

CURRICULUM VITAE

SIMON RAKEI

Research Fellow • Teaching Fellow • Organiser

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EDUCATION

- 2024- Ph.D. History and Anthropology. *Joint-degree program*. Rackham Graduate School. Department of History, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2022 MPhil Sociology, Theories of Justice and Inequality, *with distinction*. Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town (UCT).
Thesis: *Reconstituting Empire in the Decolonisation Era: Taxation Sovereignty and the Development of the British Virgin Islands as a Dependent Tax Haven*.
- 2019 B.Com (Honours) Taxation, awarded *in the first class*. Department of Finance and Tax, UCT.
Thesis: *Contradictions in the South Africa-Democratic Republic of Congo Double Tax Treaty and the United Nations Model Tax Convention: A case study determining if reduced taxing rights facilitate increased foreign direct investment*.
- 2018 B.Com Financial Accounting. College of Accounting, UCT.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political economy • Legal History • Economic History • Political Theory • Legal and Economic Anthropology • British Empire • Modern Formation of Offshore Finance in the Caribbean • Pricing Valuation of Southern African Mineral Extractives, ca late 19th century.

RESEARCH, POLICY FORMULATION, ADVOCACY AND ORGANISING POSITIONS

- 2025-2026 Research Fellow and Coordinator, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies (EIHS).
Research Fellow, President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights, Office of the President, University of Michigan.
- 2025- Director, Critical Comparative Caribbean Studies Lab, University of Michigan.
Founder, Critical Comparative Caribbean Studies (CCCS), Latin America and Caribbean Studies Centre Mx Lab, University of Michigan.
Coordinator, African History and Anthropology Workshop, University of Michigan.
- 2024-2025 Associate Editor, Spark: Elevating Scholarship on Social Issues. *National Centre for Institutional Diversity*, University of Michigan.
- 2024 Graduate Editor — Editorial Assistant, Spark: Elevating Scholarship on Social Issues, Online Publication of the National Centre for Institutional Diversity, *National Centre for Institutional Diversity*, University of Michigan.
- 2023 Research Consultant and Project Lead Coordinator, *Sustainable Transport and Just Transition in Aviation: Participatory Action Research*, International Transportation Workers' Federation and National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa.
- 2021-2022 Advocacy and Lobbying Impact Leader, *Justice for Miners Campaign*.
- 2020 Researcher, *Multinational Corporations Database*, Labour Research Services.
- 2019-2020 Policy Researcher and lobbyist, *Economic Justice Programme and Stop the Bleed Campaign*, Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC).
Researcher, *Trade Union Leaders Fieldwork*, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.
- 2018-2019 Research Assistant, *Universities South Africa (USAf)*, Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), School of Economics, UCT.

- 2017-2021 Director, *Profit Shifting and the Consequences of Illicit Financial Flows in Africa*, Alternative Energy Popular Education Programme (ALTEPEP).
- 2017- Founder, Alternative Energy Popular Education Programme.
- 2017-2018 Chair, *Free Education Research and Planning Group*, University of Cape Town.
Director and Head-Coordinator, *Free Education Engagement Unit*, UCT.
- 2016-2019 Steering Committee Member and Shackville TRC Representative, *Institutional Reconciliation and Transformation Commission (IRTC)*, UCT.
- 2015-2017 Trainee Accountant, Ernst and Young (EY).
- 2015-2016 Member, *Curriculum Change Working Group*, UCT.
- 2014-2015 Deputy Chief Adjudicator, *National Chief Adjudication Panel*, South African Schools Debating Board.
Training Director, Township Debating League (Thethani Debating League), Western Cape.
Schools Coordinator, Western Cape, UCT Debating Union.
Deputy Chief Adjudicator, Western Cape Schools Debating Board.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Rakei, S. (2022). "Extractives and Illicit Financial Flows: Toward Climate Financing for a Just Transition." *New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy*. Vol. 2022, No. 85.

Rakei, S. (2021). "The Khoisan Revivalist Movement and the Decolonial Turn: Authenticity, naming and cultural identities in Khoisan historiography for epistemic justice." *WritingThreeSixty Journal of Research and Creative Texts*, 5(1), 1-18.

Forthcoming

Rakei, S. (2026). "The Handmaiden of International Taxation." *The Great Offshore: Limn* 15(1).

Under Review

Rakei, S. "Imperfect Decolonisation and the Right to Self-Determination: A case study of the *Ambazonia Mission* freedom movement and its struggle for the independence of the Southern Cameroons." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*.

Rakei, S. "African Philosophy and the Black Radical Tradition: A case study of the Azanian Liberation Tradition as a theory of liberation and practice of resistance." *South African Review of Sociology*.

CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Rakei, S. & Madzivhandila, P. (2021). "The Contribution of Black Marxists in Decolonisation Thought." In Ndlovu-Gatsheni, S. & Ndlovu, M. (Eds), *Living Theories and True Ideas in the 21st Century: Reflections on Marxism and Decolonization*, New York and London: Routledge.

Rakei, S. "There will be no forced removals this time." In Ramugondo, E. (Ed), *Rhodes Must Fall: Triangulating the Narrative*, Cape Town: African Perspectives. (Forthcoming).

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

WN 2025 Teaching Fellow, HISTORY 281 *How to Become a Billionaire: Business Tycoons and the Development of Western Capitalism*

FA 2025 Teaching Fellow, ANTHRCUL 101 *Introduction to Anthropology*.

RESEARCH, BRIEFING NOTES AND PARLIAMENTARY SUBMISSIONS

Rakei, S. (2023). "Sustainable Transport in Aviation: A Just Transition Research Report of How Climate Change Affects South African Workers' Lives." *National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa and International Transportation Workers Federation*.

Rakei, S. (2022). "Extractives and Illicit Financial Flows: Toward Climate Financing for a Just Transition." *Young Climate Voices*, Institute for African Alternatives. <https://ifaaza.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/S-Rakei-Extractives-and-Illicit-Financial-Flows.pdf>

Rakei, S. (2020). "Construction, Diversified Holdings, Banking and Financial Services Sector Report." In Teuterberg S (Ed), *Multinational Companies Trend Report*, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Trade Union Competence Centre for Sub-Saharan Africa: Labour Research Service, Cape Town, pp. 24-41. <https://www.lrs.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/MNC-Trend-Report-2020.pdf>.

Rakei, S. (2020). "Hospitality, Health, Food and Beverages Sector Report." In Teuterberg S (Ed), *Multinational Companies Trend Report*, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Trade Union Competence Centre for Sub-Saharan Africa: Labour Research Service, Cape Town, pp. 46-65.

AIDC Economic Justice Programme, *Tackling Illicit Financial Flows, Base Erosion and Profit Shifting: Guidelines and Recommendations*.

Rakei S. (2019). "Personal Income Taxation in South Africa: The Struggle Against Inequality and Poverty in an Era of Crisis." AIDC Economic Justice Programme. <http://aidc.org.za/personal-income-taxation-south-africa-struggle-inequality-poverty-era-crisis/>.

"Comments on the publication of the initial batch of the draft Taxation Laws Amendment Bill 2019", *Parliamentary Submission to the Finance Standing Committee*. <http://aidc.org.za/comments-on-the-draft-taxation-laws-amendment-bill-2019/>.

Executive Summary, "Submission to the Zondo Commission of Inquiry: The Tax Consequences of State Capture and Reform Proposals", *Civil Society Working Group*.

Rakei S. (2019). "Illicit Financial Flows, Profit Shifting and the Bermuda Connection: An Introduction." <http://aidc.org.za/download/Illicit-capital-flows/Intro-to-IFFs-Profit-Shifting-and-The-Bermuda-Connection.pdf>.

Rakei, S. "Corporate Income Taxation of Mining in South Africa: Overview, Trends and Contradictions: A critical study over the period 2003-2018". Working Paper.

Rakei, S. "The Second Economy and 'Mining for Development': A case study of artisanal diamond mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo". Working Paper.

Rakei S. & Bhili T. (2019). "Eskom and the crisis of energy democracy: A case for safe, socially owned renewable energy." *Phambazuka Voices for Freedom and Justice*. <https://www.pambazuka.org/land-environment/eskom-and-crisis-energy-democracy-case-safe-socially-owned-renewable-energy>.

PEER REVIEWS

Critical Arts. 2024. Volume 38. *Forthcoming special issue*.

SPECIAL ISSUE - Editor

Critical Comparative Caribbean Studies, *The CLR. James Journal*: Caribbean Philosophical Association. *Forthcoming*.

POPULAR EDUCATION: PODCASTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Illegal Connections, Radio Series. (2021). "Confronting Trends in Social Ownership of Renewable Energy - The case of Europe." *Interview with Trade Unions for Energy Democracy on their recent publication "Transition in Trouble? The Rise and Fall of "Community Energy" in Europe by Sean Sweeney, John Treat and Irene HongPing Shen*. Alternative Energy Popular Education Programme.

Illegal Connections, Radio Series. (2021). "Critical Reflections on market reforms in the Zambian energy." *Interview with Kate Bayliss & Gabriel Pollen on their recent paper "The power paradigm in practice: A critical review of developments in the Zambian electricity sector"*. Alternative Energy Popular Education Programme.

Illegal Connections, Radio Series. (2021). "Worker and Community struggles for Electricity and an Equal society." *Interview with Housing Assembly and NUMSA Eskom Shop Stewards Council. Alternative Energy Popular Education Programme.*

Rakei, S. & the Tanzanian Socialist Forum. (2018). "Pathways to Free Education in Conversation with Jukwaa La Wajama Tanzania." *Radical Transformation and Society. Pathways to Free Education Volume IV: Groundings*, pp. 256-274.

Rakei, S. (2018). "Connecting Threads of Past and Present Realities between Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa." *Pathways to Internationalisms. Pathways to Free Education, Volume IV: Groundings*, pp. 180-202.

Rakei, S. (2017). "Lessons on Treading Unforgotten and Familiar Paths." *Pathways to Free Education Volume III: Third World Education and Social Welfare Programmes*, pp. 91-104.
<https://constructingsolidarities.files.wordpress.com/2018/08/pathways-to-free-education-pamphlet-volume-3.pdf>.

Rakei, S. and Smartdryck Abrahams. (2017). "Worker strikes at UCT since 1990." *Interview on Pathways Podcast.*

Rakei, S. (2016). "Community struggles and the tactics of land occupations in conversation with Petrus Brink." *Strategy and Tactics, Pathways to Free Education Volume II*, 19-23 and podcast on *Mixcloud*.

Rakei S. and Nazeema Samuels. (2015). "Interview with NUMSA Shop Stewards on Free Education". *Pathways to Free Education Podcast.*

Edited and co-published book volumes and pamphlets

Pathways to Free Education Volume I: *From Pamphlets to Action*, (2016). <http://bit.ly/2LYjKmy>.

Pathways to Free Education Volume II: *Strategy and Tactics*, (2016). <http://bit.ly/38lx4ol>.

Pathways to Free Education Volume III: *Third World Education and Social Welfare Programmes*, (2017). <http://bit.ly/2LYRAHX>.

Pathways to Free Education Volume IV: *Groundings*, (2018). <http://bit.ly/2tIQQGy>.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

"The Handmaiden of International Taxation: De Beers and the Anglo-Boer South African War, 1888-1907," *Law, Corporations, & Empire in the 20th Century*. American Society for Legal History, Banff: November 2026.

"The Handmaiden of International Taxation: Diamond Mining and the Anglo-Boer South African War, 1888-1907," *From Colony to Cloud: Un-mapping Capitalism in New Zones of Possibility*. Historical Materialism Conference, Rio de Janeiro: July 2026.

"Legislating Sovereignty: Law and Political Economy in Crafting the British Virgin Islands as an Offshore Financial Centre," *Fraught Freedom: Status and Subjecthood in the Postcolonial Caribbean*. Caribbean Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, New York: June 2026.

"The Handmaiden of Offshore Finance," *We Are the Archive*. African Graduate Students Association Research Symposium, Ann Arbor: April 2026.

"Ordering International Taxation Through Wage Evasion," *Sovereign Futures: Uneven Geographies of Postcolonial Financial Regimes*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans: November 2025.

"Rupturing Sovereignty: Tax Havens and the Modern Formation of the British Virgin Islands as an Offshore Financial Centre." *Property Formation and Native Rights in the British Empire*. American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Detroit: November 2025.

"Values of Sovereignty: Law and Political Economy in the Modern Formation of Offshore Finance." *Authority and Economic Governance*. Power and Personality in Contemporary Capitalism: Lauren Berlant Chicago Centre for Contemporary Theory Graduate Student Conference, Chicago: November 2025.

"Southern African Mining and the Modern Formation of Offshore Finance, 1860 – 1925." *ASLH/Notre Dame Graduate Legal History Colloquium*. Chicago: September 2025.

"Ordering International Taxation Through Wage Evasion: Southern African Mining and the Modern Formation of Offshore Finance, 1860 – 1925." *Wits History Workshop*, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg: July 2025.

"Ordering International Taxation Through Wage Evasion: Southern African Mining and the Modern Formation of Offshore Finance, 1860 – 1925," *Mining Histories*. Historical Association of Southern Africa Conference, Sol Plaatjie University, Kimberley: June 2025

"Non-Sovereign Tax Havens in the Decolonisation Era: A Legislative History the British Virgin Islands as an Offshore Financial Centre." *University of Michigan Law School Program in Race, Law, and History Seminar*. Ann Arbor: May 2025.

"Rupturing Sovereignty: Tax Obligations and the Modern Formation of Offshore Finance." *Calculative Sovereignities, Princeton Anthropology Graduate Conference*, Princeton, New Jersey: April 2025.

"Rupturing Liberation: Revisiting The Terms of Decolonisation Through a Philo-Praxis of the Azanian Liberation Tradition." *Malcolm X Centennial: Solidarity, Nation, Liberation*. Michigan State University Graduate Philosophy Conference, East Lansing: March 2025.

"A link between reduced taxing rights and FDI? Contradictions in the South Africa-Democratic Republic of Congo Double Tax Treaty and the United Nations Model Tax Convention." *Taxation in Africa pt. III: International Taxation and Tax Justice*. African Studies Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia: November 2022.

"Reconstituting Empire: A review of the development of the British Virgin Islands." *Realising Justice and Equality in the Postcolony: Practices, Pitfalls, and Possibilities*. MPhil Virtual Student Conference: 20 – 21 May 2021.

"Strengthening Wage Bargaining: guided reading of companies' financial documents." *IFFs, Wage Evasion and BEPS Training Programme*, Alternative Information and Development Centre. Cape Town, 2019.

"Union Demands: ABCD'S of transparency and the call for a General Anti-Avoidance Tax Act." *AIDC Conference: The Political Economy of Profit Shifting and the Prospects for Change*. Cape Town, 2019.

"Stop the bleed campaign: tackling IFFs and BEPS." *Economic Justice Network Conference*. Johannesburg, April 2019.

"International Finance Capital and Imperialism: The Role of Colonial Economics in Shaping the Underdevelopment of Africa." *Annual Julius Nyerere Intellectual Festival, Chair of Pan-African Studies*. University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 2018.

"Extracting profit, China, and the 'new scramble' for Africa'." *Review of African Political Economy*. University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 2018.

"Experiments in Democratic Planning & Design - Solar system design for community garden Ekasi Project." *Alternative Energy Popular Education Programme*. Khayelitsha, 2017.

"Cultural archives and the role of student activism: linking post-colonial trajectories on the continent to the South African experience." *Annual Writivism Festival with the African Centre for Cultural Excellence*. Kampala, Uganda, 2017.

"The role of young people in shaping South Africa's future." Centre for African Studies (UCT), *Ahmed Kathrada Symposium*, 2017.

"Transformation in Higher Education and Training." *Ministry of Higher Education*. International Convention Centre, Durban: 2015.

SEMINARS, CONFRENCES, AND WORKSHOPS ORGANISED

Transpolitics of Postcolonial Orders. Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Ann Arbor: March 2026.

Returns: Anthro-History Symposium. Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History, Ann Arbor: February 2026.

Global Indigeneity: Modernity, Colonialisms, and Other Universals. Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Ann Arbor: November 2025.

Sovereign Futures: Uneven Geographies of Postcolonial Financial Regimes. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans: November 2025.

On Gandhi and Race. "A conversation with Karuna Mantena, Faisal Garba, and Ari Sitas. Other Universals (UCT) and The Interim People's Library. The Interim, Kensington: 3 December 2019.

Citizenship and Violence: Resilient Colonialism, Xenophobia and Femicide. Seminar Series: Office of the Acting Dean of Humanities and the Postgraduate Student Council. University of Cape Town: 8-11 October 2019.

Human Rights and complicities with coloniality. Workshop Series with Nelson Maldonado Torres: Pathways to Free Education and the Human Rights Centre. Community House, Salt River: February 2019.

NEWS, OPINION AND ANALYSIS

Kristen Loszewski (2025). *Uncovering the Human Stories of Offshore Finance: Bridging archives and everyday lives through ethnographic fieldwork in the British Virgin Islands*.

<https://lsa.umich.edu/lsa/support-lsa/stories-of-impact/student-impact/Uncovering-the-Human-Stories-of-Global-Finance-and-Sovereignty.html>

Truly Render (2025). Simon Rakei Tax Havens Story: "The Hidden Cost of Tax Havens." *Rackham Graduate School: Discover Rackham Student Spotlight*. <https://rackham.umich.edu/discover-rackham/the-hidden-costs-of-tax-havens/>

Rakei, S. (2020). *Generation C-ovid-19*. Vernac News. <https://vernacnews.co.za/2020/03/30/generation-covid-19/>.

Kessi S., Rakei S., Benya A. & Garba, F. (2019). *Behind SA's Brutality*. Mail and Guardian. <https://mg.co.za/article/2019-10-04-00-behind-sas-brutality/>.

Rakei S., Gamedze A., et al. (2016). *Pathways to Free Education*. GroundUp. <https://www.groundup.org.za/article/pathways-free-education/>.

Rakei, S. (2015). *Apartheid's Gatherings Act: pasop, black child*. Cape Argus. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/gatherings-act-pasop-black-child-1934397>.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

2026 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies.

Winner, Siney Fellowship, Department of History, University of Michigan.

South African Initiative Office Research Award, Department of Afro-American and African Studies, University of Michigan.

Rackham Pre-Candidate Fellowship Award, University of Michigan.

2025 Winner, President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights: Research Fellowship Award, Office of the President, University of Michigan.

Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies (EIHS) Fellowship Award Winner.

Winner, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Boyce Family Grant, International Research Fellowship Award.

2024 Winner, Race Law and History Program Fellowship Award, University of Michigan Law School.

Regents' Fellowship, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts – Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan.

Princeton University Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences. (declined)

Berkeley Fellowship, Graduate Division – Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley. (declined)

London School of Economics and Political Science, International History Doctoral Studies Program. (declined)

Graduate Centre Fellowship, City University of New York. (declined)

- Compass Research Scholarship, Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago. (declined)
- 2021 Winner, Archie Mafeje Chair in Critical Decolonial Humanities Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
Winner, See Studio, *The City* (in partnership with Het Nieuwe Instituut, the Research Centre for Material Culture, and the Institute for Creative Arts).
- 2019 Winner, South African Sociological Association MA Essay Award.
Membership Graduate Award, South African Sociological Association.
Invited Member, Golden Key International Honour Society.
Fellowship Winner, *Poverty and Inequality Initiative* with the *Other Universals Consortium*.
- 2018 Finalist, Ernst and Young (EY) Young Tax Professional of the Year, Southern Africa Regional Runner-up Winner.
Highest Taxation Honours Thesis, Department of Finance and Tax, UCT.
Winner, Amazon Web Services Bursary Award, Accounting and Finance.
- 2015 Semi-finalist, South African Universities Debating Championship.
- 2014 Finalist, South African Flux Business Games, Bronze Winner.
Winner, Ernst and Young (EY) Top Ten Student of the Year Award.
Breaking speaker to octo-finals, Pan-African Universities Debating Championships.
Invited Ranking Speaker, World Universities Peace Invitational Debate Tournament.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

African Studies Association, American Anthropological Association, American Historical Association, American Society for Legal History, Caribbean Philosophical Association, South African Institute of Tax Professionals, South African Sociological Association.

LANGUAGES

Afrikaans (Working Proficiency); **English** (Native/bilingual); **isiXhosa** (Native/Bilingual); **IsiZulu** (Working Proficiency); **Ndau** (Native/Bilingual); **Northern Ndebele** (Native/Working Proficiency); **Setswana** and **Sesotho** (Intermediate Working Proficiency); **Shona** (Native/bilingual)

REFERENCES

Derek Peterson, *Ali Mazrui Collegiate Professor of History & African Studies*, Associate Chair: Department of History, University of Michigan. drpeters@umich.edu.

Jatin Dua, *Associate Professor*, Department of Anthropology. jdua@umich.edu.

Ruchi Chaturvedi. *Associate Professor*, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town. ruchi.chaturvedi@uct.ac.za.

Grieve Chelwa. *Associate Professor*. The Africa Institute. Grieve.Chelwa@theafricainstitute.org.

Salomé Teuteberg. *Project Lead: Transforming Corporate Governance*. Labour Research Services. salome@lrs.org.za.

Dominic Brown. *Director – Alternative Information and Development Centre*. dominic@amandla.org.za; dominic@aidc.org.za.