

Curriculum Vitae

**Benjamin D. Wendorf, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor in History  
Quinsigamond Community College  
Worcester, Massachusetts  
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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

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**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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
Degree Conferred: December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Associate Professor – History – Quinsigamond Community College**

Department of History, 9/2019 to present

- 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 9/2019

- 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 – African & African Diaspora Studies – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Department of African & African Diaspora Studies, 9/2012 to 5/2014

- Developed and taught course sections of “Survey of African American Society”

**Teaching Assistant – African & African Diaspora Studies – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Department of African & African Diaspora Studies, 9/2010 to 5/2012

- Organized and led discussion sections for course titled “Survey of African American Society”

**Teaching Assistant – History – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Department of History, 9/2008 to 5/2010

- Organized and led discussion sections for course on American Indian history in Midwestern U.S.

**PUBLICATIONS****Peer-Reviewed Publications:**

Wendorf, Benjamin; Michael J. Gormley & Ryan Solinsky. “Reconnecting Neural and Cultural Pathways: Spinal Cord Injuries in *Black Panther’s* Afrofuturism.” In Eduardo Pérez & Timothy E. Brown, *Black Panther and Philosophy*. Hoboken, NJ: Blackwell, 2022, in publication.

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

**Book Chapters:**

Wendorf, Benjamin with Patrick Bellegarde-Smith. “Vodou in North America: 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.

**Publications in Preparation:**

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

Wendorf, Benjamin, “Searching for an Akan Highwayman in Contemporary Ghana.” in preparation.

**ORAL CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

Wendorf, Benjamin. Discussant: “Durable Ideas, Practices, in Places in African Histories;” Paper: “Searching for a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Highwayman in Contemporary Ghana.” Boston, MA. 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

Wendorf, Benjamin. “Kwame Abe: Akan Highwayman.” Milwaukee, WI. African & African Diaspora Studies Seminar Presentation. Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

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

Wendorf, Benjamin. “The ‘Rail’ in Enslaved African American Narratives.” New London, NH. 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference. Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

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

Wendorf, Benjamin. “The Political Kingdom: Ghana & Development 1957 – 1978.” Philadelphia, PA. 55<sup>th</sup> Annual African Studies Association Conference. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

Wendorf, Benjamin. “The Asante and the ‘Eight Great Roads.’” Grand Rapids, MI. International Big History Association Conference. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Wendorf, Benjamin. “Asante as Empire: A Revision for World History.” Washington, D.C. 54<sup>th</sup> Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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## 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

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## 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 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: 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.

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## 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

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## 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