

David M Gordon

Curriculum Vitae  
March, 2024

Department of History  
Bowdoin College  
9900 College Station  
Brunswick, ME 04011

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**Education**

Princeton University

2000: PhD Dissertation, History: "The Making of a Hinterland: Environment and Politics in Mweru-Luapula from the 1880s to the 1990s." Advisor: R.L. Tignor. Completed May 2000.

1996: M.A. in History. Major Field: Sub-Saharan African History. Minor Fields: Comparative Environmental History, American History, 1740-1815.

University of Cape Town, South Africa

1993: Honours in African Studies (First Class)

1992: B.A. in Economic History and Sociology (with distinction in Economic History)

**Professional Employment**

2015- present: Professor, Bowdoin College

2009-15: Associate Professor, Bowdoin College

2012: Visiting Associate Professor, Brown University

2008: Visiting Associate Professor, Rice University

2005-8: Assistant Professor, Bowdoin College.

2001-5: Assistant Professor, University of Maryland.

2000-1: Lecturer, University of Natal, South Africa.

1999-0: Lecturer, Princeton University.

**Research Languages**

Afrikaans, French, Portuguese, elementary ChiBemba (Zambia and DRC) and KiSwahili.

**Fellowships and Awards**

2022: Roger Howell Jr. Endowed Chair, Bowdoin College

2019 Fulbright Award, Portugal, for research 2020-21.

2013: National Endowment for the Humanities. Summer Stipend Award.

2008: Humanities Research Center Fellowship, Rice University.

2007: Finalist for Melville J. Herskovits Award for Best Book in African Studies, 2006.

2005: Graduate Research Board, Summer research Award, University of Maryland (Declined).

2003: David C. Driskell Center, Summer Research Award, University of Maryland.

2002: Graduate Research Board, Summer Research Award, University of Maryland.

2000: Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Columbia Society of Fellows in the Humanities (Declined).

1997-8: Rockefeller Foundation African Dissertation Internship Award for Research in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

1995-9: Rollins Prize, living expenses and full tuition fellowship, Princeton University.

1994: De Villiers-Smuts Merit Scholarship, University of Cape Town.

## **Publications**

### **Books**

- 2017 [Source Book] *Apartheid in South Africa: A History in Documents*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017.
- 2012: [Monograph] *Invisible Agents: Spirits in a Central African History*. Ohio University Press. New African Histories Series. Fall 2012.
- 2012: [Edited Collection] (with Shepard Krech) Eds. *Indigenous Knowledge and the Environment in Africa and North America*. Ohio University Press. Series in Ecology and History, 2012.
- 2006: [Monograph] *Nachituti's Gift: Economy, Society, and Environment in Central Africa*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2006.  
Award: Finalist and Honorable Mention for Melville J. Herskovits Award for Best Book in African Studies, 2006. Reviewed in *Journal of Southern African Studies*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Africa Today*, *African Affairs*, *Choice* ("Highly Recommended").

### **Refereed Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

- 2024-5: "The Powers of Objects and the Collapse of Lunda (Angola and western DRC), 1850-190," Forthcoming in *Textures of Power in Central Africa*, edited by Emerry kalema, Florence Bernault, and Benoît Henriët. Forthcoming.
- 2023: "The Quotidian Politics of a Love Story: Researching, Assembling, and Mobilizing the Lunda Legend in the Late Nineteenth Century." *The Journal of African History*. 64.2 (2023), 209-228.
- 2022: "The Kurtz and Prospero myth models in Congo Free State archives," in *The Congo Free State: What Could Archives Tell Us?* (Brussels and NY: Peter Lang, 2022).
- 2021: "Kingdoms and Associations: Copper's Changing Political Economy in the Nineteenth-Century." *Across the Copperbelt: Urban and Social Change in Africa's Borderland Communities*. Edited Miles Larmer et. al. James Currey, 2021, pp. 155-178.
- 2018: "Reading the Archives." Online Oxford University Press Research Encyclopedia. Published online, 2018. 22 pages. In print in *African Histories: Methods, Sources, and Historiographies*, ed. T. Spear. (OUP, 2019).
- 2018: "Kingdoms of South Central Africa: Sources, Historiography, and History," Online Oxford University Press Research Encyclopedia. Published online, 2018. 45 pages. In Print: Lead article for *African Histories: Methods, Sources, and Historiographies*, ed. T. Spear. (OUP, 2019).
- 2018: "Localizing the Global: The Wanderwörter of Nineteenth-Century South Central Africa," in, *Tracing Language Movements in Africa*. Eds. Ericka Albaugh and Kathryn de Luna. NY: Oxford University Press. January, 2018, 259-276.

- 2018: "A Tin-Trunk Bible: Writing and Orality in a Sacred Text of the Lumpa Church," In *Media, Marginality and Religion in Modern Africa*. Eds, Felicitas Becker, Joel Cabrita, and Marie Rodet. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, February, 2018, 93-111.
- 2017: "Precursors to Red Rubber: Violence in the Congo Free State, 1885-1895." *Past and Present*. No 236 (August 2017), 133-168.
- 2017: "Slavery and Redemption in the Catholic Missions of the Upper Congo, 1878-1909." *Slavery and Abolition*. Vol. 38.3 (September, 2017), 577-600.
- 2016 : "(Dis)Embodying Sovereignty: Divine Kingship in Central African Historiography," *Journal of African History* 57.1(2016), 47-68.
- 2014 : "Interpreting Documentary Sources on the Early History of the Congo Free State : The Case of Ngongo Luteta's Rise and Fall. " In *History in Africa : A Journal of Method*. Vol. 41(2014), 5-33.
- 2014: "Les seigneurs de guerre dans le centre-sud africain au XIXème siècle." *L'impact du monde atlantique sur les anciens monde africain et européen, XVe-XIXe siècle*. Edited by Guy Saupin. Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2014.
- 2013: "Wearing Cloth, Wielding Guns: Consumption, Trade, and Politics in the South-Central African Interior during the Nineteenth Century." *The Objects of Life in Central Africa: The History of Consumption and Social Change, 1840-1980*. Edited by Robert Ross, Marja Hinfelaar and Iva Pesa. Brill, 2013.
- 2013: "Conflicting Conversions and Unexpected Christianities in Central Africa." In *Unexpected Consequences of Christian Missionary Encounters*. Edited by Heather Sharkey. Syracuse University Press.
- 2012: "Zambia." An Annotated Bibliography." Oxford University Press, Oxford Online Bibliographies. [40 pages, approx. 160 annotated entries of the significant scholarship]
- 2012 (with Shepard Krech) "Introduction." In *Indigenous Knowledge and the Environment in Africa and North America*. Ohio University Press, 2012, 1-24.
- 2012 "Indigenous Spirits: Ancestral Power in a South Central African Kingdom." *Indigenous Knowledge and the Environment in Africa and North America*. Ohio University Press, 2012, 196-215.
- 2009: "The Abolition of the Slave Trade and the Transformation of South-Central African Interior." *William and Mary Quarterly*. Special Edition on Global Consequences of 1807 Abolition. LXVI.4 (October 2009), 915-938.
- 2009: "Community of Suffering: Narratives of War and Exile in the Zambian Lumpa Church." In *Recasting the Past*. Edited by Derek Peterson and Giacomo Macola. Ohio University Press. New African Histories Series. (2009), 191-209.
- 2008: "Rebellion or Massacre: The UNIP-Lumpa Conflict Revisited." In *One Zambia, Many Histories: Towards a History of Post-Colonial Zambia*. Edited by Jan-Bart Gewald, Giacomo Macola, and Marja Hinfelaar. Brill, August 2008, 45-76.
- 2006: "From Sacred Ownership to Colonial Commons: Water Tenure Systems in Central Africa." In *A History of Water: The World of Water. Volume III*. Edited by Terje Tvedt. I.B. Tauris, 2006, 18-37.
- 2006: "History on the Luapula Retold: Landscape, Memory, and Identity in the Kazembe Kingdom." *Journal of African History* 47.1 (2006), 21-42.
- 2005: "Growth without Capital: A Renascent Fishery in Zambia and Katanga,

- 1960s to Recent Times.” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 31.3 (2005), 477-95.
- 2004: “The Cultural Politics of a Traditional Ceremony: Mutomboko and the Performance of History on the Luapula.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 46.1 (2004), 63-83.
- 2003: “Rites of Rebellion: Recent Anthropology from Zambia.” *African Studies* 62.1 (2003), 125-139.
- 2001: “Owners of the Land and Lunda Lords: Colonial Chiefs in the Borderlands of Northern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo.” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 34.2 (2001), 315-337.
- 2001: “A Sword of Empire: Medicine in Colonial Xhosaland, 1856-1891,” *African Studies* 60.2 (2001), 165-183.  
Republished in *Medicine and Colonial Identity*. Edited by Mary Sutphen and Bridie Andrews. Routledge, 2003, 41-60.
- 1996: “From Rituals of Rapture to Dependence: The Political Economy of Khoikhoi Narcotic Consumption, c.1487-1870.” *South African Historical Journal*, 35 (1996), 62-88.
- 1996: (with Tshidiso Maloka) “Chieftainship, Civil Society and the Political Transition in South Africa.” *Critical Sociology* 22, 3 (1996), 37-55.

### **Book Reviews and Other Publications**

- 2021: “Featured Review of John K Thornton, *A History of West Central Africa to 1850*,” *Journal of African History*. Vol 62(2), July 2021, 284-288.
- 2021: “Review of Naomi Serpill, *The Old Drift*,” *American Historical Review*. Special Review Section on Historical Fiction. *The American Historical Review*, Volume 126, Issue 3, September 2021, pp.1190–119.
- 2020: “Review of Chris Duval, *The African Roots of Marijuana*,” *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. Vol. 53(2020), 15-16.
- 2019: “Fang Reliquary” in *Art Purposes: Object Lessons for the Liberal Arts*. New York: Prestel, 2019
- 2018: “Review Linda Heywood, *Njinga of Angola*.” *Journal of African History* (2018)
- 2018: “Review of Giacomo Macola, *Guns in Central African History*.” *Africa* (2018).
- 2017: “The Agency of the Unknown,” in Roundtable on “The Unbelieved and Historians, Part III: Responses and Elaborations.” *History Compass*.
- 2016: “Review of Richard Werbner, *Divinations Grasp: African Encounters with the Almost Said*.” *African Studies Review* 59.3 (Dec. 2016).
- 2016: “Review of Barbara Meier and Arne Steinforth, *Spirits in Politics: Uncertainties of Power and Healing in African Societies*” *Africa*. 86.2 (2016).
- 2015: “Review of Ruy Llera Blanes, *A Prophetic Trajectory*. *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 48 (2015).
- 2015: “Review of Todd Sanders, *Stones of Contention: A History of Africa’s Diamonds*.” *American Historical Review*. April (2015).
- 2015: “Review of Terje Oestigaard, *Religion at Work in Globalised Tradition: Rainmaking, Witchcraft and Christianity in Tanzania*.” *Social Science and Missions*. 28.1-2.
- 2014: “Debate: Response to Review of *Invisible Agents*.” *Africa*. 84.4, 658-667

- 2014: "Review of Allen F. Roberts, *A Dance of Assassins: Performing Early Colonial Hegemony in the Congo*." *Journal of African History* 55.1(2014).
- 2012: "Review of *Cambridge History of South Africa: Vol. 2*." *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 45.3 (2012).
- 2012: "Review of John Stuart, *British Missionaries and the End of Empire*." *American Historical Review*. 117 (2012).
- 2012: "Review of Paul S. Landau, *Popular Politics in the History of South Africa*." *Journal of African History* 53.1(2012).
- 2012: "Alice Mulenga Lenshina." *Dictionary of African Biography*. Oxford University Press.
- 2011: "Review of Timothy Stapleton, *A Military History of South Africa*." *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 44.1 (2011).
- 2010: "Review of *Cambridge History of South Africa: Vol. 1*." *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 43.3 (2010).
- 2010: "Review of Christine Saidi, *Women's Authority and Society in Early East-Central Africa*." *African Studies Review* 53.2 (2010).
- 2010: "Review of Thomas Kirsch, *Spirits and Letters: Reading, Writing, and Charisma in African Christianity*." *African Studies Review*. 53.1 (2010).
- 2010 "Review of Philip Holden, *Autobiography and Decolonization: Modernity, Masculinity, and the Nation-State*." *Journal of Historical Biography*. Vol. 6 (2010).
- 2009: "Review of Patrick Harries, *Butterflies and Barbarians: Swiss Missionaries and Systems of Knowledge in South-East Africa*." *Isis* 100.4 (2009).
- 2009: "Review of Elizabeth Colson, *Tonga Religious Life in the Twentieth Century*." *African Studies Review* 52.2(2009).
- 2009: "Review of Dan Wylie, *Myth of Iron: Shaka in History*." *Journal of African History* 50.2 (2009).
- 2008 "Review of Elizabeth Eldredge, *Power in Colonial Africa: Conflict and Discourse in Lesotho, 1870-1960*." *Journal of African History* 49.2 (2008).
- 2008: "Review of James Pritchett, *Friends for Life, Friends for Death: Cohorts and Consciousness among the Lunda-Ndembu*." *Journal of Southern African Studies* 34.2 (2008).
- 2007: "Review of Jacob Tropp, *Natures of Colonial Change: Environmental Relations in the Making of the Transkei*." *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 40.2 (2007).
- 2007: "Review of Hugh MacMillan, *An African Trading Empire: The Story of Susman Brothers & Wulfsohn, 1901 – 2005*." *African Studies Review* 50.1(2007).
- 2005: "Kongo," in *Encyclopedia of World Trade Since 1450*. Edited by John McCusker. Macmillan / Scribner (2005).
- 2004: "Review of Giacomina Macola, *The Kingdom of Kazembe: History and Politics in North-Eastern Zambia and Katanga to 1950*." *African Studies Review*, 47.3 (2004).
- 2004: "Review of Linda Heywood, ed. *Central Africans and Cultural Transformations in the American Diaspora*." *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 38.2 (2004).
- 2004: "Review of William Beinert, *The Rise of Conservation in South Africa: Settlers, Livestock and the Environment, 1770-1950*," *Journal of Imperial and*

- Commonwealth History* 32.3 (2004).
- 2004: "Review of Andrew Sardanis, *Africa: the Other Side of the Coin*." *African Studies Review* 47.2 (2004).
- 2004: "Review of Luise White, *The Assassination of Herbert Chitepo*." *History: Reviews of New Books*, 32.2 (2004).
- 2003: "Sub-Saharan Africa." *Europe 1450-1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World*. Edited by Jonathan Dewald. Scribner and Sons (2003).
- 2003: "Technological Change and Economies of Scale in the History of Mweru-Luapula's Fishery." *FAO Technical Report* 461/2. Edited by Eyolf Larson et. al.
- 2002: "Review of Eugenia Herbert, *Twilight on the Zambezi*," *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 35.2 (2002).
- 2002: "Central Africa's Predatory Elites." *Australasian Review of African Studies* XXIV.2 (2002).
- 2002: "Bemba" in Ember, Carol R., Melvin Ember, and Ian Skoggard, eds. *Encyclopedia of World Cultures Supplement*. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2002.
- 2001: "Review of MacGaffey and Bazuingesso, *Congo Paris*." *Australasian Review of African Studies* 23.2 (2001).
- 2000: "Review of Colin Legum, *Africa Since Independence*." H-Africa. H-Net Reviews.
- 1999: "Review of John Iliffe, *East African Doctors: A History of the Modern Profession*." *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 31.3 (1998).
- 1999: "Review of Philip D. Curtin, *Disease and Empire: The Health of European Troops in the Conquest of Africa*." *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 31.3 (1998).
- 1998: "Review of Terence Ranger and Ngwabi Bhebe, *Society in Zimbabwe's Liberation War*." H-Africa, H-Net Reviews.
- 1997: "Review of Frederick Cooper, *Decolonization and African Society: The Labour Question in French and British Africa*." H-Africa, H-Net Reviews.
- 1996: "Review of Nancy C. Clarck, *Manufacturing Apartheid: State Corporations in South Africa*." H-Africa, H-Net Reviews.
- 1996: "Review of P.J. van der Merwe, *The Migrant Farmer in the History of the Cape Colony 1652-1842*." *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 29.1 (1996).

### **Exhibitions**

2020-21: *Bowdoin College Museum of Art*: "The Presence of the Past: Art from West and Central Africa."

### **Paper Presentations and Participation at Scholarly Conferences**

- 2024: "The Powers of Objects and the Collapse of Lunda (Angola and western DRC), 1850-1900." New Directions in African History Conference, College Station Texas, March 9, 2024.
- 2024: "Was Chibinda Ilunga a prophet? Spirits and History in Nineteenth-Century Sculptures of a South-Central African Hero" Spirited Arts Conference. Yale University, February 9, 2024.
- 2022: "Chibinda Ilunga: From Central African Caravan Routes to Exile in Portugal." Paper presented to *African Studies Association*, November 2022, Philadelphia.

- 2022: "What does Chibinda Ilunda tell us about the Past, Present, and Future of Portuguese Displays of African Art?" Paper presented to 11 *Congresso Ibérico de Estudos Africanos* July, 2022
- 2022: "Beyond the Document: Interpreting the Colonial Archives of African Material" Paper presented to 11 *Congresso Ibérico de Estudos Africanos* July, 2022
- 2021: "Ethnographic Collections as Historical Sources: Luba and Lunda Figurines in the Early Modern History of the South-Central Africa". Presented to Extracting the Past from the Present Conference. March 1-5. Online.
- 2020: Panel Organizer and Chair, "Decolonizing the Archives," *African Studies Association*. November 2020. Online.
- 2019: Panel Convener and Presenter. "The Central African Copperbelt." African Studies Association, Boston, Nov. 21-24. Panel Presentation: "The Social Life of Copper: Power, Violence, and Debt in the Nineteenth Century."
- 2019: Panel Convener and Presenter. "Reconnecting African Art and Artefacts." ECAS, Edinburgh, June 11-14. Presentation: "Power, value, and status in late nineteenth-century eastern Angolan exchanges: The Lunda and Chokwe art trade."
- 2018: Discussant, "Religion in the Democratic Republic of Congo." African Studies Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Nov. 29-1 Dec.1, 2018.
- 2016: "Peacekeeping" and "Pacification": Toward a History of International Humanitarianism and Violence in the Congo." Paper Presented to African Studies Association Conference, Washington DC, Dec. 1-3. Panel Chair. "Peacekeepers and Warmongers in the Democratic Republic of Congo."
- 2016: "Slavery and Redemption in the Catholic Missions of the Upper Congo, 1878-1906." Domestic Slavery, 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> Centuries: Sources, Cross-Perspectives and Definitions. Paris, March 24-5, 2016.
- 2015: "Divine Kingship in South-Central Africa," South African Historical Society, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2015.
- 2013: "Authority and the East-Central African Caravan Trade: A Congolese Warlord and his Followers at the End of the Nineteenth Century." African Studies Association, Baltimore, November 2013.
- 2013: "Sacred Texts of the Lumpa Church." Paper Presented to ECAS Conference, Lisbon, 27-29 June, 2013.
- 2013: "Tin-Trunk Bibles: Sacred Texts of the Lumpa Church in Zambia." Paper Presented to the SOAS Workshop on Religion and Media, London, 22-23 March, 2013.
- 2012: Panel Organizer "The Politics of Vision in African History." Presentation: "The Historiography of Invisible Worlds: How Africanists See Spirits." African Studies Association, Nov. 2012.
- 2012: "National Histories from Sub-National Perspectives." Roundtable on "National Histories or Histories of Nationalism," African History Today," Paris, 15-16 June, 2012.
- 2011: Panel Chair. "Christianity and Liberation" Presentation. "Conflicting Visions of Christian Liberation in Post-Colonial Zambia." African Studies Association, Washington D.C., 17-20 Nov., 2011.

- 2011: "Humanism and Conflicting Christian Citizenships in Post-Colonial Southern Africa." Presented at the South African Historical Society Conference, Durban, 27-29 June, 2011
- 2010: "Illegitimate Trade and the Political Economy of Warlordism in the South Central African Interior during the Nineteenth Century." Presented at Central African Research Themes IV, Zambia, 27-29 August, 2010.
- 2010: "The Transformation of the Atlantic World and the Rise of Warlordism in the South Central African Interior." Presented at Colloquium on "The Impact of the Atlantic World on the Old World of Africa and Europe" Nantes, France, June 6-9, 2010.
- 2010: "Spirits and Alternative Sovereignties in Central Africa." Presented at North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, Vermont, April 9-11, 2010.
- 2009: "The Spiritual Politics of Love, Jealousy, and Death in a Central African Oral Tradition," Presented at African Studies Association Meetings, New Orleans, LA, November 19-22, 2009.
- 2009: Workshop Organizer, "Culture and Power in Central Africa." Paper Presentation "Spirits of the Crocodile". Rice University, Humanities Research Center, 22 March, 2009.
- 2009: Panel Organizer, "The Political Imagination in African History." Paper Presentation "The Pentecostal Political Imagination and the Downfall of Kenneth Kaunda." American Historical Association Conference, January 2-5, 2009.
- 2008: "Kwacha! Christianity and the Nationalist Imagination in the 1950s." Presented at "Zambia in the 1950s," Leiden University, Netherlands, 25 -27 September, 2008.
- 2008: "The Pentecostal Proletariat: Religion and Politics on the Zambian Copperbelt, 1970 – 1991." Presented at "Labour Crossings: World, Work, and History." University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, 5-8 September, 2008.
- 2008: "African 'Conversions' and Missionary Rivalries on the Central African Plateau." Presented at "Christian Missions and Communal Identities: Comparative Studies of Cultural 'Conversions' in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and East Asia." University of Pennsylvania, 10-11 April, 2008.
- 2008: "The Invention of Indigenous Knowledge in Pre-Colonial South Central Africa." Presented at "Indigenous Environments: African and North American Environmental Knowledge and Practices Compared." Bowdoin College 3-5 April, 2008.
- 2007: "Nationalism, Christianity, and the Political Imagination in Colonial Zambia." Presented at African Studies Association Conference, 18-21 October, 2007.
- 2007: "The Abolition of the Slave Trade and the Transformation of South Central Africa during the Nineteenth Century." Presented at "'The bloody Writing is for ever torn': Domestic and International Consequences of the First Governmental Efforts to Abolish the Atlantic Slave Trade." Cape Coast, Ghana, 8-12 August, 2007.
- 2007: Panel Discussant, "Political Economy and Poverty." Northeastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, 13-15 April, 2007.
- 2007: "The Colonial Roots of a Genocide." Presented at "Rwanda: From National Disintegration to National Reunification: The Legacy of the Genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda." Bates College, 30-31 March, 2007.



- 2006: Panel Chair, "Politics and Civil Society in Post-Colonial Zambia." Paper Presentation: "God in Heaven, Kaunda on Earth": Party and Church after Independence." African Studies Association, San Francisco, 16-19 November, 2006.
- 2006: "Beyond Ethnicity: Narratives of War and Exile in the Lumpa Church." Presented at "Ethno-History and the Construction of Identity in Twentieth-Century Africa," Cambridge, United Kingdom, 28 March to 1 April, 2006.
- 2005: "Healing the Past: Violence and Memory in the Zambian Lumpa Church." Presented at African Studies Association Conference, Washington DC, 17-20, Nov. 2005.
- 2005: "The Uses of Terror: Violence and the Transfer of Power in Zambia." Presented at "The Empire and its Discontents: A Conference in Honor of Professor R.L Tignor." Princeton, 16-17 September, 2005.
- 2005: "Massacre or Uprising? The Lumpa Conflict Revisited." Presented at "Zambia: Independence and After Conference," Lusaka, 12-14 August, 2005.
- 2005: "The Prophetess and the Post-Colony: Gender in the Lumpa Church of Alice Lenshina." Presented at "Writing African Women." University of Western Cape, 19-22 January, 2005.
- 2004: Panel Chair, "Wetland Cultures: Memory and Modernity" Presentation, "River of Memory: History on the Luapula Revisited." African Studies Association, New Orleans, November 2004
- 2003: Panel Chair, "Conservation and Natural Resource Management in Sub-Saharan Africa." Presentation: "Ecology and Economy in the History of an African Fishery." African Studies Association Conference, Boston, November 2003.
- 2003: "Orality, Memory and Historical Time on the Luapula." Presented at "Orality, Literacy III: Memory Conference," Rice University, 10-12 October, 2003.
- 2003: "Culture and Tenure in the History of a Central African Lake (Zambia and DRC), c. 1950 to Recent Times." Presented at Canadian African Association for African Studies Conference, Halifax, June 2003.
- 2003: "The Cultural Politics of a Traditional Ceremony: The Annual Mutomboko Ceremony in Zambia." Presented at "The Ways We Celebrate," Washington DC.
- 2003: Discussant on Environmental History Panel, Centenary Conference of the History Department, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 21-24 August, 2003.
- 2002: Panel Chair, "Sacred Landscapes and Political Hierarchies." Paper Presentation, "Sacred Sites, Territorial Cults and Political Change in the Luapula Valley." African Studies Association, Washington DC, 2002.
- 2002: Organizer and Discussant. "The Body in the African Body Politic." Symposium at the University of Maryland, 4 December, 2002.
- 2002: "Heritage, Chieftaincy and Traditional Ceremonies in Zambia: The Umutomboko Ceremony of Mwata Kazembe." South African Historical Association Conference, RAU Johannesburg, 24-27 June, 2002.
- 2002: "Gender, Commerce and Culture in the Central African Chisense Fishery", Presented at Canadian African Association for African Studies Conference, Toronto, 29 May to 1 June, 2002.
- 2001: "Nachituti's Gift: Representation of Gender in Lunda Stories of Conquest." Presented at African Studies Association Conference, Houston, 15-18 Nov. 2001.

- 2001: "From Sacred Owners to Colonial Chiefs and Fish Guards: Resource Management in a Central African Fishery." Presented at International Water and History Association Conference, Bergen, Norway, 10-12 August, 2001.
- 1999: "Hidden Democracies: State and Society in Rural Zambia and Congo, 1964-1999." Presented at African Studies Association, Philadelphia, 12 November 1999.
- 1996: "A Sword of Empire: Medicine in Colonial Xhosaland, 1856-1891." Presented at "Medicine and Empire," Oxford University, July 1996.

### **Lectures and Presentations**

- 2024: The Elephant Trace: Reflections on Elephants and the Political Economy of Ivory in the Central African Interior, 1830s-1890s" African Ivories Research Network, March 12, 2024.
- 2024: Roger Howell Junior Inaugural Lecture, Bowdoin College, March 7, 2024.
- 2022: "'Researching the End of an African Empire in Lisbon's Archives and Museums" Bowdoin Faculty Seminar Series, Nov. 8, 2022.
- 2022: "A Central African Legend in Art, History, and Politics: Chibinda Ilunga in Angola and Portugal." Presentation to the Centro de História, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, 30 March, 2022.
- 2022: Discussant and Presentation, Launch of *African Ivories in the Atlantic World, 1400-1900*, 24 February, 2022 Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa.
- 2021: Lecture and Bowdoin College Museum of Art, "Art from Central and West Africa in Presence of the Past Exhibition," April 15, 2021
- 2020: "African Struggle Against Corruption: From Zuma to Dos Santos." Presentation to Bowdoin Alumni Association, March 21 (Delayed due to COVID-19)
- 2017: "Myth Models and the Archives: Kurtz and Prospero in the Historiography of the Congo Free State." Presented to workshop on Congo Free State Across Languages, Media and Cultures: What archives and collections have to say" Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium, October 18-19, 2017.
- 2017: "Humanitarianism and Violence in the Congo Free State." Lecture to Yale University African Studies Center, February 8.
- 2016: "'Pacification' and 'Peacekeeping in the Congo: Toward a History of Humanitarian Violence from the Congo Free State to Recent Times," Walter Rodney Seminar Series, Boston University, Nov. 7.
- 2016: "The Redemption of Slaves and Pagans in 19<sup>th</sup> century Congo: Tracing the origins of modern humanitarianism. Bowdoin College, March 1.
- 2015: "(Dis)embodying Sovereignty: Divine Kingship in Central African Historiography." Presented to University of Pennsylvania, African Studies Center, April 10.
- 2015: "(Dis)embodying Sovereignty: Divine Kingship in Central African Historiography." Presented to African Studies Center, Northwestern University, April 1.
- 2014: "Violence and Colonialism: Reconsidering the Congo Free State, 1885-1908." Paper presented to seminar series at University of Witwatersrand, University of Western Cape, and University of Cape Town, South Africa.

- 2014: "Pentecostalism and Politics in Southern Africa: Reflections on Zambia and South Africa." Presentation to State Department Analytical Exchange on "Prophecy, Revealed Knowledge and Prophetic Authority in Africa," August 24, 2014.
- 2014: "Rendering the Invisible: Divine Kingship in Central African Historiography." Presented to the Davis Center seminar on Belief / Unbelief, Princeton University, April 11, 2014.
- 2014: Podcast, "Spirituality in Central African History," Episode 78 of Africa Past and Present -- the podcast about African history, culture, and politics. University of Michigan. Available at <http://afripod.aodl.org>
- 2014: "Nelson Mandela and His Legacy," Thornton Oaks Retirement Community, Brunswick, Maine, 6 Jan, 2014
- 2011: "History and the Invisible World." Lecture to History Department, University of Maine-Orono, 4 April, 2011.
- 2010: Invited Moderator. Post-performance discussion of "The Syringa Tree." Portland Stage Company.
- 2010: "Spirits and Politics: Alternative Sovereignties in Central African History." Presentation to Faculty Lecture Series, Bowdoin College.
- 2009: Seminar Presentation, "Spiritual Sovereignty and the Political Imagination," Rice University, Humanities Research Center, 1 April 2009.
- 2008: Invited Discussant, *Africa Addio*, Columbia University, 2 December, 2008.
- 2008: Moderator. Student Panel Discussion on kNOw Poverty Africa Discussion, Bowdoin College, 7 April, 2008.
- 2007: Invited Lecture, Walter Rodney Seminar Series, Boston University. Lecture: "A Community of Suffering: History and Identity in the Lumpa Church," 5 Nov., 2007.
- 2007: Invited Discussant, "Heritage Day." African-American Society, Black History Month Program, 21 February, 2007.
- 2007: "A Community of Suffering: Narratives of War and Exile in the Zambian Lumpa Church Presentation to Faculty Seminar Series, Bowdoin College.
- 2004: Invited Post-Performance Moderator, Children of Uganda Performance, Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, 30 January, 2004.
- 2004: Invited Speaker for Africa in the Schools Program, "Africa and the Slave Trade," 19 February, 2004.
- 2003: "Performance and the Politics of Memory Sites: Lunda Conquest and Social Memory in the Luapula Valley." History Department, University of Zambia, July 2003.
- 2003: Invited Panelist on African Student's Association Panel Discussion on "Unity in the African Diaspora," 13 November, 2003.
- 2003: Invited Speaker for University of Maryland Amnesty International Forum on "The War in the Democratic Republic of the Congo." 30 September, 2003.
- 2002: Invited Speaker Amnesty International Forum "Human Rights in Africa," 6 March, 2002.
- 2001: Invited Panelist for African Students Association on "Youth in Africa."
- 2001: "Nachituti's Revenge: Owners of the Land and Mwata Kazembe's Empire." Paper University of Natal-Durban History Seminar Series, March, 2001.
- 2000: "Technological Change and the Beneficiaries of a Tragedy in a Central African Fishery." Christian Michelson Institute, Bergen, Norway, 25 July 2000.

- 1999: "The Political Ecology of a Zambian and Congolese Fishery, 1970s-1990s." STEP Lecture Series, Princeton, 22 April 1999.
- 1998: "Doing Business: Traders and Fishermen on the Luapula, 1924-1960." University of Zambia, Department of History, Staff Seminar Series, 14 May 1998.
- 1998: "Politics and Business on the Luapula, 1924-1991." History Department, University of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo, 12 June 1998.

### **Student Service Activities**

- 2012: Faculty Advisor, Alternative Spring Break, "Supporting Sudan's Lost Boys."
- 2007-10: Faculty Advisor, Africa Alliance, Bowdoin College.
- 2008: Faculty Advisor, Alternative Spring Break, "Supporting Sudan's Lost Boys."
- 2001-04: Faculty Sponsor, University of Maryland Student Amnesty International Branch.

### **Bowdoin Press**

- Interview. "Episode 1: David Gordon on the Art of the Archive."  
<https://www.bowdoin.edu/communications/bowdoin-presents/index.html>
- Interview. "Faculty Build Africa Academic Hub." Published 12/19/2019.  
<https://www.bowdoin.edu/news/2019/12/new-africa-academic-hub.html>
- Interview, January 2019: "Election in the DRC".  
<https://www.bowdoin.edu/news/2019/01/dr-congo-embraces-democracy.html>
- Interview, March 2018: "Cyril Ramaphosa: A New Hope for South Africa."  
<http://community.bowdoin.edu/news/2018/03/cyril-ramaphosa-a-new-hope-for-south-africa/>
- Interview, March 2016: "Does Humanitarianism do More Harm than Good."  
<http://community.bowdoin.edu/news/2016/03/prof-david-gordon-does-humanitarianism-do-more-harm-than-good-in-africa/>

### **Teaching**

#### **Courses Offered**

- Sacred Icons and Museum Pieces: Art and History in Central and West Africa
- Conquest, Colonialism, and Independence: Africa Since 1880
- Africa and the Atlantic World to 1880
- Mogadishu to Madagascar: Africa and the Indian Ocean World
- Apartheid's Voices: South African History, 1948-1994
- After Apartheid: South African History and Memory
- Central Africa and the Political Imagination: From Kinship to Kingship
- Warlords and Child Soldiers in African History
- History of the Congo: From Colonialism to the Present Day

### **Honors Projects Supervised**

- Joseph Hilleary (2020) "Traders and Troublemakers: Sovereignty in Southern Morocco at the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century."

- Anna Louisa Lennon (2019): "Land Redistribution in Post-Apartheid South Africa."
- Lily Woodward (2017) "The Politics of Incorporation: Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and the Law" (Africana Studies)
- Sophie Binenfeld (2017) "Liberalism and Its Limitations: A Jewish Journalist in Apartheid South Africa."
- Natalie Kiley-Bergen (2017) "African Population Movements in the Indian Ocean World: Genetics as an Historical Source."
- Patrick Toomey, Jr. (2017) "Navigating Sexuality and Queer Masculinity in Apartheid-era South Africa: Simon Nkoli's Struggle."
- Tasha Sandoval (2013) "Memory Collection in Post-apartheid South Africa: The District Six Museum through Oral History, Exhibition and Community."
- Katherine E. Doble (2013) "The Angolan War: Forging Transnational Memory"
- Molly Porcher (2012) "Continuity and Change in Representations of African History in American Public Schools."
- Lawton Salley (2012) "Walter Rodney and the Development of the Postcolonial Anti-Imperial Struggle."
- Fatoumatta Kunjo (2010) "Casamance Histories: Lalo Kebba Drammeh's Performance of the Ngansu-Masing Epic."
- Jesse McCree (2007) "Spatial Distance, Social Distance: White Reactions to an Informal Settlement in Hout Bay, Cape Town and the Politics of Exclusion in Post-Apartheid South Africa"

### **Professional Association Membership and Activities**

- 2022- : Evaluation Board, Centro de História da Universidade de Lisboa
- 2017- : Congo Research Network
- 1996- : African Studies Association.
- 2007- : Central African Studies Association.

### **Service to Profession**

- External Advisory Board, Centro de História, University of Lisbon (2023- )
- Advisory Board, African Ivories Research Network (2023- )
- Follow-up Committee of BRAIN project, "Congo-Arab Heritage in Historical Narratives," 2021-2024
- Editorial Board, *Journal of African History* (2016 - ). Sub-committee on New Publication Directions for JAH (2021)
- Editorial Board, War and Militarism in African History. Ohio University Press (2018- )
- Editorial Board, Religion in Transforming Africa Series, James Currey Publishers (2016-)
- Reviews Editor, *Kronos: Southern African Histories* (2011 - 2015)
- Referee, book manuscripts for Cambridge University Press (2011, 2017), Rowman & Littlefield publishers (2009), Bedford/St. Martin (2012, 2015), University of Michigan Press (2014), Yale University Press (2015), Hackett Publishing Co. (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2023); Ohio University Press (2020, 2021). University of Wisconsin Press (January 2021)

Referee, article manuscripts for *Journal of African History* (2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016x4, 2017x1; 2018x3, 2019x1, 2020, 2021; 2022x2); *African Economic History* (2019); *International Labor and Working-Class History* (2014); *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2012); *International Journal of African Historical Studies* (2003, 2005, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2022); *African Studies Review* (2010, 2018 x2 (Jan. & June)), *Africa Today* (2008), *African Historical Review* (2011), *Journal of Asian and African Studies* (2011), *Kronos* (2011, 2014, 2015), *Zambia Social Sciences Journal* (2013), *Journal of Africana Religion* (2015), *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (2017), *South African Historical Journal* (2017); Oxford Research Encyclopedia (2018, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024); *Environment and History* (2020 x 2; May 2021); *Journal of World History* (2020); *Centro de História da Universidade de Lisboa Edições* (2020); *Research in African Literatures* (December 2021).

Other Referee: University of Cape Town, PhD Thesis (2010); PhD Evaluation, University of Università di Pavia, Italy (March 2021); NEH Summer Stipend (2011, 2017); Council for the Humanities of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, (2007, 2012); National Research Foundation, South Africa (2016, 2017); McArthur Fellows Program (2017); Pre-Tenure Review, History Department, Trinity College (2013); Professorial promotion Brown History Department (2016); Tenure Review, Columbia University (2017); University of Oklahoma (2017), Belgian Research Action Through Interdisciplinary Research BRAIN Proposals (2020 x2); Università di Pavia, Italy Evaluation of Faculty Research Project (2021) Professorial promotion review at Northwestern University (January 2021); Professorial Promotion review at Colgate University (June 2020); Professorial Promotion Review, Brigham Young University (July 2021); National Humanities Center (November 2021); European Research Council (2022); Fulbright National Screening Committee (Dec. 2022); Tenure Review, University of Tennessee (2023).