

## MADINA THIAM

Department of History  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Bunche Hall, Box 951473  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1473, USA

[mthiam@ucla.edu](mailto:mthiam@ucla.edu)  
[thiam.me](http://thiam.me)

### EDUCATION

- 2015-Present    **University of California, Los Angeles**, Los Angeles, CA, USA  
Ph.D. Candidate in History  
Dissertation: *From Mecca to Jamaica: Sabelian Itineraries and Imaginaries, 1790s-1970s*  
Committee: Ghislaine Lydon (Chair), Andrew Apter, Robin D.G. Kelley, Minayo Nasiali, Makhroufi Ousmane Traoré  
2018 - Doctoral Examinations Passed in 3 fields: West African History, Atlantic History, New Imperial History  
2017 - Master of Arts Examination Passed in African History
- 2009-2012    **The George Washington University**, Washington, DC, USA  
Bachelor of Arts: History, International Affairs (Double Major), Economics (Minor)  
Honors Thesis: *A Wide Web of Words: Islam, Written Discourse, and the Golden Age of Timbuktu, 1324-1591 C.E.*  
Advisor: Nemata Blyden
- Fall 2011    **Universidad de Granada**, Granada, Spain  
Study Abroad Semester, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
- Summer 2011    **Al-Akhawayn University**, Ifrane, Morocco  
Summer Intensive Training, Arabic Language and North African Studies

### RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

History of Mali	History of Islam
History of the Sahel and West Africa	History of Slavery
Black Atlantic History	African Intellectual History
Global and World History	History of Race and Capitalism

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Academic

- 2019    "Women in Mali," in [Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History](#) (IP, under contract)
- 2018    "[Review: Mali Blues](#)," in *Research Africa Reviews* 2:2
- 2018    "[Postscript: Dakar, 1968](#)," *Ufahamu: a Journal of African Studies* 40:2 (with Janice Levi)
- 2018    "[Editorial](#)," *Ufahamu: a Journal of African Studies* 40:1 (with Janice Levi)
- 2016    "[Editorial: The 1960s and the Groove](#)," *Ufahamu: a Journal of African Studies* 39:2

**Media**

- 2018 [“De Tombouctou à la Jamaïque : les voyages d’Abū Bakr al-Siddiq.”](#) *Libération Africa*<sup>4</sup>
- 2018 [“History, Policy and Politics at the UNESCO,”](#) *Luskin Center for History and Policy*
- 2015 [“Can the Malians Speak?”](#) *Africa is a Country*

**CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS**

- 2018 **Cornell Global Africa and Ethnographies of Interconnection Workshop**  
Ithaca, NY, USA  
“Unveiling Silences, Reconnecting Historiographies: Using 19th-century Sahelian Narratives to Write Global History”
- 2017 **3rd International Conference of the Dakar Institute of African Studies**  
Dakar, Senegal  
“African Men of Letters, Atlantic Slavery, and the Intellectual History of the Sahel”
- 2017 **UNESCO World Heritage Young Professionals Forum**  
Warsaw and Krakow, Poland  
“Monuments of Paper: the Sahelian Muslim Intellectual Tradition”
- 2017 **6th Annual UCLA History Graduate Student Association Conference**  
Los Angeles, CA, USA  
“Empire State of Mind: Unsolicited Interventions and the 2012 Crisis in Mali”
- 2016 **59th Meeting of the African Studies Association**  
Washington, DC, USA  
“A Trail of Scented Salams: Migrating and Settling along the *Tariq-al-Sūdān*”
- 2016 **University of Bern “Transpositions” Summer School**  
Kandersteg, Switzerland  
“Westerners along the Nile: West African Muslims in Sudan (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries)”
- 2016 **Futures of History Conference**  
Los Angeles, CA, USA  
“The Futures of History: What Do We See and Envision?”

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

- 2018-2019 **[Innovation Grant](#)**: “Developing a New Approach to Migration and Policy-Making in Africa” (with E. Tendayi Achiume and Anita Vukovic)  
Luskin Center for History and Policy, UCLA
- 2018-2019 **[International Dissertation Research Fellowship](#)**  
Social Science Research Council & Andrew Mellon Foundation
- 2017 **Short-Term Fellowship**  
Luskin Center for History and Policy, UCLA
- 2017 & 2018 **History Research Travel Stipend**

Department of History, UCLA

2016 & 2017 **Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award**  
Graduate Division, UCLA

2016 [Graduate Student Travel Award](#)  
African Studies Association & Royal Air Maroc

2016 [Kurnitz Creative Writing Award](#)  
Dashew Center, UCLA

2015 **Five-Year Department of History Fellowship**  
UCLA

## TEACHING

Spring 2018 **Africa: 1800 to Present (Online Course)**, Teaching Associate, UCLA  
Winter 2018 **Inequality: The Age of Mass Imprisonment**, Teaching Associate, UCLA  
Fall 2017 **Western Civilization: circa 1715 to Present**, Teaching Associate, UCLA  
Spring 2017 **Africa: 1800 to Present (Online Course)**, Teaching Assistant, UCLA  
Winter 2017 **Economic Development and Culture Change**, Teaching Assistant, UCLA  
Fall 2016 **Western Civilization: Prehistory to circa A.D. 843**, Teaching Assistant, UCLA

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

2016-2018 **Co-Editor-in-Chief**, *Ufabamu: a Journal of African Studies*  
2016-2017 **President**, UCLA History Graduate Students Association  
2016 & 2017 **Discussant**, UCLA Annual Undergraduate History Conference  
2015-2016 **Editor**, *Ufabamu: a Journal of African Studies*  
2015 **Invited Participant**, Humanists @Work Graduate Career Workshop

## LANGUAGES

Bamanankan: Native  
French: Native  
English: Fluent  
Spanish: Fluent  
Arabic: Advanced (Reading, Writing, Translation), Intermediate (Speaking, Listening)