

**Florence Bernault**  
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**Off. Ho.: TR 3:10-4:00 pm**  
**(and by appointment)**

**History/Anthropology 774**  
**Wed. 5:30 pm-7:00 pm**  
**Humanities 5255**

**Methods for Historical Research in Non-Literate Societies**  
**Fall 2012: Methodologies for Modern African History**

This seminar will combine readings and workshops to familiarize students with non-traditional sources and evidence used by historians and social scientists to write about modern Africa. Beyond the classic dichotomy of oral/written evidence, we will push the boundaries of what can be “read” by researchers, and explore testimonies, rumors, fictions and images. We will also discuss the particular challenges and opportunities offered by ephemera such as internet sources and live performances. We will try and track elusive places of meaning such as emotions, feelings, and the psyche. In looking at the methods and theories in modern history/anthropology, we will interrogate the position of the researcher herself, not only in terms of social, racial or cultural biases, but also in terms of the ways in which scholarly knowledge has been shaped by the imperial past. We will also examine the “competitive” context in which archives and sources are used by specialists of different disciplines (History and Anthropology for instance), and different fields (African and European/Colonial History).

**Readings:**

**[e-books] and [e-articles]** are available through online databases at Memorial Library. The other readings have been uploaded on the course website at Learn@UW.

The following books (required and recommended) are available for purchase at the University Bookstore, and also available on reserve at Helen C. White:

- Required:
  - Marc Bloch, *Historian's Craft* (1964)
  - Jennifer Cole and Lynn M. Thomas, eds., *Love in Africa* (2009)
  - Sandra E. Greene, *Sacred Sites and the Colonial Encounter* (2002)
  - Greg Mann, *Native Sons. West African Veterans and France in the Twentieth Century* (2006)
  - Albert Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized* (1965)
  - Christopher Pinney, *Photography and Anthropology* (2011)
  - Michael Taussig, *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America* (1980)
  - Beatrice Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter: The Ordeal of a Rwandan Refugee in Zaire* (2004)
  - Luise White, *Speaking with Vampires* (2000)

- Recommended: [in particular for students of Africa, to start or augment your library]  
Paul S. Landau and Deborah D. Kaspin, eds., *Images and Empires. Visuality in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa* (2002)  
John Edward Philips, ed., *Writing African History* (2005)  
Luise White, Stephan Miescher and David William Cohen, eds., *African Words, African Voices. Critical Practices in Oral History* (2001)

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## REQUIREMENTS

- 1) You will write 8 shorter critical responses (1-2 page, single lined) on the main reading(s) for each reading week, and make them available for all members of the course to read online. These short essays should offer critical assessment of the week's readings – significance of the key arguments, most and least persuasive aspects, new research inspired by the work – and may also analyze how the readings relate to other course and outside texts. Your commentaries should avoid summarizing the readings and should instead focus on a particular theme or issue addressed by the author(s). These essays will serve, along with the introductory remarks prepared by the discussion leader, as the basis for in-class discussions. Please post your response essays on the course website (via Learn@UW) by 8:00 pm on the Tuesday before our class meeting on Wednesday.
- 2) In addition, you will choose one week in the semester for which you will lead the discussion and write a longer essay (8-10 pages, double spaced) that will engage both with the main reading and the recommended readings for that week. This essay will also be posted online prior to the seminar for all to read.
- 3) I'll hand out the materials ahead of time for the workshops. You will prepare an essay analyzing the source(s) proposed for that week, and you will post it two days before class on the course website for all members of the seminar to read. The papers will be the basis for the discussion in class.
- 4) Grading will be based on assessing your writing, analysis of sources and oral participation in discussions.



Jean Depara. *Untitled (Autoportrait)* (1975)  
Gelatin silver print

## 1. Wednesday Sept. 5 -- Oral, Written, Performative, Virtual : What is an Archive?

Luise White, *Speaking with Vampires* (2000). Read chapters 1 and 2, and choose one other chapter to discuss.

Ann L. Stoler *Along the Archival Grain*, 1-53

Carolyn Hamilton, Verne Harris and al. *Refiguring the Archive*, 7-17

Antoinette Burton, Introduction: Archive Fever, Archive Stories, in A. Burton ed. *Archives Stories* (2005): 1-24

Renée Sentilles, Toiling in the Archives of Cyberspace, in A. Burton, ed. *Archive Stories* (2005): 136-56

Roy Rosenzweig, Scarcity or Abundance? Preserving the Past in a Digital Era, *AHR* (June 2003): 735-62 [e-article]

### RECOMMENDED

- Luise White, Stephan Miescher and David William Cohen, eds. *African Words, African Voices. Critical Practices in Oral History* (2001)
- Jo Ellen Fair, Melissa Tully, Brian Ekdale and Rabiou K. B. Asante, Creating Lifestyles in Urban Africa: Young Ghanaians in the World on Online Friendship, *Africa Today* 55-4 (2009): 29-49 [e-article]

## ON PERFORMANCE

- Karin Barber, *I Could Speak until Tomorrow: Oriki, Women and the Past in a Yoruba Town* (1991) particularly introduction and chap. 4 (Contexts of performance) [e-book]
- Jane I. Guyer and Samuel M. Eno Belinga, Wealth in People as Wealth in Knowledge: Accumulation and Composition in Equatorial Africa, *JAH* 36 (1995): 91-120 (particularly on their analysis of Mvet performance, 95-103) [e-article]
- Birgit Meyer, Aesthetics of Persuasion: Global Christianity and Pentecostalism's Sensational Forms, *South Atlantic Quarterly* 109-4 (2010): 741-63 [e-article]

## 2. Sept 12. -- Life Stories

Beatrice Umutesi, *Surviving the Slaughter* (2004)

David Newbury, Understanding Genocide, *African Studies Review* 41-1 (April 1998): 73-97 [e-article]

## RECOMMENDED

- Luise White, Stephan Miescher and David William Cohen, Introduction. Voices, Words and African History, in L. White, S. Miescher and D. W. Cohen, eds. *African Words, African Voices. Critical Practices in Oral History* (2001): 1-27
- Abdullahi Ibrahim, The Birth of the Interview: The Thin and the Fat of It, in L. White, S. Miescher and D. Cohen, eds. *African Words, African Voices. Critical Practices in Oral History* (2001): 103-24
- Barbara M. Cooper, Oral Sources and the Challenge of African History, in J. E. Philips, ed. *Writing African History* (2005):191-215
- Adam Ashforth, *Madumo: A Man Bewitched* (2000)
- Trevor R. Getz and Liz Clarke *Abina and the Important Men. A Graphic History* (2011)

## 3. Sept. 19 -- Workshop on Life Stories

Bogumil Jewsiewicki, *Naitre et mourir au Zaire* (1993)

- Partout les sorciers. Récit de vie de Kayembe Beleji: 63-104

If you don't read French [check with me for permission], you have two options:

1/ Work on the following reading;

John M. Chernoff, *Hustling is Not Stealing. Stories of an African Bar Girl* (2003) – read Intro and Into the Life (Part one): 1-218, and work on Part one of Hawa's story (121-218)

2/ Choose a life-story or testimony in a language of your choice, and provide a translation in English with your analysis.

#### 4. Sept. 26 -- Historicizing Fiction

Emily Callaci, *Lovers and Fighters: Manhood and Migration in the Urban Literary Scene in Dar Es Salaam, 1967-80* (2012)

Florence Bernault, *Body, Power and Sacrifice in Equatorial Africa*, *JAH* 47-2 (2006): 207-39 (on novels by Joseph Conrad and George Simenon: 18-21) [**e-article**]

#### RECOMMENDED

- Wendy Griswold, *Bearing Witness: Readers, Writers and the Novel in Nigeria* (2000)
- Brian Larkin, *Indian Films and Nigerian Lovers: Media and the Creation of Parallell Modernities*, *Africa* 67-3 (1997) (about Hausa pulp novellas) [**e-article**]
- Gyan Prakash, ed., *Noir Urbanisms: Dystopic Images of the Modern City* (2010)
- Karin Barber, ed. *Africa's Hidden Histories: Everyday Literacy and Making the Self* (2006)
- Stephanie Newell, *Ghanaian Popular Fiction: Thrilling Discoveries in Conjugal Life and Other Tales* (2000)
- Stephanie Newell, ed. *Readings in African Popular Fiction* (2002)
- Roland Barthes, *Pleasure of the Text* (1975)

#### 5. Oct. 3 -- Fantasy and Fancy

Albert Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized* (1991) [1965]

Frederick Cooper, *The Rise, Fall and Rise of Colonial Studies, 1951-2001*, in F. Cooper, *Colonialism in Question* (2005): (especially on 'psychologizing colonialism': 41-3)

Jan Vansina, *Being Colonized* (2010) (two dream vignettes collected among the Kuba in the 1950s, and explanation of his method in intro): 1-9, 228-35, 320

#### RECOMMENDED

- Florence Bernault, *Body, Power and Sacrifice in Equatorial Africa*, *JAH* 47 (2006): 207-39 [**e-article**]
- Sloan Mahone & Megan Vaughan, eds., *Psychiatry and Empire* (2008)
- Richard C. Keller, *Colonial Madness. Psychiatry in French North Africa* (2007)
- Jock McCollough, *Colonial Psychiatry and the African Mind* (1995)
- Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* [1961]
- Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* [1955] (1972)

- Octave Mannoni, *Prospero and Caliban. The Psychology of Colonization* (1991)

## 6. Oct. 10 -- Workshop: Fiction and Fancy

You will analyze a work of fiction of your choice [novella, short novel or a story], and will provide a script of the story. I'll provide you with ideas of works if necessary, and will give you guidelines in advance.

## 7. Oct. 17 -- TBA

## 8. Oct. 24 -- Historicizing Social Space

Sandra Greene, *Sacred Sites and the Colonial Encounter* (2002)

Sean Hanretta, Space and Conflict in the Elisabethville Mining Camps, 1923-1938, in *A History of Prison and Confinement in Africa* [HPCA], ed. by Florence Bernault (2003): 191-219

### RECOMMENDED

- Mary Louise Pratt, Introduction: Criticism in the Contact Zone, and Science, Planetary Consciousness, Interiors, in *Imperial Eyes. Travel Writing and Transculturation* (1992): 1-37
- Allen M. Howard & Richard M. Shain, eds., *The Spatial Factor in African History* (2005)
- Bernard Calas, ed., *From Dar-es-Salaam to Bongoland. Urban Mutuations in Tanzania* (2010)
- David M. Anderson & Richard Rathbone, eds., *Africa's Urban Past* (2000)
- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (1979) [chapter on panopticon]
- Florence Bernault, The Politics of Enclosure, in HPCA: 1-53
- Odile Goerg, Colonial Urbanism and Confinement, in HPCA: 119-34
- Christopher Gray, L'enfermement de l'espace, in HPCA: 165-90
- Pierre Boilley, Administrative Confinements, in HPCA: 221-37

## 9. Oct. 31 -- Workshop on Social Space

I'll provide you with a dossier ahead of time.

## 10. Nov. 7 – Visual Sources: Photographs, Paintings, Video, Graphic Novels

Christopher Pinney, *Photography and Anthropology* (2011)

## RECOMMENDED

- Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida* (1981) [first ed. in French 1980]
- Susan Sontag, *On Photography* (1977)
- Paul S. Landau, Introduction. An Amazing Distance: Pictures and People in Africa, and Empires of the Visual: Photography and Colonial Administration in Africa, in P. Landau & D. Kaspin eds., *Images and Empire* (2002): 1-40, 141-71
- Bogumil Jewsiewicki, Urban Painting in Zaire. From the Invention of the West to the Invention of the Self, in S. Vogel, *Africa Explores* (1991): 130-151; also printed in *Readings in African Popular Culture*, ed. by K. Barber (1997)
- Bogumil Jewsiewicki, *Mami Wata. La peinture urbaine au Congo* (2003)

## ON CINEMA AND VISUAL MEDIA

- Brian Larkin, *Signal and Noise: Media, Infrastructure and Urban Culture in Nigeria* (2008)
- James R. Brennan, Democratizing Cinema and Censorship in Tanzania, 1920-1980, *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 38-3 (2005): 481-511 [**e-article**]
- Birgit Meyer, Popular Ghanaian Cinema and 'African Heritage', *Africa Today* 46-2 (1999): 93-114 [**e-article**]

## ON GRAPHIC NOVELS AND COMICS

- Comment faire de la BD en Afrique ?, *Africultures* 84 (May 2011)
- Hergé, *Tintin au Congo* (1947)
- Nancy R. Hunt, Tintin and the Interruptions of Congo Comics, in P. Landau & D. Kaspin, eds., *Images and Empire* (2002): 90-123
- Teju Olaniyan, Cartooning Nigerian Anticolonial Nationalism, in P. Landau & D. Kaspin, eds., *Images and Empire* (2002): 124-40

## **11. Nov. 14 -- Workshop on Visual Archives**

We will be working on a choice of videos and/or cartoons.

## **12. Nov. 21 -- Thanksgiving, no class**

## **13. Nov. 28 -- Historians and Anthropologists on Consumption and Commodities**

Michael Taussig, *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America* (1980)

## RECOMMENDED

- Timothy Burke, *Lifebuoy Men, Lux Women* (1996)
- Sharon Hutchinson, *Nuer Dilemmas* (1996)
- Jeremy Prestholdt, "On the Global Repercussions of East African Consumerism," *The American Historical Review*, 109-3 (2004): 755-81 [**e-article**]

- Anne McClintock, Soft Soaping Empire. Commodity Racism and Imperial Advertising, in *Imperial Leather* (1995): 207-31 [e-book]
- Lynn Thomas, "The Modern Girl and Racial Respectability in 1930s South Africa." *Journal of African History* 47 (2006): 461-90 [e-article]
- Jo-Ellen Fair, 'Me Do Wu,' My Val: The Creation of Valentine's Day in Accra, Ghana, *African Studies Review* 47-3 (2004): 23-49 [e-article]

#### 14. Dec. 5 – On Emotions, the Body and Senses

Julie Livingston, Introduction, Pain and Laughter, and After ARVs, During Cancer and Before Death, in *Improvising Medicine. An African Oncology Ward in an Emerging Cancer Epidemic* (2012): 1-28, 119-73

Albert Schweitzer, *The Primeval Forest* (1931): 57-74

L. Ostergaard-Christensen, *At Work with Albert Schweitzer* (1962): 76-83

Jennifer Cole and Lynn M. Thomas, eds., *Love in Africa* (2009)

#### RECOMMENDED

- Kathryn Linn Geurts, Consciousness as 'Feeling in the Body' : A West African Theory of Embodiment, Emotion, and the Making of Mind, in *Empire of the Senses, the Sensual Culture Reader*, ed. by David Howes (2005): 164-78
- Ann Laura Stoler, Affectives States, in D. Nugent and J. Vincent, eds. *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics* (2004): 4-20
- Julie Livingston, Disgust, Bodily Aesthetics and the Ethic of Being Human in Botswana, *Africa* 78 (2008): 288-307 [e-article]
- Lynn M. Thomas, *Politics of the Womb. Women, Reproduction and the State in Kenya* (2003) [e-book]
- Michael Taussig, Culture of Terror, Space of Death, in Nicholas. B. Dirks, *Colonialism and Culture* (2000): 135-73
- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (1979)
- Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain. The Making and Unmaking of the World* (1987)
- Alain Corbin, *Time, Desire and Horror. Towards a History of the Senses* (1995)
- Barbara Rosenwein, *Emotional Communities in the Early Middle Ages* (2006)

#### 15. Dec. 12 -- Present/Past/Future: Locating Historical Narratives

Marc Bloch, *Historian's Craft* (1964)

Greg Mann, *Native Sons* (2006)