

Paul Ocobock

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APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Notre Dame Affiliated Faculty, Africana Studies Concurrent Faculty, Gender Studies Fellow, Pulte Institute for Global Development Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies Fellow, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies	2018-Present
Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Notre Dame	2011-2018

EDUCATION

Ph.D. History, Princeton University	2004-2010
M.Phil. Economic and Social History, Oxford University	2002-2004
B.A. in Honors History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	1998-2002

PUBLICATIONS

Books

An Uncertain Age: The Politics of Manhood in Kenya. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2017.

Peer-Reviews Articles

“Earning an Age: Migration and Maturity in Colonial Kenya,” *African Economic History* 44 (2016): 44-73.

“Spare the Rod, Spoil the Colony: Corporal Punishment, Colonial Violence and Generational Authority in Kenya, 1897-1952.” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 45.1 (2012): 29-56.

“Joy Rides for Juveniles: Vagrant Youth and Colonial Control in Nairobi, Kenya, 1901-1952.” *Social History* 31.1 (2006): 39-59.

Special Issues

- Ng'weno, Bettina and Paul Ocobock. "Introduction to Form on Post-Colonial and Contemporary Kenya." *African Studies Review* 62.2 (2018): 106-110.
- Ocobock, Paul and John Lemly. "Reflections on Richard Waller." *African Studies Review* 62.2 (2018): 104-105.

Edited Volumes

- A.L. Beier and Paul Ocobock. *Cast Out: Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2008.

Book Chapters

- "Introduction: Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective." In *Cast Out: Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective*, edited by A.L. Beier and Paul Ocobock, 1-34. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2008.
- Andrew Burton and Paul Ocobock. "'The Traveling Native': Vagrancy and Colonial Control in British East Africa." In *Cast Out: Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective*, edited by A.L. Beier and Paul Ocobock, 270-301. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2008.

Book Reviews

- Kara Moskowitz. *Seeing Like a Citizen: Decolonization, Development, and the Making of Kenya, 1945-1980*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2019 for *The Journal of African History* 62.2 (2021): 169-171.
- Kenda Mutongi. *Matatu: A History of Popular Transportation in Nairobi*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017 for *The Journal of African History* 60.1 (2019): 129-131.
- Abdullahi Sara. *Kenya at a Crossroads: Administration and Economy Under Sir Percy Girouard, 1909-1912*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015, for the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 49.3 (2016): 441-442.
- Randy Sparks. *Where the Negroes Are Masters: An African Port in the Era of the Slave Trade*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014, for the *Canadian Journal of History* 51.3 (2016), for the *Canadian Journal of History* 51.3 (2016): 659-661.
- Alice Bellagamba, Sandra E. Green, and Martin A. Klein. *African Voices on Slavery and the Slave Trade*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013, for *The Journal of African History* 56.1 (2015): 169-171.
- Andrew Burton. *African Underclass: Urbanization, Crime, and Colonial Order in Dar es Salaam, 1919-61*. Oxford: James Currey, 2005, for *Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute* 76.4 (2006): 606-7.

In-Progress

“Planter’s Progress: Local Coffee Science and Trans-Imperial Circulations in Early Colonial Kenya” - article for peer-reviewed academic journal

Imperial Blend: Kenyan Coffee and Capitalism in the Era of Anglo-American Imperial, book manuscript

AWARDS

Winner, *American Historical Association*, 2018 Morris D. Forkosch Prize in British, British Imperial, or British Commonwealth History since 1485

Finalist and Honorable Mention, *African Studies Association*, 2018 Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize in East African Studies

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New Directions Fellowship	2021-2022
Kellogg Institute Faculty Summer Research Grant	2016, 2020
Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Large Research Grant	2017
Library Acquisition Grant, University of Notre Dame,	2015
Kellogg Institute Residential Fellowship (semester leave)	2014
Kellogg Institute Working Group Grants	2011-2020

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Kenya and the International Coffee Agreement in the Era of Decolonization, *African Studies Association Conference*, San Francisco, 29 November-1 December 2023

Global Bug Hunt: Coffee Science and Transimperial Networks through Colonial Kenya, *Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies*, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 17 November 2023.

Coffee Root Rot: Debt and Development in Depression-Era Kenya, *Center for African Studies*, Harvard University, 6 November 2023

Planters’ Progress: Coffee Science and Transimperial Circulations in Early Colonial Kenya, *Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History*, MIT, 2 March 2023.

Uncommercial Procedures: Depression-Era Kenya’s Coffee and Credit Crisis, *History of Capitalism Seminar*, Newberry Library, 28 October 2022

Uncommercial Procedures: Depression-Era Kenya’s Coffee and Credit Crisis, *African Economic History Network Conference*, 13-14 October 2022

- Planters' Progress: Coffee Science and Statecraft in Early Colonial Kenya, *Commodities of Empire Workshop*, 2-3 September 2021
- #Gocutmyhusband: Age, Masculinity, and the Politics of Foreskin in Kenya, *Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology*, University of Munster, 13 January 2021
- Of Bailouts and Brexits, or the Trouble with Settlers, *Global Brexit and the Lost Futures of European Empires*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 4-6 April 2019.
- Planters' Progress? The Science of Coffee and Statecraft in Colonial Kenya, 1902-1939, *African Studies Association*, 29 November-1 December 2018
- An Uncertain Age: The Politics of Manhood in Kenya, *African Studies Seminar Series*, Oxford University, 4 May 2017
- Coffee in Kenya: Rethinking the Political Economy of a Cash Crop, Settler Economy, and Colonial State, 1900-50, *African Studies Association*, 1-3 December 2016
- Facing the Knife: Male Initiation and Statecraft in Kenya, *African Studies Association, United Kingdom*, University of Cambridge, 7-9 September 2016
- Paper in Honor of Luise White's *Comforts of Home*, Roundtable Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of *The Comforts of Home*, *African Studies Association*, 19-21 November 2015
- Earning an Age: Work, Mobility, and Maturity in Western Kenya, *African Studies Association*, Baltimore, 21-24 November 2013
- Tyranny of Elders: Mobilizing Youth and Crafting Generational Politics in Cold War-Era Kenya, 1945-1978, *Negotiating Independence*, University of Cambridge, 1-2 May 2013
- Facing the Knife, Facing the Future: Male Initiation, Manhood, and Colonial Change in Kenya, *African Studies Association*, Washington D.C., 17-20 November 2011
- Serving *Mzee*: Mobilizing Youths and Enduring Legacies in Kenyatta's Kenya, 1955-78, *African Studies Association*, San Francisco, 17-20 November 2010
- Caning in Kenya: Juvenile Indiscipline, Parental Authority, and the Colonial State, *African Studies Association*, Chicago, 14-17 November 2008
- From Repatriation to Rehabilitation: Youth and Colonial Law and Order in Kenya, *Youth and Africa Workshop*, Oxford University, 17 May 2007
- Coming of Age in a Colony: Youth, Law, and Order in Colonial Kenya, *African Studies Association*, San Francisco, 16-19 November 2006
- "The Traveling Native": Vagrancy and Colonial Control in British East Africa, *Social Science History Conference*, Chair: A.L. Beier, Minneapolis, 2-5 Nov 2006
- Children of Mau Mau: Youth and State during the Kenya Emergency, 1952-60, *African Studies Association*, Washington D.C., 17-21 November 2005
- Between Rehabilitation and Repatriation: Juvenile Vagrancy, Colonial Control and Kenya's Emergency, *Townlife in Modern Africa*, University of Cambridge, 2004
- "Joy Rides for Juveniles:" Outcast Youth and Colonial Control in Kenya, *Symposium on Law, Colonialism and Children in Africa*, Stanford University, 1 May 2004
- "A Species of Drudge:" Juvenile Vagrancy, Colonial Control and Urban Order in Kenya, 1902- 52, *African Studies Association*, 11- 14 November 2004

TEACHING

Courses Taught

HIST 10050/30050, Early Africa and the Slave Trade (Introductory Course)
HIST 10061/30061, Modern Africa (Introductory Course)
HIST 10191/20191, Global Africa (Introductory Course)
HIST 13184, Anatomy of an African Rebellion (First Year Seminar)
HIST 30051, Gender and Sexuality in African History (Upper-Level Seminar)
HIST 33000, History Workshop (Gateway to History Major Program)
HIST 46000, Undergraduate Directed Readings in Modern Africa
HIST 43659, Insurgent Histories (Department Seminar, Senior Capstone Course)
HIST 50001, Honors History Methodology (Honors History Program)
HIST 50002, Honors History Colloquium (Honors History Program)
HIST 83000, Historian's Craft (Introductory Graduate History Seminar)
HIST 83005, Research, Writing, and Professionalization (Graduate Course)
HIST 86000, Directed Readings in Pre-Colonial and Modern Africa (Graduate Course)
HIST 93050, Topics in African History (Graduate Course)
HIST 93305, 20th Century Empires and Colonies (Graduate Course)

Ph.D. Students Advised

Debora Rogo (2021), Department of History, University of Notre Dame
Sarah Pollnow (2021), Department of History, University of Notre Dame

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

Debora Rogo, Title TBA
Sarah Pollnow, Title TBA
Hannah Peckham, Title TBA
Khan Shirani, Wali Allah Dihlawi: The Indian Islamic Tradition in the 18th Century
Nelia Martsinkiv, "Unlikely Dissenters: Origins and Development of the Ukrainian Human Rights Movement from Khrushchev to Gorbachev," defended 2021
Esteban Alfaro Salas, "Making Portuguese Colonial Governance: Slavery, Forced Labor, and Racial Ideology in the Interior from Benguela, 1760-1860," defended 2021, postdoctoral fellowship, Program for Agrarian Studies, Yale University
Heather Stanfiel, "For the Cause of Our Land with a Match in His Hand": Memory and Symbolic Violence in Modern Ireland, defended 2019, post-doctoral fellowship, Nanovic Institute, University of Notre Dame
Elizabeth Baker, "More Romance than Reality?: Mary Carpenter, 'Native Gentlemen,' and

- Female Education Reform in India,” defended 2018, assistant professor, Grove College
- Bethany Montagano, “America’s ‘Last’ Slave: Collecting Myths and Slaves in America’s Borderlands, 1863-1938,” defended 2017, curator Skirball Cultural Center
- Ashley Greene, “Narratives of Power: Political Rhetoric, History Education, and Nation Building in Post-Independence Uganda,” defended 2015, assistant professor, Keene State College
- Stephen Morgan, "Shepherds of a Dying Flock: the Rhenish Mission, the Herero, and German Colonial Conquest in South-West Africa," defended 2014, assistant professor, Northwest Nazarene University

Ph.D. Examination Committees

- Katarzyna Swierad-Redwood, Comparative European Empires, 2024
- Adam Matvya, British Empire, 2024
- Debora Rogo, Modern Africa, 2023
- Sarah Pollnow, Modern Africa, 2023
- Eduardo Dawson, Early Africa and the Slave Trades, 2021
- Khan Shirani, Imperial Modalities, 2020
- Hannah Peckham, Imperial Networks, 2020
- Istvan Szepes, African Encounters, 2020
- Nelia Martsinkiv, Comparative European Empires of the 19th and 20th Centuries, 2017
- Esteban Alfaro Flores, Modern Africa, 2016
- Heather Roberts Stanfiel, The British World System in the 19th and 20th Centuries, 2015
- Benjamin Wetzel, Modern Africa, 2013
- Joshua McIntire, Early Africa and the Slave Trade, 2013
- Ashley Greene, Modern Africa, 2013
- Bethany Montagano, Early Africa and the Slave Trade, 2013
- Mary Swanson, Early Africa and the Slave Trade, 2012

Senior Honors Theses Directed

- Brendan Holt, “African Trade Unions and the British Empire,” 2025
- Daniel Stracensky, “Baden-Powell’s Siege of Mafeking: Origins of the Boy Scouts,” 2025.
- Sophie Manning, “*Harkis*, French Imperial Memory, and Decolonization in Algerian,” 2024.
- Elizabeth Bernath, “British Imperial Museums: Pitt Rivers and the V&A,” 2024.
- Cheyenne Parker, “Africa, African-Americans and American Intelligence Networks,” 2023
- C.J. Foronda, “White Tongues and “Little Brown Brothers,” 2022
- Alison O’Neil, “Empires and Counterinsurgencies: Kenya, Malaya, Afghanistan,” 2020
- Aluel Doldol, “Hair and Historic Notions of Black Beauty in Ghana,” 2020
- Akua Agyei-Boateng, “Formation of a Global Image of Africa: The Implications of Race on

- the Foundation of African Studies and the African Studies Association,” 2019
- Connor Compton, “Kicking Out Colonialism: Football as Resistance in British Imperial Africa,” 2018
- Adam Moeller, “A History of the Gay Rights Movement in Uganda,” 2018, *awarded the Best Thesis Prizes in History, Africana Studies, and Gender Studies*
- Samuel Jezak, “Coffee and Baseball: Comparative Latin American Commodities and American Imperialism,” Department of History, 2017
- Zachariah Klonsinski, *Museums of Empire: The British Museum and St. Louis Museum of the West in Comparative Perspective*, Department of History, *awarded the Best Thesis Prize in Africana Studies* 2017
- Daniel DeToro, “States of Emergency: the Economic Origins of the British Empire’s Counterinsurgencies in Kenya and Malaysia,” Department of History, 2017
- Bright Gyamfi, “Teaching African History from the Lion’s Perspective: A History of Kwame Nkrumah’s Institute of African Studies,” Department of History, 2016, *awarded the Best Thesis Prize in Africana Studies*
- Christian Koerwer, “Earning the Suspicion of All: American Foreign Policy and the Tragedy of Angola,” Department of History, 2106
- Cailean Geary, “The Development of Education and Literacy in Gold Coast,” Department of History, 2015
- Alexander Killen, “Hip-Hop and Politics: Exploring the Relationship between Hip-Hop, Politics and Youth Empowerment in Kampala, Uganda,” Department of History, 2014, *awarded the Best Thesis Prizes in History and Africana Studies*
- Alexander Coccia, “Development in Rwanda’s Post-Gacaca Communities,” Department of Africana Studies and Glynn Family Honors Program, 2014
- Brianna Kunycky, “Tragedy of the Colonial Commons: The Development of Ugandan Water Policy,” Environmental Sciences and Glynn Family Honors Program, 2013, *awarded the Undergraduate Library Research Award*
- Rose Donohue, “Protestant Christians and the Colonial State;” *The Role of the Christian Council of Kenya in the African Struggle for Independence, 1952-63*,” Department of History, 2013
- Zachary Weber, “Black Physicians and the ‘White Man’s Grave:’ Establishment of the West African Medical Staff and the Changing Status of African Physicians in the British Gold Coast, 1858-1957,” Department of History, 2013

Service

Professional

American Historical Review, Forkosch Prize Committee, 2024

African Studies Association, Betwell A. Ogot Prize Committee, 2023

Senior Book Review Editor, *African Studies Review*, 2018-Present

Prize Committee, Best Africa-Based Dissertation, African Studies Association, 2021
Reviewer for *Africa Spectrum*, 2023
Reviewer for *Nordic Journal of African Studies*, 2023.
Reviewer for *The Journal of African History*, 2021-22
Reviewer for *The Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 2021
Reviewer for *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 2014-21
Reviewer for *American Historical Review*, 2019
Reviewer for *Anthropology Quarterly*, 2019
Reviewer for *African Economic History*, 2017
Reviewer for *Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute*, 2017
Reviewer for *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, 2012-18
Reviewer for *Men and Masculinities*, 2015
Reviewer for *Radical History Review*, 2014
Reviewer for *History and Memory*, 2013
Reviewer for *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 2012-13

Department of History

Search Committee, Modern History of Medicine, 2022
Strategic Planning Committee, 2020, 2023, 2024
Spousal Hire Committee, 2019
Advisory Committee, 2019, 2023, 2024
External Review Committee, 2018
Inclusive Excellence Committee, 2017-2018
Undergraduate Committee, 2013-2014 and 2016-2017
Search Committee, Modern Europe, 2015-2016
Graduate Committee, 2012-2013
Intellectual Life Committee, 2011-2012

Kellogg Institute for International Studies

Chair, Histories of Economics and Development Working Group, 2020-Present
Chair, Africa Working Group, 2011-13, and 2016-2021
Experiencing the World Fellowship Selection Committee, 2011-2019, 2023-Present
Visiting Fellows Selection Committee, 2012-2018
Graduate Research Fellowships Selection Committee, 2011-2012

Keough School for Global Affairs

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2016-2017

Distinguished Visiting Fellows Committee, 2015-2016