

I would like to serve on the ASWAD Board because I support its mission and welcome an opportunity to facilitate scholarly exchange across disciplines, and between Africa and its Diasporas. As a historian, my work centers western Africa (Senegambia and Guinea) as a region continually remade by the migration of newcomers both internal and external to the region and therefore a vital location to critically explore questions of diaspora, belonging and self-fashioning. I have found ASWAD conferences have created spaces where the roles of people of African descent in shaping and critically examining these historical processes is taken seriously and want to facilitate these exchanges.

As a board member, I'd be interested to find ways to support the professional development of graduate students and junior scholars through tenure. I also think it is important to bring Africanist scholars into conversation with African Diaspora scholars, and would be interested to find ways to support such exchanges at ASWAD conferences. In the same vein, it would be helpful to develop ways to ensure the visible and meaningful participation of not only of US-based and anglophone scholars but those working in other parts of the world and in multiple language contexts.

I've been an ASWAD member since 2013 when I presented my work the meeting at the Dominican Republic. As a junior faculty member, I have served in various positions in Africa-focused organisations, such as the African Studies Association and Mande Studies Association. Now, I am interested to serve with a group that centers my research concern with historical and contemporary linkages between the African continent and its diasporas.