

Curriculum Vitae
Nancy J. Jacobs

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Professor, Department of History, Brown University 2016–present
Elected Faculty Fellow, Institute at Brown University for Environment and Society 2014–present
Associate Professor, Department of History, Brown University 2003–2016
Associate Professor, Department of Africana Studies, Brown University 2003–2012
Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor, Department of History, Carleton College Spring 2014
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of History, Brown University 2007–2011
Director, International Scholars of the Environment Program, Watson Institute 2008–2009
Assistant Professor, Departments of History and Africana Studies, Brown University 1996–2003
Visiting Assistant Professor, Departments of History, Carleton and St. Olaf Colleges 1995–1996
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Fort Lewis College 1994–1995
Associate Instructor, Department of History, Indiana University 1992–1993
Intern, Political Section, United States Embassy, Pretoria, South Africa 1986

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History 1995
Indiana University, Bloomington
M.A. in African Studies 1987
University of California, Los Angeles
B.A. in History and German 1984
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Birders of Africa: History of a Network. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016. (South African paperback issued by University of Cape Town Press, 2018), xvi +350 pp.

African History through Sources, volume 1: *Colonial Contexts and Everyday Experiences, c. 1850–1946*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014. xv + 328 pp.

Environment, Power and Injustice: A South African History. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003. xii +300 pp.

Edited Books and Journal Issues

With co-editors Graeme Wynn and Jane Carruthers. “Environment, Power, and Justice: Southern African Histories.” Athens: Ohio University Press, 2022.

With co-editor Andrew Bank. Special issue on *Biography in Post-Apartheid South Africa: A Call for Awkwardness* in *African Studies* 78 (2019).

With co-editor Andrew Bank. Special issue on *The Micropolitics of Knowledge* in *Kronos: Southern African Histories* 41 (2015).

Book Manuscripts in Preparation

“The Global Grey Parrot” Under contract Seattle: The University of Washington Press.

With co-author Jennifer E. Johnson. “African History through Sources, volume 2: Sovereign States and Modern Developments, 1945–2015.” Under contract New York: Cambridge University Press.

Refereed Journal Articles

“Conviviality and Companionship: Parrots and People in the African Forests.”; *Environmental History*, 26 (2021): 647–670.

“How Washington Okumu Became the Mediator Who Saved the April 1994 Elections.” *Southern African Historical Journal* 73 (2021). *Published online:* <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02582473.2021.1909115>

“The Awkward Biography of the Young Washington Okumu: CIA Asset (?) and the Prayer Breakfast’s Man in Africa.” *African Studies* (Johannesburg) 78 (2019): 225-245.

“Herding Birds, Interspecific Communication, and Translation.” Special issue “Writing Animals into African History.” *Critical African Studies*, 8 (2016): 136-145. DOI: 10.1080/21681392.2015.1061791.

“Marriage, Ornithology, and Secret Intelligence in the Life of Rudyerd Boulton, an American in Africa.” *Kronos: Southern African Histories* special issue on “*The Micropolitics of Knowledge*.” 41 (2015): 271-297.

“The Intimate Politics of Ornithology in Colonial Africa.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 48 (2006): 564–603.

“Latitudes and Longitudes: Comparative Perspectives on Cape Environmental History.” *Kronos: Journal of Cape History* 29 (2003): 7–29. Republished online at *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Comparative Studies* 15

(2004), <http://www.safundi.com/issues/15/jacobs.asp>, and in print in *South Africa and the United States Compared: The Best of Safundi, 2003–2004* (Safundi, 2005): 117–150.

“The Great Bophuthatswana Donkey Massacre: Discourse on the Ass and Politics of Class and Grass.” *American Historical Review* 108 (2001): 485–507.

“Grasslands and Thickets: Bush Encroachment and Herding in the Kalahari Thornveld.” *Environment and History* 6 (2000): 289–316.

“Environment, Production and Social Difference in the Kalahari Thornveld, c. 1750 – c. 1820s.” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 25 (1999): 347–373.

“The Flowing Eye: Water Management in the Upper Kuruman Valley, South Africa, c.1800–1962.” *Journal of African History* 37 (1996): 237–260.

Chapters in Books

“The Anthropocene from Below” (with co-authors Danielle Johnstone and Christopher Kelly), in *World Histories from Below: Dissent and Disruption, 1750–present*, edited by Tony Ballantyne and Antoinette Burton. London: Bloomsbury, 2016, 197–230.

“Africa, Europe and the Birds between Them,” in *Eco-Culture Networks and the British Empire*, edited by James Beattie, Edward Melillo and Emily O’Gorman. London: Bloomsbury, 2015, 92–120.

“Environment, Power, and Injustice: A South African History” (reprint of final chapter of *Environment, Power and Injustice: A South African History*), in *The New Imperial Histories Reader*, edited by Stephen Howe. London: Routledge, 2009, 219–228.

“The Colonial Ecological Revolution in South Africa: The Case of Kuruman,” in *South Africa’s Environmental History*, edited by Ruth Edgecombe, Bill Guest and Steven Dovers. Cape Town: David Philip, 2002.

Non-Refereed Journal Articles

“Introduction: Biography in Post-Apartheid South Africa: A Call for Awkwardness” (with co-author Andrew Bank) forthcoming in *African Studies* 78 (2019): 165–182.

“American Evangelicals and African Politics: The Archives of the Fellowship Foundation.” *History in Africa* 45 (2018): 473–482.

“Introduction: The Micro-Politics of Knowledge Production in Southern Africa” (with co-author Andrew Bank). *Kronos: Southern African Histories* 41(2015): 11–35.

“Collaborative Research, Participatory Solutions: Research on Asbestos in Kuruman, South Africa” (with co-authors Sophia Kisting and Lundy Braun). *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health* 10 (2004): 226–232.

Other Writing

- “A Disturbing Pattern,” (by Twelve Woman Scholars), Inside Higher Education, August 27, 2021. https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2021/08/27/entrenched-inequity-not-appropriately-citing-scholarship-women-and-people-color?fbclid=IwAR0t4S_jkhpOSo_BRP8F3i5NIFGkPSblqT7mTqFwGs4Ryluc8OEx0ffbW0M
- “Red Feathers on Grey Parrots,” (with co-author Simon Tamungang), Winged Geographies Blog, February 2021. <https://www.wingedgeographies.co.uk/post/red-feathers-on-grey-parrots>.
- “The Historian of Bifalone,” Congo Basin Institute Blog, University of California, Los Angeles, March 2018. <https://www.cbi.ucla.edu/the-historian-of-bifalone/>
- “A CHICKEN IS FLYING OUT OF THE NEST, WHICH FALLS AGAIN INTO THE NEST.” Project Atalanta, January 2018. <https://www.instagram.com/p/BfQraDIAIRf/?taken-by=projectatalanta>
- “Saturday Morning’s Politics of Seeing” Seeing the Woods Blog, the Rachel Carson Center, January 2018. <https://seeingthewoods.org/2018/01/29/saturday-mornings-politics-of-seeing/>
- “Birders of Kenya, 2016.” Yale Books Unbound. <http://blog.yalebooks.com/2016/07/13/birders-kenya-2016/>

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND RESEARCH GRANTS

2023	Hutchins Family Fellow, Hutchins Center for African and African American Studies Research, Harvard University. (Spring Semester Residency)
2022	Visiting Scholar, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Department III, Berlin. (September and October residency).
2022	Fellow, National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina (declined).
2022-23	Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, Brown University.
2020	Academic Writing Fellowship, Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center (postponed due to COVID-19; declined in 2021).
2019	Engaged Course Development Grant, Swearer Center at Brown University.
2018	Carson Fellow, Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität.
2017	Seed Research Grant, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society.
2016	Pembroke Center, Seed Grant for Animal Studies Working Group (Lead PI).
2016	Cogut Center Faculty Fellowship, Brown University.
2015	Brown University, President’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Governance.
2003-	Brown University Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Departmental Research Award (annually).
2011	Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning.

- 2009 Edith Goldthwaite Miller Faculty Fellow, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, Brown University.
- 2007 National Science Foundation Grant for “Empire and Science: Contact, Authority, Collaboration.” \$23,000. (Lead PI: Lou Ratté, The Hill Center for World Studies).
- 2006–2009 Henry Luce Foundation Grant for “Land Use Change: Designing and Implementing New Global Environmental Curricula.” \$550,000. (Lead PI 2006–08: Steven Hamburg, Watson Institute for International Studies).
- 2005 Best of WebCT Award for “Twentieth-Century Africa” course website
- 2004 Brown University Humanities Center working group grant for “Historicizing Post-Colonial Africa.”
- 2004 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program at Brown University Outstanding Mentors Award.
- 2003–2004 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University.
- 2001 Alice Hamilton Prize for Best Article Outside Environmental History, American Society for Environmental History.
- 2001 Wriston Grant from Brown University for course preparation.
- 2000 Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award.
- 1997–1998 Social Science Research Council/American Council of Learned Societies International Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- 1997 American Historical Association Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant for research in European, African and Asian history.
- 1994 Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences Second Semester Fellowship.
- 1990–1991 Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for dissertation research in Great Britain and South Africa.
- 1990 FLAS - Yale University African Studies Center to study Zulu (summer).
- 1988–89 FLAS - Indiana University African Studies Center to study Tswana.
- 1989–90 FLAS - Indiana University African Studies Center to study Tswana.
- 1984–85 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Title IV (FLAS) - UCLA African Studies Center to study Zulu.

SERVICE

Executive Boards and Professional Organizations

- Vice President/President Elect, American Society for Environmental History, 2021-
 Webinar series co-organizer and moderator, “Race and the Environment,” American Society for Environmental History, October-November 2020.
- Chair, program committee, American Society for Environmental History, Ottawa 2020
- Chair, editorial search committee for *Environmental History*, 2016-2017
- Executive board, American Society for Environmental History, 2008–2011
- Program committee, African Studies Association meeting, Baltimore 2013
- Program committee, World Environmental History Congress, Copenhagen, 2009

Workshop organizer, “Empire and Science: Contact, Authority, Collaboration,” Brown University, Providence, March 2008

World Convention liaison committee, American Society for Environmental History, 2006

Co-chair of local arrangements committee, American Society for Environmental History meeting, Providence, 2003

Program committee, American Society for Environmental History meeting, Providence, 2003

Editorial Boards

Environmental History, 2019-

International Review of Environmental History, 2015–

South African Historical Journal, 2010–2022

African Historical Review (formerly *Kleio*), 2004–

Choices Program advisory group, Brown University, 2014–2018

African Studies Series, Cambridge University Press, 2007-2015

Kronos: Journal of Cape History (later, *Kronos: Southern African Histories*), 2006-2016

Community

Instructor, BELLS (Brown's faculty-teaching-in-prison initiative at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institution Men's Medium-Security Prison), 2012–2018

Faculty advisor and organizer for a South African-American research project on asbestos in South Africa. Report submitted to the South African Parliament 2001

United Nations observer for the South African elections, 1994

LANGUAGES

German: Reading with dictionary

Afrikaans: Reading with dictionary

Zulu: Rudimentary

Tswana: Rudimentary

MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

American Society for Environmental History