

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

Editor, Cambridge History of African Political Thought

Senior Editor of African Intellectual History, Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of African History
<https://oxfordre.com/africanhistory>

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 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

Books

- Roosevelt in Africa: How Eastern African Diplomats Changed American Democracy* (trade press book, represented by Javelin Literary Agents), in progress
- 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

- '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

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
- 10th 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

- 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

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

Ateso
French (translation ability)
German (translation ability)
Luganda

ACADEMIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

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

Natalie Warren
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](#)

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| Spring 2012 | Faculty of History, University of Cambridge Graduate/Postgraduate Seminar, Global Intellectual History, <i>Intellectual History in the History of Africa</i> |
| 2011 – 2012 | Faculty of History, University of Cambridge 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 | Faculty of History, Gonville & Caius, University of Cambridge Seminar, <i>Historical Argument and Practice</i> |
| 2011 – 2012 | Faculty of History, University of Cambridge Supervision, <i>The West & the 'Third World' from the Great War to the Present</i> |
| 2011 – 2012 | Faculty of History, University of Cambridge Supervision, <i>The History of Africa from 1800 to the Present Day</i> |
| Spring 2011 | Faculty of History, University of Cambridge Lecture, The History of Africa from 1800 to the Present Day, <i>Religion and Globalisation in Twentieth-Century Africa</i> |

ADMINISTRATION & SERVICE

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| 2018 – Present | 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 |
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| 2015 – Present | Chair, African and African American Studies |
| 2015 – Present | Past in the Pub (Co-Organiser): History Program monthly forum |
| 2015 – Present | Faculty member, International Studies Program |
| 2015 – 2016 | Off-Campus Programs (Study Abroad) |
| 2014 – 2015 | Community-Based Learning Workshop (Pedagogy Luncheon) |
| 2014 – 2015 | Search Committee, tenure-track hire in American history |
| 2014 – 2015 | History Program Self-Study Review: alumni study |
| 2014 – 2015 | Student Life Committee |
| 2013 – 2014 | Undergraduate Research Committee |
| 2013 – Present | Committee member, History program's accreditation review board |
| Spring 2013 | Presbyterian Church of Danville: 4-part series on Christianity in Africa |
| 2012 – Present | Committee member, African & African American Studies program |
| 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
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 505 South State Street
 Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA
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Professor John Lonsdale

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Professor Richard Reid

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 University of Oxford
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Professor Nakanyike Musisi

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