

Corrie Decker
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor, University of California, Davis, Department of History, 2023-present

Associate Professor, University of California, Davis, Department of History, 2015-present

Assistant Professor, University of California, Davis, Department of History, 2009-2015

Assistant Professor, Lehman College, City University of New York, Department of African and African American Studies, 2007-2009

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, African History, 2007

M.A. University of California, Berkeley, African History, 2002

B.A. Bryn Mawr College, History, 1998

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Books:

The Idea of Development in Africa: A History, co-authored with Elisabeth McMahon (Cambridge University Press, 2020)

Mobilizing Zanzibari Women: The Struggle for Respectability and Self-Reliance in Colonial East Africa (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014)

Refereed Articles and Book Chapters:

“Gender, Sexuality, and the Body,” in *A Cultural History of Youth in the Age of Empire*, edited by David M. Pomfret (Bloomsbury Press, 2023)

“A ‘Tomboy’ and a ‘Lady’: Religion, Modernity, and Youth Culture in Twentieth-Century Zanzibar,” in *The Oxford Handbook on the History of Youth Culture*, edited by James Marten (Oxford University Press, 2023 [published online 2021])

“Sexuality in Colonial Africa: Current Trends and New Directions,” in *The Routledge Companion to Sexuality and Colonialism*, edited by Dagmar Herzog and Chelsea Shields (Routledge, 2021)

“A Feminist Methodology of Age-Grading and History in Africa,” AHR Roundtable: Chronological Age: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis, *American Historical Review* Vol. 125, no. 2 (2020)

“The Search for Juvenile Delinquency in Colonial Zanzibar, East Africa,” in *Ages of Anxiety: Historical and Transnational Perspectives on Juvenile Justice*, edited by William Bush and David Tanenhaus (New York University Press, 2018)

“Education: Colonial: Sub-Saharan Africa,” *Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures*, general editor Suad Joseph (Brill, 2015)

“The Elusive Power of Colonial Prey: Sexualizing the Schoolgirl in the Zanzibar Protectorate,” *Africa Today* Vol. 61, no. 4 (2015), Special Issue on Love & Sex in Islamic Africa, guest edited by Elisabeth McMahon and Corrie Decker

“Introduction: Love & Sex in Islamic Africa,” *Africa Today* Vol. 61, no. 4 (2015), Special Issue on Love & Sex in Islamic Africa, guest edited by Elisabeth McMahon and Corrie Decker

“Schoolgirls and Women Teachers: Colonial Education and the Shifting Boundaries between Girls and Women in Zanzibar,” in *Gendered Lives in the Western Indian Ocean: Islam, Marriage, and Sexuality on the Swahili Coast*, edited by Erin Stiles and Katrina Daly Thompson (Ohio University Press, 2015)

“Biology, Islam, and the Science of Sex Education in Colonial Zanzibar,” *Past & Present* Vol. 222, No. 1 (2014)

“Reading, Writing, and Respectability: How Schoolgirls Developed Modern Literacies in Colonial Zanzibar,” *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (2010)

“Fathers, Daughters, and Institutions: Coming of Age in Mombasa’s Colonial Schools” in *Girlhood: A Global History*, edited by Jennifer Helgren and Colleen Vasconcellos (Rutgers University Press, 2010)

“Wives or Workers: Negotiating the Social Contract between Female Teachers and the Colonial State in Zanzibar,” co-authored with Elisabeth McMahon, *Journal of Women’s History*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (2009)

Works in Process:

Book manuscript, “The Age of Sex: Custom, Law, and Ritual in East Africa,” under contract with the University of Wisconsin Press

“The Personal is Professional: Positioning Feminist and Gender Scholarship in the Field of African History,” in *African Feminist Histories*, edited by Alicia Decker, Maha Marouan, and Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué (under review)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

UC Davis, PLACE (Professors Leveraging A Community of Engagement), Summer Writing Symposium, 2022

UC Davis, PLACE Scholar of the Quarter, Spring 2022

UC Office of the President, Advancing Faculty Diversity, FRIENDS (Faculty Retention and Inclusive Excellence Networks – Designing Solutions) Grant to establish the Workplace Climate Action Group, with Lisa Materson, 2021-22

UC Humanities Consortium Collaborative Research Grant, with Muey Saeteurn (UC Merced), Summer 2021

UC Davis, PLACE, Writing Community and Grant, January-June 2021

UC Davis, Graduate Program Advising and Mentoring Award, June 2020

UC Davis FRIENDS Community of Practice participant, 2019-21

UC Davis, Global Affairs International Connections Seed Grant, 2019
UC Davis Small Grants in Aid of Research, Annual, 2017-2022
UC Davis FRI (Feminist Research Institute) Collaborative Research Grant, with Jenny Kaminer and Liz Constable, Gender and Adolescence, 2017-2019
UC Davis Academic Senate Research Travel Grants, 4 grants total, 2013-2017
Alternate, Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, 2017
Nominee from UC Davis for the NEH Summer Stipend, 2016
UC Davis Division of Social Sciences Dean's Innovation Award, 2016
Alternate, American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 2016
UC Davis DHI (Davis Humanities Institute) Research Cluster Grant for African Studies, with Rachel Jean-Baptiste, 2015
Hellman Fellowship, 2012-2013
UC Davis Academic Senate New Research Initiatives Grant, 2012-2013 (declined)
UC Davis Faculty Development Award, Fall 2012

BOOK REVIEWS, BIBLIOGRAPHIES, AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

Review, *The Global History of Black Girlhood* edited by Corrinne T. Field and LaKisha Michelle Simons in *Connections* (forthcoming, 2023)
Review, *Uncertain Age: The Politics of Manhood in Kenya* by Paul Ocobock in *American Historical Review* Vol. 124, no. 1 (2019)
Review, *Manners Make a Nation: Racial Etiquette in Southern Rhodesia, 1910-1963* by Allison K. Shutt in *American Historical Review* Vol. 122, no. 2 (2017)
Review, *African Women: A Historical Panorama* by Patricia W. Romero in *International Journal of African Historical Studies* Vol. 48, no. 1 (2015)
Review, *Cultured States: Youth, Gender, and Modern Style in 1960s Dar es Salaam* by Andrew Ivaska in *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, Vol. 7, no. 2 (2014)
“Education and the Study of Africa,” in *Oxford Bibliographies in African Studies*, edited by Thomas Spear. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012)
Review, *The Moroccan Soul: French Education, Colonial Ethnology, and Muslim Resistance, 1912-1956* by Spencer D. Segalla, in *History of Education Quarterly*, Vol. 50, Issue 4 (2010)
“Society and Culture: Missionary Schools in Colonial Africa,” *World History Encyclopedia* (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2010)
“Religion and Thought: Traditionalism and Modernism in Africa,” *World History Encyclopedia* (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2010)
Review, *Power in Colonial Africa: Conflict and Discourse in Lesotho, 1870–1960* by Elizabeth A. Eldredge in *Itinerario* Vol. 32, Issue 02 (2008)

INVITED TALKS

Furman University, Queer Histories and Narratives, “Sex, Secrecy, and the Queer Lives of ‘Spoiled’ Children in East Africa,” upcoming February 2023

Stanford University, African Research Workshop, “Court Rituals, Male Maturation, and the Age of Sex in East Africa,” September 2022

UC Davis, Book Talk on *The Idea of Development in Africa* for History 115A, “History of West Africa,” March 2022

UC Davis, Book Talk on *The Idea of Development in Africa* for International Agricultural Development graduate seminar (200N), “Theory and Practice of International Agricultural Development,” October 2021

Horace Mann School (Bronx, NY), Book Talk on *The Idea of Development in Africa* for “Asia & Africa Since World War II” course, May 2021

UC Berkeley Center for African Studies, Book Talk on *The Idea of Development in Africa*, February 2021

Wake Forest University, Book talk on *The Idea of Development in Africa* for undergraduate African history course, February 2021

Indiana University, Book talk on *The Idea of Development in Africa* for graduate seminar on Africa & Humanitarianism, February 2021

Bryn Mawr College, “Pasts Present: Disrupting Race at Bryn Mawr and Beyond,” October 2020

UC Berkeley African History Workshop, “The Limits of Knowledge and the Ethics of Researching Juvenile ‘Unnatural Offence’ Cases in Colonial East Africa,” January 2019

Youth in the Age of Empire Symposium, workshop for the Bloomsbury volume, “Gender, Sexuality, and the Body,” University of Hong Kong, May 2018

Stawa University, Keynote Lecture for a public conference on Child Marriage, Kampala, Uganda, “History of Child Marriage in East Africa,” August 2017

Stanford University, African Social History Workshop, “The Sexual Economy of Girls: The Invention of Child Marriage in Interwar East Africa,” May 2017

UC Berkeley Center for African Studies, “De-Sexualizing the African Girl: The Making of the Child in Colonial East Africa,” October 2016

Berkeley ORLAS (The Office of Resources for International and Area Studies), Presenter for Women in World History: 2016 Summer Institute for Community College Teachers, “The Currency of ‘Women’s Rights’: Decolonization, Democracy, and Development in East Africa,” Berkeley, June 2016

African Studies Association Women’s Caucus sponsored panel on Gender, Sexuality, and Citizenship, Panel 1: In Colony and Empire, “Protecting the Body, Possessing the Self: Construction and Consumption of Women’s Clothing in Colonial Zanzibar,” Indianapolis, November 2014

University of London School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), *Africa Seminars Series*, “Bitten by a Dog’: Flogging and the Perversion of Justice in 1930s Kenya,” London, December 2013

African Studies Association Annual Meeting roundtable, “Where is Gender in African History?” Philadelphia, November 2012

The Fifteenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Plenary Roundtable: “Where is Africa in Gender Studies?,” Amherst, MA, June 2011

San Francisco State University, Guest Lecture, “History of Tanzania,” BECA 581, Electronic Media and Social Justice I, April 2013

Tulane University, Guest Lecture, “Health, Welfare, and Education: Interwar Colonial Development,” for History 4970: History of Development in Africa, September 2012

Barnard College, Lecture Series on Critical Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in African History, “Educational Memories: Reinventing Narratives of Ethnicity and Class on the Swahili Coast,” March 2009

Columbia University, British History Seminar, “Teach the Girls to Improve the Men: Domestic Science Instruction and Welfare Plans in Colonial Zanzibar,” April 2008

Oxford University, African History and Politics Lecture Series, “The Making of Modern Mothers in Zanzibar,” June 2006

The State University of Zanzibar, Departments of History and Education, “Selections from the History of Education in Africa: Case Studies in Oral History, the Socialization of Boys, and the Welfare of Women,” March 2005

OTHER RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Committee on LGBT History, Queer History Conference, “Rites of Passage and the Liminal Sexuality of Youth in Colonial East Africa,” San Francisco, June 2022

UC Davis Humanities Institute (DHI) Book Chat on *The Idea of Development in Africa*, October 2021

Society for the History of Children and Youth Virtual Conference, “When Age Doesn’t Matter: Race, Criminality, and Boys’ Sexuality in Twentieth-Century East Africa,” June 2021

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Roundtable: “Gender and Islam in Africa,” November 2020

UC Berkeley African Studies Workshop, “Feminist Methodologies and the Interdisciplinary Roots of African History,” UC Berkeley, February 2020

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, “Child Marriage in East Africa: 100 Years of the ‘Girl’ in the Development Discourse,” Boston, November 2019

Society for the History of Children and Youth Biannual Conference, “Measuring Maturity: Puberty Debates in Colonial East Africa,” Australian Catholic University, Sydney, June 2019

Society for the History of Children and Youth Biannual Conference, “Writing Global Histories of Youth: Roundtable and Workshop Discussion,” Australian Catholic University, Sydney, June 2019

African Feminist Histories: A Conference to Map the Field, Panel on “Africanizing History, Historicizing Africa,” Pennsylvania State University, April 2019

Joint Conference of the California, Northwest, and Hawaii World History Association, “Inventing Puberty: Global and Local Translations of East African Epistemologies of Maturation,” Berkeley, February 2019

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, “Guilty Until Proven Victim: ‘Unnatural Offences’ and the Physical Violation of Boys in East Africa, 1930-1970,” Atlanta, November 2018

Children and Youth in a Global Age Conference, “Measuring Maturity: Puberty Debates in Colonial East Africa,” University of Hong Kong, May 2018

Western Association of Women Historians Conference, “Custom, Law, and the Child Marriage Debate in Colonial East Africa,” UC Davis, April 2018

FRI Workshop on Gender and Adolescence, “The Invention of Puberty: Ethnographies of Physical Maturation in Colonial East Africa,” Petaluma, CA, March 2018

Society for the History of Children and Youth Biannual Conference, Round Table: Chronological Age as a Category of Historical Analysis, Rutgers University, June 2017

Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, “De-Sexualizing the Black Girl: Child Marriage in Colonial East Africa,” Hofstra University, June 2017

Global History of Black Girlhood, “Saving Girls from Culture: The Child Marriage Debate in Colonial East Africa,” University of Virginia, March 2017

UCHRI Multi-Campus Faculty Working Group, Fall Workshop, Reimagining Geographies of Africa, “Deconstructing ‘Africa’ through a History of Childhood,” Bodega Bay, CA, October 2016

African Feminist Initiative Workshop, “De-Sexualizing the African Girl: Child Marriage Debates in Colonial East Africa,” Pennsylvania State University, September 2016

Society for the History of Children and Youth Biannual Conference, “From Instruction to Indecent Assault: The Criminalization of Childhood Sexual Play in Colonial East Africa,” UBC, Vancouver, June 2015

UC Davis Humanities Institute Book Chat, discussion of *Mobilizing Zanzibari Women*, April 2015

Society for the History of Children and Youth Biannual Conference, “Creating a Minefield: South Asian Initiative and British Ambivalence in the Government Indian Girls’ School, Mombasa,” Nottingham, June 2013

UC Davis History Colloquium and Women and Gender History, “Female Teachers, Male Guardians, and the ‘Feminist Movement’ in Post-War Zanzibar,” March 2013

Love & Sex in Islamic Africa, workshop organized by Corrie Decker and Elisabeth McMahan, “The Elusive Power of Colonial Prey: Sexualizing the Schoolgirl in the Zanzibar Protectorate,” Tulane University, September 2012

American Historical Association Annual Meeting, “Doing the History of Childhood in Africa and the West,” Chicago, January 2012

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, “Sexual Maturity, Child Marriage, and the Shifting Politics of Girls’ Education in Colonial Zanzibar and Mombasa,” Washington, DC, November 2011

Society for the History of Children and Youth Biannual Conference, “Too Old For School?: Redefining Childhood in East African Colonial Girls’ Schools,” New York, June 2011 (paper read in my absence)

The Fifteenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, “Demanding Development: Fathers-Daughter Alliance against Colonial Apathy Toward Girls’ Education on the Kenyan Coast,” Amherst, MA, June 2011

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, “From Hygiene to Biology: Talking Around Sex in Zanzibar’s Colonial Girls’ Schools,” San Francisco, November 2010

World History Association Annual Conference, “A Matter of ‘Urgency’: Girls’ Education in Zanzibar’s

Colonial Development Plans,” San Diego, June 2010

UC Davis’ Cross-Cultural Women and Gender History Series, “Demanding Development: Colonial Girls’ Education on the Kenyan Coast,” February 2010

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, “From Family Respectability to Self-Respect: Colonial Consultation in the Making of the Zanzibar Government Girls’ School, 1927-1945,” New Orleans, November 2009

History of Education Society Annual Meeting, “Reading, Writing, and Respectability: How Schoolgirls Developed Modern Literacies in Colonial Zanzibar,” Philadelphia, October 2009

Society for the History of Children and Youth Biennial Conference, “Schoolgirls about Town: Visibility, Respectability, and the Politics of Fashion in Colonial Zanzibar,” Berkeley, July 2009

Eleventh Stanford-University of California Law & Colonialism Symposium, Trafficking Women and Children after the “End of Slavery”: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives from Africa and Beyond, “From Commodities to Consumers: The Economics of Eradicating Child Marriage in Colonial Zanzibar,” March 2009

Lehman College Women’s Studies Program Spring Lecture Series, “Maturation of the Modern Schoolgirl: Sex Education and Female Adolescence in Zanzibar, 1900-1970,” February 2009

American Historical Association Annual Meeting, “Initiated into What?: Gender and Adolescence in Twentieth-Century Zanzibar,” New York, January 2009

Research Workshops Organized or Facilitated:

Co-organizer with Vice Chancellor Lawrence Maka, *Workshop on Oral Tradition and Oral History*, Stawa University, Kampala, Uganda, August 2019

Co-organizer with Jenny Kaminer and Liz Constable, *Gender Sexuality, and Youth Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Workshop*, sponsored by FRI, UC Davis, April 2018

Co-organizer with Jenny Kaminer and Liz Constable, *Interdisciplinary Feminist Research on Gender and Adolescence*, Faculty Workshop, sponsored by FRI, Petaluma, CA, March 2018

Co-facilitator with Rachel Jean-Baptiste and Anneeth Kaur-Hundle, UCHRI-funded workshop, *The Critical Politics of Diversity in the Multiversity: Towards Africana Studies in the UC System*, UC Merced, September 2017

Organizer and facilitator, *Workshop on Gender*, Stawa University, Kampala, Uganda, August 2017

Co-organizer with Elisabeth McMahon, *Love & Sex in Islamic Africa Workshop*, Tulane University, September 2012

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Board Member, *Routledge Studies in the Histories of Children and Youth* book series, 2021-present

Guest Editor, *Africa Today*, Vol. 61, no. 4 (2015), Special Issue on Love & Sex in Islamic Africa

Article manuscript reviews for: *African Studies Quarterly*, *American Ethnologist*, *Canadian Journal of History*, *Gender & History*, *Girlhood Studies*, *Journal of African History*, *Journal of Africana Religions*, *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, *Journal of West African History*, *Journal of Women’s History*, *Nordic Journal of African Studies*, *Oxford Research Encyclopedias*, *Politics & Gender*, *Slavery and Abolition*, *Women’s History Review*

Book manuscript and proposal reviewer for: *Canadian Scholars*, James Currey, Oxford University Press, Routledge

Service to Professional Organizations:

- Member, Dissertation Prize Committee, Society for the History of Children and Youth, 2022
- Member, Outreach Grant Review Committee, Society for the History of Children and Youth, 2017
- Steering Committee Member, African Studies Association (ASA) Women's Caucus, 2014-2017
- ASA Women's Caucus Student Travel Grant Committee, 2015
- Member, Article Prize Committee, Society for the History of Children and Youth, 2015
- ASA Program Committee Member, 2010
- ASA Local Arrangements Committee Member, 2010
- ASA Election Committee Member, 2009

OP-EDS, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, GUEST LECTURES, AND MEDIA MENTIONS

UC Davis Books Blog, by Hayley Morris, "Where Development Goes Wrong in Africa," February 2021, <https://www.ucdavis.edu/uc-davis-books/where-development-goes-wrong-africa>

History News Network's Roundup Top Ten for January 2021, <http://hnn.us/article/178977>

Washington Post, "What Americans Across the Political Spectrum Got Wrong about the Attempted Insurrection," co-authored with Elisabeth McMahon, January 2021, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/01/21/what-americans-across-political-spectrum-got-wrong-about-insurrection/>

New Books Network podcast interview with Elisabeth McMahon about *The Idea of Development in Africa*, interviewed by Elisa Prosperetti, January 2021, <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-idea-of-development-in-africa>

UCD Women's Studies 104, Guest of Panel, "Feminist Research Ethics," January 2021

LAM Sisterhood podcast about Zanzibari musician Bi Kidude, contributor, 2020, <http://www.lamsisterhood.com/our-work/>

KDVS (90.3FM) radio show, Davis, "In the Meantime" with Roman Spinale and Aaron Liss, May 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpKVD3HrM2I&feature=youtu.be>

Conversation with Professor Kyu Hyun Kim (UC Davis) about the film *Black Panther* for his blog, "Q Branch Mirror Site," February 2018, <https://qkoreanfilmorg.blogspot.com/2018/03/black-panthers-african-connection.html>

UCD First-Year Aggie Connection, The One Where You Learn about History, "Child Marriage in East Africa," February 2018 & October 2018

UCD History 1: Introduction to History, Guest Lectures, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, and Fall 2019

UCD Institute of Social Sciences Faculty Features, "Gender and Colonialism: Corrie Decker," January 2017, <https://history.ucdavis.edu/directory-of-people/featured-faculty/gender-and-colonialism-corrie-decker>

Berkeley ORLAS Interview, "A conversation about women and gender in East Africa," August 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU6uQNpotmM>

UC Davis History Project Institute, Sacramento, “East Africa in the Modern World: Migration of Goods, People, and Ideas on the Swahili Coast,” Lecture for Tenth Grade World History Teachers, August 2010

Lehman College Political Club Event, “The Greatest Silence” Film and Action Discussion: Women’s Rights to Non-Violence, Democratic Republic of Congo, “The History of Violence in DRC,” May 2008

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

African Studies Association (ASA)

ASA Women’s Caucus

Berkshire Conference of Women Historians

Society for the History of Children and Youth (SHCY)

African Feminist Initiative (AFI)