

AKIL A. CORNELIUS

EDUCATION

Ph.D. - Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI - History, Archaeology, Migration Studies

M.A. - Norwich University, Northfield, VT - Peace & Conflict Studies

B.A. - Washington College, Chestertown, MD - Political Science

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of History – James Madison University (2025 – Pres.)

Assistant Professor of History (Fixed Term) – Michigan State University (2024 – 3005)

Visiting Assistant Professor of African Studies – Kalamazoo College (2022 – 2024)

Assistant Instructor (Fixed Term) – Michigan State University (2020 – 2022)

PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

“Gun Running, Guerrilla Warfare, and Technological Change in Late 19th Century South Africa,” Eye on Africa Lecture, African Studies Center, Michigan State University, September 2017.

“Ni Mbo Dzhia Tshigidi? (Go Fetch the Gun): The Development of Military Culture and Fighting Arts in 19th Century Venda, Beyond the Black Shots,” Conference Paper, Annual Conference of the African Studies Association, San Diego, CA, November 2015.

“Zulu Warriors: The Battle for the Southern African Frontier, John Laband: Book Review,” *African Studies Review*, 58, (2014), 244-246.

‘Righteous Aim’ Zulu Guns, British War Plans, and the ‘Dangerous Trade’ at Delagoa Bay in the late 1870s, Conference Paper, Annual Conference of the African Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

EDITORIAL/REFERENCE

External Reviewer, "The Early History of Venda-speaking Communities in Southern Africa," Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History (2022).

ACADEMIC AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

2022 Michigan State University, Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship - (\$9,000)

2021 Don Lammers Award - Michigan State University, Department of History - (\$1,400)

2019 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Abroad - South Africa/Zimbabwe - (\$54,000)

2018 Fulbright-III U.S. Student Fellowship - South Africa - (\$24,000)

2017 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Abroad - South Africa [Declined]

2014 Foreign Language Areas Study (FLAS), U.S. Department of Education - (\$54,000)

2014 Michigan State University, College of Social Sciences - Travel Award - (\$2,000)

- 2014 Michigan State University, Department of History: Summer Travel Grant - (\$700)
2014 Gliozzo Study Abroad, Michigan State University - (\$750)
2013 CSS Fellowship, Michigan State University - (\$200)
2013 Klomprens Graduate Fellowship, Michigan State University - (\$350)

CLASSES TAUGHT

Historical Methods & Skills
Introduction to African Studies
Gods of War: Cosmologies of Violence in African History
History of South Africa
The Global African Diaspora
Africa Confidential: Secrets & Sovereignty
Civilization of Africa (Before 1800)
Contemporary Africa (Since 1800)
Transatlantic Slavery
History of American Sports
African Digital History
Seminar in African Digital History

LANGUAGES

Tshivenda (Intermediate)
isiZulu (Intermediate)

TEACHING RECOGNITION

2015 - Somers Award for Teaching Excellence, (Nominee)

MILITARY AWARDS

Army Commendation Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Army Overseas Service Ribbon
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Army Achievement Medal