

PHILIP MISEVICH

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Academic Positions

Associate Professor, St. John's University, 2019-

Assistant Professor of History, St. John's University, 2011-2019

Assistant Professor of History, Denison University, 2009-2011

Education

Ph.D., Emory University, History Department, 2003-2009

Major Field: African History

Minor Concentrations: Atlantic World, Comparative Slave Trades

Dissertation: *On the Frontier of "Freedom:" Abolition and the Transformation of Atlantic Commerce in Southern Sierra Leone, 1790s to 1860s*

Committee: David Eltis (primary advisor), Kristin Mann, Clifton Crais, Edna Bay

B.A. *Summa Cum Laude*, St. John's University, History, 2002

Books

Abolition and the Transformation of Atlantic Commerce in Southern Sierra Leone, 1790s to 1860s, Harriet Tubman Series on the African Diaspora (Trenton: African World Press, 2019)

With Kristin Mann, eds., *The Rise and Demise of Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Atlantic World* (Rochester University Press, 2016)

Major Digital History Projects

Co-Producer, *Ghosts of Amistad: In the Footsteps of the Rebels* (Alexander Street Press, 2014), a documentary that traces the African dimensions of the *Amistad* story in Sierra Leone and explores memories and sites in Sierra Leone connected to the *Amistad* affair

- winner of the American Historical Association's John E. O'Connor Film Award for outstanding interpretations of history through film (2015)

Co-Principal Investigator, *African Origins* (www.african-origins.org), a website that uses historical data on 91,491 Africans liberated from slave vessels to explore slaves' likely origins in Africa

Steering Committee, *Voyages: The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database* (www.slavevoyages.org), a website that provides extensive information on 36,000 unique slave voyages that operated in the era of the slave trade

Articles and Chapters

With Daniel Domingues da Silva, "Atlantic Slavery and the Slave Trade: History and Historiography," Oxford Research Encyclopedias, Oxford University Press, 2018.

Available online at:

<https://oxfordre.com/africanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277734-e-371>.

With Daniel Domingues da Silva et al., "The Transatlantic Muslim Diaspora to Latin America in the Nineteenth Century," *Colonial Latin American Review* 26, no. 4 (2017): 528-45.

With Daniel Domingues da Silva et al., "A Digital Archive of Slave Voyages Details the Largest Forced Migration in History," *The Conversation* (April 30, 2017):

<https://theconversation.com/a-digital-archive-of-slave-voyages-details-the-largest-forced-migration-in-history-74902>

"The Mende and Sherbro Diaspora in Nineteenth-Century Southern Sierra Leone," in *The Rise and Demise of Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Atlantic World*, ed. Philip Misevich and Kristin Mann (Rochester University Press, 2016), 247-65.

With Kristin Mann, "Introduction" to *The Rise and Demise of Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Atlantic World*, ed. Philip Misevich and Kristin Mann (Rochester University, 2016), 1-30.

"Freetown and Freedom?" Colonialism and Slavery in Sierra Leone," in *Slavery, Abolition and the Transition to Colonialism in Sierra Leone*, ed. Paul E. Lovejoy and Suzanne Schwarz (Trenton: Africa World Press, 2014)

With Daniel Domingues da Silva et al., "The Diaspora of Africans Liberated from Slave Ships in the Nineteenth Century," *The Journal of African History* 55, no. 3 (2014): 347-69.

With Elaine Carey et al., "Tuning the Core: History, Assessment, and the St. John's University Core Curriculum," *Perspectives on History* 51, no. 4 (April 2013): <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/april-2013/tuning-the-core>

With David Eltis et al., "Using African Names to Identify the Origins of Captives in the Transatlantic Slave Trade: The Registers of Liberated Africans, 1808-1862," *History in Africa* 40, no. 1 (2013): 165-91.

“The Sierra Leone Hinterland and the Provisioning of Early Freetown, 1792-1803,” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 9, no. 3 (Winter, 2008).

“The Origins of Slaves Leaving the Upper Guinea Coast in the Nineteenth Century,” in *Extending the Frontiers: Essays on the New Transatlantic Slave Trade Database*, ed. David Eltis and David Richardson (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008): 155-175.

With David Eltis, “Atlantic Slave Trade,” in *Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, ed. Peter N. Stearns (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

“In Pursuit of Human Cargo: Philip Livingston and the Voyage of the Sloop *Rhode Island*,” *New York History*, 86, no. 3 (2005): 185-204.

Fellowships and Awards

National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access, PA-62897, “The Origins and Identities of Africans Entering the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, 1819-1845,” (2009-2010), Co-Principal Investigator (\$349,641). Supplementary grant awarded in September 2011 (\$27,000)

Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery, Schomburg Center, New York Public Library, Long-Term Fellowship in-residence, 2016-17 (\$30,000)

Franklin Research Center Travel Grant, Duke University, Summer 2013

Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Graduate Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Emory University, 2008-2009 (\$18,000)

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, 2006-2007, for Research in Sierra Leone and England (\$30,492)

Recent Book Reviews (last three years)

Joseph J. Bangura, *The Temne of Sierra Leone: African Agency in the Making of a British Colony*, forthcoming in *The English Historical Review*.

Ana Lucia Araujo, *Reparations for Slavery and the Slave Trade: A Transnational and Comparative History*, forthcoming in *History: Reviews of New Books*.

Randy J. Sparks, *Where the Negroes at Masters: An African Port in the Era of the Slave Trade*, forthcoming in *The Historian*

Michael Zeuske, *Amistad: A Hidden Network of Slavers and Merchants*, in *Journal of African History*, 59, no. 1 (2018): 165-67.

Felix Brahm and Eve Rosenhaft, eds., *Slavery Hinterland: Transatlantic Slavery and Continental Europe, 1680-1850*, in *Economic History Review* 70, no. 3 (2017): 1025-26.

Rebecca Shumway, *The Fante and the Transatlantic Slave Trade*, for *H-Africa*, online at: <https://networks.h-net.org/node/28765/reviews/32925/misevich-shumway-fante-and-transatlantic-slave-trade>

Consultancies

Consultant for development of new museum on slavery and the slave trade in Charleston, South Carolina, currently in planning stage

Consultant for “African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross” a documentary produced by Ark Media for Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Consultant for new Bunce Island Museum, currently under consideration for construction in Freetown, Sierra Leone

Consultant, PBS mini-series, “African American Lives,” a documentary by Kunhardt Productions edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Consultant for “Slavery in New York,” New-York Historical Society, New York, October-March, 2005-6.

Consultant for “Priscilla’s Homecoming,” National Museum of Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone, May 2005.

Editorial Boards and Recent Service to Profession

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, Reader Committee for selection of finalists for Harriet Tubman Book Prize for 2018

Book manuscript reviews for Yale University Press and the University of Virginia Press

Article manuscript reviews for *American Historical Review*

Editorial Board, *Sierra Leone Studies*, Summer 2011-2013

Papers and Presentations

“Slave Voyages: An Introduction,” presented at St. John’s University, NHPRC Immigration History Workshop for high school teachers, July 25, 2017

“The Igbo Diaspora in the Nineteenth Century Atlantic World,” York University, Toronto, June 11, 2017

“The Transatlantic Muslim Diaspora to Latin America in the Nineteenth Century,” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, January 26, 2017

“The Transatlantic Muslim Diaspora to Latin America in the Nineteenth Century,” Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University, November 17, 2016

Featured guest (with Konrad Tuchscherer) at the University of California Santa Cruz as part of their Sawyer Seminar Series on Non-Citizenship, October 26-28, 2016. During this visit, Konrad and I participated in conversations with faculty and graduate students about public history. We also had the film we co-produced, *Ghosts of Amistad*, screened in a major theater downtown. We followed up the screening with an hour-long question and answer session.

Radio interview (with Konrad Tuchscherer), KZSC's Artists on Art program, Santa Cruz, October 20, 2016, concerning the *Ghosts of Amistad*. Interview archived online at <http://www.artistsonart.net/philip-misevich-konrad-tuchscherer/>

"The Transatlantic Muslim Diaspora to Latin America in the Nineteenth Century," Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery, October 12, 2016.

With Daniel Domingues, "The African Islamic Diaspora to the Americas in the Nineteenth Century," presented at Harvard University workshop, "New Research on the Atlantic Slave Trade," October 3, 2015

Chair and commentator, "Digital Histories of Slavery," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 3, 2015.

"Names, Origins and Identities: Ethnolinguistic Patterns of Southern Sierra Leone Captives in the Nineteenth Century," Presented at Pittsburgh University's workshop on the *Amistad* Rebellion, April 11, 2014

With Konrad Tuchscherer, "African 'Immigration': Historical Context and Recent Challenges," Presented at St. John's University's *Recent Immigration Initiatives: Resolutions & Challenges, an Interdisciplinary Dialogue*, November 22, 2013

"The Atlantic Slave Trade in the Era of Abolition," Presented at New York University's "Rising Up: Hale Woodruff's Murals at Talladega College – A Symposium," October 4, 2013

"The Ethnolinguistic Composition of Captives on Slave Vessels from Sierra Leone in the 19th Century," Presented at the University of California, Irvine's "Liberated Africans and Digital Humanities: African Diaspora Reconsidered," October 2, 2013

"The Ethnolinguistic Composition of Captives on Slave Vessels from Sierra Leone in the 19th Century," Presented at Emory University's "New Frontiers in the Economic, Cultural and Digital History of the Atlantic Slave Trade," March 23, 2013

"Crowdsourcing, Databases and the Study of the Transatlantic Slave Trade," Presented at St. John's University's Junior Faculty Research Colloquium, November 8, 2012

"The Origins of Enslaved People in Africa and the Diaspora: A Project and a Plea," Brown University, 19th Century U.S. History Workshop, March 2, 2012

Chair, "Diasporas within Africa: New Perspectives on the Origins of Slaves Carried Across the Atlantic in the Nineteenth Century," African Studies Association Meeting, San Francisco, November 19, 2010

"500 Years Later: Reflections on the Rise and Fall of the Atlantic Slave Trade," invited lecture, St. John's University, February 22, 2010

With David Eltis, "Abolition and Violence: A Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century Perspective," at Emory University's Vann Seminar in Pre-Modern European History, December 4, 2009

With David Eltis, "Abolition and the Agency of the Enslaved: A New Interpretation," at the Midwest Conference on British Studies, University of Pittsburgh, October 9, 2009

"Diasporic Transformations: Islam, Adaptation and Innovation in Sierra Leone's Slaving Networks, 1840s to 1860s," presented for the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, November 19, 2008

"A Free Town? The Transport and Use of Slave Children in Colonial Sierra Leone, 1853-1900," African Studies Association Meeting, Chicago, November 14, 2008

"Freetown and 'Freedom?' Colonialism and Slavery in Sierra Leone, 1790s to 1861," presented at Hull University's Interdisciplinary Conference, "Empire, Slave Trade and Slavery: Rebuilding Civil Society in Sierra Leone. Past and Present," September 26-28, 2008

"The Homelands of Liberated Africans Exported from Upper Guinea in the 19th Century," presented at the University of California at Berkeley's "Liberated Africans as Human Legacy of Abolition: An International Workshop to Mark the Bicentennial of British and American Abolitions of the Slave Trade," May 1-3, 2008

"Sierra Leone and the Slave Trade: Sources for Study at the Sierra Leone National Archives," presented to the History and Linguistics departments, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, March 14, 2007

"The Origins of Slaves Leaving the Major Upper Guinea Ports in the Nineteenth Century," presented at Florida State University's "Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World," February 2006, Tallahassee, FL.

"The Origins of Slaves Leaving the Upper Guinea Coast in the Nineteenth Century," presented at Emory University workshop, "The Transatlantic Slave Trade: New Data and New Interpretations," December 2004, Atlanta, GA.

Teaching Interests and Course Offerings

Precolonial and Modern African History, Atlantic History, Atlantic Slave Trade, Southern African History, East Africa and the Indian Ocean, Comparative Slavery, Women in African History, Environmental History, Caribbean History, Brazilian History

St. John's University

Undergraduate Courses Offered

The Emergence of Global Society, 1500 to Present
Modern Caribbean History, 1492 to Present
A History of the Atlantic World, 1492 to 1888
African Civilizations and the African Diaspora
Colonial African History
A History of Brazil
Historical Methods (Sophomore Seminar)
Senior Seminar

Graduate Courses Offered

The United States and Africa (MA-Level)
Slavery and Abolition (MA-Level)
Diasporas, Migrations and Borders in World History (Doctoral Seminar)

Denison University (2009-2011)

Undergraduate Courses Offered

Precolonial Africa, Origins of Humankind to 1860s
Modern African History, 1860s to Present
Southern African History
Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade
Women in African History
Africa's Discovery of Europe (methods-based Sophomore Seminar)

Research Areas and Interests

Precolonial Africa, Modern Africa, African Diaspora, Slavery and Emancipation, Colonialism, Transatlantic Empires, Identity

Major Institutional Activities

"Tuning the Core" Committee, an assessment-oriented project that aims to re-conceptualize and integrate the goals and outcomes of the History Department degree at the BA, MA and doctoral levels (St. John's University)

Curriculum development and support for Africana Studies Minor (St. John's University)

Student Fulbright preparation program, working with graduating seniors to develop Fulbright proposals (St. John's University & Denison University)

Faculty mentor for First-Year students (St. John's University & Denison University)

Curriculum development for several interdisciplinary programs including Black Studies, International Studies, Women's Studies and Environmental Studies (Denison University)

Research Experience

Sierra Leone, The Gambia, British National Archives, British Library, Bodleian Library, Numerous United States Archives, particularly in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts

Languages

English, Krio, Spanish (beginner)

Professional Associations

African Studies Association

American Historical Association

Mande Studies Association (MANSA)

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

Fellow, Royal Anthropological Institute