

# AMSALE ALEMU

Department of African Studies  
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## APPOINTMENTS

Howard University

Assistant Professor of African Studies, 2024–present

Scripps College

Assistant Professor of History, 2022–2024

Harvard University

Lecturer on Social Studies, 2021–2022

Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, 2020–2021

## EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D. in African and African American Studies, November 2021

Dissertation on U.S. higher education and Ethiopian revolutionary student movements:  
“Revolution Beyond Redemption: U.S. Empire, Student Struggle, and Ethiopian Coloniality”  
Committee: Emmanuel Akyeampong (chair), Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Brandon Terry

A.M. in History, May 2018

Fields: African American History; African History; Precolonial African Studies; Social  
Anthropology and Critical Theory

A.B. with Honors in History, Economics Secondary, French Language Citation, May 2014

## SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Clark Humanities Museum Exhibition for “Portraying the Self in the Anthropocene”	2024
O’Brien Distinguished Professorship Funds, Scripps College	2024
J.C. Harper and Clark Lecture Funds, Scripps College	2024
Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard University	2022, 2018
Edna and Robert Newman Shapiro Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study	2020–2021
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award	2019
History Design Studio Multimedia Fellowship, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research	2018–2019

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Addis Ababa University	2016
Design Fellow, Ethelbert Cooper Gallery for African & African American Art	2014–2015
Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Research, Harvard College	2014
Elizabeth Maguire Prize, Harvard African and African American Studies	2014
History Design Studio Exhibition Prize, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research	2014

## PUBLICATIONS

Book manuscript in progress. *University Subjects*.

October 2024. “Clandestine Issues: Tracing ‘Imperialism’ Across Ethiopian Revolutionary Papers.” *Radical History Review*. Issue 150.

April 2024. “Exhuming the Narrative: Imagining Prince Alemayehu in Ethiopian Diaspora.” in eds. Hewan Girma, Shimelis Bonsa Gulema, and Mulugeta Dinbabo. *Global Ethiopian Diaspora*. University of Rochester Press.

August 2022. “Demystifying the Image: Anticolonial Concepts of the Ethiopian Revolution.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East (CSSAAME)* 42, no. 2.

Forthcoming. “‘Maps of Spring’: Anti-colonial History and Counter-Secular Agency.” in eds. Justin Reynolds, Michelle Sanchez, and Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins. *Historicizing Secularism*.

Invited submission under review. “The 1960 Coup’s Exiles: Polemical Innovations of the Ethiopian People’s Movement Council.” *Journal of African Cultural Studies*.

Under review. “Phantasms of Empire: Frontier Imagination, Landscape Painting, and U.S. Military Topography in the Ethiopian-Egyptian War (1875–1876).”

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Interview for feature-length documentary, “The Ferenjis of Bedeno,” dir. Ari Nasser Ali.

September 2022. “U.S. Imperialism in Ethiopia: Biography of an Ambiguous Document.” *Borderlines-CSSAAME*. Available online: <https://www.borderlines-cssaame.org/posts/2022/9/13/us-imperialism-in-ethiopia-biography-of-an-ambiguous-document>.

March 2021. Podcast Interview for AFROFILES, “The Italian Occupation of Ethiopia.” Available online: <https://anchor.fm/afrofiles/episodes/The-Italian-Occupation-of-Ethiopia-errand> (interview begins at 02:36).

February 2020. Commissioned project created in collaboration with Robin McDowell for the Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University, “50th Anniversary Visual Retrospective.” Available online: <https://aaas.fas.harvard.edu/visual-retrospective>.

Research assistance for John Hope Franklin and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* (McGraw-Hill Education, 10th edition, 2020).

## INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCES

October 2025. “Insurgent Contaminants: Corroding U.S. Military Infrastructure in Eritrea.” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, St. Louis, MO.

June 2025. “*Arbegnam/The Patriot*: 1960s Ethiopian Revolutionary Media and Spoken Texts.” The Labor and Working-Class History Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

April 2025. Roundtable discussion: Diasporic Politics in Ethiopia and Nigeria. Princeton African Students Association, Princeton, NJ.

December 2024. “Gadaa Must Be Found: Asmarom Legesse’s Anticolonial Episteme.” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

August 2024. “Phantasms of Empire: Frontier Imagination, Landscape Painting, and U.S. Military Topography in the Ethiopian-Egyptian War (1875–1876).” Panel: “Imperial Representations and Environmental Knowledge.” Imperial Failures - Environment and Nature Deconstructed, Singapore Management University, Singapore.

April 2024. “Reading Against the AI Grain: A Teaching Module in Resistive Reading.” Faculty Panel on Generative AI, Scripps College.

November 2023. “Tracing Imperialism Across Ethiopian Revolutionary Papers.” Panel: “Decolonization and the Underground, Part I.” African Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

March 2023. “University Subjects: Cold War Campuses and Ethiopian Revolution.” Howard University.

February 2023. “University Subjects: Cold War Campuses and Ethiopian Revolution.” University of Minnesota.

January 2023. “Ethiopian-U.S. Revolutionaries and the Global Black Campus Movement.” University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

December 2022. “‘Maps of Spring’: Anti-colonial History and Counter-Secular Agency.” Historicizing Secularism Conference, Harvard University.

November 2022. Panel Chair. “The African-Pacific: Historical and Contemporary Approaches.” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

November 2022. “‘Which Imperialists?’: Shifting Models of Ethiopian Futurity from Japan to Vietnam” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

April 2022. “Saba Mahmood and Postcolonial Humanism.” Introduction to Social Studies, Harvard University.

April 2022. Chair and Discussant. “The Bounds of the Political: Between the National and the International.” Association for Global Political Thought Conference, Harvard University.

February 2022. “Anti-colonialism, Secular Studies, and Black Alter-Humanism.” 12<sup>th</sup> Annual African, African American, and Diaspora Studies (AAAD) Interdisciplinary Conference, James Madison University.

November 2021. Guest Discussant for Professor Robin McDowell’s “Free the Land: Black Histories of Environmental Racism.” Department of African and African American Studies, Washington University in St. Louis.

April 2021. “Ethiopian Revolution on Campus.” Fellows Talk. Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University.

April 2021. “Imagining the Borderland: U.S. Military Employed in the Ethiopian-Egyptian War (1875–1876).” 26<sup>th</sup> Annual James A. Barnes Conference, Temple University.

February 2020. “Collaging Time: Designing A Visual Retrospective.” Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University.

May 2019. “Teaching and Researching Racial Capitalism.” Third Annual Princeton African Humanities Colloquium (PAHC), Princeton University.

May 2018. “Desegregating/Decolonizing the U.S. National Defense Industry: Anti-Fascism and the Ethiopian Effort in 1941,” Race and Capitalism Conference, University of Chicago.

April 2014. “Tilling Imagined Land: Transfiguring Protest Language in the 1974 Ethiopian Revolution.” History Design Studio Exhibition, Harvard University.

## TEACHING

### Current Courses Offered at Howard University

#### Graduate Seminars:

Education and Social Change in Africa  
Pan-Africanism  
Oral Tradition, Written Literature, and Film

#### Undergraduate Courses:

Introduction to Contemporary Africa  
Development and Underdevelopment

### Scripps College, Department of History

HIST 149: Themes and Methods in African History	Spring 2024
CORE 2: Scaped Subjects: Portraying the Self in the Anthropocene	Spring 2024
CORE 2: Decolonization: Histories, Theories, Practices	Spring 2023

HIST 173: Black International Politics	Fall 2023; Fall 2022
HIST 070B: Twentieth-Century U.S. History:	
Environment and Surveillance	Fall 2023
Empire's Debates	Fall 2022
Harvard University, Committee on Degrees in Social Studies	
Introduction to Social Theory	AY 2021–2022
Portraying Activism: Lessons from Social Movement History	Spring 2022
Race and Ethnicity in Comparative Perspective	Fall 2021
Design Fellow, Harvard University, Hutchins Center for African & African American Research	
History Design Studio	AY 2018–2019
Graduate Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, African and African American Studies	
Introduction to African American Studies (Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Lawrence Bobo)	2018
African Languages and Cultures (John Mugane)	2017
Digital Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, History Department	
Asia in the Modern World, Graduate Seminar (Sugata Bose and Amartya Sen)	2017

## MENTORSHIP AND SERVICE

Advisor, African Studies doctoral dissertation	Spring 2025–present
Manuscript reviewer for <i>Meridians</i> , Fojo Media Institute, and <i>African Studies</i>	Spring 2025
Mentor, Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship	Fall 2023–present
Fulbright Campus Committee Evaluator, Scripps College	Fall 2023
Departmental Hiring Committee, Scripps College	2023, 2022
American Studies External Review Committee, Scripps College	Spring 2022
Board of Academic Advisors, Harvard Social Studies	2021–2022
Faculty Advisor, Harvard Model Congress Dubai	2016–2020
Non-Resident Advisor, Eliot House, for Health and Wellness	2015–2018
HiSET Tutor, The Petey Greene Program	2017
Co-Organizer, African Languages in the Disciplines Conference, Harvard University	2016

## MEMBERSHIPS

Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
 African Studies Association of Africa  
 African Studies Association  
 Affiliate/Advisor, Association for Global Political Thought

## LANGUAGES AND DIGITAL TOOLS

Amharic and French: reading, writing, speaking  
 HTML, CSS, Python, C++, Stata, Adobe Creative Suite