

Benjamin A. Talton, PhD

Department of History, Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19122
talton@temple.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. History, University of Chicago, 2003

M.A. History, University of Chicago, 1999

B.A. History, Howard University, 1996

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor, Department of History, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 2021-Present

Associate Professor, Department of History, Temple University, 2011-2021

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Temple University, 2008-2011

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, 2003-2008

Visiting Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, 2005-2006

PUBLICATIONS

Books

In This Land of Plenty: Mickey Leland and Africa in American Politics (Penn Press, 2019)

2020 Winner of the Wesley-Logan Book Prize for African Diaspora History by the American Historical Association

2020 Finalist for the Pauli Murray Book Prize of the African American Intellectual History Society

—with Quincy Mills, eds. *Black Subjects in Africa and Its Diasporas: Race and Gender in Research and Writing* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2011)

Politics of Social Change in Ghana: The Konkomba Struggle for Political Equality (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2010)

Articles, Book Chapters, and Journals

“An African Revolution Takes Shape,” *Current History*, 120, Issue 826 (May 2021), 196-199.

“AHR: Conversation: Black Internationalism,” with Carlos Fernandes, Kira Thurman, Monique Bedasse, Dennis Laumann and Tejasvi Nagaraja, *American Historical Review*, 125, 5 (December 2020).

“The Climate Crisis: The Challenge for a New African Consensus,” *The African Studies Review*, 63, Issue 1 (March 2020), pp. 1-8.

“‘Kill Rats and Stop Plague’: Race and Public Health in Post-Conquest Kumasi,” *Ghana Studies* 22 (2019), pp. 95-113.

“The Northern Factor in Ghana History,” *Ghana Studies*, 18 (2016), pp. 193-195.

“Ghana,” *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Ethnicity and Nationalism* (30 December 2015).

Special Issue Editor, with Wilhelmina Donkoh, *Ghana Studies*, 17 (2014).

“‘Land to the Tiller’: Hunger and the End of Monarchy in Ethiopia,” *Food in Zones of Conflict: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives*, Helen Macbeth and Paul Collinson, eds. (New York: Berghahn Books, September 2014).

“1960s Africa in Historical Perspective,” *Journal of Black Studies*, 43, Number 1 (January 2012).

Editor, Afro-Optimism and Afro-Pessimism: 50 Years since “The Year of Africa,” Special Issue of the *Journal of Black Studies*, 43, Number 1 (January 2012).

“Quenching the Thirst for Data: Beer, Local Connections, and Fieldwork in Ghana.” In *Black Subjects in Africa and its Diasporas: Race and Gender in Research and Writing* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2011), pp. 129-147.

“Representing the Past: Popular Historical Memory and the Transformation of Power in Colonial West Africa,” *Africa and the West*, 6 (Fall 2011).

“‘All the Women Must Be Clothed’: The Anti-Nudity Campaign of Northern Ghana.” In *The Black Body: Imagining, Writing and (Re)Reading*, Sandra Jackson, Fassil Demissie, Michele Goodwin, eds. (Pretoria: University of South Africa Press, 2009), pp. 81-97.

“The Politics of Identity in Local African Societies.” A Review Essay. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 40, Number 4 (2005), pp. 303-308.

“The Past and Present in Ghana’s Ethnic Conflicts: British Colonial Policy and Konkomba Agency, 1930-1951” *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 38, Numbers 2-3 (2004), pp. 192-210.

“‘Food to Eat and Pito to Drink’: Education, Local Politics and Self-Help Initiatives in Northern Ghana, 1945-1972,” *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana*, Number 7 (2004), pp. 205-229.

Published Essays and Interviews

“Thomas Sankara Gave His Life Fighting Neocolonialism,” *Jacobin*, April 17, 2021.
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/04/thomas-sankara-burkina-faso-neocolonialism-revolutionary-socialism>

“Thomas Sankara Is Not Dead,” *Jacobin*, February 2021.
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/02/thomas-sankara-is-not-dead-film>

“Black Americans Have Long Led the Global Battle Against White Supremacy,” *The Washington Post*, February 9, 2021.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/02/09/black-americans-have-long-led-global-battle-against-white-supremacy/>

“The Tragic Delusions of White Exceptionalism,” *Africa Is A Country*, January 18, 2021.
<https://africasacountry.com/2021/01/the-tragic-delusions-of-white-exceptionalism>

“Why Nkrumah’s Socialist, Pan-Africanist Vision Continues to Inspire Radicals Today, An Interview with Benjamin Talton and Anakwa Dwamena,” *Jacobin*, September 2020.
https://jacobinmag.com/2020/09/kwame-nkrumah-ghana-pan-africanism?fbclid=IwAR30gyLh91Xd5mlWtXUk6GR3mfM_KfbetspcFa8VxsLbFb47Z6h6Hf6kJgU

“Reading List: Benjamin Talton,” *Africa is a Country* (February 2020)
<https://africasacountry.com/2020/02/reading-list-benjamin-talton>

“Mickey Leland and African in American Politics: An Interview with Benjamin Talton,” *Black Perspectives*, By Keisha Blain (September 2019)
<https://www.aaihs.org/mickey-leland-and-africa-in-american-politics-an-interview-with-benjamin-talton/>

“The Radical Roots of ‘The Squad’: How Mickey Leland and the Congressional Black Caucus Paved the Way for Today’s Progressive Politics.” *The Washington Post*, August 28, 2019.
<https://beta.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/08/28/radical-roots-squad/>

“African History on Its Own Terms,” *Africa is a Country* (February 2019),
<https://africasacountry.com/2019/01/history-on-its-own-terms>

“The Mandela’s at Harlem’s Africa Square,” *Africa is a Country* (December 2018),
<https://africasacountry.com/2018/12/the-mandelas-at-harlems-africa-square>

“Africa on its Own Terms,” *Africa is a Country* (January 2019),
<https://africasacountry.com/2019/01/history-on-its-own-terms>

“Obama Could Have Done More for Africa by Supporting Pro-Democracy Protests,” *The Conversation* (January 2017)
<https://theconversation.com/profiles/benjamin-talton-313098/articles>

“Trump’s Rise: African Americans Must Lead on Africa’s Affairs,” *The Conversation* (December 2016), <http://theconversation.com/trumps-rise-african-american-politicians-must-lead-on-africas-affairs-68439>

“African Resistance to Colonial Rule,” *Africana Age: African and African Diasporan Transformation in the 20th Century*. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Fall 2010) <http://exhibitions.nypl.org/africanaage/essay-resistance.html>

“The Challenge of Decolonization in Africa,” *Africana Age: African and African Diasporan Transformation in the 20th Century*. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Fall 2010) <http://exhibitions.nypl.org/africanaage/essay-challenge-of-decolonization-africa.html>

Book Reviews

Jeffrey Paller, *Democracy in Ghana: Everyday Politics in Urban Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), *Political Science Quarterly*, 135, Number 3 (Fall 2020), pp. 532-533.

Kate Skinner, *The Fruits of Freedom in British Togoland: Literacy, Politics, and Nationalism, 1914-2014* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). *African Studies Review*, 62, Number 2, (2020), pp. 35-37.

Patrick Manning, *The African Diaspora: A History Through Culture* (Columbia University Press, 2015). *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 43, Number 2 (2010).

Carola Lentz, *Ethnicity and the Making of History in Northern Ghana* (Edinburgh University Press, 2006). *H-Review, H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (January 2010).

Jonathan Derrick. *Africa’s ‘Agitators’: Militant Anti-Colonialism in Africa and the West, 1918-1939* (Oxford, 2008). *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 42, Number 2 (2009), pp. 315-317.

Toyin Falola and Alusine Jalloh, *United States and West Africa: Interactions and Relations* (University of Rochester Press, 2008). *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 42, Number 3 (2009), pp. 485-486.

SELECT INVITED LECTURES AND SEMINARS

“African Worlds in Conversation: Black Lives Matter Globally,” NYU Center for the Study of Africa and the African Diaspora Webinar. September 23, 2020.

Book Talk, “In This Land of Plenty: Mickey Leland and Africa in American Politics,” The Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston. Houston, Texas. September 23, 2020

- “Is This Time Different: Social Movement for Racial Justice,” The Public Policy Lab and the Center for Humanities at Temple Webinar. June 18, 2020
- “The Black Power International: Lessons for Building African and African Americans Connections in the 21st Century.” 2020 Political Science Research Symposium, Enduring Connections: The Fight for Inclusion and Participation Among Africans and African Americans. Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL. February 27, 2020.
- “The African Diaspora in Modern History,” the African Diaspora Institute for Social Studies Teachers. New York University. February 20, 2020.
- “The Highwater Mark of Black Power: Africans and Africa in the Age of Reagan.” The Carter G. Woodson Lecture, Holy Cross College. Worcester, MA. February 3, 2020.
- “Art and Activism in the Life of Mickey Leland.” Driving Transformations from the DeLuxe Show to the Future, The DeLuxe Theater. Houston, TX. October 24, 2019.
- “Mickey Leland and Africa in American Politics.” The Mickey Leland Center, Texas Southern University. Houston, TX. October 24, 2019.
- “The Afterlife of Radicalism: Africa and Black Power in 1980s America.” Remaking American Political History Conference. Purdue University. June 6-7, 2019.
- “Third World Capitalism in New York: The Brief Life of the Harlem International Trade Center.” Black Internationalism and New York City, CSAAD-ASWAD Medial Meeting, New York University. May 2-3, 2019
- “The Afterlife of Radicalism: Africa and African Americans Politics in the 1980s.” Global Africa: African and African Diaspora Studies in the 21st Century. The Africa Institute, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. March 12-14, 2019.
- “The Afterlife of Radicalism: African Americans and Africa in the Age of Reagan.” Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Center for Humanities, Temple University. April 18, 2019.
- “Challenging Black Radical Racism: Alan Keyes’ and the Human Rights Standard for “Black Ruled” Nations,” SHAFR Conference, Washington, DC. June 23, 2018.
- “Afro-80s: Writing Black Radicalism in Africa and the U.S. Congress,” Africana Mobilities in Global Perspective, Program in African and African American Studies, Dartmouth College, Hanover, MA. November 3, 2016.
- “Decolonization in Africa,” Schomburg-Mellon Summer Institute, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York. June 10, 2016.
- “The State of Africa,” Africana Studies, Rutgers University-Camden. February 16, 2016.

- “Race Identity and Perception in Americanah,” Greenwich Library (Connecticut). October 27, 2015.
- “1989 and the Era of Relief: Ethiopia and the U.S. at the end of the Cold War, Contemporary Africa Seminar, Columbia University. April 23, 2015.
- “African Independence and the Challenge of National Identity,” Africana Lecture Series, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. October 2011.
- “Decolonization in Africa,” Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York. June 2011.
- “Hunger is a Weapon: Human Rights and U.S. Politics in the Horn of Africa,” Department of Middle East, South Asia and African Languages, Columbia University, New York. February 17, 2011.
- “Popular Historical Memory and Constructions of Power and Belonging in Africa and the African Diaspora,” African Diaspora Forum, New York University. March 31, 2010.
- “The Leland Legacy in U.S. Humanitarian Assistance,” Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX. February 20, 2010.
- “Postcolonial Africa,” Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York. July 2007.
- “Research and Writing,” Lecture delivered to the Graduate Students of the Department of History, University of Ghana-Legon. August 2009.
- “Tradition, Historical Memory, and the Challenge of Belonging in Modern Africa,” Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Center for Humanities, Temple University. October 2, 2008.
- “Historical Memory and Political Legitimacy in Africa and the Diaspora,” Circulating People, Circulating Cultures: Legacies of Slavery in Africa and the Americas, Rutgers University Center for African Studies, New Brunswick, NJ. May 2007.
- “Africanisms and African American Religion” Department of History and Political Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. March 2007.
- “African Resistance to Colonial Rule,” Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Institute, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY. June 2006.
- “Cross-Currents in the Cultural Relationship between Africa and its Diaspora,” Department of History and Political Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, April 2006.

“African Identities in the History of African-American Resistance,” Department of History and Political Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. November 2005.

“African History Research Methods,” Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Institute, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, July 2005.

“‘With Streaming Brows of Sweat’: The Growth of a Western-Educated Konkomba Political Leadership,” Columbia University African Studies Seminars, Columbia University, New York. April 2005.

SERVICE

Select Service to the Department of History, Temple

Ad Hoc Hiring Committee (Gender and Sexuality in Europe), Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2013-2016

Coordinator, Department Themed Semester: Semester of Plunder, 2016-2017

Ad Hoc Hiring Committee (China), Fall 2012-Spring 2013

Personnel Committee, 2012-Present

Member, Chair’s Advisory Committee, 2009-Spring 2015

Member, Graduate Council, 2010-2013, 2014-Present

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2008-2010

Chair, Barnes Club World History Prize, World History Prize Committee, Spring 2010, 2011, 2020

Courses Taught

Temple University, 2008-present

Modern Africa

Comparative Slavery

Confronting Empire

The African Diaspora

The African Diaspora (Graduate)

Special Topics in African History: Colonial Encounters in West Africa (Graduate Course)

Writing Seminar in Third World History

Introduction to Third World History (Graduate Course)

The Politics of Identity

Global Crisis

Colonialism and Decolonization

Cold War Africa

Precolonial Africa
The Writing Capstone

Comprehensive Examinations

1. Minju Bae, February 2017
2. Jesse Curtis, May 2016
3. Jess Bird, November 2013
4. John Worsencroft, November 2013
5. Carly Goodman, October 2012
6. Manna Duah, August 2012
7. Matthew Unangst, October 2011

Dissertation Committees (Committee Member)

1. James Kopaczewski

“Wards of the State: Contrabands, Native Americans, and the Formation of Federal Authority, 1861-1887.” Department of History, Temple University (In-Progress).

2. Manna Duah

“African Students in a Cold War Global Revolt: Activism and Protest in Ethiopia, South Africa and the United States.” Department of History, Temple University (Summer 2020)

3. Omilade Johnson

“Embodied Knowledge and the Politics of Metissage: Germaine Acogny’s Modern African Dance Technique, 1962-1975.” Department of Dance, Temple University (Spring 2019)

4. Richard Evans

“MOVE: Religious Liberty, Human Rights, and Secularism in Modern America.” Department of History, Temple University (Spring 2018)

5. Abu M. Norman

“Afrocentric Praxis: Africological Reconceptualization of the Epistemological Crises in Postcolonial Studies.” Department of Africology, Temple University (Spring 2018)

6. Christopher Roberts

“Breaking the Colonial Map: Visualizing Africological Narratives of Memory, Imagining Educational Liberation through Unseating Monumental Eurocentric Epistemic Violence.” Department of Africology, Temple University (Spring 2018).

7. Maria Ifetayo Flannery

“Locating Africa within the Diaspora: The Significance of the Relationship between Haiti and Free Africans of Philadelphia Following the Haitian Revolution.” Department of Africology and African American Studies, Temple University (April 2013).

8. Carly Goodman

“The World’s Most Exciting Game of Chance: The U.S. Green Card Lottery and the Dynamics of Citizenship and Immigration in 1990s West Africa.” Department of History, Temple University (Spring 2016)

9. Matthew Unangst

“Making East Africa: German Colonialism, Race, and Islam, 1884-1914.” Department of History, Temple University (Fall 2015)

10. Tony Williams

“Caliban’s Victorian Children.” Department of English, Temple University (Spring 2013)

11. Monique Johnston

“‘With Hope, Hunger Does Not Kill’: A Cultural Analysis of Buchi Emecheta.” Department of African American Studies, Temple University (Spring 2012)

External Reader of Doctoral Dissertation

Domenico Cristofaro, “Between African Planning and Colonial Intervention: The Process of Urbanization in Bolgatanga, Ghana (1896-1939).” University of Bologna, Italy (Fall 2019)

MA Committees

1. Keith M. Riley, “I have My Mind!: U.S.-Sandinista Solidarities, Revolutionary Romanticism, and the Imagined Nicaragua, 1979-1990,” Department of History (Defended Spring 2016)
2. Isaac Dunn, (Advisor) “The Myth of African Culture in Islam: A Critical Analysis of Cultural Retentions in the Western Sudan,” Department of History (Defended Spring 2013)
3. Eric Roerhkas, “U.S. Air Force Military Civic Action in Thailand, 1964-1976: Modernization, U.S. Foreign Policy, and Military Doctrine,” Department of History (Defended Spring 2011)

Select Service to the College of Liberal Arts, Temple University

Webinar Moderator, “Is This Time Different: Social Movement for Racial Justice,” The Public Policy Lab and the Center for Humanities at Temple. June 18, 2020

CLA Fall Graduation Commencement Speaker. January 20, 2020.

Strategic Planning Core Committee, 2019-Present

CLA Curriculum Committee, 2019-Present

Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2016-2019 (Chair, 2018-2019)

Faculty Leaves Committee, 2012-2014

Committee on Instruction, 2014-2015

Service to Temple University

Representative Faculty Senate, Fall 2020-Present

Hiring Committee for Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs Position, Spring 2017

Faculty Lecturer, Temple Alumni Association-Sponsored Trip to South Africa, October 2010

University Fulbright Committee, Fall 2008, Fall 2012, Fall 2015, Fall 2016

Select Professional and Community Service

Boards

Advisory Board Member, 2020-Present, New York University, Center for the Study of Africa and the African Diaspora

Executive Board Member, 2015-Present, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora

Academic Prize Committee Chair, 2017-Present

Program Co-Chair, 2015-2017

Advisory Board, 2015-Present, Ghana Studies Association

President, 2011-2015 (Outgoing, 2016)

Conference Convener, "Global Ghana," Cape Coast, July 2016

Conference Convener, "Perspectives on Ghana," Kumasi, May 2013

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws and Governance, 2010-2011

Executive Board Member, Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy, Brooklyn, NY, 2014-Present

Executive Board Member, New Heights Academy Charter School, New York New York, 2020-Present

Professional Associations

African Studies Association

Member, New York Local Arrangements Committee, 50th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, 2005-2007

New York Area African Studies Workshop

Conference Organizer, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, March 2008

Journals

Associate Editor, 2017-Present, *African Studies Review* (Peer-Reviewed Journal)

Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana, 2010-2016
Editorial Board

American Council of Learned Societies/Mellon
Reviewer, Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2019-2020, 2020-2021

Africa and the West (University of Oran-Algeria), 2010-2012
Editorial Board

External Reviews and Evaluations

Reviewer, 2018-Present, ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship

External Department Review, Department of History, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ.
November 2014.

External Review, Department of History, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
January 2021