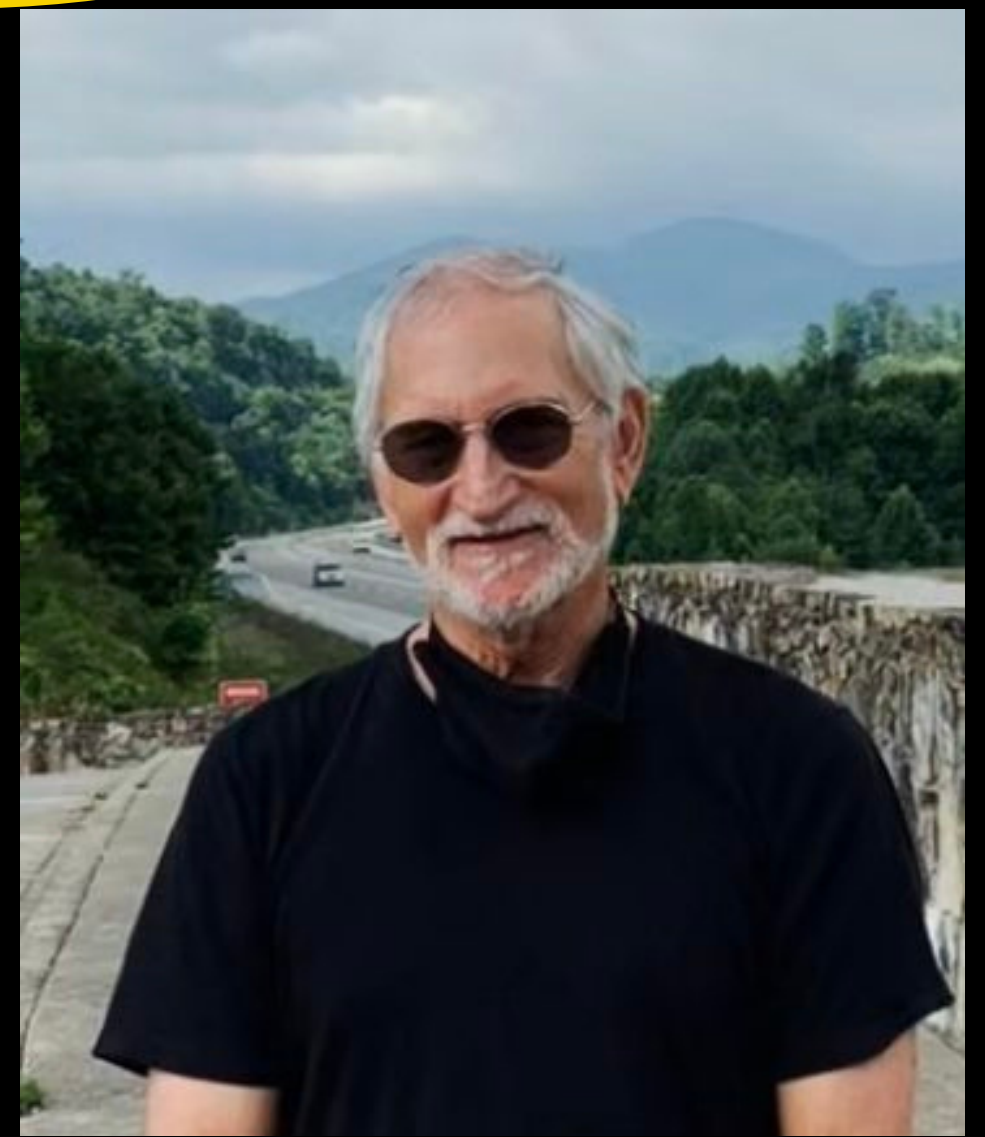


Healing Stories

BY
PAUL STOLLER

Paul Stoller is Professor of Anthropology at West Chester University, USA. In his more than 35 years of anthropological research and writing, Stoller has conducted ethnographic research Songhay religion in Niger and the life of West African street traders in New York City. Stoller's work encompasses the study of economic exchange, religion, ethnographic film, and the human quest for well being in turbulent times. In his most recent work he investigates how indigenous wisdom can not only enhance social well-being but also help to heal a troubled world.



I have long studied the healing practices of the Songhay people of Niger and Mali. From the time that Adamu Jenitongo invited me, a young anthropologist, to sit and listen to him to my days as a teacher, scholar, and cancer patient, healing practices have shaped my life and work. Many years ago Adamu Jenitongo asked me to recount his story so that people might learn about the wisdom of Songhay elders. In the ensuing years, I have tried to do so. While he was alive, I had the privilege of reading my work to him—a way of asking for approval. I would like to think that he still looks over my work and hope that he and his descendants still approve. In this presentation, I attempt to (1) use two short ethnographic vignettes to shed light on what it takes to become a healer (2) introduce a group of healers and briefly recount their stories and (3) discuss how the experiences of these practitioners are linked and how those linkages enable us to better understand how they are able to build and maintain the social trust that enables them to heal others. In the end their healing stories, I suggest, illuminate a path to heal the world.

25TH JUNE, 2024

18:15-19:45

**Room 000.235, Seminar room,
Hartmannstr. 14, Building D1, Erlangen**

**Link for virtual attendance:
<https://fau.zoom.us/j/63672581746>**

