

Syllabus

Africans in Europe

Graduate Seminar in History, European Studies & African Studies

Spring 2022

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Office hours: **often available**; Tuesdays, 3-4 (zoom), or Wednesdays 1.30-2.30 (in my Grinter 4th floor office), **yet please always make an appointment** by 5pm the day before, or propose an alternative time from these (just email me with a suggestion). Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

To be revised to as needed for all.

This seminar will focus on African experiences in living, arriving, and attempting to arrive in Europe over a long historical duration, touching down on early modern times, the two world wars, and notably since 1989. We will take a deep look at the last decade or so of Europe's extraordinary crisis of African migrants trying to enter and entering. And, we will think in terms of longer histories of African migrations and diasporas into Europe.

Since 2010, there has been an explosion of new documentary and analytic materials, much of it very creative and innovative regarding the ways Africans are arriving into Europe, licitly and illicitly. What is striking is how interdisciplinary these materials are, with much hard data -- quantitative, legal, epidemiological, and social scientific -- created in and near European Union knowledge centers and data banks. Some of you may want to look at tensions within and methods of the European Union. Scholars and artists from the softer social sciences and the humanities have also been producing and documenting the experiences of African migrants entering Europe, from ghastly arrival stories to those who are artists, musician, academics, and novelists producing narratives (songs and films) of diverse kinds.

Out central theme is: Africans in Europe. It involves diverse pasts and presents focusing on diverse moments and historiographies, from early modern times (with a focus on the evidence of paintings); African soldiers' fraught experiences fighting in Europe during the two world wars; and the presence of Africans in a range of western and eastern European cities from the 1920s through the 2010s. How did they get there? What have they been doing? How should we begin to understand diverse pasts in Europe and Africa? Some may want to investigate how to research and learn from the wide array of forms of knowledge -- hard and soft, quantitative and qualitative, policy-driven and aesthetically inspired. A fundamental question will return: when and how is history and historical consciousness useful, and for accomplishing what? Is there evidence of Africans living in Europe with a consciousness of history and pasts?

WHO??

The class is designed for students in History, Anthropology, European Studies, African Studies, Sociology, Geography, English, French, and other disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities. Talented undergraduates are welcome to contact the instructor for permission to join this seminar. This course received a Course Development Grant from the Center for European Studies College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

ASSESSMENT | WORK REQUIRED

We will meet weekly for a three-hour session, where we will discuss the week's readings, listen to each and presentations, and plan and report on class projects. Attendance is, of course, required

The most important contribution you will make to this seminar is to prepare by reading and short research assignments, engaging the materials, and sharing your insights. Students will also act as discussants and make a final presentation. There is flexibility in how students structure their course work, and a time in early February to concretize their plans in writing. Most students will undertake a final project, which may draw upon or problematize the wide epistemic spectrum available on this subject. For most of you, knowledge may be primarily anthropological or historical, though other disciplines or questions may be important to others.

Assessment, to be based on:

1. **Regular, short writing (shared?).** Nine (of ten possible) 500-word critical reviews, which combine (a) speaking to the main arguments made and *concepts used*; with some combination of: (b) speaking to how the work may be useful in your thinking and work; (c) asking tough, probing questions; (c) and, if you like the latter part may go more diary-like (reflections). Write weekly; take one week off.
2. **Personal course plan**, due 8 February, midnight.

Prepare two documents. Use Amazon, Google, book reviews, etc. and prioritize for yourself which books you most want us to read for the remainder of the seminar and **why** (speak to why). Clarify in writing your academic goals in this course (how you will approach writing, since there are choices). You will load into Canvas one document with two parts: 1) My Book Preferences and Why; and 2) My Class Project Proposal (and explain it will be comprised of different writing assignments (contents, goal, length). The two parts go together and should be thought about together. **Due 10 February, midnight.**

3. **Discussant**, 2-3 times throughout the term
4. **Presentation and preparation of final course project**, most will present on 12 April
5. **Final course project, with likely modalities**, 20-25 pp
 - a. 3 short papers (about 7-8 pp), each critically reviewing 3 books, mostly coming from our common reading list or new research.
OR
 - b. 1 short paper; and 1 mid-sized final project, paper, or dissertation chapter, with bibliography
OR
 - c. Large final project, paper or chapter, with bibliography
6. **Meet with the instructor**, at least once before or after personal course plan; a second time is recommended around the final project

COURSE SCHEDULE

11 January	Introductions
18 January	Book 1, Pitts, Johny. <i>Afropean: Notes from Black Europe</i> ISBN: 9780141987286
25 January	Book 2, Otele, Olivette. <i>African Europeans: An Untold History</i> ISBN 9781541619678
1 February	Book 3, TBA, I am hoping: Smith, Stephen. <i>The Scramble for Europe: Young Africa on its way to the Old Continent</i> ISBN: 9781509544579
8 February –	Library Day, no formal class. Prepare your course plan.
15 February	4, TBA
22 February	5, TBA
1 March,	6, TBA

8 March – BREAK, no class

15 March	7, TBA
22 March	8, TBA
29 March	9, TBA
5 April	10, TBA

12 April – PRESENTATIONS (of draft projects)

19 April – LIBRARY DAY (more presentations if needed)

25 April – Final project submitted; last day to submit work, midnight

OUR KEY LIBRARY (BOOKS, most to end up on Reserve)

The schedule will be adapted as books become available through the Library. Buy what you can: what really interests you. I may also add articles, especially in relation to student interests.

Histories and memoirs, general

**Pitts, Johny. *Afropean: Notes from Black Europe* ISBN: 9780141987286

**Otele, Olivette. *African Europeans: An Untold History* ISBN 9781541619678

*Smith, Stephen. *The Scramble for Europe: Young Africa on its way to the Old Continent* ISBN: 9781509544579

Burton, Eric, Anne Dietrich, Immanuel R. Harisch and Marcia C. Schenck, ed., *sNavigating Socialist Encounters: Moorings and (Dis)Entanglements between Africa and East Germany during the Cold War* (Africa in Global History)

Betts, Paul. *Ruin and Renewal: Civilizing Europe after World War II* ISBN: 9781541672468

Earle and Lowe. *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe* ISBN 9780521176606

Ethnographies, general

- **Andersson, Ruben. *Illegality Inc.: Clandestine Migration and the Business of Bordering Europe*. U of California Press, 2014.
- **Jennifer Cole and Christian Groes, eds. *Affective Circuits: African Migrations to Europe and the Pursuit of Social Regeneration*. University of Chicago Press, 2016. 978-0226405018
- Loftsdottir, Kristin. *We are All Africans Here: Race, Mobilities, and West Africans in Europe*, 2021 ISBN 9781509534579
- Alexander-Nathani, Isabella. *Burning at Europe's Borders: An Ethnography on the African Migrant Experience in Morocco* ISBN-13: 978-0190074647
- Jesper Bjarnesen and Simon Turner eds. *Invisibility in African Displacements: From Structural Marginalization to Strategies of Avoidance*. Zed Books, 2020, 978-1786999207

Italy, mostly ethnographies

- **Giordano, Christiana. *Migrants in Translation: Caring and the Logics of Difference in Contemporary Italy* ISBN-13: 978-0520276659
- Merrill, Heather. *The Black Spaces: African Diaspora in Italy* ISBN 9781138549371
- Lucht, Hans. *Darkness before Daybreak: African Migrants Living on the Margins in Southern Italy Today* ISBN 9780520270718
- Perlino, Elena *The Pipeline: Trafficking in Italy*. ISBN 978053308240
- Mazzara, Federica. *Reframing Migration: Lampedusa, Border Spectacle, and the Aesthetics of Subversion*. ISBN 9783034318846
- Proglione, and Odasso *Border Lampedusa: Subjectivity, Visibility, and Memory in Stories of Sea and Land* ISBN 9783319593296

France

- *MacGaffey and Bazenguissa-Ganga, *Congo-Paris: Transnational Traders on the Margins of the Law* ISBN-13 : 978-0253214027
- Miriam Ticktin *Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France*. ISBN-13: 9780520269057
- Julie Kleinman, *Adventure Capital: Migration and the Making of an African Hub in Paris*. U of California Press, 1029.
- Jennifer Anne Boittin, *Colonial Metropolis: The Urban Grounds of Anti-Imperialism and Feminism in Interwar Paris*. U of Nebraska Press, 2010.
- Petrine Archer-Straw, *Negrophilia: Avant-Garde Paris and Black Culture in the 1920s*. Thames & Hudson, 2000.
- T. Keaton, T. Sharpley-Whiting, and T. Stovall, eds. *Black France/France Noire: The History of Politics of Blackness* Duke U Press, 2012.

Germany, photographic archive and a novel

- Campt, Tina. *Image Matters: Archive, Photography, and the African Diaspora in Europe* ISBN 978082235
- Erpenbeck, Jenny *Go, Went, Gone* ISBN-13: 978-1846276224

Humanitarianism and Mental Health (two repetitions here)

- Malkii, Liisa. *The Need to Help: The Domestic Arts of International Humanitarianism*. Duke University Press, 2015.
- **Giordano, Christiana. *Migrants in Translation: Caring and the Logics of Difference in Contemporary Italy* ISBN-13: 978-0520276659
- Miriam Ticktin *Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France*. ISBN-13: 9780520269057

Further Bibliography (for your edification and further research)

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Geography, Economics, Security, and International Studies

Lorenzo Rinelli, *African Migrants and Europe: Managing the ultimate frontier* (Routledge Studies in African Politics and International Relations)

Asfa-Wossen Assefate, *African Exodus: Migration and the Future of Europe*

Peter Gatrell, *The Unsettling of Europe: How Migration Reshaped a Continent*

Paolo Gaibazzi, Stephan Dünwald, and Alice Bellagamba, eds. *EurAfrican Borders and Migration Management: Political Cultures, Contested Spaces, and Ordinary Lives*

Elisabeth Wacker, Ulrich Becker, et al. *Refugees and Forced Migrants in Africa and the EU: Comparative and Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Challenges and Solutions*

**Paul Nugent, ed. *Respacing Africa* (African-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies)

Ali Bilgic, *Rethinking Security in the Age of Migration* (Routledge Research on the Global Politics of Migration)

THE HUMANITIES: History & Anthropology, Narratives and Visualities

Visuality Studies

Aine O’Healy, *Migrant Anxieties: Italian Cinema in a Transnational Frame*

Susan Libby and Adirenne Childs, eds. *The Black Figure in the European Imaginary*

Figurations, the Ethnographic, the Literary, and Personal Narratives

A. N. Okonoboh, *Fellow Nigerian's Blood: An African Migrants Thriller Novel* (Africa's Trek to Europe), 2019.

Alessandr Triulzi and Robert McKenzie, *Long Journeys: African Migrants on the Road* (Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies), strong collection of personal narratives

Ulrike Kubler, *The Route to Europe-African Migrant Experience in the Maltese Context: An Ethnographic Study on Departure, Way and Reception of Irregular Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa on the Maltese*, 2010.

Davide Enia and Antony Shugaar, *Notes on a Shipwreck: A Story of Refugees, Borders, and Hope*, 2019, urgent memoir

Nathan Mogos, Mottak, *An African Tale of Immigration and Asylum*.

Kpomassie, Tete-Michel. *An African in Greenland* ISBN 9780940322882

HISTORIES: DIVERSE PASTS and APPROACHES

Early Modern Studies

David Northrup, *Africa's Discovery of Europe, 1450-1850*

T. F. Earle, *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe*, 2010

Ben Vinson III, Joaneath Spicer, Natalie Zemon Davis, *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe*, 2012

Colonial and Decolonizing Times

N. MacMaster, *Colonial Migrants and Racism: Algerians in France, 1900-62*, 1997

Félix F. Germain, *Decolonizing the Republic: African and Caribbean Migrants in Postwar Paris, 1946–1974*

There is much to add here.

Diaspora Studies

Darlene Clark Hine, T. Keaton, et al., *Black Europe and the African Diaspora* (New Black Studies Series), 2009.

Sabrina Marchetti, *Black Girls: Migrant Domestic Workers and Colonial Legacies* (Studies in Global Social History / Studies in Global Migration).

Annalisa Butticci, *African Pentecostals in Catholic Europe*

Caroline Bresssey and Hakim Adi, *Belonging in Europe - The African Diaspora and Work*

Gurminder K. Bhambra and John Narayan, *European Cosmopolitanism: Colonial Histories and Postcolonial Societies* (International Library of Sociology)

French, Howard, *Born in Blackness: Africa, Africans, and the Making of the Modern World, 1471 to the Second World War*