

---

Supervisor's Name	Paul E. Lovejoy
Supervisor Email Address*	plovejoy@yorku.ca
Supervisor's Department	History
Project Title	Boko Haram, Islamic Protest and National Security

Description of Research Project (1500 characters maximum)

The two-year partnership project "Boko Haram, Islamic Protest, and National Security" will interrogate the historical configuration of the Islamic insurgency in the Lake Chad region of West Africa, analyse recent geographical and ideological developments, examine representation of Boko Haram in the media, study why local and national governance has motivated armed rebellion, and recommend policy indicators to counter insurgency. Our international team of 16 researchers and nine partner organizations based in Canada, the USA, Nigeria, and Cameroon intend to conduct research on ideologically and religiously motivated violence in the contemporary world. We want to understand how the experience of Boko Haram can initiate political, social and economic policies of change in the affected countries. We plan to make accessible new knowledge related to Boko Haram's historical and political context, its religious and ideological underpinnings, and the resulting economic and social impact that affects contemporary Nigeria, Cameroon and neighbouring countries. Our project seeks to reveal the logistics of eliminating the local and regional conditions that have spawned the movement in order to inform discussions at all levels of government, among NGOs, and internationally. Our project targets the general public, students and the academic community by making information and resources accessible through digital archiving, preparation of reports and publications, and website development.

Undergraduate Student Responsibilities (1500 characters maximum)

The student would be involved in the initial stages of implementing the project, which is expected to begin in May 2018. The research that is required involves three components. First, the student would assist in the generation of resource data through a search of newspapers, government reports, NGO reports, website links, and scholarly studies relating to terrorism in West Africa and specifically but not exclusively on Boko Haram. Some materials have already been assembled on Google Drive and will serve as the model for the addition of more items that are to be shared with team members in Nigeria, Cameroon, Canada and the United States. Under the supervision of the Project Director, the student would correspond with team members in identifying resources that need to be copied, digitized or otherwise processed for inclusion in the Google Drive repository. Second, the student would be engaged in the preparation of an inventory of resources, which would include the materials that have already been assembled and new materials to be collected. In addition, the student would surf the web for resources and follow up through internet correspondence to achieve as complete knowledge on the subject as possible. Third, the student would add materials to the website for the project ([www.terrorisminafricaresearch.org](http://www.terrorisminafricaresearch.org)) after materials have been inventoried and metadata has been created and write a report that would summarize activities for presentation at the Tubman student workshop.

Qualifications Required (750 characters maximum)

The student should have experience in bibliographic work, research in surfing the web and exploring library resources, and computer skills in working with the development of websites. Experience in working with Moodle, Google Drive or similar mechanisms for data collection and dissemination is desirable. The student should have training in violence and conflict resolution, knowledge of international terrorism, and some understanding of Islamic militancy in the modern world. The student would work primarily in English, although reading knowledge of French at least is desirable. Experience working with human rights organization is desirable.

---