



# Racial-Ethnic Identity, Academic Performance, and Contemporary Migration for Sub-Saharan Africans in the U.S.

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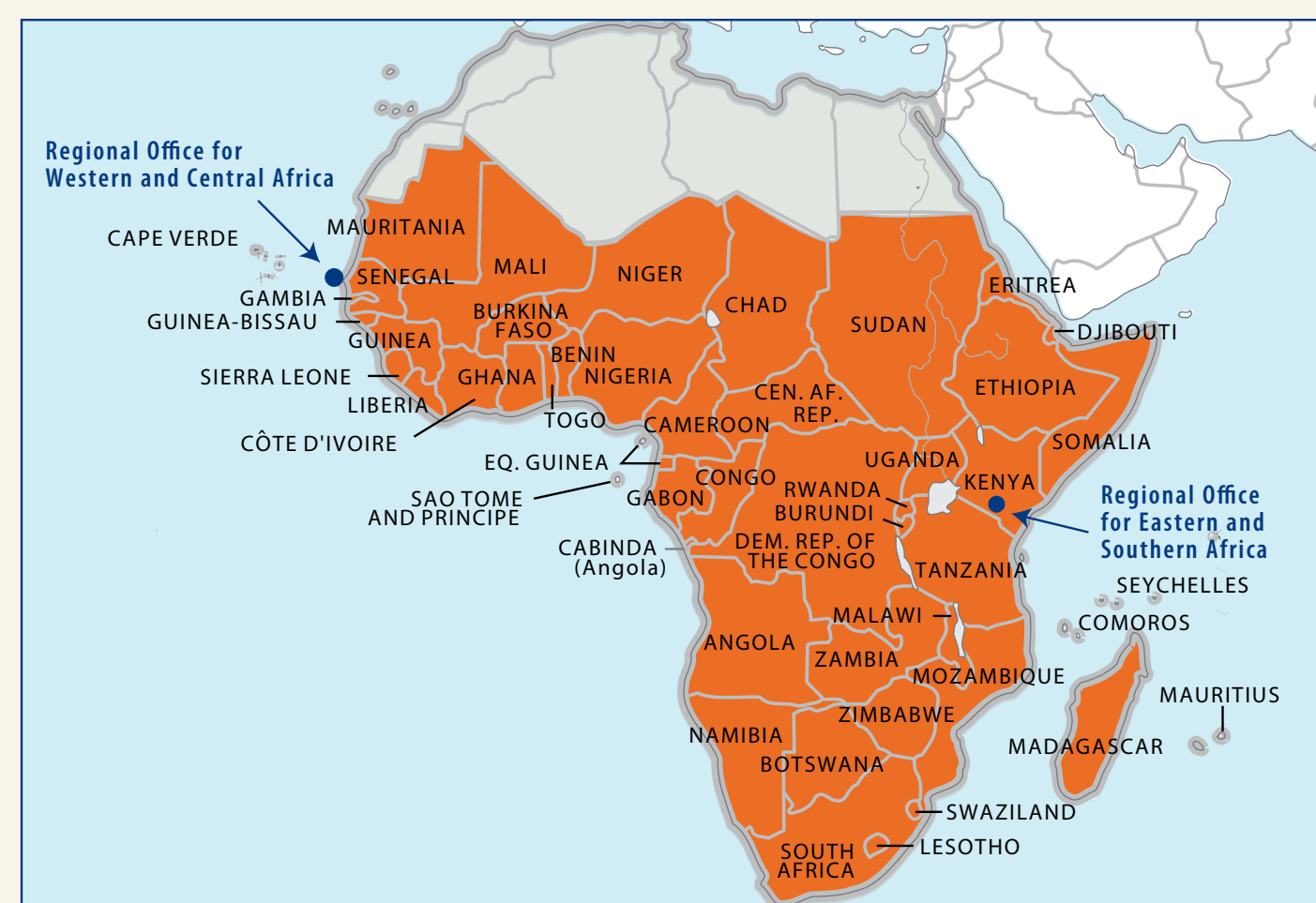
## OBJECTIVES

1. Determine reasons for sub-Saharan African migration to the U.S.
2. Assess their integration into schools and labor market in the U.S.
3. Evaluate how they find community (ethnic or racial), and identify and interact with other black groups (foreign-born and native-born) in the U.S.

## BACKGROUND

International migration from sub-Saharan Africa to the U.S. has been increasing since the 1980s with noticeable gains after 1990.

Sub-Sahara Africa is located south of North African countries (e.g. Egypt) and consists of over 37 countries. Some of the most populous sub-Saharan African groups in the U.S. are from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Somalia.



Migration from this region is often discussed in terms of two major waves.

The first wave occurring in the 1960s and 1970s, which coincided with the political independence of many African nations. Moves during this time were believed to be temporary, resulting in a return migration after the successful accumulation of human capital, namely education and income. The second wave occurring after 1980 and to the present suggest these moves are more permanent than before as social, economic, and political conditions in Africa remain unstable.

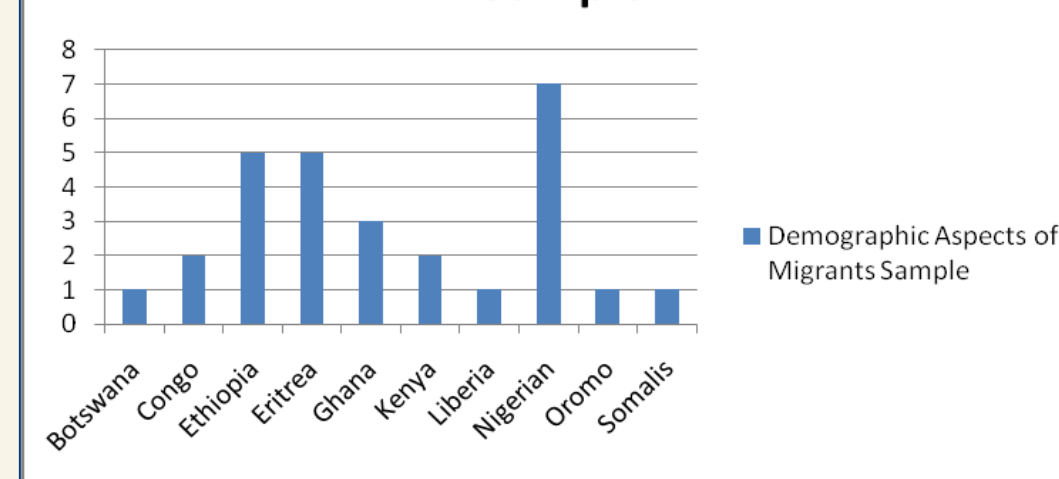
## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Are the international moves from sub-Saharan Africa and settlement in the U.S. more permanent after 1990 than before?
2. If so, what are the important gender, racial, and generational outcomes that impact how these groups relate to both continents over time, and also in what ways?

## METHODOLOGY

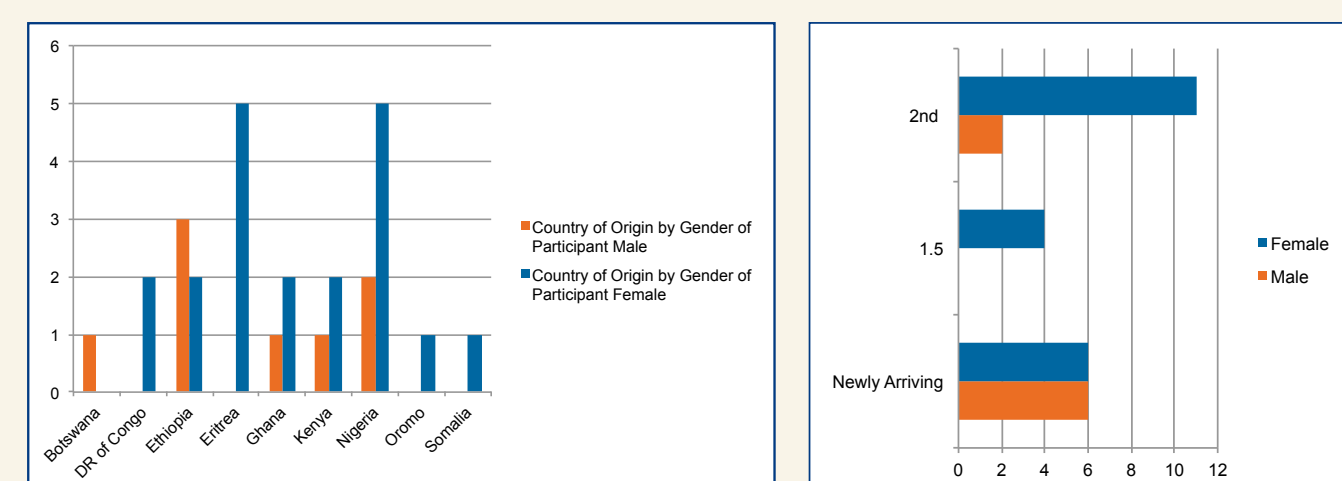
- Qualitative Data are collected through 24 in-depth interviews, 3 structured focus group sessions, and 1 survey questionnaire used to filter eligible participants.
- General statistics to demonstrate population increase were obtained by Census Bureau data sources: IPUMS & ACS
- Interviews ranged from 20 minutes to 90 minutes
- Focus Group sessions ranged between 45 and 75 minutes
- Diverse interview/focus group pool. See below.

### Demographic Aspects of Migrants Sample



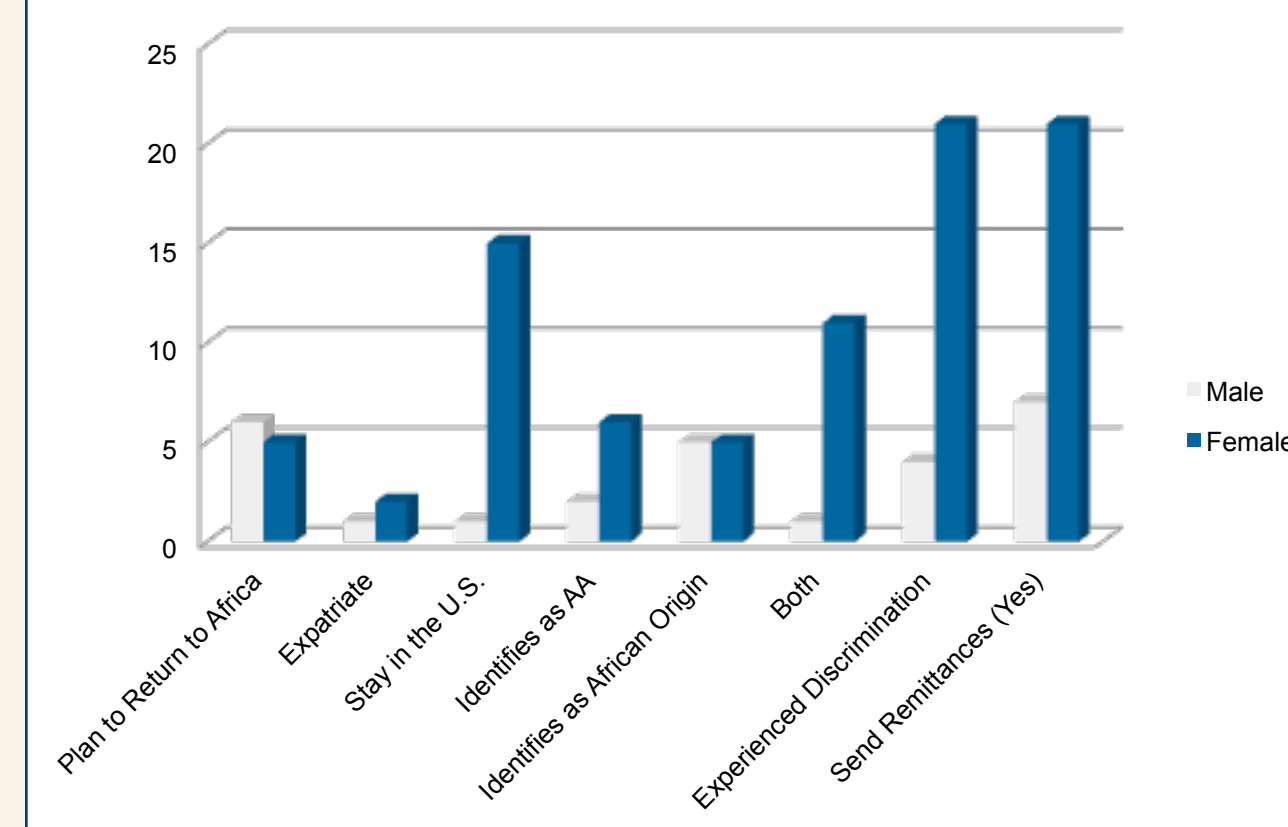
## DATA

- 30 participants, 22 women, 8 men
- Recruited from UCLA and University of Washington
- Age range: 18-32
- African origin countries represented: Botswana, democratic republic of Congo formerly known as Zaire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Somalia
- Integrated Public Use Microdata (5%) 1980, 1990, and 2000 data
- American Community Survey 2001-2007
- Census Bureau for general population statistics



## RESULTS

### Adjustment in the U.S. and Ties to Africa in 2010



### Focus Group & Interview Data Findings

- Most of the respondents were 2nd generation, and many were Nigerian, Ethiopian, or Eritrea
- Four of eight males and 21 out of 22 females said they experienced discrimination, either due to their racial-ethnic identity or immigrant status.
- Seven men and 20 females send remittances to their respective countries in Africa (sometimes sent by parents)
- Six of the female respondents identified as African American, Five identified with African origin group, and 11 identified with both.
- 15 female respondents and one male respondent plan to stay in the U.S.
- Six out of seven foreign-born males and five out seven female respondents had plans to return to Africa, not to live, but construct a life that involves migrating back and forth
- 20 out of 22 female and seven out of eight male respondents were actively involved in cultural organizations either on or off campus

## CONCLUSION

1. Migration is a nuclear family decision as much as it is to seek education and opportunities abroad.
2. My sample reflects a highly educated population, one that intends to accumulate more human capital while contributing financially to their respective African nation.
3. Most of my sample participates in cultural organizations to stay up-to-date on the social, economic, and political situations of Africans in the U.S. and in Africa
4. There seems to a consensus among American-born African generations NOT to return permanently to Africa » implying looser ties to the continent compared to their parents
5. Remittances may end with parents, unless parents return, and the cycle of sending money to relatives continues

### Remaining Questions

1. What will be the link to Africa for future African-born Americans and American-born African groups in America?
2. Will Africa become a "distant" memory or can there be a resurgence of "brain gain" and eventual return, or at least transnational relationships and affinity to two continents?

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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