

MYRA ANN HOUSER

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy (with distinction), Howard University, 2014

Major Field: History of Africa

Secondary Field: History of the African Diaspora (emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean)

Dissertation: “Lawyering Against Apartheid: The Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, 1967-1994.”

Committee: Robert Edgar (chair), Jean-Michel Mabeko-Tali (advisor), Mbye Cham, Lumumba Shabaka, Benedict M. Carton (external examiner, George Mason University)

Master of Arts, The College of William and Mary, 2009

Comparative History

Thesis: “Next to ‘The Man’ and Not Forgotten.”

Committee: Robert Trent Vinson (advisor and chair), Ismail Abdallah, Kimberley L. Phillips

Bachelor of Arts (*magna cum laude*, with Honors), Ouachita Baptist University, 2007

History

Mass Communications

Russian

Recent Relevant Employment and Affiliations

2014-present Assistant Professor of History, Ouachita Baptist University (tenured March 2020); Coordinator, BA in Social Justice Studies, 2016-present.

2013 Affiliated Researcher, University of the Western Cape

2012 Public Relations Intern, US History Scene

2010-2014 Teaching Assistant and Teaching Associate, Howard University Department of History

2009-2013 Data Analyst, Morgan, Angel and Associates

Select Publications

Monograph

Bureaucrats of Liberation: Southern African and American Lawyers During the Apartheid Era. Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2020.

Chapters and Articles

(forthcoming; chapter accepted, volume in production) “Between Continent and Country: Botswana, National Liberation, and Pan-Africanist Challenges” in *Visions of African Unity*, edited by Matteo Grill and Frank Gerits, proposed for Palgrave Macmillan, anticipated late 2020.

“Legal Representation in Lacuna: The Namibian Legal Resources Centre, Southern Africa Project, and the Trials of the Cassinga Detainees” in *African Studies*. 79 (2020).

- “‘The Kennedys Know Something About That, Too:’ Law, Lineage, and Martyrdom in US-South Africa Relations” in Cyrus Schayegh, ed. *Globalizing the US Presidency: Postcolonial Views of John F. Kennedy*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2020.
- “‘We Are Worried Mothers:’ A Panel of ‘Ordinary’ South Africans on US Capitol Hill” in *Critical Arts*, Special Issue on Celebrity and Anti-Apartheid Politics. (February 2020).
- “Whose Atlantic?: Historiographies of South Africa, Namibia, OPSAAL, and Central America” in *History in Africa*. 46 (April 2019).
- “The Most Patient of Animals, Next to the Ass: Jan Smuts, Howard University, and African-American Leadership, 1930” with Robert Edgar in *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*. 18.1 (January 2017).
- “The Making of Biko: Martyrdom and the Creation of a South African Intellectual” in Arno Sondregger, ed. *African Thoughts on Colonial and Neo-Colonial Worlds: Facets of an Intellectual History of Africa*. Berlin: Neofelis Verlag, 2015.
- “Avenging Carlota in Africa: Angola and the Memory of Cuban Slavery” in *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents*. 12.1 (February 2015).
- “A Parallel Evolution: The Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Apartheid, and Civil Rights,” in Toyin Falola and Danielle Porter Sanchez, eds. *African Culture and Global Politics: Language, Philosophies, and Expressive Culture in Africa and the Diaspora*. New York: Routledge, 2014.

Book Reviews

- “Alex La Guma, *A Soviet Journey: An Annotated Bibliography*,” in *REGION: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia* (8.1, 2019), 115-117.
- “Ian Palmer, Nishendra Moodley, and Susan Parnell. 2017. *Building a Capable State: Service Delivery in Post-Apartheid South Africa*” in *Africa Today* (64.4, Summer 2018), 120-122.
- “Victims’ Stories and the Advancement of Human Rights by Diana Tietjens Meyers” in *Human Rights Review* (1-2, June 2018).
- “Cousins and Colonizers (review of Christine Hatzky. *Cubans in Angola: South-South Cooperation and Transfer of Knowledge*) in *Journal of African History* (58.1, March 2017).
- “*Liberation Movements in Power: Party and State in Southern Africa*,” in *South African Historical Journal* (January 2016).
- “Adekeye Adebajo. *Africa’s Peacemakers: Nobel Laureates of African Descent*. London: Zed Books, 2014” in *Journal of Retracing Africa* (2.1, 2015), 73-75.
- “South Africa’s History of Struggle and Liberation” (review essay on *The ANC Youth League* by Clive Glaser, *Govan Mbeki* by Colin Bundy, and *South Africa’s Struggle for Human Rights* by Saul Dubow) in *Human Rights Review* 16.1 (January 2015), 59-63.
- “Robert Crawford. *Bye the Beloved Country?: South Africans in the UK, 1994-2009*,” in *African Studies Quarterly* (November 2013).
- “Robert A. Hill and Edmund J. Keller, eds. *Trustee for the Human Community: Ralph Bunche, the United Nations, and the Decolonization of Africa*” in *African Studies Quarterly* (May 2012).

Professional Blogs and Essays

- [“Jennifer Davis: Fearless and Visionary,”](#) Africa is a Country, 13 November, 2019.
- “Government Organization and Nation-States in Modern World History,” *Themes in Modern World History*. Dallas: Schlager, 2019.
- “*Litigating Across the Color Line*: Interview with Melissa Milewski,” New Books Network (Law) 24 November, 2017.
- “Medicine on the Rand: The Biko Doctors and Sharp Dissection,” *The Readex Report*, 13 March, 2017.
- “The Line,” Our Stories About Race Project, February, 2017.
- [“The Problem With the Word ‘Genocide,’”](#) Africa is a Country, 28 April, 2015.
- [“Responses to Anti-Semitism in Pre-World War II South Africa,”](#) SYLFF Community Forum Tokyo Foundation Blog, September 30, 2013.
- “Mozambique” in Steven L. Danver, ed. *Native Peoples of the World: An Encyclopedia of Groups, Cultures, and Contemporary Issues*. New York: Routledge, 2012.
- “*Have You Heard from Johannesburg? Educational Study Guide.*” US History Scene, November 5, 2012.
- [“Financing a Graduate School Education: Four Important Questions to Ask,”](#) *GradHacker*, October 15, 2012.
- [“Hear the students’ voices swelling. Strong and true and clear. . .”](#) *GradHacker*, June 22, 2012.
- [“Learning Capoeira, or the Therapeutic Benefits of Being Terrible at Something,”](#) *GradHacker*, May 28, 2012.
- [“Candor and Candidacy in Social Media,”](#) *GradHacker*, May 16, 2012.

Institutional Writing

“The Heart of Meaningful Study in Social Sciences” in Amy Sonheim, ed. *The Heart of Our Work: Stories of Meaningful Studies in Liberal Arts*. Arkadelphia: Ouachita, 2019.

Select Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

External (Research)

- **2019** MSU Special Collections Travel Fellowship, Michigan State University
- **2019** Research Grant, African American Episcopal Historical Collection, Bishop Payne Library, Virginia Theological Seminary
- **2017** Littleton-Griswold Grant for Research in US Legal History, American Historical Assoc.
- **2016** Columbia Libraries Research Award, Columbia University
- **2015** Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant, American Historical Association

- **2013** Sasakawa Research Abroad Award, Tokyo Foundation
- **2012-2014** Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship, Tokyo Foundation (Renewed)
- **2012** Doctoral Fellowship, Phi Alpha Theta International History Honor Society
- **2011** Curt & Elise Silberman International Tracing Service Workshop Funding, US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Internal (Research)

- **2020** Growth Plan Grant, Ouachita Baptist University
- **2020** Sabbatical, Ouachita Baptist University (for Spring 2022)
- **2018** Research Grant, Ouachita Baptist University
- **2017** Growth Plan Grant, Ouachita Baptist University
- **2015** Research Grant, Ouachita Baptist University
- **2011** Outstanding Graduate Research Day Presentation in the Social Sciences, Howard University Graduate School

External (Teaching and Community)

- **2016-2020** District Grants, Rotary International
- **2017-2019** Mentoring for Young Adults Grant, Forum for Theological Exploration

Internal (Teaching and Community)

- **2019** Henry Academic Enrichment Grant, Ouachita Baptist University
- **2018** Academic Advancement Grant, Ouachita Baptist University
- **2016** OBU Library Grant, Ouachita Baptist University
- **2016** Henry Academic Enrichment Grant, Ouachita Baptist University
- **2011-2013** Teaching Associateship, Howard University Department of History
- **2010-2011** Teaching Assistantship, Howard University Department of History

Recent Scholarly and Public Presentations

“‘Scotching Some Myths:’ Apartheid, Baptist Distinctives, and the Search for Social Concern,” Baptist International Scholars Roundtable, Oxford, UK, scheduled August 9-12, 2020 conference postponed to 2021 for COVID-19.

“Creating Lawyers of Rule: Judiciary Challenges in Frontline Southern Africa,” accepted to European Society for Comparative Legal History, scheduled for June 1-3, 2020, conference postponed to 2021 for COVID-19.

“Too Harsh: Understanding Success and Failure within Legal-Profession Approaches to Apartheid,” accepted to Resisting Apartheid Conference at San Diego State University, scheduled for May 1-4, 2020, canceled for COVID-19.

“Rising Above ‘Our’ Problems: African-American Women and Anti-Apartheid Litigation,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, November 20-24, 2019.

Discussant, “The African Diaspora in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean World,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Biennial Conference, Williamsburg, VA, November 5-9, 2019.

“Everything Has a History: Utilizing the Discipline in Interdisciplinary Programs,” Arkansas Association for College History Teachers, Little Rock, AR, 3-4 October, 2019.

“‘Our Own People Are Dying:’ Connection and Separatism on the Frontline,” Northeast Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, April 26-28, 2019.

“Between Continent and Country: Botswana, National Liberation, and Pan-Africanist Challenges,” Visions of African Unity Conference, Bloemfontein, South Africa, March 4-5, 2019.

“No More Dancing: Botswana's Regulation of Liberation Movement Cadres in the 1970s,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 29-December 1, 2018.

“Stalled Social Change?: Lawyering and Cross-Border Interactions in Southern Africa,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, November 8-11, 2018.

“We Are Worried Mothers: A Panel of ‘Ordinary South Africans’ on US Capitol Hill,” Celebrity and Anti-Apartheid Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, October 28-30, 2018.

Discussant, “Migration Tracks,” Big Hope II Global Youth Congress, Liverpool, UK, 13-20 June, 2018.

Discussant, “Why Black History Matters,” Henderson State University Department of History, Arkadelphia, AR, February 27, 2018.

“Rwanda and the Clinton Archives” with Tristan Benzon, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 22-25, 2017.

Discussant/panel coordinator, “Afro-Cuban Identities,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Biennial Meeting, Seville, Spain, November 7-11, 2017.

“Detained in Botswana: ANC Operations, Gaborone Lawyers, and Frontline State Politics,” Northeast Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 6-8, 2017.

“The Kennedys Know Something About That, Too:’ Law, Lineage, and Martyrdom in US-South Africa Relations,” at “Deprovincializing the US Presidency: John F. Kennedy as Seen From the Decolonizing World,” Princeton, NJ, May 5-6, 2017.

“Of Martyrdom and Memory: Political Widowhood in 1980s South Africa,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 1-3, 2016.

“Facilitating the Revolution: Cuba Between Southern Africa and Central America, 1980s,” Association of Caribbean Historians Annual Conference, Havana, Cuba, June 5-10, 2016.

“The Most Patient of All Creatures,” with Robert Edgar, Georgetown University African History Seminar, Washington, DC, December 3, 2015.

- “The Most Patient of All Creatures, Except for the Ass: Jan Smuts, Howard University, and African American Leadership in 1930,” with Robert Edgar, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, November 18-22, 2015.
- “Decolonising Which Atlantic?: Namibia, South Africa, and El Salvador, 1980s,” A Luta Continua 40 Years Later: Entangled Histories and Legacies of Empire in Southern Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa, November 5-6, 2015.
- “The Project: African and American Lawyers During the Apartheid Era,” Arkansas Association of College History Teachers Annual Meeting, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1-2 October, 2015.
- “The Papers of the Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law,” Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa, July 1-3, 2015.
- “Lawyering Against Apartheid: The Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law,” Faculty Colloquium, Arkadelphia, AR, 19 November, 2014.
- “The Making of Biko: Martyrdom and the Creation of an African Intellectual,” African Thoughts on (Neo-) Colonial Worlds: Steps Toward an Intellectual History of Africa, Vienna, Austria, November 5-6, 2014.
- “‘Very Dark Times’: The Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law During the Turbulent 1980s,” Northeast Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 17-19, 2014.
- “Moses Kotane and the *African Liberator*,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 21-24, 2013.
- “Avenging Carlota in Africa,” Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, Gaborone, Botswana, June 26-29, 2013.
- “First Transition, Second Perspective: Activism, Attorneys, and the End of Apartheid,” North East Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, April 19-21, 2013.
- “Debswana and Namdeb: Political and Social Transformation Through State Diamond Enterprises in Botswana and Namibia” University of Texas Africa Conference, Austin, TX, March 29-31, 2013.
- “Comparing Family Narratives of the Holocaust and Apartheid: The Hekster Family Papers” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 3-6, 2013.
- “Anti-Fascist Activism in South Africa, 1929-1948” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 29-December 2, 2012.
- “Glare of the Diamond?: The De Beers Corporation and Government Partnerships in Botswana and Namibia” North East Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 21-23, 2011.
- “Apartheid-Era Lawyers and the Use of International Human Rights Rhetoric,” San Francisco State University Rights Conference, September 15-16, 2011.
- “Two Oceans, How Many Stories?: Slave Trade Numbers and Ethnicity in Colonial South Africa, 1652-1847,” Graduate Research Symposium, Howard University, April 4, 2011.
- “A Parallel Evolution: The Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and Africa in International Conversations, 1968-1994,” Africa in World Politics Conference, University of Texas, March 25-27, 2011.

Teaching and Mentoring

Residential Classroom

- Advanced Writing Practicum (History)
- African Fictions
- Apartheid
- Caribbean History
- Colonial Africa
- Decolonization
- The Contemporary World
- Introduction to African History
- Introduction to Historical Studies
- Introduction to Social Justice
- Pan-Africanism
- Research Seminar (History)
- Research Practicum (Social Justice Studies)
- Senior Seminar in Social Justice
- Special Studies in Social Justice (Juvenile Justice; Readings in Civil Rights Law)
- Topical Seminar (Genocide; Race, Law, and Social Change)
- West African History I
- Western Civilization in a Global Context
- World History Since 1600

Online

- Western Civilization in a Global Context

International Experiential Leadership

- Big Hope II Conference (United Kingdom)
- European Study Tour (Italy, France, United Kingdom)
- Shalom Scholars Tour (El Salvador)

Supervisor, Directed Studies

- Christie Snow, African Refugees in Global Context, 2019
- Margaret Donnell, Women and Criminal Justice, 2018.
- Austin Clements, Soul Music and Black Identity, 2018.
- Mattie Couch, Advocacy for Children Experiencing Trauma, 2017.
- Abigail Richett, History and Culture in Sierra Leone, 2017.
- Aaron Woodall, *Hamilton* and American Memory, 2017.
- Abigail Fowler, Museums and Memory in World History, 2015.

Reader, Capstone Projects

- William Cato, "Building Power for the Creation of a Culture of Call at First United Methodist Church in Arkadelphia, Arkansas," DMin Thesis, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (On-Site Advisory Team), 2020.
- Austin Clements, "Jesus Goes to Washington: An Examination of Faith and Politics," BA Honors Thesis (director), 2020.
- Margaret Donnell, "Justice Should Not be (Color) Blind," BA Honors Thesis (director), 2020.
- Abigail Morse, "Developing a Culturally Competent ESOL Program for Muslim Senegalese Women in French-Speaking Territories," BA Honors Thesis (director), 2020.

- Christie Snow, “Speech Pathology and ESL Services in Memphis,” BA Honors Thesis (director), 2020.
- Meagan Woodard, “Dance: The Universal Language of Story Tellers,” BA Honors Thesis (second reader), 2020.
- Mary-Grace Hill, “Computer Science in the Elementary Classroom: The Basics,” BA Honors Thesis (third reader), 2019.
- Abigail Richett, “Reading Interventions in Sierra Leone,” BA Honors Thesis (second reader), 2019.
- Alexander Abbot, “Effectiveness and Mechanism of Action of Modified Porphyrins for Photodynamic Therapy of Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cells,” BA Honors Thesis (third reader), 2018.
- Mattie Alexander, “Stories of Eureka Springs: A Multimedia Package,” BA Honors Thesis (third reader), 2018.
- Logan Turner, “Islam in the Diaspora: Malian Women Practicing in Texas,” BA Honors Thesis (third reader), 2018.
- Anna Joie Valdez, “Acting in a Global Context: Characterization from the Physical Context of Shakespeare’s Spaces,” BA Honors Thesis (third reader), 2018.
- Aaron Woodall, “Disregulation of Human Phase I Enzymes in APAP Overdose Subjects with Low ALT Levels,” BA Honors Thesis (third reader), 2018.
- Colin Battaglia, “Reading Pauline Letters in Twenty-First Century Context,” BA Honors Thesis (third reader), 2017.
- Macy Fouse, “Depicting the Dirty War: Cinema and Argentine Women,” BA Honors Thesis (second reader), 2015.

Service to the Profession and Institution

Professional

- **2019-present** Program Committee, Northeast Workshop on Southern Africa
- **2020-present** Vice President, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, Region II
- **2018-2020** Audit Committee, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, Region II
- **2016-present** Manuscript Reviewer
 - *Law and History Review*
 - Routledge Cultural Studies
 - *Aletheia*
- **2014** Website Links Curation, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- **2010-2014** Judge, National History Day, Inc. (regional, state and national)

Institutional

- **2020-present** Non-mandated reporter, Sutton School of Social Sciences
- **2018-present** Member and Chair, Student Life Committee
- **2017-present** Co-Sponsor, Women of Chi Delta
- **2017-present** Advisor, Multicultural Student Programs

- **2017-present** Co-Sponsor, Minority Organization Reaching Equality
- **2017-present** Sponsor, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society
- **2017-present** Co-Sponsor, Young Democrats of OBU
- **2016-present** Third-Culture Kid Support Group Committee
- **2016-present** Member, Scholarly Commons Committee, Riley-Hickingbotham Library
- **2016-present** Social Media Manager, Department of History and Social Justice Studies Program
- **2019-2020** Member, Assistant Professor Search Committee, Rogers Department of Communications, School of Humanities
- **2019** Member, Assistant Professor Search Committee, Department of Language and Literature, School of Humanities
- **2018-2019** Member, Assistant Professor Search Committee, Sutton School of Social Sciences
- **2016-2017** Member, Assistant Professor Search Committee, Hickingbotham School of Business
- **2015-2018** Member, Carl Goodson Honors Program Faculty Council
- **2015-2018** Faculty Coordinator, International Food Festival
- **2015-2016** Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Social Justice Studies, Sutton School of Social Sciences
- **2014-2017** Co-Sponsor, OBU History Club
- **2014-2016** Co-Sponsor, Women’s Trauma Support Group, Office of Student Services
- **2010** Co-Organizer, “The Legacy of John Hope Franklin, the Howard Years: A Symposium,”

Global Engagement

Languages Read

- Afrikaans/Dutch
- French
- German
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

Additional International Experience

- Long-term Residency
 - Botswana
 - Namibia
 - South Africa
- Archival Research
 - Botswana

- South Africa
- Tanzania
- United Kingdom
- United States

Associational and Professional Memberships

- African Studies Association
- American Historical Association
- American Society for Legal History
- Arkansas Association of College History Teachers
- Association of Caribbean Historians
- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- Phi Alpha Theta International History Honor Society
- Southern African Historical Society