

It is my honour to stand for election to the Board of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). To do so is to stand with and work for an organisation that centres many of my own commitments. So let me first introduce myself a little. I am a historian of Africa and the African diaspora, and I hold a permanent position as Lecturer in World History at Queen Mary University of London. My research focus regularly takes me to Ghana, Nigeria, Trinidad and Jamaica. I have published on the history of pan-Africanism and black radical thinkers and organisers such as George Padmore and C.L.R. James, as well as more widely on black international circulation between West Africa, the Caribbean, Britain and the United States. I am currently at work on two projects: one on the circulation of ideas in West African and Caribbean newspaper networks, and another on critiques of fascism from West African and Caribbean colonies during the interwar period, which focuses on black radical analysis of the relationship between fascism and colonialism. I am an active member of the African Print Cultures network, the Ghana Studies Association, Lagos Studies Association, and the African American Intellectual History Society.

I want to commit to ASWAD as a Board member because I want to give back to an organisation that has been an important part of my own intellectual development as a young scholar. My first ever international conference, as a graduate student, was the 6<sup>th</sup> ASWAD conference in Pittsburgh (2011). I am grateful that this first experience demonstrated precisely what the attitude and commitments of scholarly community can and should be. I have continuously returned to ASWAD as a model for principled, intellectually rigorous and supportive scholarship.

I am familiar with the internal organising of ASWAD since I currently serve on the ASWAD Membership Committee and the Program Committee for the upcoming conference in Williamsburg. With the Membership Committee, we have been working on new ways to support the membership base, particularly graduate students, and to find new ways to build and grow that membership. Given my base in the UK and my active involvement in African and Caribbean networks, I am particularly passionate about using my networks to publicize ASWAD and recruit new members based in Britain, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. If I were elected to the ASWAD Board, I would also work specifically on identifying the supports required to build membership in these locations by determining the challenges students, academics and activists face in these regions and how ASWAD can work in multiple locations in solidarity. I also serve on the Program Committee for the upcoming ASWAD conference, and as a Board member I would hope to apply my existing experience organising three other international conferences in Britain and the United States to ASWAD conferences.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.