April 23, 2019

AAP African Futures Program
Mentor Faculty Proposal
Priority Research Areas: Education and Youth Empowerment
Stephen L. Esquith

I have worked with students, faculty, and administrators at the Universite des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Bamako (ULSHB) since its opening three years ago. The focus of this work has been on peace education. With AAP support alongside teachers at three NGOs in Mali (Institut pour l’Education Populaire, Right to Play, and International Sports Alliance), ULSHB faculty and a group of ULSHB students have participated in the peace education curriculum that we have designed. This includes our picture books, political simulations, and other active learning pedagogies. The ULSHB students kept a teaching journal and participated in several community forums with the young students they have worked with.

One of the needs of ULSHB is professional development for its faculty, many of whom do not have a terminal doctoral degree, and those who do, have not had the opportunity to do more advanced research in their fields. The research project that I think would be of value to ULSHB post-doctoral faculty would be in the area of the scholarship of engagement, with a focus on youth empowerment. The research project would address how young people, especially young women, can learn how to participate in peace building activities and use these skills in local community forums and other practical ways in Mali.

Since my AAP award, I have continued to seek follow up funding for our peace education project in Mali, but as yet have not been successful. I continue to submit grant applications that would build on the AAP award, but I am also exploring other kinds of research that benefits from the work in Mali and also work I’ve done on peace education in Michigan. This has included programs for young refugee students in Lansing who have developed similar picture books and political simulations to the ones we created in Mali.

Now, I am working with colleagues in RCAH, the College of Engineering, the College of Education, and James Madison College on a set of related initiatives that include our interests in refugees, displaced persons, violence transformation, and peace building. These include the GLOBE summer camp with the College of Education for students from the Lansing Refugee Development Center and our Sustainability in Costa Rica Program with the College of Engineering. I have also continued to work with Malian NGOs on peacekeeping and peace building, including teaching a course on Peace and Justice in Bamako at the European Union’s Ecole de Maintien de la Paix for master’s students and mid-career and young professionals.

As a result of this work, I’ve developed a plan for a new undergraduate specialization that is tentatively titled Peace Engineering. Here is the language from my RCAH FY20 Budget Request. Similar language was included in the College of Engineering Budget Request.

RCAH and the College of Engineering have collaborated on several community engagement projects in Lansing and Detroit. Most recently we have taken that
partnership to Costa Rica, and as we have learned to work together the idea of developing a Peace Engineering track for RCAH and EGR students has taken shape. James Madison College has joined this conversation and the plan is gradually to offer a series of three courses at the introductory, intermediate and capstone levels for students. In EGR students who have participated in groups such as Engineers without Borders and Humanitarian Engineering may have an interest in coursework with a specific emphasis on peace building. RCAH and JMC students who are also in The Peace and Justice Specialization or have second majors and minors in relevant social science fields are also potential candidates for this program.

As we roll out this new interdisciplinary curriculum, we want to assess its effectiveness and seek external funding. I imagine three roles for an AAP post-doctoral fellow from ULSHB:

1. to help monitor and evaluate the peace engineering program as it unfolds in order to help with grant writing,
2. to co-author a scholarly article about this kind of engaged interdisciplinary program, and
3. to identify ways in which this program which has its roots in our earlier work in Mali and Costa Rica, can be funded so that it also has value for ULSHB.

The scholarship of engagement is not a common genre in Mali, but it is becoming more respected and recognized in the U.S. It combines firsthand community engagement activities with critical reflection on the challenges and benefits of collaborative partnerships that the AAP values. Faculty and students at ULSHB have indicated that they would like to have more community engagement teaching and research at their institution. Peace education is a field that will benefit from this kind of collaborative scholarship.

Given the urgent need for innovative approaches to peace building in Mali today and the receptiveness to this kind of teaching and learning at ULSHB, a scholarly account of the merits of this work and a scholar who has experience seeking external funding would benefit the institution.

Fall 2019 will be a planning semester at MSU for the new Peace Engineering program. The contributing colleges will design the first spring 2020 introductory course in Peace Engineering. As this course is being taught and monitored, the next two courses will be designed for fall 2020 and spring 2021, respectively.

During summer 2020, the AAP post-doctoral fellow and mentor will outline a scholarly article and explore possible future funding for peace engineering in both ULSHB and at MSU. The possibility of a collaborative curriculum between the two universities would be an eventual ideal outcome.
Stephen L. Esquith has been working on ethical problems in developing countries since 1990 when he was a senior Fulbright scholar in Poland. While in Poland he collaborated on two collections of essays written by Polish and U.S. scholars on the changes in Eastern Europe since 1989. His research and teaching since that time has focused on democratic transitions in post-conflict situations. He has written on the rule of law, the problem of democratic political education, mass violence and reconciliation, and moral and political responsibility. He is the author of *Intimacy and Spectacle* (Cornell, 1994), a critique of classical and modern liberal political philosophy, and *The Political Responsibilities of Everyday Bystanders* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2010) on mass violence and democratic political education. He has been involved in numerous civic engagement projects in the public schools and has led a study abroad program focusing on ethical issues in development in Mali in summer 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2014. He spent the academic year 2005-06 teaching and working with colleagues at the University of Bamako, Mali as a senior Fulbright scholar. There he taught two seminars on ethics and development at the Institut Polytechnic Rural and the Institut Supérieure de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée. He has co-edited a volume of critical essays on the human capabilities approach to development, and recently written on children's human rights, the problem of self-sacrifice, the role of film in democratic political education, and humanitarian assistance. After serving as chair of the Department of Philosophy for five years, he returned to Michigan State University in fall 2006 to become Dean of the new Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, and also still serves as one of the leaders of the doctoral specialization in Ethics and Development which he helped to found. He is currently working with colleagues on several post-conflict dialogue and reconciliation projects in Mali and reciprocal peace education projects in Michigan.

---

**Stephen L. Esquith**  
Dean, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities  
Professor, Department of Philosophy  
C210 Snyder Hall  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48825  
Tel: 517 355-0212  
email: esquith@msu.edu  
http://rcah.msu.edu

**Education**  
A.B. Harvard College, 1970, cum laude  
Ph.D. Princeton University, Department of Politics and The Program in Political Philosophy, 1979

**Academic Employment**  
Lecturer, Princeton University, Politics Department, 1978-79  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Swarthmore College, Political Science Department, 1979-80  
Assistant Professor, Michigan State University, James Madison College, 1980-86  
Associate Professor, Michigan State University, James Madison College and
Philosophy Department, 1987-93
Professor, Michigan State University, Philosophy Department, 1994-
Professor, Michigan State University, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, 2007-

**Major Academic Governance and Administrative Responsibilities** (other than department, and college committees)

*Academic and Faculty Council, Michigan State University, elected to three 2-year terms, 1986-88, 1992-96*

*Faculty Tenure Committee, Michigan State University, elected to one 2-year term, 1988-90, chairperson 1990*

*University Graduate Council, Michigan State University, elected to one 1-year term and one 2-year term, 1996-99, chairperson, 97-98*

*Associate Chair, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University, 1996-2000*

*Chair, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University, 2000-05*

*Chair, ad hoc University Committee on College Reorganization, Michigan State University, 2004-05*

*Chair, ad hoc Curriculum Committee for the new Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University, spring-summer 2005*

*Acting Dean, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University 2006-08*

*Director, Doctoral Specialization in Ethics and Development, 2007-08*

*Dean, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University, 2008-

**Academic Honors, Awards, and Grants**

*Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award, 1984*

*Michigan State University Research Initiation Grant, 1986*

*National Endowment for the Humanities College Research Grant, 1986*

*Fulbright Fellowship, Senior Lecturer, Poland, 1991-92*

*Michigan State University Global Competence Grant, 1992*

*Michigan Campus Compact and Fetzer Institute Service Learning Grant, 1998*

*Michigan Campus Compact Venture Grants, 1997, 1999*

*Michigan Campus Compact Faculty Fellows Grant, 1999-2000*

*Committee on Institutional Cooperation Academic Leadership Fellow, 1999-2000*

*Michigan State University Integrative Studies Institute Fellow, 1999-2000*

*Michigan Campus Compact Faculty Community Service-Learning Award, 1999*

*Michigan Campus Compact Community Engagement Grant, 2000-2001*

*Michigan Campus Compact Community Engagement Grant, 2001-2002*

*American Philosophical Association Community Service Learning Grant, 2002-2003*

*Fulbright Fellowship, Senior Lecturer, Mali, 2005-06*

*U.S. State Department Faith and Community Exchange, MSU and University of Bamako, Mali, 2007-09*

*Michigan State University Honors College Award for Teaching, 2008-09*

*Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Michigan State University, 2011*

*Phi Beta Kappa, Honorary Member, Michigan State University, 2015*

*Alliance for African Partnership Award, Michigan State University, 2017-18*
Supervision of Philosophy Department Graduate students

Doctoral Guidance Committee Chair:
- Michael Liberato (1995)
- Stevens Wandmacher (2003)
- Kwangsu Mok (2009)
- John Ouko (2011)
- Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht (2014)
- Anna Malavisi (2014)
- Steven Schoonover (2015)

Supervision of Ethics and Development Graduate Students

Ethics and Development Specialization Chair:
- Gary Peters (Philosophy, 2006)
- Nyadia Goita (Teacher Education, 2008)
- Kwangsu Mok (Philosophy, 2009)
- Tracy Beedy (Crop and Soil Sciences, 2010)
- John Ouko (Philosophy, 2011)
- Ivan Ramirez (Geography, 2012)
- Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht (Philosophy, 2014)
- Anna Malavisi (Philosophy, 2015)
- Steven Schoonover (Philosophy)
- Mladjo Ivanovic (Philosophy)

Refereed Books


Refereed Edited Collections


5. Special Guest Editor with Marek Wilczynski, “The Transition to Democracy in Poland,”
Refereed Book Chapters

7. “Real Democratic Political Education” in Democracy and Beyond, eds Maley, Pringle and Wallach (under review)
Refereed Articles


**Invited Book Reviews and Review Articles**
Refereed Papers and Presentations

68. “Long Term Survivors and the Political Responsibilities of Allies,” Lorentz Center, Leiden University, The Netherlands, May 2, 2019
69. “Beatriz Caravaggio’s Different Trains,” Toledo Art Museum, April 25, 2019
71. “Philosophy for Children from Mali to Michigan,” Philosophy Learning and Teaching Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, June 23-24, 2017
74. “From Compassion to Political Responsibility,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, September 4-6, 2015
80. “Technology and Democratic Responsibility: The Role of Cultural Re-enactment as a form of Democratic Political Education,” Annual Meeting of the American Political


102. "Participatory Democracy and Political Education," paper presented at the Midwest Conference for the Study of Political Thought, Chicago, IL, April 12-14, 1984


Invited Articles, Papers and Presentations


106. “Responsibilities to Africa,” West Shore Community College, Scottville, MI, January 25, 2018

107. “Peace Building: A View from Two Continents,” The Lansing Torch Club, East Lansing, MI, January 17, 2018


112. “Griots for Peace: A Workshop on Peace Building and Art in Mali” with Chris Worland, Genesis Academy Summer Institute, Genesis at the Crossroads, Chicago, IL, August 4-5, 2015


118. "Mali à la croisée des chemins: Réflexions sur le dialogue et la réconciliation." Présenté lors de la conférence sur "La promotion des valeurs éthiques et spirituelles communes aux communautés chrétiennes et musulmanes au Mali et en Afrique: stratégies, défis et
perspectives,” l’Association Malienne pour la Paix et le Salut, 29-30 Juin 2013, à Bamako, Mali


124. “Les Ethiques de Recherche,” Institut Polytechnic Rural, Université de Bamako, December 12, 2005, Katibougou, Mali


137. “Full Restorative Justice and the Responsibility of Bystanders,” Conference on Morality and Its Other(s), Albion College, Albion, MI, November 9-12, 2000

State University Center for the Scholarship of Teaching, East Lansing, MI, November 2, 2000
139. “Genocide, Intentionality, and Reconciliation,” Department of Philosophy, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, October 27, 2000.
152. "Przeworski on Democracy and Markets," paper presented to the Institute of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, April 15, 1992.
160. "John Rawls and the Political Education of Applied Ethics," paper presented at the joint Department of Philosophy and Medical Ethics Colloquium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, October 19, 1984

Areas of Courses Taught
165. Childhood and Society
166. Engagement and Reflection: Philosophy for Children
167. Engagement and Reflection: Peace Building
168. Transcultural Relations through the Ages
169. The Presence of the Past
170. Ancient and Medieval Political Theory
171. Modern Political Theory
172. Contemporary Political Theory
173. Introduction to International Relations
174. Introduction to Politics
175. Urban Politics
176. Technology and Politics
177. Constitutional Law
178. Introduction to Philosophy
179. Philosophy of Law
180. Philosophy of Marx
181. 20th Century Continental Philosophy
182. Social and Political Philosophy
183. War and Morality
184. Seminar on Art and Human Rights
185. Seminar on Genocide, Justice, and Reconciliation
186. Self, Society, and Technology
187. Seminar on Ethics and Development
188. Seminar on Justice
189. Seminar on Democratic Theory
190. Seminar on Philosophy of Law
191. Seminar on Teaching Philosophy
192. Seminar on Ethics and Development in Mali
193. Seminar on Ethics and Development
194. Seminar on Political Philosophy
195. Seminar on Arts, Culture, and Human Rights
196. Seminar on Responsibility and Global Injustice
197. Seminar on Immigrants and Refugees

Study Abroad
198. Ethics and Development in Mali, summer 2004
199. Ethics and Development in Mali, summer 2006
200. Ethics and Development in Mali, summer 2008
201. Ethics and Development in Mali, summer 2010
202. Dialogue and Reconciliation in Mali, summer 2014
203. Peace Education in Mali, summer 2015

Other Professional Work
204. Member of the Board, International Development Ethics Association, 2006-
205. Member of the Advisory Council, Foundations in Political Theory, 2000-03
206. Member of editorial board, Polity, 1999-2009
207. Referee for Political Theory, Social Theory and Practice, American Journal of Political
Science, Perspectives on Politics, Journal of Politics, Polity, American Political Science
Review, Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, The Sociological Review,
Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and Res Publica
208. Reviewer for Cambridge University, Pennsylvania State University, Kansas University ,
Cornell University , SUNY, Wadsworth, Oxford University, Praeger, Prentice Hall,
University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, and Palgrave MacMillan
209. Member of American Political Science Association, Association for Political Theory,
Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization, American Philosophical Association,
International Development Ethics Association, Human Development and Capabilities
Association, American Association of Colleges & Universities

Civic Engagement and Outreach
210. Writing Wartime Experience. This service-learning project was conducted twice as a
voluntary service learning option in IAH 231B: War and Morality. The stories and
other writings were composed jointly by each student and his or her community
volunteer who had direct wartime experience, whether in combat or in some other walk
of life.
211. Public Reason. This service-learning project was conducted as a voluntary service
learning potion in PHL 200: Introduction to Philosophy. Students worked with various
public interest and non-profit organizations concerned with the four public issues in the
course (animal rights, abortion, affirmative action, and the death penalty). They
conducted a public forum on each of the issues and wrote a reflective essay linking their work at the agency or organization with the philosophical topics we studied (free will and determinism, ethics, the existence of god, the meaning of life, personal identity, and the mind/body problem.

212. **Children in War.** This is a voluntary service learning option in IAH 231B: Genocide, Justice, and Reconciliation. In 1999 three students worked with several teachers and administrators from the Okemos Public Schools on this subject for 5th grade students in Wardcliff Elementary School. The project was designed to address the new requirement that all K-12 students take a standardized test on ‘core democratic values’. The project has continued through Spring 2003 and has expanded to include both 5th grade classrooms at Wardcliff. The students have read Zlata’s Diary and other firsthand accounts of the experiences of children in war. With their MSU mentors they have designed a web project, done dialogical journaling, and performed short skits. In Spring 2003 the program involved 20 MSU mentors and 45 fifth graders.

213. **French, Culture, and Mali.** In Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 I worked with Prof. Deidre Dawson and approximately 10 students from her FRN 320 classes to introduce the Wardcliff fifth grade students (30 volunteers) to elementary French through a weekly program focusing on culture and daily life in Mali. Students exchanged letters (in French and English) with other students their age at the Institut pour L’Education Populaire in Kati, Mali, and they engaged in hands-on projects such as making their own mudcloth designs. I visited IEP in summer 2004 to deliver new student letters and present the IEP students with a large quilt made with the help of the Wardcliff students.

214. **The Outsider.** Working through Lansing Refugee Services in Fall 2001 I created a cooperative program for ROIAL (Residential Option in Arts and Letters) students and Sudanese and Aghan refugees in the Lansing area. ROIAL students organized small group projects with individual refugees and their families to explore the general topic of the Outsider, which was the them of the ROIAL seminar for 2001-02.

215. **Service-learning Workshops.** I have served as a member of the faculty steering committee of Michigan Campus Compact, and I have conducted workshops on community service-learning at Michigan State University and in other settings. More recently I gave a workshop presentation sponsored by the American Philosophical Association at the meeting of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers at Thomas More College, West Crestview, Kentucky, July 31, 2002. I also gave a presentation on community service-learning in philosophy (“An Experiment in Democratic Political Education”) at the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, in Philadelphia, December 27-31, 2002.

216. **Philosophy for Children.** I taught Matthew Lipmann’s Harry Stottlemeier’s Discover at Wardcliff Elementary School on a once a week basis for an hour, usually one semester, each year from 1986-96. In Spring 2002 I began a new project at Chippewa Middle School, teaching Lisa to 7th and 8th graders. In 2002-03 I co-taught this course with four graduate students at Chippewa and Kinawa Middle Schools in, and it has been taught again as a regular elective since Spring 2004. The goal is to expand this teaching practicum for graduate students into other institutions, such as community centers, retirement communities, and halfway houses and shelters. The next iteration of this course is RCAH 292B Big Ideas for Little Kids in spring 2013 at the Donley Elementary
School, East Lansing. This project for 18 undergraduates and 42 3rd graders is modeled on the work of Thomas Wartenberg, whose book of the same name is the primary text for the course.


218. **Ethics and Development in Mali Study Abroad**. In summer 2004 Christine Worland, Yobi Guindo and I taught a new study abroad program in Mali, West Africa. Eight students enrolled and completed the six week program that focused on issues in agricultural development, education and health, the commercialization of traditional fabric arts and crafts, and the political inequality of women. We have offered the program again in summer 2006, 2008, and 2010. The program is now organized around a civic engagement project with the Ciwara School in Kati, Mali, and the plan was to offer it again in summer 2012 until events in Mali forced postponement. A revised Mali Study Abroad program in summer 2014 and summer 2015 focused on local dialogue forums in Kati and the capital city Bamako.

219. **Parents College**. On August 1-3, 2012 I led an intensive 3-day program on sacrifice for 12 parents of RCAH students in which we combined seminar discussions of philosophical readings with a fabric arts workshop in which participants expressed their ideas about sacrifice visually as well as textually. The second offering of the RCAH Parents College on August 2-4, 2013 for 10 participants was on the topic of forgiveness. Participants learned how to use the letterpresses in the RCAH workshop and printed out invitations to their readers theatre performances that they created based on the readings and discussions in the program. 12 participants enrolled for the third Parents College in August 2014 on the topic of humanitarian assistance and photojournalism. 10 participants joined the August 2015 Parents College on the topic of fear, and the medium was creative non-fiction. In 2016 9 participants attended on the topic of immigration and refugees. The 2017 Parents College focused on democracy. The 2018 Parents College will be held in Costa Rica and focus on sustainable development.

220. **Writing Political Memory**. 19 students in the RCAH 292A Engagement Proseminar in fall 2012 studied the work of Jane Addams and Myles Horton, and then working in small groups with senior citizens and disabled adults during the fall 2012 semester to write about the US Presidential campaigns and elections and their memories of past presidential elections. Selections from these writing projects will be performed in a readers theatre at the end of the semester.

221. **Mali National Commission for Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation**. In summer and fall 2013 I traveled to Mali twice to present a paper to a large conference on religious toleration and then to work with a small task force convened by the Minister for Reconciliation in the new Malian government. I drafted the position paper for the task force and it is now going through further revisions in preparation for the establishment of the Commission.

222. "**Big Ideas for All Ages**". This program for 20 RCAH students working with elementary, high school, and adult residents of the low-income Edgewood Village community in East Lansing, MI and Advent House in Lansing builds on experience
teaching philosophy for children at the local Donley Elementary School. Small groups working in the late afternoons and evenings have modified the *Big Ideas for Little Kids* curriculum to meet the needs these various groups in a non-school setting in fall 2013 and spring 2014. In spring 2015 I taught the same course for another set of 20 students, this time expanding our reach to include an afterschool program in Lansing through the Lansing Refugee Development Center.

223. **AAC&U Workshop on Global Learning and Ethics.** I was invited to present a pre-conference workshop on this topic at the AAC&U conference in Providence, RI on October 3, 2013. 25 faculty enrolled for the three-hour workshop which dealt with some of the ethical dilemmas faculty and administrators face in offering courses and co-curricular programs on global learning, especially civic engagement and study abroad courses and programs.

224. **Peace Building from Mali to Michigan.** From September through December 2014 I taught and also trained teachers at the Ciwara School in Kati, Mali to conduct a series of peace education lessons, including a Malian Peace Game that was modeled on the World Peace Game of John Hunter. Three of these teachers participated in one of Hunter’s weeklong workshops in June 2015, and then spent another week at MSU working with our students and local partners on the development of a comparable peace game here in the Lansing area. In 2017-18 the Mali Peace Game enters its fourth round, this time assisted by Malian university students who are serving as apprentices to the Ciwara School teachers and trainers.

225. **Peace Education in Michigan.** In Fall 2015 students from my RCAH 202 The Presence of the Past began new Peace Education work at the Lansing Refugee Development Center and Peckham, Inc. These projects were based on previous work with the partners and on the consultation work of the Mali Peace Game teachers in summer 2015. We are being assisted by RCAH Artist in Residence Doug DeLind and five upper class RCAH students who have participated in the Big Ideas projects at Edgewood Village and the Refugee Development Center.

226. **Refugee Development Center Peace Game.** In Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 a group of 10 high school refugee students in the Lansing Public Schools worked with Philosophy graduate students in PHL 850 and then RCAH undergraduates in RCAH 292A to create their own version of the peace game based on the experiences of refugees like themselves from Syria, Kenya, Burma, Nepal, Iraq, and Democratic Republic of Congo. This round of the RDC Peace Game is being assisted by ceramist Doug DeLind and fabric artist Chris Worland.