



Developpement des Etudes Africaines en Chine

Le programme de l' Africa Research Center, Xiamen University

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Afrique – Chine – Afrique
Des Initiatives dans toutes les directions

Le prochain Sommet Afrique – Chine devrait avoir lieu a Dakar, Senegal en 2021

African Studies in China

Cheryl M. Schmitz



A few years ago, I sat in on a graduate seminar on ethics and globalization at a major university in Beijing. The course was taught by a Chinese professor who had done extensive fieldwork in locations ranging from Angola to Ethiopia. More than half of the students in the classroom had also lived in various African countries. They had spent years working at construction companies, charity organizations, or diplomatic offices, and they were now being trained as

Scholars gather for discussion at the Center for African Studies, Peking University.



Above: African Museum at ZNU. Right: Jinhua Qiubin Primary School; both photos courtesy of IASZNU.

Zhejiang Normal University Museum of African Art and the Entrance of an elementary School

Institutions Academiques promouvant les Etudes Africaines en Chine

China Foreign Affairs University, Center of African Studies

China Institute for Contemporary International Relations (CICIR): Institute of West Asian and African Studies

Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS): Institute of West Asian and African Studies

Chinese Institute of International Studies

Chinese Society of African Historical Studies

International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC): Research Center of Africa

Institute for African Studies, Jinan University

Institute of African Studies, Nanjing University

Center of African Studies, Peking University

Center for African Studies, Shanghai Normal University

Shanghai Institute of International Studies (SIIS): Research Center of West Asia and Africa

Tongji University School of International Relations and Political Science

Yunnan University, Center of African Studies

Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University

[China-Africa Knowledge Project Research Hub » Centers ...](#)

<https://china-africa.ssrc.org/teaching-research-resources/centers-institutions>

[Institute of African Studies Zhejiang Normal University](#)

ias.zjnu.cn/iasen/main.htm

Among China's higher-learning institutions, IASZNU is the first institute that founded the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum (CATTF), the first African Museum, Translation Center for African Studies, African Literature Library and Professional Database for African Studies.

Institute of **African Studies** Zhejiang Normal University IASZNU was founded in September 2007 under the auspices of Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Among China's universities, it is the first comprehensive institute established specially for African studies.

[Center for African Studies Peking University](#)

<https://caspu.pku.edu.cn/en/index.html>

African politics and economy **African** Social development **African** history and archaeology **African** Literature and Culture **Africa** ...

Courses OF School of International **Studies** Courses of Department of History Courses of Department of Foreign Language: PKUCASForum. PKUCAS lectures PKUCAS ...

[Institute of African Studies, Nanjing University](#)

<https://www.nju.edu.cn/EN/8c/3c/c7549a166972/page.htm>

Institute of **African Studies**, **Nanjing University**. **Nanjing**, China. Founded in 1964, the Research Center of **Africa Studies** at **Nanjing University** was established in order to strengthen the China-Africa relationship. From 1964 to 1993, the Center's research focused on analyzing the geographic issues of **Africa**

In 1993, the Center of **African Economic Geography** was renamed the Center of **African Studies** of **Nanjing University** (CASNJU). Its research fields have expanded since then.

[Center for African Studies, Kunming University Yunnan ...](#)

Kunming University (KMU) is a small (5,000-5,999 students) coeducational ...**Location:** Kunming, Yunnan

Dr. Liang Yijian, Associate Professor at the Center for **African Studies**, **Yunnan University**, China gave an overview of "The Background, Current Situation and Prospects of China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation." He expanded on the importance and increasing recognition of many **African** countries as an economic partner.

[Shanghai Normal University | African Studies Center ...](#)

shnu.academia.edu/Departments/African_Studies_Center

The Center of African Studies at Shanghai Normal University, founded in 1999, focuses on **African history and economics**, and is working to further **China-Africa relations**.

In recent years, besides instructing both undergraduates and graduate students, the Center has undertaken research.

Military Cooperation and Weapons Sales

China Promotes Its Party-Army Model in Africa

By [Paul Nantulya](#) (July 28, 2020) (Source: Africa Center for Strategic Studies)

The principle of absolute party control of the military is one of the pillars of China's governance model. It follows the central rule—[“The party commands the gun, and the gun must never be allowed to command the party”](#) coined by the founder of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Mao Zedong. The adage defines the relationship between the ruling party and the People's Liberation Army (PLA), as well as the party's tight control of the Chinese government, which is often described as a “party state”.

As China deepens its ties to African militaries, including through training and education initiatives, Beijing brings its perspective on party-army relations. The venues through which it does this have been growing steadily in the past decade.

- Under its China-Africa Action Plan 2018-2021, China receives 60,000 African students annually, which surpasses both the United States and United Kingdom.
- China provides an additional 50,000 professional training opportunities and 50,000 government fellowships to African public servants.
- Around 5,000 slots go to military professionals, up from 2,000 under its 2015-2018 Plan.

Military Training

- African students are exposed to the Chinese model on party-army relations at three career levels in China's professional military education (PME) engagements.
- The first is the regional academies for cadets and junior officers, such as Nanjing Military Academy, Dalian Naval Academy, and the PLA Air Force Aviation University.
- Next, the command and staff colleges—including Army Command Colleges in Nanjing and Shijiazhuang and the Command and Staff Colleges of the PLA's service branches—train mid-career officers.
- The bulk of African military students train at these two levels, a legacy of China's role in building Africa's newly established militaries after independence.
- China's National Defense University and National University of Defense Technology are the upper tier of China's PME, admitting more than 300 foreign officers annually, mostly from developing countries, with African officers constituting slightly under 60 percent.
- African officers also attend the PLA's political schools, which provide training on the mechanisms China's ruling party uses to exercise control over the military, including through the political commissar system. Angola, Algeria, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe have all adopted various forms of this Maoist model of fusing the ruling party and military.



Teaching Building of China's National Defense University.



The 3rd Forum of Higher Education on China-France- Africa French-speaking countries held at Wuhan University

The 3rd Forum of Higher Education on China-France- Africa French-speaking was inaugurated on October 29 in the conference hall of the Main Library of Wuhan University. More than 40 scholars from over 20 universities and government officials of China and France attended the forum via Zoom or on the spot. The objectives of the forum are exchanging viewpoints about the development of higher education and the cultivation of medical talents under COVID-19 pandemic, and facilitating trilateral communication and collaboration.

The forum guests

President Dou Xiankang appreciated at the opening ceremony that the teachers and students at WHU had overcome obstacles caused by the pandemic and embarked on online teaching and learning via different Internet platforms. In his speech, Dou mentioned that Renmin and Zhongnan hospitals, the affiliations of WHU, had spared no effort to fight against the pandemic in China. The doctors and experts from these two hospitals not only made great contributions in the battle against the virus, but also shared their experiences on virus testing and medical treatments with countries such as France, Egypt and Algeria via the Internet. At last, Dou expressed his desire for the sustainability of the forum.

President Dou Xiankang delivering the opening speech

After the opening ceremony, scholars delivered their keynote addresses entitled “The opportunities, challenges and corresponding measures for higher education during the pandemic” and “Medical talent training under the impacts of the pandemic”. They engaged in elaborate arguments concerning trilateral cooperation in tertiary education along with the changes in global public health. The forum came to an end amidst heated discussions. The participants looked forward to the theme reports on the following day with full confidence in the trilateral cooperation.

A combination of on-line and off-line meeting

The Forum of Higher Education on China-France- Africa French-speaking was initiated by Wuhan University to establish a shared community of higher education among China, France and African countries. The first forum was held at Wuhan University in 2017 and the second in Morocco in 2018. More than 30 universities as well as a number of scientific research institutions from China, France and Africa have been participating in the construction of the platform.



Xiamen University Africa Research Center Program

The ARC program is planned to allow for the implementation of effective academic collaboration agenda .

1 - Such development is anchored on two pillars: mutual respect and trust.

2 - Beside teaching and master and doctoral students supervision, three complementary projects will be launched:

A - The creation of an anthropological archaeology laboratory with research collections from my previous field projects in Africa donated to Xiamen University

B - To initiate a Multi-disciplinary research field program, in Africa - on the Saloum delta shell-middens in Senegal – the Archaeology of an Ancient Swahili City State Center, and in China – “Archaeology and Semiotics of West Fujian Stone Mosaics-.

C – To create a multi-disciplinary research center - Africa Center - staffed with 6 faculty members to start with, predominantly young researchers, running an advanced level sustainable multidisciplinary Seminar

D - From the core projects outlined above, there are additional possibilities of developing collaborative exchange and research with some African, Brazilian, and European universities and research institutions.

**1 – The Africa Research has to further multi-disciplinary
advanced field-based teaching and Research**

Africa Research Center planned Faculty Hirings

1- Professor of Environmental Science

Environmental issues are at the forefront of the elaboration of sustainable issues to human present and future. The successful applicant will have to master at least one foreign language important in African studies; teach and organize field trips and research with students in Africa.

2 -Professor of Chinese Traditional Medicine

The Africa Research Center intends to initiate sustained comparative research on traditional holistic medical practices in China and Africa. The successful applicant will have to master at least one foreign language important in Africanist research. Teach classes and conduct field research with undergraduate and graduate students in China and Africa.

3 – Assistant-Professor, Economics

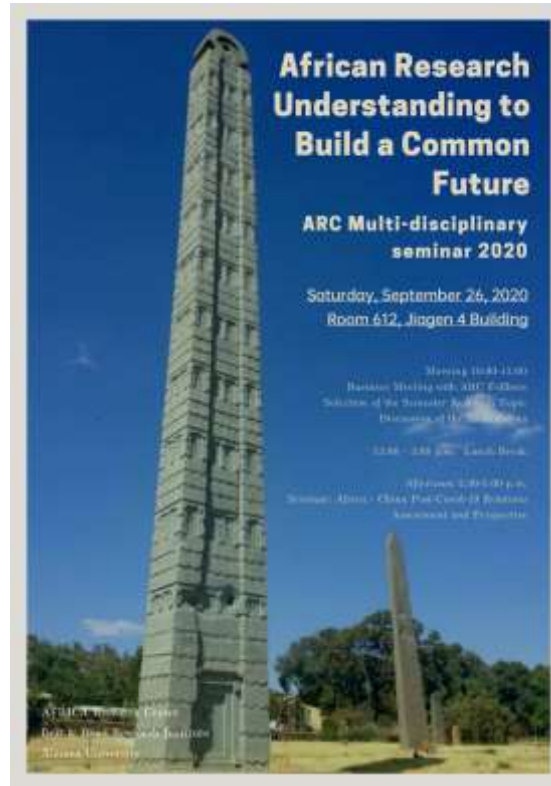
There is growing flow of exchange between China and Africa. The successful applicant will have to master at least one foreign language, with expertise in the economic relations between China and Africa, with the ability to provide consultancy to the business world

4 – Assistant-Professor, Sociology

Like anywhere else, Africa is witnessing a significant acceleration of urban growth and increased disparities in wealth and housing. The successful applicant will have to master at least one foreign language, with expertise in urban studies, and is expected to design an original project on an African urban center

5 – Assistant- Professor, Anthropology

The Africa Research Center intends to initiate a field-based research and teaching in cultural anthropology. The successful applicant will have to master at least one foreign language, teach and design a field program involving undergraduate and graduate students



The Africa Research Center, Xiamen University Belt and Road Research Institute

1 - The Inaugural Multidisciplinary Seminars

2 – Group photo of the ARC Fellows (Doctoral students)

2 – Field-based Research Training

Field Studies Course (5 credits)

1 - Cultural Adaptation to Climate Change: Archaeology of Saloum Delta Shell-Middens, Senegal, West Africa

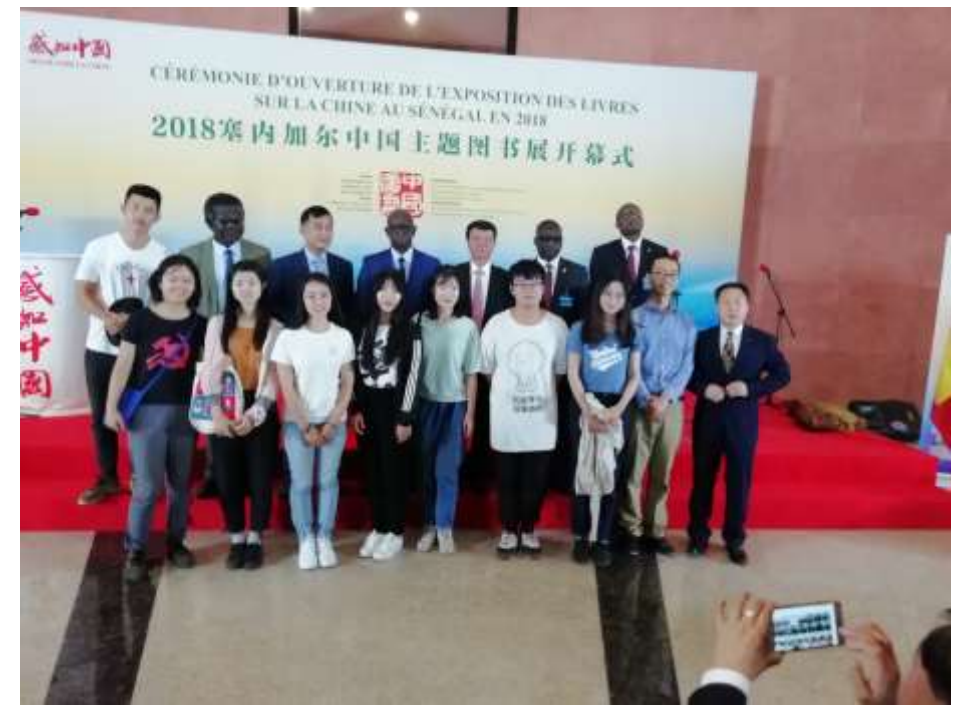
2 - Africa – China Interaction: Excavations at Gedi, an Early Swahili Town, Kenya, East Africa

3 – Archaeology and Semiotics of West Fujian Stone Mosaics

Xiamen University “Saloum Delta Shell-Middens Archaeological Project”, July – August 2018 field Season in Senegal, West Africa



Xiamen university and
Cheikh Anta Diop
University students in the
Summer Field Studies
Course in the Saloum
Delta Shell-midden,
Senegal, West Africa,
July – August 2018



**Program: Africa – China Interaction: Excavations at Gedi, an Early
Swahili Town
Field Studies**

Gedi: Kenya National Monument

The ruins of Gedi are located 16km to the south of Malindi, and 6.5km from the Indian Ocean. The site measures in total 30 hectares, with a fortified perimeter of 18 hectares.

The program “Africa – China Interactions” will focus on domestic architecture and household organization. The excavation units will be set in ordinary habitation neighbourhoods that have not attracted previous archaeological work. The research will look at household material culture and examine what part of non-African material culture, with particular emphasis on China – are represented and in what proportions during the whole occupation of Gedi

Map of Gedi showing the city fortifications and the excavated public buildings: The Friday Mosque and the Royal Palace, ca 1200 -1450 CE



- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - Porte de la porte sud | 14 - Mosquée sud | 30 - Poste nord |
| 2 - Citadelle musulmane XII - XIII | 15 - Mosquée centre l'est-cote sud | 31 - Quartier nord-ouest |
| 3 - Terrasse dans l'axe | 16 - Maison centre le sud sud | 32 - Place et grande tombe à pierre |
| 4 - Muraille de l'enceinte de la partie ouest | 17 - Niche nord-ouest | 33 - Grande mosquée XV - XVI |
| 5 - Quartier nord-est | 18 - Place orientale | 34 - Poste sud |
| 6 - Mosquée avec les colonnes | 19 - Citadelle musulmane l'est-cote | 35 - Angle sud-est |
| 7 - Mosquée sans les colonnes | 20 - Mosquée du nord-ouest | |
| 8 - Poste centrale | 21 - Poste occidentale | |
| 9 - Citadelle musulmane l'est | 22 - Maison centre le sud sud | |
| | 23 - Poste sud-ouest | |

Plan de la ville de Gedi (2001)



Habitation units next to the Royal Palace and a family burial in the Cathedral Mosque cemetery



Archaeology and Semiotics of West Fujian Stone Mosaics



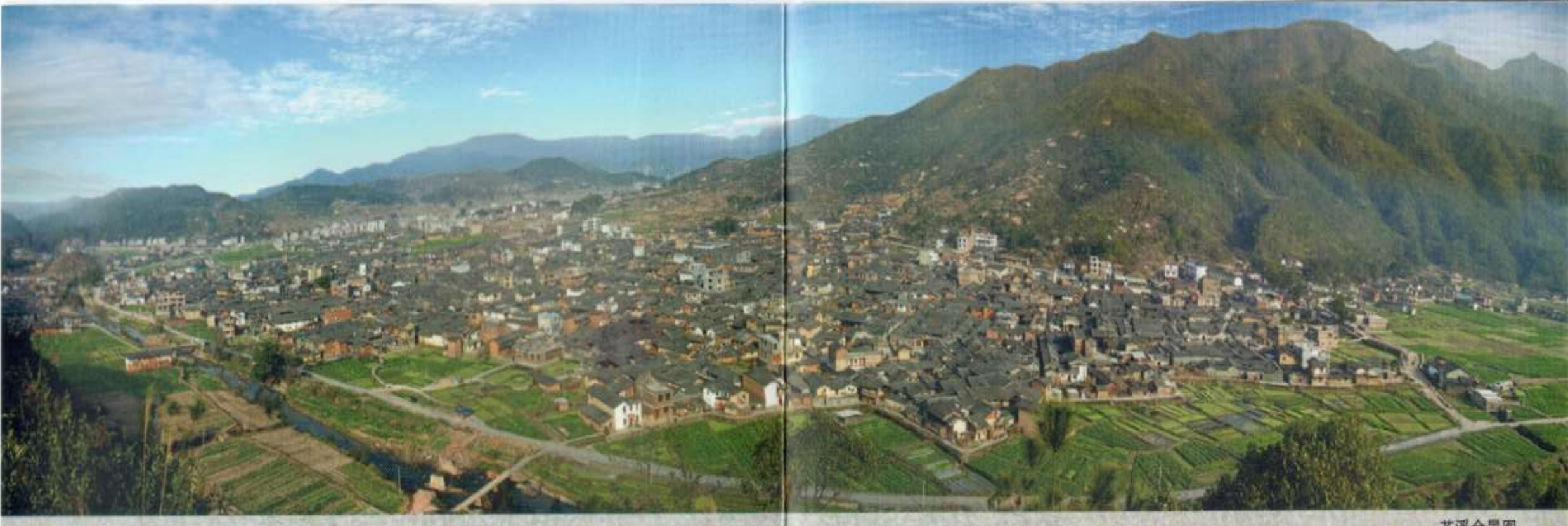
“The Stone Mosaics Research Group”
(Gao Chang and his Students)

Anthropological Archaeology Field Studies Project (2020)

Archaeology and Semiotics of Western Fujian Stone Mosaics

- 1 - The earliest stone mosaics in World history is dated from the Bronze Age in Turkey (2000-1500 BCE).
- 2 – Stone Mosaics are elements of the socialization of living spaces, with strong social differentiation implications.
- 3 - The project is designed to create a bilingual Mandarin Chinese/ English Atlas of Western Fujian stone mosaics to start with, help in showcasing neglected Fujian cultural Heritage and promote informed and intelligent Tourism
- 4 - Field work will take place on Saturday/Sunday every two weeks and will involve GPS position, mapping and photographs of the buildings and complex under investigation, detailed drafting. Measurements, and recording of all aspects of the mosaics.
- 5 - A comparative chronological and geographic analysis will be carried out to identify local and regional variants.
- 6 - Students will be trained in field techniques, in the identification and recording of archaeological features, the mapping of archaeological sites and the processing and analysis of archaeological and environmental data.

The town of
Zhixi in
Western Fujian



Zhixi: The Qing Dynasty Imperial Printing House reconstitution



Zhixi: The central stone mosaic of the Imperial Printing house



A large circular stone mosaic is set into a cobblestone path. The mosaic is composed of dark, irregularly shaped stones arranged in a circular pattern. The central part of the mosaic is divided into two halves by a vertical line. The right half features a dragon, and the left half features a phoenix. The dragon is depicted with its head facing left, and the phoenix is depicted with its head facing right. The mosaic is surrounded by a border of smaller, lighter-colored stones. The path is made of dark, rounded cobblestones, and there are patches of green grass and moss growing between the stones.

The details of the central stone mosaic showcase the Imperial Family: The Dragon in the right representing the Emperor, and the Phoenix in the left the Queen, the Emperor's wife



Another example based on fractal geometry

3 - Archaeology Laboratory Training

Archaeology Laboratory Studies Course

Archaeology Laboratory Studies Course

Ongoing archaeological excavation in Senegal,
West Africa



Archaeological data processing in the field Laboratory
in Senegal, West Africa



The Laboratory space in
the Museum of Black
Civilizations at Dakar,
Senegal



4 - The dissemination of Academic Research to the widest Audience possible

Volumes IX, X, and XI of the UNESCO General History of Africa (in preparation)

International Scientific Committee of Volume IX of the ...

www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/...

In partnership with the University of Xiamen, UNESCO will hold the sixth meeting of the International Scientific Committee for the Development of Volume IX of the General History of Africa (GHA) in Xiamen, China, from 4 to 9 December 2017.

Sixth Meeting of International Scientific Committee of the ...

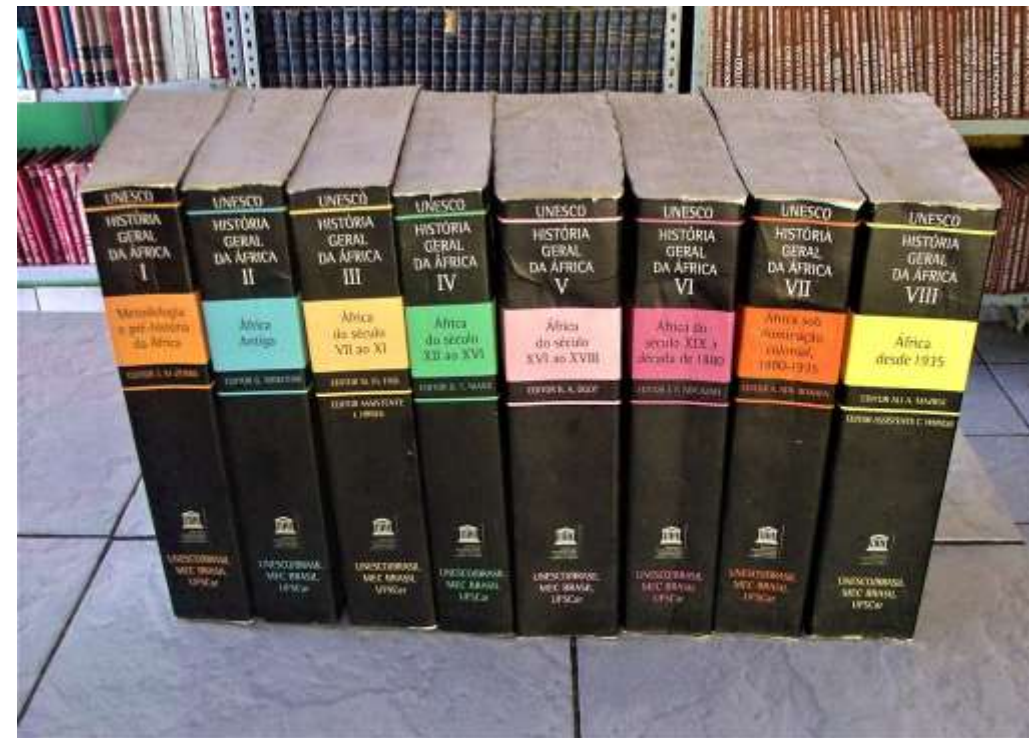
www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/...

The International Scientific Committee of the Volume IX of the General History of Africa is meeting in Xiamen, China from 4 to 9 December 2017 to discuss and validate the last contributions that are going to be integrated in this publication.

A new page in the General History of Africa | Africanews

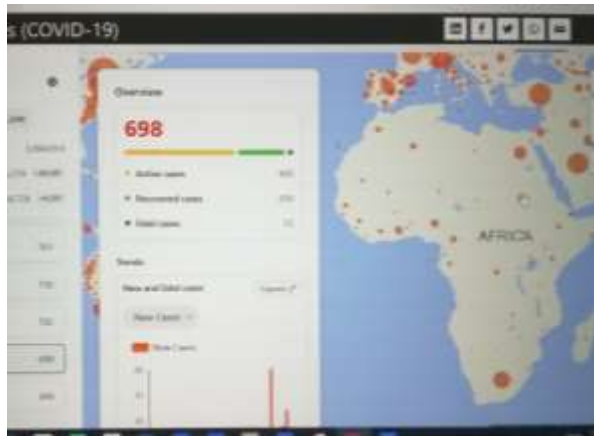
<https://www.africanews.com/2019/03/29/a-new-page...>

Mar 29, 2019 · The International Scientific Committee of UNESCO's General History of Africa, which met in Belo Horizonte (Brazil) from 25 to 28 March, finalized the drafting of the next three volumes of the...



**5 – The Social Responsibility of Universities:
The International fight against the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Covid-19 Map of Africa on June 19, 2020 (Screen capture).
Dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa



AFRICA CDC
Center for Disease Control and Prevention

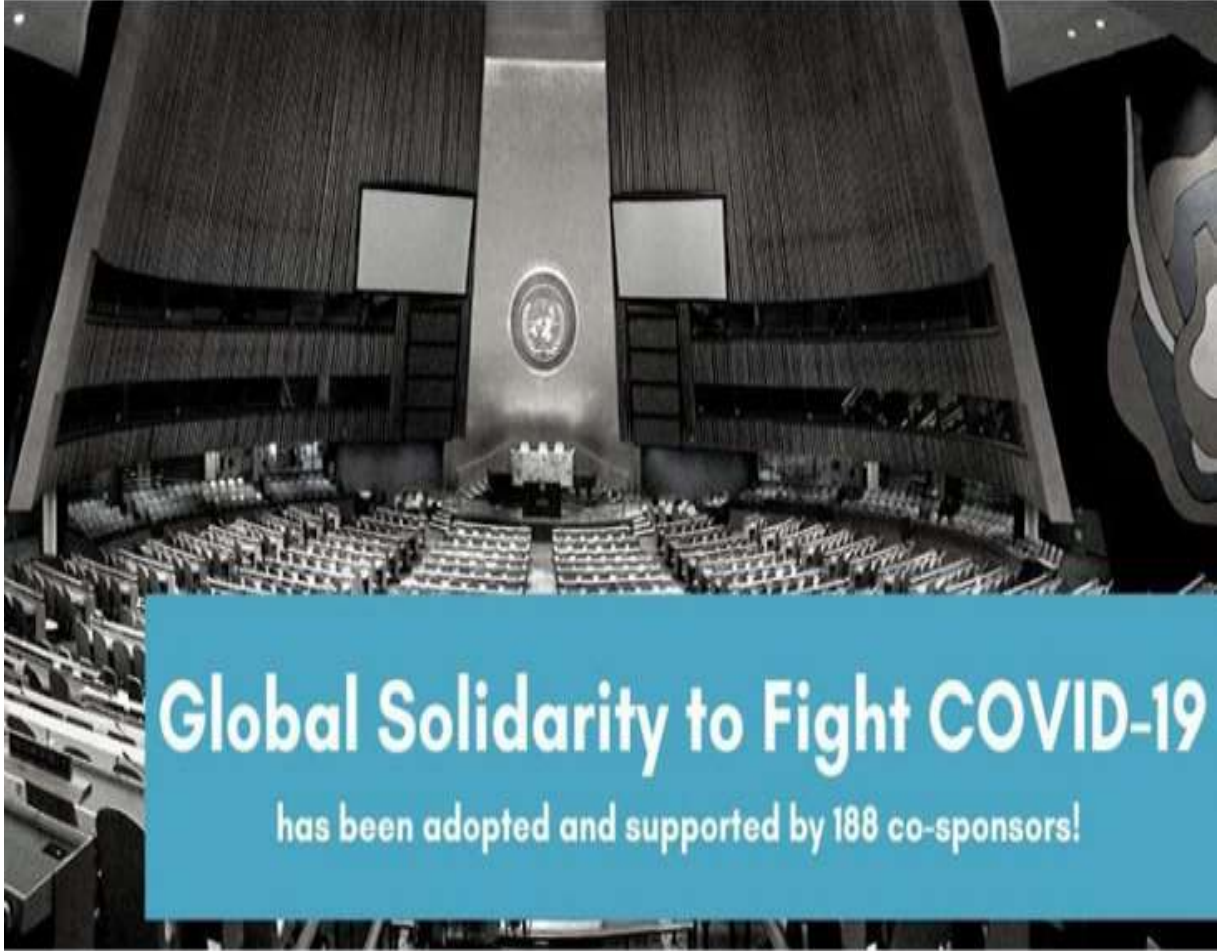
**0.1% OF AFRICANS
HAVE BEEN TESTED**

LITTLE RELIABLE DATA

AGENDA



International cooperation and exchange are crucial in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. In Africa, China is leading the way.




 Ambassade du Sénégal
 en République Populaire de Chine
 L'Ambassadeur

N° = 128 /ASB
 Date: 18 MAY 2020

Dear Augustin F. C. Holl,

I thank you very much for your letter dated May 13, 2020 informing me that Xiamen University Alumni have decided to donate anti-epidemic equipment to Senegal.

This is a kind gesture which demonstrates how profound are the ties that your colleagues, your students and yourself have maintained with Senegal over recent years.

I also take note of the difficulties that you are facing to ship the equipment to Senegal. My office is also experiencing similar difficulties due to the closing of Senegal's borders. However, I remain mindful of your project and will revert to you as soon as I identify a possibility of sending the goods to Senegal.

Sincerely,



 Mamadou NDIAYE

Augustin F. C. Holl
 Distinguished University Professor
 Director, Africa Research Center
 President, UNESCO International Scientific Committee
 for the General History of Africa
 XIAMEN

Xiamen University Alumni Association Humanitarian Assistance to Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal in West Africa, 0.6 cubic meters of Hand sanitizers shipped to Senegal by Guangzhou T. S. CARGO company


 AMBASSADE DU CAMEROUN EN CHINE EMBASSY OF CAMEROON TO CHINA

No. 145 /20/L/ACPK/AC Beijing, May 13, 2020

THE AMBASSADOR

Professor Augustine F. C. Holl
 Department of Anthropology
 Director, Africa Research Center
 Xiamen University
 Xiamen, Fujian
 P.R. China.

Dear Professor,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, Re: Covid- 19 Help-Assistance Project, opting to provide some possible help to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID 19) in Cameroon.

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon to the People's Republic of China is grateful for the concern that the Xiamen University leaders via the University Alumni Association has for Cameroon to help it in its fight against the coronavirus. There is no doubt that this initiative is from you Professor Augustine. I am proud of Cameroonians of your calibre who will always think of his origin in times of distress.

The Embassy very much appreciate your gesture and that of your Association, and will like to know the quantities of the items listed in your letter such as the hand sanitizers and masks in order to figure out the process of shipping them to Cameroon.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.


 Eugène M. DEFANG



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Kenya, Turkey and 20 other countries are involved in step III trial of Covid-19 vaccine from China - SINOVAC



Thank you for your attention