

The University of Texas Africa Conference

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Welcome
Call For Papers
Submission Guidelines
Contact
Schedule
Participants
Sponsors
About Austin

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Dr. Jamaine M. Abidogun is currently an Associate Professor in History at Missouri State University at Springfield. She holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction in Secondary Education with a minor in African and African-American studies from the University of Kansas. She has published in culture and education studies focusing on both domestic issues in the United States and on international issues in West Africa. Of these publications, her article, "Western Education's Impact on Northern Igbo Gender Roles in Nsukka, Nigeria," in *Africa Today* was developed through a Fulbright Scholar Award. She is a registered member of the Fulbright Academy and an active member of the African Studies Association (ASA), Yoruba Women's Studies Association, and the Mid-America Association for African Studies (MAAAS). Dr. Abidogun has taught African history courses at Missouri State University and at the University of Nigeria – Nsukka

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Lawrence Aje is an *Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Applied Foreign Languages at the University of Cergy, in the Paris area. Research Affiliation: University of Versailles (Paris)*. He is currently finishing his dissertation that he hopes to defend in the coming months. His research deals with free people of color in 19th century Charleston and he is particularly interested in understanding the historical factors and sociological constraints which partook in creating a sense of community among the free colored population. One of the modest aims of his thesis is to have a more encompassing history of the free colored population across social classes as well as gender categories.

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Kwame Essien

Kwame Essien was born in Tema, Ghana (West-Africa) and studies social and cultural issues in the context of Africa and the African Diaspora. Essien's family history with the middle passage, especially the story about his great-great grand-uncle, Chief Kweku Andoh (the chief of Elmina from 1884-1898) who interacted with slave merchants, shaped his interest in comparative slavery and migrations. Essien completed his PhD in African and African Diaspora History at the University of Texas at Austin in May 2010 and has accepted a tenure-track position in African history at the University of Central Arkansas, Conway beginning in fall 2011.

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Douglas Palmer

Dr. Douglas Palmer joined Walsh University in the Fall of 2005 and serves as the Associate Chair of the Division of Humanities and the Special Assistant to the Provost for Global Learning. In 2004-2005, he was a Research Fellow at the Emory University School of Law and he holds a Ph.D. from Ohio State University, an MA from the University of Oregon, and a BA from the University of North Carolina-Asheville. In 2001-2002, Dr. Palmer was a Fulbright Scholar in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Dr. Palmer teaches classes in World history and his research focuses on cultural and intellectual history, in particular the History of Catholicism. He is currently working on twentieth-century Catholic theology and issues of post-colonialism.

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John Ringquist

John Ringquist is an instructor at the United States Military, West Point, where he teaches International History with an emphasis on Africa. Major Ringquist considers himself a historian of the military, social, and environmental fields with particular interest in all things African. His interests include pre-colonial Africa, decolonization, subaltern studies, and irregular warfare. Major Ringquist is also an African Foreign Area Officer for the United States Army and is involved with ongoing research into demining, the wars of decolonization, and social network studies.

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Dr. Christine Saidi is a professor of African History at Kutztown Pennsylvania State University. She has just published a book, *Women's Authority and Society in Early East-Central Africa*, as well as "Nakabumba: God Creates Humanity as a Potter Creates a Pot," in *Gender Epistemologies in Africa: Gendering, Traditions, Spaces, Social Institutions, and Identities*. She last traveled to Zambia in June, 2010.

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Alexandra Sowash is a PhD student in the Government Department at the University of Texas at Austin. Her current research focuses on Chinese acquisition of agricultural land in Tanzania and Mozambique. She seeks to determine Chinese investment strategies in Tanzania and Mozambique and understand the impact of foreign

land acquisition on property rights regimes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Timothy Stapleton

Timothy J. Stapleton is professor of African History at Trent University in Ontario, Canada and director of the Trent History graduate program. He has taught at Rhodes University and the University of Fort Hare in South Africa and been a research associate at the University of Zimbabwe and the University of Botswana. His published books include *Maqoma: Xhosa Resistance to Colonial Advance, 1798-1873* (1994); *Faku: Rulership and Colonialism in the Mpondo Kingdom, c.1789-1867* (2001); *No Insignificant Part: The Rhodesia Native Regiment and the East Africa Campaign of the First World War* (2006); *A Military History of South Africa: From the Dutch-Khoi Wars to the End of Apartheid* (2010) and *African Police and Soldiers in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1923-80* (2011).

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Hans Erik Stolten is a historian from the University of Copenhagen, where he has worked as researcher and lecturer at the Centre of African Studies for several years. He participated in the Danish Anti-Apartheid movement and in international solidarity work. He has written articles, reviews, and reports on South African matters for numerous periodicals and was the editor of two books on the anti-apartheid movement. His MA examined the history of the South African trade union movement and his PhD dealt with the writing of history in South Africa. He worked as a research fellow at the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden for some years and published an anthology on South African historiography.

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Women and Change in the Cameroon Grassfields c. 1889-1960, a study of British and German colonialism in West Cameroon in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries; and *Herstory: The Life and Times of "Madame Maternity,"* an extraordinary woman, political figure and health worker.

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Ben Weiss

Ben Weiss is an undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Austin studying Government and Central African Conflict Studies through the Liberal Arts Honors program. He is also pursuing two side majors in Philosophy and African and African American Studies. His interests in Africa mostly revolve around HIV/AIDS, genocide, and post genocide recovery in Central and Southern Africa. In the coming years, he hopes to make several trips to the region to further his academic development and better prepare himself for a career in the field.

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