

## **Derek R. Peterson**

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and African Studies  
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### **Education**

2000      Ph.D. in History, University of Minnesota

1993      B.A. in History and Political Science, University of Rochester

### **Academic Employment**

2021-      Ali Mazrui Collegiate Professor of History & African Studies, University of Michigan

2012-      Professor of History and Afro-American & African Studies, University of Michigan

2012-2013      Director (pro tempore) of the African Studies Center, University of Michigan

2009-12      Associate Professor in History and Afro-American and African Studies, University of Michigan

2009-12      Associate Director of the African Studies Center, University of Michigan

2009-      Research Associate, Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge

2007-09      Senior Lecturer in African History, University of Cambridge

2005-09      Director of the Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge

2004-09      Fellow and Director of Studies in History, Selwyn College, Cambridge

2004-07      University Lecturer in African History, University of Cambridge

2000-04      Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, The College of New Jersey

### **Honors, Awards and Prizes**

2019      Visiting Fellowship, IGK Arbeit und Lebenslauf in Globalgeschichtlicher Perspektive, Humboldt University, Berlin

2017      MacArthur Fellowship, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

- 2016 Elected Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy
- 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship in African Studies, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation
- 2016 American Council of Learned Societies/National Endowment for the Humanities International and Area Studies Fellowship
- 2016 Michigan Humanities Award, College of Literature, Science and Arts, University of Michigan (declined)
- 2014 Visiting Fellowship, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame
- 2013 Melville Herskovits Prize of the African Studies Association, for *Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival*
- 2013 Martin Klein Prize of the American Historical Association, for *Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival*
- 2013 First runner-up for the Phillip Schaff Prize of the American Society for Church History, for *Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival*
- 2009 Elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society
- 2006 Philip Leverhulme Prize, awarded by the Leverhulme Trust for accomplishments in scholarship to academics based in the United Kingdom under 36 years old.

### **Grants**

- 2021 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 'Repositioning the Uganda Museum', \$150,000
- 2018 University of Michigan African Studies Center, Department of Afro-American and African Studies, and Law in Slavery and Freedom Project grants to fund the 'Project to Catalogue the Archives of the High Court of Uganda', \$9,000
- 2015 University of Michigan African Studies Center, Humanities Institute, and Department of Afro-American and African Studies grants to fund the 'Project to Organize and Catalogue the Jinja District Archives', \$16,000
- 2014/15 Center for Research Libraries/Cooperative Africana Microfilms Project grant to fund the 'Project to Digitize the Archives of Hoima District, North-western Uganda', \$30,000

- 2013 Center for Research Libraries/Cooperative Africana Microfilms Project grant to fund the 'Project to Preserve the Archives of the Tooro Kingdom and the Hoima District Archives', \$40,000
- 2013 Lead PI, Mellon Foundation grant for 'Joining Theory and Empiricism in the Remaking of the African Humanities: A Transcontinental Approach', with the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, \$1,500,000
- 2012 Center for Research Libraries/Cooperative Africana Microfilms Project grant to fund the 'Project to Preserve and Digitize the Kabarole District Archives in Western Uganda', \$25,000
- 2012 Experiential Learning Fund (U-M International Institute) grant to support travel of five Michigan graduate students to Entebbe, Uganda, to catalogue the Ugandan National Archives, and to Juba, South Sudan, to catalogue the National Archives of South Sudan, \$10,000
- 2012 Google Corporation grant to support archival preservation work in Uganda and South Sudan, \$20,000
- 2011 Center for Research Libraries/Cooperative Africana Microfilms Project grant to fund the 'Project to Preserve and Digitize the Kabarole District Archives in Western Uganda', \$40,000
- 2011 Experiential Learning Fund (U-M International Institute) grant to support travel of five Michigan graduate students to Entebbe, Uganda, to catalogue the Ugandan National Archives, \$10,000
- 2009 Co-PI, Mellon Foundation 'Sawyer Seminar' award for 'Ethnicity in Africa: Historical and Contemporary Investigations' at the University of Michigan, \$158,000
- 2007 Principal Investigator, Leverhulme Trust 'International Network' grant for the 'Cambridge/Africa Collaborative Research Programme', £260,000 over five years
- 2007 Principal Investigator, Isaac Newton Trust grant for the 'Cambridge/Africa Collaborative Research Programme', £125,000 over five years
- 2005 British Academy, Small Research Grant for research in Uganda and Tanzania, £7,000
- 2004 American Philosophical Association, Franklin Research Grant for research in Tanzania, \$6,000
- 2003 American Historical Association, Bernadotte Schmitt Grant, \$2,000

- 2002            National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend, \$5,000
- 1998            Pew Charitable Trusts, Research Enablement Program fellowship for dissertation research in Kenya, \$15,000

## **Publications**

### ***Books***

*A Popular History of Idi Amin's Uganda* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2025).

*The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Photographs from the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation* (Munich: Prestel, 2021). With R. Vokes.

*Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival: A History of Dissent* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

*Creative Writing: Translation, Bookkeeping, and the Work of Imagination in Colonial Kenya* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2004).

### ***Edited books***

*African Print Cultures: Newspapers and their Publics in the Twentieth Century* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2016). With S. Newell and E. Hunter.

*The Politics of Heritage in Africa: Economies, Histories, Infrastructures* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015). With K. Gavua and C. Rassool.

*Abolitionism and Imperialism in Britain, Africa and the Atlantic* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2010).

*Recasting the Past: History Writing and Political Work in Modern Africa* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2009). With G. Macola.

Henry Muoria Mwaniki, *Writing for Kenya: Henry Muoria's Life and Works* (Leiden: Brill, 2009). With Wangari Muoria-Sal, J. Lonsdale and B. Frederiksen.

Charles Muhoro Kareri, *The Life of Charles Muhoro Kareri* (Madison: University of Wisconsin African Studies Center, 2003).

*The Invention of Religion: Rethinking Belief in Politics and History* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2002). With D. Walhof.

### ***Edited journals***

'Intellectual and Cultural Life in Times of Austerity'

Special issue of *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 91 (4) (2021). With E. Park, A. Pitcher, & K. Breckenridge.

‘Authorship and Print Sociability in African and African-American Newspapers’

Special issue of *Social Dynamics* 45 (2019). With I. Hofmeyr.

‘Uganda in the 1970s’

Special issue of the *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 7 (1) (2013). With E.C. Taylor.

‘Africans Meeting Missionaries: Rethinking Colonial Encounters’

Special issue of the *Journal of Religious History* 23 (1999). With Jean M. Allman.

### **Book chapters**

‘The Curatorial Impulse in African Literature’

Forthcoming in G. Desai and S. Robolin (eds.), *Institutions of African Literature, 1945-2010* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

‘Radio and Dictatorship in Idi Amin’s Uganda’

In F. Bernault, B. Henriet and E. Kalema (eds.), *Textures of Power: central Africa in the long 20<sup>th</sup> century* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2025), 421-434.

‘Governing Religious Life in Idi Amin’s Uganda’

In J. Olupona (ed.), *African Evangelicalism and the Transformation of Africa* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2025), 104-128.

‘The Politics of Archives in Uganda’

In T. Spear (ed.), *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021).

‘Collecting Antique Things at the Uganda Museum’

In R. Silverman, G. Abungu and P. Probst (eds.), *National Museums in Africa: Reflections on Memory, Identity, and the Politics of Heritage* (London: Routledge, 2021), 93-109. With N. Abiti.

‘Colonial Rule and the Rise of African Politics, 1930-1963’

In N. Cheeseman, G. Lynch, and K. Kanyinga (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Kenyan Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020), 29-42.

‘Vernacular’

In G. Desai and A. Masquelier (eds.), *Critical Terms for African Studies* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018), 331-45.

‘Vernacular Language and Political Imagination’

In Ericka Albaugh and Kathryn de Luna (eds.), *Tracing Language Movement in Africa* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 165-86.

‘The East African Revival’

In W.L. Smith (ed.), *Global Anglicanism*, vol. 5 in the *Oxford History of Anglicanism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 211-31.

‘Print Cultures in Colonial Africa’

In Peterson, Hunter and Newell (eds.), *African Print Cultures* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2016), 1-45.

‘Introduction: Heritage Management in Colonial and Contemporary Africa’

In Peterson, Gavua & Rassool (eds.), *The Politics of Heritage in Africa* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 1-36.

‘Ethnography and Cultural Innovation in Mau Mau Detention Camps: Gakaara wa Wanjau’s *Mĩhĩrĩga ya Agĩkũyũ* (The Clans of the Gikuyu)’

In I. Hofmeyr and A. Burton (eds.), *Ten Books that Changed the British Empire* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014), 216-237.

‘Religion’

In P. Levine and J. Marriott (eds.), *Ashgate Research Companion to Modern Imperial Histories* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2012), 489-510.

‘Revivalism and Dissent in Colonial East Africa’

In K. Ward and E. Wild-Wood, eds. *The East African Revival: History and Legacies* (Kampala: Fountain Publishers, 2010), 162-182.

‘Introduction: Abolitionism and Political Thought in Britain and Africa’

In Peterson (ed.), *Abolitionism and Imperialism in Britain, Africa and the Atlantic* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2010), 1-37.

‘States of Mind: Political Vision in the Rwenzururu Kingdom, Western Uganda’

In Peterson and Macola (eds.), *Recasting the Past: History Writing and Political Work in Modern Africa* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2009), 171-190.

‘Introduction: Homespun Historiography and the Academic Profession’

In Peterson and Macola (eds.), *Recasting the Past: History Writing and Political Work in Modern Africa* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2009), 1-28. With G. Macola.

‘Language Work and Colonial Politics in Eastern Africa: The Making of Standard Swahili and “School Kikuyu”’

In D. Hoyt and K. Oslund (eds.), *The Politics of Language Study* (Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), 181-210.

‘Making the Chikunda: Military Slavery and Ethnicity in Southern Africa, 1750-1900’

In P. Morgan (ed.), *The Arming of Slaves from the Classical Era to the American Civil War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), 95-119. With A. Isaacman.

'The Rhetoric of the Word: Bible Translation and Ethnic Debate in Colonial Central Kenya'  
In B. Stanley (ed.), *Missions, Nationalism, and the End of Empire* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004), 165-179.

'Writing in Revolution: Independent Schooling and Mau Mau in Central Kenya'  
In Atieno Odhiambo and J. Lonsdale (eds.), *Mau Mau and Nationhood: Arms, Authority, and Narration* (London and Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2003), 76-96.

'Autobiography as History and Literature'  
In C. Muhoro, *The Life of Charles Muhoro Kareri* (Madison: University of Wisconsin African Studies Center, 2003), iv-xix.

'Gambling with God: Rethinking Religion in Central Kenya'  
In Peterson and Walhof (eds.), *The Invention of Religion: Rethinking Belief in Politics and History* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2002), 37-58.

'Rethinking Religion'  
In Peterson and Walhof (eds.), *The Invention of Religion: Rethinking Belief in Politics and History* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2002), 1-16. With D. Walhof.

### ***Journal articles***

'Micere Mugo and the Burdens of Radical History: notes toward a literary biography'  
Forthcoming in *Research in African Literatures* (2025).

'Making Revolutionary Film in Idi Amin's Uganda: propaganda and peril'  
*Sources: Materials and Fieldwork in African Studies* 10-11 (2025), 1-29. With R. Vokes.

'Government Work in Idi Amin's Uganda'  
*Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute* 91 (4) (2021), 620-640.

'Introduction: Intellectual and Cultural Work in Times of Austerity'  
*Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute* 91 (4) (2021), 517-531. With E. Park, A. Pitcher, & K. Breckenridge.

'The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Making History in a Tight Corner'  
*Comparative Studies in Society and History* 63 (1) (2021), 5-40. With R. Vokes, N. Abiti, and E. Taylor.

'Photography, Evidence, and Concealed Histories in Idi Amin's Uganda, 1971-79'  
*History of Photography* 44 (2-3) (2020), 151-171. With R. Vokes and E. Taylor.

'The Politics of the Page: Cutting and Pasting in South African and African-American Newspapers'  
*Social Dynamics* 45 (2019), 1-25. With I. Hofmeyr.

- ‘Nonconformity in Africa’s Cultural History’  
*Journal of African History* 58 (1) (2017), 35-50. Special issue on ‘E.P. Thompson and African History’, edited by Luise White.
- ‘A History of the Heritage Economy in Yoweri Museveni’s Uganda’  
*Journal of Eastern African Studies* 10 (4) (2016), 789-806. Special issue on the 2016 Uganda elections, edited by Richard Vokes and Sam Wilkins.
- ‘The Politics of Transcendence in Colonial Uganda’  
*Past and Present* 230 (1) (2016), 197-225.
- ‘Autour d’un livre: Derek R. Peterson, *Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival*’  
*Politique Africaine* 138 (2) (2015), 179-99. With essays from Carol Summers, Etienne Smith, and Hervé Maupeu.
- ‘Violence and Political Advocacy in the Lost Counties, Western Uganda’  
*International Journal of African Historical Studies* 48 (1) (2015), 179-99. Special issue on ‘Violence as Politics in Eastern Africa’, edited by D. Anderson and O. Rolandsen.
- ‘Book Debate: Derek R. Peterson, *Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival*’  
*Social Science and Missions* 27 (2014), 267-280. With essays by J.D.Y. Peel, J. Willis and M. Noll.
- ‘Rethinking the State in Idi Amin’s Uganda: The Politics of Exhortation’  
*Journal of Eastern African Studies* 7 (1) (2013), 58-82. Special issue on ‘Uganda in the 1970s’, edited by D.R. Peterson and E.C. Taylor. Co-authored with E.C. Taylor.
- ‘The Work of Time in Western Uganda’  
*Citizenship Studies* 16 (8) (2012), 961-977. Special issue on ‘Secularism and Citizenship in the Non-European World’, edited by D. Lehmann and H. Iqtidar.
- ‘Conversion and the Alignments of Colonial Culture’  
*Social Sciences and Missions* 24 (2-3) (2011), 207-232. Special issue on marking the twentieth anniversary of J. and J. Comaroff’s *Of Revelation and Revolution*.
- ‘The Intellectual Lives of Mau Mau Detainees’  
*Journal of African History* 49 (1) (2008), 73-91.
- ‘Culture and Chronology in African History’  
*Historical Journal* 50 (2) (2007), 483-497.
- ‘Morality Plays: Marriage, Church Courts and Colonial Agency in Tanganyika, c. 1880-1928’  
*American Historical Review* 111 (4) (2006), 983-1010.

'Casting Characters: Autobiography and Political Imagination in Colonial Kenya'  
*Research in African Literatures* 37 (3) (2006), 176-192. Special issue on 'African Languages and Literatures', edited by K. Barber and G. Furniss.

“‘Be Like Firm Soldiers to Develop the Country’”: Political Imagination and the Geography of Gikuyuland’  
*International Journal of African Historical Studies* 37 (1) (2004), 71-101.

'Making the Chikunda: Military Slavery and Ethnicity in Southern Africa, 1750-1900'  
*International Journal of African Historical Studies* 36 (2) (2003), 257-281.  
 With Allen Isaacman.

'Wordy Women: Gender Trouble and the Oral Politics of the East African Revival in Gikuyuland'  
*Journal of African History* 43 (2001), 469-489.

'Translating the Word: Dialogism and Debate in Two Gikuyu Dictionaries'  
*Journal of Religious History* 23 (1999), 31-50.

'New Directions in the Social History of Missions in Africa'  
*Journal of Religious History* 23 (1999), 1-7. Co-authored with J. Allman.

'Colonizing Language? Missionaries and Gikuyu dictionaries, 1904 and 1914'  
*History in Africa* 24 (1997), 257-72.

### **Short Articles**

'Uganda's History from the Margins'  
*History in Africa* 40 (s1) (2013), s23-s25. Special 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue.

'Language: Government and Mission Policies'  
 In J. Middleton and J. Miller *et. al.*, eds., *New Encyclopedia of Africa* (New York: Scribner, 2007).

Introduction to 'Ngo ya Tuiritu [Shield of the Girls]: Letter Concerning Female Circumcision'  
 In F. Howe (ed.), *Women Writing Africa: The Eastern Region* (New York: The Feminist Press, 2007).

'Mau Mau'  
 In K. Koschorke (ed.), *Kirchengeschichte VII: Asien, Afrika, Lateinamerika*, in the series *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart* (Tubingen: J.C.B. Mohr, 2002).

### **Reviews**

D. Maxwell, *Religious Entanglements: Central African Pentecostalism, the Creation of Cultural Knowledge, and the Making of the Luba Katanga* (Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 2022).  
*Church History* 92 (2) (2023), 490-93.

E. Wild-Wood with G. Mpanga, eds. and trans., *The Archive of a Ugandan Missionary: writings by and about Revd. Apolo Kivebulaya (1890s-1950s)* (London: Oxford University Press for The British Academy, 2022).

*Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 74 (1) (2023), 220-22.

J. Janzen, H. Miller and J.C. Yoder, eds., *Mennonites and Post-Colonial African Studies* (London: Routledge, 2021).

*Journal of Modern African Studies* 60 (2) (2022), 262-64.

E. Foster, *African Catholic: Decolonization and the Transformation of the Church* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019).

*Journal of African History* 61 (1) (2020), 144-45.

J. McCracken, ed., *Voices from the Chilembwe Rising: Witness Testimonies Made to the Nyasaland Rising Commission of Inquiry, 1915* (London: Oxford University Press for the British Academy, 2015).

*Journal of Southern African Studies* 43 (2) (2017), 438-440.

Paul Bjerk, *Building a Peaceful Nation: Julius Nyerere and the Establishment of Sovereignty in Tanzania, 1960-1964*. (Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 2015).

*International Journal of African Historical Studies* 48 (3) (2015), 524-26.

Craig Robertson, *The Passport in America: The History of a Document* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

*Kronos* 40 (2015), 297-99.

Adrien Delmas and Nigel Penn, *Written Culture in a Colonial Context: Africa and the Americas, 1500-1900* (Leiden: Brill, 2012).

*Journal of African History* 56 (2) (2015), 321-322.

Kristin Fjelde Tjelle, *Missionary Masculinity, 1870-1930: The Norwegian Missionaries in South-East Africa* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

*American Historical Review* 120 (2) (2015), 755-756.

Heather Sharkey, *Cultural Conversions: Unexpected Consequences of Missionary Encounters in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2013).

*Politics and Religion* 8 (1) (2015), 199-201.

Karin Barber, ed., *Print Culture and the First Yoruba Novel: I.B. Thomas's 'Life Story of Me, Segilola' and Other Texts* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2012).

*Africa* 84 (2) (May 2014), 335-36.

N. Creary, *Domesticating a Religious Import: The Jesuits and the Inculturation of the Catholic Church in Zimbabwe, 1879-1980* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2011).

*Journal of African History* 53 (2) (2012), 263-65.

- N. Kodesh, *Beyond the royal gaze: clanship and public healing in Buganda* (Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2010).  
*American Historical Review* 115 (5) (2010), 1561-62.
- P. Larson, *Ocean of Letters: Language and Creolization in an Indian Ocean Diaspora* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).  
*Slavery and Abolition* 31 (4) (2010), 558-60.
- A. Stambach, *Faith in Schools: Religion, Education, and American Evangelicals in East Africa* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010).  
*International Journal of African Historical Studies* 43 (2) (2010), 394-95.
- D. Branch, *Defeating Mau Mau, Creating Kenya: Counterinsurgency, Civil War, and Decolonization* (Cambridge, Cambridge: University Press, 2009).  
*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 38 (2) (2010), 337-39.
- D.L. Robert, ed., *Converting colonialism: visions and realities in mission history, 1706-1914* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008).  
*The Catholic Historical Review* 95 (3) (2009), 581-583.
- P. Harries, *Butterflies and Barbarians: Swiss Missionaries and Systems of Knowledge in South-East Africa* (Oxford: James Currey, 2007).  
*African Studies Review* 51 (3) (2008), 183-185.
- K. Barber, ed., *Africa's Hidden Histories: Everyday Literacy and Making the Self* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006).  
*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 14 (3) (2008), 682-683.
- K. Mutongi, *Worries of the Heart: Widows, Family, and Community in Kenya* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).  
*Journal of African History* 49 (1) (2008), 152-154.
- B. Straight, *Miracles and Extraordinary Experience in Northern Kenya* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006).  
*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76 (1) (2008), 225-228.
- S. Durrani, *Never Be Silent: Publishing and Imperialism in Kenya* (London: Vita, 2006).  
 Forthcoming in *African Research and Documentation*.
- J.G. Deutsch, *Emancipation Without Abolition in German East Africa, c. 1884-1914* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2006).  
*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 35 (4) (2007), 644-646.

- H. Tilley, ed., *Ordering Africa: Anthropology, European Imperialism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2007).  
*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 35 (4) (2007), 639-641.
- G. Maddox and J. Giblin, eds., *In Search of a Nation: Histories of Authority and Dissidence in Tanzania* (London: James Currey, 2006).  
*American Historical Review* 112 (2) (2007), 629-630.
- S. Doyle, *Crisis and Decline in Bunyoro: Population and Environment in Western Uganda, 1860-1955* (London: James Currey, 2006).  
*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 35 (1) (2007), 169-171.
- J. Harper, *Western-Educated Elites in Kenya, 1900-1963* (New York: Routledge, 2006).  
*Journal of African History* 47 (3) (2006), 527-528.
- A. Burton, *African Underclass: Urbanisation, Crime, and Colonial Order in Dar es Salaam* (London: James Currey, 2006).  
*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 34 (4) (Dec. 2006), 641-643.
- E. Steinhart, *Black Poachers, White Hunters: A Social History of Hunting in Colonial Kenya* (London: James Currey, 2006).  
*Journal of African History* 47 (2) (2006), 343-345.
- T. Kanogo, *African Womanhood in Colonial Kenya, 1900-1950* (London: James Currey, 2005).  
*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 34 (3) (2006), 474-476.
- D.W. Cohen and E.S. Atieno Odhiambo, *The Risks of Knowledge: Investigations Into the Death of the Hon. Minister John Robert Ouko in Kenya, 1990* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2004).  
*Africa Today* 52 (3) (2006), 118-120.
- D.L. Hodgson, *The Church of Women: Gendered Encounters Between Maasai and Missionaries* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2005).  
*Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 57 (2) (2006), 413-414.
- D. Lovatt-Smith, *Kenya, the Kikuyu and Mau Mau* (East Sussex: Mawenzi Books, 2005).  
*Journal of African History* 47 (1) (2006), 165-166.
- O. Kalu, ed., *African Christianity: An African Story* (Pretoria: University of Pretoria, 2005).  
*Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 57 (1) (2006), 87-89.
- C. Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya* (New York: Henry Holt, 2005).  
*Journal of British Studies* 44 (4) (2005), 913-915.

- T. Asad, *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003).  
*Religion* 34 (4) (2005), 372-375.
- S. Greene, *Sacred Sites and the Colonial Encounter: A History of Meaning and Memory in Ghana* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2002).  
*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 72 (4) (2004), 1037-1040.
- N. Sobania, *Culture and Customs of Kenya* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2003).  
*International Journal of African Historical Studies* 36 (3) (2003), 641-643.
- C. Gray, *Colonial Rule and Crisis in Equatorial Africa: Southern Gabon, ca. 1850-1940*. (Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 2002).  
*Journal of Colonial and Postcolonial History* 4 (2) (2003).

#### **Invited Lectures** (since 2009)

- 11/2025 'A Popular History of Idi Amin's Uganda'  
 Uganda Studies Association online seminar
- 10/2025 'The Politics of Repatriation: Work in Progress'  
 Humanities Institute seminar series, Williams College
- 10/2025 'The Politics of Provenance'  
 'Ethics of Loaning' online seminar, Goethe Institute, Kampala
- 9/2025 'Making Revolutionary Film in Idi Amin's Uganda: Propaganda and Peril'  
 African Studies Center seminar, Yale University
- 4/2025 'A Popular History of Idi Amin's Uganda'  
 Common Hour lecture series, Franklin and Marshall College
- 3/2025 'A Popular History of Idi Amin's Uganda'  
 Collegiate Lecture, University of Michigan
- 9/2024 'Making Revolutionary Film in Idi Amin's Uganda: propaganda and peril'  
 History and Heritage Studies departmental seminar, Makerere University
- 4/2024 'Micere Mugo and Kenya's Left: notes toward a literary biography'  
 'Pan-Africanism, Africana Feminism, and Orature: the life and work of Micere Mugo' symposium, African Studies Center, Michigan State University
- 10/2023 'Making Victory Visible in Idi Amin's Uganda'  
 African Studies seminar, Harvard University
- 2/2023 'Fighting Apartheid in Idi Amin's Uganda'.

‘That’s History: Thirty Years after the End of Apartheid’ workshop, Department of History, Princeton University

- 8/2022 ‘Humanities off the Grid: Media and Revolution in the Rwenzururu Kingdom’ Keynote lecture, International Humanities Conference, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University.
- 5/2022 ‘Making Victory Visible in Idi Amin’s Uganda’  
‘Expulsion: Uganda’s Asians and the Remaking of Nationality’ workshop, St. Anthony’s College, Oxford University.
- 3/2022 ‘Making History on Film in Idi Amin’s Uganda’  
‘Utopian Dreams, Revolutionary Filmmaking & the Politics of the Film Archive in Africa’ conference, Department of International Development, Oxford University.
- 10/2020 ‘Governing Religious Life in Idi Amin’s Uganda’  
Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University.
- 7/2020 ‘The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Making History in a Tight Corner’  
Distinguished Lecture, Royal Historical Society.
- 2/2020 ‘Renovating History in Idi Amin’s Uganda’  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University.
- 1/2020 ‘Life on the Front Lines: Pan-Africanism in Idi Amin’s Uganda’  
Makerere Institute for Social Research, Makerere University.
- 11/2019 ‘The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin’  
Arbeit und Lebenslauf in Globalgeschichtlicher Perspektive, Humboldt University.
- 9/2019 ‘Archives, Access, and the Politics of Information in Africa’  
Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape.
- 5/2018 ‘Archives, Access, and the Politics of Information in Africa’  
‘The New Global Resources Supply Chain’ conference, Center for Research Libraries Collectors’ Forum, Chicago, IL.
- 4/2018 ‘The Transistor Revolution: Radio and Public Life in Idi Amin’s Uganda’  
African Studies Center seminar, Emory University.
- 1/2018 ‘A History of Collecting at the Uganda Museum’  
‘Narrating Culture(s) in Museums and Exhibitions’, Promovieren im Museum, Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany.

- 1/2018 'Renovations of History in Idi Amin's Uganda'  
History Department seminar, The Johns Hopkins University.
- 10/2017 'Popular Pan-Africanism in Idi Amin's Uganda'  
Keynote lecture for the South-East Regional Seminar in African Studies,  
Tuskegee University and Auburn University.
- 8/2017 'Nonconformity in African Christianity'  
Centre for World Christianity, Africa International University, Nairobi.
- 8/2017 'The Uganda Museum: Pasts and Futures'  
Arts Council of the African Studies Association triennial meeting, Accra. With  
Nelson Abiti.
- 3/2017 'Nonconformist Christianity in Africa's History'.  
Earle A. Pope Lecture, Department of Religious Studies, Lafayette College.
- 10/2016 'Non-Conformity in Africa's Cultural History'  
Distinguished Lecture of the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global  
Change, University of Minnesota.
- 9/2016 'The Uganda Museum and the History of Heritage in Africa'  
The Audrey Richards Lecture, Centre of African Studies, University of  
Cambridge.
- 7/2016 'A History of Collecting at the Uganda Museum'  
'Rethinking the Uganda Museum' workshop, Kampala, Uganda.
- 4/2016 'Toward a History of Culture in the NRM's Uganda'  
'The NRM Regime in the 2016 Ugandan Elections', All Souls College, Oxford.
- 4/2016 'Archive Work in Uganda'  
Keynote lecture at 'Archive(s) et constitution d'archive(s): Perspectives historique  
et anthropologiques', l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris.
- 3/2016 'Nonconformity in Africa's Cultural History'  
'African Intellectual History' workshop, Yale University.
- 1/2016 'The Politics of Intelligence in Milton Obote's Uganda'.  
History Department seminar series, Duke University.
- 9/2015 'Vernacular Language and Political Imagination'.  
'Mapping Language Shifts in Africa' workshop, Bowdoin College.
- 5/2015 'The Malakite Church and the Politics of Transcendence in Colonial Uganda'.  
British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya.

- 3/2015 'The Uganda Museum and the History of Heritage in Africa'  
Second Annual Lecture for the Centre for Colonial History, University of Kent.
- 11/2014 'Archive Work in Uganda'  
'African Studies in the Digital Age' conference, University of Michigan.
- 10/2014 'The Politics of Transcendence in Colonial Uganda'  
Eisenberg Center for Historical Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2/2014 'Violence and Political Advocacy in the Lost Counties, Western Uganda'  
African Studies Center seminar, Michigan State University.
- 1/2014 'Theology, Medicine, and Christian Non-Conformism in Colonial Uganda'  
Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame.
- 9/2013 'Cultural Innovation in Mau Mau Detention Camps'  
'Kenya at Fifty' conference, Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies,  
Johns Hopkins University
- 5/2013 'Cultural Work and Political Violence in Uganda's Peripheries'  
'Struggles over Emerging States in Africa' conference, University of Durham,  
U.K.
- 3/2013 'Paperwork and the Millennium'  
'Religion, Media, and Marginality' conference, School of Oriental and African  
Studies, London.
- 3/2013 'The Politics of Exhortation in Idi Amin's Uganda'  
Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame.
- 7/2012 'The Work of Time in Western Uganda'  
Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the  
Witwatersrand.
- 4/2011 'The Work of Time in Western Uganda'  
Keynote lecture, African Studies Workshop annual conference, University of  
Chicago.
- 3/2011 'Conversion and the Politics of Cosmopolitanism'  
History Colloquium series, Washington University (St. Louis).
- 4/2010 'Heritage Work and Dissenting Politics'  
'Social Justice in the Global South' conference, Interdisciplinary Center for the  
Study of Global Change, University of Minnesota.

- 3/2010 'Abolitionism and Political Argument in Britain and East Africa'  
World Christianity Lecture Series, Westmont College.
- 10/2009 'Dissent and Social History in Western Kenya'  
Postcolonial History seminar, Emory University.
- 3/2009 'Patriotism and Dissent in Eastern Africa'  
African History seminar, University of Basel.
- 3/2009 'Conversion in Southern Uganda'  
Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World, Divinity Faculty,  
University of Edinburgh.

**Conference Organizing** (since 2010)

- 2026 Co-organizer, 'Africa's Pasts in Africa's Futures: A Conference Honouring John Lonsdale', Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, UK.
- 2023 Co-organizer, 'The World is Ending Again: African Humanities and Keywords for Survival' workshop, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.
- 2022 Co-organizer, 'Humanities in Polycrisis: What Comes Next?' workshop, Salt Rock, Durban, South Africa.
- 2018 Co-chair, 'Intellectual and Cultural Life in Conditions of Austerity' workshop, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique.
- 2016 Chair, 'The Location of Politics in Post-Colonial Africa' panel, African Studies Association (USA) Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2016 Co-organizer, 'Rethinking the Uganda Museum' workshop, Kampala, Uganda.
- 2016 Co-organizer, 'African Print Cultures' workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2014-15 Co-chair of the Program Committee, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- 2014-15 Member of the Program Committee, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York.
- 2014 Organizer, 'African Studies in the Digital Age' conference, University of Michigan.
- 2012 Organizer, 'African Print Cultures' workshop, University of Michigan.

- 2011 Co-organizer, ‘Archives in Uganda’ workshop, Makerere Institute for Social Research, Kampala, Uganda.
- 2011 Organizing Committee Chair, ‘The Politics of Heritage’ conference, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.
- 2011 Organizer, ‘The Making of the Yoruba’ conference, University of Michigan.
- 2011 Faculty advisor, ‘Reframing Knowledge on 1970s Uganda’ conference, University of Michigan.
- 2010 Chair, ‘Intellectual Work and Social Order in Western Kenya’ panel, African Studies Association (USA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2010 Member of the Program Committee, African Studies Association (USA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

### **Public Writing**

‘Idi Amin Made Himself Out to be the Liberator of an Oppressed Majority: a trick that endures today’

*The Conversation* (18 July 2025).

‘Yoweri Museveni: Aging Ugandan President Rides on the Memory of his Past Heroics’

*The Conversation* (20 September 2023).

‘Ugandan Church Waged Rebellion Against Tradition’

*The Conversation* (18 June 2023).

‘Idi Amin’s Economic War Victimized Uganda’s Africans and Asians Alike’

*The Conversation* (21 August 2022).

‘Making History in Kenya, 1993-1994’

*Fulbright Chronicles* 1 (1) (April 2022).

‘Charles Njonjo and the Genesis of Kenya’s Fixation with Security’

*The Conversation* (8 March 2022).

‘Uganda’s Most Controversial and Disruptive Politician’

*Africa is a Country* (18 Jan. 2022).

‘Reading John Mbiti from Uganda’

*Africa is a Country* (18 Oct. 2019).

‘The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin’

*Africa is a Country* (11 July 2019). With R. Vokes, E. Taylor and N. Abiti.

‘Thousands of Recently Discovered Photographs Document Life in Uganda during Idi Amin’s Reign’

*The Conversation* (25 June 2019). With R. Vokes.

### **Exhibitions**

‘God and Ceasar: an historical exhibition on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Uganda Martyrs’ canonization’. Curated with D.N. Tshimba and Fr. A. Musuubire.

At Uganda Martyrs University, Kampala, September-October 2024.

‘Uganda at 60: An Exhibition of National History’. Curated with D.N. Tshimba, P. Khanakwa, and E. Taylor.

Opened by H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, at the Uganda Museum on 5 October 2022. On show to 15 January 2023.

Reviews:     *The Independent* (17 Nov. 2022)  
                  *The Observer* (12 Oct. 2022)

‘The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Photographs from the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation’. Curated with N. Abiti, E. Taylor, and R. Vokes.

Opened by Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, at the Uganda Museum on 18 May 2019. On show to Jan. 2020.

Opened by Hon. Moses Ali, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, at the Arua Social Centre, West Nile District on 15 February 2020. On show to 30 February 2020.

Opened at the Soroti Regional Museum, Soroti, on 31 January 2020. On permanent show.

Reviews:     *The Guardian* (U.K.) (7 Oct. 2019)  
                  *Smithsonian Magazine* (5 July 2019)  
                  *The Times* (U.K.) (1 August 2019)  
                  *The Economist* (29 Feb. 2020)  
                  *The Los Angeles Times* (11 Sept. 2019)  
                  *De Volkskrant* (8 July 2019)  
                  *The East African* (7 June 2019)  
                  *The Independent* (16 June 2019)  
                  *The New Vision* (17 May 2019)

### **Television and Film**

Writer and Producer, ‘Making the Martyrs: A Film Making the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uganda Martyrs’ Canonization’. On show at Uganda Martyrs University, Kampala, September-October 2024. At <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGNla7jX-2E>.

Writer and Producer, 'Uganda at 60: A Film About National History'. On show at the Uganda Museum, Kampala, 5 October 2022 to 15 January 2023. At <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDqE3uDuRRM/>.

Interviewed for Episode 3, 'Reign Through Terror', in 'How to Become a Tyrant' television series, 2021. At <https://www.netflix.com/title/80989772?source=35&fromWatch=true>.

Interviewed for 'Uganda: 50 Years After Idi Amin', panel discussion on 'The Agenda', TVO Ontario, 17 Feb. 2021. At <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEjpv1DYdac>.

Writer and Producer, 'The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Film from the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation'. On show at the Uganda Museum, Kampala, May 2019 to January 2020. At <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPV-ll8jH-I>.

### **Podcasts**

'Idi Amin's Willing Helpers'. *History Extra* (8 December 2025), at <https://www.historyextra.com/membership/idi-amins-helpers-podcast-derek-r-peterson/>.

'Lessons from Uganda'. *Eavesdrop with Meena* (25 August 2025), at <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6XtwRipRFwMnqpQ19uKPvH>.

'Africa's most famous dictator, Idi Amin, and Donald Trump'. *Rhyming Chaos* (15 August 2025), at <https://www.rhymingchaos.com/p/africas-most-famous-dictator-idi>.

*Real Dictators* series on Idi Amin, parts 1 through 6, Noiser Productions (November 2021 to January 2022), at <https://open.spotify.com/show/4yXsMW1CFOjL17OFbdca0L>

'The Unseen Archives of Idi Amin', *Expulsion @50* (15 Nov. 2021), at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7R8oBJcP7Y>.

'Independent Tanzania'. *High School History Recap* (26 Feb. 2021), at <https://highschoolhistoryrecap.buzzsprout.com/944875/episodes/8033638-7-independent-tanzania-with-dr-derek-r-peterson>.

'African Archives, Past and Present'. *Africa Past and Present* (23 August 2011), at <https://afripod.aodl.org/fullPodcast/episode=055/>.

### **Selected Professional Activities**

2025-26      Chair of the Faculty Senate, University of Michigan

2024-      Elected member of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA), representing the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, University of Michigan.

- 2022- Member of the Review Committee, Modern Endangered Archives Program, University of California at Los Angeles.
- 2016-2020 Elected member of the Board of Directors, African Studies Association (USA).
- 2014- Editor (with Jean Allman, Allen Isaacman, Carina Ray and Jacob Dlamini) of the 'New African Histories' book series, Ohio University Press.
- 2009-18 Founding editor (with Harri Englund and Chris Warnes), 'Cambridge Centre of African Studies Series', Ohio University Press.
- 2009-13 Elected faculty representative to the Executive Committee, Cooperative Africana Materials Project, Center for Research Libraries, Chicago.
- 2009- Tenure and promotion reports for the University of Tennessee, Mississippi State University, Johns Hopkins University, Tufts University, Yale University, the University of Birmingham (UK), Makerere University, the University of the Witwatersrand, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, the University of Pittsburgh, New York University, the University of California at Davis, the University of Colorado, Texas Tech University, Northwestern University, Columbia University, the University of Warwick (UK), Westmont College, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Bard College, St. Lawrence University, Appalachian State University, Virginia Tech University, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Notre Dame, Wayne State University, Ripon College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, Lafayette College, Boston University, Stanford University, the College of Charleston, the University of Oregon, Northeastern University, the University of Cambridge (UK), the University of the Western Cape, the University of Edinburgh (UK), the University of Durham (UK) and other institutions.
- 2006- Member of the editorial boards of *Mawazo: The Journal of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities* (Makerere University); the *Makerere Historical Journal*; *Africa: the Journal of the International African Institute*; and the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*.
- 2006-09 Elected member of the Governing Council, African Studies Association (UK).
- 2006-09 Elected member of the Organizing Committee, Cambridge Historical Society.
- 2000- Manuscript reviewer for the Ohio University Press, Heinemann Publishers, Ashgate Publishers, the University of Wisconsin Press, C. Hurst and Co., the International African Library, Palgrave-MacMillan, Cambridge University Press, the University of Chicago Press, the *Historical Journal*, the *African Studies Review*, the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, the *Journal of African History*,

the *Journal of Anglican Studies*, the *Catholic Historical Review*, the *Journal of Historical Biography*, the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, *African Affairs*, the *Journal of Material Studies*, *Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Nationalism and Ethnicity* and others.

### **Memberships**

American Historical Association  
African Studies Association (USA)  
African Studies Association (UK)

Royal African Society  
Uganda Studies Association

### **Languages**

Swahili  
Luganda (beginner)

Kikuyu (Gikuyu)

rev. January 2026