

Elizabeth (Liz) H. Timbs
Department of History
Michigan State University
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EDUCATION

- 2012-present PhD, African History, Michigan State University
Expected Completion Date: January 2019
Dissertation Title: “The Regiment: Cultural Histories of Zulu Masculinit(ies) and Gender Formation in South Africa, 1816-2018”
- 2009 MA, Comparative World History, George Mason University
Thesis Title: “Lethal, Incurable and Controversial: The Responses of American NGOs to the AIDS Epidemic in Southern Africa, 1987-1992”
- 2006 BA, History, Belmont University

MAJOR RESEARCH INTERESTS

Digital African Studies; Zulu; Ethnicity; Gender; Youth; Military History

LANGUAGE

isiZulu

Advanced Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking Proficiency
2013 UPenn Summer isiZulu Immersion Program
3 years of academic year graduate study (2012-2015)

English (fluent; native speaker)

PROFESSIONAL/ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Interim Assistant Director, African Studies Center, Michigan State University (2018-present)
- Reported to the U.S. Department of Education on the African Studies Center’s Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships
 - Facilitated African Studies Center Advisory Board and Core Faculty meetings
 - Organized weekly Eye on Africa seminar series
- Online Course Facilitator, MSU History Dept. (2015-2018)
- Worked with History faculty members to develop courses
 - Maintained standards to ensure ADA-compliance.
- Research and Development Intern, A Thousand Sisters (2011-2012)
- Categorized and analyzed results of a member survey to better understand the needs of members

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2018 College of Social Science Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2016 Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship

2015	Irene Steindler Endowment Prize, MSU Department of History
2014-2015	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, MSU African Studies, isiZulu (advanced)
2014-2015	Senior Cultural Heritage Informatics Fellowship, MSU Department of Anthropology
2014-2015	Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory Fellowship
2014	Jeff Rooney Memorial Paper Prize, MSU History Department
2013	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, UPenn isiZulu Summer Immersion Program
2013-2014	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, MSU African Studies, isiZulu (intermediate)
2013-2014	Cultural Heritage Informatics Fellowship, MSU Department of Anthropology
2012-2013	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, MSU African Studies, isiZulu (beginner)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

“The Izichwe Youth Football Club: Youth, Sport and Masculine Respectability in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa,” *Journal of Southern African Studies* (forthcoming)

“An In(ter)vention of Tradition: The Revival of Medical Male Circumcision in KwaZulu-Natal, 2009-2016,” *Journal of Natal and Zulu History* 32, 1 (2018): 55-77.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Bambatha”; “R.R.R. Dhlomo”; “Clement Doke”; “C.L.S. Nyembezi”; “Goodwill Zwelithini ka Bhhekuzulu” entries in Oxford African American Studies Center Biographies (forthcoming)

“Warriors in Southern Africa,” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of the Daily Life of Women: How They Lived from Ancient Times to the Present* (forthcoming)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Africa is a Country (2014-present)

- “Set the world on fire: An interview with Keisha Blain,” April 6, 2018 [\[link\]](#)
- With Jill Kelly. “The rise, fall, and retirement of Mangosuthu Buthelezi.” Dec. 11, 2017 [\[link\]](#)
- “Unequal scenes as educational tools.” September 6, 2017 [\[link\]](#)
- “The Archive of Malian Photography.” May 4, 2017 [\[link\]](#)
- “Flood the soundscape African.” April 25, 2017 [\[link\]](#)
- “The podcast for African Hip Hop.” April 13, 2017 [\[link\]](#)
- “Capturing Nigerian histories before they disappear.” June 10, 2016 [\[link\]](#)
- “Liberia needs a history that will be called ‘history after the settlers.’” May 6, 2016 [\[link\]](#)
- “A Cartographic Narrative – The 17601-1761 Slave Revolt in Jamaica.” December 4, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “The Community Video Education Trust.” October 30, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “Cowries and Rice.” October 16, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “The Haiti Memory Project and the digitization of oral histories.” October 2, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “The preservation of nostalgia.” September 18, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “Badilisha Poetry X-Change.” May 22, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “Digital Matatus.” April 24, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “Nigerian Nostalgia.” April 10, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “The Queering Slavery Working Group.” March 20, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “Digitizing Ferguson.” March 6, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “Social History of the Gambia.” February 20, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “The African Rock Art Digital Archive.” February 6, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “African Hip Hop.” January 30, 2015 [\[link\]](#)

- “African Activist Archive.” January 23, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “The Winterton Collection.” January 16, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “World War I in Africa.” January 9, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “Slave Biographies.” December 19, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database.” December 12, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “Harvard’s African Sources of Knowledge Digital Library.” December 5, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “Africa Cartoons.” November 21, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “The Digital Mandela.” November 14, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “Africa Through a Lens.” November 7, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “The Afrobarometer.” October 31, 2014 [\[link\]](#)

Cultural Heritage Informatics Initiative (2013-2015)

- “Zulus on Display,” May 7, 2015 [\[link\]](#)
- “Digital Ethics,” October 7, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “*Ngijabuya!* (I Am Returning),” September 11, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “Imbiza 1.0: It’s Just the Beginning,” May 5, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “An Imbiza Update,” April 13, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “Imbiza: A Digital Repository of the 2010 World Cup,” January 6, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “African Studies in the Digital Age,” November 26, 2013 [\[link\]](#)
- “Digital Collaboration,” October 7, 2013 [\[link\]](#)
- “CHI Fellow Introduction: Liz Timbs,” September 11, 2013 [\[link\]](#)

Football is Coming Home (2013-present)

- “Hamba kahle, Luyanda.” May 8, 2018 [\[link\]](#)
- “Struggle On, Luyanda Ntshangase.” March 12, 2018 [\[link\]](#)
- “Imbiza: A Digital Archive of the 2010 World Cup.” May 12, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “South African Football’s ‘Crisis of Monumental Proportions.’” January 21, 2014 [\[link\]](#)
- “Imbiza: A Digital Archive of 2010 World Cup Stadiums and Fan Parks.” November 7, 2013 [\[link\]](#)
- “Fandom, Mzansi-style.” September 30, 2013 [\[link\]](#)
- “Making Men at Izichwe Football Club.” September 20, 2013 [\[link\]](#)
- “Education Through Fútbol.” July 21, 2013 [\[link\]](#)

Gradhacker (2014)

- “Some Practical Advice for Digital Pedagogy.” March 17, 2014 [\[link\]](#)

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“*Phaphamani Zulu!*: The Recruitment of Zulu Service for the First and Second World Wars,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, April 26-28, 2019, Burlington, VT (*forthcoming*)

“My duty would then be to summon my regiment...”: Continuity and Change in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa,” African Studies Association 61st Annual Meeting, November 29, 2018, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)

“To cool the hot blood of a martial race...”: Zulu Martial Masculinities from Colonial and Local Perspectives, 1879-1913,” African Martial Races Conference, October 12-14, 2018, Boulder, CO

“*Nalu uthuli lwezichwe*” (This is the dust of Izichwe): The Rise and Fall of a Football Academy in South Africa,” 12th Sports Africa Conference, March 26-28, 2018, University of Zambia, Lusaka (*in absentia*)

“To cool the hot blood of a martial race...”: Legislating against Zulu Masculinit(ies), 1879-1913,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 16-18, 2017, Chicago, Illinois

“*Umcaba osele emasini*/The crushed mealies left in the sour milk: New Zulu Masculinities, 1879-1913,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, October 6-8, 2017, Burlington, Vermont

“#ubuZulu: Shifting Zulu Identities in Digital Spaces,” MSU Global Digital Humanities Symposium, March 16-17, 2017, East Lansing, MI

“Zulus on Display: Mapping Ethnicity using StoryMapJS,” LOCUS: Spatial Analysis in Humanities & Social Sciences, February 25, 2015, East Lansing, MI [\[link\]](#)

“The Curious Case of the Mercury”, Migration without Boundaries Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, October 9-10, 2015, East Lansing, MI

“Roundtable: Digital African Studies: State of the Field,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 20-23, 2014, Indianapolis, IN

“Digital Mapping with Mapbox,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Pre-Conference Digital Humanities Workshop, November 19, 2014, Indianapolis, IN

“Roundtable: Digital Southern African Studies,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, October 17-19, 2014, Burlington, VT

“From Umfana to Indoda: A History of Zulu Circumcision,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, October 17-19, 2014, Burlington, VT

“An Alternative African Football Migration Narrative: South African Footballers in the North American Soccer League,” Migration without Boundaries Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, October 10-11, 2014, East Lansing, MI

“Not Just About Kicking a Ball?: Football and Youth Development in Post-Apartheid South Africa,” Sport in Africa and the Global South Conference, April 10-12, 2014, Athens, OH

“Imbiza: A Digital Repository of 2010 World Cup Stadiums and Fan Parks,” DH Brownbag Series, February 13, 2014, East Lansing, MI

“Lethal, Incurable, and Controversial?: A Sexual Behavior Change Project in Zimbabwe, 1987-1992,” Michigan State University Africanist Graduate Student Research Conference, October 25-26, 2013, East Lansing, MI

“The Repatriation Syndrome: HIV Infections among Migrant Workers in South Africa’s Mining Industry, 1986-1993,” Migration without Boundaries Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, October 4-5, 2013, East Lansing, MI

“Lethal, Incurable, and Controversial?: A Sexual Behavior Change Project in Zimbabwe 1987-1992,” North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, April 19-21, 2013, Burlington, VT.

“Lethal, Incurable, and Controversial?”: Early Responses of an American NGO to the AIDS Epidemic in Southern Africa,” African Studies Association’s 54th Annual Meeting, Nov. 17-19, 2011, Washington, DC.

INVITED CAMPUS TALKS

“Black Consciousness, Strikes, and the Soweto Uprising,” South African History from Shaka Zulu to Mandela, Instructor: Peter Alegi, Michigan State University, March 27, 2018

“*Phaphamani Zulu!*: The Use of Martial Rhetoric in the Recruitment of Zulu Service in the First and Second World Wars,” MSU Eye on Africa Series, March 15, 2018, Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan

“HIV/AIDS in South Africa: The New Struggle,” Africa: Social Science Perspectives, Instructor: Peter Alegi, Michigan State University, November 16, 2017.

“Warriors in a Third World War,” Belmont University Phi Alpha Theta Induction Lecture, Nov. 2, 2017, Nashville, TN

“A Conversation About Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *Black Panther* Comic Books,” Michigan State University, March 30, 2017, East Lansing, MI

“HIV/AIDS in South Africa: The New Struggle,” South African History: From Shaka Zulu to Mandela, Instructor: Peter Alegi, Michigan State University, April 10, 2014.

“Reflections on a Graduate Career in History”, Belmont University History Alumni Speaker Series, Oct. 26, 2009, Nashville, TN

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, LEADR, East Lansing, MI (2014-2017)

- Led workshops on geospatial visualization, timeline tools, video editing, and digital resources in Native American history, international relations and South African history
- Assisted faculty members in designing and implementing digital components in their courses

Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (Fall 2017)
Africa - Social Science Perspectives (with Dr. Peter Alegi, ISS330A)

Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (Summer 2013-2015, 2017)
Social Science of Sport (with Dr. Peter Alegi, ISS 328, section 730)

Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (Academic Year 2012-2013)
Africa: Social Science Perspectives (with Dr. Peter Alegi, ISS 330A, Spring 2013)
Africa and the World (with Dr. Nwando Achebe, IAH 205, Fall 2013)

Adjunct Faculty, Columbia State Community College, Columbia, TN (Academic Year 2011-2012)
Survey of World Civilization II (HIST 1120, Spring 2012)
Survey of World Civilization I (HIST 1110, Fall 2011)
Survey of US History I (HIST 2010, Fall 2011 and Spring 2012)

Teaching Assistant, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA (2008-2009)
Modern Japan (with Dr. Brian Platt, HIST 356, Spring 2009)
Introduction to Global Affairs (with Dr. Lisa Breglia, GLOA 101, Fall 2008)

DIGITAL PROJECTS

Graduate Assistant, *Enslaved: Peoples of the Historic Slave Trade* (2018-present) [\[link\]](#)

- Worked as a researcher and editor for Enslaved, a project designed to link data from multiple projects to create an online hub to streamline the study of slavery.
- Researched figures involved in the slave trade, wrote short biographies and identified digital projects with elements related to the figures for the Enslaved Biographies section of the project

Oral History Intern, Voices of MSU (2017) [\[link\]](#)

- Project developed by the MSU Archives and Historical Collections and funded by the Office of Diversity & Inclusion
- Identified and researched interview subjects utilizing historical records in the MSU Archives and Historical Collections
- Conducted interviews with A.J. Rice [\[link\]](#), Antonio James [\[link\]](#), and Jadel Hughes Davis [\[link\]](#) on their experiences as minority students at Michigan State University.

Creator, Zulus on Display [\[link\]](#)

- Incorporated open access historical photographs, documents, newspaper clippings and videos to create a geospatial timeline exploring the temporal and spatial components of public displays of Zulus as entertainment
- Built using a Twitter Bootstrap framework and centered on an interactive timeline created with StoryMapJS.

Creator, Imbiza [\[link\]](#)

- Audiovisual repository of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa which aims to engage football scholars and fans in both reminiscing about the 2010 tournament as well as engaging critically with the historical record of the tournament
- Utilizes over 300 photos and videos from scholars and fans based in the United States, the United Kingdom, and South Africa
- Built using a highly customized Wordpress framework

UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Steward, Graduate Employees' Union (2016-2018)

Vice President, MSU Graduate History Association (2013-2014)

Organizer, Michigan State University Africanist Graduate Student Research Conference, October 25-26, 2013

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, African Studies Association

Member, American Historical Association

Member, Oral History Association

Member, Coordinating Council for Women Historians

Member, National Center for Faculty Development

REFERENCES

Peter Alegi
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