



Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies
African Studies Center



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

WORKSHOP: THREE YEARS OF THE NEH ‘AJAMĪ PROJECT

July 7-9, 2022, Boston University



Our project *‘Ajamī Literature and the Expansion of Literacy and Islam: The Case of West Africa* that was awarded a NEH Collaborative Research Grant explores the ‘Ajamī literatures of four main languages of West Africa, seeking to increase global access to primary sources in ‘Ajamī. This collaborative workshop aims to share experience, discuss the challenges we encountered and how we overcame them, and reflect on the best practices we developed for the NEH ‘Ajamī project, the lessons learned, and the plans at the completion of this three-year research project.

DAY 1 (July 7, 2022):

10:30 AM: Welcome and Workshop Introduction

- Welcome to the participants on behalf of the African Studies Center by Eric Schmidt
- Workshop introduction by Fallou Ngom, Daivi Rodima-Taylor, and David Robinson

11:15 AM: Session 1. Best Practices in Fieldwork, Transcription and Translation

Members of NEH ‘Ajamī language teams talk about their personal experience in these areas of their work, reflect on challenges and best practices. Language team presentations are followed by general discussion.

- Wolof team (Elhadji Djibril Diagne, Gana Ndiaye, and Ablaye Diakite)
- Fula team (David Glovsky, Abubakar Jalloh, and Mouhamadou Diallo)
- Hausa team (Mustapha Hashim Kurfi, Jennifer J. Yanco, and Garba Zakari)
- Mandinka team (Ablaye Diakite, Bala Saho, and Ousmane Cisse)

1:30 PM: Lunch and socializing

DAY 2 (July 8, 2022):

10:30 AM: Session 1. Best Practices in Cross-checking and Proofreading

Roundtable discussion with language consultants who have performed cross-checking of transcriptions and translations for the NEH ‘Ajamī project:

- French translations cross-checking
- English translations cross-checking
- Transcriptions cross-checking

Participants: Ndieme Sow, Cheikh Mouhamadou Diop, Babacar Dieng, Marie Binta Badji, Boubacar Biro Diallo, Ousmane Cisse, Abubakar Jalloh, Elhadji Djibril Diagne, Gana Ndiaye, Martin Aucoin, Margaret Rowley. Moderators: Fallou Ngom and Daivi Rodima-Taylor.

12:30 PM: Lunch and socializing

DAY 3 (July 9, 2022):

10:30 AM: Session 1. Best Practices in Making Digital Copies, Metadata, Videotaping, Multimedia Website, and Font Development

- Introducing NEH ‘Ajamī multi-media goals and process (Daivi Rodima-Taylor)
- Best practices in making digital copies and metadata following new EAP guidelines (Eleni Castro)
- Best practices in equipment and developing video and audio resources (Francis Antonelli)
- Best practices in uploading transcriptions, translations, and multi-media materials (Alison Parker)
- Best practices in ‘Ajamī font development: Kigelia ‘Ajamī fonts (Mark Jamra and Neil Patel)
- Q/A session

1:00 PM: Lunch and socializing

2:00 PM: Session 2. Academic Publishing and Special Issue “‘Ajamī Literacies of Africa: The Hausa, Fula, Mandinka, and Wolof Traditions”

- Journal publishing: preparing and submitting articles (Editors)
- Theme, focus, and development of the Special Issue (Fallou Ngom, Daivi Rodima-Taylor, and David Robinson), group discussion with the Special Issue authors

3:30 PM: Conclusions and Next Steps

Fallou Ngom and and Daivi Rodima-Taylor