

Benjamin A. Talton, PhD
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
500 Howard PL
Howard University
Washington, DC 20059
benjamin.talton@howard.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, DC, 2022-Present

Professor, Department of History, Howard University, 2022-Present

Professor, Department of History, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, 2021-2022

Associate Professor, Department of History, Temple University, 2011-2021

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Temple University, 2008-2011

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, 2003-2008

Visiting Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, 2005-2006

EDUCATION

Ph.D. History, University of Chicago, 2003

M.A. History, University of Chicago, 1999

B.A. History, Howard University, 1996

PUBLICATIONS

Books

With Monique Bedasse, Nemata Blyden, and Michael Gomez (eds). *The Cambridge History of the African Diaspora* Volume III (In-Progress, Cambridge University Press)

In This Land of Plenty: Mickey Leland and Africa in American Politics (Penn Press, 2019)

2020 Winner of the Wesley-Logan Book Prize for African Diaspora History by the American Historical Association

2020 Finalist for the Pauli Murray Book Prize of the African American Intellectual History Society

—with Quincy Mills, eds. *Black Subjects in Africa and Its Diasporas: Race and Gender in Research and Writing* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2011)

Politics of Social Change in Ghana: The Konkomba Struggle for Political Equality (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2010)

Articles, Book Chapters, and Journals

“An African Revolution Takes Shape,” *Current History*, 120, Issue 826 (May 2021), 196-199.

“AHR: Conversation: Black Internationalism,” with Carlos Fernandes, Kira Thurman, Monique Bedasse, Dennis Laumann and Tejasvi Nagaraja, *American Historical Review*, 125, 5 (December 2020).

“The Climate Crisis: The Challenge for a New African Consensus,” *The African Studies Review*, 63, Issue 1 (March 2020), pp. 1-8.

“‘Kill Rats and Stop Plague’: Race and Public Health in Post-Conquest Kumasi,” *Ghana Studies* 22 (2019), pp. 95-113.

“The Northern Factor in Ghana History,” *Ghana Studies*, 18 (2016), pp. 193-195.

“Ghana,” *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Ethnicity and Nationalism* (30 December 2015).

Special Issue Editor, with Wilhelmina Donkoh, *Ghana Studies*, 17 (2014).

“‘Land to the Tiller’: Hunger and the End of Monarchy in Ethiopia,” *Food in Zones of Conflict: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives*, Helen Macbeth and Paul Collinson, eds. (New York: Berghahn Books, September 2014).

“1960s Africa in Historical Perspective,” *Journal of Black Studies*, 43, Number 1 (January 2012).

Editor, Afro-Optimism and Afro-Pessimism: 50 Years since “The Year of Africa,” Special Issue of the *Journal of Black Studies*, 43, Number 1 (January 2012).

“Quenching the Thirst for Data: Beer, Local Connections, and Fieldwork in Ghana.” In *Black Subjects in Africa and its Diasporas: Race and Gender in Research and Writing* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2011), pp. 129-147.

“Representing the Past: Popular Historical Memory and the Transformation of Power in Colonial West Africa,” *Africa and the West*, 6 (Fall 2011).

“‘All the Women Must Be Clothed’: The Anti-Nudity Campaign of Northern Ghana.” In *The Black Body: Imagining, Writing and (Re)Reading*, Sandra Jackson, Fassil Demissie, Michele Goodwin, eds. (Pretoria: University of South Africa Press, 2009), pp. 81-97.

“The Politics of Identity in Local African Societies.” A Review Essay. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 40, Number 4 (2005), pp. 303-308.

“The Past and Present in Ghana’s Ethnic Conflicts: British Colonial Policy and Konkomba Agency, 1930-1951” *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 38, Numbers 2-3 (2004), pp. 192-210.

“‘Food to Eat and Pito to Drink’: Education, Local Politics and Self-Help Initiatives in Northern Ghana, 1945-1972,” *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana*, Number 7 (2004), pp. 205-229.

Journals

Associate Editor, 2017-Present, *African Studies Review* (Peer-Reviewed Journal)

Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana, 2010-2016
Editorial Board

American Council of Learned Societies/Mellon
Reviewer, Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2019-2020, 2020-2021

Africa and the West (University of Oran-Algeria), 2010-2012
Editorial Board

Published Essays and Interviews

“Thomas Sankara Gave His Life Fighting Neocolonialism,” *Jacobin*, April 17, 2021.
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/04/thomas-sankara-burkina-faso-neocolonialism-revolutionary-socialism>

“Thomas Sankara Is Not Dead,” *Jacobin*, February 2021.
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/02/thomas-sankara-is-not-dead-film>

“Black Americans Have Long Led the Global Battle Against White Supremacy,” *The Washington Post*, February 9, 2021.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/02/09/black-americans-have-long-led-global-battle-against-white-supremacy/>

“The Tragic Delusions of White Exceptionalism,” *Africa Is A Country*, January 18, 2021.
<https://africasacountry.com/2021/01/the-tragic-delusions-of-white-exceptionalism>

“Why Nkrumah’s Socialist, Pan-Africanist Vision Continues to Inspire Radicals Today, An Interview with Benjamin Talton and Anakwa Dwamena,” *Jacobin*, September 2020.

https://jacobinmag.com/2020/09/kwame-nkrumah-ghana-pan-africanism?fbclid=IwAR30gyLh91Xd5mlWtXUk6GR3mfM_KfbetspcFa8VxsLbFb47Z6h6Hf6kJgU

“Reading List: Benjamin Talton,” *Africa is a Country* (February 2020)
<https://africasacountry.com/2020/02/reading-list-benjamin-talton>

“Mickey Leland and African in American Politics: An Interview with Benjamin Talton,” *Black Perspectives*, By Keisha Blain (September 2019)
<https://www.aaahs.org/mickey-leland-and-africa-in-american-politics-an-interview-with-benjamin-talton/>

“The Radical Roots of ‘The Squad’: How Mickey Leland and the Congressional Black Caucus Paved the Way for Today’s Progressive Politics.” *The Washington Post*, August 28, 2019.
<https://beta.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/08/28/radical-roots-squad/>

“African History on Its Own Terms,” *Africa is a Country* (February 2019),
<https://africasacountry.com/2019/01/history-on-its-own-terms>

“The Mandela’s at Harlem’s Africa Square,” *Africa is a Country* (December 2018),
<https://africasacountry.com/2018/12/the-mandelas-at-harlems-africa-square>

“Africa on its Own Terms,” *Africa is a Country* (January 2019),
<https://africasacountry.com/2019/01/history-on-its-own-terms>

“Obama Could Have Done More for Africa by Supporting Pro-Democracy Protests,” *The Conversation* (January 2017)
<https://theconversation.com/profiles/benjamin-talton-313098/articles>

“Trump’s Rise: African Americans Must Lead on Africa’s Affairs,” *The Conversation* (December 2016), <http://theconversation.com/trumps-rise-african-american-politicians-must-lead-on-africas-affairs-68439>

“African Resistance to Colonial Rule,” *Africana Age: African and African Diasporan Transformation in the 20th Century*. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Fall 2010)
<http://exhibitions.nypl.org/africanaage/essay-resistance.html>

“The Challenge of Decolonization in Africa,” *Africana Age: African and African Diasporan Transformation in the 20th Century*. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Fall 2010)
<http://exhibitions.nypl.org/africanaage/essay-challenge-of-decolonization-africa.html>

Book Reviews

“No Place for Honest Men”—*Thomas Sankara: A Revolution in Cold War Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), *The Journal of African History* 63, no. 1, p. 350. By Brian Peterson.

Democracy in Ghana: Everyday Politics in Urban Africa (Cambridge University Press, 2020),
Political Science Quarterly, 135, Number 3 (Fall 2020), pp. 532-533. By Jeffrey Paller.

The Fruits of Freedom in British Togoland: Literacy, Politics, and Nationalism, 1914-2014
(Cambridge University Press, 2015). *African Studies Review*, 62, Number 2, (2020), pp.
35-37. By Kate Skinner.

The African Diaspora: A History Through Culture (Columbia University Press, 2015).
International Journal of African Historical Studies, 43, Number 2 (2010). By Patrick
Manning.

Ethnicity and the Making of History in Northern Ghana (Edinburgh University Press, 2006). *H-
Review, H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (January 2010). By Carola Lentz.

Jonathan Derrick. *Africa's 'Agitators': Militant Anti-Colonialism in Africa and the West, 1918-
1939* (Oxford, 2008). *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 42, Number 2
(2009), pp. 315-317.

United States and West Africa: Interactions and Relations (University of Rochester Press, 2008).
International Journal of African Historical Studies, 42, Number 3 (2009), pp. 485-486.
By Toyin Falola and Alusine Jalloh.

Grants

Principal Investigator

Project: The Black Press Archive Digitization Project.

Funder: The Jonathan Logan Family Foundation.

Amount: \$2 Million

Duration: 5 years