

**WILLIS OKECH OYUGI, PhD.**  
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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D., History**, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), September 2014

**M.A., History**, UCLA, June 2009.

**B.A., History**, Miami University, OH, May 2007

**B.Phil., Environmental Studies**, Miami University, OH, May 2007.

### **Academic Positions**

*Assistant Professor*, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2017 to present

*Visiting Assistant Professor*, Oberlin College, Fall 2014 to Spring 2017

*Guest Lecturer*, Earlham College/Miami University East Africa Program, Oct to Dec 2010

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

- World History to 1500
- World History since 1500
- Africa: Past & Present
- African Civilizations to 1800
- Food for Thought
- Global Environmental History
- Africa & Environmental History, 1800s to present
- African Environmental History, 1880s-2000
- Wildlife Conservation in Kenya's Maasailand
- Environmentalism of the Poor-Water
- Environmental History of the British Empire

### **PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS/PANELS CHAIRED/BOOK REVIEWS**

- ... & Leamon Bazil, "African Governments, Neocolonialism, and Food Insecurity: the Neglect of Traditional African Ways of Thinking." Paper to be presented at the UT Africa Conference, March 29-31, 2018. Austin. *Upcoming*.
- A Review of *The Nature of the Path: Reading a West African Road* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2017), for *Environmental History*. *In progress*.

- Presider: Teaching African History in East Texas: Rewards.” Panel at the East Texas Historical Association, October 12-14, 2017
- “The US in African Environmental History.” Paper presented at the Fall Meeting of the East Texas Historical Association, October 12-14, 2017.
- Book project (provisional title): *Contested Land: Maasailand, Livestock, and the Environmental History of Kenya, 1900-2000. In progress.*
- “Maasai-British Relationships and Maasailand Ecology in Colonial Kenya, 1900-1960: Complexities and Contradictions.” In Edward Alpers, Awet Weldemichael, and Anthony Lee (eds.), *Changing Horizons in African History* (Trenton: Africa World Press, 2017), 173-204.
- A Review of Marti S. Shanguhya, *Population, Tradition, and Environmental Control in Colonial Kenya* (Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 2015), for *Environmental History*, mx061, <https://doi.org/10.1093/envhis/emx061> (June 2017).
- “Power and the Title: Maasai Group Ranches, Indigenous Rights, and Wildlife Conservation, 1980-2010.” Paper accepted at the American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, March 29-April 2, 2017. Chicago.
- Co-Chair: “Five Decades with Africa and African Diasporas: Edward A. Alpers and Global African History-Local and the Global Circuits in East Africa” Panel at the African Studies Association Annual Conference, December 1-3, 2016. Washington D.C.
- “The 1956 Game Policy: Ambivalence and Conservationist Contestations over Kenya’s Maasailand.” Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, December 1-3, 2016. Washington, D.C.
- “Historicizing Ethnicity and Slave Trade Memories in Colonial Africa: The Cases for Rwanda and Northern Cameroon,” *Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies*, Vol 35, 1 (2016).
- “Wangari Maathai: Women, Politics, and the Challenge of Environmentalism in Kenya.” Paper accepted at the American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, March 18-22, 2015. Washington, D.C.
- “International NGOs, Indigenous Rights, Development, and Human-Wildlife Contestations in and around Kenya’s Maasai-Mara National Reserve, 1980-2000.” Paper accepted at the American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, March 12-16, 2014. San Francisco.
- “Wildlife Conservation in Kenya’s Maasailand, 1850s to 2000: Contested Histories and Narratives of the African Landscape.” Paper presented at Oral History Methods Graduate Workshop, Department of History, UCLA Oral History Cluster, UCLA on May 28, 2013.
- “Human-Wildlife Conflicts, Wildlife Conservation, and Maasai Group Ranches in Kenya, 1890-2000.” Paper presented at the American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, 28-31 March 2012, University of Wisconsin, Madison [USA].
- “A Kenyan in America Looks Home in Anguish,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 15 February 2008.
- “Ecotourism in Costa Rica.” In Anil Varma (ed.), *Emerging Trends in Tourism* (Hyderabad: The Icfai University Press, 2007), 215-222.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS**

- Dissertation Year Fellowship (History Department), UCLA, 2012-2013.
- Hans Roger International Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA, 2011-2012.
- Hans Roger International Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA, 2010-2011.
- Millennium Endowed Graduate Fellowship, UCLA, 2009-2010.
- Hans Roger International Fund, UCLA, 2008-2009.
- History Department Chair Fund, UCLA, 2007-2008.
- Non-Resident Tuition Fellowship, UCLA, 2007-2008.
- Marguerite Smith Scholarship Award, Miami University, summer 2005 (to research Kenya's wildlife conservation history).
- Elizabeth S. Turner Scholarship, Miami University, 2003-2007.

### **OTHER TEACHING & RELATED (INFORMAL) EXPERIENCE**

- November 2, 2015: **Speaker:** Oberlin College: "Discussing the #ALL BLACK LIVES MOVEMENT in the Context of African Postcolonial Realities & Environmental Justice"
- April 2, 2012: **Guest Speaker:** Earlham College, Biology Colloquium
- December 27-29: **Translator (Swahili to English):** HBO's "Witness: South Sudan 2012 Series."
- December 4, 2010: **Consultant:** Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI), Naivasha, Kenya & Kenya National Examinations Council, Nairobi, Kenya; I contributed towards the development of an Environmental History curriculum.
- February 17, 2009: **Guest Speaker:** "Into Africa: Kenya's Wildlife and the Impact of Human-Wildlife Conflicts." Lecture presented at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson Hole, Wyoming.
- July 2006: **Volunteer Instructor:** Community Conservation/Ecotourism Project, Koiyaki Guiding School, Maasai Mara Game Reserve, Kenya.
- June 2006: **Naturalist Guides Trainer:** Kampi Ya Kanzi, Kuku Maasai Group Ranch, Amboseli, Kenya

### **LANGUAGES**

- Swahili (Native Speaker, Advanced Reading & Writing)
- Luo (Native Speaker, Advanced Reading & Writing)
- French (Advanced Reading)