

Caitlin Ayrault Barker

Michigan State University, Department of History, 506 E. Circle Dr. East Lansing, MI 48824
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EDUCATION

Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan
Current PhD candidate in History Fall 2018 – present
GPA 4.0
Doctoral examinations passed with distinction in all fields: African History, West African History, East Asian History, World History
Advisors: Dr. Nwando Achebe and Dr. Jamie Monson (co-chairs)
Committee: Dr. Aminda Smith, Dr. Charles Keith

Kenyon College Gambier, Ohio
Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa with distinction in Political Science May 2013

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship 2023-2024
African Studies Center, Michigan State University – Advanced French

Dr. Kwan-Wai So Memorial Scholarship 2023
Michigan State University History Department award for excellence in Asian Studies

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship 2021
A grant for 12 months of dissertation research in Cameroon, France, and Taiwan

Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF) 2021
A grant from the Social Science Research Council and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for 12 months of dissertation research in Cameroon, France, and Taiwan.

Dr. Charles and Marjorie Gliozzo Dissertation Research Scholarship Award 2021
A grant from Michigan State University International Studies and Programs for dissertation research in Cameroon, France, and Taiwan.

Roger Meece Graduate Award, 1st Place 2020
Michigan State University African Studies Center graduate student paper prize

Don Lammers Graduate Award 2020
Michigan State University History Department award for “research that improves our knowledge and historical understanding of the nature and dynamics of international and intercultural relationships.”

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Summer 2020
African Studies Center, Michigan State University – Advanced Hausa

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship 2019-2020
African Studies Center, Michigan State University – Intermediate Hausa

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Summer 2019
Asian Studies Center, University of Kansas – Advanced Mandarin Chinese

US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (declined) Summer 2019
For the study of advanced Chinese

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship 2018-2019
African Studies Center, Michigan State University – Beginning Hausa

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Barker, Caitlin, Ryan Carty, Ajamu Amiri Dillahunt-Holloway, Mircea Lazar, and Nomzamo Portia Ntombela. "Before the Anti-Homosexuality Bill: The Historical Contours of LGBT Organizing in Nigeria." *Journal of West African History* 9, no. 1 (2023): 111-145.
muse.jhu.edu/article/903748.

Book Reviews:

Review of Lachenal, Guillaume. *The Doctor Who Would Be King* (Theory in Forms). H-Sci-Med-Tech, H-Net Reviews. July, 2022. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=57822>

Review of Gao, Yunxiang. *Arise Africa, Roar China. Black and Chinese Citizens of the World in the Twentieth Century*. *Connections: A Journal for Historians and Area Specialists*, October, 2022.
www.connections.clio-online.net/publicationreview/id/reb-117286

Translations:

Calais-Germain, Blandine. *Anatomy of Yoga: The Muscles in Yoga*. Translated by Caitlin Barker. Seattle: Eastland Press, 2020. (French to English translation)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Practicing Medical Diplomacy and Exchanging Knowledge: Chinese Medical Delegations in Cameroon, 1975-1989," Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, March 14th-17th 2024.

"New Friends, New Enemies: Cameroon and the Rival Chinese Governments during the Cold War," American History Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, January 7th 2024.

"Good Nationalists, Bad Communists: Practicing Cameroonian Anticolonial Politics from China on the Eve of Independence," French Colonial Historical Society Annual Meeting, Fort-de-France, Martinique, May 4th 2023.

"Anticolonial Pedagogies: Knowledge Exchange between the Union des Populations du Cameroun and the PRC in the Global Cold War," After Bandung: Africa and China in a New Era, Yale Africa Security Program, New Haven, April 22nd 2023.

"Learning through Hosting: Cameroonian Delegations to the PRC and Chinese Knowledge Production on Africa, 1956-1965," 2021 New England Association of Asian Studies Regional Conference (virtual), December 6, 2021.

"Cameroonian Citizen Diplomats in Cold War China: Producing Knowledge and Navigating Friendship," African Studies Association (virtual), November 20, 2021.

““Exchanging experiences in the anti-colonial struggle”: Cameroonian Women’s Delegations in the PRC, 1957-1961,” Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network Early Career Scholars’ Workshop (virtual), September 6-9, 2021.

“Mediating Chinese Knowledge of Cameroon: Marthe Moumié’s International Anticolonial Womanhood and PRC Knowledge Production on Africa, 1956-1965,” International Convention of Asia Scholars (virtual), August 25, 2021.

“Anticolonial Womanhood: Marthe Moumié’s Political Thought,” Gender, Women’s Suffrage, and Political Power, Michigan State University (virtual), November 17, 2020.

“International Anticolonial Womanhood: Marthe Moumié’s Political Thought and Chinese Knowledge Production on Cameroon,” “Internationalisms in the Long 20th Century,” Leiden University Political History PhD Network (virtual), October 22, 2020.

“Anticolonial Friendship: Cameroon-PRC Citizen Diplomacy and Chinese Knowledge Production on Africa, 1956-1961,” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (virtual), October 16, 2020.

“Roundtable: Publishing in the *Journal of West African History*,” African Studies Association, Boston, November 22, 2019.

INVITED TALKS

“The Cold War and a Divided Asia,” guest lecture in HST 391.50 Modern East Asia at the University of Montana, March 19th 2023.

“Knowledge Production and Citizen Diplomacy in Cameroon-China Relations During the Cold War: Preliminary Findings,” National Taiwan University, International Relations Reading Group of Professor Chih-yu Shih, Taipei, Taiwan, December 24th 2022.

“Cameroon-China Relations during the Cold War: A Conversation on Doing Historical Research,” American School of Yaoundé, Cameroon, September 30th 2022.

“Putting Chinese and Cameroonian Sources into Conversation: Some Preliminary Findings and Directions for Future Research on Knowledge Production and Knowledge Transfer in Cameroon-China Historical Relations,” Sino-African Confluences Center, Yaoundé, Cameroon, September 24th 2022.

“How to Write a Winning Scholarship Essay,” Mandela Washington Fellowship Cameroon National Alumni Symposium, Yaoundé, Cameroon, April 21st 2022.

“Choosing a Topic” and “The Research Plan, the Budget, and Referencing,” Workshop on Academic Research Proposal Writing for Masters and PhD Students in Social Sciences, Yaoundé Center for Population Studies and Health Promotion, Yaoundé, Cameroon, February 23-24, 2022.

“Cameroonian Citizen Diplomats in Cold War China: the Promise of Trans-Regional Historical Research,” Heritage Higher Institute for Peace and Development Studies Inaugural Lectures for the MA Program in Peace Studies and Humanitarian Action, January 14, 2022, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

RESEARCH AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Book Review Editor, H-Africa September 2023 – Present
Commissioning and editing reviews of recent books in African Studies for publication on H-Net.
Successfully completed H-Net book review editor training.

Chinese in Africa/Africans in China (CA/AC) Research Network. January 2021 – Present
Working with the CA/AC Executive Director and board members to coordinate content creation for a new network website hosted by Michigan State University. Researching and curating academic resources and events for the new website, managing a listserv of 1000 scholars, compiling twice-weekly “roundups” for the listserv with new publications, events, calls for papers, and jobs relating to China-Africa relations.

Research Assistant for Dr. Jamie Monson June 2020 – Present
Assisting Dr. Monson with a forthcoming article and book project. Organized sources from Tanzanian, Chinese, and US archives and created a comprehensive finding aid for the collection. Carried out extensive literature reviews on the global Cold War, global Maoism, China-Africa historical relations, PRC foreign policy, and 20th century global feminisms. Translated sources from Mandarin Chinese to English.

Research Assistant for Dr. Nwando Achebe January 2023 – May 2023
Created a project finding aid for a diverse collection of sources from Nigerian, UK, and US archives for Dr. Achebe’s forthcoming book project.

Journal of West African History (JWAH), MSU Press August 2019 – May 2020
Editorial Assistant and Office Manager
Oversaw articles from submission to publication: screened all submitted article manuscripts and made initial recommendation to the Editorial Board, located external reviewers, communicated with authors throughout the revision process, facilitated communication and workflow within the Editorial Board and between JWAH and MSU Press, wrote monthly newsletter for editors, attended monthly Editorial Board meetings. Managed JWAH’s social media and web presence, represented JWAH at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant
Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan
IAH 205: Africa and the World (Fall 2023)
History 302: Revolutionary America (Summer 2023)
Integrative Studies in Social Studies 325: Revolutions and the Modern World (Fall 2021)
History 150: World History since 1500 (Summer 2020)

Instructor of Record
Anhui Agricultural University, School of Foreign Languages Hefei, China
August 2016 – June 2018
Beginning Academic Writing (year-long, required)
Intermediate Academic Writing (year-long, required)
Beginning Oral English (year-long, required)

Intermediate Oral English (year-long, required)
Advanced Topics in English: Film Studies (semester-long, elective)

No. 8 Senior Middle School

Hefei, China

August 2013 - June 2014

American History (year-long, required, three levels: 10th, 11th, and 12th grade)

Beginning French (year-long, elective, mixed grades)

English Listening (semester-long, required, 11th grade)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Peace Corps Recruitment Office, Michigan State University

East Lansing, Michigan

Strategic Campus Recruiter

January 2023 – Present

Organize events to promote awareness of the Peace Corps on campus, connect with prospective applicants and provide advising and support during the application process.

Seattle World Affairs Council

Seattle, Washington

International Visitors Program Intern

March - August 2016

Researched and wrote grant proposals and itineraries for delegations visiting Seattle through the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

United States Peace Corps

Meidougou, Cameroon

Community Health Education Volunteer

September 2014 - December 2015

Supported the Cameroonian Ministry of Health's Mother, Child, and Neonatal Health Project, trained and managed a network of 25 female community health agents covering 250 rural households, advised and led 70 high school students in a health education program.

LANGUAGE TRAINING

African Flagship Languages Initiative (AFLI), University of Florida

Summer 2020

Intensive 3rd Year Hausa (remote instruction)

Princeton-in-Beijing, Beijing Normal University

Summer 2019

Intensive Advanced Chinese (4th Year)

LANGUAGES

French: Fluent Reading, Advanced Speaking, Listening, and Writing Proficiency (Advanced High, ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview, 2015)

Mandarin Chinese: Advanced Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing Proficiency (Completed intensive 400-level course at Princeton-in-Beijing, Summer 2019)

Hausa: Beginning Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing Proficiency.

Fulfulde: Beginning Speaking and Listening Proficiency.

Swedish: Advanced Reading, Speaking, Listening, and Writing Proficiency (AFS exchange student in Gothenburg, 2007-2008)

AFFILIATIONS

African Studies Association
North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon
American Historical Association
Association for Asian Studies