

İBRAHİM BÀBÁTÚNDÈ ANÓBA

anoba@umich.edu | [website](#)

APPOINTMENTS

- 2026-present **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Raoul Wallenberg Institute
- 2026 (summer) **University of Birmingham**
Visiting Postgraduate Researcher, School of History and Cultures
-

EDUCATION

- 2026 **University of California, Davis, CA, USA**
Doctor of Philosophy in African History with designated emphasis in African Diaspora Studies
Dissertation: “Sacred Resistance: Entangled Modernities, Identity Reconstruction, and the Evolution of Òrìṣà Religion in Nigeria, 1850–1983”
Supervisors: Corrie Decker (main), Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Moradewun Adejunmobi, Stacy Fahrenthold
- 2023 **University of California, Davis, CA, USA**
Master of Arts in History
Thesis: “Speaking for the Dead: Mimicry, Ritual, and the Making of Inheritance Law in Colonial Lagos (1863-1937)”
Supervisors: Corrie Decker (main), Kathryn Olmsted
- 2021 **University of Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom**
Master of Research in History of Africa and the African Diaspora (with distinction)
Thesis: “‘Revolutionary Monarch’ or ‘Magnificent Dreamer’: An Inquiry into the Role of Kwame Nkrumah in the Pursuit of African Unity (1957-1963)”
Supervisors: Hakim Adi (main), Hugo Frey
- 2015 **Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, Nigeria**
Bachelor of Science in Political Science (with honors)
Thesis: “Problems in Nigeria’s Democracy in the Fourth Republic (1999-2012)”
Supervisors: Cletus Egugbo (main), Sunday Abang

NON-DEGREE ACADEMIC TRAINING

2026 GradPathways Institute for Professional Development, University of California, Davis
Professors for the Future Program

PUBLICATIONS

Academic journal articles

“Voice of the Dead: Yorùbá Spiritual Justice, English Jurisprudence, and the Making of Inheritance Law in the British Colony of Lagos (1863–1938),” *Law and History Review* (in press).

“Cyber History: Homespun Historians, Ethnonationalism, and Recasting Yorùbá Oral Traditions in the Age of Social Media,” *History in Africa*, Volume 50, May 2023, pages 155–181: [DOI](#).

“Odù Ifá in Transition: Contemplating Boundary Mechanisms in Discursive and Critical Appreciation of the Ifá Corpus,” *Journal of Religion in Africa*, Volume 52, Issue 1, 2022, pages 195–219: [DOI](#).

“Africa Shall Stretch Her Hands Unto God: Ethiopianism as a Pan-African Religious Freedom Movement (1880–1940),” *Journal of Church and State*, Volume 64, Issue 1, Winter 2022, pages 42–67: [DOI](#).

Academic book reviews

Review of *Letters, Kinship, and Social Mobility in Nigeria* by Olufemi Vaughan, in *African Studies Review*, Volume 67, Issue 3, September 2024, pp. 786 - 788: [DOI](#).

Review of *Pan-Africanism: A History* by Hakim Adi, in *Africa Historical Review*, Volume 52, Issue 1, 2021: [DOI](#).

Public advocacy articles and books

(editor) *The Future of Democracy in Africa: Voices from Leading African Think Tanks*, (Lagos: Kachifo, 2025).

(editor), *Review of African Social and Economic Development*, Volumes 1 & 2, (Arlington: George Ayittey Society, 2024, 2025).

“Africa does not need China’s ‘Debt-Trap’ Belt and Road Initiative to Develop,” *The International Affairs Review* (George Washington University), October 2021.

“How a Population of 4.2 Billion Could Impact Africa by 2100: The Possible Economic, Demographic, and Geopolitical Outcomes,” *SAIS Review of International Affairs* (Johns Hopkins University), 24 September 2019.

“America Is Right to Reduce Its Troops in Africa,” *Center for National Interest*, 27 March 2019.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

External

- 2026 **African Studies Association:** Graduate Student Paper Prize Honorable Mention.
- 2026 **American Historical Association:** Bernadotte E. Schmitt Research Grant.
- 2025 **The Huntington:** Exchange Fellowship at the University of Birmingham.
- 2025 **Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University:** Humane Studies Fellowship (summer research).
- 2024 **New York Public Library:** Short-Term Fellowship Award, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- 2024 **Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University:** Humane Studies Fellowship (summer research).
- 2024 **Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies at Northwestern University:** Melville J. Herskovits Library Research Grant.
- 2024 **The Bancroft Library at the University of California:** Bancroft Library Summer Study Award, Berkeley.
- 2024 **American Society for Legal History:** Student Research Colloquium travel support.
- 2024 **Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives:** Lynn E. May Jr. Study Grant.
- 2023 **Hoover Institution at Stanford University:** Silas Palmer Fellowship.
- 2022 **Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University:** Publication Accelerator Grant.
- 2022 **Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University:** Michael & Andrea Leven Fellowship (summer award for early doctoral research).
- 2021 **Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University:** Humane Studies Fellowship (publication grant).

Internal

- 2025 **Office of Graduate, University of California, Davis:** Professors for the Future Fellowship Program and Award.
- 2025 **Department of History, University of California, Davis:** Departmental Summer Research Travel Award.
- 2025 **Department of History, University of California, Davis:** Departmental Winter Research Travel Award.

2025	College of Letters and Science , University of California, Davis: Graduate Research Award.
2024	Office of Graduate Studies , University of California, Davis: Michael G. Lee and Patricia Spears Lee Family Award.
2024	Office of Graduate Studies : 2024/2025 Continuing Student Fellowships.
2024	Department of History , University of California, Davis: Departmental Summer Research Award.
2024	Shields Library , University of California: Graduate Student Library Prize.
2024	Department of History , University of California, Davis: Departmental Spring Conference Travel Award.
2023	Department of History , University of California, Davis: Emile Scholz Prize for the most outstanding second-year graduate student research paper in history.
2023	College of Letters and Science , University of California, Davis: Dean Fellowship (summer research grant).
2022	Department of History , University of California, Davis: Reed-Smith Summer Research Award.
2022	Department of History , University of California, Davis: Departmental Conference Travel Grant.
2021	Department of History , University of California, Davis: Five-Year Doctoral Fellowship.

INVITED TALKS

2026	Department of African American and African Studies, University of California, Davis “Pursuing African Science and Re-Inventing Òrìṣà Religion in Late Colonial Nigeria.”
2024	Sacramento City College “African after the 15th century and the making of the African Diaspora.”
2022	Portland Community College “The African Imagination on Freedom.”
2022	Sacramento City College Global Studies Program conference: “Introduction to African Studies: Major Trends and Insights.”
2022	Africa Alpbach Network 2022 Bosch Alumni Summit: “Resetting the Agenda: Africa’s Democratic Governance in Focus.”
2021	School of Pan African Thought Periodic debate series: “Is Africa’s Relationship with China Neocolonial?”
2021	Initiative for African Trade and Property The IATP grand launch: “Africa’s Free Trading Future.”

2019 Cato Institute
Sphere Summit: “Teaching Civic Education Together and Understanding Each Other.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 *African Studies Association 2025 Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, Chair, “Emerging Critical Perspectives in Multidisciplinary Thought, Part I.”

2025 *African Studies Association 2025 Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, “Inventing ‘Law of Evidence’ during the War on ‘Witches’ in Colonial Nigeria (1900-1940).”

2025 *African Studies Association 2025 Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, “War on ‘Juju’ and the Invention of Witches in Southern Nigeria (1870-1910).”

2024 *African Studies Association 2024 Annual Meeting*, Chicago, “‘How Should I Write?’: A History in Africa Journal Roundtable.”

2024 *American Society for Legal History 2024 Annual Meeting*, “African Customs and the Making of Inheritance Law in Colonial Lagos.”

2024 *Lagos Studies Association 2024 Annual Conference*, Lagos, “Locating Witches and Witchcraft in Nigeria’s Native Court Records.”

2023 *African Studies Association 2023 Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, “Inheriting from the Dead: Ritual, Invention, Performance, and Resistance to ‘Justice’ in Colonial Lagos (1876-1935).”

2021 *6th J. A. Atanda Lectures and Conference*, Babcock University, Nigeria
“Ifá is Property of the World, and it should be subjected to Academic Discursive.”

2021 *University of California West Coast Conference on West Africa*, Virtual
“Taáni Ìmò Odù Ifá: Engaging Boundary Mechanisms in Discursive and Critical Appreciation of the Ifá Literary Corpus.”

TEACHING

University of California, Davis

2026 Science & Technology Studies 150: Historicizing Gender and Science (instructor of record)

2025 History 13: Global Sexualities (teaching assistant).

2025 History 017A WQ: US History, Colonial America through the Civil War (teaching assistant).

2025 History 126Y: “Dignity, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity”: The History of Human Rights in Europe (reader).

2025	History 115C: History of Southern Africa (reader).
2024	History 190D: Safavid Iran ca 1500-1720 (teaching assistant).
2024	History 9C/EAS 88: Introduction to Korean Culture and History (teaching assistant).
2024	History 174C: United States Since 1945 (reader).
2024	History 15A: Africa to 1900 (teaching assistant).
2024	History 17A SQ: The History of the United States Through the Civil War (teaching assistant).
2024	History 120: World War II (teaching assistant).
2024	History 193B: Middle East in the Twentieth Century (reader).
2023	History 15B: Africa Today - 1600 to Present (teaching assistant).
2023	African American Studies 10: African-American Culture and Society (teaching assistant).
2023	African American Studies 133: Black Family in America (teaching assistant).
2022	History 009A: Early East Asian Civilization (teaching assistant).

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Administrative

2025-present	President, Emerging Scholars Network of the African Studies Association
2024-2025	Secretary, Emerging Scholars Network of the African Studies Association.
2020	Graduate research assistant, Healthy Davis Together Project.
2014	Financial secretary, National Union of Lagos State Students.

Scholarly

2026	Co-founder, Scholarly Public Communication Program at University of California, Davis.
2025	Peer reviewer, <i>Journal of Religion in Africa</i> .
2024	Discussant for "Automotive Empire: How Cars and Roads Fueled European Colonialism in Africa," by Andrew Denning, PhD, presented at UC Davis.
2024	Discussant, for "Mau Mau and the Politics of Solidarity," by Christian Alvarado, PhD, presented at UC Davis.
2023	Peer reviewer, <i>Journal of Black Studies</i> .
2022	Peer reviewer, <i>Matatu: Journal for African Culture and Society</i> .
2022	Peer reviewer, <i>African Historical Review</i> .
2022	Peer reviewer, <i>Palgrave Handbook on Global Social Problems</i> (edited volume).

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT (selected)

Periodicals

- 2026 *TRT World* ([commentary](#)), “Uganda’s Open Door and the Enduring Power of African Solidarity,” 29 May 2026.
- 2025 *Associated Press* ([commentary](#)), “Ivory Coast Leader’s Bid for a 4th Term after Rivals Sidelined is seen as a Risk for Democracy,” 30 July 2025.
- 2025 *Semafor* ([commentary](#)), “Côte d’Ivoire’s Ouattara Anchors Fourth Presidential bid to Economic Growth,” 4 August 2025.
- 2025 *Los Angeles Times* ([commentary](#)), “Ivory Coast Leader’s bid for a Fourth Term after Rivals Sidelined is Seen as a risk for Democracy,” 30 July 2025.
- 2024 *Real Clear Politics* ([op-ed](#)), “Young Protesters are Fighting Back in Africa,” 18 August 2024.
- 2023 *Coda Story* ([commentary](#)), “Senegal is Stifling its Democracy in the Dark,” 11 August 2023.
- 2022 *Al Jazeera* ([commentary](#)), “Nigerian students stranded in Ukraine amid Russian Invasion,” 25 February 2022.
- 2022 *Mail & Guardian* ([op-ed](#)), “Burkina Faso’s most recent coup proves the African Union is a toothless bulldog,” 22 February 2022.
- 2021 *Forbes* ([commentary](#)), “Will The AfCFTA Be The Heartbeat Of The Global Economy?” 15 February 2021.
- 2019 *National Interest* ([op-ed](#)), “America Is Right to Reduce Its Troops in Africa,” 27 March 2019.
- 2018 *Real Clear World* ([op-ed](#)), “Africa Should Think Twice About China’s Aid,” 15 January 2018.
- 2017 *Business Insider* ([op-ed](#)), “Can the Oceans of Sub-Saharan Africa Finally be its Gateway to Economic Prosperity?” 14 August 2017.
- 2017 *The Africa Report* ([commentary](#)), “Does it Matter that Trump had No Africa Policy?” October 2017.

TV and Radio

- 2025 *Mainland FM Nigeria*, ([Radio](#)), “Between Foreign Aid and Development.”
- 2024 *Network Africa* ([TV News](#)), “Faye Officially Declared Winner of Senegal’s Election.”
- 2022 *Al Jazeera* ([TV interview](#)), “Who Needs the African Union Anyway?”
- 2022 *ABC 7 New York* ([TV Interview](#)), “Discrimination reported at Border Crossings as thousands flee from Ukraine.”
- 2022 *TVC News Africa* ([TV Interview](#)), “Military Takeover in Burkina Faso.”
- 2022 *News Central Africa* ([TV Interview](#)), “Dispute Between the TPLF and the Ethiopian Government.”

2021	<i>African History Club</i> (Podcast), “Queen Mother Nana Yaa Asantewaa Part 1.”
2021	<i>Channels TV</i> (TV Interview), “China in the World.”
2021	<i>Arise News</i> (TV Interview), “ECOWAS Imposes Sanctions on Guinea and Mali.”
2021	<i>Redemption FM Nigeria</i> (Radio), “Outcome of Zambia’s Presidential Election.”
2020	<i>Vision FM Nigeria</i> (Radio), “Solving the Unemployment Crisis in Nigeria.”
2020	<i>i24News New York</i> (TV Interview), “Sudan Coup and Protests”

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Studies Association.
American Historical Association.
American Society for Legal History.
Lagos Studies Association.
West African Research Association.

LANGUAGES

Arabic - reading.
French - reading and translation.
Swahili - basic conversation, reading, and translation.
Yorùbá - native speaker.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.