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My interest in serving on the ASWAD board springs from my commitments to the study of Black life globally, the importance of studying Africa and African history on its own terms and for its importance to African life made in diaspora or elsewhere. My own research and teaching experiences have focused primarily upon early modern African Diaspora to the Americas with a particular emphasis upon enslaved Afro-descended subjects in the colonial north Andes claimed by Spain. The centrality of ASWAD to these intellectual commitments and to Africana Studies broadly conceived rests not only in its global configuration, but also within its commitments to interdisciplinary scholarly engagement. Over the years, I have benefited from the community of scholars assembled within ASWAD by attending congresses, presenting papers, and commenting on panels. I have sought to help sustain the organization through my membership, the securing of institutional membership from my home institution, and by encouraging others to do the same. I am drawn to serve on the board at this time in hopes of contributing to the organization's ongoing vision and growth. I understand that the ASWAD board is a working board that seeks to raise funds and secure the future of ASWAD even as it works to execute biennial conferences and book prizes while stitching together scholars and institutions across the diaspora. The daily realities of Afro-Diasporic social, political and intellectual life under siege as evidenced by the brutal policing of Black life in South Africa, Brazil, and Colombia, to name a few, all showcase the urgency of coordinating our efforts in study and praxis through ASWAD. As Africana Studies continues to engage the academy critically, ASWAD offers a space of critical engagement for scholars of the African Diaspora. I hope to contribute to the maintenance and growth of this erstwhile young and expanding institution. Leveraging Black wealth and giving, developing institutional affiliations and global institutional linkages while drawing together scholarly initiatives to promote the participation of scholars across the diaspora as well as the affordability of the society for junior, non-traditional, and unaffiliated scholars will surely remain critical areas of commitment and consideration for ASWAD. I hope to be a part of the vanguard of scholars working to ensure its longevity and efficient growth. I am grateful for the nomination and for the society's consideration as I stand for election. I am humbled by this opportunity to participate more fully in an organization and community that has meant so much to me throughout my career.

Sherwin K. Bryant is a historian of the early modern African Diaspora. His work centers upon the lives of enslaved Africans and their descendants in Colonial Spanish America. He is interested in questions of slavery, race, law and governance, gender and sexuality in relationship to Black life and colonialism. His work speaks to questions of political theory, working at the intersections of history and theory. His first book, *Rivers of Gold, Lives of Bondage: Governing through Slavery in Colonial Quito* (UNC Press, 2014), revealed slavery as one of the fundamental features of Spanish colonial practice and social life. As the first comprehensive analysis of slavery and slave life in the north Andes, the work suggests that even a few enslaved subjects with limited economic outputs could produce a slave society. Departing from scholarship that eschews the use of race as a way of conceptualizing difference before the 18th century, Bryant showcases how slavery as a mode of colonial governance was part and partial of the constitution of racialized modes of governance

beginning in the late fifteenth century as developed over time within Spanish colonial rule. Along the way, it reveals the lived experiences of Africans and their descendants in the north Andes and their adjacent pacific lowlands, an under-considered region and era of the African Diaspora. He is at work on projects addressing Black life in the Pacific littoral of southern Colombia and Guayaquil, Ecuador. He is also working on another book-length project concerning slave life as lived inside of the smuggling networks of eighteenth-century New Granada and the broader Spanish empire.

<https://www.afam.northwestern.edu/people/faculty/sherwin-bryant.html>