

HELEN TILLEY

History Department
1881 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208
1-847-467-3014 (office)
helen.tilley@northwestern.edu

CURRENT POSTS

- 2012 - now Associate Professor, History Department, Northwestern University
2014 - 2018 Director, Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern University
2016 - 2019 Co-Director, Global Medical Cultures and Law Program, Buffett Institute for Global Studies

PREVIOUS POSTS

- 2010 - 2012 Visiting Professor, Department of Medical History and Program in African Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2009 - 2010 Lecturer (History of Medicine and African History) and Coordinator of MA Programs, Department of History, Classics, and Archaeology, Birkbeck College, University of London
2002 - 2008 Assistant Professor, History Department (affiliations to African Studies and History of Science Programs), Princeton University
2001 - 2002 University of Oxford – Research Fellow – Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Project: History of Sleeping Sickness in British Colonial Africa

EDUCATION

- 1997 - 2002 Ph.D., University of Oxford, in African and Commonwealth History
Title: "Africa as a 'Living Laboratory' - The African Research Survey & the British Colonial Empire: Consolidating Environmental, Medical, & Anthropological Debates, 1920-1940"
Awarded Audrey Richards Prize for Best Dissertation in African Studies submitted between Jan 2000 and Jan 2002, African Studies Association of the UK
1996 - 1997 Fulbright Fellow, University of Oxford
1993 - 1996 M.A., University of California-Berkeley (and PhD Qualifying exam, 1996)
Fields: History of Science, Environmental History, and Political Ecology
1986 - 1990 B.A., University of Chicago (registered as Helen Denham)
History of Science/Medicine & History of Social Movements

WORKS IN PROGRESS (2018-19)

"The Wisdom of the Peoples" – African Decolonization, Global Governance, and Cold War Constructions of Traditional Medicine

A monograph exploring the end of European empires, the rise of international legal regimes, and the growth of scientific research into "traditional medicine," emphasizing especially pan-African trends and their relationship to developments in Asia and Latin America. For University of Chicago Press.

"Rights to Heal: Laws and Lexicons of 'Native Systems of Therapeutics' in Colonial Africa" – An article focusing on the consequences of medical licensing laws within the British empire that allowed "native systems of therapeutics" to be legal by exemption. For *Osiris*.

With Michael Oladejo Afoláyan, a translation of and introduction to Joseph Odùmósù's *Ìwé Ìwòsàn* (Book of Healing), a 380 page landmark study of Yorùbá therapeutics published in Ijebu, Nigeria circa 1910. Under contract with the University of Wisconsin Press.

Editor, *Global Medical Cultures, Properties, and Law* v. 36 (2021) *Osiris*, selected by editorial board Oct '17.

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS AND EDITED VOLUMES

Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development, and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge, 1870-1950 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011). [word count: 218,000, including notes and bibliography]

2014 Ludwik Fleck Prize, Society for the Social Studies of Science

2012 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award

2012 Finalist, Herskovits Prize, African Studies Association, USA

Utopia and Dystopia: Conditions of Historical Possibility, edited with Michael Gordin and Gyan Prakash (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010). Translated into Turkish, 2015.

Ordering Africa: Anthropology, European Imperialism, and the Politics of Knowledge (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 2007; paperback edition 2010), edited collection with Robert Gordon (Professor of Anthropology, Vermont). Sole author of introduction "Africa, Anthropology and Empire," pp. 1-45.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"A Great (Scientific) Divergence: Synergies and Fault Lines in Global Histories of Science," *Isis Focus Section on Joseph Needham's enduring relevance*, *Isis* v. 110 (2019), pp. 129-136.

"The History and Historiography of Science," in Thomas Spear, ed., *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019). [22,000 words] Online: November, 2018.

"On Disciplines and Their Crises, Or, The Rise and Fall of Empires," *History of Anthropology Newsletter* 41 (2017): <http://histanthro.org/notes/disciplines-and-their-crises/>

"Medicine, Empires, and Ethics in Colonial Africa," *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics* v. 18 n. 7 (2016), pp. 743-753.

"Experimentation in Colonial East Africa and Beyond," conclusion for a special issue of the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* v. 47 (2014), pp. 495-505.

"Racial Science, Geopolitics, and Empires: Paradoxes of Power," for a special issue of *Isis* on "Racial Science," *Isis* v. 105 (2014), pp. 773-781.

"Global Histories, African Genealogies, and Vernacular Science, or, Is the History of Science Ready for the World?" for a special issue of *Isis* on "Non-European Peoples in the History of Science," *Isis* v. 101 (2010), pp. 110-119.

"Anthropology and the End of Empire?" *Reviews in History* n. 641, on-line journal, published Jan 2008: <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/paper/willis.html>.

"Ambiguities of Racial Science in Colonial Africa: the African Research Survey and the Fields of Eugenics, Social Anthropology, and Biomedicine, 1920-1940," in Benedikt Stuchtey, ed., *Science Across the European Empires, 1800-1950* (Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 245-287.

"Ecologies of Complexity: Tropical Environments, African Trypanosomiasis and the Science of Disease Control in British Colonial Africa, 1900-1940," in Gregg Mitman, Michelle Murphy, and Christopher Sellers, eds., *Landscapes of Exposure: Knowledge and Illness in Modern Environments*, *OSIRIS* v. 19 (2004), pp 21-38.

"William Allan: the African Husbandman," new introduction to the reprint of William Allan, *The African Husbandman* (London: Transaction Publishers and the International African Institute, 2004), pp. xi-xxxix.

"African Environments and Environmental Sciences: the African Research Survey, Ecological Paradigms, and British Colonial Development, 1920-1940," in William Beinart and JoAnn McGregor, eds., *Social History and African Environments* (Oxford: Heinemann/James Currey Press, 2003), pp. 109-130.

"Colonialism and Imperialism," *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*, Shepard Krech III, J.R. McNeill, and Carolyn Merchant, eds., (New York: Routledge Press, 2003), pp. 246-248.

"The Cunning of Unreason and Nature's Revolt: Max Horkheimer and William Leiss on the Domination of Nature," *Environment and History*, 3 (1997): 149-175.

BOOK REVIEWS

Heather Bell, *Frontiers of Medicine in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1899-1940* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).
Suke Wolton, *Lord Hailey, the Colonial Office and the Politics of Race & Empire in the Second World War: The Loss of White Prestige* (London: Macmillan Press, 2000).

Owen White, *Children of the French Empire: Miscegenation and Colonial Society in French West Africa 1895-1960* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).

James McCann, *Green Land, Brown Land, Black Land: An Environmental History of Africa, 1800-1990* (Oxford: James Currey Press, 1999).

Nancy Hunt, *A Colonial Lexicon: Of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999).

Reynolds and Tansey, eds., *British Contributions to Medical Research and Education in Africa after the Second World War* (London: Wellcome Trust, 2001).

Peder Anker, *Imperial Ecology: Environmental Order in the British Empire, 1895-1945* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001).

Londa Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire: Colonial Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004).

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2017 - 2018 Weinberg College, Northwestern, Research Innovation Grant for "Medicine Across Cultures: Translating *Ìwé Ìwòsàn (Book of Healing)*, \$25,000.
- 2016 - 2019 Faculty Fellowship, Buffett Institute for Global Studies
- 2016 - 2019 PI, "Biomedicine and Traditional Medicine in 20th Century Global History," collaborative project with colleagues in sociology, anthropology, law, and history, Buffett Institute, \$100,000
- 2015 - 2018 PI, National Science Foundation Scholar's Award for current book project, \$220,000
- 2013 - 2014 Faculty Fellowship, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University [external selection committee]
- 2005 - 2008 Philip and Beulah Rollins Bicentennial Preceptorship, Princeton University [Faculty nominated award with sabbatical funds]
- 2003 - 2008 PI, National Science Foundation Scholar's Award & Supplementary Grant, \$140,000
- 2004 - 2005 Visiting Fellow, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- 2002 Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize, African Studies Association, United Kingdom
- 2001 - 2004 PI, Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine – Post-Doctoral Fellowship, £100,000 or \$160,000 [declined final 2 years]
- 1999 - 2000 Institute of Historical Research – Royal Historical Society Centenary Fellowship [one for U.K.]
- 1999 - 2000 Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine – Dissertation Research Grant
- 1997 - 2000 African Environmental History Bursary, Rhodes Race Relations Fund, Oxford
- 1997 - 2000 Royal Historical Society Bursary [one allocated annually]
- 1997 - 2000 Overseas Research Studentship, British Government Award
- 1996 - 1997 Fulbright Fellowship-United Kingdom

- 1996 Environmental History Keynote Panel, "Histories of Environmental Ideas and Movements," Environmental Grantmakers Association
- 1995 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, University of California
- 1990 Commencement Speaker, Class of 1990, University of Chicago

CONFERENCE AND PANEL ORGANIZING

- 2017 & 2018 "Medical Cultures, Traditions, and Law" – two three-day conferences bringing together historians, anthropologists, sociologists, and legal scholars to explore the constitutive role of law in the globalization of biomedicine and the codification of "traditional medicine" during the long 20th century. Northwestern University, May 2017 and June 2018.
- 2015 "Making Knowledge and the Problem of Place" a two-day conference bringing together 12 scholars in history, sociology, anthropology, and law to consider how space and place have affected the production of knowledge across continents. Northwestern University.
- 2006 "Science at the Crossroads: Geopolitics, Marxism, and 75 Years of Science Studies" – Two-day workshop exploring the emergence of Marxist interpretations of science and their influence on both science and science studies in the developed and developing worlds. Co-organized with Michael Gordin (History).
- Nov 2005 "Connecting Medical History and Anthropology – Part I: Ethnographic Turns in Science, Magic, Medicine, and Race and Part II: The Body Politic, Infectious Disease, and Biomedical Frameworks" – Two panels organized for the African Studies Association with leading scholars in both anthropology and history to revisit scholarship on medicine in Africa.
- 2003 - 2004 "Science Across Cultures: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives" – Three one-day workshops exploring the philosophical ramifications of recent cross-cultural research in the history of science; co-organized with Daniel Garber (Philosophy) as part of the Princeton History of Science Workshop series. Workshops focused on Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and Africa.
- May 2002 "African Trypanosomosis and Historical Debates over Eradication versus Control" – A 2 day conference bringing together senior scientists/practitioners and historians for a roundtable discussion of the relevance of historical research to debates on disease eradication.
- Mar 2000 "Anthropology & Africa: A Cross-Colonial Investigation" – A 3 day, international conference comparing the development of anthropological and ethnological studies in German, French, British, Belgium, Italian, and Portuguese Africa during the colonial era. University of Oxford.
- Mar 1998 "Matrices of Scientific Knowledge and Practice in Colonial Africa" – A 1 day conference exploring British, French, and South African sciences relating to Africa from WWI until decolonization.
- Jan 1993 "Environment, Development, and Trade: the North/South Debates" – A ten day conference for the nine member organizations of A SEED (see below), held at the offices of the Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND SERVICE

- 2014 - 2018 Director, Science in Human Culture; responsibilities include annual speaker series, biannual conference, doctoral colloquium, undergraduate majors and minors, postdoctoral fellowship search (two positions filled every two years), and programmatic fundraising.
- 2012 - 2015 Executive Committee, Program in African Studies; co-authored 2015 Strategic Plan for university-wide initiatives and served as liaison to 2014-15 search in Medical Anthropology.

- 2012 - 2016 Faculty affiliate and advisory board member, Environmental Policy and Culture; helped spearhead new student internship program with Chicago Field Studies on "Environment, Science, and Sustainability."
- 2013 - 2014 Chair, Latin American History Search, resulting in three hires: one assistant professor, one associate professor, and one visiting assistant professor (for a six-year contract).
- 2012 - 2013 Member, West African History Search Committee, resulting in successful hire at the associate professor level.
- 2013 National Science Foundation, General Advisory Panel for Science, Technology and Society Program, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 - 2010 MA director for Birkbeck College's 10 MA history programs, which enrolled over 200 students per year; responsibilities included retention, curriculum review, and faculty/student liaison.
- 2003 - 08 Executive Committee, African Studies Program, Princeton University and liaison work with Akwaaba, the African student association.
- 2007 - 08 Chair, History of Science Seminar, Princeton University.
- 2005 - 06 Executive Secretary, Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University; proposed, with colleague Michael Gordin, two-year seminar theme on "Utopia and Dystopia in History."
- 2002 - 08 Program Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Finance Committee, Hiring Committees (for posts in Islamic History and Latin American History), and Davis Center Fellowship Committee, Princeton University.
- 2004, '05, '07 Elections Committee, African Studies Association, USA [to elect President and Vice-Presidents]

EMPLOYMENT & NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

- June-Sept '98 Research Fellow at the Environmental & Economic Justice Project, Los Angeles – Project Title – "International Trade and LA's Regional Economy - a Background Briefing on Trade Infrastructure Projects and Their Possible Effects by Race and Income."
- 1994 - 1998 Board of Directors and Program Chair (1995-96), New World Foundation, New York City, [a progressive philanthropy which funds community organizing efforts across the US] Author of "Organizing and Social Change: The State of Progressive Social Movements and the Role of Young People," (New York: New World Foundation, 1993). [commissioned report, 126pp; under "Denham"]
- 1993 - 1996 Board of Directors & Chair of Board, Youth Action, Albuquerque, New Mexico [a national non-profit involved in bringing low-income young people into community organizing efforts]
- 1991 - 1994 Co-Founder & Co-Director, Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development (A SEED), with affiliations to the Third World Network (Malaysia) & Friends of the Earth International (The Netherlands).
- 1990 – 1993 National Organizer, Fundraiser, and Media Coordinator for Student Environmental Action Coalition [a national student-led non-profit with income from grants of ~\$250,000 annually]