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EMPLOYMENT

2018- Associate Professor, Department of History, Southern Methodist University
2012-2018 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Southern Methodist University

EDUCATION

2012 PhD, History, Michigan State University
2004 BA, History, Saint Vincent College

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2018-2019 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Grant
2015 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship
2010-2011 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, South Africa
2010-2011 Fulbright-IIE U.S. Student Fellow (declined)
2007 Fulbright-Hays Zulu Group Project Abroad in South Africa

UNIVERSITY GRANTS AND AWARDS

2020 Altshuler Distinguished Teacher Professor Award
2020 M Award
2019-2020 Sam Taylor Research Fellowship
2019 Southern Methodist University Research Council Travel Grant
2018 Dedman College Dean's Research Council Grant
2017-2018 Southern Methodist University Research Council Research Grant
2016-2017 Southern Methodist University President's Partners Grant
2016-2017 Sam Taylor Research Fellowship
2016 Engaged Learning Excellence in Mentoring Award
2015 Southern Methodist University Golden Mustang Teaching Award
2015 Southern Methodist University Research Council Travel Grant
2012 Michigan State University Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2012 Donald Lammers Graduate Student Award
2008 Nnamdi Azikiwe Best Graduate Student Paper in MSU African Studies
2008 MSU Department of History Pre-Dissertation Research Grant
2007 MSU Department of History Jeff Rooney Memorial Paper Prize
2006-2009 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS), MSU African Studies Center – Zulu

PUBLICATIONS

Book

To Swim with Crocodiles: Land, Violence, and Belonging in South Africa, 1800-1996

(Michigan State University Press, 2018)

(South African edition, University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2019).

Reviews of *To Swim with Crocodiles* in *Journal of African History* (2020); *Journal of Southern African Studies* (2020); *International Journal of African Historical Studies* (2019); *The Journal of Modern African Studies* (2019); *Natalia* (2019).

Subject of Book Forum in *Journal of Natal and Zulu History* 33, no. 1 (2019): 104-115.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Teaching South African History in the Digital Age: Collaboration, Pedagogy, and Popularizing History,” with Omar Badsha, [History in Africa](#), 47 (2020): 297-325.

“‘Gender, Shame, and the ‘Efficacy of Congress Methods of Struggle’ in 1959 Natal Women’s Revolts,” [South African Historical Journal](#) 71, no. 2 (2019): 1-20.

“Bantu Authorities and Betterment: The Ambiguous Responses of Natal’s Chiefs and Regents, 1955-1970,” [Journal of Southern African Studies](#) 41, no. 2 (2015): 273-297.

“‘Women Were Not Supposed to Fight’: The Gendered Uses of Martial and Moral Zuluness during *uDlame*, 1990-1994” in Jan Bender Shetler (ed.), [Gendering Ethnicity in African Women’s Lives](#). University of Wisconsin Press (2015): 178-205.

“‘It is because of our Islam that we are there’: The Call of Islam in the United Democratic Front,” [African Historical Review](#) 41, no. 1 (2009): 118-139.

Manuscripts in Preparation

“‘The Burden is Heavy, We Need the Men’: Gender, Shame, and the 1959 Rural Rebellions in South Africa,” Book Manuscript in Progress.

“Collective Memory and Historical Denials: Local Conflicts during the Transition to Democracy in South Africa,” in Toyin Falola (ed.), *Violence in the Postcolony: Creative Pasts and Entangled Histories*, Article under Review.

“Nokukhanya Luthuli: First Lady of the African National Congress and Anti-Pass Activism,” in special issue on First Ladies in African History, Article in Progress.

Book Reviews

[African Studies Review](#) (2020), Review of Laura S. Grillo, *An Intimate Rebuke: Female Genital Power in Ritual and Politics in West Africa*.

[*The Historian*](#) 79, no. 1 (2017): 103-104, Review of Christopher Lee, *Unreasonable Histories: Nativism, Multiracial Lives, and the Genealogical Imagination in British Africa*.

[*South African Historical Journal*](#) 68, no. 2 (2016): 230-233, Review of Joel Cabrita, *Text and Authority in the South African Nazareth Church*.

[*Safundi*](#), 16, no. 2 (2015): 241-244, Review of David Thelen and Karie Morgan, *Experiencing Sophiatown: Conversations among Residents about the Past, Present and Future of a Community*.

[*H-Genocide*](#), H-Net Reviews (Jul 2013), Review of Mohamed Adhikari, *The Anatomy of a South African Genocide: The Extermination of the Cape San Peoples*.

Encyclopedia Entries and Other Academic Writing

“In Peace and Rebellion: Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo” in *Born out of Sorrow: Collected Essays on Life in Pietermaritzburg and the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands under Apartheid (1948-1994)*, Natal Society Foundation (forthcoming).

“[Women in South African History](#).” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. Oxford University Press. March 2020.

“Notes from the Field,” [*The Historian*](#), 81, no. 2 (2019): 206-209.

“African women and African-born women” in Daina Ramey Berry and Deleso Alford Washington (eds.), [*Enslaved Women in America: An Encyclopedia*](#). Greenwood Press, 2012.

Public Engagement

“Reading List: Jill Kelly,” [*Africa is a Country*](#), March 17, 2020.

“How a Chief Defied Apartheid and Upheld Democracy for the Good of his People,” [*The Conversation*](#), August 20, 2019.

“Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and the Historians,” with Meghan Healy-Clancy, [*Africa is a Country*](#), September 24, 2018.

“By the People, By the Land,” *Natal Witness*, July 19, 2018.

“The Peace Chief of Table Mountain: Order of the Luthuli is to be Awarded to the Late Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo,” *Natal Witness*, April 18, 2018.

“The Rise, Fall, and Retirement of Mangosuthu Buthelezi,” with Liz Timbs, [*Africa is a Country*](#), December 11, 2017.

“The Selective Memory of ‘Plot for Peace,’ Documentary Film about South Africa’s Transition,” [*Africa is a Country*](#), February 18, 2015.

“An Archive for South African Historian Jeff Guy (1940-2014),” [*Africa is a Country*](#), with Meghan Healy-Clancy, December 20, 2014.

“The Spear of the People,” [*Africa is a Country*](#), November 6, 2014.

“Counter-Revolutionary Agents in Apartheid South Africa,” [*Africa is a Country*](#), March 22, 2014.

“The Film ‘Zulu’ – Starring Forest Whitaker and Orlando Bloom – Gets Lukewarm Reviews. Is the Novel Any Good?” [*Africa is a Country*](#), August 18, 2013.

“Dirk Coetzee is Dead: The Legacies of Apartheid’s Death Squads and the TRC,” [*Africa is a Country*](#), March 8, 2013.

“The New York Times Reports on Political Violence in South Africa,” [*Africa is a Country*](#), December 7, 2012.

INVITED LECTURES

“‘The Native Commissioner is the Native Men’s Commissioner’: Gender and the Natal Native Code in Natal 1959,” Durban Repository of the National Archives, South Africa, July 2019.

“Chief by the People: Mhlabunzima Maphumulo and the Search for Security during the Transition to Democracy in South Africa,” 26th Annual Alan Paton Lecture, Alan Paton & Struggle Centre & Struggle Archives, May 2019.

“South Africa after Mandela: Access to Rights,” Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, February 2015.

“Only the Fourth Chief: Archival and Oral Sources on Land and Chiefly Authority,” Pietermaritzburg Repository of the National Archives, South Africa, July 2013.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

“The (Archives of the) First Ladies of the African National Congress and Anti-Pass Activism,” African Studies Association, Boston, MA, November 2019.

“Contested Authority: Navigating Politically Sensitive Contexts in Rural South Africa as an Oral Historian,” Oral History Association, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2019.

“‘The Native Commissioner is the Native Men’s Commissioner’: Urban Women in Rural Natal, 1959,” Urban Futures Centre, Durban University of Technology, June 2019

“‘They lacked knowledge about why they should dip cattle’: Revisiting the 1959 Rural Revolts and Women’s Knowledge about Cattle,” Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Grahamstown, South Africa, June 2019.

“Medical Professionals, Migrant Laborers, and Congress Networks in Rural Natal in 1959,” University of Johannesburg History Seminar, May 2019.

“Collective Memory and Historical Denials: Local Conflicts and the End of Apartheid,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

“Land Reform for Landless Chiefs and “Government Tribes” in South Africa,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“Women’s Violence, Men’s Shame, and the ‘Efficacy of Congress Methods of Struggle’ in the 1950s in Natal,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 2017.

“‘If we had written an ordinary letter you would not have replied’: Revisiting the 1959 Rural Rebellions in Natal,” Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa, June 2017.

“Apartheid Networks in the Making of Anti-Apartheid Chiefs,” 17th Annual Africa Conference, Austin, TX, April 2017.

“Bantustan Biography: The Making of a ‘Rebel Chief’ in KwaZulu, 1973-1991,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 2016.

“‘The Burden is Heavy, We Need the Men’: Zulu Women and the 1959 Rebellions in South Africa,” African Feminisms around the World: Cartographies for the 21st Century, State College, PA, September 2016.

“He Wants to be Registered as a Chief: The Creation of ‘Government Tribes’ in Colonial Natal,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2015.

“Nomsimekwana’s Tale: An *Amalala* Oral Tradition in 20th Century Claims on Land & Zuluness,” Izithunguthu: Southern African Pasts before the Colonial Era, Their Archives and Their Ongoing Present/Presence, Cape Town, South Africa, July 2015.

“Nomsimekwana’s Tale: An *Amalala* Oral Tradition in 20th Century Claims on Land & Zuluness,” Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa, July 2015.

“‘Persons Unknown’ and the Killing of the Peace Chief: The State, Inkatha, and Local Involvement in the Assassination of Mhlabunzima Maphumulo,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, November 2014.

“Mhlabunzima Maphumulo: Chief by the People? Defining Membership and Authority at Table Mountain during *uDlame*, 1989-1994,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 2014.

“‘So that the Bullet Can’t Hit You’: Women’s Construction and Use of Zuluness during Civil War in South Africa (1990-1994),” Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Toronto, May 2014.

“Nomsimekwana’s Tale: Oral Tradition in Claims on Land and Zuluness, 1905-2010,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“‘Because my people are in the MDM, I have to be with them’: The Peace Chief and Zulu Politics during *uDlame*,” Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Gaborone, Botswana, June 2013.

“Bantu Authorities and Betterment: The Ambiguous Responses of Chiefs and Regents,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, April 2013.

“Remembering the ‘Peace Chief’: Local Interpretations of *uDlame*,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 2012.

“‘Only the Fourth Chief’: *uDlame*, Land, and Chiefly Authority in KwaZulu-Natal, 1973-1994,” African Studies Center Eye on Africa Seminar, Michigan State University, March 2012.

“‘It was not a usual fight’: Rural Zulu Women, Oral History, and (Un)usual Challenges,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 2011.

“‘But there was no respect’: Zulu Women, Political Conflict, and the Gendering of Ethnicity,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 2011.

“‘So that the bullet can’t hit you’: African Women, Political Conflict, and the Practice of Zuluness in South Africa, 1975-1994,” Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Durban, South Africa, June 2011.

“The ‘Peace Chief’ Mhlabunzima Maphumulo: Conflict over Land and Authority in Mbambangalo during the *uDlame*,” History and African Studies Seminar, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa, May 2011.

“‘It is *because* of our Islam that we are there’: The Call of Islam in the United Democratic Front,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2008.

Roundtable Participation

“Oral Sources in African History: A Roundtable Discussion on the Latest Methods and Findings,” Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, October 2018.

“Digital Southern African Studies,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 2014.

Panel Discussant

“Where The State Does Not Govern: Female Activism in Rural South Africa's Past and Present,” African Studies Association, Boston, MA, November 2019.

“The Making of the ‘New South Africa,’” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 2017.

“New Histories of Separate Development,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 2016.

“Capitalism in Africa,” International Graduate Student Conference on Transatlantic History, Arlington, TX, October 2016.

“Unsettling Histories of Colonial Natal,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, April 2016.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY TALKS

“Human Rights and the Post-Colonial World Public Forum,” Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, May 2017.

“Overcoming Apartheid,” New History at Old Red: Conflict, Dallas, TX, September 2016.

“Helen Suzman Forum on Life under Apartheid,” University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX, February 2015.

“20 Years of Change in Africa Panel,” Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute Godbey Lecture Series, Dallas, TX, April 2014.

“Nomsimekwana’s Tale: Oral Tradition in Claims on Land and Zuluness, 1905-2010,” Dallas Area Social Historians (DASH), Dallas, TX, December 2013.

“Representations of Africa,” Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Southern Methodist University African Student Association, Dallas, TX, March 2013.

STUDENT ADVISING

Graduate Committee

Brianna Hogg, PhD Candidate (current)
Braunshay Pertile, PhD Candidate (current)
Ashton Reynolds, PhD Student (current)

Undergraduate Advising

Faculty Adviser, Undergraduate Research Assistants, Class of Covid Oral History Project
Clare Ennis (2020), Cole Fontenot (2020), and Jack Lucas (2020)

Faculty Adviser, Undergraduate Research Assistants, Voices of SMU Oral History Project
Carson Dudick (2018-2020), India Simmons (2018-2020), Sriya Reddy (2018-), Nia Kamau (2019-), Sadiya Patel (2019), David Hu (2020), Laurence Lundy (2020-), Ruth Demissie (2020-), and Valeria Reynosa (2020-) “Voices of SMU Oral History Project”

Faculty Mentor, SMU Engaged Learning, 2017
Brianna Hogg, “Women of the Arts in the Anti-Apartheid Struggle”

Faculty Adviser, Summer Research Assistants, 2017
Claiborne Lord and Brianna Hogg, “Oral History of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in North Texas”

Faculty Mentor & Senior Distinction Adviser, SMU Engaged Learning, 2015-2016
Sarah Rahimi, “Crossing Borders to Changing Identities: An Oral History of African Immigration to Dallas”

Faculty Mentor, Dallas Jewish Historical Society internship, 2015-2016
Hannah Williams, “Jewish South Africans in North Texas”

Senior Distinction Adviser, SMU History Department, 2014
Jennifer King, “The Road to Democracy: Challenges of an Exiled Liberation Movement”
Savannah Stephens, “Bantu Education: The School of Propaganda and Oppression”

COURSES

Doing Oral History
African History to 1880
Modern African History
History of South Africa
The History of Human Rights in South Africa (SMU-in-South Africa)
Junior Seminar: Overcoming Apartheid
Of Cannibals and Kings: Oral Sources in African History (Undergraduate)
Of Cannibals and Kings: Oral Sources in African History (Graduate)
History as an Academic Profession (Graduate)

RESEARCH AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- 2016- *Honorary Research Associate*, Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative
University of Cape Town
- 2014-2015 *Fellow*, Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute Seminar, Global Africa
- 2012-2014 *Member*, Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute Africa Research Cluster
- 2007-2008 *Writer*, MATRIX: The Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences
Writer for the [Community Video Education Trust](#) (CVET) digital archive of
documentary video footage of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS FOR JOURNALS AND PRESSES

American Historical Review, 2018, 2019
Britain and the World, 2016
Journal of African History, 2017, 2020
Journal of Natal and Zulu History, 2019
Journal of World History, 2015
South African Historical Journal, 2020
Southern African Humanities, 2015
University of Virginia Press, 2020
University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2018, 2019, 2020
Yearbook of Transnational History, 2018

EXTERNAL THESIS AND DISSERTATION REVIEWS

University of Cape Town, 2020
University of Witwatersrand, 2020

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Assessment Coordinator, 2017-
Internship Adviser, 2017-
Undergraduate Committee, 2014-2017
SWOT Committee, 2014

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Common Curriculum, Human Diversity Committee, 2020
Colonial Group Faculty Survey Working Group, 2019-2020
Search Committee, Art Historian in Africa/African Diaspora, 2019-2020
Marshall Campus Review Committee, 2019
Engaged Learning Task Force, 2018
Search Committee, Faculty in Residence, 2018
Fulbright Campus Review Committee, 2018
African Studies Committee, 2017-

Student Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate, 2017-2019
SMU Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute and African Studies events, 2013-
Michigan State University Africanist Graduate Conference, 2007-2009

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Advisory Board, North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, 2019-
Editorial Board, *Journal of Natal and Zulu History*, 2017-
Program Committee, North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, 2014-2017
Reviewer, Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, 2020
Reviewer, Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF), 2017-2018

MEDIA COVERAGE

“Post of the Month,” [*State Magazine*](#), April 2019
New Books Network [Podcast](#), October 16, 2018
New Books, [New Frame](#), February 6, 2019
Bongi Gwala, The Talking Point, SAfm, May 25, 2018

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, African Studies Association
Member, African Studies Association Women’s Caucus
Member, American Historical Association
Member, Association of Concerned African Scholars
Member, Coordinating Council for Women Historians
Member, Oral History Association
Member, Southern African Historical Society
Member, Texas Oral History Association

LANGUAGE

isiZulu - Advanced Reading, Writing, & Listening Proficiency
175+ oral history interviews
2007 Fulbright-Hays Intensive Zulu Group Project Abroad in South Africa
Academic year graduate study, 2006-2010
Semester Abroad, School for International Training, Durban, South Africa, 2003