

## Nicole A. Eggers

University of Tennessee – Knoxville  
Associate Professor  
Department of History

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### Fields of Specialization

20<sup>th</sup>– 21<sup>st</sup> Century African History, Congolese History, African Great Lakes History, Health and Healing in Africa, African Religious History, Christianity in Africa, Religion and Development, Incarceration in Africa, Refugee Histories

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### Employment

#### University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Associate Professor of African History  
Assistant Professor of African History

Aug 2024 – Present  
Aug 2017 – Jul 2024

#### Loyola University-New Orleans

Assistant Professor of African History

Aug 2013- July 2017

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### Education

#### Ph.D. African History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 2013

*Dissertation title:* “Kitawala in the Congo: Religion, Politics, and Healing in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Central Africa”

*Supervised by:* Neil Kodesh (Chair), Florence Bernault, James Sweet, Aliko Songolo, and Michael Schatzberg.

#### M.A. African History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 2009

*Thesis title:* “Millennial Healing: Yesu Mukombosi and the Lubutu– Masisi Uprising of 1944”

#### B.A. with Highest Honors, History, *Summa cum Laude*, St. Norbert College, DePere WI, 2005

*Second Major:* Sociology (Anthropology Emphasis)

Basil Reuss Prize for Excellence in History

Robert E. Cramer Prize in Sociology

#### Graduate Exchange Semester, Universität Basel, Switzerland, Fall 2009

#### Study Abroad, Universität Salzburg, Austria, Spring 2004

#### Summer Cooperative African Languages Institute, Bloomington IN, Summer 2006

NEH Collaborative Grant, 2023-24

UT Humanities Center Fellow, AY 2018-19

Ignatian Faculty Fellowship (Loyola) for faculty development, Spring 2017

Faculty Research Fellowship (Loyola) for research in DRC/Belgium, Summer 2016

Bobet Fellowship (Loyola) for research in DRC/Belgium, Summer 2016

Marquette Faculty Fellowship (Loyola) for research in DRC and Belgium, Summer 2014

Fulbright-Hays DDRA for research in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2010-2011

Doris G. Quinn Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UW-Madison AY 2012-2013

UW History Dept. Writing Fellowship, Spring 2012

UW History Dept. Dissertation Research Travel Award (Belgium) Summer 2011

Fulbright-Hays GPA Intensive Advanced Swahili Fellowship (Tanzania) Summer 2008

Jan Vansina Travel Fund for research in Congo, Summer 2008

Title VI FLAS Fellowship: AY 2005-06, Summer 2006, AY 2006-07

## Publications

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### Books

[\*Unruly Ideas: A History of Kitawala in Congo\*](#). Athens: Ohio University Press, 2023.

### Edited Volumes

Nicole Eggers, Jessica Lynne Pearson, and Aurora Almada e Santos, eds., *The United Nations and Decolonization*, Routledge Press, 2020.

### Articles

“Authority that is Customary: Kitawala, Customary Chiefs, and the Plurality of Power in Congolese History,” *Journal of East African History*, 14:1, 2020, 24-42.

“Mukombozi and the Monganga: The Violence of Healing in the 1944 Kitawalist Uprising,” *Africa, Journal of the International African Institute*, 85(3), 2015, 417-36.

“Prophètes, politiciens et légitimité politique: Discours locaux du pouvoir et transformation religieuse dans le conflit congolais,” *Politique Africaine*, 129: March, 2013, 73-91. Translation: Raphaël Botiveau

### **Book Reviews**

“The Demographic Question in Colonial Congo - Démographie coloniale congolaise. Entrespéculation, idéologie, et reconstruction historique By Jean-Paul Sanderson. Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgique: PUL-Presses universitaires de Louvain, 2018.”. *The Journal of African History*, 63(1), 2022, 112-114.

### **Online Publications**

Eggers, N.(2020). “Black Bodies, State Violence, and COVID-19: Lessons from Congo”, *UTK Department of History Series on Riots and Race*. (blog), <https://history.utk.edu/category/riots/>

Eggers, N. (2019). “Remembering COLAGREL: Space, Memory, and Oral History.” *Comparing the Copperbelt* (Blog) <https://copperbelt.history.ox.ac.uk/>

### **Research Awards**

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Honorable Mention, 2016: Central African Studies Association (CASA) Essay Prize for “Mukombozi and the Monganga: The Violence of Healing in the 1944 Kitawalist Uprising.”

### **Teaching Experience**

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#### **Workshops Taught**

Qualitative Research Methods Student Workshop, University of Kinshasa (Congo), July 2024

#### **Courses Taught**

Infectious Disease: A Global History (499)  
University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Spring 2021, Fall 2021)

Amandla! A History of Apartheid  
University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Fall 2020; Fall 2022)

Independent Graduate Readings

University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Summer 2020, Spring 2021)

Teaching World History (Grad)

University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Spring 2020)

African History: Theory and Method (Grad)

University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Fall 2019; Fall 2022)

Health and Healing in African History

University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Spring 2018, Spring 2022)

World History I (to 1500)

University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Summer 2018, 2019; Spring 2022, 2023)

Infectious Disease: A Global History

Loyola University – New Orleans  
(Spring 2017)

African History 1870-Present

Loyola University – New Orleans  
(Spring 2014)  
University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Spring 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2021)

African History to 1880

Loyola University – New Orleans  
(Fall 2013, Fall 2016)  
University of Tennessee – Knoxville  
(Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

Witches, Prophets, and Doctors: Health and Healing in African History (Honors)

Loyola University - New Orleans  
(Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

Women Gender and Sexuality in African History

Loyola University – New Orleans  
(Fall 2014, Spring 2017)  
University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Global Issues

Loyola University – New Orleans

(Spring 2015, Spring 2016)  
(Fall 2017)

Africa and Its Diasporas  
Loyola University – New Orleans  
(Fall 2014)

Global History I (to 1700)  
Loyola University – New Orleans  
(Every Semester, 2013-2017)  
University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
(Summer 2018, 2019)

African History and Culture  
Concordia University of Wisconsin-Madison  
(Spring 2011, Summer 2012)

Communications 100: Intro to Public Speaking  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
(Fall 2009)

### **Teaching Assistant Experience (UW-Madison)**

Afro-Atlantic Histories and People 1791-Present (Fall 2011)  
Professor: James Sweet

Africans in the Americas 1492-1808 (Spring 2011)  
Professor: James Sweet

African History 1500-1870 (Spring 2009)  
Professor: Neil Kodesh

African History since 1870 (Spring 2008)  
Professor: Florence Bernault

### **Professional Presentations**

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#### *Invited Talks*

“Unruly Ideas: Kitawala, Everyday Intellectuals, and Power in Congolese History, Baraza Lecture Series in African Studies, Sept 2024

“Unruly Ideas: Kitawala, Everyday Intellectuals, and Power in Congolese History, *Lecture Series in African and Global History*, University of Ghent (Belgium), April 2024.

*Conferences/Workshops*

**Presenter and Conference Co-Organizer:** “Gendered Flight: Refugee Women’s Narratives as Congolese History” Central African Studies Association Conference 2024: “Remembrance, Reckoning, & Renewal: Central Africa Into the 21st Century”, Kinshasa, Congo, July 2024.

**Presenter and Chair:** “Congo in Tennessee: A Case Study of Religion and Refugee Community”, African Studies Association 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, November 2022.

**Presenter:** “Everyday Theorists of Power: Toward an Intellectual History of Preachers, Prophets, and Healers,” Textures of Power workshop, Centre d’histoire de Sciences Po, Paris., France, April 2022.

**Presenter/Co-Organizer:** Central African Renaissance Conference, CASA, online, July 2021

**Presenter:** “Praying to Lumumba”, American Historical Association Featured Panels, April 2021

**Presenter:** “Transmitting Kitawala,” African Studies Association 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, November 2019.

**Presenter and Chair:** “Protest by Abstention: Kitawala and the Politics of Apoliticalism in the DR Congo”, African Studies Association 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, November 2018.

**Paper Author/Presenter/Reviewer:** Author Workshop SI Customary Authority in Central & East Africa, Ghent, Belgium, October 2017.

**Conference Co-Organizer:** The United Nations and Decolonization after WWII, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, June 2017

**Presenter:** “Narrating Spiritual Time: Revelation, Miracles, and the History of Wamalkia wa Ubembe”, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, New Orleans, LA, May 2017

**Public Lecture:** “A Wisconsinite in Louisiana,” Prescott High School (alma mater), Prescott, WI, October 2016

**Presenter:** “Conversion, Conflict, and Coercion: Kitawala and Customary Authority in Colonial Congo,” ASAUK, Cambridge, UK, September 2016

**Presenter:** “In a State of Relegation”, Conference on Colonial Incarceration in the 20th Century: A Comparative Approach. Lisbon, Portugal, July 2016

**Invited Presenter:** “Cross-Border Knowledge on Subversion and Suppression” for Cross-Border Colonial Knowledge Production Event. Oxford University, June 2016.

**Guest Lecturer/Consultant,** on “Power and Authority in Central Africa” for Africa Regional Overview of Sub-Saharan Africa: Central Africa & Great Lakes Seminar Foreign Service Institute, State Department, 6/22/15 and 4/28/15.

**Presenter,** “In a State of Relegation: On Kitawalist Prisoners, Invisible Powers, and the Limits of the

Belgian State in Congo,” African Studies Association 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, November 2015

**Presenter,** “Congo on the Continent: Minkisi, Memory, and the Meaning of Power in Congolese History.” For Connecting ‘Kongo Across the Waters’ to New Orleans: A Symposium, New Orleans Museum of Art, March 2015

**Presenter,** “The Violence of Healing in the Lubutu-Masisi Kitawalist Uprising, 1944” African Studies Association 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, November 2014

**Round Table Presenter,** “Examining Violence, Reconstruction, and Reconciliation in Central Africa” African Studies Association 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, November 2014

**Lecture:** “Notions of Africa: Confronting Misconceptions,” Prescott High School (alma mater), Prescott, WI, May 2014

**Presenter,** “Power that ‘Jumps the Lake’: Prophets, Politicians and Political Legitimacy in South Kivu African Studies Association 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, November, 2013

**Presenter,** “Recalling Kitawala: History and the Politics of Memory in Post-Colonial Congo” African Studies Association 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, November, 2012

**Presenter,** “Kitawala in the Congo: Rethinking a Religious Movement” African Studies Association 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, November, 2011

**Invited Presenter,** “Praying to Lumumba: Kitawala in Post-Independence Congo” Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Wiko) & Re:Work: “Congo meets Africa meets New Historical Writing Workshop” Berlin, Germany, June 2011

**Presenter,** “Praying to Lumumba: Kitawala in Post-Independence Congo” UW-Northwestern Annual Workshop Madison, WI, May 2011

### *University Campus Presentations*

#### *UTK*

**Presenter:** “Unruly Ideas and Religious Relegation in Colonial Congo”, History Faculty Colloquium, 10/2/19

**Presenter:** “Healing: Gender, Power, and Tradition.” Medical Humanities Research Seminar, 5/1/19

**Presenter:** “Novel Translations, Divine Interpretations: Religious and Secular Texts Through the Lens of Kitawala (DR Congo).” Transmissions Research Seminar, 1/28/19

#### *Loyola*

**Presenter and Organizer:** “Sewing Community: Ahahi Quilts, NGOs, and the Politics of Textiles in Africa,” International Women’s Day Panel in association with Loyola University Feminist Festival (To take place March 2017)

**Presenter:** Member of Panel on “Challenges in Archival, Oral, and Translative Research”, September 2016.

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**Service**

***UTK University-Wide Service***

**Undergraduate Council** AY2024-Present

- VolCore Committee 2024

**Faculty Senate:** AY2022-Present

- Arts and Humanities Caucus Chair 2024
- Communications Committee 2024
- Diversity and Equity Committee 2022

***UT History Dept Service***

**Head’s Advisory Committee** AY2020-2022, 2024

**Undergrad Committee:** 2019-20

**Presenter:** “International Feminist Histories: Insights from the Congolese Past,” Loyola University Feminist Festival, March 2016.

**Presenter:** Member of Panel: “Why African Studies?”, Fall 2013

**Presenter:** SAGE invited speaker on the subject of gender and sexual violence in Congo, Fall 2013

***Loyola Service***

**Study Abroad Interview Committee:** Spring 2016/2017

**Women’s Studies Committee:** August 2016-May 2017.

**African and African-American Studies Committee:** August 2013-May 2017

**Interim Faculty Advisor to Student Peace Conference:** AY 2014-15.

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**Service to Discipline**



**Sub-theme Co-chair, "Mobility, Migration and Borders",** African Studies Association Annual Conference, 2023.

**Central African Studies Association, Vice President** Fall 2021-present; **Treasurer** Spring 2015-Fall 2021

**Editorial Advisory Board:** Canadian Journal of African Studies, 2020-present

**External Reviewer for Research Proposal,** KU Leuven, March 19, 2020

**External Reviewer for PhD Dissertation,** Roger Alfani, University of Montreal, October 2017

**Article Manuscript Review,** American Economic Review: Insights, August 2024

**Article Manuscript Review,** African Studies Review, July 2023

**Article Manuscript Review,** Africa Today, Jan 1, 2020

**Article Manuscript Review,** International Journal of African Historical Studies, Feb 6, 2018.

**Article Manuscript Review,** Journal of African History, April 6, 2017.

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**Service to Community**

**Bridge Refugee Services:** Regular volunteer for Swahili translation and support group facilitation for Congolese refugees in Knoxville 2018-2021