

VITA

John K. Thornton
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Department of History
Boston University
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EXPERIENCE

- 2003-present Department of History and African American Studies, Boston University, Professor
- 2005 Visiting Professor, Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University
- 1995-2003 Department of History, Millersville University, Millersville, PA, Professor
- 1990-95 Department of History, Millersville University, Millersville, PA, Associate Professor
- 1986-90 Department of History, Millersville University, Millersville, PA, Assistant Professor
- 1985-6 Department of History, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Lecturer (one year position, with Assistant Prof. salary)
- 1984-5 Fellow, Carter Woodson Institute, University of Virginia
- 1981-4 Department of History, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, Assistant Professor (three consecutive one year temporary positions)
- 1979-81 Department of History, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Lecturer Grade II (=Assistant Professor in USA)
- 1972-75 Military Service, USAF Honorably released from Active Duty (Inactive Reserve until 1991).

EDUCATION

- BA: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, Political Science, 1971
- MA: UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, African Area Studies, 1972
- PhD: UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, History, 1979 (Supervisor E. A. Alpers)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2005- Non-Resident Fellow, W. E. B. DuBois Institute, Harvard University
- 2005-08 W. E. B. DuBois Institute Research Grant, Harvard University
- 2001 Gilder Lehman Institute, Mariner's Museum, for research in Portugal
- 1999 Faculty Assistance Grant, Millersville University, for research in England
- 1998 Faculty Assistance Grant, Millersville University, for research in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 1996 Faculty Assistance Grant, Millersville University, for research in England
- 1993 National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar for College Teachers, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (8 week program).
- 1990 Faculty Assistance Grant, Millersville University, for research in Portugal on Angolan demographic history.
- 1988 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (\$3,500). Military Encounters between Europeans and the Indigenous Peoples of the Atlantic zone, 1400-1650.
- 1984-5 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Carter Woodson Institute (\$20,000), for writing a study of Africa in south Atlantic, 1450-1650.
- 1982-4 National Endowment for Humanities, Translations Project Grant (\$18,300), for work translating and editing seventeenth century Italian MS of Giovanni Antonio Cavazzi.
- 1981 Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Research Fellowship (\$1,500), for research on Portuguese missionaries in Africa, 14-17 cents.

CONSULTANCIES

- 1992-1999 Consulting Co-Curator, "African Voices" Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
- 1993-95 Historical Consultant, "A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie" Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Museum, Key West, Florida.

1999-2007 Historical Consultant, Yorktown-Jamestown Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia

1999-2002 Historical Consultant, “Against Human Dignity” Mariner’s Museum,
Norfolk, Virginia

2000-present Historical Consultant, revision of articles and coverage of Africa in the
Encyclopedia Britannica (Chicago, IL).

2005-2006 Consultant for “African American Voices” PBS special, Kunhart Productions

2006-07 Consultant for “Oprah Winfrey” PBS Special, Kunhart Productions

2007-2008 Consultant for “African American Lives, Part II” PBS Special, Kunhart Productions

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

Reading and Speaking: French, Portuguese, Italian, German, Dutch, Kiswahili, Hausa.

Reading only: Spanish, Catalan, Latin, Kikongo

Partial: Kimbundu, Twi, Danish

TEACHING AREAS

Africa: All periods, pre-colonial, central Africa and Portuguese-speaking Africa. Includes extensive research experience.

Middle Eastern: Teaching experience in Middle Eastern survey courses.

World history: Experience in teaching world survey, all periods.

Non-Western history: Background and teaching experience in Latin America, Middle East and Africa as well as non-western survey courses and courses on European expansion and Imperialism. Also courses on the history of slavery. Research experience on slave trade, Afro-American, Latin American history

Europe: Background and teaching experience in Medieval and Early Modern Europe, European expansion. Research experience on Portugal (early modern) and expansion.

Other fields: Religious history, mission history, demographic history, social history, teaching experience in military history (all with research experience).

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Kingdom of Kongo: Civil War and Transition, 1641-1718 (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1983). Honorable Mention, Melville J. Herskovits Prize (African Studies Association)

Africa and Africans in the Formation of the Atlantic World, 1400-1680 (New York and London: Cambridge University Press, 1992, second expanded edition, 1998)

The Kongolesse Saint Anthony. Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706 (Cambridge University Press, 1998) Honorable mention, Melville J. Herskovits Prize, (African Studies Association)

Warfare in Atlantic Africa, 1500-1800 (University College of London Press/Routledge, 1999)

(with Linda Heywood), *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles and the Making of the Anglo-Dutch Americas, 1580-1660* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Cultural Encounters in the Atlantic World, 1350-1830 (Cambridge University Press, in preparation under contract)

(ed. and trans.) *Evangelical Missions to the Kingdom of Kongo* by Giovanni Antonio Cavazzi da Montecuccolo, 1665. In preparation, accepted for publication by *Fontes Historiae Africae*, probably with Oxford University Press.

(with Linda Heywood), *A History of Africa* (Prentice-Hall, in preparation under contract)

Articles

"The State in African Historiography: A Reassessment," *Ufahamu* 4 (1973): 113-26.

"Demography and History in the Kingdom of Kongo, 1550-1750," *Journal of African History* 18 (1977): 507-30.

"An Eighteenth Century Baptismal Register and the Demographic History of Manguenzo" in C. Fyfe and D. McMaster (eds.) *African Historical Demography* (Edinburgh: Centre of African Studies, 1977): 405-16.

"A Resurrection for the Jagas," *Cahiers d'études africaines* 18 (1978): 223-38.

"New Light on Cavazzi's Seventeenth Century Description of Kongo," *History in Africa* 6

(1979): 253-64.

"A Note on the Archives of the Propaganda Fide and the Capuchin Archives for African History," *History in Africa* 6 (1979): 341-4.

"The Slave Trade in Eighteenth Century Angola: Effects on Demographic Structures" *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 14 (1980): 417-28.

"Early Kongo-Portuguese Relations, 1483-1575: A New Interpretation" *History in Africa* 8 (1981): 183-204. French translation in *Cahiers des Anneaux de la Mémoire* 3 (2001)

"The Chronology and Causes of Lunda Expansion to the West, ca. 1700-1852," *Zambia Journal of History* 1 (1981): 1-13.

"The Demographic Effect of the Slave Trade on Western Africa, 1500-1850" in C. Fyfe and D. McMaster, *African Historical Demography*, vol. 2 (Edinburgh: Centre of African Studies, 1981): 691-720.

"The Kingdom of Kongo, ca. 1390-1678: History of an African Social Formation," *Cahiers d'études africaines* 22 (1982): 325-42.

"Sexual Demography: The Impact of the Slave Trade on Family Structure," in Claire Robertson and Martin Klein (eds.) *Women and Slavery in Africa* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1983): 39-48.

"The Development of an African Catholic Church in the Kingdom of Kongo, 1483-1750," *Journal of African History* 25 (1984): 147-67. Reprinted in Black Diaspora Committee (Howard University), *The Black Diaspora: Africans and their Descendants in the Wider World* (1st and 2d edition, Lexington, Mass: Ginn Press, 1986 and 1987)

(with Linda M. Heywood), "Demography, Production and Labor: Central Angola, 1890-1950," in Joel Gregory and Dennis Cordell (eds.), *African Population and Capitalism* (Boulder and London: Westview, 1987): 241-54.

"The Correspondence of the Kongo Kings, 1614-35: Problems of Internal Written evidence on a Central African Kingdom," *Paideuma* 33 (1987): 407-21.

(with Joseph C. Miller), "The Chronicle as source, history and hagiography: The *Catálogo dos Governadores de Angola*," *Paideuma* 33 (1987): 359-89. Portuguese translation: "A crónica como fonte, história e hagiografia: O *Catálogo dos Governadores de Angola*," *Revista Internacional de Estudos Africanos* 12-13 (1990): 9-55.

"Tradition, Documents and the Ife-Benin Relationship" *History in Africa* 15 (1988): 351-62.

"On the Trail of Voodoo: African Christianity in Africa and the Americas," *The Americas* 44 (1988): 261-78.

(with Linda Heywood), "African Fiscal Systems as Demographic Sources: The Case of the Central Highlands of Angola, 1770-1900" *Journal of African History* 29 (1988): 213-28.

"The Art of War in Angola, 1575-1680," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 30 (1988): 360-78.

"Ideology and Political Power in Central Africa: The Case of Queen Njinga (1624-1663)," *Journal of African History* 32 (1991): 25-40.

"African Dimensions of the Stono Rebellion," *American Historical Review* 96 (1991): 1101-13.

"Pre-Colonial African Industry and the Atlantic Trade, 1500-1800," and "The Historian and the Pre-Colonial African Economy: John Thornton Responds," in *African Economic History Review* 9 (1992), along with comments by four other historians.

"The Regalia of the Kings of Kongo" in Erna Beumers and Peter Koloss (eds.) *Kings of Africa* (Maastricht: Kings of Africa Foundation, 1993), pp. 57-64.

"I am the Subject of the King of Congo': African Ideology in the Haitian Revolution," *Journal of World History* 4 (1993): 181-214.

"African Soldiers in the Haitian Revolution," *Journal of Caribbean History* 25 (1993): -80.

"Central African Names and African American Naming Patterns," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd series, 50 (1993): 727-42.

"The Role of Africans in the Atlantic Economy: Modern Africanist Historiography and the World System Paradigm," *Colonial Latin American Historical Review* 3 (1994): 125-40.

"Perspectives on African Christianity," in Vera Hyatt and Rex Nettleford (eds.), *Race, Discourse, and the Making of the Americas* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1994), pp. 169-98.

"Early Portuguese Expansion in West Africa: Its Nature and Consequences," in George Winnius (ed.) *Portugal the Pathfinder: Journeys from the Medieval to toward the Modern World* (Madison: Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies, 1995), pp. 121-32.

"The African Background to American Colonization" in Stanley Engerman and Robert Gallman (eds.) *Cambridge Economic History of the United States* Volume 1. The Colonial Era (New York and London: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 53-94.

“As guerras civis no Congo e o tráfico de escravos: a história e a demografia de 1718 a 1844 revisitadas,” *Estudos Afro-Asiaticos* (Rio de Janeiro) 32 (1997): 55-74.

“Les racines du vaudou. Religion africaine et société haïtienne dans la Saint-Domingue prérévolutionnaire,” *Anthropologie et Sociétés* 22 (1998): 85-104.

“The African Experience of the '20 and Odd Negroes” Arriving in Virginia in 1619,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d series, 55 (1998): 421-34.

“The Coromantees: An African Cultural Group in Colonial North America and the Caribbean,” *Journal of Caribbean History* 32/1-2 (1998): 161-78.

“Warfare, Slave Trading, and European Influence: Atlantic Africa, 1450-1800,” in Jeremy Black (ed.), *War in the Early Modern World, 1450-1815* (London: University College of London Press, 1999), pp. 129-46.

"Mbanza Kongo/São Salvador: Kongo's Holy City," in David Anderson and Richard Rathbone (eds.) *Africa's Urban Past* (London and Portsmouth, NH: James Currey and Heinemann, 2000), pp. 67-84. Portuguese translation as “São Salvador: A cidade sagrada do Kongo,” in *Fontes e Estudos* (Luanda) 4 (1999).

“War, the State, and Religious Norms in Coromantee Thought,” in Robert Blair St. George (ed.), *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in America* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000), pp. 181-200.

“Documentos escritos e tradição oral num reino alfabetizado: tradições orais escritas no Congo, 1580-1910,” *Actas do II Reunião da História da África* (Luanda, 1997) (Lisbon: Comissão Nacional para as Comemorações dos Descobrimentos Portugueses, 2000), pp. 439-57.

“La Nation angolaise en Amérique, son identité en Afrique et en Amérique,” *Cahiers des Anneaux de la Mémoire* 2 (2000): 241-56.

“Teaching Africa in an Atlantic Perspective,” *Radical History Review* 77 (2000): 123-34.

“The Origins and Early History of the Kingdom of Kongo, c. 1350-1550,” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 34/1 (2001): 1-31.

(with Paula Gershick-Ben Amos) "Civil War in the Kingdom of Benin, 1689-1722: Continuity or Political Change?" *Journal of African History* 42 (2001): 353-76.

“Religion and Cultural Life in the Kongo and Mbundu Areas, 1500-1800,” in Linda Heywood (ed.), *Central Africans and Cultural Transformations in the American Diaspora* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 71-90.

"Cannibals, Witches and Slave Traders in the Atlantic World," *William and Mary Quarterly* 60/2 (2003): 273-94.

"Origin Traditions and History in Central Africa," *African Arts* 37/1 (2004): 32-37.

"Central Africa in the Era of the Slave Trade," in Jane G. Landers and Barry M. Robinson, eds, *Slaves, Subjects, and Subversives: Blacks in Colonial Latin America* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006), pp. 83-110.

"Elite Women in the Kingdom of Kongo: Historical Perspectives on Women's Political Power," *Journal of African History* 47 (2006): 437-60.

(with Linda Heywood), "Central African Leadership and the Appropriation of Europe Culture," in Peter Mancall, ed., *The Atlantic World and Virginia, 1550-1624* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2007), pp. 194-224.

Forthcoming Chapters or Articles (as of 11 September 2007)

"Forced Contacts: Africa and America," in Frank Moya Pons (ed.) *UNESCO General History of Latin America* vol. II (also to appear in French and Spanish versions)

"Afro-Christian Synthesis in Central Africa," *Plantation Societies* 8 1-3 (2001) (corrected proofs).

"Política Africana e Expansão Portuguesa em Angola, 1400-1800," (provisional title) in Marília dos Santos Lopes (ed.), *História da Expansão Portuguesa no Mundo* vol. IX (Lisbon: Editora Estampa, [TS of about 150 pages])

(with Linda Heywood), "The Removal of "Canniball Negroes" from New England to Providence Island," (forthcoming in special volume to be published for the New England Colonial Society)

Significant Unpublished Works

"The African Background of the Slaves of the *Henrietta Marie*," entry for catalog of the exhibit of the remains of the *Henrietta Marie* by the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Museum, Key West, Florida (Opened, May 1995).

"Sin and Evil in Kongo Christianity: An Edition and Translation of a Seventeenth Century Kikongo Sermon."

(with Amara Thornton) "The Children of Kinzamba," a children's novel of approximate 150

pages.

Textbook Contributions

Chapters 2 and 3 of Michael L. Coniff and Thomas J. Davis Africans in the Americas: A History of the African Diaspora (New York: Saint Martin's, 1994), pp. 31-64.

Teaching Texts

A History of the World to 1500 (approximately 200 page single spaced typed original textbook, printed and sold to students through bookstore).

A History of the World, 1500-1815 (approximately 200 page single spaced typed original textbook, printed and sold to students through bookstore).