Fatima completed a wide-ranging array of undergraduate studies at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal (humanities), the University of Besançon, France, (applied linguistics and interpreting), the University of Paris – la Sorbonne Paris IV (humanities) and the École des Hautes Études Internationales et Politiques (HEIP) (international relations). She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Birmingham (UK).

**Dr Gibril Faal** is a multi-disciplinary business and development executive. He is a Professor in practice at London School of Economics (LSE), and co-founder and director of GK Partners, which advises socially responsible businesses and development institutions across the world. He is the vice chair of Bond, the platform of UK NGOs working on international development, member of the advisory council of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program, and consultant to the African Union. He is the founding director of Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform, based in Brussels; former chairman of African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), which pioneered concepts and practices on diaspora-development; and founder of RemitAid™, a programme to transform remittances into sustainable development finance. Prof. Faal served as technical expert on negotiations for the Global Compact on Migration, and delivered keynote addresses at the UN General Assembly at the 2013 High Level Dialogue and the 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. He previously served as co-chair, grand rapporteur and common space moderator at summits of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and chaired the Entrepreneurship Committee of the GFMD Business Mechanism. Prof. Gibril Faal was a lecturer on The Open University's MSc programme on Global Development Management, and external evaluator of COMPAS, University of Oxford. He was a board member of EC-UN Joint Migration & Development Initiative and the Global Poverty Action Fund of the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Since 1998, Gibril has accepted UK public function appointments made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for International Development, the Lord Chancellor, and the Home Secretary. He served as technical adviser on behalf of the Swiss government to the Prime Minister's Office in Moldova, and the Office of the President in post-dictatorship Gambia. In 2004, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and part-time magistrate and in 2014 was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for services to

international development, having been nominated by DFID. Prof. Faal studied at five universities in London and has multiple academic and professional qualifications.

**Dr James Ndow** obtained his medical degree in the University of Aberdeen, where he is now Professor of Urological Surgery and Director of the Academic Urology Unit. He has been appointed to the first Chair of Urological Surgery in Aberdeen's 525-year history as a medical school. Professor Ndow has a General Urological Surgical practice in the University of Aberdeen Teaching Hospitals/NHS Grampian. He is Chairman of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Office Board of the largest global urological surgery society (European Association of Urology, EAU; with over 19,000 active Urological Surgeon members). Under his leadership, the EAU Guidelines have become the most comprehensive and most trusted urological surgical practice guidelines globally; they are now endorsed by 72 countries including all 27 EU member states, UK, China, India, and Australia, among others. His research interests are in Global health, evidence synthesis and evidence-based practice, large observational studies and multicentre randomised clinical trials with a competitive research grant income of over £32million. Professor Ndow is Co-Founder and Managing Director of the Urological Cancer Scottish charity (UCAN; [www.ucanhelp.org.uk](http://www.ucanhelp.org.uk)). UCAN has raised ~ £8million so far and funded the opening of the first Urological Cancer Care Centre in Scotland, formally launched by the Health Minister in 2008. He has contributed to the UK National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE Guidelines), UK Urology Specialty Advisory Committee, and was Trustee for British Journal of Urology International for 5 years.

**Dr Omar Alieu Touray**, author, linguist, diplomat and Foreign Policy Scholar, was for several years, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the African Union and Ambassador to Ethiopia with concurrent accreditation as High Commissioner to Kenya and South Africa. He had been Permanent Representative Designate to the United Nations in New York before he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Ambassador Touray received his B.A. (literature and linguistics) from Ain Shams University in 1987 and graduated with a Ph.D. in international relations at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva in 1994. He is the author of *The Gambia and the World: A History of the Foreign Policy of Africa's Smallest State* (Hamburg: Institut für Afrika-Kunde, 2000), *The African Union: The First Ten Years* (London: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016) and several papers on international development and African affairs. He currently works as a Lead Specialist at the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

**Dr Tijan M. Sallah** is poet, biographer, author, economist and former manager, Capacity Development and Partnerships Unit of the Africa Region, the World Bank. He has published articles and books extensively on political economy, agricultural development, literary and art criticism, ethnography, biography, poetry, and short stories. Described by critics as one of the most important African poets and writers following the generation of Nobel Laureate playwright Wole Soyinka and novelist Chinua Achebe, Sallah's most recent books are a biography of Africa's most famous novelist, *Chinua Achebe: Teacher of Light and Dream Kingdom*; and *Dream Kingdom: New and Selected Poems*. His works have been featured over NPR and the BBC. Sallah graduated from Berea College in economics and business as the most outstanding student there in 1982 and went on to Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where he received an MA and PhD in economics. He taught economics at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and North Carolina A&T University in the late 1980s before joining the World

Bank, where he worked among other roles, as a sector manager for agriculture, irrigation and rural development for eastern and southern African countries.

**Dr Omar Sougou** is a Professor in the English and Literature Department, Gaston Berger University, Senegal. After graduating from the University of Dakar, Senegal, he taught English in Secondary Schools before undertaking further study in Edinburg and at Aberdeen university where he took his M.Litt and Doctorate. He has been a visiting professor in the African and African-American Studies Department, University of Kansas at Lawrence, and Full-bright scholar and lecturer in African literature and culture at the university of Wisconsin-Madison. As well as publishing articles on Emecheta, Chinua Achebe, Alex La Guma, Ayi Kwei Armah and women in literature, he is also the Managing Editor of *Safara*; Journal of language, literature and culture. His research interests include: Transformational Creativity: Women Writing, Resistance and change.

**Dr Abdoulaye Barry** is a Linguistics specialist with a focus on African Languages and English. He studied English (first degree) and Applied Linguistics in 'Université Paris VIII, Paris and a Master degree in General Phonetics (University College, London) and a PhD (School of Oriental and African Studies) at the University of London. His main research interest is The African Languages, particularly the Creole languages. Before obtaining his PhD, he worked as a research fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He also worked as a journalist for the now defunct West Africa Magazine. Immediately after the completion of his PhD, he was recruited as a Linguistics adviser to the Seychelles Government. He is currently teaching in the University of the Gambia, after having taught in Senegal for 25 years at the Gaston Berger University. He also taught in the University of Kansas at Lawrence, the University of Nouakchott, Mauritania, and now at the University of the Gambia. He was also involved in International Education with The University of Wisconsin at Madison (USA) and Hameline University in Minnesota. He is a citizen of Senegal.

**Professor Ayo Adesopo** holds a PhD from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He is a Professor of Public Administration. Among others, he has served as short-term Consultant to the staff of The World Bank for The World Bank's Governance Knowledge Sharing Programme as part of an initiative by PREM Network's Public Sector Group. He has also served as one of the three Consultants that anchored the drafting of the Ekiti State Civil Service Transformation Strategy (2011) for the government of Ekiti State, Nigeria. He has been serving as member of Accreditation Team appointed by the National Universities Commission (NUC) to some Nigerian Universities. He was also one of the instructors under the integrity education programme sponsored by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) in 2007. He is currently a member of the team of experts Nigeria government deployed to the Republic of The Gambia under its technical aid programme. This posting gave him the opportunity to introduce both masters and PhD programmes in the field of Public Administration at the University of The Gambia in 2018. He presently coordinates the PhD programme which is the first in the history of The Gambia as a nation. He has published numerous articles in accredited local, national and international academic journals and contributed to several book chapters published in reputable sources. He has also published three books/monographs. These are titled "Intergovernmental fiscal relations in Nigeria"; "Development in perspective"; and "Public Policy and Public Finance in Nigeria". His research interest revolves around governance issues and problems. This informs the multi-disciplinary

spread of his research efforts in problem areas like democratic governance, intergovernmental fiscal relations, public finance and budgeting, ethics and accountability in government, the Bureaucracy, local government financing and public resource management, among others. He has served as Co-editor and member of editorial board of classified journals in the past, including the world-class Quarterly Journal of Administration. He is presently a member of Editorial Advisory Board to a number of Journals in his field of specialisation in Nigeria. He is an alumnus of Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. He is married and the union is blessed with precious children.

**Dr Nelson Goldpin Obah-Akpowoghaha** is a social scientist and has studied Political Science with special focus on African studies; Democratic Studies; Comparative Politics; Gender Studies; Peace and Conflict Studies. He is a versatile researcher and has published widely in the field of Political Science and International Studies. Dr N G Obah-Akpowoghaha obtained all his degrees from the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. After the completion of his PhD degree, he was awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the North-West University, South Africa, where he conducted a series of studies. He is a reviewer for many journals, including the *British Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science*, UK; *African Journal of Nation-Building*; *Journal of African Renaissance* and other professional bodies. Prior to coming to UTG, Dr Nelson G. Obah-Akpowoghaha taught at different universities in Nigeria. Currently, he is a senior lecturer at the University of the Gambia. In addition to his scholarly work, he is a motivational speaker, teacher and counsellor to different category of persons in Nigeria and abroad. He is citizen of Nigeria and is happily married.

**Dr Pierre Gomez** is currently a Professor of Comparative Literature and Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic at The University of The Gambia. He obtained his Bachelor's of Arts (BA) degree in English and French at Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal, in 1998. From there, he proceeded to the University of Besançon (France) for his Advanced Diploma in Education (Distinction) and then University of Limoges (France) for his Master of Arts (Distinction), Master of Philosophy (Distinction) and PhD (Distinction) in Comparative Literature (1999 – 2005). He did part of his doctoral research at Fourah Bay College (University of Sierra Leone) and SOAS (University of London, UK). He has served on several occasions as visiting lecturer at different universities such as Limoges (France), Linnaeus (Sweden), St Mary's College of Maryland (USA) and Gaston Berger of St Louis (Senegal). Recently, he did a study tour in some Scandinavian universities: **Finland** (Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences, Turku University of Applied Sciences, University of Turku, Finland University, Aboa Mare Maritime Academy and Training Center), **Norway** (Institute for Public Health, NORHED -The Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development) and **Sweden** (Malmö University, Lund University, Raoul Wallenberg institute, Stockholm University, SIDA - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Uppsala University, The Nordic Africa Institute). In 2018, he received training in *Higher Education Management* at Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua, China and later proceeded to Limoges University (France) for a fellowship in the same area. For ten (10) years, he served as the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences where he was awarded on three consecutive times **The Best Dean of the Year Award**.

**Dr Abdul-Karim Kamara** is currently the Acting Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of the Gambia. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree (with Honours in French) from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, in 1993. In 2002 and 2004, he



obtained double Masters: Master of Arts and Master of Philosophy degrees in Comparative Literature from the Université de Limoges, France. Early last year (2019), he completed his PhD in Comparative Literature at the Université Gaston Berger, Saint-Louis, Senegal. He has been working in the University of the Gambia as a French Lecturer since 2005. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities, he has served in the UTG as Head of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr Kamara's research area is predominantly Postcolonial Literature as it relates to African societies and has produced a substantial number of articles on the subject. Dr Kamara is currently a member of the U6 Journal Editorial Board, Chief Examiner for French, West African Examinations Council and a Cambridge Programme Leader for the Professional Development Qualifications certificate programme hosted by SBEC on behalf of Cambridge.

**Dr Sylvie Coly** obtained her PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Limoges (France) in 2010. She is currently an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at The University of The Gambia, where she coordinates the Master of French Studies and the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie's Project. She is also the Director of Distance Learning, University of the Gambia.

She has authored several peer reviewed articles, published in international academic journals as well as books and book chapters. Below are some of her publications:

- ✚ "Littérature, vers une civilisation de l'universel ? " In *ETHIOPIQUES* numéro spécial, Littérature, philosophie et art, 10e anniversaire. Senghor d'hier à demain, 1er semestre 2012, pp 169-177.
- ✚ , "Return to Roots: Dialectics of Cultural Development in the Poetry of Tijan Sallah", in *Contemporary Literature of Africa: Tijan M. Sallah and Literary Works of The Gambia*, Edited by Wumi Raji, Cambria Press, Amherst, New York, 2014, pp 143-155.
- ✚ "Le symbolisme spatial dans les œuvres poétiques de Lenrie Peters, Léopold Sédar Senghor et Tijan Sallah", *REVUE IVOIRIENNE DE LANGUES ETRANGERES (RILE)*, Université Félix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY & Université Alassane OUATTARA, Côte-d'Ivoire, Numéro 9, 2015. Available on <http://rile-ci.net>
- ✚ "L'émancipation de la jeune fille dans l'espace sénégalais: regards croisés de Mariama BA et Sally SINGHATEH", *SAFARA, (REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LANGUES, LITTÉRATURES ET CULTURES)*, UFR Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Université Gaston Berger, N° 14, janvier 2015, pp 99-118.
- ✚ *La Gambie : dynamiques de l'altérité* ; Actes du colloque international organisé par la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences de l'Université de Gambie [Tome 1], L'Harmattan, 2015, 208p. ISBN : 978-2-343-05782-8, <http://www.editions-harmattan.fr>, GOMEZ P. ; COLY. S. (éd)
- ✚ *La Gambie : enjeux du plurilinguisme* ; Actes du colloque international organisé par la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences de l'Université de Gambie [Tome 2], L'Harmattan, 2015, 290p. ISBN : 978-2-343-06164-1, <http://www.editions-harmattan.fr> , GOMEZ P., COLY. S. (éd)
- ✚ *La Sénégal, Carrefour des poètes : Représentations de l'Afrique d'hier à demain.* Limoges, France : Pulim, 2017.

- ✚ ‘The use of satire in Tijan Sallah’s poetry: Banjul as the mirror of contemporary Gambian society, in *A Geocritical Representation of Banjul (Bathurst) 1816-2016*, Edited by Pierre Gomez & Hassoum Ceesay, Leicester, UK: global Hands Publishing, 2018, pp. 194-215.
- ✚ ‘Une analyse du traitement de l’interdit dans la poésie de Tijan SALLAH’, *SOPHIA, REVUE du LABORATOIRE de LITTERATURE COMPAREE* (LLC), Université Gaston Berger Saint-Louis, Sénégal, No 0006, Janvier 2019, pp 89-110.

**Dr Jean-Dominique Penel** is emeritus Professor at Limoges University, France. He did his BA and Master’s degree in Philosophy at the University of Sorbonne in Paris. He equally holds two PhD degrees, one in Philosophy and the other in African literature. In 1968, he started teaching and a year later, in February 1969, he was sent to the Central African Republic by the French government under a Technical Assistance scheme. He spent 14 years in the Central African Republic, where he carried out a lot of research. He was later sent to the Niger Republic, then Djibouti and finally to The Gambia. Dr Penel has published hundreds of articles on different topics and his publications has appeared in various famous literary reviews. He has published a collection of short biographies of some of the most famous writers and poets of Francophone Africa, particularly from The Central African Republic, Niger and Djibouti. He has published more than eight books. He came to the Gambia in 1998, under French government Technical Assistance programme, and proved to be very resourceful, especially in the education sector. He taught at the University of the Gambia, where he was the first Head of the French Department.

**Dr Ebrima Sall** is the immediate past Executive Secretary of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, CODESRIA, Africa's leading social research council that was ranked top think tank of Sub-Saharan Africa in the 2016 Go-to-Global Think Tanks Report of the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to becoming the Executive Secretary (April 2009 to June 2017), he was a Senior Programme Officer and Head of Research at CODESRIA for five years (2004-2009). He has also held senior positions in other institutions, including as Managing Director of the Center for the Promotion of Village Savings and Credit Associations (VISACA) in BrikamaBa, The Gambia, which was then under the Gambian Ministry of Agriculture (1992-1994); and Senior Research Fellow and Programme Coordinator at the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden (2001-2004). He taught as an adjunct professor at the political science department of Gaston Berger University, in Saint-Louis, Senegal, from 1996 to 2000. In 1992, he was promoted to the rank of ‘Maître de Conférences’ (Associate Professor) in ‘sociology-demography’, by the National Commission of Universities of France. He holds a ‘Maitrise’ (MA) degree in Economic and Social Administration from the University of Grenoble in France, a *Diplome d’Etudes Approfondies* (DEA) in the Socio-economics of development, and a doctorate in sociology from University of Paris I-Pantheon-Sorbonne. He was a post-doctoral fellow of Yale University's Program in Agrarian Studies in 1997-98, and is currently a Senior Research Fellow of the Center for African Studies, Harvard University. Ebrima is the (co-)author/editor of several publications on higher education, academic freedom, the social sciences, social movements, citizenship, governance, and post-conflict transitions in Africa. He is a citizen of The Gambia.

**Dr Mbye B. Cham** is Professor and Chair (Graduate Faculty), Department of African Studies College of Arts & Sciences, Howard University, USA. Professor Cham received his Ph.D. from

the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests are oral traditions, modern African literature in English and French (West Africa and South Africa), African and third world cinema and film and African development. He has written extensively on these subjects.

**Dr Alice Bellagamba** is Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropologist at the University of Milan-Bicocca, and a specialist in African Studies. She graduated in Philosophy at the University of Turin, and earned her PhD in socio-cultural anthropology at the same institution. In 2004-2005, she was Alexander Von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Bayreuth, and in 2011-2012 EURIAS Senior Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. Her long-term research experience in The Gambia and Senegal has resulted into several publications on memory, colonialism, the legacies of slavery, and the history of international migrations. Her comparative work together with Sandra Greene (Cornell University) and Martin Klein (University of Toronto) on sources for the study of African slavery and slave trade has brought to the publication of three collective volumes (*African Voices on Slavery and the Slave Trade. Vol. 1: The Sources*, Cambridge University Press 2013 ; Vol. 2: *Essays on Sources and Methods*, Cambridge University Press 2016; *The Bitter Legacy: African Slavery Past and Present*, Markus Weiner 2013 ), and another is underway.

**Dr Karamo Sonko** is a multi-disciplinary social scientist, who has lived and worked across Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. He has published widely on Africa, worked for the OAU (now African Union), UN and IMF, among others. He has also taught at five universities in Europe and North America and advised numerous multinational companies. He is a management strategist who has developed his own version of PESTLE Analysis. He is currently the Chief Strategist for Africa for Orca Gold, President of Julia Consultancy, and Chairman of Heeno International. He holds B.A. (First-Class) in Public Administration and Sociology from the University of Swaziland; Master of Philosophy in Development Economics and Politics from the University of Cambridge, UK; and Ph.D (with Distinction) in international economics & development from the Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, CO, USA. He is also the author of several publications, including three books.

**Dr Donald R. Wright** is Distinguished Teaching Professor of History, Emeritus, at the State University of New York - Cortland, where he taught African, African-American, and world history for 31 years. A student of Gambian history for over forty years, he holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Indiana University and a B.A. from DePauw University. He is author of *The World and a Very Small Place in Africa* (3rd. ed., 2010) and editor of two volumes of *Oral Traditions from The Gambia* (1979, 1980). He has received Fulbright-Hays, NEH, and SUNY fellowships for research in Africa, and he was a scholar-in-residence at the Rockefeller Foundation's Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, in 2003. In 2005-06 he was Mark Clark Visiting Distinguished Chair of History at The Citadel. He also has written two books on early African American history. He lives with his wife, Doris, in Homer, New York.

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**Dr. Amina Sillah** is currently Assistant Professor of Public Administration at Towson University in Maryland, USA. She has an MPA in Urban Government from Northern Illinois University and a Ph. D from University of North Texas with a specialization in Non-profit Management. Her research interests and areas of expertise include: Urban Government and Politics, International Development, Public Administration, Community Development and Civic Engagement.

**Dr Abdoulie Sallah** is a Senior Lecturer at Manchester University. He has previously worked and taught at Coventry University, Leicester University School of Management, Salford University, Sharda University, De Montfort University and Staffordshire University as well as organisations such as the British Red Cross and the African Caribbean Citizens Forum. He currently serves as the Editor for the Journal of Critical Southern Studies (Globalisation and Development Stream) and also reviews for several peer reviewed journals including Employee Relations, World Development, International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, Journal of Economics and Business Studies, Journal of Reviews on Global Economics and Journal of Critical African Studies. He is interested in the politics of knowledge production and his research and writing is an attempt to understand and re-significance the excluded, occluded, omitted and marginalized narratives and voices in Development policy, management and organisation studies (particularly those from the South) as well as contesting the redemptive, totalising and pugnacious capitalist narrative within the context of socio-economic development. Spatially, Abdoulie is interested in Globalisation, the Informal Economy, Organisational Leadership and Spaces, Post-Colonial Theory, Public Policy and Capacity Development, Entrepreneurship, Critical Management Studies and Political Economy.

**Dr Momodou Sallah** is Director, Centre for Academic Innovation and Reader in Globalisation and Global Youth Work, De Montfort University, UK. He has more than 20 years' experience working with young people at local, national and international levels; from being the Youth Director of Gambia Red Cross Society to a Senior Youth Worker at the Leicester City Council, UK. Momodou mainly teaches on the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at De Montfort University, leading on the Theory and Practice of Youth Work; Theory and Practice of Community Development; and Global Youth Work modules. Momodou passionately believes in recognising the symbiotic relationship between academia and practice; the location

of knowledge in the configuration of ways of knowing and being. In this light, he has constantly sought to take the classroom into the real world. He has instituted a regular annual study visit to The Gambia for students to explore the impact of globalisation and global inequality, in developing their praxis, where the students are at the centre of planning, implementing and evaluating the learning from the study visit. Momodou has also worked with current and former students to set up Global Hands, a social enterprise which brings the worlds of theory and practice closer through education and public engagement, international development and publishing of critical Southern perspectives, especially through the *Journal of Critical Southern Studies* ([jcss.our.dmu.ac.uk](http://jcss.our.dmu.ac.uk)). Momodou has published extensively around globalisation and intercultural competence: especially in the fields of work with young Black people, young Muslims, participatory research methodologies, and Global Youth Work. These publications have greatly contributed to a field where there is a dearth of literature; therefore enhancing the student learning experience. His research interests include diversity, participation and globalisation, in relation to young people especially. Momodou also regularly supports colleagues in De Montfort University, nationally and internationally, including International Non-Government Organisations, to embed the global dimension in their curriculum.

**Dr Amy Niang** is Senior Lecturer in the Department of International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is the author of *The Postcolonial African State in Transition: Stateness and Modes of Sovereignty* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2018). She is a political scientist with an interest in three broad areas, namely the history of state formation and related ideas of sovereignty, statehood, community, and order; the notion of the “international” in theory and practice; and Africa in/and International Relations. Her current project examines the history of the “international” as a concept and a normative field, and how “Africa” as an idea and place has featured into it. She joined the Department of International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa as a lecturer in 2011 after completing an MA in Political Economy at the University of Tsukuba, Japan, and a PhD in Politics and International Relations at the University of Edinburgh, UK. Dr. Niang’s dissertation examined state and social processes in the Voltaic region of West Africa between the 16th and 19th centuries. She was a 2013 recipient of the Social Science Research Council’s APN’s Individual Research Grant.

**Dr James Freeman** is a Professor in the Economics department at Wheaton College, USA. His research interests include: Labour Economics, International Trade and Finance, Applied Econometrics.

**Dr. Michael Ba. Banutu-Gomez** is a Professor in the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, Rowan University. He joined the management faculty at Rowan in 2000 to teach courses in the area of Organizational Behaviour, International Business, and Leadership. His publications are in the areas of Organizational Culture, Cross-cultural differences, International Business, Managing Teams, Leadership, and Organizational Change. Dr. Banutu-Gomez holds a B.A. from Eastern Connecticut State University, an MSW from Boston University and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University.

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*Resistência na Guiné-Bissau, 1879–1959* and (with co-author Richard A. Lobban) the *Historical Dictionary of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau*, Volume 4.

**Dr Rudolph Sock** is Professor and Director, Linguistics, Languages and Speech Research Unit - LiLPa (Unité de Recherche Linguistique, Langues et Parole - UR 1339 LiLPa), University of Strasbourg, France. His research interests include: Speech production and perception, Motor phonetics, Speech in cognitive science, Clinical Phonetics, Phonetics and FLE, and Laboratory Phonology (LabPhon). He holds a *Doctorat D'état* en Linguistique (Sciences du Langage - Communication Parlée), Institut de la Communication Parlée de Grenoble – INPG/Université Stendhal. He is a citizen of the Gambia.

**Dr Oumar Ndongo** is a Professor of American literature and culture at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal. He has extensive civil society experience as Director of SYSTOSENAGAL, Executive Secretary of PANAFSTRAG Senegal and President of the Senegalese Section of the Federation for Universal Peace. His areas of core expertise covers Governance, Peace and Security, Regional integration as well as Gender and Peacebuilding and is currently the Scientific Director of the Master's Degree Programme on Gender and Peacebuilding at Cheikh Anta Diop University. In addition to academics, Professor Ndongo has had extensive career in development work especially in the field of peacebuilding. From 2007 to 2012, Professor Ndongo served as the General Secretary of the West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOFF) based in Abuja to interface with ECOWAS on issues relating to Democracy, Governance, Peace and Security, Regional Integration, Development. He also served as director of the Mano River Union Peace Forum based in Freetown, Sierra Leone and worked with civil society organizations for the restoration of peace in the war-torn Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. Professor Ndongo also has extensive knowledge of West Africa and its civil society having served as Director of the Mano River Peace Forum and President of the West African Research Association. In addition, he has been a senior Fulbright scholar and peace ambassador for the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace. He is fluent in English, French, Wolof and Pulaar and understands Spanish. A prolific writer, Professor Ndongo has published several articles and books in African and American Journals and co-authored many books on varied topics such as conflict resolution, preventive diplomacy and Regional Integration. He has extensive research capacity and vast experience of networking in West African civil society.

**Dr Assan Sarr** is Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies Department of History, Ohio University, USA. His research interests include: Africa; Modern Period; West Africa: The Gambia and Senegal River Basins; Social, Political, and Environmental History; Land Tenure; Peace and Conflict. Dr. Sarr is the author and co-author of several book chapters and articles, which appeared in the *African Economic History*, *African Studies Review*, *Journal of West African History* and *Mande Studies*. Sarr's first book, *Islam, Power and Dependency in the Gambia River Basin: The Politics of Land Control, 1790-1940* explores the impact of Islamization, the development of peanut production, and the imposition of colonial rule on people living along the middle and lower Gambia River. It shows how these waves of changes sweeping the region after 1850 altered local political and social arrangements, with important implications for the ability of elites to control land. Currently, Dr Sarr is working on two projects on descendants of Liberated Africans in Bathurst (The Gambia) and on a Sufi clerical family. The full-length scholarly biography of Sir Samuel John Forster (c.1873-1940) examines the ways in which an Aku (Creole) family influenced British policy in what would

become its colony of the Gambia as well as the extensive networks that the family established both within and outside of West Africa. The other project on the clerical family seeks to trace the history of Cherno Baba Jallow (born c. 1890) and his community, and what their story reveals about Islam and Islamization in the Greater Senegambia region.

**Mr Hassoum Ceesay** is a Gambian historian, writer and museum curator at the Gambia National Museum. He is presently the Director General of the National Centre for Arts and Culture and Director of the Oral History Archive. He attended Armitage High School in the Gambia, and Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. He then proceeded to Canada's Saint Mary's University, in the Nova Scotia capital of Halifax, where he obtained Bachelor of Arts in history in 1999. He was the features editor at *The Daily Observer* newspaper in Banjul and editorial writer from 1999 to 2006. He obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Museum Studies from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, in 2003. In 2009 he gained a MA in African History from the University of the Gambia. In 2010 he was Lead Researcher on a UNESCO study of cultural rights in the Gambia. He is the author several books and papers on Gambian History.

**Mr Nana Grey-Johnson** is a Lecturer and founding Dean of the School of Journalism and Digital Media (SJDM) of The University of The Gambia. He is also currently serving as Chairman of the Media Council of The Gambia (MCG). He obtained a B.A. in communication and M.A. in journalism from Stanford University. He has worked extensively as a journalist and founded the Agency of Media and Communication. He also was, for a short time, as Minister of Information under the former Jammeh government. In 2004, he published the History of Gambian newspapers under the title (**The Story of the Newspapers in The Gambia**). Grey-Johnson has also written biographies, plays and a collection of short stories. He specialises in news-writing and editing, skills he used to blaze trails in The Gambia and Europe, London in the UK, in particular, over the last 40 years. He has had vast experience of editing international and local newspapers and magazines: Assistant Editor, *New African*, London, UK, 1981, proprietor and Managing Editor, *Topic Magazine*, Banjul, 1989, staff writer and reporter *The Pioneer Log*, Portland, Ore., 1976, and company newsletters of the Gambian National Insurance Corporation and the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies. He has written the biography of Edward F Small, Gambia's freedom and independence champion, *Edward Francis Small – Watchdog of The Gambia*, and was one of the ghost writers of **KAIRABA** (2009) - the autobiography of Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, former President of the Gambia. He is a Licensed Lay Reader in the Anglican Diocese of Gambia.

**Dr Lawalley Cole** is the Executive Director of the Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR). This is an NGO forum with various organizations, experts and individuals who are committed to ensuring that education systems in Africa are relevant to young Africans with newly acquired skills that correspond with what obtains in the labour market within the African continent. Lawalley Cole is a national of The Gambia and has about thirty years of progressively responsible experience in teaching, policy formulation and development planning, programme design, programme implementation, monitoring, research and evaluation, and other managerial areas mainly in the fields of education and communication for development. He has worked primarily in The Gambia, Mali, Zambia, and Burundi (for UNICEF as Chief of Education for fifteen years) and for the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) in Benin, Tunisia and Ethiopia for ten years as Coordinator, Communication for Education and Development. He is currently based in Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia at the African Union Commission Headquarters. Lawalley regularly contributes to the African debate on development issues and other general activities in Africa by providing active reflection on the educational quality and current issues in education in Africa as well as input in the area of professional expertise, while also promoting the use of communication in support of education in Africa. Lawalley Cole has pursued Masters' and doctoral studies in Education and Business Administration at the University of Massachusetts (an AAI Alumnus) and Walden University. He also studied at Dar es Salaam University for a bachelor's degree, the University of Franche-Comté in Besançon, France, Université du Bénin in Lomé, Togo, and Indiana University, USA. He is based in Addis Ababa.

**Mr Baaba Sillah** is a Gambian Writer and Literary/Social Critic, who has published several books, including “Pencum Taakusaan” and “Dabali Gi”, a sequel to “When the Monkey Talks”, which was published in 2005. He studied Philosophy at the University of Middlesex, UK

**Dr David Perfect** is a Visiting Professor, University of Chester, UK. David Perfect has carried out research on Gambian politics, history and trade unionism since the mid-1980s. His 1987 University of Birmingham Ph.D. thesis, *Organised Labour and Politics in The Gambia: 1920-1984*, was the first full-length study of the Gambian labour movement and he has published several articles on this topic. He is the co-author (with Arnold Hughes) of two books, *A Political History of The Gambia, 1816-1994* (2006) and the fourth edition of *Historical Dictionary of The Gambia* (2008). He is the sole author of the fifth edition of *Historical Dictionary of The Gambia* (2016). More recently, he has written several articles on the Jammeh period and the Barrow years. He also contributed nine Gambian entries to the *Dictionary of African Biography* published in 2011 and has prepared expert reports for a number of legal cases involving Gambian nationals seeking asylum in the UK or facing extradition from the UK. Dr Perfect works as a Research Manager for the Equality and Human Rights Commission in England.

**Dr Ebrima Ceesay** is a Research Fellow, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, UK, with a broad and diverse professional background in social research, policy analysis and education, and issues that relate to equality, diversity employment, skills, and gender. A former BBC correspondent and an ex-editor of the *Daily Observer* newspaper in the Gambia, Dr Ceesay is a political scientist with more 15 years of experience and has mainly specialised in the fields of democracy and migration studies. His research interests are in the areas of governance, democracy, migration and development. He is particularly interested in democracy and freedom, electoral reforms, popular participation and political institutions, people's perspectives on democratization, and trends towards authoritarianism in West Africa. He has written on a variety of topics, particularly on issues surrounding the military, democratization, and migration and development in Africa. In 2001, Mr Ceesay earned a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Degree in African Studies and then completed a PhD degree in Political Science – on contemporary Gambian politics in October 2004. He studied at the University of Birmingham's Centre of West African Studies and is acknowledged as ‘an expert on Gambian matters’ in the UK and further afield. He is the sole author of the book, *The Military and ‘Democratisation’ in The Gambia: 1994-2003*, published in 2006, and also co-editor (with Professor Abdoulaye Saine and Dr Ebrima Sall) of the book, *State and Society in the Gambia Since Independence, 1965-2012* (Trenton, New Jersey: Africa World Press, 2013). He has also served as a reviewer for academic journals, including the *Journal of Modern*



*African Studies* (JMAS), globally, one of the premier Africanist journals devoted to the study of Africa.

**Dr Bala Saho** is Associate Professor of History at University of Oklahoma. He is a historian of nineteenth and twentieth century West Africa (religious, legal, cultural, and social, women and gender history) at the University of Oklahoma. His book, *Contours of Change: Muslim Courts, Women, and Islamic Society in Colonial Bathurst, the Gambia, 1905–1965*, (Michigan State University, Feb, 2018), explores the place of women in the formation of colonial Bathurst, the evolution of women’s understanding of the importance of law in securing their rights, as well as the ways in which women utilized the new qadi court system to fight for growing rights within the domestic sphere. He is currently working on a second book titled, *Ritualizing the Womb: The Peril of Childless (Kañeleng) Women in The Senegambia*. In addition, he has published numerous articles and book chapters. He was the 2011 Michigan State University and Nelson Mandela Museum Fellow and Spring 2019 Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow. Saho previously worked in The Gambia as Director General of the National Center for Arts and Culture.

**Postscript:** Most of these short biographies are mainly sourced from the Internet and therefore, some of these may no longer be up-to-date.