



**YORK/UNESCO
NIGERIAN
HINTERLAND PROJECT
NEWSLETTER**

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**REPORT ON THE
YORK/UNESCO NIGERIAN
HINTERLAND PROJECT**

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The programme of research focuses on the development of the African diaspora of the "Nigerian" hinterland during the era of the slave trade from approximately 1650 to 1900, and specifically, on the forced relocation of enslaved Africans from the interior of the Bights of Benin and Biafra, including the Central Sudan, to various parts of the Americas and the Islamic world and the effects of this displacement on historical developments both in Africa itself and in the diaspora. The countries involved include Nigeria, Cameroon, and Republiques du Bénin, Togo, and Niger in West Africa, and the countries to which slaves were forcibly relocated, including Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia in the Maghreb, as well as Brazil, the Caribbean, the US South, and parts of Hispanic America. With the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), our network has increased the interchange of ideas and information on African and diaspora history through its promotion of international scholarly collaboration and training. Scholars in our network have been able to intensify their research into the historical impact of Africa on world history as reflected in the development of the African diaspora and the extent to which enslaved Africans and their descendants in the Americas and elsewhere maintained contact with their homelands in the "Nigerian" hinterland.

Our program of research has already facilitated access to primary source material that is widely scattered

on four continents and in at least 35 countries, and our planning anticipates a level of dissemination of documents on a massive scale through digitization and the construction of databases. Our intention is the achievement of efficient resource allocation in accessing the extensive materials that are known to exist on all aspects of the African diaspora, but initially focusing on the Nigerian hinterland and thereby to increase significantly the availability of data to be analysed for scientific purposes. In the process of collecting and analysing these materials, our plan is

to collaborate on the intensive training of graduate students, and to a great extent this is being achieved at a level that surpasses our expectations. Our success in contributing new knowledge to the international scientific community can be gauged by milestones in the form of conferences/workshops, our program for disseminating documents, the rate of publication of research results through a variety of electronic and traditional forms, and the graduate degrees awarded to students and expected to be awarded during the current period of the grant.



Milestones

The principal aims of the Nigerian Hinterland Project in the first phase were focused on project design and implementation, establishment of a Secretariat, development of an integrated research program involving both graduate and undergraduate students, and organization of a series of seminars to assist in the integration of the research network and the exposure of graduate students to the research culture and indeed to the individual researchers active in the field. In the first two years of the Project, a functioning Secretariat has been established; there is an ongoing teaching/training component in the research agenda, there is concrete evidence of results in the form of numbers of students receiving degrees or currently working towards degrees, and the extensive number of publications, conference papers, and Tubman Seminar papers.

Members of the Nigerian Hinterland Project have achieved a remarkable level of productivity in terms

of the publications, and the dissemination of primary source materials. These include the recent publications of the Executive of the Nigerian Hinterland Project (Lovejoy, Trotman, Law, Soumonni, Mann, Eltis, Soulodre-La France), and several other members of the network (Richardson, Falola, Landers), who are listed as representative of the international advisory board, and José Curto, who was hired to teach in Department of History as the replacement for Lovejoy and Trotman. The publications of team members, graduate students, and former students. The list here includes 30 books, over 80 articles and chapters in books, and miscellaneous other items published since 1997 or scheduled to be published by 2001 by individuals who represent the network as a whole. The number of conference papers would greatly increase the output as measured in publication or anticipated publication. Former students who have been associated with the Nigerian Hinterland

Project have two books in press, and at least twenty articles and chapters have been written by students and former students.

While it is important to examine the Nigerian Hinterland Project in terms of milestones such as numbers of publications, it is also important to remember the human dimension. Milestones can be quantified and described, and by any standards are world class. We believe that any assessment of our Project will demonstrate such excellence. However, it would be easy to miss a crucial aspect of the Nigerian Hinterland Project that can lie hidden in statistics and descriptive analysis. The Nigerian Hinterland Project has evolved as a community of scholars, sharing a sense of humor and adventure, challenging

each other in ways that can only come out of a laboratory experience. There is a critical mass of students and faculty, including visitors (who return), and a larger network of contacts and associates. Attaining and sustaining this critical mass is not easy, but it is critical to the dynamic of our research community.

The Nigerian Hinterland Project has promoted collaborative research meeting international standards of excellence. As represented in our numerous conferences, our team is actively helping to shape the agenda for the study of the African diaspora, and indeed western African history during the era of the slave trade, and this is being done through collaborative means that are widely recognized.



Management Structure and Means Undertaken To Integrate Full Team.

The Nigerian Hinterland Project is housed in 113 Vanier College on the main campus of York University, with additional offices in nearby Founders College. There is a Director (Lovejoy) and Associate Director (Trotman) and a Secretariat, including an Administrative and Information Coordinator (Len Wong) and a Research Coordinator (Soulodre-La France). Resident Post-Doctoral Fellows are also included in the management structure. There is an Executive Committee which includes, in addition to the above, Robin Law (University of Stirling), David Eltis (Queen's University), Elisée Soumonni (Université Nationale du Benin), and Kristin Mann (Emory University). The

Executive is consulted from time to time, and meetings are held at conferences.

In its design, the Nigerian Hinterland Project network was intended to be a loose collective of scholars with similar interests, selected on the basis of representation from different countries, taking into consideration issues of gender and relative seniority in the profession. An International Advisory Board, consisting of 24 members, was appointed and forms the basis of the network that connects the Nigerian Hinterland Project. The tighter integration of this network has been less of a concern than the maintenance of functioning teams for individual

components of the larger enterprise. Coordination and therefore integration of the teams have relied on the use of e-mail, and the holding of conferences at which various combinations of network participants have contributed.

Management strategy has been to plan adjustments as the level of activity increased; hence the Information Coordinator was hired first, and then Research Coordinator, with Director and Associate Director running the Tubman Seminar and coordinating graduate student activity and arranging a conference schedule. To help in coordinating the many projects and activities of research program, we have been developing timelines for each project and activity to facilitate management of personnel and resources and thereby minimize competing demands on time and money.

In January 2000, Dr. Renée Soulodre-La France was appointed Research Coordinator, thereby strengthening the team in several ways. Her area of specialization is Hispanic America, and specifically 18th century Colombia (New Granada), and she is fluent in Spanish as well as English and French. Since her appointment, she has coordinated the increasingly larger number of work/study undergraduate students working on the Project. She also assisted in the organization of the Enugu conference in Nigeria, and

conducted research at Aro Chukwu and Calabar, thereby achieving one of our central aims of enabling researchers to penetrate new areas where they have not previously worked, whether moving scholars from the Americas to Africa or vice versa, or indeed within the Americas as well as to Africa. She is currently organizing a conference in Colombia, and with local collaboration is coordinating a digitization project in various archives.

Under the terms of the grant and involving a financial commitment from York, we have secured a junior appointment in South Atlantic history (José Curto), who has supplemented our focus on the Nigerian hinterland and the connections with the African diaspora. His research focuses on Angola and west-central Africa, the other, major region from where enslaved Africans were deported to the Americas. Together, these two regions encompass 80 per cent or more of the enslaved African population in the Americas, and a significant proportion of the enslaved population in North Africa. His addition has enhanced our undergraduate teaching, our graduate program, and research initiatives. Dr. Curto also organized “Enslaving Connections”, an international conference, held at York University, that focused on the connection between Angola and Brazil



Post-Graduate Fellows

The involvement of six post-doctoral fellows has also increased the number of active researchers in diaspora studies at York. Projects have included Gold Coast biographies (Akurang-

Perry), Hausa oral data (Jumare and Stilwell), PRO research (de Barros), and Cuban interviews and archival work (Ayorinde). Currently, Dr. Femi Kolapo has been coordinating the entry of

biographical information into a database, which has involved various graduate students, and hence Dr. Kolapo has helped to train students in data entry and database construction. He is also working on two primary text projects, one (with Lovejoy) on the papers of William Balfour Baikie (Niger and

Benue valleys in the 1850s and 1860s), much of which has been previously unpublished, and also on the second Clapperton expedition of 1825-26 through Oyo and the Sokoto Caliphate (under the direction of Jamie Bruce Lockhart, and with Lovejoy, Olatunji Ojo, and Ibrahim Hamza collaborating).



Network Professors

A key component of the Hinterland Project is the selection of scholars whom we have designated “Network Professors” from universities in the “South” who would be free to travel to and conduct research in countries and regions that had been previously inaccessible because of distance, language, and funds. Three scholars have been selected, Dra Rina Cáceres Gomez from Costa Rica, Dr. Verene Shepherd from Jamaica and Prof. Elisée Soumonni from the République du Bénin. Each Network Professor has an agenda of research and scholarly interaction that is unique, developed in consultation with various scholars in the network, and designed to maximize interaction with the Nigerian Hinterland Project, working with graduate students as well as mounting joint projects with team members (Lovejoy’s collaboration with Trotman, Law, Shepherd, Falola, Richardson, and Soumonni, for example, or Soulodre-La France, Cáceres, and Landers, or Law, Soumonni, Bay and Mann, or Eltis, Richardson, Beckles, and Shepherd).

Elisée Soumonni, directeur, IBERDA, Université Nationale du Bénin, and member of the Executive Committee of the Nigerian Hinterland

Project, will undertake the following activities while he is Network Professor: Participate in planning of IBERDA, including relationship with EPA (École du Patrimoine Africaine), organization of Benin/Bahia conference, oversee research projects on Pierre Tamata and Afro-Brazilian history project, and coordinate (with Joseph Adandé) funding applications to the Ford Foundation (West Africa), and German sources, through Prof. Viktoria Schmidt-Linsenhoff, Universität Trier; coordinating Afro-Cuban Project, which involves Blandine Wetohossou and Rina Cáceres, Universidad de Costa Rica. During his tenure as Network Professor, Dr. Soumonni will be at York University, among other things working with various projects and graduate students, and presenting a formal lecture in the Harriet Tubman Lecture and Seminar series. He will also write a book on the Black Atlantic with Lovejoy for Blackwell’s World History Series. Dr. Soumonni will also conduct research in Cuba, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Bahia during the tenure of his appointment. It is expected that Dr. Soumonni will be successful in his application for funding to the Ford Foundation (West Africa),

which preliminary discussions have suggested will be the case.

Dr. Verene Shepherd, our second Network Professor, is Senior Lecturer in the Department of History, University of the West Indies (Mona), and author and editor of various books on slavery, gender, and resistance. She participated in the Enugu conference on the Repercussions of the Slave Trade on the Interior of the Bight of Biafra, because of the strong links between this area and Jamaica, thereby allowing her to reach the "homeland" of the people whom she studies in Jamaica for the first time. Dr. Shepherd is involved in planning a conference, to be held at Dartmouth College, on gender and slavery; and a second conference, to be held at UWI-Mona, to commemorate the work of Edward Braithwaite. In both cases, the Nigerian Hinterland Project will be a co-sponsor, and many members of our network will be presenting papers or otherwise be involved in these conferences. Besides her own work on gender, slavery and emancipation, Dr. Shepherd is also working with Prof. Lovejoy on a previously unknown novel on Jamaica, *Busah's Mistress*, by Cyrus Francis Perkins in Brantford, Canada West, in 1854. She will be at York for the fall 2000 term, and thereafter be in Britain at the Wilberforce Institute, University of Hull, as Research Fellow, which is being arranged as a matching component of the appointment (as encouraged by the assessment commentary on the award as a

mechanism of achieving additional, matching funding).

The third Network Professor, Dra. Rina Cáceres Gomez, Universidad de Costa Rica, has hosted one of the conferences co-sponsored by the Nigerian Hinterland Project on slavery in Hispanic America, which is being published in Spanish. The conference facilitated the creation of an Hispanic American network of scholars interested in the history of the African diaspora. Dra. Cáceres brings to the Nigerian Hinterland Project the kind of linkage that is essential in fulfilling our aim of crossing the geographical and linguistic barriers that we highlighted in our original proposal as being major impediments to the advancement of scholarship. Moreover, we have hopes that Dra. Cáceres will be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to be taken up at Vanderbilt University, with Prof. Jane Landers, another team member and thereby further consolidating our network of collaborating scholars and also achieving our aim of obtaining a "matching" component to our own expenditure. As with Professors Soumonni and Shepherd, Dra Cáceres will also spend some time at York University, at a time yet to be determined. She currently is concentrating on the collection of archival materials in the various repositories throughout Central America, and she has plans to continue her search for primary materials in Cuba.



Graduate Training

TABLE I

<i>Students involved with the YORK/UNESCO NIGERIAN HINTERLAND PROJECT</i>	
Post-Doctoral Research Fellows	6
York University, completed Ph.D.'s	6
York University Ph.D. Students	18
York University M.A. Students	10
York University Undergraduate Students	15
Foreign Exchange Students, York University	17
Ph.D. students, other universities	11

The Nigerian Hinterland Project has provided extensive opportunities for training students and young researchers in a collaborative environment. As Table I demonstrates, six students have been awarded Ph.D. degrees at York, and another 18 are currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at York, and there are 11 graduate students at other universities who have been or are involved in the network. Especially through our active conference/workshop program and the Tubman Seminar, graduate students are exposed to other scholars in learned settings, in places and on topics directly relevant to their research, including Costa Rica, Jamaica, Morocco, and Nigeria, as well as various places in North America and Europe. The organization of research on specific projects (e.g., Clapperton, ports of the slave trade, etc.), has assured that graduate students are involved in these

projects so that there is a training component integrated into project design. Publication strategies are also designed to include graduate students whenever appropriate. The Project adopts a hands-on approach to research, teaching, and training.

The number of graduate students involved with the Nigerian Hinterland Project prevents a detailed discussion of the research projects of each student, but the individual topics at least give a sense of the range of research that is underway or planned. Completed Ph.D. theses include studies of the ending of slavery and pawnship on the Gold Coast (Akurang-Perry, Ph.D.), the slaving frontier of the Sokoto Caliphate in Nupe (Kolapo, Ph.D.), royal slavery in the Sokoto Caliphate (Stilwell, Ph.D.), and health conditions and public space in post-emancipation Guyana (de Barros, Ph.D.). Ph.D. thesis research that is

completed or underway includes the following topics: women slave traders and gender in the political economy of western Africa (Harris), l'abolition de l'esclavage en Algérie, 1815-71 (Daddi Addoun), the black slave community in the Regency of Tunis, 1800-90 (Musah Montana), slave plantations in Kano emirate, Sokoto Caliphate (Hamza), and Yoruba slavery in the nineteenth century (Ojo). Ph.D. students who are still taking course work have not yet determined their exact research focus, but it is clear that students will work on slavery in Brazil (Candido), Cuba (Grandio Moraguez), Nigeria (Bashir Salau), Haiti (Burnham), and Morocco (Lofkrantz). In addition, Ph.D. students at other universities who are undertaking research in collaboration with the network are working on the following topics: Export of African Slaves from the Gold Coast (Shumway-Manelski, Emory), Afro-European trading relations on the western Slave Coast (Strickrodt, Stirling), Afro-Cuban returnees to the Bight of Benin (Wetohossou, Costa

Rica), Surinam slave culture (Altinck, Hull), and slave prices on the Gold Coast (Sen, Hull). Two Ph.D. theses have been completed, one on the development of Santeria in Cuba (Ayorinde, Ph.D., Birmingham) and the other on the Aro commercial system (Nwokeji, Ph.D., Toronto).

In strengthening graduate training in African diaspora history at York, we have emphasized conferences as a useful venue. Hence graduate students have attended conferences without giving papers, as well as presenting papers, when the extent of research warranted such presentations. In two cases students and former students have organized major conferences that can be seen as offshoots of our research program. Our strategy has been to enable graduate students to establish their own network of their peers, so that the next generation of researchers is not only being trained but also interacting as professionals at this early stage.



Status of Research Projects

The following listing indicates the various research projects, with a brief indication of their status.

1. Inventories/indexes:

a. Caribbean newspapers; pilot project, an inventory of Jamaican newspapers, completed. Planning stage for implementation of Jamaican project (digitization of complete collection of Jamaican newspapers)

b. 1789 British Parliamentary Enquiry into the Slave Trade; pilot project underway; intention is to digitize and index the published testimonies; and then retrieve the unpublished archival materials related to the enquiries

c. Nigerian National Archives, Enugu Branch, slavery project; photocopied documents on slavery and pawnship being indexed, to be

digitized; further documents being searched

d. Hispanic America resources; published books and collections of documents being collected, in consultation with Universidad de Costa Rica

e. Lovejoy collection; archival holdings, principally relating to Nigeria, articles, papers and documents on slavery, West Africa and the African diaspora

f. Trotman collection; articles, papers and documents on the circum-Caribbean; Caribbean music and carnivals; Afro-Caribbean religion, crime

f. Royal Africa Company papers (Law) - transcription completed, annotation almost done

g. Arabic mss (Daddi Addoun, Montana, Hunwick, O'Fahey et al.)

3. Jamaican newspaper project (Lovejoy/Trotman/Beckles/Shepher)
4. Bahia database (Reis/Castro de Araujo /Lovejoy); plans to search all documents on Muslims
5. Bight of Biafra slave trade documents (Lovejoy/Richardson); letters and documents relating to the trade at Old Calabar - texts being published
6. Proyecto Orunmilla (Ernesto Valdes Janet/Rina Cáceres) -- 22 volumes of primary texts on Santeria collected and digitized
7. Igbo oral data project (Carolyn Brown/Anayo Enechukwu/Sydney Emezue); 45 interviews on slavery in different parts of Igboland have been videotaped; transcription and translation of texts underway
8. Hausa oral data project (Hamza/Jumare/ Stilwell/Lovejoy); inventory of oral texts on slavery updated; transcriptions and translations being checked.
9. Repatriated Former Slaves: oral data project (Soumonni, Wetohossou, Codo)
10. Biographical database (Lovejoy, Kolapo et al.); textual database under construction; approximately 2,000 individuals identified, with files on

2. Primary Documents (partial list)

a. Hugh Clapperton papers (1820s) (Lockhart, Lovejoy, Ojo, Hamza, Kolapo) - texts transcribed; annotations underway

b. W.B. Baikie papers (1850s) (Kolapo, Lovejoy, Lockhart) - texts collected (except missing diary)

c. R. Prietze Hausa and Kanuri texts (Lovejoy, Seidensticker-Brikay, Hamza) - texts collected, Hausa and Kanuri to be translated

d. Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua (Lovejoy, Law) - annotation finished, publication, winter 2000-01

e. J.K. Cochrane reports (Lovejoy) - annotation completed, publication, fall 2000

- each. Further database design to be undertaken in 2000-01.
11. Visual history database (Edna Bay, Viktoria Schmidt-Linsenhoff, Joseph Adandé et al.), pilot project at Universitat Trier, Germany, underway to digitize images of Africans and the slave trade in European paintings. Application to be submitted to fund large-scale project, targeting archives and museums in West Africa and the diaspora.
 12. Hispanic America initiatives (Central America, Colombia, Cuba) (Renée Soulodre-La France, Rina Cáceres, Jane Landers et al.), digitization of selected documents on slavery (Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Cuba)
 13. Underground Railroad database (Lovejoy, Trotman, Prince): Plans to submit funding application with Buxton National Historic Site and Museum to create a biographical database on the Underground Railroad
 14. *Busah's Mistress, or Catherine the Fugitive: A Romance Set in the Days of Slavery*, a novel by Cyrus Francis Perkins, Brantford, Canada West, 1855 (Lovejoy, Shepherd); edition being published by Ian Randles
 15. Digitized database of slave registration series for the Anglo-Caribbean (1813-34) (Shepherd, Beckles)
 16. Text and testimony collection of subaltern voices of the African diaspora (Trotman, Beckles, Shepherd)
- These various projects and initiatives relate directly to the seven areas of concentration outlined in the original proposal, most especially to the focus on archival documentation, oral data, and other primary source materials, and on the construction of databases. All these projects contribute to the overall schema by enhancing access to the documentation to undertake the analysis of the various themes of the Nigerian Hinterland Project (ports of the slave trade, the Islamic factor, ethnicity, and trans-Atlantic linkages).



Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

Since the inauguration of the UNESCO Slave Route Project in Ouidah, République du Bénin, in 1994, there have been numerous conferences and workshops that have been organized the key members of the Nigerian Hinterland Project, starting with Lovejoy, Law, and Soumonni, and expanding to include others who in turn

have organized conferences and workshops. Moreover, the Harriet Tubman Seminar Series at York University was launched in 1995-96 by Lovejoy and Law and subsequently continued by Lovejoy and Trotman. In the summer of 1997, an SSHRC Summer Institute was held at York, which was the immediate predecessor to

the MCRI-funded project. Nineteen conferences and workshops have been held since 1996 through October 2000, in addition to the Tubman Seminar Series, and special panels at learned society meeting (see Appendix B).

The forthcoming agenda includes the following conferences that have been planned or are being planned:

1. "Resistance to Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa," Rutgers University, February 2001, organized by Sylviane Diouf.
2. Wilberforce workshop, spring 2001, with David Richardson and Network Professors
3. "Pathways to the African past," University of Texas, April 2001, organized by Toyin Falola
4. Conference in honour of K. Braithwaite in Jamaica, spring 2001, organized by Verene Shepherd
5. Conference on slave religion in Islamic Societies, Essouaria, Morocco, June 2001, organized by Mohammed Ennaji
6. Workshop on gender, Dartmouth College, organized by Verene Shepherd and Judith Byfield
7. Bahia/Benin Workshop, organized by EPA and IBERDA, Porto Novo, Benin, November 2001

8. Workshop on Slavery Databases and their Construction, Dekker Institute, Curaçao.
9. Colombia, conference being planned (in collaboration with Archivo General da la Nacion and El Banco de la Republica)

It should be noted that the Harriet Tubman Seminar Series continues, and in early 2001, the two resident Network Professors (Shepherd and Soumonni) will each give a formal lecture, the inaugural Harriet Tubman Lectures.

The various conferences that have been held and those that are in the planning stage focus on the areas of concentration described in the original proposal, and have allowed a means whereby team members and other specialists can interact and discuss their findings. Hence the conferences have focused on ethnicity, trans-Atlantic linkages, the Islamic factor, and the ports of the slave trade. The conferences and workshops have also allowed a venue to present and discuss the various documentation projects listed above, where relevant to particular conferences/workshops. It should be noted that there has been a close relationship between the ongoing agenda of conferences and the strengthening of African diaspora studies at York.



Dissemination

One of the crucial aims of the Project has been the dissemination of the material (primary documents, research reports, conference and seminar papers, publications, film/video) in order to provide the world of scholarship an ever increasing body of available material for scientific analysis and critique. Our long term aim is to digitize all our material in keeping with developments in information technology. In the meanwhile we have maintained a consistent program of resource dissemination aimed principally at our partners in the South, including IBERDA (Benin), the University of the West Indies (Mona), UWI (St. Augustine), and Universidad de Costa Rica.

Various members of our team have also collaborated with the educational initiatives of the UNESCO Slave Route Project, most especially

Hilary Beckles (Pro-Vice Chancellor, UWI-Mona), and Elisée Soumonni. The aim of the UNESCO initiative is to develop new textbooks, translated into many languages, for primary and secondary schools. In addition, Lovejoy is involved as a consultant on the development of a new textbook for secondary schools in Ontario.

Members of the Project have been involved in several documentaries, including "The African Trade," TimeWatch, BBC Productions (1997), and "Slave Ship," Discovery Channel, Time/Watch Productions (1997). Moreover, David Trotman has just completed the production of a 12-part radio documentary on the Caribbean during the slavery era, in collaboration with Ryerson Polytechnic University (with interviews of members of the Nigerian Hinterland Project).



Institutional Linkages

Without doubt, the Nigerian Hinterland Project has strengthened collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences. The Project has fostered unique opportunities to collaborate in international research activities; indeed the very nature of the Project is international, crossing borders, and trans-cultural in focus, involving scholars and students from many countries and varied backgrounds. The institutional linkages, joint projects, cooperation in training of students, and

conference schedule are designed to let the network function as a reinforcing agency for planning and implementation. The Project has promoted partnerships between universities and private and public sector groups. The list of the partners would include IBM, the Ford Foundation, SEPHIS, the Schomburg Center, and the many sources of support for the various conferences.

The principal institutional linkages, with the major components of

each linkage outlined, are summarized below:

University of Stirling, hosted three conferences, published two conference proceedings; two graduate students

UNESCO Slave Route Project; Lovejoy, Law, Soumonni, Dodson, Barnet, Costa e Silva members of International Scientific Committee; possibility of UNESCO Chair and designation of historic site to commemorate the Underground Railroad under discussion

Wilberforce Institute, University of Hull; research and documentation centre being planned, pending funding, to coordinate research on the African diaspora in Britain; David Richardson, director-designate, Lovejoy and Eltis appointed Research Professors; Visiting Network Professorship program being planned.

Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture; support for Proyecto Orunmila, Igbo oral data project, Enugu Archives project, various conferences; fellowship for Douglas Chambers (International Advisory Board); Underground Railroad project; numerous other activities

African Studies Center, Rutgers University, co-sponsorship of two conferences, Igbo oral data project on slavery, Enugu archive project on

slavery documents; Carolyn Brown, coordinator.

Institut Béninois d'Etudes et de Recherche sur la Diaspora Africaine, IBERDA, Université Nationale du Bénin, Soumonni, Director; Afro-Brazilian and Afro-Cuban oral data and biography project; visual database (with Joseph Adandé and Viktoria Schmidt-Linsenhoff)

Universidad de Costa Rica, hosted a conference, coordinating data collection in Central American and Cuban archives, Rina Caceres Gomez, Network Professor

University of the West Indies (Mona); hosted a conference, another planned; Caribbean newspaper project; Verene Shepherd, Network Professor; various research projects

Institute of African Studies, Emory University: hosted a conference, Soumonni, Fulbright Fellow; two graduate students; Dahomey focused projects

Northwestern University, hosted two workshops, Saharan Studies Newsletter, Arabic documentation projects

Centre for Caribbean Studies, Warwick University, hosted a conference on conflict and control in post-emancipation Caribbean.



Institutional Development at York University

The Nigerian Hinterland Project is to become the flagship of the proposed Canadian Centre for Research on the

African Diaspora at York University. The proposed centre is funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and

matching contributions from IBM, SGI, and the Ontario Government. The centre designed to meet the increasing level of institutional and scholarly interaction that has been generated by the Nigerian Hinterland Project. The proposed centre

reflects the ongoing and growing commitment of York University to matters of race relations, African, African American, Black Canadian, Latin American, and Caribbean studies.



APPENDIX

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS SPONSORED BY THE NIGERIAN HINTERLAND PROJECT (1996-2000)

FEBRUARY 1996

The African Diaspora and the Nigerian Hinterland: Towards a Research Agenda
Centre for Refugee Studies, Founders College, and the Department of History
York University
February 2-3, 1996

FEBRUARY 1996

West Africa and the Americas: Repercussions of the Slave Trade
University of the West Indies (Mona Campus)
February 20-22, 1997

JULY-AUGUST 1997

SSHRC/UNESCO Summer Institute, "Identifying Enslaved Africans: The 'Nigerian' Hinterland and the African Diaspora"
York University
July 14-August 1st, 1997

APRIL 1998

Rethinking the African Diaspora: the Making of a Black Atlantic World in the Bight of Benin and Brazil
Institute of African Studies, Emory University
April 17-18, 1998

JUNE 1998

Ports of the Slave Trade

(Bights of Benin and Biafra)
Centre of Commonwealth Studies,
University of Stirling
June 1998

SEPTEMBER 1998

Transatlantic Slaving and the African Diaspora: W.E.B. Du Bois Institute Dataset of Slaving Voyages
The College of William and Mary
September 11-13, 1998

NOVEMBER 1998

"Dialogues in the Spirit: Caribbean Religions in Comparative Perspective"
Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean
York University
November 12-15, 1998

FEBRUARY 1999

"1824-1999: 175 Aniversario de la abolición de la esclavitud en Centro América, Reunion: La Ruta del Esclavo en Hispanoamerica"
Universidad de Costa Rica
February 24-26, 1999

APRIL 1999

Colloque International "Borgou'98"
Parakou/Nikki
République du Bénin
April 6-9, 1999

APRIL/MAY 1999

The Black Experience in the Islamic Mediterranean
Program of African Studies
Northwestern University
April 30-May 2, 1999

JUNE 1999*

Colonialism and Public Health in the Tropics
York University
June 18-19, 1999

FEBRUARY 2000

Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction
Third Biennial Meeting
Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida
February 17-19, 2000

MAY 2000

Workshop on "Islamic Thought in Africa"
Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa, Northwestern University
May 12-14, 2000

MAY 2000

Workshop on "Slave Systems in Asia and the Indian Ocean: Their Structure and Change in the 19th and 20th Centuries"
CERINS, University of Avignon,
May 18-20, 2000

MAY 2000*

All African Students' Conference 2000
"The Role of African Youth on the Continent and in the Diaspora in the 21st Century."
York University, May 26-28, 2000

JUNE 2000

"Liberté, identité, integration et servitude dans le monde musulman."
Al-Akhawayn University, Morocco
June 29-30, 2000

JULY 2000

Workshop on "Control and Resistance in the Post-Emancipation Caribbean."

University of Warwick
July 6-7, 2000

JULY 2000

"Repercussions of the Atlantic Slave Trade: The Bight of Biafra and the African Diaspora."
Nike Lake Resort, Enugu, Nigeria
July 10-14, 2000

OCTOBER 2000

"Enslaving Connections: Africa and Brazil during the Era of the Slave Trade."
York University
October 12-15, 2000

TUBMAN SEMINARS, YORK UNIVERSITY

(1997-1998), (1998-1999), (1999-2000), (2000-2001)

SPECIAL SESSIONS AT SCHOLARLY CONFERENCES

Panel on "Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Bight of Benin and its Hinterland," organized by Paul Lovejoy, Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of African Studies, McGill University, Montréal, May 1-5, 1996

Panel on "The Atlantic Slave Trade from Africa", convened by Robin Law, Biennial Conference of the African Studies Association of the U.K., University of Bristol, UK, September 9-11, 1996

Panel on "The Yoruba Factor in the Atlantic Slave Trade", Organized by Paul Lovejoy, African Studies Association (USA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 23-26, 1996

Panel on "Developing a Diaspora: Bahia and the Bight of Benin", Organized by Kristin Mann, African Studies Association (USA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 23-26, 1996

* Organized by post-graduate students.