

Bruce S. Hall, Ph.D.

Associate Professor,
Department of History
University of California, Berkeley

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Current Position:

University of California, Berkeley
Associate Professor, Department of History, 2017-present

Previous Positions:

Duke University
Associate Professor, Department of History, 2013-17
Assistant Professor, Department of History, 2008-13
(secondary appointment in the Department of African and African American
Studies, core faculty Duke Islamic Studies Center)

University at Buffalo (SUNY):
Assistant Professor, Department of History, 2006-2008

Johns Hopkins University:
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Department of
History, 2005-2007

Education:

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Ph.D., History, 2005, Dissertation: "Mapping the River in Black and White:
Trajectories of Race in the Niger Bend, Northern Mali." Dissertation Advisor:
Charles Stewart; Committee Members: Donald Crummey, Kenneth Cuno, Jean
Allman. Major Field: Africa; Minor Fields: Modern Middle East, Islamic
Sciences (in the Department of Religious Studies)

American University in Cairo, Egypt
Arabic Language Institute, Intensive Program, Advanced Level, 1998-99.

University of Chicago
Intensive Arabic Program, Summer 1998

Northwestern University
Traveling Scholar (CIC), 1997

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
M.A., History, 1995

University of Toronto
B.A., History and African Studies, 1994.

Publications:

(* indicates works that were peer reviewed)

Books:

* Bruce S. Hall, *A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011). Co-winner of the Martin A. Klein prize for the most distinguished work of scholarship on African history published in English, 2012. American Historical Association.

Articles and Book Chapters:

* Bruce S. Hall, “Qui est l’auteur des Réponses d’al-Maghīlī à Askia Muhammad ? Interrogations sur l’ancienneté des idées sur la souveraineté musulmane en Afrique de l’Ouest,” *Regard critique sur les souverainetés (Afrique, Amériques, Asie, Europe) Moyen Âge – XXIe siècle*, ed. Indravati Félicité and Marine Le Puloch (Paris: Classiques Garnier, forthcoming).

Bruce S. Hall, “Songhay Empire,” *Oxford World History of Empire*, Vol. 2, *The History of Empires*, ed. Peter Fibiger Bang, Walter Scheidel, C.A. Bayly (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021), pp. 648-63.

* Bruce S. Hall, “Memory, Slavery and Muslim Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation Circum-Saharan World,” *L’Ouest Saharien* 10/11 (2020), pp. 95-108.

* Bruce S. Hall, “Reading Race in Africa and the Middle East,” *Antropologia* 7, 1 (2020), pp. 33-44.

Bruce S. Hall, “Race,” in *A Cultural History of Empires in the Modern Age*, ed. Patricia M.E. Lorcin (London: Bloomsbury, 2019), pp. 177-94.

* Bruce S. Hall, “Vernacular Media, Muslim Ethics and Conservative Critiques of Power in the Niger Bend, Mali,” in *Religion, Media & Marginality in Africa*, ed. Felicitas Becker and Joel Cabrita (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2018), pp. 133-53.

* Bruce S. Hall “Rethinking the Place of Timbuktu in the Intellectual History of Muslim West Africa,” in *Landscapes, Sources, and Intellectual Projects: Politics, History, and the West African Past*, ed. Toby Green and Benedetta Rossi (Leiden, Brill, 2018), pp. 239-58.

* Amadou Fofana and Bruce S. Hall, “Timbuktu: what call to action? Timbuktu (dir. Abderrahmane Sissako, 2014, Mali),” in *Black Camera* 9, 1 (2017), pp. 7-21.

* Ghislaine Lydon and Bruce S. Hall, “Excavating Arabic Sources For the History of Slavery in Western Africa,” in *African Slavery/African Voices*, Volume 2, *Methodology*, ed. Alice Bellagamba, Sandra Greene, Carolyn Brown and Martin Klein (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016), pp.15-49.

Ami Shah, Bruce S. Hall and Edward Carr, “Bono, Band Aid, and Before: Celebrity Humanitarianism, Music and the Objects of its Action,” in *Soundscapes of Wellbeing in Popular Music*, ed. Gavin J. Andrews, Paul Kingsbury and Robin A. Kearns, (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2014), pp.269-88.

Bruce S. Hall, “Saharan Commerce and Islamic Law: The Question of Usury (ribā) in the Nawāzil literature of Mali and Mauritania, 1700-1929,” *African Economic History* 41 (2013), pp.1-20.

* Bruce S. Hall, “Arguing sovereignty in Songhay,” *Afriques: Débats, methods et terrains d’histoire* 4 (2013), pp.2-17.

* Bruce S. Hall, Baz Lecocq, Gregory Mann, Bruce Whitehouse, Dida Badi, Lotte Pelckmans, Nadia Belalimat, Wolfram Lacher, “One Hippopotamus and Eight Blind Analysts: A multivocal analysis of the 2012 political crisis in the divided Republic of Mali,” *Review of African Political Economy* 40, no. 137 (2013), pp.343-57.

* Bruce S. Hall and Yacine Daddi Addoun, “The Arabic Letters of the Ghadames Slaves in the Niger Bend, 1860-1900,” in *African Slavery/African Voices*, ed. Alice Bellagamba, Sandra Greene, Carolyn Brown and Martin Klein. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), pp.485-500.

* Bruce S. Hall, “How slaves used Islam: The letters of enslaved Muslim commercial agents in the nineteenth-century Niger Bend and Central Sahara,” *Journal of African History* 52, no. 3 (2011), pp.279-97.

* Bruce S. Hall, “Bellah histories of decolonization, Iklan paths to freedom: The meanings of race and slavery in the late-colonial Niger Bend (Mali), 1944-1960,” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 44, no.1 (2011), pp.61-87.

* Bruce S. Hall and Charles C. Stewart, “The historic ‘Core Curriculum,’ and the book market in Islamic West Africa” in *The Trans-Saharan Book Trade: Arabic Literacy, Manuscript Culture, and Intellectual History in Islamic Africa*, ed. Graziano Krätli and Ghislaine Lydon (Leiden: Brill, 2010), pp.109-74.

Bruce S. Hall, “An early Tuareg anti-colonial manifesto? A local critique of the French occupation of the Niger Bend” in *Le Temps des Oulèmas: les manuscrits africains*

comme sources historiques, ed. Seyni Moumouni and Viera Pawlikova-Vilhanova (Niamey: Etudes Nigériennes, 2009), pp.107-48.

Bruce S. Hall, “Bellah Highwaymen: Slave banditry and crime in colonial northern Mali” in *Islam, Slavery and Diaspora*, ed. Ismael Musah Montana, Behnaz A. Mirzai, Paul Lovejoy (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2009), pp.193-215.

Bruce S. Hall, “Historiography of Islamic Africa” in *New Encyclopedia of Africa*, ed. John Middleton and Joseph Miller (New York: Charles Scribner’s sons, 2007), pp. 561-65.

Bruce S. Hall, “The Question of ‘Race’ in the Pre-colonial Southern Sahara,” *Journal of North African Studies*, vol. 10, No. 3-4 (2005), pp. 339-67.

Book Reviews:

Review of Bernard K. Freamon, *Possessed by the Right Hand: The Problem of Slavery in Islamic Law and Muslim Cultures* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2019), in the *Journal of Global Slavery* 7 (2022), 218-21.

Review of Mauro Nobili, *Sultan, Caliph, and the Renewer of the Faith: Aḥmad Lobbo, the Tārīkh al-fattāsh and the Making of an Islamic State in West Africa* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020), in the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 54, 2 (2021), 249-53.

Review of Paul M. Love Jr., *Ibadi Muslims of North Africa: Manuscripts, Mobilization, and the Making of a Written Tradition* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018), in the *Journal of African History* 62, 2 (2021), 294-6.

Review of Gregory Mann, *From Empires to NGOs in the West African Sahel: The Road to Nongovernmentality* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015) in the *Journal of African History* 60, 1 (2019), 148-50.

Review of Ousmane Kane, *Beyond Timbuktu: An Intellectual History of Muslim West Africa* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2016) in *The Historian* 80, 2 (2018), 362-3.

Review of Chouki El Hamel, *Black Morocco: A History of Slavery, Race, and Islam* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014) in the *Journal of African History* 57, no. 3 (2016), 496-7.

Review of Judith Scheele, *Smugglers and Saints of the Sahara: regional connectivity in the twentieth century* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012), in “Lectures autour d’un livre,” *Politique Africaine* 131 (October 2013), pp.224-31.

Review of John Wright, *A History of Libya* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012), in *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 46, no. 2 (2013), pp.332-3.

Review of John Wright, *A History of Libya* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2010), in *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 44, no. 3 (2011), pp.458-60.

Review of Ghislaine Lydon, *On Trans-Saharan Trails: Islamic Law, Trade Networks, and Cross-Cultural Exchange in Nineteenth-Century Western Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), in *Journal of World History* 22, no. 2 (2011), pp.618-21.

Review of John Hunwick, *West Africa, Islam, and the Arab World: Studies in Honor of Basil Davidson* (Princeton: Marcus Wiener, 2006), in *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 40, 2 (2007), pp. 332-33.

Contributor:

Arabic Literature of Africa. Volume 5. The Writings of Mauritania and the Western Sahara, ed Charles C. Stewart and Sidi Ahmed ould Ahmed Salem (Leiden: Brill, 2015). Winner of the 2016 Conover-Porter Award, awarded by the African Studies Association for outstanding Africa-related reference works, bibliographies or bibliographic essays.

Awards and Fellowships:

Member, Institute for Advanced Study, School of Historical Studies, Princeton, New Jersey, 2022-2023

Principle Investigator, "Making Mali's Arabic Manuscripts Accessible: Integrating Institutions and Publics," U.S. State Department, Federal Assistance Award (SML20022GR0011), 2022-2025 (\$174,705.00), with co-principle investigators Mauro Nobili and Mohamed Diagayeté [project to create database for the collection of Mali's public Arabic manuscript archive, the Institut des Hautes Etudes et de Recherches Islamiques Ahmed Baba de Tombouctou (IHERI-ABT).]

Visiting professor [chaire sécable] at IISMM (Institut d'études de l'Islam et des Sociétés du Monde Musulman), part of the EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales), Paris, France, May-June 2014.

Co-winner, American Historical Association, Martin A. Klein prize for the most distinguished work of scholarship on African history published in English, 2012.

Stanford Humanities Center, external faculty fellow, 2012-13.

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Book Fellowship, 2007-2008

Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University, research fellow, 2007-2008.

Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2005-2007.

University of Illinois, Graduate College, Scott Completion Fellowship, 2004-2005.

University of Illinois, Department of History, William Widener Teaching Fellowship, 2004-2005. (declined)

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), International Dissertation Research Fellow, 2000-2001.

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Doctoral Fellow, 1998-2000 (award no.752-98-0441).

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), International Pre-Dissertation Fellow, 1998-99.

University of Illinois, Graduate College, Foreign Language Enhancement Program (FLEP) Fellow, 1998.

Queen's University, Graduate College, Graduate Fellow, 1994-95.

Invited Papers and Lectures:

“Making history out of the commercial letters of nineteenth-century Timbuktu,”
Workshop: Voyage into Islamic Manuscripts of West Africa, Center for the Study of
Manuscript Cultures, Universität Hamburg, November 16-18, 2023.

“Race in West Africa,” “Racialization: A Plurality of Paradigms,” Pavia, Italy, June 16-17, 2023.

“Manuscript Cultures and Library Collections of the Sahara, 15th century to the Present,”
Colloquium “Histoire du Sahara de 650 à nos jours / History of the Sahara from 650 CE”
to the Present, Collège de France, Paris, June 12-14, 2023.

“Who is the author of al-Maghīlī’s Replies to Askia Muhammad? Rethinking the
antiquity of West Africa Muslim intellectual history,” Colloquium “Arabic Manuscripts
on the Move: Islamic Intellectual History Between North and West Africa,” St. Antony’s
College, University of Oxford, June 9-10, 2023.

[“Study of manuscripts: the case of the Replies of al-Maghīlī to the Questions of Askia
Muhammad”], “al-Imām Muḥammad ‘Abd al-Karīm al-Maghīlī (d.909h/1504m):
Governance, stability and unity of African societies,” Algiers, Algeria, December 13-14,
2022.

“I am like the mouse that is in the house of the people’: Letter-writing by slaves and masters in the nineteenth-century Central Sahara and Niger Bend,” Mellon Sawyer Seminar: Race and the Middle East / North Africa, The Graduate Center, CUNY Friday March 4, 2022.

“Qu’est-ce que la souveraineté dans l’empire Songhay aux XVI^e-XVIII^e siècles?” Colloquium “Regard critique sur les souverainetés (Afrique, Amériques, Asie, Europe) Moyen Âge – xxie siècle,” Université de Paris, France, June 23-24, 2021.

“Racism and Slavery,” African Studies Program, Georgetown University, March 5, 2021.

“Race and Violence in Mali’s Lost Decade, 2010-2020,” Center for African Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 6, 2020.

“Making sense of racial grievance in Mali: Tuareg and Fulani intellectuals and the problem of violence,” Symposium “Identity and Conflict in the Sahel: Narratives of/on Tuareg and Fulani,” The Sahel Research Group, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, 6-8 May 2020

“L’autre traite: la traite vers le nord et la question de l’esclavage dans les manuscrits de Tombouctou,” Public Lecture, Château des ducs de Bretagne, Nantes, France, June 26, 2019.

“Muḥammad Maḥmūd bin al-Shaykh al-Arawāni’s (d.1973) Kitāb al-Turjumān fī ta’rīkh al-ṣaḥrā’ wa’l-sūdān wa-balad Tinbuktu wa-Shinjīṭ wa-Arawān wa-nubadh min ta’rīkh al-zamān fī jamī’ al-buldān,” Workshop “African Responses to European Colonial Occupation in Western Africa through Arabic and Ajami Texts,” Nantes, France, June 25-26, 2019.

With Charles C. Stewart, “Algerian authors and their Works in the West African Arabic Manuscript Database (WAAMD),” the Fourth International Conference on Manuscripts, University of Adrar, Algeria, November 13-15, 2018.

“Reading Race in Africa & the Middle East,” keynote at conference Race in the Middle East and Africa, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy, November 7, 2017.

“The particularity of Islamic Law in Africa? Muslim West African ideas about slavery and commerce,” Paper presented to the Institute of African Studies Research Seminar at Emory University, March 30, 2017.

“Situating Muslim legal practice in West Africa: from fatwa to furū’, 1600-1900,” 2016 Cadbury Conference: Bodies of Text: Learning to Be Muslim in West Africa,” University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK, June 30-July 1, 2016.

Invited commenter at the colloquium: “Les manuscrits de Mauritanie - évaluation critique et développement d’une stratégie pour sa conservation future,” Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, September 9-10, 2015.

“Les rôles des esclaves en tant qu’agents commerciaux dans le fonctionnement de commerce saharien,” Université d’été STARACO [‘Statuts’, ‘Race’, et Couleurs dans l’Atlantique de l’Antiquité à nos jours], Université de Nantes, France; “Liberté et esclaves dans le monde atlantique XVIe – XXe siècles,” June 22-26, 2015.

“What are the Islamist Solutions to Post-colonial Crises in West Africa? Rethinking Competing Muslim Modernities in Mali,” University at Buffalo (SUNY), April 23, 2015.

“Qui a peur de l’islamisme au Nord du Mali ? Vers un cosmopolitisme sahélien,” in the seminar “le Mali demain,” Institut des mondes africains (IMAf), Paris, France, June 13, 2014.

“Les critiques de l’esclavage au Sahel musulman, à travers les opinions juridiques,” Journées d’études “Islam, ‘esclaves’ (ou ‘castés’) et catégories de race en Afrique de l’ouest musulmane,” Collège de France, Paris, France, June 5-6, 2014.

“Que sont les manuscrits de Tombouctou ? Histoire perdue où tradition vivante?” Institut des Sciences de l’Homme, Lyon, France, June 3, 2014.

“Les chaînes des affaires : Esclavage et commerce au Sahara et Sahel au 19e siècle,” in the seminar “Anthropologie et histoire du Sahel Musulman,” Institut des mondes africains (IMAf), Paris, France, May 30, 2014.

“‘We must correspond with the slaves in order to gather news’: Slavery and Agency inside the 19th-century Saharan Commercial House of `Isa b. Hmida al-Ghadamisi in Timbuktu,” University of Chicago, March 5, 2014.

“Competing Racial Narratives of Violence in Contemporary Mali,” African Studies Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 31, 2013.

“The Power of Old Paper: ‘Saving Manuscripts’, ‘Tolerant Islam’ and the Meanings of Timbuktu in Mali and Beyond,” Comparative Muslim Societies Program, Cornell University, October 10, 2013.

“What does race have to do with the conflict in Mali? Histories and Memories of Slavery and Violence in the West African Sahel,” Red Lion Lecture, Northwestern University/University of Chicago, April 18, 2013.

“Bonds of Trade: Slavery and Commerce in the 19th-century circum-Saharan World,” Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, March 21, 2013.

“Bonds of Trade: Slavery and Commerce in the 19th-century circum-Saharan World,” African Studies Center, Stanford University, February 6, 2013.

Presentation of “A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960,” and round table with Jean-Louis Triaud, Jean Schmitz, and Charles Grémont, Centre d’études des mondes africains (CEMAf), Paris, November 9, 2012.

“The Morality of Descent: African histories of race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960.” Institute of African Studies, Columbia University, January 26, 2012.

“Enslaved Paths of Circulation in the Sahara and Sahel: Commercial networks and slave agency between Ghadames (Libya) and Timbuktu (Mali) in the 19th century.” Ifriqiyya Colloquium, Columbia University, January 26, 2012.

“An African history of race in the Black Atlantic.” Keynote, Stanford Forum for African Studies, Stanford University, October 28, 2011.

“The Morality of Slavery, according to Shaykh Bay al-Kunti (d.1929): Sahelian legal arguments about the didactic value of enslavement in Islam.” University of Florida, April 8, 2011.

“Towards and African history of race: Blackness and slavery in the Muslim scholarship of West Africa, c. 1700-1900.” Stephen Allen Kaplan Memorial Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, March 3, 2011.

“Reading Race in Islamic Law: the meanings of “blacks” (sudan) in the Arabic Legal literature of pre-colonial West Africa, c.1600-1900.” School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, March 11, 2010.

“Arguments about blackness and enslavement in the Arabic literature of the West African Sahel, c.1600-1900.” Centre of West African Studies (CWAS), University of Birmingham, March 10, 2010.

with Yacine Daddi Addoun, “The Epistolary Network of Anjay Isa, Slave from Ghadames in Timbuktu, 1857-1900.” Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, March 5, 2008.

with Charles Stewart, “The Historic ‘Core Curriculum,’ and the Book Market in Islamic West Africa.” The Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University, November 5, 2007.

“Making ‘Race’ in the Southern Sahara, c.1650-1850.” The History Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, February 27, 2006.

Conference/Workshop Presentations:

“Approaching Timbuktu: Towards an economic history of a nineteenth-century African city,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, Nov 30-Dec 2, 2023.

“Race in West Africa,” Workshop on “Racialization: A Plurality of Paradigms,” June 16-17, 2023, Pavia, Italy.

Initial training workshop for “Making Mali’s Arabic Manuscripts Accessible: Integrating Institutions and Publics,” January 3-5, 2023, Centre de recherche Ouest Africain (SROA), Dakar, Sénégal.

“The Making of a colonial Qadi in Timbuktu: the correspondence of Ahmad Baba b. Abi’l-Abbas on behalf of France, 1893-1918,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 21-13, 2019.

“Hamdallahi at the Crossroads: Traders, Markets, and Travel in the nineteenth-century Middle Niger,” Conference on “The ‘Caliphate of Hamdallahi’: A History from Within,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 6-7, 2018.

“Mastering Arabic and Arabic Masters in West Africa,” African Studies Association of the United Kingdom Bi-Annual Meeting, Birmingham, UK, September 11-13, 2018.

“Religious authority and symbolic power in Shari`a in Songhay, a re-reading,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, December 1-3, 2016, Washington, DC

“The category of slave girl (ama) in the Muslim Jurisprudence of West Africa,” Workshop on Labor, Coercion, and Rights in Africa and the Indian Ocean World in the 19th and 20th Centuries, Stanford University, October 14-15, 2016.

“Myths and Manuscripts: Making Timbuktu’s Arabic Archive,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 19-22, 2015, San Diego, CA

“Rethinking the place of Timbuktu in the intellectual history of Muslim West Africa,” Landscapes, Sources, and Intellectual Projects in African History: Symposium in honour of Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias, University of Birmingham, November 12-15, 2015.

“Salt, Slavery and Credit in the functioning of Saharan Commerce,” Workshop on Doing Business with Strangers: Finance and Enterprise in the Preindustrial World, Yale University, May 1-2, 2015.

“Narrating the Political Imaginary in Muslim West Africa,” The Many Histories of the Present: Pasts and Possibilities in the Muslim World, Duke University, April 17-19, 2015.

“The New Race History outside the West,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, New York, January 2-5, 2015.

“Ethnic nationalism and racialized violence in the Sahara: State collapse and the prospect of Islamist cosmopolitanism in Mali,” Workshop on Military Regimes, Diversity and Sectarianism in Muslim Societies, Harvard University, October 24-25, 2014.

“Towards a history of Arabic writing and commercial institutions in nineteenth-century West Africa,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 21-3, 2013.

“Narrating Power: Stories of Authority Betrayed in the Oral and Written Literature of the Niger Bend,” Reframing the Sahel as a Political Space, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, November 8-9, 2013.

“The Politics of Old Paper: Narratives of Rescue or Cashing in on the Arabic Manuscripts of Timbuktu?” Women, War and Peace, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, September 20-21, 2013.

“Towards a new cosmopolitanism in Northern Mali?” Mali in Transition, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, May 29-30, 2013.

“Publishing Nawāzil on Slavery: New debates about Islam and slavery in the Sahel,” Religion, Media and Marginality in Africa since 1800, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, March 22-23, 2013.

“Bonds of Trade: Slavery and Commerce in the 19th-century circum-Saharan World,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 29-December 1, 2012.

“Didactic poetry and Islamic law in West Africa: Shaykh Bāy al-Kuntī’s nawāzil and its audiences,” Islamic Studies and the Literary Imagination, Johns Hopkins University, October 27, 2012.

“‘Commercial Transactions with the Blacks’: Trade, Race, and the Problem of Muslim Comportment in Sahelian West Africa, c. 1600-1900,” Slavery, Race and Gender in Islamic Societies: A Comparative Perspective, Princeton University, March 16-18, 2012

“The jurisprudence of the Saharan slave trade: from fatwa to furu’ in West African legal thought, 1600-1900,” Slave Trade and Slavery in the Arab Islamic World: Untold Tragedy and Shared Heritage, Calabar, Nigeria, March 14-15, 2012. [paper read, unable to attend in person]

“Saharan Commerce and Islamic Law: Problems of credit and limited partnerships in the Fatwa literature of Mali and Mauritania, 1700-1900,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, January 5-8, 2012.

“Le discours d’esclavage et affranchissement au Sahara, passé et présent,” C’est qui, c’est quoi le *hrâtâni*? Etude comparative entre le sud Maroc et la Mauritanie *bidane*, Collège de France, Paris, September 28-30, 2011.

“Enslaved Paths of Circulation in the Sahara: Commercial networks and slave agency between Ghadames (Libya) and Timbuktu (Mali) in the 19th century,” Confluence de cultures ou convergence de diasporas, Marrakech, Morocco, May 20-21, 2011.

“The Place and Meaning of Race in the Fatwa Literature of Mauritania and Mali,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 18-21, 2010.

“Slaves on the move: Life stories of travel, trade and manumission among Ghadames slaves in the 19th-century Niger Bend,” Workshop on Post-slavery and Migration, Centre for the Study of International Slavery, University of Liverpool, March 15, 2010.

“Race” into the circum-Saharan World,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, San Diego, January 7-10, 2010.

“The role of slaves as agents of the trans-Saharan slave trade: evidence from a Ghadames-based commercial network in the Niger Bend, 1850-1900,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) conference, Accra, Ghana, August 2-6, 2009.

“The Arabic Letters of the Ghadames Slaves in the Niger Bend, 1860-1900,” Tales of Slavery: Narratives of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Enslavement in Africa, University of Toronto, May 20-23, 2009.

“Reading the black-ness of the “sūdān”: Southern Saharan literary productions of ‘race’,” Conference on the Historical Constructions of “Race” and Social Hierarchy in Muslim West and North Africa, Dakar, Senegal, December 10-12, 2008.

“The Epistolary Network of Anjay Isa, Slave from Ghadames in Timbuktu, 1857-1900,” African Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Chicago, 13-16 November, 2008.

“Ghosts in Modibo Keita’s Mali: The politics of ‘race’ and violence in Northern Mali and the radicalization of Malian nationalism, 1946-68,” Mande Studies Association (MANSA) Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, June 23-27, 2008.

“Into the Saharan Diaspora: The Epistolary Network of Anjay Isa, Slave from Ghadames in Timbuktu, 1857-1900” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) conference, Barbados, October 9-13, 2007.

“La première manifeste anti-coloniale touarègue? Une critique saharienne de l’occupation française à la Boucle du Niger,” Colloque internationale sur les manuscrits africains comme sources historiques en Afrique, Université Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, Niger, January 30 – February 3, 2007.

“The Perilous Future of the Tuareg ‘Race’: Muhammad Ali ag Attaher and debates over women’s bodies in colonial Northern Mali, 1930-1960,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, November 17-20, 2005.

“Une base de données électroniques des manuscrits arabes en Afrique occidentale,” Chemins du savoir: Journées d’études sur les manuscrits de Tombouctou, Rabat, Morocco, June 13-17, 2005.

“Making ‘White’ Nomads: Touareg and Arab discourses of ‘race’ in colonial northern Mali, 1893-1940,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, November 11-14, 2004.

“The Question of ‘race’ in the pre-colonial southern Sahara,” The Sahara: Past, Present and Future, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, June 22-24, 2004.

“Racialized Borderland: Racial Identity and the Politics of Separatism in the Agitation for the O.C.R.S. in Northern Mali in the 1950s,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Boston, October 30 - November 2, 2003.

“Bellah Highwaymen: Slave banditry and crime in colonial northern Mali,” Conference on Slavery, Islam and Diaspora, Harriet Tubman Resource Centre on the African Diaspora, York University, October 24-26, 2003.

“The making of a Racially-Usable Past: Local histories and racial identity formation in colonial northern Mali,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Nashville, November 16-19, 2000.

Service:

NEH Reviewer, 2016

IDRF Reviewer (Social Science Research Council), 2012-15.

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Reviewer, 2008

Peer Reviewer for book manuscripts for Cambridge University Press, University of Wisconsin Press, Brill, Princeton University Press, Duke University Press, Ohio University Press

Peer Reviewer for articles for the Canadian Journal of African Studies, Journal of Modern African Studies, International Journal of African Historical Studies, Journal of West African History, Journal of International and Global Studies, Islamic Africa, African Studies Review, History Compass, American Historical Review, History in Africa, Capitalism: A Journal of History and Economics, Oesterreichische Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaften/Austrian Journal of Historical Studies,

Member, Global Education Committee, Duke University, 2014-17

Director of Undergraduate Studies, History Department, Duke University, 2015-17

Member, Graduate Committee, History Department, Duke University, 2011, 2013-14

History Colloquium director and co-director, History Department, Duke University, 2013-2016
Chair, Search Committee for Islamic World, History Department, Duke University, 2015-16
Member, Search Committee for an Africanist, Department of African and African American Studies, Duke University, 2016-17
Member, Search Committee for Modern Middle East, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley, 2017-18
Member, Search Committee for Twentieth-Century Russia, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley, 2021-22
Member, Search Committee for Environmental History, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley, 2023-24
Editorial Board member: African Studies Review, 2018-present, Afriques
Convener, African History Working Group, University of California, Berkeley, 2017-present
Co-convener, African Studies Seminar, University of California, Berkeley, 2019-2021
Editor, West African Arabic Manuscript Database, 2003-2018
General Editor, West African Arabic Manuscript Database, 2018-present
Member, Honor's Committee, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley, 2017-18, 2021-22
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee (AC5), Department of History, University of California, Berkeley, 2018-2019
Member, Prize Committee, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley. 2019-20
Member, Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship committee, Center for African Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2019
Member, Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship committee, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2018, 2021
Member, Center for African Studies fellowships committee, University of California, Berkeley, 2019, 2020
Member, Center for Middle Eastern Studies fellowships committee, University of California, Berkeley, 2019
Member, Institute of International Studies (IIS) fellowships committee, University of California, Berkeley, 2020
Advisory Board Member, Center for African Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2018-present

Teaching Competencies:

Africa
Muslim world
Comparative histories of slavery, race, colonialism
Muslim intellectual history

Research Languages:

Arabic, French, Songhay

Professional Memberships:

African Studies Association (ASA)

American Historical Association (AHA)