

JONATHON L. EARLE  
Chair, History Program  
Associate Professor of African History  
Centre College  
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Co-Chair, Uganda Studies Group of the African Studies Association  
International Research Fellow, Kingdom of Buganda  
Visiting Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge, 2024–2025

Founding Editor, Cambridge History of African Political Thought

Senior Editor of African Intellectual History, Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of African History

## **EDUCATION**

2012      **PhD in History, University of Cambridge**  
Thesis: Political Theologies in Late Colonial Buganda

Principal Supervisors:    Professor Derek Peterson  
   Professor John Lonsdale

Mentors:                      Professor Christopher Bayly  
   Professor Felicitas Becker  
   Professor John Iliffe

Examiners:                  Professor Megan Vaughan (Cambridge)  
   Dr Michael Twaddle (ICS, University of London)

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

2024 – 2025      Visiting Fellow, Trinity College, University of Cambridge  
2023 – 2025      International Research Fellow, Kingdom of Buganda  
2021                Visiting Fellow, Trinity College, University of Cambridge  
2019 – 2023      Marlene and David Grissom Professor of Social Studies  
2019 – Present    Associate Professor of African History, Centre College  
2014 – 2019      Assistant Professor of African History, Centre College  
2015 – 2023      Chair, African and African American Studies, Centre College  
2012 – 2014      Visiting Assistant Professor of African History, Centre College  
2010 – 2012      Supervisor (Instructor), Faculty of History, University of Cambridge

## **RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS & PUBLIC HISTORY**

### **AWARDS & PRIZES**

2023 – 2025      Centre Scholar. In recognition for scholarship, teaching, and service, \$10,000  
2021                Waldo G. Leland Prize, American Historical Association, for the best reference work published over the past five years. Chapter contributor for the Awardee, Thomas Spear, editor, *Oxford Encyclopedia of African Historiography: Methods and Sources* (Oxford University Press, 2019)  
2020 – 2023      Marlene and David Grissom Professor of Social Studies. Highest academic award bestowed by the College for excellent in research

- 2020 Education Award, Kentucky Historical Society, awarded for innovative pedagogy and the advancement of Kentucky's political and cultural history
- 2019 – 2021 Centre Scholar. In recognition for scholarship, teaching, and service, \$10,000
- 2018 Finalist for the Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize of the African Studies Association, awarded for the best book published in the previous calendar year on Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Somaliland, Tanzania, and Uganda: *Colonial Buganda and the End of Empire: Political Thought and Historical Imagination in Africa*, African Studies Series (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017).
- 2018 Stodghill Research Professorship. Course and administrative release to complete a book project on Benedicto Kiwanuka and Catholic politics in Uganda.
- 2016 – 2018 Centre Scholar. In recognition for scholarship, teaching and service, \$10,000
- 2016 Delta, Delta, Delta (Beta Phi), Professor of the Year
- 2008 – 2012 Selwyn College Scholar

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

- Decolonising State & Society in Uganda: The Politics of Knowledge & Public Life* (Oxford: James Currey, 2022), co-edited with Bruce-Lockhart, Nakanyike B. Musisi, and Edgar Curtis Taylor
- Contesting Catholics: Benedicto Kiwanuka and the Birth of Postcolonial Uganda* (Oxford: James Currey, 2021), with James J. Carney
- Colonial Buganda and the End of Empire: Political Thought and Historical Imagination in Africa*, African Studies Series (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017) (Finalist for the Ogot Prize)

### Journal Articles

- Under Review: The Politics of Pageantry in Colonial Uganda, *Past and Present*, submitted April 2024
- 'Political Activism and Other Life Forms in Colonial Buganda', *History in Africa*, 45 (2018), 373–95
- 'Uganda Studies and Researching Institutional Life in Modern Africa', *History in Africa*, 45 (2018), 175–91. With Katherine Bruce-Lockhart
- 'Dreams and Political Imagination in Colonial Buganda', *Journal of African History*, 58.1 (2017), 85–105
- 'Reading Revolution in Late Colonial Uganda', *Journal of Eastern African History*, 6.3 (2012), 507–26

### Book Chapters

- "Obuganda Buladde": Power, Anxiety and Calm in Postcolonial Buganda', in *Anxiety in and about Africa: Multidisciplinary Perspectives and Approaches*, ed. by Andrea Grant and Yolana Pringle (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2020)
- 'Intellectual History and Historiography', in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia: Guide to Methods, Sources and Historiography in African History*, ed. by Thomas Spear (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019)
- 'Competing Conceptions of Political Justice in Colonial Buganda', in *Pursuing Justice in Africa: Competing Imaginaries and Contested Practices*, ed. by Jessica Johnson and George Karekwaivanane (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2018), 33–50

### Film

*Roosevelt in Africa*, 2023 – present. Under contract option with Unction Productions and Government of Uganda for popular film development.

*Memories of Love Returned* by Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, 2023 – present. Research collaborator, <<https://vimeo.com/827492755/29fc76723e>>

BBC, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, Season 14 Episode 4. Research coordinator for BBC production of *Who Do you think You Are?*, in their episode on the British actor, Adil Ray, <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007t575>>

### Popular Articles and Entries

- ‘The Real Wakanda: How an Eastern African Kingdom Changed Theodore Roosevelt and the Course of American Democracy’, *POLITICO Magazine*, March 2023.
- ‘Theodore and Trevelyan: How Trinity Historians & Eastern Africans Shaped the Course of American Democracy’, in *Annual Record*, Trinity College, Cambridge, December 2021
- ‘Benedicto Mugumba Kiwanuka’, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
- ‘Joseph Nnakabaale Kiwanuka, WF’, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
- ‘Nuhu Kyabasinga Mbogo’, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
- ‘Stanislaus Mugwanya’, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
- ‘Hamu Mukasa’, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
- ‘Rebecca Mukasa Allen Mulira’, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
- ‘Rajat Neogy’, in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

### Book Reviews

- Christopher Tounsel, *Chosen Peoples: Christianity and Political Imagination in South Sudan* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2021), *Journal of African History*, 63 (2022), 254–56
- Richard Reid, *A History of Modern Uganda* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), *African Studies Quarterly*, 17 (2018), 140–42
- Joel Cabrita, *Text and Authority in the South African Nazaretha Church* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), *African Studies Review*, 58 (2015), 259–60
- Kevin Ward and Emma Wild-Wood, eds., *The East African Revival: History and Legacies* (Surrey: Ashgate, 2012), *Studies in World Christianity*, 18 (2012), 320–21

### INVITED LECTURES & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Fall 2023      **Ohio State University:** Archives and States of Anxiety in Uganda
- Spring 2022    **‘Expulsion, Uganda’s Asians and the Remaking of Nationality’, Oxford University:** Time, Revolution, and Histories of Citizenship in Late Colonial Uganda
- Fall 2021      **African Studies Association:** Organized the Uganda Studies Group Roundtable, ‘Reciprocal Obligation & Speaking and Being Heard in Uganda Studies’ (in honour of Holly E. Hanson)
- Fall 2021      **African Studies Association:** Co-organized a 2-panel series on Catholic Politics and Public Authority in Postcolonial Africa
- Fall 2021      **African Studies Association:** Author Meets Critic: Catholic Political Imagination in Late Colonial Africa
- Spring 2021    **St Edward King & Martyr Research Forum, University of Cambridge:** Baganda Diplomats and Foreign Policy during the Imperial Scramble for Africa
- Spring 2021    **Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge:** Book launch for *Contesting Catholics*.

- Fall 2020 **Uganda Studies Group, African Studies Association:** Religious Networks and Electoral Mobilization in Late Colonial Uganda
- Fall 2020 **Makerere University:** Reimagining Religious Politics in Late Colonial Uganda: Benedicto Kiwanuka and Intra-Catholic Contestations on the Eve of Independence
- Fall 2019 **United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD:** Assassination in Africa: Political Murder and Power in Modern Uganda
- Fall 2018 **New Books Network:** Book Discussion with Professor Esperanza Brizuela-Garcia: <https://bit.ly/2Hnu0Ch>
- Fall 2018 **African Studies Association, Atlanta:** Co-organized a 4-panel series on Knowledge Production in Uganda Studies: (1) Uganda and the Decolonization of Knowledge: The State; (2) Uganda and the Decolonization of Knowledge: Languages and Concepts of Power; (3) Uganda and the Decolonization of Knowledge: Intimacy in Ugandan History; (4) Uganda and the Decolonization of Knowledge: Medical Knowledge
- Fall 2017 **Centre College:** Decolonizing the Curriculum: Power and Pedagogy in the Postwar Period
- Spring 2017 **University College London:** Co-Convener, Workshop on Uganda Studies, <https://goo.gl/VTDZ8X>  
Workshop on Uganda Studies, University College London: ‘As wide as the king’s road in Mengo’: time, space and the Uganda Railway in early colonial eastern Africa
- Fall 2016 **African Studies Association, United Kingdom, Cambridge:** Chair and organiser: The Failure of Moderate Politics in Africa?: The Digital Archives of Eridadi Mulira (to commemorate the launch of the first digital collection of the Cambridge Centre for African Studies)  
**African Studies Association, Washington, DC:** Panel Chair, New Approaches in Uganda Studies  
**African Studies Association, Washington, DC:** Snakes and the Sophistry of Dissent in Colonial Buganda
- Spring 2016 **Intellectual History in Modern African Historiography, Yale University:** Reassessing Epistemological Boundaries in African Intellectual History: Historical Imagination & Reading Practices in Colonial Uganda  
<https://goo.gl/GDxf96>
- January 2016 **Oxford University:** Co-convener, **Terrorism in Africa**
- Summer 2015 **‘Using and Abusing the Past: The role of History in modern Uganda’, SOAS and Makerere University, Mukono, Uganda:** When Mukaabya became Muteesa: the fictions of calm in twentieth-century Kiganda history writing
- Spring 2015 **‘Justice in Africa’, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge:** Historical Imagination and Competing Conceptions of Political Justice in Colonial Buganda

- Fall 2014 **African Studies Association, Indianapolis:** Panel Chair and Presenter: The 1950s in Africa's Futures
- African Studies Association, Indianapolis:** (Discussant): Roundtable of the Uganda Studies Group: The Violence of Regulating Sexualities: Historical and Ethnographic Perspectives from Uganda
- Fall 2013 **African Studies Association, Baltimore:** Islamic political theology in late colonial Buganda
- African Studies Association, Baltimore:** (Panel Respondent): Mobility and Territoriality in Eastern Africa
- African Studies Association, Baltimore:** (Discussant): Roundtable of the Uganda Studies Group: The Popular and the Public in Uganda: Intellectual and Cultural Productions in the Past and Present
- Spring 2012 **World History Seminar, University of Cambridge:** Reading Rousseau and Locke in Colonial Uganda
- Fall 2011 **Africa Research Forum, University of Cambridge:** (Respondent) David Lee Schoenbrun, Remain Calm: Emotion and the Fictions of Sovereignty in 16th century Bunyoro
- World History Group, University of Cambridge:** *Theological Imagination and the Making of Constitutional Discourse in Colonial Uganda: A Global Intellectual History*
- Summer 2011 **Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame:** Benedicto K.M. Kiwanuka and the Longue Durée of Justice in Twentieth-Century Catholic Buganda
- Fall 2010 **African Studies Association, San Francisco:** Diasporic Influences on Conceptual Politics in Twentieth-Century Buganda: The Case of James Aggrey and E.M.K. Mulira
- African Studies Association, San Francisco:** Panel Chair: Identity & Belonging: Intellectuals of the Black Atlantic
- African Research Forum, University of Cambridge:** Hermeneutic and Revelation in Twentieth-Century Kiganda Political Thought: The Case of I.K. Musazi and Erienza Bwete
- African Studies Association: United Kingdom, University of Oxford:** Politics and Hermeneutic: The Unearthing of I.K. Musazi's Bible and the Influence of Theological Metaphor on Political Thought in Late Colonial Buganda
- Spring 2009 **Africa History Group, University of Cambridge:** Kiganda Political Community and the Reception of Idi Amin: Reassessing Uganda's Second Republic
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Africa Day, University of Oxford:** National Historiography versus Ethnic Historiography: The Instance of Buganda under Idi Amin
- World History Seminar, University of Cambridge:** Kiganda Historiography and Idi Amin: Reassessing Uganda's Second Republic, 1971 to 1975

## **HERITAGE WORK & ARCHIVAL PRESERVATION**

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- Fall 2022 **Uganda at 60, Uganda Museum, Kampala.** Curated the Uganda National Museum's public display on Benedicto Kiwanuka and the Democratic Party, Uganda's oldest national party. The event celebrated Uganda's sixtieth anniversary.
- January 2016 **Soroti District Archives, Uganda,** With Ugandan archivists and students from Centre College, saved the archive from imminent destruction (due to termites and rain) and created finding aids
- 2009 – 2016 **The Eridadi M.K. Mulira Papers, Centre of African Studies, Cambridge, with Faculty Development Funds, Centre College (2015),** Deposited, catalogued and digitized the personal papers of E.M.K. Mulira, the intellectual architect of Uganda's postcolonial constitution, <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/257485>
- Fall 2014 **Mellon Foundation (Centre College, internal grant),** To purchase digitisation technologies and software for archival preservation with private archives in Uganda, \$3,000
- 2011 – 2014 **Missionary: Manuscripts, Memory and the Making of the Modern World Centre for Christianity Worldwide, Cambridge,** Co-organised a project with the Smuts Commonwealth Fund to secure oral and written British-based missionary sources known to exist privately but not publicly deposited
- 2010 **The Benedicto K.M. Kiwanuka Papers, University Library, Cambridge,** Digitized the 6,100-file private papers of Benedicto Kiwanuka, Uganda's first elected president
- 2010 **Uganda Records Centre and Archive, Entebbe,** Co-catalogued the archive's collection to assist Professors Derek R. Peterson and Holger B. Hansen for their successful proposal to secure funding from UNESCO and World Bank, \$7,929,789

## **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

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### **Terrorism in Africa, Oxford University, 2016**

Co-convened a workshop with academics, policymakers, and NGO workers to reassess the idea and production of modern terrorism in Africa.

### **Centre College and Trinity Episcopal Church, 2015–2016**

Organized and convened a two-semester series for the public on the history of industrial capitalism and world Christianity.

### **August 2012 AFRICOM, US Department of State**

Research on spirit possession and political protest in contemporary Buganda was used to brief the incoming American Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda, Scott DeLisi.

## **LANGUAGES**

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French            Translation ability

German           Translation ability

Luganda

## **ACADEMIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**

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African Studies Association

African Studies Association of the United Kingdom

British Institute in Eastern Africa  
Royal African Society  
Uganda Society  
Uganda Studies Group

## **TEACHING**

### **SUPERVISED RESEARCH**

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Natalie Warren, Spring 2023

Project: Race, Political Dissent and Archival Management in the American South

Katherine Diaz Garcia, Fall 2020

Project: Public Memory and the El Salvadoran Civil War

Dahabo Kerow, Fall 2020

Project: Civil War in Somalia

Sarah Holloway and Julia Matthews, Uganda, Summer 2017

Project: Early colonial protest and the Uganda Railway

Sam Foster, London, Spring 2017

Project: African Exiles in the Imperial Metropole

Sarah Holloway, Sam Foster, Jared Thompson, Spring 2016

Project: Terrorism in Africa

Emily Rodes Spencer, Cambridge, Summer 2015

Project: Digitisation of E.M.K. Mulira Papers

Caroline Snell, Fall 2014–Spring 2015

Project: Second World War Propaganda and Japanese American Internment Camps

Sophia Dixon, Fall 2012

Project: Gender and Political Change in Late Nineteenth-Century Uganda

### **RESEARCH SEMINARS (AND LOCATIONS)**

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First-Year Studies: God & Globalization	Chicago, Dearborn, MI, and Oak Creek
HIS 120	Histories of Time London
HIS 395	Assassins Archives in Frankfort and Lexington, KY
HIS 433	Religion & Politics in Eastern Africa Uganda and Rwanda, 2014, 2016
	Histories of Public Healing Uganda Uganda, 2019
HIS 455	Idi Amin's Uganda Washington, DC, 2015, 2017, 2018
HIS 482	Memory and the End of Empire London, Cambridge and Belfast
HIS 485	African Origins of the Holocaust Germany and Poland

### **COURSES**

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#### **2012 – 2021 Department of History, Centre College**

AAS 500	African and African American Studies Senior Colloquium (independent research)
HIS 110	Recreation Lives of Mass Murderers
HIS 117	History of Concentration Camps
HIS 120	Invention of the Modern World (c. the late 1700s to c. early 1980s)
HIS 120	(Corona Virus Series), History of the Spanish Flu
HIS 351	Precolonial African Kingdoms
HIS 343	First World War in Africa
HIS 353	History of Modern Africa



HIS 389	Tyrants and Terrorists
HIS 431	African Film
HIS 456	Religion and Political Violence in Africa
HIS 500	History Research Seminar

### **Co-Organizer, COVID-19 Signature Series, Fall 2020**

The courses in this Signature Series are designed to provide students with the creative and critical space to explore multiple themes and contexts surrounding COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic presents an exceptional opportunity to assess a global crisis through multiple disciplinary approaches. The liberal arts experience provides an equally unprecedented moment to think in broad and crosscutting ways about the pandemic and the world that we wish to imagine after COVID. Each program has disciplinary insight into relevant areas such as epidemiology and public health, economic implications, ancient epidemics and the philosophers and artists who documented them, lessons learned from more recent history, and human responses to uncertainty and crisis throughout time. The Series includes the contribution of 29 members of the faculty, who are offering 27 new or revised courses related to COVID-19.

### Courses

Spring 2012	<b>Faculty of History, University of Cambridge</b> Graduate/Postgraduate Seminar, Global Intellectual History, <i>Intellectual History in the History of Africa</i>
2011 – 2012	<b>Faculty of History, University of Cambridge</b> Lecture, The History of Africa from 1800 to the Present Day, <i>Colonial Conquest and African Resistance • Race and Political Economy in Southern Africa</i>
2011 – 2012	<b>Faculty of History, Gonville &amp; Caius, University of Cambridge</b> Seminar, <i>Historical Argument and Practice</i>
2011 – 2012	<b>Faculty of History, University of Cambridge</b> Supervision, <i>The West &amp; the 'Third World' from the Great War to the Present</i>
2011 – 2012	<b>Faculty of History, University of Cambridge</b> Supervision, <i>The History of Africa from 1800 to the Present Day</i>
Spring 2011	<b>Faculty of History, University of Cambridge</b> Lecture, The History of Africa from 1800 to the Present Day, <i>Religion and Globalisation in Twentieth-Century Africa</i>

### **ADMINISTRATION & SERVICE**

2023 – Present	Chair, History Program
2023 – 2024	Chair, Course Approvals, Committee on Curriculum and Academic Standards
2018	Liaison for Centre College, Mellon Grant to develop a study abroad in Ghana and Memphis. Developed with Rhodes College and the University of the South
2015 – 2023	Chair, African and African American Studies
2015 – 2016	Committee Member, Off-Campus Programs (Study Abroad)
2014 – 2015	Search Committee, tenure-track hire in American history
2014 – 2015	History Program Self-Study Review: alumni study
2014 – 2015	Faculty Representative for Student Life Committee
2013 – 2014	Undergraduate Research Committee
2012 – Present	Undergraduate faculty advisor



Fall 2013	College Board, Advanced Placement (AP) World History Research Study, commissioned to revise AP world history curriculum in the United States
Spring 2012	Conference administrator, <i>Languages of Citizenship in Translation</i> , Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, Cambridge
2011 – 2012	Governor, St. Luke's Primary School, Cambridge
2011 – 2012	Committee member, Centre for Christianity Worldwide, Cambridge
2008 – 2011	International director, Good Daddy Primary and Secondary School, Uganda

## **REFEREES**

### **Professor Derek Peterson**

Ali Mazrui Collegiate Professor of History and African Studies  
 University of Michigan  
 1634 Haven Hall  
 505 South State Street  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA  
[drpeters@umich.edu](mailto:drpeters@umich.edu)  
 1 734 615 3608

### **Professor John Lonsdale**

Professor of African History  
 Trinity College (University of Cambridge)  
 Cambridge, CB2 1TQ, UK  
[jml1001@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jml1001@cam.ac.uk)  
 44 (0) 1223 338400

### **Professor Richard Reid**

Professor of African History  
 University of Oxford  
 Faculty of History  
 George Street  
 Oxford, OX1 2RL, UK  
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### **Professor Nakanyike Musisi**

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 University of Toronto  
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