

Caroline Elkins

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EDUCATION

One Garden Lane
Cambridge, MA 02138
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Harvard University, Ph. D. History, June 2001.

Harvard University, M.A. History, June 1996.

Princeton University, A.B. History, summa cum laude, June 1991.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Professor, Department of History, Harvard University, July 2009 to present.

Hugo K. Foster Associate Professor of African Studies, Department of History, Harvard University, July 2005 to present.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Harvard University, July 2001 to July 2005.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Research Grant, 2008.

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Fellowship, 2006-07.

Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction, *Imperial Reckoning*, 2006.

Walter Channing Cabot Fellow, Harvard University, 2005-06.

Phi Beta Kappa, Honorary Member, Harvard University Chapter, spring 2006.

Gelber Prize for Non-Fiction, Finalist, *Imperial Reckoning*, 2006.

The Economist, Best History Book Selection, *Imperial Reckoning*, 2005.

The New York Times, Editors' Choice, *Imperial Reckoning*, 2005.

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Faculty Research Leave Fellowship, spring 2005.

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Bunting Fellow, 2003-04.

J. William Fulbright Fellowship for Kenya (IIE), 1998-1999.

Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 1998-1999.

Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship, 1997-1998.

Krupp Foundation Fellowship in European Studies, 1997-1998.

Harvard University Derek Bok Award for Teaching Excellence, 1996-1997 and 2000-01.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Intensive Swahili III, 1995.

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 1994-1995.

PUBLICATIONS

“The Reassertion of the British Empire in Southeast Asia,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 39, 3 (2009), 361-85.

“Colonial Legacies: Silenced Trauma and the Political Economy of Imperialism,” in Peyi Soyinka-Airwele and Rita Edozie (eds.), *Reframing Contemporary Africa: Politics, Economics, and Culture in a Global Era* (New York: Sage Press, forthcoming 2009).

“African Idyll,” *The New York Times Book Review*, September 7, 2008.

Featured Review of *Among Empires* and *Empire and Superempire*, *American Historical Review*, 113, 2 (April 2008), 446-49.

“What’s Tearing Kenya Apart? History, for One Thing,” *Washington Post*, January 6, 2008.

“The Gates of Hell,” *The New York Times Book Review*, March 20, 2007.

“A Life Exposed,” *The New York Times Book Review*, January 14, 2007.

“Dogs of War,” *The New York Times Book Review*, August 13, 2006.

“Why Malaya is No Model for Iraq,” *The New Republic*, 4,744, 233 (December 19, 2005), 16-17.

Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain’s Gulag in Kenya (New York: Henry Holt, 2005). This book was simultaneously published in Britain and the Commonwealth by Jonathan Cape under the title *Britain’s Gulag: The Brutal End of Empire in Kenya*.

Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century: Projects, Practices, Legacies, co-edited with Susan Pedersen (New York: Routledge, 2005).

“Race, Citizenship and Governance: Settler Tyranny and the End of Empire,” in Caroline Elkins and Susan Pedersen (eds.), *Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century: Projects, Practices, Legacies* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

“The Wrong Lesson,” *The Atlantic*, 296, 1 (July/August, 2005), 34-38.

“Memories of Mau Mau in Kenya: Public Crises and Private Shame,” co-authored with John Lonsdale in Alessandro Triulzi (ed.), *Dopo la Violenza: Costruzioni di Memoria nel Mondo Contemporaneo* (Napoli: L’Ancora del Mediterraneo, 2005), 159-96.

PUBLICATIONS (Cont'd)

“Detention, Rehabilitation, and the Destruction of Kikuyu Society,” in E.S. Atieno-Odhiambo and John Lonsdale (eds.), *Mau Mau and Nationhood: Arms, Authority, and Narration* (Oxford: James Currey Ltd., 2002), 191-221.

“Reckoning with the Past: The Contrast between the Kenyan and South African Experiences,” *Social Dynamics: Essays in Commemoration of H. Leroy Vail*, 26, 2 (Summer 2000), 2-28.

“The Struggle for Mau Mau Rehabilitation in Late Colonial Kenya,” *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 33, 1 (2000), 25-57.

“Forest War No More: Detention, Villagization and the Mau Mau Emergency,” *Working Paper No. 227*, Boston University, February 2000.

“Maritime Innovation and Nautical Science in the Early Modern World,” in Ozment et al. (eds.), *The World Heritage*, Fifth Edition (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1999).

“The West and the World: Social Organization in Thirteenth Century Africa,” in Ozment et al. (eds.), *The Western Heritage*, Sixth Edition (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1998).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Twilight: The End of the British Empire after the Second World War (Knopf, forthcoming 2012). I am currently working on a book-length, revisionist history on Britain’s counter-insurgency wars and the end of empire. The research combines archival and oral data in order to trace the circulation of people and ideas through the British Empire along with the concomitant violence that accompanied each war. The analysis will focus on several aspects of imperial retreat, including the inherent paradoxes in the colonial projects, degree to which accumulated knowledge evolved into a perceived model for imperial divestment, the nature of counter-insurgent coercion, and the transference of ideas and practices to the United States.

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

“British Colonial Violence at the End of Empire,” lecture, University of Paris-Sorbonne Paris IV. Paris, France. Upcoming, March, 2009.

Memories of Empire: Legacies of the Imperial Past Compared, keynote lecture, University of Sydney. Sydney, Australia. Upcoming, December, 2009.

“Empire as Legal Precedent: Counter-Insurgency in the 21st Century,” Harvard Law School Faculty Colloquium. Cambridge, MA. May, 2009.
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INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCES (Cont’d)

“British Colonial Violence at the End of Empire,” Historical Perspectives on Violence Series, Department of History, Vanderbilt University. Nashville, Tennessee. January 2009.

“Kenya: A Case of Deferred Violence,” Presidential Session, The Deferred Violence of Decolonization, American Historical Association Conference. New York, New York. January 2009.

“British Colonial Violence and the End of Empire,” Mershon Center for International Security Studies and Department of History, Ohio State University. Columbus, Ohio. November 2008.

“Kenya’s History and Troubled Present,” special lecture, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley Colorado. November 2008.

“Kenya: Structures of Colonial Rule and End of Empire Violence,” and “Deferred Violence in Kenya,” both presented at Postcolonial Wars: Current Perspectives on the Deferred Violence of Decolonization, Radcliffe Institute for Advance Study. Cambridge, Massachusetts. October 2008.

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948-2008: A 60th Anniversary Roundtable,” panel participant, International and Global History Seminar, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. September 2008.

“Settler Societies and Europe,” Research Cluster Co-Chair and Moderator, Postcolonial Europe Conference. Florence, Italy. May 2008.

“‘A Most Expensive Form of Illness:’ British Colonial Violence in Malaya,” UCLA History Department Seminar Series. Los Angeles, California. April 2008.

“African History in the Twenty-First Century,” Keynote Lecture, Bergen College. Bergen, New Jersey. April, 2008.

“Kenya, British Colonial Violence in the Twentieth Century: Confronting the Past, Understanding the Legacies,” University of Leiden. Leiden, Netherlands. 31 January, 2007.

“Kenya in the Post-Colonial Context,” Post-Colonial Wars Seminar, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. 30 November to 2 December, 2007.

“A Most Expensive form of Illness:’ Britain’s decolonization of Malaya,” annual endowed Fusco Lecture, University of Connecticut. Storrs, Connecticut. 18 October, 2007.

“Britain’s Gulag in the Context of Genocide Studies,” annual endowed lecture, Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University. Worcester, Massachusetts. 10 October, 2007.

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INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCES (Cont’d)

“Africa in the Americas,” Keynote Lecture, 3er Encuentro Internacional del Veracruz. Coatzacoalcos, Mexico. May 2007.

“The End of the British Empire and the Era of Human Rights,” Carr Center for Human Rights Studies, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. May 2007.

“A Most Expensive form of Illness:’ British Colonial Violence in Malaya,” British Studies Lecture, Stanford University. Palo Alto, California. March 2007.

“Malaya and the End of the British Empire,” annual endowed lecture, History and Literature Department, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. February 2007.

“Legacies of Colonialism in Africa: Reparations and Reconciliation,” lectures and discussions at the Rockefeller Center. Bellagio, Italy. December 2006 (two weeks).

“Britain’s Gulag: Violence and the End of Empire in Kenya,” Kennesaw State University. Kennesaw, Georgia. November 2006.

“A Most Expensive form of Illness:’ Terror in Late Colonial Malaya,” Davis Center, Princeton University. Princeton, New Jersey. November 2006.

“Legacies of Empire: The Dark Side of Democracy,” talk given to the Fellows Program, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. September 2006.

“Imperial Reckoning,” Neiman Foundation, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. September 2006.

“Victims and Perpetrators, Perpetrators and Victims: The Legacies of Kenya’s Colonial Past,” presented at “The Revenge of the Victims?” conference sponsored by the International Committee on the Red Cross, the University of Geneva, and the University of Fribourg. Geneva, Switzerland. April 2006.

“Britain’s Gulag: Violence and the End of the British Empire,” lecture given at College of the Holy Cross. Worcester, Massachusetts. April 2006.

“British Colonial Violence and the End of Empire,” lecture given at the University of Texas.Austin, Texas. February 2006.

“Violence and the End of the British Empire,” annual endowed African Studies lecture for Amherst, Smith, UMass Amherst, and Mount Holyoke. Amherst, Massachusetts. December 2005.

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INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCES (Cont'd)

“From Malaya to Kenya: An Examination of Violence in the British Empire,” presented at “The Empire and its Discontent,” a conference in honor of Robert L. Tignor, Princeton University. Princeton, New Jersey. September 2005.

““Where does castration of man come from?:” Gendered Violence during the Mau Mau Emergency,” Yale African Studies Seminar Series. New Haven, Connecticut. April, 2005.

“Britain’s Gulag: Violence and the End of Empire in Kenya,” Institute for International and Regional Studies/African Studies Seminar Series, Princeton University. Princeton, New Jersey. April, 2005.

"Colonial War Crimes in Kenya: Assessing the Damage and the Possibilities for Reconciliation," annual endowed history lecture at Portland State University. Portland, Oregon. March 2005.

“Britain’s Suppression of the Mau Mau Emergency,” University of Nairobi. Nairobi, Kenya. March 2005.

“Understanding Colonial Violence in the Context of Kenya,”British and French Institutes of East Africa.Nairobi, Kenya. March 2005.

“Colonial War Crimes and their Impact on Contemporary Politics in Kenya,” School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.New York, New York. February 2005.

“Britain’s Gulag,” African Studies Seminar, University of Cambridge. Cambridge, UK. February 2005.

“Britain’s Gulag in Kenya,” African Studies Seminar Series,Columbia University. New York, New York. January 2005.

“Imperial Reckoning: Detention and Violence in Kenya,” Woodrow Wilson Center. Washington DC. January 2005.

“Colonial War Crimes and Their Impact on Contemporary Politics in Kenya,” Brookings Institute. Washington DC. January 2005.

“Truth and Reconciliation: A New Moment for Nationhood in Kenya?,” presented with John Nottingham at the Political Economy of Kenya Workshop, Oxford University. Oxford, England. May 2004.

“Britain’s Gulag: Violence and the End of Empire in Kenya,” Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Cambridge, Massachusetts. April 2004.

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INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCES (Cont’d)

“Race, Citizenship and Governance: Settler Tyranny and the End of Empire,” presented at “Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century,” Center for European Studies, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. October 2002.

“Memories of Mau Mau in Kenya: Public Crises and Private Shame,” presented with John Lonsdale at “Violence and Memory in History,” sponsored by the FondazioneGiangiacomoFeltrinelli. Cortona, Italy. June 2002.

“Kikuyu Society Detained: A Re-evaluation of Mau Mau and the End of Empire,” Committee on African Studies Series, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. April 2002.

“Understanding Liberalism in the Empire: the Case of Late Colonial Kenya,” British Studies Council Workshop, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. May 2001.

“Voices of Dissent during the Mau Mau Emergency,” European History Colloquium, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. November 2000.

“Forest War No More: Detention, Villagization and the Mau Mau Emergency,” Walter Rodney Seminar Series. Boston University. Boston, Massachusetts. February 2000.

“Mau Mau behind the Wire,” presented at “Mau Mau: Revisionist Histories of Rebellion.” School of Oriental and African Studies. London, England. November 1999.

“Rethinking Mau Mau: the Civilian Drama,” African History Workshop, University of Nairobi. Nairobi, Kenya. May 1999.

“Competitions for Control and Development: Mau Mau Rehabilitation in Late Colonial Kenya,” presented at “Europe and Empire: Encounters, Transformations and Legacies.” Center for European Studies, Harvard University. Cambridge, Massachusetts. October 1998.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

African Studies Association – 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
African Studies Association, UK – 1998

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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Appeared on various television and radio shows including Charlie Rose; BBC World; CNN; Tavis Smiley; NPR's Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Talk of the Nation, and Here and Now; BBC

Radio One and Radio Four; BBC World radio; Sky News; Australia Public Radio; and Kenya Broadcasting Corporation's various radio and television programs.

Reviewer for various publishers and journals, including the Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, *Twentieth Century British History*, and *International Journal of African Historical Studies*.

Contributor to *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New Republic*. Research and writing has been the subject of newspaper interviews and coverage in various publications including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, *Nos Journaal*, *Le Monde*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The London Review of Books*, *Guardian*, *Independent*, *The London Times*, *The Daily Mail*, *East African Standard*, *Daily Nation* and *The East African*.

Founder and Co-director, Kenya Oral History Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. Directing a project aimed at the collection of several thousand life histories of Africans from various ethnic groups who lived through the colonial experience in Kenya. The Center is modeled on similar projects in South Africa and post-WWII Germany, though it is the first of its kind in Kenya. Over \$300,000 of funding has been drawn primarily from the Kenya Government, Harvard University, NGOs, and private donors.

Series Editor, *Empire in Perspectives*, Pickering & Chatto, 2007 to present.

National Book Foundation, National Book Award, non-fiction juror (500+ books), 2007.

Columbia University School of Journalism/Harvard University Neiman Foundation, Lynton History Prize, jury chairman (100+ books), 2007.

Social Science Research Council, IDRF Fellowship, selection committee, 2006 to 2008.

Co-organizer with Jacqueline Bhabha and Lucie White of a conference titled “Human Rights in Africa,” Harvard University, April 27 and 28, 2006.

Editorial Advisory Committee, Princeton University Press Series, “Crimes Against Humanity,” August 2005 to present.

Co-convener with Lucie White of a Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar on Governance, Land, and Human Rights in Africa. February 2004.

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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Cont’d)

Co-chair with Lucie White, Harvard Law School, of Governance, Authority and Power cluster of the Africa Initiative, Harvard University. August 2003 to present.

BBC documentary, “Kenya: White Terror.” My research on detention camps and villagization during the Mau Mau Emergency was the subject of this one-hour film. The documentary was filmed in Kenya and Britain, September/October 2002. It was aired in Britain on 17 November 2002, to an audience of some 1.5 million viewers. It has subsequently been aired on BBC Worldwide several times. It won the International Committee on the Red Cross Award at the Monte Carlos Film Festival in June 2003.

Co-convener with Susan Pedersen of conference entitled, “Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century.” Center for European Studies, Harvard University. October 2002.

Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. December 2001 to present.

Research Associate, Centre of African Studies.School of Oriental and African Studies. London, England. Academic year 1999-2000.

Co-convener with David Anderson of conference entitled, “Mau Mau: Revisionist Histories of Rebellion.” School of Oriental and African Studies. London, England. November 1999.

Co-convener of workshop entitled, “Europe and Empire: Encounters, Transformations and Legacies.” Center for European Studies, Harvard University. October 1998.

SERVICE

Interim Chair, Committee on African Studies, July 2009 to present.

Committee on General Education, July 2009 to present.

Committee on Ethnic Studies, May 2009 to present.

Faculty Council, elected member, 2006 to 2009.

Elected Vice-Chair, Docket Committee, 2007-08.

Hoopes Prize Committee, 2008.

Hauser Human Rights Fellowship Selection Committee, 2008.

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SERVICE (Cont'd)

COUR Donor Presentation, November 2006.

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, donor presentations and meetings, 2003 to present.

Harvard College Fund, presentations on teaching African History at Harvard, 2003 and 2008.

Standing Committee on Women, 2005 to present.

Knox, Henry, Smith, and von Clemm Fellowship Committee, 2005.

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, fellowship prize committee, 2004, 2006 and 2008.

Committee on Scholars at Risk, 2003 to present.

Committee on African Studies, 2001 to present.

Fay Prize Selection Committee, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, 2002 and 2006.

Co-faculty advisor with Suzanne Blier of the African Studies Graduate Student Workshop, Harvard University. September 2001 to 2007.

COURSES

Undergraduate –

A History of Human Rights in Africa; British Colonial Violence in the Twentieth Century; A History of Southern Africa; The History of Christianity in Africa; Protest and Rebellion in East Africa; The History of Modern Africa; Imperialism, Colonialism and Independence in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East; Slavery and Slave Trade in Africa and the Americas.

Graduate –

Major Themes in Modern Sub-Saharan African History; Writing History: Approaches and Practices; Twentieth-Century Comparative Empire; International Human Rights

Graduate Reading Fields –

Early Africa, Modern Africa, Comparative Colonialisms and Empires, British Empire

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ADVISING –

Graduate Dissertation Committees –

- Poppy Fry, completed 2007.
- PritaMaier, completed 2007.
- Myles Osborne, completed 2008.
- Harmony O'Rourke, completed 2009.
- Sana Ayir, completed 2009.
- Meghan Healy, current student.
- Adam Ewing, current student.
- James Esdaile, current student.
- SreematiMitter, current student.
- Philip Lehman, current student.
- Erik Lindstrum, current student.
- E. Asiedu-Acquah, current student.

Undergraduate Senior Theses –

- Joshua Marks, 2001-02.
- Elizabeth Thornberry, 2003-04.
- Millie Canter, 2006-07.
- Noah Hertz-Bunzl, 2007-08.
- Mishy Harman (winner of a Hoopes Prize and the Philippe Wamba Prize), 2007-08.
- Lauren Yapp, (winner of the Lillian Bell Prize, 2008-09).
- Megan Shutzer, current student.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Studies Association, American Historical Association, PEN

LANGUAGES

French, Swahili, and intermediate Kikuyu