

MADINA THIAM

EMPLOYMENT

July 2022 **New York University**, New York, NY
Assistant Professor of History

EDUCATION

June 2022 **University of California**, Los Angeles, CA
Ph.D. in History
Dissertation: “Seeking Freedom in the Sahel: Frontiers of Liberation and Geographies of Belonging in an Atlantic-Saharan Crossroads, 1804-1960”
Committee: Ghislaine Lydon (Chair), Makhroufi Ousmane Traoré, Robin D.G. Kelley, Minayo Nasiali, and Andrew Apter
Doctoral examinations passed in West African History, Atlantic History, and New Imperial History (2018); M.A. examination passed in African History (2017)

May 2012 **The George Washington University**, Washington, DC
B.A. in History and International Affairs (Majors), 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
Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
Study Abroad Semester, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras (2011)
Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco
Summer Intensive Training, Arabic Language and North African Studies (2011)

PUBLICATIONS

Works-in-progress

“‘Absolutely and Utterly Free’: Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Watara’s Journey through Slavery and Race-Making, 1834-1836” (in preparation for the *Journal of African History*)
with Yatta Kiazolu: “Malian, Ghanian and Tanzanian Women’s Anti Colonial and Labor Struggles.” In *Revolutionary Internationalist Women*, edited by Marral Shamshiri-Fard and Sorcha Amy MacGregor Thomson (in preparation for *Pluto Press*)

Peer-reviewed

Thiam, Madina. “Women in Mali.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. Oxford University Press, 2016–. Article published October 27, 2020. [DOI](#)
Thiam, Madina, and Gregory Mann. “History of Mali: Connectivity and State Formation since the 18th Century.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. Oxford University Press, 2016–. Article published October 27, 2020. [DOI](#)

Book Chapters and Other Academic Writings

Thiam, Madina. “Fuir du Mali à la Mecque.” In *Colonisations. Notre histoire*, edited by Arthur Asseraf, Guillaume Blanc, Yala Kisukidi, Mélanie Lamotte and Pierre Singaravélou. Paris: Le Seuil (forthcoming 2022).

Thiam, Madina. "Struggle, Neglect and Archives," *Council for the Development of the Social Sciences in Africa (CODESRIA) Bulletin* no. 5&6, [Special Issue](#) on the Crisis in Mali and in the Sahel Region (2020): 21-23.

Thiam, Madina. "Nicholas Said, étonnant voyageur." In *Sahara, mondes connectés*, edited by Sophie Caratini, Charles Grémont, Céline Lesourd and Olivier Schinz, 75-79. Paris: Gallimard, 2019.

Reviews

Thiam, Madina. [Review](#) of *Sultan, Caliph, and the Renewer of the Faith. Ahmad Lobbo, the Tārīkh al-fattāsh and the Making of an Islamic State in West Africa*, by Mauro Nobili. *Islamic Africa* XI, no. 2 (2021): 257–260.

Thiam, Madina. [Review](#) of *Mali Blues*, by Gregor Lutz. *Research Africa Reviews* 2, no. 2 (2018): 46-48.

Thiam, Madina. [Review](#) of *Être Étudiant au Mali*, by Boubacar Sangaré. *Ufahamu: a Journal of African Studies* 40, no. 2 (2018): 179-182.

GRANTS

2020–2022 Project Grant, Modern Endangered Archives Program
[Projet Archives des Femmes \(Mali\)](#), with Oumou Sidibé, Devon Golaszewski, and Gregory Mann. Amount awarded: \$50,000

2018–2020 Innovation Grant, Luskin Center for History and Policy
[Developing a New Approach to Migration and Policy-Making in Africa](#), with E. Tendayi Achiume, Tamara Last, and Anita Vukovic. Amount awarded: \$25,000

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2021 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2021 Mini-Grant, UCLA Center for the Advancement of Teaching
2020 Bernadotte E. Schmitt Research Grant, American Historical Association
2020 Penny Kanner Dissertation Research Fellowship, UCLA Center for the Study of Women
2018 Mellon/SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship
2017 Young Professionals Forum, UNESCO World Heritage Committee
2016 & 2017 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award, UCLA Graduate Division
2016 Graduate Student Travel Award, African Studies Association
2016 Kurnitz Creative Writing Award, UCLA Dashew Center
2015 Five-Year Doctoral Fellowship, UCLA Department of History

TALKS

Invited

2021 Boston University, Boston, MA ([Walter Rodney Seminar](#) ; [link to recording](#))
"Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Watara's Journey through Slavery and Race-Making, 1834-1836"
2021 Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA (Department of History)
"Seeking Freedom in the Sahel: Pan-Africanism and Decolonization in Post-Jihad Mopti"
2020 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL ([Timbuktu Talks Series](#))
"Seeking Freedom in the Sahel: Transnational Politics and Islamic Networks in Colonial Mopti"
2019 University of the West Indies–Mona, Kingston, Jamaica ([Department of History and Archeology](#))
"Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq and the Muslim Sahel in Translation"

Conferences and Workshops

- 2022 University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA ([Religion and Democracy in Africa](#))
“Seeking Freedom in the Sahel: Transnational Islamic Networks and Decolonization in Mopti”
- 2022 University of California Africanist Workshop, Berkeley, CA
“Mobility in the Transitional World of Mamadu Caam (1862-1956)”
- 2021 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
“Fuutanke Archipelago: Transnational Politics and Islamic Networks in Colonial Mopti”
- 2021 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)
“African Feminisms” ([ASWAD Webinar](#) invited participant)
- 2020 American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY
“Family Networks, Muslim Education and Emancipation in the Sahel and Caribbean, 1790-1853”
- 2019 Africa, Globalization and The Muslim Worlds Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
“Beyond Timbuktu’: Sahelian Networks and Texts in Pre-Emancipation Jamaica”
- 2019 Rethinking Refuge Workshop, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, Germany
“Continuities of Statelessness in Southern Africa”
- 2019 Luskin Center for History and Policy Fellows Seminar, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
“Developing a New Approach to Migration and Policy-Making in Southern Africa”
- 2018 Global Africa and Ethnographies of Interconnection Workshop, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
“Using 19th-century Sahelian Narratives to Write Global History”
- 2017 Dakar Institute of African Studies International Conference, Dakar, Senegal
“African Men of Letters, Atlantic Slavery, and the Intellectual History of the Sahel”
- 2017 History Graduate Student Association Annual Conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
“Empire State of Mind: Unsolicited Interventions and the 2012 Crisis in Mali”
- 2016 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
“A Trail of Scented Salams: Migrating and Settling along the *Tariq-al-Sūdān*” (as part of “John Hunwick’s Legacy: The Next Generation”)
- 2016 Transpositions Summer School, University of Bern, Kandersteg, Switzerland
“Westerners along the Nile: West African Muslims in Sudan (19th and 20th centuries)”
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COURSES

Instructor

- 2021 Global Histories of Muslim West Africa

Teaching Fellow

- 2020 Western Civilization: circa 1715 to Present, with Prof. Lynn Hunt
2019 The United States and its Colonial Origins: 20th Century, with Prof. Robin D.G. Kelley

Teaching Assistant

- 2018 Inequality: The Age of Mass Imprisonment, with Prof. Kelly Lytle Hernández
2017 & 2018 Africa: 1800 to Present, with Prof. William Worger
2017 Economic Development and Culture Change, with Prof. Andrew Apter
2017 Western Civilization: circa 1715 to Present, with Prof. Caroline Ford
2016 Western Civilization: Prehistory to circa A.D. 843, with Prof. Jessica Goldberg

Guest Lecturer

- 2021 “Writing Family Histories: Power, Stigma, and Malian Archives,” Bard College
2019 “Black Francophone Women & Decolonization,” California State University, Long Beach

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Online and Print Media

- 2021 [Q&A](#): “Is Mansa Musa the richest man of all time?” *BBC History Magazine*
- 2020 “[Histories of Refuge](#)” Series Editor, *Africa is a Country*
Contributed Essay: “[From the Niger to the Nile](#)”
- 2019 “[Le Mali ne doit pas devenir un fonds de commerce...](#)” with Bokar Sangaré et al., *Le Monde*
- 2018 “[De Tombouctou à la Jamaïque : les voyages d’Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddiq](#),” *Libération*
- 2018 “[History, Policy and Politics at the UNESCO](#),” *Luskin Center for History and Policy*
- 2015 “[Mali and the Empire State of Mind](#),” *Africa is a Country*

TV, Radio, and Public Conferences

- 2021 *History Hit* [Documentary](#), London, United Kingdom
‘Pinches of Salt and Gold: Uncovering Mansa Musa’s Story’
- 2020 AIAC Talk Live [Discussion](#)
‘The 2020 protests in Bamako’
- 2019 Le Monde PANAFRICAIN.E.S [Documentary](#), Paris, France
‘Cheikh Anta Diop, l’historien révolutionnaire’
- 2019 NationWide FM Radio [Interview](#), Kingston, Jamaica
‘Talking History with Verene Shepherd’
- 2017 41st session of the UNESCO World Heritage [Committee](#), Krakow, Poland
‘Lost and Recovered Heritage in Timbuktu’
- 2016 Futures of History [Conference](#), Los Angeles, CA
‘The Futures of History: What Do We See and Envision?’

SERVICE, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- 2022– Advisory board member, *Tēmpora: Revista Discente de História*
- 2020– Host, *New Books in African Studies* podcast
- 2019– Researcher, *Projet Archives des Femmes*
- 2016–2017 President, UCLA History graduate students association
- 2016 & 2017 Discussant, UCLA undergraduate History conference
- 2016–2018 Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Ufabamu: a Journal of African Studies* (editor in 2015–2016)

Memberships African Feminist Initiative, African Studies Association, Association of Black Women Historians, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Coordinating Council for Women in History, Mandé Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Research languages: Arabic, Bamanankan, English, French, Spanish
Beginner: Pulaar