Dr. Launay is a social/cultural anthropologist trained in the United States, England, and France. He has conducted extensive field work in West Africa (specifically in Côte d’Ivoire) with Muslim minorities historically specializing in trade. Nowadays, following the division and reunification of Côte d’Ivoire, he helps applicants from the country seeking political asylum in the United States. He envisages future field work on francophone African immigrants, especially from Côte d’Ivoire, to the U.S. After years of teaching the history of anthropology to undergraduate and graduate students alike, he has begun research on the history of the discipline, publishing several articles on the history of ethnography in Africa (particularly in French) and, more extensively, on the ‘prehistory’ of the field.