

Call for Panelists

Panel: “The ‘70s as Crossroads: Ghana Between Nkrumah and Rawlings”

Organizers and Panelists:

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Ghana’s 1970s are not likely to be remembered fondly. It is a decade characterized by military rule, economic decline, emigration, and hardship – a hardship that is reflected in the PRAAD holdings, which are far richer for the 1960s than they are for the subsequent decade. In part, this archival imbalance has meant that many researchers terminate their studies either in 1966 or in 1969. The result is that the Nkrumah era ends abruptly, and the Rawlings era seems to emerge *ex novo*. How might our understanding of the 1970s change if instead of focusing on the disjuncture, we looked for continuity? Building on recent works that address the 1970s (Hart, 2016; Murillo, 2017; Agyekum, 2019; Wiemers, 2021), this panel seeks to reconsider the decade from the perspective of political and methodological “crossroads”. How did this period of transition between two defining political regimes shape contemporary Ghana? And what methodologies are best suited to engaging with this period of transition? Papers on any topic or theme are welcome.

Agyekum, Humphrey Asamoah. *From Bullies to Officers and Gentlemen: How Notions of Professionalism and Civility Transformed the Ghana Armed Forces*. Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2019.

Hart, Jennifer. *Ghana on the Go: African Mobility in the Age of Motor Transportation*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016.

Murillo, Bianca. *Market Encounters: Consumer Cultures in Twentieth-Century Ghana*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2017.

Wiemers, Alice. *Village Work: Development and Rural Statecraft in Twentieth-Century Ghana*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2021.