Ebola in Perspective: Our Roles as Global Citizens
An interdisciplinary conference hosted by the:
African Studies Program, Provost’s Office,
Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership, and
Community and Global Health Concentration

January 30-31, 2015
Kalamazoo College

Program

Friday, January 30th

7:00 – 8:00 pm Welcome & Opening Remarks - President Wilson-Oyelaran
Keynote Lecture - The Ebola Virus: Beyond Fear
Dr. Alhaji Njai
Olmsted Room: Reception to follow

Saturday, January 31st

Arcus Center Building – Monroe & Academy St.

8:30 am Registration – coffee & donuts

9:00 – 9:05 am Welcome & Opening Remarks - Dr. Joseph Bangura

9:05 – 9:40 am A Historical Perspective of Ebola Outbreaks In Africa
Dr. Alhaji Njai

9:40 – 10:15 am Ebola and the Persistent Fragility of Health Systems in Africa
Dr. Rachel Snow

10:15 – 10:50 am The Cuban Organization of Health Care
Dr. Peter Orris

10:50 – 11:00 am Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:35 am The Biology of the Ebola Virus
Dr. Adam Hume

11:35 am – 12:10 pm Modeling Ebola Propagation: Understanding, Prediction, Control
Dr. Péter Érdi

12:10 – 12:25 pm Simulating the Ebola Propagation
K. M. Kamalaldin
12:30 – 1:15 pm  
* Lunch

1:15 – 1:50 pm  
**Epidemiological Considerations in Modeling the Current Epidemic**
* Dr. Marisa Eisenberg

1:50 – 2:20 pm  
**Social Implications of Ebola: Panel Discussion**
* Dr. Adriana Garriga-Lopez, Dr. Kathleen West, & Ms. Amel Omari

2:20 – 2:35 pm  
* Discussion

2:35 – 2:45 pm  
* Coffee Break

2:45 – 3:15 pm  
**Public Health & Geo-political Perspectives: Panel Discussion**
* Dr. Rachel Snow, Dr. Kathleen West, & Dr. Peter Orris

3:15 – 3:50 pm  
**Our Roles as Global Citizens**
Small Group Discussions, Next Steps

3:50 – 4:15 pm  
**Debriefing and Sharing / Next Steps**

4:15 pm  
**Closing Remarks** – Provost McDonald

4:15 – 5:00 pm  
* Final Reception

6:00 pm  
* Dinner with Speakers & Members of the Organizing Committee

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**Organizing Committee Members**

Dr. **Joseph Bangura** (African Studies and History Department), Dr. **Alyce Brady** (Computer Science and ACSJL Faculty Fellow), Dr. **Péter Érdi** (Complex Systems), **Alison Geist, M.P.H.** (The Underwood Stryker Center for Civic Engagement and Community & Global Health Concentration), Dr. **Diane Kiino** (Health Sciences and Community & Global Health Concentration), Dr. **Regina Stevens-Truss** (Chemistry Department and ACSJL Faculty Fellow), and Dr. **Amanda Wollenberg** (Biology Department).
Speaker Bios

Dr. Eisenberg is an Assistant Professor in Epidemiology and Mathematics at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her research is in mathematical epidemiology, centered around using and developing parameter estimation and identifiability techniques to connect math models and disease data. Her recent work has been primarily in modeling infectious diseases at a range of scales, particularly examining cholera and waterborne disease in Haiti, Thailand, and Africa.

Dr. Érdi serves as the Henry R. Luce Professor of Complex Systems Studies, and is the founding co-director of the Budapest Semester in Cognitive science, a study abroad program at Kalamazoo College. He is also a Research Professor at the Wigner Research Centre of Physics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in Budapest. Péter is a Member of the Board of Governors of the International Neural Network Society, member of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Curriculum subcommittee, and serves on a number of editorial boards. His books on mathematical modeling of chemical, biological and other complex systems have been published by Princeton University Press, MIT Press and Springer Publishing House.

Dr. Garriga-Lopez is a poet, anthropologist, and performance artist. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Columbia University. Her scholarly interests include Caribbean social theory and criticism; epidemics; decolonial, postcolonial, and subaltern theory; theories and ethnographies of the body; psychoanalysis; feminism and queer theory; and theories of sovereignty and imperialism. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, she lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she is the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Kalamazoo College. She is currently preparing a manuscript, Viral Citizens: the Coloniality of HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico for publication. As an undergraduate student, she authored an honors thesis on the representation of blackness and black people in epidemic contexts, with specific emphasis on mass media representations of the 1995 outbreak in Kikwit.
**Dr. Hume** got his BS in Biological Chemistry from Bates College (Lewiston, ME) in 2003. He received his PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2010 for his work in the lab of Dr. Robert Kalejta studying how human cytomegalovirus manipulates the cell cycle. Since then he’s been a postdoc/research scientist at Boston University in the lab of Dr. Elke Muehlberger, an expert on Marburg and Ebola viruses. Adam’s research is currently focused on studying innate immunity pathways in bats, the likely host species for these viruses, and attempting to identify the molecular mechanisms for the differences in pathogenicity of these viruses seen in human and other primates versus what is seen in bats. In pursuit of studying these biosafety level 4 (BSL4) pathogens, he has collaborated with a number of BSL4 laboratories including the CDC, Rocky Mountain Laboratories, and the Texas Biomedical Research Institute where he has traveled to in order to receive training and conduct BSL4 work. He is working to receive final CDC approval for the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories, a BSL4 facility at Boston University where he hopes to continue his study of these viruses. Adam will be traveling to Sierra Leone in early February to work in a diagnostic laboratory testing clinical samples to assist with the ongoing Ebola epidemic.

**Dr. N’jai** holds a dual appointment as a Research Fellow Scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and as a global research and development scientist and product safety toxicologist at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati. He is an Adjunct Faculty of Biological Sciences at the University of Sierra Leone and Njala University, Sierra Leone. Dr. N’jai is also the founder and chief strategist of Project1808, Inc. ([www.project1808.org](http://www.project1808.org)), a Madison Wisconsin and Sierra Leone-based 501 (c3) nonprofit organization dedicated to building capacity for sustainable development in rural Sierra Leone through school-community-university partnerships. Dr. N’jai also helped develop and co-leads the multidisciplinary global health and sustainability innovation field program, which brought together students and faculty from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Sierra Leone to work on knowledge transfers and building capacity in rural Sierra Leone. Dr. N’jai’s National Institute of Health (NIH) funded research has led to new ways to look at how polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons produce changes in the bone marrow, where early steps in the development of blood and immune cells from hematopoietic stem cells occur. This has led to publications in peer-reviewed journals such as Toxicological Sciences and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. N’jai also serves as a lead reviewer and panelist for the National Science Foundation (NSF) SBIR/STTR life sciences grants in the areas of systems biology, genomics, bioinformatics, and cell imaging.
Ms. Amel Omari is a pre-doctoral candidate in Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Amel completed her Master of Public Health at the University of Michigan with an internship at Partners in Health in Boston, and her undergraduate degree at Kalamazoo College in Biology. She also spent two years at Boston University researching pulmonary development and regenerative medicine. She is the recipient of a Rackham Merit Fellowship, a Population Studies Center Traineeship, an Adele Stamp Fellowship, and a Telluride Scholarship. Her current research focuses on the effects of racism-related stress experiences in the US, with an emphasis on biological aging and chronic disease risk.

Dr. Orris is currently Professor of Internal and Preventive Medicine, Rush University College of Medicine, Adjunct Professor of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. He also has an Affiliate appointment at Global Health Center, UI Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine and he is an Adjunct Professor of Preventive Medicine Northwestern University Medical School. Dr. Orris received his BA from Harvard College, M.P.H. from Yale University in 1970, and his M.D. from the Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School in 1975. Dr. Orris is a certified physician and surgeon.

Dr. Snow conducts social research on sex, gender and vulnerability; on the burden of sexual and reproductive health; and the effective use of sexual and reproductive health services. Trained as a demographer and reproductive health specialist, Snow’s early work focused on contraceptive preferences of women in poor countries of Africa and Asia, and has progressively engaged the broader study of health systems, and the social and operational factors that restrict access to sexual and reproductive health. Snow has served on numerous expert committees at the WHO, including the WHO Global Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Snow was a founding editor of the African Journal of Reproductive Health, now published from Nigeria, and a co-author of the WHO curriculum Transforming Health Systems. Snow received her doctorate in Population Sciences from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1988, where she was subsequently a MacArthur Fellow in Population and Development Studies, and Assistant Professor of Reproductive Health. From 1997-2003 she taught at the University of Heidelberg (Germany), where she was Unit Head for Sexual & Reproductive Health. In 2003 she joined the tenured faculty at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and the Michigan Center for Population Studies. At U-M she has also served as Associate Director of the International Institute, and Director of the U-M Center for Advanced Research on Solutions for Society (CARSS), a think-tank for the social sciences. Snow was recently the lead author of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 20-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD Beyond 2014).
**Dr. West** is a public health professional with expertise in programs serving at-risk families, maternal and child health, intergenerational trauma and public mental health and addiction issues. For more than three decades, Kathleen has worked with systems of care that serve high-risk families while based in Los Angeles and Geneva, Switzerland. Her commitment is to community-based multi-disciplinary interventions focused on issues related to trauma exposure, including prevention and mitigation. Since 2008, Dr. West has directed much of her attention to work with military and veterans and their families to enhance resilience. She also focuses on multi-sector program development and professional education to aid in the appropriate management of the unique needs of this population not only in the US, but globally.

Kathleen’s background includes degrees in Biology and Anthropology from Kalamazoo College, training in midwifery, child health policy, and Masters and Doctoral degrees from UCLA in public health focusing on reproductive epidemiology and health policy. She has helped establish innovative programs in diverse cultural contexts and has been involved with health care work in Sierra Leone for more than 30 years. As adjunct faculty, she teaches graduate classes on “Disaster, Conflict and Global Health” at the USC Department of Preventive Medicine and on “Military Social Work” at the UCLA Department of Social Welfare in the Luskin School of Public Affairs. She has authored a number of articles, policy briefs, book chapters, and WHO monographs.