

**Benjamin D. Wendorf, Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of History  
Quinsigamond Community College

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

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**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

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**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"

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## 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.

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## 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. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Wendorf, Benjamin. "Tracks and Transformation: Labor, Community, & Connectivity in the Atlantic World, 1840-1940." Northfield, MN. Northfield History Center Happy Hour Series. July 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Wendorf, Benjamin. "Kwame Abe: Akan Highwayman." Milwaukee, WI. African & African Diaspora Studies Seminar Presentation. Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

### Conference Presentations:

- Wendorf, Benjamin. Discussant: "Durable Ideas, Practices, in Places in African Histories;" Paper: "Searching for a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Highwayman in Contemporary Ghana." Boston, MA. 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.
- Wendorf, Benjamin. Panel Chair: "Legitimizing and Defining Nationhood"; Paper: "The Creation of Kwame Abe, Akan Highwayman." Atlanta, GA. 61<sup>st</sup> Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Wendorf, Benjamin. "The 'Rail' in Enslaved African American Narratives." New London, NH. 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference. Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- Wendorf, Benjamin. "Paths of Flesh: Enslaved African Labor and Infrastructure in the Americas." Minneapolis, MN. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual World History Association Conference. June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- Wendorf, Benjamin. "The Political Kingdom: Ghana & Development 1957 – 1978." Philadelphia, PA. 55<sup>th</sup> Annual African Studies Association Conference. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.
- Wendorf, Benjamin. "The Asante and the 'Eight Great Roads.'" Grand Rapids, MI. International Big History Association Conference. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- Wendorf, Benjamin. "Asante as Empire: A Revision for World History." Washington, D.C. 54<sup>th</sup> Annual African Studies Association Conference. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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## COLLEGE SERVICE & COMMITTEES

AI Task Force Chair – 2024-2025

Faculty Senate Secretary – 2020-2024

President's Advisory Council for Equity – 2020-present

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## 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

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## 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.

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**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

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**MEMBERSHIPS**

*African Studies Association* – January 2008 to present

*Ghana Studies Association* – October 2008 to present