

Robin K. Crigler

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References are listed on page 6

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Michigan State University, History, August 2021

Dissertation: "Laughter and Identity: A Social and Cultural History of South African Humor, 1910-1961"

Dissertation Committee: Peter Alegi (Chair), Sekibakiba Peter Lekgoathi, Edward Murphy, Michael Stamm

Major Field: African History

Minor Fields: U.S. History, Anthrohistory

B.A. The College of William and Mary, History and Religious Studies, May 2014

Thesis: "When George Washington's Ghost Turned Handsprings: South African Conflict and American Identity, 1895-1905" (Highest Honors)

Advisor: Robert Trent Vinson

EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Assistant Professor, Dickinson College Department of History, 2022-Present

- Design and teach five Africa-related history courses per year, including courses cross-listed with the Africana Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies departments.
- Course themes include African Civilizations to 1850, Gender and Sexuality in Africa, African Ecological History, and Apartheid in South Africa (for full details see "Teaching Experience" section below).
- Collaborate with other Dickinson units like the Waidner-Spahr Library, Trout Gallery of Art, and Office of Academic Technology on student projects and pedagogical design.
- Participate as a voting member in History Department and all-College faculty meetings
- Two-year appointment, 2022-2024

Assistant Professor, Fixed Term, Michigan State University Department of History, 2021-2022

- Design and teach a variety of Africa-related offerings for the Michigan State University History Department and Integrative Arts and Humanities program, including large (100-150 student) introductory surveys and smaller (15-20 student) history methodology courses.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2019

- Supported eight months of dissertation research in South Africa, based at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Michigan State University Department of History Summer Research Grant, 2016-2017

- Supported two summers of pre-dissertation fieldwork in South Africa

Michigan State University Graduate School Travel Grant, 2017

- Supported travel to the 2017 History in the Making Graduate Student Conference hosted by Concordia University, Montréal, Canada

Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship, 2015-2017

- Supported two academic years of intensive Zulu study at Michigan State University

Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Study Abroad Fellowship, 2016

- Supported a summer of intensive Zulu study offered by the University of Pennsylvania in Durban, South Africa

PUBLICATIONS*Chapters*

- “There’s No Such Thing As ‘Too Soon’ Here: Taking Stock of South Africa’s Comedy Boom,” in *Stand-Up Comedy in Africa: Humour in Popular Languages and Media*, ed. Izuu Nwankwo (Stuttgart, Germany: Ibidem Press, forthcoming March 2022), 235-251.

Journal Articles

- “Book Review: *William Kentridge: Process as Metaphor and Other Doubtful Enterprises* by Leora Maltz-Leca, and *Awakenings: The Art of Lionel Davis*, edited by Mario Pissarra,” *African Arts* 52.3 (2019), 86-87
- “No Laughing Matter? Humor and the Performance of South Africa,” *South African Theatre Journal* 31.2-3 (2018), 155-171

Select Unreviewed Articles

- “It’s Just Us, Guys: Hope and Hilarity at the 2022 National Arts Festival,” *LitNet*, July 5, 2022, <<https://www.litnet.co.za/its-just-us-guys-hope-and-hilarity-at-the-2022-national-arts-festival/>>.
- “Remembering Stephen Gray,” *LitNet*, November 18, 2020, <<https://www.litnet.co.za/remembering-stephen-gray/>>.
- “The Great S.A. Comedy Odyssey Begins: Chester Missing, Wokpo Jensma, and the Meaning of Laughter,” *RobinCrigler.com*, April 29, 2019, <<http://robincrigler.com/african-history-blog/blacksonly/>>
- “‘Oh, How Specific!’ Explaining Your (Obscure) Topic This Holiday Season,” *The Activist History Review*, December 19, 2018, <<https://activisthistory.com/2018/12/19/oh-how-specific-explaining-your-obscure-topic-this-holiday-season/>>
- “Laughing in Grahamstown: Participant Observation and South African Comedy,” *RobinCrigler.com*, July 10, 2017, <<http://robincrigler.com/african-history-blog/laughing-in-grahamstown-participant-observation-and-south-african-comedy/>>

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS*International*

- “Inevitable Satirists: Laughter, Fear, and Censorship in Interwar South Africa,”**
Cambridge University African Studies Seminar, forthcoming November 21, 2022
(virtual).
- “‘Laughing All the While’: Humor and Horror in the Plays of H. I. E. Dhlomo,”** 28th
Biennial Conference of the Southern African Historical Society, June 29, 2022 (East
London, South Africa)
- “‘Kodwa Nama Breadwinner Angithi’: Family Metaphor and the COVID-19 Pandemic in
South Africa,”** Nelson Mandela University SARChI Identities and Social Cohesion in
Africa Seminar Series, June 10, 2022 (virtual).
- “There’s No Such Thing As ‘Too Soon’ Here: Taking Stock of South Africa’s Comedy
Boom,”** Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study Colloquium on African Stand-Up
Comedy Practice, October 9, 2019 (Stellenbosch, South Africa)
- “Begin With the Girls, *Wetu*’: Gender in 1930s South Africa Through the Eyes of R.
Roamer, Esq.,”** 27th Biennial Conference of the Southern African Historical
Society, June 24, 2019 (Makhanda, South Africa)
- “‘Are South Africans a Race of Clowns?’: Stephen Black, Leon Schuster, and Humor
in the New South Africa(s),”** Stellenbosch University History Seminar Series, July
18, 2017 (Stellenbosch, South Africa)
- “No Laughing Matter? Humor and the Performance of South Africa,”** Concordia
University History in the Making Graduate Student Conference, April 1, 2017
(Montréal, Canada)

United States

- “Wielding a Sjambok: H. D. Tyamzashe and the Development of Black South African
Satire in English”**, 48th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association,
May 21, 2022 (virtual)
- “From Oom Paul to Uncle Cyril: South Africa’s COVID-19 ‘Family Meetings’ in
Historical Context,”** 64th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association,
November 18, 2021 (virtual)
- “‘A Joke is Like Heart Surgery’: Money and Mockery in South African
Humor History,”** 47th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, May
29, 2021 (virtual)
- “‘The Lucrative Art of Prostitution’: The Politics of Satire in White South Africa,
1908-1931,”** 20th Annual Africa Conference, University of Texas at Austin, April 3,
2021 (virtual)
- “Laughter on Lockdown: South African Stand-up Comedians and the COVID-19
Pandemic,”** 63rd Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, November 19,
2020 (virtual)
- “Will There Ever Be an Afrikaner Nation? Humor in the White Performance of
South Africa,”** 60th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, November
17, 2017 (Chicago, Ill.)
- “From Valley Forge to Vaal Krantz: The South African War as an American Memory,”**
Louisiana State University Graduate History Conference, March 5, 2016 (Baton
Rouge, La.)

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

African History	Stand-up Comedy Studies
African Literature	South African-American Exchanges
Humor Studies	African Popular Culture
History of Journalism	Theatre History

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dickinson College, History Department

African Civilizations to 1850 (HST 170 / AFST 170), Fall 2022
 African History since 1800 (HST 171 / AFST 171), forthcoming Spring 2023
 Gender and Sexuality in Africa (HST 216 / AFST 220 / WGSS 202), forthcoming Spring 2023
 The Rise and Fall of Apartheid (HIST 274 / AFST 220), Fall 2022
 Ecological History of Africa (HIST 284 / AFST 220), forthcoming Spring 2023

Michigan State University, History Department

Historical Methods and Skills (HST 201): Eat Well, Laugh Often, Play Hard?—A Cultural Approach to Historical Methods and Skills, Spring 2022
 Historical Methods and Skills (HST 201): Trevor Noah Deconstructed, Fall 2021
 Historical Methods and Skills (HST 201): Race, Gender, and Humor in South African History, Spring 2021

Michigan State University, Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities

Africa and the World (IAH 205), Assistant Professor (Fixed-Term), Fall 2021 and Spring 2022
 U.S. and the World (IAH 201), Spring 2016 and 2018, Fall 2020*
 Africa and the World (IAH 205), Spring 2017 and 2020*
 Asia and the World (IAH 204), Fall 2018*

Michigan State University, Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science

Social Science of Sport (ISS328), Summer 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2020*
 History and Theory of Genocide (ISS 210), Fall 2017*
 Africa in Social Science Perspective (ISS 330A), Fall 2015 and 2016*

* Indicates Graduate Assistant (G.A.) roles

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Post-Doctoral Fieldwork, South Africa, May-July 2022

- Followed up on dissertation research and developed new article projects; based primarily in Durban and Johannesburg.

Dissertation Fieldwork, South Africa, March-November 2019

- Conducted interviews and examined archives in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, and Makhanda

Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork, South Africa and Austin, Texas, May-August 2017

- Conducted exploratory research for my dissertation in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, and Makhanda, as well as at the Harry Ransom at the University of Texas, Austin

University of Pennsylvania Zulu Immersion Summer Study Abroad, June-August 2016

- Based in Durban, South Africa

INTERNSHIPS AND PART-TIME WORK

A.P. African American Studies Outside Item Writer, The College Board, 2022-Present

- Collaborate with a team of College Board staff and outside item writers to develop prompts and multiple-choice questions for the inaugural A.P. African American Studies examination in 2023.

Intern, African Serial Indexing Pilot Project, Michigan State University Libraries, 2017-2018

- Assist the Africana Librarian of the Michigan State University Libraries with designing a multi-institution pilot project to index rare journals from the African continent held by American institutions.
- Write and present a report outlining the results of Phase I of the pilot study at the annual meeting of the Africana Librarians Council in November 2017.

Intern, The Children's Center of Winston-Salem, 2014-2015

- Assist teachers with feeding, cleaning, and other classroom activities at the Children's Center of Winston-Salem, a public school for children between the ages of infancy and Grade 5 with significant long-term physical and cognitive health needs.

HONORS & AWARDS

Irene Steindler Award, 2021

- Recognizing work related to decolonizing African history and promoting equity with higher-education institutions on the African continent.

Jeff Rooney Paper Prize, 2017

- For the best history seminar paper of the academic year, "No Laughing Matter? Humor and the Performance of South Africa"

LANGUAGES

English	Native speaker; fluent
Afrikaans	Working proficiency
Zulu	Working proficiency
German	Limited working proficiency

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

African Studies Association
 African Literature Association
 Southern African Historical Society
 Phi Beta Kappa

REFERENCES

Emily Pawley*

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Peter Alegi**

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* Current supervisor

** Ph.D. committee chair and teaching reference