We are pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Emmanuel Kwaku Akyeampong as the new Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the Harvard University Center for African Studies effective July 1, 2016.


Professor Akyeampong came to Harvard in 1993 and was instrumental, along with Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., in creating Harvard's Department of African and African American Studies, which offers an undergraduate concentration in African Studies and a Ph.D. in African Studies. He served as chair of the Committee on African Studies at Harvard from 2002 to 2006, and succeeds Professor Caroline Elkins as Oppenheimer Director of the Center.

Akyeampong earned his B.A. from the University of Ghana, Legon, his M.A. in History from Wake Forest University, and his Ph.D. in History from the University of Virginia. Akyeampong is also a graduate of the Andover Newton Theological Seminary, and serves as Affiliate Minister for Outreach at Acton Congregational Church. He is married to Ntuli Qoboza-Akyeampong and has three children.

An accomplished scholar and teacher who is highly respected amongst his Africanist peers, Professor Akyeampong will bring strong leadership to the Center for African Studies and plans to build on the Center’s highly successful portfolio of programs. Please join us in welcoming him to this important role.