
Biographies of Participants

Peter Alegi is Professor of History at Michigan State University, Director of Digital History Projects at Matrix, the Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences, and Research Associate at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. His books include *Laduma! Soccer, Politics & Society in South Africa*; *African Soccerescapes: How a Continent Changed the World's Game*; and *Africa's World Cup: Critical Reflections on Play, Patriotism, Spectatorship, and Space* (co-edited with Chris Bolsmann). He is currently co-editing a special issue of *Radical History Review* ("Historicizing the Politics and Pleasure of Sports"), and working on a book on digital South African history. Alegi hosts the *Africa Past and Present* podcast with Peter Limb (afripod.aodl.org); blogs at *Footballiscominghome,info*; and convenes the online *Football Scholars Forum* (footballscholars.org). He is Founding Editor of Michigan State University Press's new "African History and Culture" book series and serves on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* and *African Studies*. In 2010 Alegi was a Fulbright Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal where he gave the 17th Alan Paton Memorial Lecture. Follow him on Twitter @futbolprof

Akosua Adomako Ampofo is Professor of African and Gender Studies, and Director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. An activist-scholar, her work addresses African Knowledge Systems; Higher Education; Reproductive Health; Identity Politics; Gender-based Violence; Women's Work; Masculinities; and Popular Culture. With Signe Arnfred she co-edited *African Feminist Research and Activism - Tensions, Challenges and Possibilities* (2009). Adomako Ampofo is founding Vice-President of The African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) and Co-president of the Research Committee on Women and Society of the International Sociological Association with Josephine Beoku-Betts. She has been a Fulbright Junior and Fulbright New Century Scholar. In 2014 was a Mellon Fellow with the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town. In 2010 she was awarded the Sociologists for Women in Society Feminist Activism award. She sees the digital humanities as the way to steer African Humanities back center stage.

Kelly Askew is Director of the African Studies Center and Associate Professor of Anthropology and Afroamerican/African Studies at the University of Michigan. Her publications include *Performing the Nation: Swahili Music and Cultural Politics in Tanzania* (2002), a finalist for the 2003 African Studies Association Herskovits Award for best scholarly work on Africa; two edited volumes, *African Postsocialisms* (with M. Pitcher, 2006) and *The Anthropology of Media: A Reader* (with R. Wilk, 2002); and articles spanning land rights, Swahili poetry, nationalism, gender relations and Hollywood film production. She also is a filmmaker. Recent projects include: (1) *Poetry in Motion: 100 Years of Zanzibar's Nadi Ikhwan Safaa* (Jahazi Media, 2012) on Zanzibar's oldest *taarab* orchestra; and (2) *The Chairman and the Lions* (Documentary Educational Resources, 2013) on the challenges facing a Maasai village, which won 1st place at the ETNOFilm Festival (Croatia, 2013) and a Special Jury Award at the Zanzibar International Film Festival (Tanzania, 2013).

Prinisha Badassy holds a PhD from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and currently lectures in the History Department at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research interests include the social medico-legal history of infanticide and abortion in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Natal; the study of the domain of the family and childhood; political economy of reproduction; medico-jurisprudence; and gendered discourses of criminality.

She has published on the history of Indian interpreters within the British Empire as well as, on the complicated, sometimes lethal, relationship between masters and servants in colonial Natal. She teaches on the historical processes of globalisation; historical transnational flows and networks that give rise to the United States as a super power during the twentieth century; the emergence and historical overview of African urbanism; modern South Africa; and theory and methods for historical research. She currently serves as Secretary on the Southern African Historical Society Executive Council, Reviews Editor for the *South African Historical Journal*, and list editor for the H-Africa Discussion Network.

Dinesh Balliah is a New and Social Media lecturer at [Wits Journalism](#) in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is also the site manager/editor of [Wits Vuvuzela Online](#).

From 2001, Dinesh spent 7 years At Wits University in the Department of Media Studies before stepping away from professional life and travelling abroad for 3 years. After returning to South Africa in 2010 with young daughters in tow, Dinesh taught courses in *Media Law* and *Online Journalism* at [Boston Media House](#), and *Global Communications* at the [University of Johannesburg](#). From 2001-2003 Dinesh headed the IT for the Humanities department at [Wits University](#) and was instrumental in conceptualizing and developing a new three-year degree in Media Studies/IT for Humanities. She has actively been involved in the [Highway Africa New Media Awards](#) (convened and hosted by [Rhodes University](#)), in the capacity of a judge, convener of judges and co-presenter of awards. In 2013 she will act as a judge for the Caxton Awards for Media Excellence in the category, innovative use of social media. As a student, she was an active and long-standing member of the South African Students' Press Union (SASPU). In addition, she was involved with the production of the Dome Student Newspaper, student newspaper of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, in various capacities, but finally as the editor of the publication in 1998. In 2003, she published a book version of her Masters thesis on the history of the Internet in South Africa. She tweets about the Media and other matters using the handle @DineshBalliah. Dinesh holds a Master of Arts (Historical Studies), UKZN, 2003; Bachelor of Arts (Honours), UKZN, 1999 and Bachelor of Arts, (History and Law) UKZN, 1998 and is currently a PhD candidate in Journalism at Wits University. For an extended CV, including awards and honours, presentations and papers, visit [Dinesh's profile on LinkedIn](#).

Alexander Bangirana studied at Makerere University. He has in addition had professional training in management and publishing studies at the ISBN Agency in Berlin; and APNET's African Publishing Institute. He currently works for the Council for the Development of Social Research in

Africa (CODESRIA) as Director of Publications and Dissemination. He is the Editor-in-Chief of two quarterly publications: *CODESRIA Bulletin* and the journal *Africa Development*. He is also member of African Books Collective's Council of Management.

Gillian Berchowitz was born and educated in Cape Town, South Africa. After graduating from the University of Cape Town in 1975, she worked at Cape Town's Space Theatre. She was hired as an academic sales representative for Oxford University Press and then hired as sales manager for Ravan Press, an antiapartheid scholarly and literary press in Johannesburg. She has worked at Ohio University Press for 26 years, first in production and later as editorial director. She was promoted to director in 2013. She supervises the acquisitions and editorial departments and acquires a wide variety of scholarly, regional, and trade titles for Ohio University Press and its trade imprint, Swallow Press. She works with trade and scholarly copublishers to make press titles available internationally and to acquire selling rights in North America and other territories. Gillian has developed Ohio University Press's distinguished African Studies list and several scholarly series with a global emphasis, including the New African Histories series, the Series in Ecology and History, Perspectives on Global Health, the Indian Ocean Studies Series, the Ohio Short Histories of Africa, Modern African Writing, the Cambridge Centre of African Studies Series, Eastern and Western African Studies, and the Polish and Polish-American Studies Series.

Keith Breckenridge is an historian based at WISER, with an active interest in the scholarly potentials of the Internet that dates back to the early 1990s. He has written widely on the cultural and economic history of South Africa, from 2003 he directed the major in Internet Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and he now manages the WISER website at <http://wiser.wits.ac.za>.

André Brock is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan in Communication Studies. His research analyzes racial identity formation on the Internet and in other digital technologies. In recent work, he has studied racial performances on Black Twitter, the Blackbird open source browser, the New York Times website, and the survival horror video game Resident Evil 5.

Rebecca Chung is a 1st year MSI student, focusing on Preservation and Information Access and Retrieval (data mining). She has a Ph.D. in English Literature. Her goal is to design her own digital humanities projects and help run big-data humanities projects at other research institutions.

Paul Conway is associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Information. He conducts research and teaches courses on archival science, the digitization and preservation of photographs, books, and audiovisual resources, and the ethics of new technologies. Prior to joining the Michigan faculty, he was a senior administrator for the libraries at Yale and Duke University. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and is a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists.

Kevin Donovan is in the Anthropology & History program at the University of Michigan. He is interested in the history of regionalism in East Africa, the politics of surveillance, and the history of 'development' in Africa.

Tara Dosumu Diener is a Ph.D. candidate in the Interdisciplinary Program in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on childbirth, maternity nursing, and clinical practice in Sierra Leone. Her dissertation examines issues such as biopolitics, globalization, structural and institutional violence, and medicalization in a Freetown maternity hospital from the late 19th - early 21st century.

Sarah Emily Duff is a Researcher at WISER. Funded by a prestigious, five-year Research Career Advancement Fellowship from the National Research Foundation, her current project investigates histories of sex education in twentieth-century South Africa. She has published widely on histories of childhood in nineteenth-century South Africa. She writes about the histories and politics of food and eating at [Tangerine and Cinnamon](#). Her monograph, *Changing Childhoods in the Cape Colony: Dutch Reformed Church Evangelicalism and Colonial Childhood, 1860-1895*, will be published in 2015 by Palgrave Macmillan, in a new series on global histories of childhood.

William Narteh Gblerkpor is doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. He is also lecturer in archaeology and heritage studies at the University of Ghana, Legon. Mr. Gblerkpor received his Bachelor's and Master of Philosophy degrees from the same institution in 2001 and 2005 respectively. His research interests include the archaeology of identity, ethnoarchaeology, public archaeology, cultural resource management, and community engagement. He is the Principal Investigator of the Krobo Mountain Archaeological Research Project, a partnership between the University of Ghana and the Krobo Traditional Councils. In the last decade, Mr. Gblerkpor has been involved in a number of photographic resources creation and management projects in West Africa, including the Willis Bell Photo Archive in Accra (now Mmomfra Foundation), the A.G. Leventis Digital Resource Center at the University of Ghana, and the West African Museums Program (WAMP).

Pamila Gupta is a Senior Researcher at WISER at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She holds a PhD in Socio-cultural Anthropology from Columbia University. Her research explores Lusophone (post)colonial links and legacies in India and Africa. She has published in *South African Historical Journal*, *African Studies*, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, *Ler História*, *Ecologie & Politique*, and *Public Culture*, and is the co-editor of *Eyes Across*

the Water: Navigating the Indian Ocean with Isabel Hofmeyr and Michael Pearson (UNISA, 2010). Her monograph entitled *The Relic State: St. Francis Xavier and the Politics of Ritual in Portuguese India* is forthcoming with Manchester University Press (2014).

Isabel Hofmeyr is Professor of African Literature at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and Visiting Distinguished Global Professor in the English Department, NYU. Her most recent book is *Gandhi's Printing Press: Experiments in Slow Reading* (2013). Along with Antoinette Burton she has edited, *Ten Books that Shaped the British Empire: Creating an Imperial Commons*, forthcoming in December 2014.

Daniel Herwitz is Fredric Huetwell Professor of Comparative Literature, Philosophy and History of Art at the University of Michigan where for a decade he directed the Institute for the Humanities. Herwitz is also Honorary Research Associate at the University of Cape Town. From 1996-2002 he was Chair in Philosophy at the University of Natal, Durban. There he played a role in that university's transformation at the moment of the South African transition to democracy, from which came his book of essays, *Race and Reconciliation* (2003) and a decade later, *Heritage, Culture and Politics in the Postcolony* (2012). Herwitz has published nine books including *The Star as Icon* (2008) and his first book, on the modern painter of India M.F. Husain, *Husain*, which won a national book award in India. Herwitz is a founding member of the steering committee of the Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory.

Judy Irvine: My research interests lie at **the intersections of language, social practice/social relations, and history**. I have done ethnographic and linguistic fieldwork in Senegal (1970-71, 1975, 1977, 1984, and a brief return visit in 2006); linguistic work with speakers of African languages in the US, mainly Wolof, ChiBemba, and SeTswana; some ethnographic work with Senegalese migrants in Southeast Michigan (2004-2005); and most recently a collaborative fieldwork project with urban Zulu women in the Johannesburg area (collaborating with Liz Gunner). I have also done archival research, mainly in the (microfilmed) archives of the Church Missionary Society, but also some other archives, such as those at the Archevêché de Dakar. The archival research concerns the **beginnings of Africanist linguistics** and ethnography: early efforts at systematic investigation of African languages, mainly 1800-1914 but with some followup into later twentieth-century issues. Some of my research questions: who investigated African languages and why? (missionaries, of course, but there were others too, and even among the missionaries, who were they, what sects, and what backgrounds?)? What did they think a language was, and what did they think speaking one implied about its speakers? Another major research concern – more theory-driven than specifically Africa-based, although I draw on African materials for many illustrative examples and case studies – is **ideology of language**. By this I mean the politically- and culturally-inflected conceptions people have about language in general and about the particular languages and ways of

speaking within their purview. My **Senegalese fieldwork** resulted in many works discussing rural Wolof society from the perspective of patterns and **processes of communication**. In the work I've recently been doing on **Zulu**, my interests in performance, evaluative language (honorifics, praise, and blame), and language ideology come together.

Jonathan Klaaren is currently a Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He teaches, researches, and writes in the areas of human rights, law, and sociology, having written over forty peer-reviewed publications and co-written several books. He has supervised 8 doctoral dissertations and 5 at masters level. His current research interests are in the legal profession, regulation and human rights, transparency, and sociolegal studies in Africa. He has served on a number of editorial committees and boards including those of the South African Journal on Human Rights, Law & Society Review, and Law & Policy. He holds a PhD in sociology from Yale University and professional law degrees from Wits and Columbia. He served as Dean of the Law School from 2010 to 2013 and as Director of the Mandela Institute from 2005 to 2007. He is currently working at the Law and at WiSER, an interdisciplinary research institute at Wits.

Siyabonga Koba is a PhD student at the Department of Media Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. His research looks at pornography consumption in South Africa utilising a number of online research methods e.g. online survey data collection and online interviewing amongst others. Porn consumption is largely digitally mediated and cuts to the heart of very humanistic questions about desire, sexuality, gender and even race. His teaching focuses on how online platforms mediate people with themselves and with others. He also helps to manage online teaching platforms.

Cynthia Kros is a historian and heritage specialist who has published in the field of the history of South African education and curriculum development, and more recently in areas pertaining to memory, memorials and monuments. She has also undertaken comparative work on truth commissions and was the co-editor of the *South African Historical Journal* for several years. In 2010 she published a book based on her PhD dissertation, *The Seeds of Separate Development: Origins of Bantu Education*. Currently, she is the head of the Division of Arts, Culture and Heritage Management in the Wits School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand and leads two research projects, one on the Market Theatre Archive and the other on the theme of 'repairing the legacies of harm', focusing on deep histories of injustice and exploitation.

Madhumit Lahiri is an assistant professor in the English department at the University of Michigan, specializing in postcolonial literature. She has some research on South Africa, and frequently

teaches African literature. She was also at Wits as a postdoc, where she worked closely with Isabel Hofmeyr. Much of her work, however, focuses on South Asia.

Peter Limb is Associate Professor (Adjunct), History and Africana Bibliographer, MSU. He has written widely on South African history, including *The People's Paper* (2012), *Autobiography & Selected Works of A.B. Xuma* (2012) and *The ANC's Early Years* (2010), as well as on things digital (*Digital Dilemmas & Solutions* (2004), chapters in *African Digital Studies in the Digital Age* (2014)) and archival ("The Global Antiapartheid Movement: A Critical Analysis of Archives & Collections" *Radical History Review*, 2014). He is Convener, Newspaper Committee, Cooperative Africana Materials Project, co-chair, Association of Concerned African Scholars, co-editor, *Africa Past & Present* Podcast, and coordinator, African Activist Archives. In 2012 he received the MSU Distinguished Faculty Award.

Sharon M. Leon is the Director of Public Projects at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media and Associate Professor of History at George Mason University. Leon received her bachelors of arts degree in American Studies from Georgetown University in 1997, and her doctorate in American Studies from the University of Minnesota in 2004. Her first book, *An Image of God: the Catholic Struggle with Eugenics*, was published by University of Chicago Press (May 2013). Her work has appeared in *Church History*, the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, the *Public Historian*, and a number of edited collections. She is currently doing research on the Catholic Left in the United States after Vatican II. At RRCHNM, Leon oversees collaborations with library, museum, and archive partners from around the country. She directs the Center's digital exhibit and archiving projects, as well as research and tool development for public history, including *Omeka* and *Scripto*. Finally, Leon writes and presents on using technology to improve the teaching and learning of historical thinking skills.

Lloyd Mbabu is the Librarian for African Studies at the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library at the University of Michigan. Lloyd does collection development for Africana.

Grant McNulty worked on developing the first digital video archive of human communication (CAVA) at University College London's (UCL) Department of Human Communication Sciences. He has also worked as a research associate at UCL, using digital video to improve cross-cultural pharmacy consultations. He has a Masters in Zulu from the then University of Natal and is currently registered for a PhD in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. His research focuses on the Umbumbulu Branch of the Ulwazi Programme (UP), a seemingly democratised online archival initiative that has been set up by the Ethekwini Municipal Library to collect 'local indigenous knowledge' in Durban. The programme raises important questions about the

collection of local indigenous knowledge within an institutional, municipal framework. What constitutes indigenous? Who decides this? What power relations are at play? The UP offers a new axis of power that engages previous archival efforts and social memory in Mbumbulu and in the wider heritage fields of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and South Africa. By focusing on the programme as a post-apartheid initiative born of changed political and institutional settings, the research will investigate the articulations of a project of this nature, and explore the UP (a site that employs new technologies and new approaches, which in turn generate new content and perspectives) as an aspect of continued transition in South Africa.

Angel David Nieves, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Africana Studies at Hamilton College, is also the Director of the American Studies Program, a founding member of the Cinema and Media Studies (CNMS) concentration, and in 2010 was a recipient of The John R. Hatch Class of 1925 Excellence in Teaching Award at Hamilton. Nieves also serves as Co-Director (w/Janet Simons) of Hamilton's Digital Humanities Initiative (DHi), a \$1.75 million Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant funded project (<http://www.dhinitiative.org>). From 2010 to 2013 he worked with a team of undergraduate students from Middlebury College on the Soweto Historical GIS (SHGIS) Project, and in 2014 he was awarded (w/Alyson Gill of Arkansas State University) an NEH Office of Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant of \$59,510 for "Dangerous Embodiments: Theories, Methods, and Best Practices for Historical Character Modeling in Humanities 3D Environments." He is also advising on the permanent exhibit, "The Power of Place," for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture scheduled to open in 2015. Nieves's recent scholarly work and community-based activism critically engage with issues of race and the built environment in cities across the Global South.

Judith Opoku-Boateng is an Archivist at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. She has formal qualifications in Sociology and Archival Studies from the University of Ghana. She started her career as a researcher documenting music and dance forms from indigenous communities in Ghana, and later shifted into archiving. She has had the opportunity of handling/managing culturally sensitive audiovisual materials. She has received specialist training in Audiovisual archiving from APEX, FIAF School on Wheels, ICCROM (SOIMA) and CFI-France, and presented papers at international conferences and workshops on AV archiving. In July 2011, she won the Jim Lindner Grant for Cultural Heritage Preservation for her institute, and has been nominated to attend prestigious cultural heritage preservation programmes worldwide. In 2012, she assisted the Audio Visual Preservation Solutions (AVPS) and the Audio Preservation Exchange (APEX), to conduct Audiovisual Collection Assessment and Digitization Plan for the University of Ghana's Audiovisual Collection. Her Archive recently implemented the "long awaited" digital repository project (MAARA: Please visit: www.apexghana.org) with support from NYU and AV Preserve.

Derek Peterson is Professor of History and African Studies at the University of Michigan. He is the coordinator of the 'African Heritage Initiative' at U-M; editor (with Kodzo Gavua and Ciraj Rassool) of *The Politics of Heritage in Africa: Economies, Histories, Infrastructures* (forthcoming on Cambridge University Press); and editor (with Stephanie Newell) of *African Print Cultures*, under review at the University of Michigan Press. His most recent book, *Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival*, won the 2013 Herskovits Prize of the African Studies Association.

Michele Pickover is Principal Archivist: Digital Archives and Library, at the Historical Papers Research Archive of the University of the Witwatersrand. Her responsibilities encompass the management, organisation and development of archival collections, including special projects; the management and development of staff, services and systems; and the coordination of digital initiatives for digital preservation and access at Wits. She is Head of the Wits Digitisation Centre. She was a Governing Committee Member, Digital Innovation South Africa (DISA) between 1999 and 2008; since 2010 she has been a member of the Community House Trade Union Archive and Library Reference Group; she is a member of the Standing Committee for the International Conference of African Digital Libraries and Archives; and she is a member of the National Committee for the South African Digitisation Initiative (SADI) and is Chair of the SADI Gauteng Working Group. She has also published widely.

Dean Rehberger is an Associate Professor, History and WRAC; adjunct curator MSU Museum, and Director of Matrix at Michigan State University. Over the past 15 years, he has overseen numerous digitization and archival projects at Matrix funded by a variety of sources, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Archive and Records Administration (NHPRC), the British Library Endangered Archives Programme, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), among others. Projects include Oral History in the Digital Age (<http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/>), Overcoming Apartheid (<http://overcomingapartheid.msu.edu/>), African Online Digital Library (<http://aodl.org/>), among many others. See Matrix projects for more detail (<http://ww.matrix.msu.edu/>).

Deborah Robinson is the Director of the Political Prisoners of South Africa Documentation Project. This initiative arose out of the need to collect, archive, and share materials from the Bracelet Program which was conducted by International Possibilities Unlimited (IPU) in the United States from 1985-1991. The Bracelet Program was a people-to-people initiative that involved individuals wearing a brass bracelet of a political prisoner serving a life sentence and writing to his/her family. The collection includes audio and videotaped interviews with former political prisoners and family members, correspondence to and from political prisoners and/or their family, letters from Bracelet Program participants, and IPU organizational documents. There are important stories to be told about the impact the program had in the United States and in South Africa. The

impact may not have been broad (many people did not know about the program), but in certain ways the impact has been very profound. Towards that end, Dr. Robinson has met with staff of the Robben Island Museum, Mayibuye Archives, the National Archives of South Africa, and the Nelson Mandela Foundation Centre of Memory. She holds a BA from Williams College, a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, and a MBA, with a specialization in international organizations, from the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

Sidonie Smith is Martha Guernsey Colby Collegiate Professor of English and Women's Studies and Director of the Institute for the Humanities. She is Past President of the Modern Language Association. Her fields of interest include human rights and personal narrative, women's autobiography, women's travel narrative and memory, women's studies in literature more generally, feminist theory, and postcolonial literatures.

Stephen Sparks is a graduate of the Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan and teaches in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Johannesburg. His research focuses on the history of energy, science and modernist planning under apartheid. He is eager to learn more about the promise and peril of the digital humanities, especially in relation to pedagogy at universities.

James Tumusiime is the founder and Managing Director of Fountain Publishers, one of East Africa's largest publishing houses, that handles school textbooks, general trade books, academic and scholarly books. He was chairman of Makerere University Publications Board, and vice-chairman of the African Publishers Network. He has served as the chairman of the Afro-Asian Book Council, and of the East African Book Development Association. He is passionate about African culture and history and has built the first private museum and cultural centre, Igongo Cultural Centre, in Mbarara, southwestern Uganda. He is the author of "What Makes Africans Laugh? Reflections of an entrepreneur in humour, media and culture."