

Robin K. Crigler
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Michigan State University, History, May 2021 (anticipated)**
Dissertation: “Laughter is Greater Than Death: A Social and Cultural History of South African Humor, 1910-1961”
Dissertation Committee: Peter Alegi (Chair), Sekibakiba Peter Lekgoathi, Edward Murphy, Michael Stamm
Major Field: African History
Minor Fields: U.S. History, Anthro-history
- B.A. The College of William and Mary, History and Religious Studies, May 2014**
Thesis: “When George Washington’s Ghost Turned Handsprings: South African Conflict and American Identity, 1895-1905” (Highest Honors)
Advisor: Robert Trent Vinson

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2019**
Supported eight months of dissertation research in South Africa, based at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
- Michigan State University Department of History Summer Research Grant, 2016-2017**
Supported two summers of pre-dissertation fieldwork in South Africa
- Michigan State University Graduate School Travel Grant, 2017**
Supported travel to the 2017 History in the Making Graduate Student Conference hosted by Concordia University, Montréal, Canada
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship, 2015-2017**
Supported two academic years of intensive Zulu study at Michigan State University
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Study Abroad Fellowship, 2016**
Supported a summer of intensive Zulu study offered by the University of Pennsylvania in Durban, South Africa

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- “Book Review: *William Kentridge: Process as Metaphor and Other Doubtful Enterprises* by Leora Maltz-Leca, and *Awakenings: The Art of Lionel Davis*, edited by Mario Pissarra,” *African Arts* 52.3 (2019), 86-87
- “No Laughing Matter? Humor and the Performance of South Africa,” *South African Theatre Journal* 31.2-3 (2018), 155-171

Select Unreviewed Articles

- “The Great S.A. Comedy Odyssey Begins: Chester Missing, Wokpo Jensma, and the Meaning of Laughter,” *RobinCrigler.com*, April 29, 2019
<<http://robincrigler.com/african-history-blog/blacksonly/>>
- ““Oh, How Specific!” Explaining Your (Obscure) Topic This Holiday Season,” *The Activist History Review*, December 19, 2018

<<https://activisthistory.com/2018/12/19/oh-how-specific-explaining-your-obscure-topic-this-holiday-season/>>

“Laughing in Grahamstown: Participant Observation and South African Comedy,”
RobinCrigler.com, July 10, 2017

<<http://robincrigler.com/african-history-blog/laughing-in-grahamstown-participant-observation-and-south-african-comedy/>>

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

International

“There’s No Such Thing As ‘Too Soon’ Here: Taking Stock of South Africa’s Comedy Boom,” Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study Colloquium on African Stand-Up Comedy Practice, October 9, 2019 (Stellenbosch, South Africa)

“Begin With the Girls, *Wetu*’: Gender in 1930s South Africa Through the Eyes of R. Roamer, Esq.,” 27th Biennial Conference of the Southern African Historical Society, June 24, 2019 (Makhanda, South Africa)

“Are South Africans a Race of Clowns?’: Stephen Black, Leon Schuster, and Humor in the New South Africa(s),” Stellenbosch University History Seminar Series, July 18, 2017 (Stellenbosch, South Africa)

“No Laughing Matter? Humor and the Performance of South Africa,” Concordia University History in the Making Graduate Student Conference, April 1, 2017 (Montréal, Canada)

United States

“A Joke is Like Heart Surgery’: Money and Mockery in Contemporary South African Stand-Up,” 47th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, forthcoming May 2021 (Washington, D.C.)

“Will There Ever Be an Afrikaner Nation? Humor in the White Performance of South Africa,” 60th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, November 17, 2017 (Chicago, Ill.)

“From Valley Forge to Vaal Krantz: The South African War as an American Memory,” Louisiana State University Graduate History Conference, March 5, 2016 (Baton Rouge, La.)

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

African History

African Literature

Humor Studies

History of Journalism

Stand-up Comedy Studies

South African-American Exchanges

African Popular Culture

Theatre History

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Michigan State University, Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities

U.S. and the World (IAH 201), Teaching Assistant, Spring 2016 and 2018, Fall 2020

Africa and the World (IAH 205), Teaching Assistant, Spring 2017 and 2020

Asia and the World (IAH 204), Teaching Assistant, Fall 2018

Michigan State University, Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science

Social Science of Sport (ISS328), Teaching Assistant, Summer 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2020
 History and Theory of Genocide (ISS 210), Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017
 Africa in Social Science Perspective (ISS 330A), Teaching Assistant, Fall 2015 and 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Fieldwork, South Africa, March-November 2019

Conducted interviews and examined archives in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Stellenbosch Durban, Pietermaritzburg, and Makhanda

Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork, South Africa and Austin, Texas, May-August 2017

Conducted exploratory research for my dissertation in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, and Makhanda, as well as at the Harry Ransom at the University of Texas, Austin

University of Pennsylvania Zulu Immersion Summer Study Abroad, June-August 2016

Based in Durban, South Africa

INTERNSHIPS

African Serial Indexing Pilot Project, Michigan State University Libraries, 2017-2018

- Assisted the Africana Librarian of the Michigan State University Libraries with designing a multi-institution pilot project to index rare journals from the African continent held by American institutions.
- Wrote and presented a report outlining the results of Phase I of the pilot study at the annual meeting of the Africana Librarians Council in November 2017.

The Children's Center of Winston-Salem, 2014-2015

- Assisted teachers at the Children's Center of Winston-Salem, a public school for children between the ages of infancy and Grade 5 with severe long-term physical and cognitive health impairments, with feeding, cleaning, and other classroom activities.

HONORS & AWARDS

Jeff Rooney Paper Prize, 2017

For the best history seminar paper of the academic year, "No Laughing Matter? Humor and the Performance of South Africa"

LANGUAGES

English	Native speaker; fluent
Afrikaans	Working proficiency
Zulu	Working proficiency
German	Limited working proficiency

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

African Studies Association
 African Literature Association
 Southern African Historical Society
 Phi Beta Kappa