

SMU Clements Department of History

Jill E. Kelly

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WORK EXPERIENCE

2018- Associate Professor, Department of History, Southern Methodist University
2012-2018 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Southern Methodist University
2005-2006 Brownfields Coordinator, Johnstown Redevelopment Authority, AmeriCorps

RESEARCH POSITIONS

2023- Fellow, African Biographies Project, Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study
2016-2023 Honorary Research Associate, Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative, University of Cape Town

EDUCATION

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

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2025-2026 Sam Taylor Research Fellowship
2023 The New York Public Library Short-Term Fellowship, Schomburg Center
2023-2024 Sam Taylor Research Fellowship
2022 Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study Writing Fellowship
2018-2019 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Grant, South Africa
2019-2020 Sam Taylor Research Fellowship
2016-2017 Sam Taylor Research Fellowship
2015 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship
2010-2011 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, South Africa
2010-2011 Fulbright-III U.S. Student Fellow (declined)
2007 Fulbright-Hays Zulu Group Project Abroad in South Africa

UNIVERSITY GRANTS AND AWARDS

2025 Engaged Learning Excellence in Mentoring Award
2023-24 Tom Tunks Distinguished University Citizen Award
2023 Dedman College Dean's Research Council Grant
2023 Center for Presidential History's History Department Writing Fellowship
2023 Southern Methodist University Research Council Travel Grant
2020 Altshuler Distinguished Teacher Professor Award
2020 M Award
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 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

Books

No Ordinary Letter: A Gendered History of Rural Violence and Shame in Apartheid South Africa. Ohio University Press (New African Histories), forthcoming October 2026.

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

Michigan State University Press and University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2018.

Reviews in *African Studies Review* (2021); *American Historical Review* (2021); *Journal of African History* (2020); *Journal of Southern African Studies* (2020); *Transformation* (2020); *H-Env* (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.

Edited Collections

Kelly, Jill (ed.) and Zamindlela Conco. *Zamindlela Conco: Voices of Liberation*. In Preparation for HSRC Press, South Africa.

Houser, Myra, Jill Kelly and Rachel Sandwell (eds). * *A Story of Freedom: Mary Louise Hooper in the South African Struggle Against Apartheid*. Michigan State University Press, under review.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Hill, Kimberly and Jill Kelly. * “The First Ladies of the African National Congress and Their Transnational Networks.” In Dawne Curry and Holly McGee (eds). *Sisters Across the Seas*. University of Wisconsin Press, under contract.

“Kwaku Alzinah noEthel”: Archiving Women’s Friendship and Joy.” In Athambile Masola and Meghan Healy-Clancy (eds). *Chosen Kin: Women’s Friendships as Political History in South Africa*. University of Witwatersrand Press, forthcoming 2027.

“Mobile Women, the Accommodation of Patriarchs, and the Natal Native Code in Apartheid South Africa.” In Mario Krämer and Rijk van Dijk (eds). *Mobilities and Intermediary Authorities in Africa: Crossroads of Spatial and Social Trajectories*. Routledge, forthcoming 2026.

* Authors chose to publish alphabetically, denoting equal contributions to publication.

“Collective Memory and Historical Denials: Local Conflicts during the Transition to Democracy in South Africa.” In Abikal Borah and Toyin Falola (eds). [*Violence in the Postcolony: Entangled Histories of Africa*](#). Indiana University Press (2026). English version of below.

“Les récits de la terre spoliée : Quand la mémoire des conflits locaux façonne la fin de l’apartheid,” [*20&21e siècle: Revue d'Histoire*](#). Special Issue on Transitions (April-June 2025): 119-132.

Ballim, Faeza and Jill Kelly.* “Compromise, Conflict, and Promise in the Making of a Democratic South Africa.” with Faeza Ballim. In Daniel Magaziner (ed). [*Oxford Handbook of South African History*](#) (online 2025, print 2026).

“Nokukhanya Luthuli as First Lady of the African National Congress.” [*International Journal of African Historical Studies*](#) 57, no. 3 (2024): 287-306.

“[Nokukhanya Luthuli: South African Women’s Leader](#).” In Thomas Spear (ed). *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. Oxford University Press (2024).

“Mdluli Backstories and Biographies: Shaka Zulu and the Persistence of Amalala Identities.” [*Historia*](#) 69, no. 1 (2024): 77-100.

“Land Reform for a Landless Chief in South Africa: History and Land Restitution in KwaZulu-Natal.” [*African Studies Review*](#) 64, no. 4 (2021): 884-908.

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

Prize: 2021 American Historical Association William and Edwyna Gilbert Award for the Best Article on Teaching History

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

“‘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.

Prize: 2020 Coordinating Council for Women in History Carol Gold Article Award

“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.

Book Reviews

Review of *National Liberation and the Political Life of Exile*, by Rachel Sandwell. *Safundi* (Forthcoming)

Review of *Queering Colonial Natal*, by T.J. Tallie. [*Safundi*](#) 25: 3 (2024): 104-109.

Review of *Violence in Rural South Africa*, by Sean Reading. [*International Journal of Historical Studies*](#) 57, no. 1 (2024): 107-108.

Review of *Bahlabelelelani – Why Do They Sing? Gender and Power in Contemporary Women's Songs*, by Nompumelelo Zondi. [*Natalia*](#) 52 (2022): 58-59.

Featured Review of *Safari Nation: A Social History of the Kruger National Park*, by Jacob Dlamini. [*American Historical Review*](#) 126, no. 3 (2021): 1201-1204.

Review of *An Intimate Rebuke: Female Genital Power in Ritual and Politics in West Africa*, by Laura S. Grillo. [*African Studies Review*](#) 63, no. 3 (2020): 38-40.

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

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

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

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

Other Academic Publications

Kelly, Jill, Jabulani Sithole, and Liz Timbs.* “King Zwelithini and the Historians.” [*South African Historical Journal*](#) 73, no. 2 (2021): 533-544.

“In Peace and Rebellion: Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo.” In Christopher Merrett (ed), [*Born out of Sorrow: Essays on Pietermaritzburg and the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands under Apartheid \(1948-1994\)*](#). Natal Society Foundation, 2021: 211-228.

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

“The Strange non-death of Bantustans.” [*Africa is a Country*](#) (September 15, 2023).

Kelly, Jill and Jabulani Sithole. “The AmaZulu Nation, British Empire, and Succession in the Age of Social Media.” [*Africa is a Country*](#) (November 8, 2022).

Kelly, Jill, Jabulani Sithole, and Liz Timbs.* “Zulu Monarchy: How Royal Women have Asserted Their Agency and Power throughout History.” [*The Conversation*](#) (October 6, 2022).

“Alzina Zondi’s Fight for Freedom.” [*New Frame*](#) (November 11, 2021).

“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).

Healy-Clancy, Meghan and Jill Kelly, * “Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and the Historians.” [*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).

Kelly, Jill and Liz Timbs. * “The Rise, Fall, and Retirement of Mangosuthu Buthelezi.” [*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).

Healy-Clancy, Meghan and Jill Kelly. * “An Archive for South African Historian Jeff Guy (1940-2014),” [*Africa is a Country*](#) (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 AND SEMINARS

“The Political Work of Nokukhanya Luthuli,” Umvumbi: The Legacy of Chief A.J. Luthuli Revisited, Luthuli Museum, South Africa (virtual), August 21, 2025.

“Alzinah Zondi and the 1959 Rural Rebellions in Natal,” African History and Heritage Public Seminar Series, AMAFA Research Institute, South Africa (virtual), August 8, 2024.

“Contested Authority: Oral History in Post-Apartheid South Africa,” Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne, Germany, May 16–17, 2024.

“A Woman Doctor and Activist: Healing, Politics, and Policing in the Life of Dr. Margaret Chuene Mncadi,” NWU Seminar Series, University of the Northwest, Potchefstroom, October 2022.

“Gendered Knowledge, Gendered Archives: Alzina Zondi and the 1959 Rural Rebellions in Natal,” Historical Studies Seminar Series, University of Cape Town, South Africa, September 2022.

“‘Did You Ever Know Herbert...?’ Gendered Archives and South African Women’s History,” Journeys in History Seminar, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2022.

“Gendered Knowledge, Gendered Archives: The 1959 Rural Rebellions in Natal,” Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Studies, South Africa, August 2022.

“First Lady of the ANC Nokukhanya Luthuli,” Women’s Month Lecture, Luthuli Museum, South Africa (Virtual), 2021.

“‘Persons Unknown’ and the Killing of the Peace Chief: The TRC and State and Local Violence in South Africa,” West African Transitional Justice Centre, Nigeria (Virtual), 2021.

“‘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, 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, 2019.

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

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

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

“‘Sasontwa Abelungu’: Zamindlela Conco on the Past and Future of Mental Health in South Africa,” South African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, June 2026.

“‘Sasontwa Abelungu’: Zamindlela Conco on Medical Education and Mental Health in South Africa,” Workshop on Southern Africa, Canaan, CT, May 2026.

“Letters of Love and Frustration: Mary Louise Hooper, the Natal Congress Alliance, and the Luthuli Memorial Foundation,” Mary Louise Hooper and the International Anti-Apartheid Movement, East Lansing, MI, March 2025.

“An Academic in Exile: Dr. Zamindlela Conco and the Gang of Eight,” South African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa, June 2024.

“Women’s Mobility, Traditional Authority, and the Natal Native Code in Apartheid South Africa,” Theory-Making and Methodologies at the Intersection of Mobility and Institutions: Perspectives from and on the Global South, University of Cologne, Germany, May 2024.

“Women, Shame, and Martial Masculinity in Natal’s Impi yamaTende,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Canaan, CT, April 2024.

“Mdluli Backstories and Biographies: Shaka Zulu and the Persistence of Lala Identities,” Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative Research Development Workshop and Celebration of Carolyn Hamilton’s Retirement, Cape Town, South Africa, November 2023.

“Alzinah Zondi’s Archive of Women’s Friendship and Joy,” Women’s Friendships as Political History in South Africa Workshop, Hybrid, August 2023.

“After ‘Struggle History’: An Intellectual Biography of uDr. Margaret Chuene Mncadi,” That’s History? Thirty Years after the End of Apartheid, Princeton University, February 2023.

“Sticks? Brandishing sticks? Women? It’s unheard of’: Gender, Authority, and the Law in Natal 1959,” Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, East London, South Africa, June 2022.

“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.

Roundtable Participation

Author Meets Critic: Daniel Magaziner’s *Available Light: Omar Badsha and the Struggle to Change South Africa*, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2025.

Author Meets Critic: Rachel Sandwell’s *National Liberation and the Political Life of Exile*, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2025.

“‘One of the Greatest Public Health Programs That Ever Existed’: Exploring the Stories Behind the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief,” Oral History Association, Atlanta, GA, October 2025.

Author Meets Critic: Brady G’Sell’s *Reworking Citizenship: Race, Gender and Kinship in South Africa*, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, December 2024.

Author Meets Critic: Siphokazi Magadla’s *Guerillas and Combative Mothers*, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2023.

Author Meets Critic: Tyler Fleming’s *Opposing Apartheid on Stage*, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, November 2021.

“Rethinking Women in South Africa’s Congress Movement(s),” African Studies Association, Virtual, November 2020.

“Author Meets Critic: Theory, Place, and History: T.J. Tallie’s *Queering Colonial Natal*,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, November 2020.

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

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

Panel Discussant

“Legacies of Gender, Family, and Resistance in South Africa’s Liberation Movement,” African Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, November 2023.

“Author’s Spotlight: Mxolisi Mchunu’s Violence and Solace: The Natal Civil War in Late-Apartheid South Africa,” West African Transitional Justice Centre, Virtual, August 2022.

“Continuity, Conflict, Creativity: Ethnic Identity in South Africa's Coastal Belt,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, November 2021.

“Gender and Politics in Southern Africa,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Virtual, October 2020.

“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

“Dr. Zamindlela Conco and the Dreams of an Entire African People,” Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute Godbey Anniversary Lecture, 2026.

“Building and Maintaining Remote Student Relationships” and “Considering Your Online Students,” Southern Methodist University, 2020.

“Human Rights and the Post-Colonial World,” Southern Methodist University, 2017.

“Overcoming Apartheid,” New History at Old Red: Conflict, Old Red Museum of Dallas County History, 2016.

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

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

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

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

STUDENT ADVISING

Graduate Advising

Jonathan Angulo, PhD Committee Member (2023); Brianna Hogg, PhD Orals Committee Member (2017); Laura Narvaez, PhD Orals Committee Member (2023) and Co-Director, Dissertation (exp. 2027); Kristel Orta-Puente, PhD Orals Committee Member, (2023) and Teaching Practicum Adviser (2026); Braunshay Pertile, PhD Orals Committee Member (2017); Ashton Reynolds, PhD Orals Committee Member (2021); Edgar Velazquez Reynald, Teaching Practicum Adviser (2026).

Undergraduate Advising

Faculty Mentor

- DCII Hamilton Scholars: Genesis Dominguez (2026-2027); Alex Valdez (2026-2027); Alondra Rosas (2026); Caleb Garcia (2026); Raissa Umwali (2025); Sam Brown (2023); Rachel Manak (2020)
- DCII Mayer Fellows: Nomvuyo Makhathini (2025-2026); Princess Igwe-Icho (2023-2024); Siphosami Dongozi (2022-2023)
- Engaged Learning Fellows: Aguer Atem (2024-2025); Siphosami Dongozi (2022-2023); Brianna Hogg (2017); Sarah Rahimi (2015-2016)
- Engaged Learning First Year Research Experience (FYRE) Research Assistant: Genesis Dominguez (2025-2026)
- Engaged Learning Undergraduate Research Assistants, Voices of SMU Oral History Project: Miriam Garcia (2026-); Julia Trabucco (2025-); Jenna Young (2024-2026); Olufemi Omotayo (2025-2026); Michelle Ma (2023-2025); Amanda Sun (2023-2025); Princess Igwe-Icho (2022-2024); Sabrina Simien (2022-2023); Ruchi Ranganathan (2022-2023); Abby Herrera (2021); Keanna Esmaeeli (2021-2022); Tia Taylor (2021); Hannah Hall (2021-2022); Sarah Khoja (2021-2023); Ruth Demissie (2020-2021); Valeria Reynosa (2020-2021); David Hu (2020); Nia Kamau (2019-2020); Laurence Lundy (2019-2020); Sadiya Patel (2019); Sriya Reddy (2018-2021); India Simmons (2018-2020); Carson Dudick (2018-2020)
- Engaged Learning Undergraduate Research Assistants, Class of Covid Oral History Project: Clare Ennis, Cole Fontenot, and Jack Lucas (2020-2021)
- Engaged Learning Undergraduate Research Assistants, Oral History of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in North Texas: Brianna Hogg and Claiborne Lord (2017)
- McNair Scholars: Aguer Atem (2024-2025); Siphosami Dongozi (2022-2023)

Senior History Distinction Adviser

- Tom Rohlen, “Vlakplaas: The Militarization of the Apartheid Regime’s Secretive Counterinsurgency Police Unit,” 2024
- Sofie Arguijo, “Perpetuating Apartheid at Home,” 2023
- Sarah Rahimi, “An Oral History of African Immigration to Dallas,” 2015-2016
- Jennifer King, “Challenges of an Exiled Liberation Movement,” 2014
- Savannah Stephens, “Bantu Education: School of Propaganda and Oppression,” 2014

Senior History Distinction Committee Member

- Alondra Rosas 2025; Rachel Manak, 2023; Cole Fontenot, 2022; Bradley Kucera, 2022

History Internship Advisor:

- 2019, 2018x3; 2015-2016

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

2022- *Principal Investigator, [A Global Oral History of PEPFAR](#)*

- Secured \$200,000+ internal funding incl SMU George W. Bush Institute Postdoctoral Fellowships in 2023 & 2024; DCII Collaborative Research Grant 2024, 2025 & 2026; DCII Advanced Symposia Grant 2025
- Mentor team of several undergraduate research assistants

2018- *Principal Investigator, [Voices of SMU Oral History](#)*

- 2023 Summerlee Foundation Grant (\$15,000)
- 2023 Key Personnel, Library of Congress Community Collections Grant for [If Tenth Street Could Talk](#) with Remembering Black Dallas for Summer Field School
- Manage \$30,000 annual budget in partnership with Engaged Learning
- Collaborate with nCDS and university archivists for online archive
- Mentor team of three-seven research assistants in 400+ interviews

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 at Michigan State University, Writer for [Community Video Education Trust](#) (CVET)*

MEDIA

“Vuyisile Mini: The Voice that Defied Apartheid,” [History's Heroes](#), BBC4, February 2026
[Joburg Letters](#) Podcast, November 2022

“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

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS FOR JOURNALS AND PRESSES

African Historical Review, 2026
African Studies Review, 2022, 2023
Agenda, 2025
American Historical Review, 2018, 2019
Britain and the World, 2016
Gender Questions, 2024
Historia, 2022, 2026
History in Africa, 2025, 2026
Jacana Media, 2024
Journal of African History, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2023
Journal of Natal and Zulu History, 2019, 2021
Journal of World History, 2015
Lexington Books, 2025
New Contree, 2022
Nordic Journal for African Studies, 2023
Politikon: The IAPSS Journal of Political Science, 2025
Social Dynamics, 2023
South African Historical Journal, 2020, 2023, 2025, 2026x2
Southern African Humanities, 2015, 2022
University of Virginia Press, 2020
University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2026
Yearbook of Transnational History, 2018

EXTERNAL REVIEWS (THESIS, DISSERTATION, AND CREATIVE OUTPUT)

Durban University of Technology, 2024
University of Cape Town, 2020
University of Witwatersrand, 2020, 2026

EXTERNAL TENURE REVIEWS

2018, 2020

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Dedman College Advisory Committee for Promotion to Associate Professor Division II, 2026-
Tenure and Promotion Committee External Member, Art History, 2026
Dedman College Faculty Council, 2025
Dedman College Dean's Research Council, 2024-2025
Urban Studies Cluster Hire Working Group, 2023
Ethics and Tenure Committee of the Faculty Senate, 2023-2024
Ad-Hoc Committee, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Texas Historical Commission Application, 2021
Dedman College Diversity and Inclusion Officer, 2020-2024
Altshuler Teaching Academy, 2020-2022
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, 2021, 2025

Emerging Leaders Seminar, 2019
DCII Symposium Organizer, Violence and the Ends of Colonialism, 2019
Engaged Learning Task Force, 2018
Search Committee, Faculty in Residence, 2018
Fulbright Campus Review Committee, 2018, 2020
Student Policies Committee of the Faculty Senate, 2017-2019
Ad-Hoc African Studies Committee, 2013+ (*Organized ten+ events via DCII & community*)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Search Committee Chair, Southwest History, 2026-2027
Targeted Hire Committee, 2025
Assessment Coordinator, 2017-2020
Internship Adviser, 2017-2020
Undergraduate Committee, 2014-2017
Stanton Sharp Symposium Organizer, 2014
SWOT Committee, 2014

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Review Board, *Safundi*, 2026-
Reviewer, ACLS Fellowship, 2025
Mentor, ASA Emerging Scholars Network, 2025-
Editorial Review Board, *History in Africa*, 2025-
ASR Best Africa-Focused Anthology Prize Sub-Committee, 2024
Advisory Board, North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, 2019-2024
Editorial Board, *Journal of Natal and Zulu History*, 2017-2021
Program Committee, North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, 2014-2017
Reviewer, Fulbright Scholar Award, 2021, 2023
Reviewer, Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, 2020
Reviewer, Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF), 2017-2018

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