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Foundation News

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FOUNDATION NEWS

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BEIJING, CHINA TRIP: Translation of *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* into Mandarin

Patricia Rodney

In December 2012, I was approached by the Social Science Academic Press (SSAP) in Beijing, China, which expressed interest in translating “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,” a seminal text by Dr. Walter Rodney, into Chinese (Mandarin). A contractual agreement was signed with the Press in May 2013, such that the publication will be completed within two (2) years.

SSAP is the publishing wing of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). SSAP is known for its commitment to excellence and experience in producing classics of broad and long-lasting influence. The best-known and most highly-acclaimed of SSAP’s serial publications is the Yearbooks Series, or annual reports on the state of the nation, which provide a comprehensive overview of China’s latest developments including economy, society, education, environment, culture, law, governance and international relations.

During my recent visit to Beijing in September, I met to discuss the publication with Ms. Gao Mingxiu, Vice Director of Global and Regional Issue Publishing Center, Social Science Academic Press (CASS/SSAP) and Dr. Li Anshan, a renowned professor of International Studies, who has been commissioned to translate the text. Dr. Li’s research focuses on Sino-African relations, African studies and the history of Chinese Overseas in Africa.

Dr. Li is currently a Professor of History, at the School of International Studies and Director of the Center for African Studies at Peking University. He is also Vice President of the Chinese Society of African Historical Studies and Vice President of the Chinese Society of World Ethnic Studies. He earned his PhD at the University of Toronto, Canada. Dr. Li has completed several studies in African countries, including Ghana, Madagascar, Uganda, Zambia and Mozambique. Dr. Li has been a visiting lecturer at Stanford University, the University of Washington and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Li has published articles and papers in Chinese journals and in international academic journals, such as the *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* (Cambridge University) and the *International Journal of African History Studies* (Boston University) and has authored several books on Africa. Dr. Li will begin his sabbatical in January 2014 to work on the Translation.

The release of the Chinese edition is scheduled for Fall 2014. Updates about the availability of the text will be posted on the WRF website.

BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KENNESAW, GA: Georgia State's Intercultural Unit Recognizes Dr. Jesse Benjamin's Work on Public Lecture Series

Georgia State University's Office of Intercultural Relations awarded Kennesaw State University professor Jesse Benjamin its annual Hosea Williams Award for Community Activism, recognizing his role in organizing a public lecture series last year on noted international rights activist Walter Rodney.

The award was one of two – one to an individual and one to an organization – named in honor of Hosea Williams, the famed civil rights activist and close associate of Martin Luther King Jr. It was presented in January during Georgia State's 31st anniversary MLK convocation.



*Dr. Benjamin with Barbara Emerson,
daughter of Hosea Williams*

“This award is a huge honor, a kind of career milestone,” said Benjamin, coordinator of African and African Diaspora Studies at Kennesaw State and associate professor of sociology. “The award is named specifically for one of Dr. King’s most brilliant and committed lieutenants, so just to briefly be mentioned in the company of these giants is deeply humbling.”

Benjamin was the primary organizer of a groundbreaking 13-week lecture series focused on Walter Rodney, the noted Pan-Africanist, revolutionary scholar and author whose ideas fueled Black Power, human rights and workers’ rights movements in the Caribbean and across North America during the 1960s and ‘70s. The series was presented in collaboration with the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library. Students at Kennesaw State, Georgia State and the AU Center earned academic credit for attending the lectures.

“The fact that I designed the series in emulation of historian and educator Vincent Harding, another of King’s legendary advisors, is just a sort of full circle moment for something I am deeply committed to,” Benjamin said. “It could never have happened without the support of students, colleagues and the exceptional administration at KSU, so I consider the award to be a collective award, reflecting on AADS and KSU as a whole.”

(This article was originally published by Kennesaw State University, it can be found at <http://web.kennesaw.edu/news/stories/kennesaw-state-professor-receives-hosea-williams-award-community-activism>)