

ADRIAN M. DEESE

adeese@umich.edu

Haven Hall, Room 5504
505 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045

Research Interests: History of Religion in West Africa; World Christianity;
Religion and the State in Africa; Religious Texts and African Intellectual History

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2019-Present
LSA Collegiate Fellow/Lecturer
Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

EDUCATION

PhD University of Cambridge, England July 2020
Thesis: "Divinity & the State: Polity, Sovereignty & Kingship in
Anglican Eḡba-Yorùbá Apologetics, 1830-1897"

MA Cornell University, Ithaca, New York August 2015
History

MPS Cornell University May 2013
Africana Studies
Thesis: "Making Sense of the Past: Ajayi Kolawole Ajiṣafẹ and the
(re) Making of Modern Abeokuta (Nigeria)"

BA Georgia State University, Atlanta May 2010
History, *Cum Laude*

FELLOWSHIPS

LSA Collegiate Fellowship, 2019-2021
The University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Fulbright U.S. Student Scholar to Nigeria, 2015-2016
International Institute of Education

Fulbright-Hays Fellow–Yorùbá Group Project Abroad 2015
U.S. Department of Education, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

The Research Travel Grant, 2014-2015
Dean's Office, Graduate School, Cornell University

Pre-Doctoral Fellowship for Nigeria 2014
The West African Research Association, the U.S. Department of State
and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers

The Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship 2014

U.S. Department of Education, Yorùbá, University of Florida (declined)

Cornell Sage Diversity Fellowship, 2013-2014
Exchange Scholar Program year in the Columbia University Department of History to study Islam in South Asia, and Pre-Colonial Africa

The LaFerber Research Award, 2013
Cornell Department of History grant for archival research in the United Kingdom and France

Sage Diversity Fellowship, 2010-2012
Africana Studies & Research Center, Cornell University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2019 to Present
Lecturer, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

- History and Religion in Africa: a first-year humanities seminar course
- Religion in Afro-Atlantic History

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 2011 to 2015
Teaching Assistant, Department of History

- Courses: African-American History, History & Popular Culture in Africa

Teaching Assistant, Africana Studies and Research Center

- Courses: Women and Gender in Africa, Education and Development in Africa, African Cultures and Civilizations

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Nigeria: 2014-2016
National Archives of Nigeria, Ibadan, National Archives, Abeokuta, University of Ibadan
Kenneth O. Dike Library, Obafemi Awolowo University, Gandhi Library at the University of Lagos, Library of the Royal Palace, Aké, Abeokuta.

United Kingdom: 2013-2018
National Archives, the London School of Economics, School of Oriental and African Studies, Lowestoft Record Office, National Library of Scotland, University of Birmingham, Cambridge University Library, and the Rhodes House at the University of Oxford

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY
Research Intern 2010
Mellon Foundation project with Dr. Sylviane Diouf,
“Africana Age,” Digital Collection’s
URL: <http://exhibitions.nypl.org/africanaage/about.htm>

Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, Atlanta, Georgia

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

Carter Jason A., and Andrew F. Walls. *Inside the Whirlwind: The Book of Job Through African Eyes*. Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2017. Reviewed in, *Studies in World Christianity*, Edinburgh University Press. Forthcoming.

Priest, Robert J., and Kirimi Barine (Editors) *African Christian Leadership: Realities, Opportunities, and Impact* (American Society of Missiology Series). Reviewed in, *Africa Today*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2018.

Encyclopedia

Deese, Adrian. "Abeokuta and the Egba State," "The Fante Confederacy and the Constitution of 1871," "The Ondo Kingdom," and "The Ogbomoṣo State," in ed. Saheed Aderinto, *African Kingdoms: An Encyclopedia of Empires and Civilizations* (ABC-CLIO, 2017).

Other writings

"Divination & the Creation: The Existential Dimensions," *Noesis Review: Theology, Philosophy, Poetics*, (Cambridge: Graduate Society for the Study of Philosophical Theology and Systematics, 2017).

"Divinity & the State: Polity, Sovereignty & Kingship in the Anglican Egbá-Yorùbá Tracts 1854-1912," article in West African Research Association Newsletter, on Religion in West Africa, 2017.

Research Summary Article, in West African Research Association Fall 2014 Newsletter, "Divinity and the State: Ideas, Politics, and History in Egbáland, Nigeria (1877-1940)", 2014.

Review of Dr. Olufemi Taiwo's lecture: *Freedom and Democracy: Rethinking Political Philosophy in Modern Africa*, n Cornell University's Institute for Comparative Modernities Newsletter (Ithaca, New York, 2011).

INVITED LECTURES

"The Anglican Yorùbá Bishopric and the Modernity Debates in West Africa," invited lecture delivered at the Centre for the Study of World Christianity, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, May 2019.

"Civic Governance and Civil Religion in Abeokuta (1830-1850)," invited lecture Christianity and Social Change in the Global South Seminar, University of Cambridge, February 2019.

"On Creation, Governance, and the Christian Apologetic Tradition in West Africa (1890-1897)," the Africa Research Forum Seminar Series, Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge, England, 2018.

“Anglican Church & State Relations in West Africa: the unique case of Abeokuta (1830-1854),” Graduate Student Supper Lecture, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 28 November 2017.

Presentation on JDY Peel’s *Christianity, Islam and Orisha Religion: Three Traditions in Comparison and Interaction*, at the Cambridge World Christianity Reading Group, University of Cambridge, England, January 31, 2017.

Forum on international students at the University of Ibadan, panelist, Office of International Programmes & Dean of Students’ Office, December 2015.

Academic workshop for first year (freshmen) students, “How to apply for graduate studies in the Arts & Humanities in United States universities,” at Nasarawa State University, Lafia, Nigeria, December 2015.

“Divinity and the State: Theological Discourse in Nigeria 1854-1914,” at the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria, Abuja, December 2015.

Delegate & Panelist for conference on issues in African development, The African Youth and Governance Conference, Youth Bridge Foundation, Accra, Ghana, West Africa, August 2011.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Christian Apologetic Tradition in Lijadu’s *Ifá*: Sacred Chieftaincy,” American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, USA, January 2019.

“The Creation, Government, and the Christian Apologetic Tradition in Lijadu’s *Ifá*: Ancestral Deities & Divine Economy,” Panel on Religion of the Lagos Studies Association Stream, African Studies Association of the United Kingdom Conference, University of Birmingham, September 2018.

“Anglicanism, Modernity and the Birth of the Yorùbá Intelligentsia,” Fifth Annual Conference of the Association for African Studies in Italy, University of Bologna, Italy, September 2018.

“The Law, the *Logos* and the Ethics of Divination in Lijadu’s *Ifá* (1897),” Conference on the Church and Law of the Ecclesiastical History Society, at Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge, July 2018.

“The Theogony, Predestination, and Divine Sovereignty in Lijadu’s *Ifá*,” American Academy of Religion Eastern Region Conference, at the Department of Religion, Syracuse University, New York, April 14, 2018.

“Anglican Church & State Relations in West Africa: the unique case of Abeokuta (1830-1854),” Researching Africa Day Conference, St. Antony’s College, African Studies Centre, The University of Oxford, England, March 2018.

“The True God, the Creation and the Christian Apologetic Tradition in Lijadu’s *Ifá* (1897),” The Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies, Old Library of the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, August 2017.

“Divine Kingship, the Anglican Theocracy, and the Creation of the Abeokuta Monarchy (1830-1865),” Africa Research Forum, Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge, England, May 2017.

“Natural Law Doctrine in Ajiṣafẹ’s framing of Jurisprudence in the late Ẹgbá-Yorùbá Dynasty (1906-1914),” On Law and Social Order Conference, Centre for African Studies, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland (ASA-UK, The British Academy), April 2017.

“Divine Sovereignty, Political Order & Providential Historicism: Ajiṣafẹ’s use of Christian Doctrine in framing the early Ẹgbá Dynasty,” Researching Africa Day Conference, St. Antony’s College, African Studies Centre, The University of Oxford, England, March 2017.

“Divine Sovereignty, Political Order, & Providential Historicism in Ajiṣafẹ’s 1916 English & Yorùbá Narrations of the Ẹgba State,” The African Studies Association of Africa Conference, at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, October 2015.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2019-2020
Teaching Academy of the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

African Studies Association (U.S.A.)
American Academy of Religion
American Society of Church History
Ecclesiastical History Society (U.K.)
Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society
West African Research Association (U.S.A.)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
The African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) Selection Committee

LANGUAGES

Yorùbá: Intermediate Listener and Speaker, Advanced Reading and Writing
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages- Certified Intermediate Yorùbá Proficiency

REFERENCES

Available upon request.