

Curriculum Vitae

Benjamin D. Wendorf, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in History
Quinsigamond Community College
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PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS African history, Atlantic World history, African and African Diaspora Studies, African American history, global history, race & racism, U.S. history, development, Caribbean & Central American history, US-Africa relations, global politics, economic history, American Indian history

EDUCATION

Doctorate (African & African Diaspora Studies), December 2016

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of African & African Diaspora Studies, Milwaukee, WI
Dissertation Title: *“Rail: African & African American Labor and the Ties That Bind in the Atlantic World”*
Defense Date: August 22nd, 2016
Degree Conferred: December 23rd, 2016
Advisor: Jeffrey Sommers, Ph.D.

Master of Arts Degree (African History), May 2010

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of History, Milwaukee, WI
Thesis: *“The Political Kingdom: Ghana & Development, 1957-1978”*
Advisor: Aims McGuinness, Ph.D.

Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship (Akan Twi), Summer 2008

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Linguistics, Urbana, IL
Summer Cooperative African Language Institute

Bachelor of Arts Degrees (History & English), May 2007

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Departments of History and English, Green Bay, WI
Advisor: Andrew Kersten, Ph.D.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor – History – Quinsigamond Community College

Department of History, forthcoming 9/2019

- Teaching courses in world history, African history, African American history, and U.S. history

Assistant Professor – History – Quinsigamond Community College

Department of History, 8/2016 to present

- Teaching courses in world history, African history, African American history, and U.S. history

Lecturer – African and Afro-American Studies – Brandeis University

Department of African and Afro-American Studies, 8/2015 to 6/2016

- Developed and taught the courses “Introduction to African History” and “Africa and the West”

Lecturer – Africology – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Department of Africology, 9/2012 to 5/2014

- Developed and taught courses for Africology 100, “Survey of African American Society”

Teaching Assistant – Africology – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Department of Africology, 9/2010 to 5/2012

- Organized discussion sections using readings, lectures, and notes for the “Survey of African American Society”

Teaching Assistant – History – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Department of History, 9/2008 to 5/2010

- Organized discussion sections from readings, lectures, and notes for a course on American Indian History in present-day Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ontario

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**Research Associate**

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc., 4/2016 to 8/2016

- Conducted research on public policy, demography, and economy in the Greater Worcester area
- Increased proficiency in GIS software and Microsoft VBA coding for data collection

Dissertation: Defended 8/2016

- ***“Rail: African & African American Labor and the Ties That Bind in the Atlantic World”***
- Committee: Drs. Jeffrey Sommers, Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, Marcus Filippello, Anika Wilson
- Project: The construction of rail lines had a transformative impact on the evolution of economies in the Atlantic World. Workers of African descent, both free and enslaved, played a vital, tangible role in these projects. Using a comparative history of Panama, the American South, and the Gold Coast colony in West Africa, I look at the overlapping contexts of labor relations, race, economy, and society in the building of these rail lines. The research draws on a wealth of primary source documents, including US government reports, British Colonial Reports, diaries, railroad company documentation, and observer accounts pertaining to railway construction.
- Learned map creation through use of GIS software

Graduate Research Assistant – Advisor Dr. Erin Winkler

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of Africology, 1/2010 to 5/2013

- Assisted Erin Winkler, Associate Professor of Africology, on a pedagogical study examining how and when students’ thinking about threshold concepts including racism changes during the course of a semester in a diversity requirement general education course
- Coordinated qualitative analysis and coding of written course assignments using NVivo qualitative data analysis software, analyzed survey data using SPSS, conducted literature searches

Master’s Thesis: Defended 5/2010

- ***“The Political Kingdom: Ghana & Development, 1957 to 1978”***
- Committee: Drs. Aims McGuinness, Osei Mensah Aborampah, Bruce Fetter
- Project: The emerging African nations of the mid-20th century found that development as a process engaged a complex geopolitical matrix globally. I researched the evolving strategies the Ghanaian government employed over the first two decades of independence to develop their economic, education, and social institutions. Research materials included personal accounts of Ghanaian government officials and citizens, U.S. State Department memos and correspondence with Ghanaian governments, observer reports, and economic and demographic statistics.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters:

Wendorf, Benjamin with Patrick Bellegarde-Smith. "Vodou in North American: Healing One Person, Healing the Universe." In *Multicultural Approaches to Health and Wellness*. Volume 1: Key Issues and Medical Systems. Regan A.R. Gurung, Ed. Praeger Publishing: Santa Barbara, CA, 2014, 309-327.

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Evolution of the Subversive Ghanaian: A Review of Gold Coast Colonial Historiography." *Traversea* 5 (2015): 33-44.

Publications in Preparation:

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Enslaved African Labor and Infrastructure in the Americas." in preparation.

Wendorf, Benjamin, "The 'Rail' in Enslaved African American Narratives." in preparation.

Wendorf, Benjamin, "Critiquing Western Ideas About Chieftaincy in Ghana." in preparation.

ORAL CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Kwame Abe: Akan Highwayman." Milwaukee, WI. African & African Diaspora Studies Seminar Presentation. Mar. 1st, 2019.

Wendorf, Benjamin. Panel Chair: "Legitimizing and Defining Nationhood"; Paper: "The Creation of Kwame Abe, Akan Highwayman." Atlanta, GA. 61st Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 29th, 2018.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "The 'Rail' in Enslaved African American Narratives." New London, NH. 37th Annual Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference. Oct. 31st, 2015.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Paths of Flesh: Enslaved African Labor and Infrastructure in the Americas." Minneapolis, MN. 22nd Annual World History Association Conference. June 27th, 2013.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "The Political Kingdom: Ghana & Development 1957 – 1978." Philadelphia, PA. 55th Annual African Studies Association Conference. Dec. 1st, 2012.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "The Asante and the 'Eight Great Roads.'" Grand Rapids, MI. International Big History Association Conference. Aug. 5th, 2012.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Asante as Empire: A Revision for World History." Washington, D.C. 54th Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 18th, 2011.

HONORS & AWARDS

National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award – 2019

- Awarded to an "outstanding full-time faculty member" as nominated by their peers

Student Choice Award – Quinsigamond Community College – 2017

- Awarded to student-nominated Gateway to College professors for their "hard work and dedication" in the classroom

Finalist – Chancellor's Golda Meir Library Scholar Award – UW-Milwaukee – 2013

- Presented a proposal to utilize the American Geographical Society Library for an article on the construction of infrastructure in the Gold Coast (later Ghana) from 1900 to 1978

George W. & Winston A. Van Horne Prize – UW-Milwaukee – 2011 – \$1,250

- Awarded for the most outstanding graduate oral and written comprehensive examination in Africology

Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship – 2008 – \$2,500

- Fellowship to assist students in acquiring foreign language and either area or international studies competencies in intensive language programs
- Applied toward the intensive study Akan (Twi) language within the Summer Cooperative African Language Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Nominated – History Department Graduate Paper of the Year – UW-Milwaukee

- Spring 2008, “Quarreling Comrades: The NAACP and Communists in the Early 20th Century Civil Rights Period, 1919-1954”
- Fall 2007, “Is Ghana a Model to be Admired?: Demography and Economy in Ghana from 1970 to the Present”

OTHER EXPERIENCE
Freelance Writer, *The Hockey News & Chicago Tribune*, 10/2014 to 6/2015

- Researched and published articles on hockey analytics, in print and online publications
- Published in 8 print publications over the 2014-15 National Hockey League (NHL) season

Editor-in-Chief, Maple Leaf Press: Winnipeg Jets Season Preview Magazine, Summer 2011

- Proofread and edited all articles and items in 117-page NHL season preview magazine
- Recruited and organized work of team of eight writers, including the work of interviewers, statisticians, graphic designers, and journalists
- Selected photos and wrote captions for entire magazine
- Authored two articles and compiled statistics for almanac section

Head Editor & Manager, Arctic Ice Hockey blog (Vox Media), 10/2010 to 8/2012

- Scheduled and edited all blog content, including selecting and captioning photographs and presentation of graphics and data
- Coordinated production of team of 5-7 writers

Volunteer, Milwaukee County Historical Society, 6/2007 to 4/2008

- Used archiving software to digitize collections
- Constructed exhibits, including paneling on the Milwaukee Braves '57 Championship run and artifacts from the history of downtown Milwaukee

MEMBERSHIPS

African Studies Association – January 2008 to present

Ghana Studies Association – October 2008 to present

Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society – April 2007 to present

Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society – March 2007 to present