

I've been a member of ASWAD since first hearing of the organization in 2013. This will be my first time stepping up to a leadership role within the organization. I have had other experiences spearheading, coordinating, and organizing different conferences, working groups, and serving as an editorial board member. I recognize the importance and value of members stepping up and volunteering to the life and vibrancy of such an organization. I embrace this opportunity to serve on ASWAD's board with enthusiasm and bear particular interests in mind.

As a medical anthropologist working on questions of health, science, medicine, and technology and their entanglements with and through the Black Diaspora and experiences of blackness, I am interested in increasing membership of and exposure to other scholars working on similar questions. More intentional engagement and the creation of space for such scholars and scholarship within the organization would greatly improve and contribute to the kinds of debates and intellectual work being produced within and across disciplinary and other boundaries.

I'm also interested in exploring ways in which ASWAD can hold space and cultivate the engagement of the arts as a mode for research dissemination and critical conversations. Currently, scholars have some flexibility in the modes by which they can present their research during ASWAD conferences. I want to elaborate on this flexibility such that works and modes of artistic development that are not as easily modified to fit conference panel format can also find expression and engagement during these important meetings and increase public engagement.

Besides these mentioned interests, I prioritize my commitment to furthering the projects, initiatives, and directions ASWAD is already enacting. I look forward to the opportunity to share my experiences, academic training, and expertise to shape and develop ideas and discussions that will advance the growth and success of ASWAD and its mission.