

# Kaela E. Thuney

History Ph.D. Candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary field of interest is African history. I focus on education and abolition in the nineteenth-century Anglophone and Francophone colonial worlds, including West Africa and the Atlantic. My secondary research field is women and gender studies. My dissertation examines missionization, education, gender, and abolition through the formation and maintenance of girls' schools by various external religious groups in Senegambia and Sierra Leone. I study colonial power and violence, law, labor, memory, gender, and the history of education in the colonial world, as well as the interlinkages between the processes of abolition and colonial expansion in West Africa during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

## EDUCATION

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

M.A. History Conferred Spring 2021

- MA Thesis: "These Atrocious Practices": Confinement, Abolition, and Subjecthood in Sierra Leone and Senegal, 1830-32
- MA coursework completed in African History, African American and African Diaspora Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Ph.D. work in progress: estimated completion date June of 2025

### Western Washington University

Bellingham, Washington

B.A. History Conferred Spring 2018

- Emphasis on West African History and Gender History
- Honors: Dean's List (Spring 2014, Fall 2017), President's List (Spring 2018) *cum laude*

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Review: *ATLANTIC STUDIES: Prospects and Challenges* by William Boelhower, *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. 62, No. 1 (Winter 2021), pp. 104-106
- Review: *African Women in the Atlantic World: Property, Vulnerability, and Mobility, 1660-1880* by Mariana P. Candido and Adam Jones, eds. *The History Teacher*, Volume 56, No. 4 (August 2023)

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Graduate Seminar: Topics in African History
- Graduate Seminar: Readings in West African Atlantic History
- Graduate Seminar: Readings in African History
- Graduate Seminar: Feminist Theory and Epistemologies
- Graduate Seminar: Law, Society and Empire
- Graduate Seminar: Colonial Encounters
- Wolof 401
- Wolof 402

## SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

- Proficient Wolof language skills and reading/writing comprehension
- Proficient French language skills and reading comprehension
- Familiarity with digital archiving and transcription software
- WGST Teaching Certificate (in progress, estimated completion Spring 2024)

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- U.S. Department of State Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, Academic year 2022-23
- U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for the study of Wolof, Academic Year 2021-22
- U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for the study of Wolof, Academic Year 2020-21

## PRESENTATIONS

- African Studies Association Annual Conference 2023 (San Francisco, California): "Abolition Work: The Education of Liberated African Girls in Freetown"
- Phi Alpha Theta Washington Chapter, 2018: "Women and Afro-Syncretic Religion in the African Diaspora"

- Wolof 403
- Wolof 404

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**Graduate Student**— University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
2019-present (estimated graduation date Spring 2025)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** — University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
2019-present

**Graduate Research Coordinator** — University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, History Department  
Fall 2023

**Article and Manuscript Editor**— University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, History Department  
2021-2022

## COMMITTEE WORK, INTERNSHIPS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, History Department**— *Prospective Student Visit Coordinator*

2022-2024

- Organized department-wide social events for prospective graduate students including both in-person and virtual events for incoming graduate students
- Participated in meetings related to coordinating virtual and in-person visits to the UNC campus for both international and domestic students, met with faculty to discuss logistics and budgets for social and academic events
- Coordinated and scheduled meetings between incoming graduate students and their prospective advisors and colleagues, compiled schedules for meetings and transportation to and from airports for prospective students

**Graduate Historical Society at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**—*Department Social Chair*

2020-2021

- Organized department-wide social events for graduate students including both in-person and virtual events for students
- Participated in virtual GHS meetings and collaborated with other GHS members to plan events and community-facing functions during the academic year and preceding summer

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, History Department**— *Graduate Teaching Assistant and Assistant Teacher*

2019-2023

- Courses taught: Baseball in American History, Transatlantic Slave Trade, Modern South African History
- Wrote and implemented lesson plans, led weekly recitation sections, document workshops, and writing groups for an average of 48 undergraduate students per semester
- Attended weekly meetings with other graduate students and professors to plan weekly lessons and goals for student engagement with course topics
- Maintained grade books and online forums for students, distributed and graded midterm and final tests and essays, held office hours and student meetings

## **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, History Department— *Graduate Research Coordinator***

- Assisted Professor Lauren Jarvis as a Graduate Research Coordinator for 15 undergraduate students in HIST 398, Modern South Africa seminar
- Held meetings with each student throughout the semester, engaged with and facilitated student research, acted as a research assistant to help students locate relevant primary and secondary sources for their 25-page capstone research papers, discussed historiography, significant aspects of essay writing and editing, and answered student questions about the history profession and relevant historical topics
- Met with students both in-person and virtually, maintained schedule for meetings with students

## **The Pike Place Market Heritage Project— *Intern and Assistant***

2018–2019

- Assisted the Market Foundation in categorizing and replacing several outdated or damaged heritage markers at the Historic Pike Place Market in Seattle, Washington
- Aided in planning and executing fundraising opportunities to fund new heritage exhibits and contribute to the Market Safety Net Fund in partnership with the Pike Place Market Foundation
- Transcribed existing heritage markers into an online archiving software database using physical and digital transcribing techniques
- Worked alongside professional curators and museum sciences experts to help design and create new heritage markers for the historic Pike Place Market and the Market Foundation; blending public history and exhibition with professional historical methods and standards

## **Crescent Heights Elementary School— *Student Teacher***

2013–2014

- Performed responsibilities as a student teacher assistant in a fourth-grade classroom at Crescent Heights Elementary School in Tacoma, Washington, including classroom collaboration, leading lessons, and participating in extracurriculars and staff meetings
- Compiled and distributed resource pages for students, including reading lists and essay writing support for students