

Benjamin D. Wendorf, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of History
Quinsigamond Community College

bwendorf@qcc.mass.edu

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS African history, Atlantic World history, African and African Diaspora Studies, US history, African American history, world history, race & racism, development, Caribbean history

EDUCATION

Doctorate (African & African Diaspora Studies), December 2016

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of African & African Diaspora Studies, Milwaukee, WI
Dissertation Title: *“Rail: African & African American Labor and the Ties That Bind in the Atlantic World”*

Master of Arts Degree (History), May 2010

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of History, Milwaukee, WI
Thesis: *“The Political Kingdom: Ghana & Development, 1957-1978”*

Bachelor of Arts Degrees (History & English), May 2007

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Departments of History and English, Green Bay, WI

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Full Professor – Department of History – Quinsigamond Community College

Department of History, 8/2016 to present

- Teaching online, hybrid, and face-to-face courses including “World History II: 1500 to WWI,” “Introduction to African History,” “African American History I: Beginning to 1865,” “African American History II: 1865 to Present,” and “History of the US: Beginning to 1865”
- Attained tenure in earning promotion from Assistant Professor, to Associate Professor (August 2019), to Full Professor (August 2022)
- Earned Quality Matters “Design Your Online Course” online instruction certification, 4/2017

Adjunct Lecturer – Department of History – Clark University

Department of History, 1/2019 to 1/2020

- Taught the courses “Introduction to African History,” “Precolonial African History,” and developed and taught the upper-level history course “Revolutionary Africa”

Visiting Lecturer – Department of History – College of the Holy Cross

Department of History, 10/2018 to 1/2019

- Taught the course “Transatlantic Slave Trade”

Visiting Assistant Professor – Department of African & Afro-American Studies – Brandeis University

Department of African and Afro-American Studies, 8/2015 to 6/2016

- Developed and taught the courses “Introduction to African History” and “Africa and the West”

Lecturer – Department of African & African Diaspora Studies – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Department of African & African Diaspora Studies, 9/2012 to 5/2014

- Developed and taught course sections of “Survey of African American Society”

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

Wendorf, Benjamin; Michael J. Gormley & Ryan Solinsky. "Reconnecting Neural and Cultural Pathways: Spinal Cord Injuries in *Black Panther's* Afrofuturism." In Edwardo Pérez & Timothy E. Brown, *Black Panther and Philosophy*. Hoboken, NJ: Blackwell, 2022.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Evolution of the Subversive Ghanaian: A Review of Gold Coast Colonial Historiography." *Traversea* 5 (2015): 33-44.

Book Chapters:

Wendorf, Benjamin with Patrick Bellegarde-Smith. "Vodou in North America: Healing One Person, Healing the Universe." In *Multicultural Approaches to Health and Wellness*. Volume 1: Key Issues and Medical Systems. Regan A.R. Gurung, Ed. Praeger Publishing: Santa Barbara, CA, 2014, 309-327.

Publications in Preparation:

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Tracks and Transformation: Black Railway Labor in the Atlantic World." in preparation with Lehigh University Press.

Wendorf, Benjamin, "Searching for an Akan Highwayman in Contemporary Ghana." in preparation.

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations:

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Ruling the Road in the Gold Coast." New Haven, CT. Yale University Council on African Studies Lecture Series. Feb. 12th, 2025.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Tracks and Transformation: Labor, Community, & Connectivity in the Atlantic World, 1840-1940." Northfield, MN. Northfield History Center Happy Hour Series. July 7th, 2024.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Tracks and Transformation: Black Railway Labor, Community, & Connectivity in the Atlantic World, 1840-1940." Quinsigamond Community College Scholar-in-Residence Showcase. May 9th, 2023.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Kwame Abe: Akan Highwayman." Milwaukee, WI. African & African Diaspora Studies Seminar Presentation. Mar. 1st, 2019.

Conference Presentations:

Wendorf, Benjamin. Discussant: "Durable Ideas, Practices, in Places in African Histories;" Paper: "Searching for a 19th Century Highwayman in Contemporary Ghana." Boston, MA. 62nd Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 22nd, 2019.

Wendorf, Benjamin. Panel Chair: "Legitimizing and Defining Nationhood"; Paper: "The Creation of Kwame Abe, Akan Highwayman." Atlanta, GA. 61st Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 29th, 2018.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "The 'Rail' in Enslaved African American Narratives." New London, NH. 37th Annual Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference. Oct. 31st, 2015.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Paths of Flesh: Enslaved African Labor and Infrastructure in the Americas." Minneapolis, MN. 22nd Annual World History Association Conference. June 27th, 2013.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "The Political Kingdom: Ghana & Development 1957 – 1978." Philadelphia, PA. 55th Annual African Studies Association Conference. Dec. 1st, 2012.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "The Asante and the 'Eight Great Roads.'" Grand Rapids, MI. International Big History Association Conference. Aug. 5th, 2012.

Wendorf, Benjamin. "Asante as Empire: A Revision for World History." Washington, D.C. 54th Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 18th, 2011.

COLLEGE SERVICE & COMMITTEES

AI Task Force Chair – 2024-2025
 Faculty Senate Secretary – 2020-2024
 President's Advisory Council for Equity – 2020-present

HONORS & AWARDS

Faculty Senate Service Award – 2024

- Awarded “in recognition of and in grateful appreciation for dedicated services and commitment to QCC’s Faculty Senate,” serving in the position of Secretary 2020-2024

Quinsigamond Community College Scholar-in-Residence – 2022-2023

- Granted to one full-time faculty member annually at QCC, in support of their research and development; for research on a book manuscript on Atlantic World railway development

National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award – 2019, 2021

- Awarded to an “outstanding full-time faculty member” as nominated by their peers

Quality Matters “Design Your Online Course” Online Instruction Certification – 2017

- Granted upon completion of semester-long training in course construction and online learning management systems

Student Choice Award – Quinsigamond Community College – 2017

- Awarded to student-nominated Gateway to College professors for their “hard work and dedication” in the classroom

Finalist – Chancellor’s Golda Meir Library Scholar Award – UW-Milwaukee – 2013

- Presented a proposal to utilize the American Geographical Society Library for an article on the construction of infrastructure in the Gold Coast (later Ghana) from 1900 to 1978

George W. & Winston A. Van Horne Prize – UW-Milwaukee – 2011

- Awarded for the most outstanding graduate oral and written comprehensive examination in Africology

Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship – 2008

- Fellowship to assist students in acquiring foreign language and either area or international studies competencies in intensive language programs
- Applied toward the intensive study Akan (Twi) language within the Summer Cooperative African Language Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc., 4/2016 to 8/2016

- Conducted research on public policy, demography, and economy in the Greater Worcester area
- Increased proficiency in GIS software and Microsoft VBA coding for data collection

Dissertation: Defended 8/2016

- ***"Rail: African & African American Labor and the Ties That Bind in the Atlantic World"***
- Committee: Drs. Jeffrey Sommers, Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, Marcus Filippello, Anika Wilson
- Project: The research draws on a wealth of primary source documents, including US government reports, British Colonial Reports, diaries, railroad company documentation, and observer accounts pertaining to railway construction.
- Learned map creation through use of GIS software

Graduate Research Assistant – Advisor Dr. Erin Winkler

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of Africology, 1/2010 to 5/2013

- Assisted Erin Winkler, Associate Professor of Africology, on a pedagogical study examining the development of student threshold concepts during a course on racism in US society
- Coordinated qualitative analysis and coding of written course assignments using NVivo qualitative data analysis software, analyzed survey data using SPSS, conducted literature searches

Master's Thesis: Defended 5/2010

- ***"The Political Kingdom: Ghana & Development, 1957 to 1978"***
- Committee: Drs. Aims McGuinness, Osei Mensah Aborampah, Bruce Fetter
- Project: Research materials included personal accounts of Ghanaian government officials and citizens, US State Department memos and correspondence with Ghanaian governments, observer reports, and economic and demographic statistics.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Freelance Writer, *The Hockey News & Chicago Tribune*, 10/2014 to 6/2015

- Researched and published articles on hockey analytics, in print and online publications
- Published in 8 print publications over the 2014-15 National Hockey League (NHL) season

Editor-in-Chief, Maple Leaf Press: Winnipeg Jets Season Preview Magazine, Summer 2011

- Proofread and edited all articles and items in 117-page NHL season preview magazine
- Recruited and organized work of team of eight writers, including the work of interviewers, statisticians, graphic designers, and journalists
- Selected photos and wrote captions for entire magazine
- Authored two articles and compiled statistics for almanac section

Head Editor & Manager, Arctic Ice Hockey blog (Vox Media), 10/2010 to 8/2012

- Scheduled and edited all blog content, including selecting and captioning photographs and presentation of graphics and data
- Coordinated production of team of 5-7 writers

Volunteer, Milwaukee County Historical Society, 6/2007 to 4/2008

- Used archiving software to digitize collections
- Constructed exhibits, including paneling on the Milwaukee Braves '57 Championship run and artifacts from the history of downtown Milwaukee

MEMBERSHIPS

African Studies Association – January 2008 to present

Ghana Studies Association – October 2008 to present