Canada – Heather Tasker, PhD Candidate, York University

Heather is beginning her second year in the PhD program and is starting research assistant work on a new project in partnership with Dr. Susan Bartels at Queens University. Her activities mostly contribute to the Justice and Reparations theme. She has notably contributed to the elaboration and distribution of a survey for justice workers. Earlier this year, she presented at the Harriet Tubman Summer Institute on experiences of violence and suffering in forced marriage, as described in the last round of interviews completed in 2015. She is also working on a paper on this topic with Annie Bunting, Emily Lockhart, and Katrin Roots.

“The work I’m doing on the interviews will hopefully be useful in contributing to discussion on what justice can look like, and what is needed in terms of reparations. The justice worker survey will do the same, as well as provide information about the work of different organizations across research countries.”

Heather and CSiW postdoctoral fellow Izevbua Kehinde Ikhimiuokor are currently working on a paper exploring the gaps between academic and policy literature on Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, and Security, the ways grassroots organizations use the resolution and what they see as opportunities for improvement.

Ketty Anyekoo, PhD Candidate, University of British Columbia

Ketty works as a research assistant for Dr. Erin Baines at the Liu Institute for Global Issues at UBC. She is in the second year of her PhD program and is currently supporting the reparations project work in Uganda. This reparations project relates to the justice and reparations theme of the CSiW Project and is conducted in partnership with the Women’s Advocacy Network (WAN) with funding from Peter Wall Solutions Grant at UBC. Ketty has been selected among 30 PhD students at UBC to receive a grant worth $7,000 through the Public Scholars Initiative (PSI) program. The latter seeks to support PhD students who collaborate with the public on various projects that furthers their research while at the same time benefiting the public good.

She just returned from Uganda where she was conducting consultative activities in June and July with female survivors of forced marriage. The focus of this collaborative project is to document survivor led informal reparation undertakings. Earlier this year, she spoke on an international justice panel in New York at Columbia University focused on the ICC trials of Dominic Ongwen. In February 2017, Ketty presented on The politics of the missing persons in northern Uganda at an international round table discussion on memory and responsibility after violence at the Peter Wall Institute at UBC.

Bruno Véras, PhD Candidate, York University

Bruno has been coordinating the work of students and conducting research on masculinities and concubinage in Northern Nigeria. He has participated in a series of knowledge mobilization activities, including website development, video and audio recording of interviews and public events, and the development of an exhibit on Girls Abductions and Forced Marriage in War.

Under his coordination, two undergraduate students, Alex Karin and Adlynn Loidor, are currently organizing and updating a database with historical materials. The searchable database uses Mendeley as back-end and contains hundreds of 19th and early 20th century primary historical documents in English, French and Hausa languages from British, French, German and Belgian former-colonies in Africa, notably Nigeria, Sierra Leone, DRC, and Togo. These are mostly colonial reports, court cases, letters, missionary accounts but also biographical materials.

Over the Summer, Bruno conducted research on the topic of “Owning a concubine: manhood and masculinity within concubinal relationship in Northern Nigeria (1840s-1920s)”, examining biographical accounts, colonial reports and legal documents related to concubinage and analyzing the meaning of manhood and masculinity in relation to the ownership of concubines in the late 19th and early 20th Century Northern Nigeria. This included building a bibliographical list with secondary materials related to the thematic; a list with primary sources related to concubinage in Northern Nigeria; and a bibliographical list with secondary materials related to the concubinage in Islamic Africa.

England – Toni Smith, PhD Candidate, University of Birmingham

The focus of Toni’s research has shifted somewhat over the last few months. Instead of looking mainly at the history of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, she is now examining early international activism, discourses and interventions associated with marriage and SGBV in the country. She is interested in analyzing the perspectives and motivations of
those who sought to 'reform' marriage in the Congo and the
entailing consequences. She has used a number of archive
resources over the Summer, including those held at the
University of Kinshasa and the National Archives in the DRC.

Joshua Walker, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of the
Witwatersrand

Joshua has been working on two articles based on archival
research on missionaries present in the Congo in the late 19th
and early 20th Centuries. One of these articles, which will shortly
be submitted for publication, concerns the way in which slavery
and marriage were conceptualized by American Protestant
missionaries in the Congo. On May 21, 2017, he participated in
a panel entitled Slavery, Marriage, Raids at the Southern
African Historical Society Biennial Conference alongside Joel
Quirk and Sarah Delius. His paper, upon which his article on
American missionaries in Congo is based, was entitled
"Husbands, Owners, or Both? Presbyterian Missionaries and
the Slavery/Marriage Question in Colonial Congo."

In addition to publishing his article on Presbyterian American
missionaries, Joshua is working on a second article, based on
research in the archives of the Congregation of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary in Leuven, Belgium. This article will address the
ways in which missionaries both condemned what they saw as
patriarchal cultural norms among the Luba people of Kasai,
while simultaneously reinforcing them, in particular through
teachings on marriage, which sought to limit women's
movement and place her firmly under the authority of her
husband, partly with a view to combating polygamy.

Allen Kiconco, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of the
Witwatersrand

For the two-year post-doctoral fellowship, Allen is undertaking
research on enslavement, marriage and conflict in Africa. Using a
comparative approach, she is particularly analyzing the underlying relationship between
historical practices (pre-colonial, colonial and/or post-colonial) and contemporary enslavement, sexual violence and 'forced
marriage' in conflict situations of Africa. To achieve this goal, she
will carry out archival, ethnographic and/or legal research.

Allen will be presenting a research paper at an International
Conference entitled, “Moving Beyond Paternalism: Supplicants,
Saviors and the Politics of Anti-Slavery and Anti-Trafficking in
Africa” at the University of the Witwatersrand on 29th
November to 1st December 2017. In March 2018, she will be attending an
intensive module on Slavery and Emancipation in 20th
Century Africa convened by Dr. Benedetta Rossi at the department of
History, and African Studies and Anthropology at the University
of Birmingham, and will present a paper on her post-doctoral
research in a workshop. Allen will also present on Slavery and
Marriage in African Societies at the ASAUK Conference 2018.