

PHILIP MISEVICH

Academic Address

Department of History
St. John's Hall
St. John's University
Jamaica, NY 11439

Academic Positions

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

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

Manuscripts in Progress

On the Frontier of "Freedom:" Abolition and the Transformation of Atlantic Commerce in Southern Sierra Leone, 1790s to 1860s (book proposal under review with Oxford University Press)

Philip Misevich and Kristin Mann, eds., *The Rise and Demise of Atlantic Slavery: New Perspectives* (book proposal under review with Rochester University Press)

Articles and Chapters

Published

Co-authored with David Eltis et al., "The Diaspora of Africans Liberated from Slave Ships in the Nineteenth Century," forthcoming in *The Journal of African History*.

"Freetown and Freedom?" Colonialism and Slavery in Sierra Leone," forthcoming in Paul E. Lovejoy and Suzanne Schwarz, eds., *Slavery, Abolition and the Transition to Colonialism in Sierra Leone* (Trenton: Africa World Press, 2013)

Co-authored with Elaine Carey et al., "Tuning the Core: History, Assessment, and the St. John's University Core Curriculum," *Perspectives on History*, 51, 4 (April 2013)

Co-authored 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, 1 (2013)

"The Sierra Leone Hinterland and the Provisioning of Early Freetown, 1792-1803," *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, 9, 3 (Winter, 2008)

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

Coauthored 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*, Vol. 86, No. 3 (2005): 185-204.

"Julius Nyerere" and "Felix Houphouët-Boigny," in *Encyclopedia of Modern Dictators*, ed. Frank Coppa (New York: Peter Lang, 2005).

Fellowships and Awards

Franklin Research Center Travel Grant, Duke University, Summer 2013

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. Supplementary grant awarded in September 2011.

Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Graduate Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Emory University, 2008-2009

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

Benjamin Prize for Best Emory Graduate Student Research Paper, Emory University, 2005

Emory University Institutional Grants for Language Training and Archival Research, Summers of 2004 and 2005

Editorial Boards

Sierra Leone Studies, Summer 2011-2013

Teaching Areas and Interests

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

Research Areas and Interests

Precolonial Africa, Modern Africa, African Diaspora, Slavery and Emancipation, Colonialism, Transatlantic Empires, Sexual Exploitation in Time and Space, Identity

Digital History Projects

Co-Producer, *The Ghosts of Amistad: In the Footsteps of the Rebels*, a documentary that traces the African dimension to the Amistad story in Sierra Leone, produced by Braddock Films (2014)

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

Co-Principal Investigator and Research Analyst for *African Origins* Project (www.african-origins.com)

Research Analyst and Forthcoming Editor for *Voyages: The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database* (online at www.slavevoyages.org)

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

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

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

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

Reviews

Rebecca Shumway, *The Fante and the Transatlantic Slave Trade* (Rochester: Rochester University Press, 2011), for *H-Africa*, online at: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=35542>

Derek Peterson, ed., *Abolitionism and Imperialism in Britain, Africa, and the Atlantic* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2010), in *Economic History Review*, 65, 2 (May, 2012)

Emma Christopher, Cassandra Pybus and Markus Rediker, eds., *Many Middle Passages: Forced Migration and the Making of the Modern World* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007), for *History.Transnational*, online at: <http://geschichte-transnational.clio-online.net/rezensionen/>

Jason R. Young, *Rituals of Resistance: African Atlantic Religion in Kongo and the Lowcountry South in the Era of Slavery* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Press, 2007), in *The Journal of Social History*, 43, 1 (Fall, 2009)

James McMillin, *The Final Victims: Foreign Slave Trade to North America, 1783-1810* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2004), for Economic History Services, URL: <http://www.eh.net/bookreviews/library/0973.shtml>.

Major Institutional Activities

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)

Papers and Presentations

"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.

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

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