

Kaela Thuney

Graduate Student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

M.A. History Spring 2021

- Thesis: “These Atrocious Practices”: Confinement, Abolition, and Subjecthood in Sierra Leone and Senegal, 1830–32
- M.A. Coursework in both African History and WGST Studies

Western Washington University

Bellingham, Washington

B.A. History Conferred June 2018

- Emphasis on African History and Gender History
- Honors: Dean’s List (spring 2014, fall 2017), President’s List (spring 2018) *cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My primary field of interest is histories of the nineteenth-century Anglophone and Francophone colonial world, including West Africa and the Atlantic, and my secondary research field is women and gender studies. I am interested in examining the transatlantic exchange of ideas and cultural practices between West Africa and the Atlantic, particularly as they relate to gendered experiences under the colonial state. I study interactions related to colonial power and violence, labor, memory, public history, and the history of religion, as well as the gendered processes of emancipation in colonial spaces throughout West Africa in the nineteenth century.

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

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Intermediate French speaking skills and reading comprehension.

Elementary Wolof speaking skills and reading comprehension.

Familiarity with digital archiving and transcription softwares.

WGST Teaching Certificate (in progress, estimated completion Fall 2021)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

FLAS Award, academic Year 2020–21.

FLAS Award, academic year 2021–22

Departmental Funding through the UNC History Department for the pursuit of a M.A./P.h.D.

2019–2020

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Graduate Seminar: Topics in African History
- Graduate Seminar: Readings in African History
- Graduate Seminar: Feminist Theory and Epistemology
- Undergraduate Senior Seminar: Women and Gender in African History
 - Capstone Paper: “Women and Afro-Syncretic Religions in the African Diaspora”

INTERNSHIPS AND EXPERIENCE**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 incoming students.
- Participated in virtual GHS meetings and collaborated with other GHS members to plan events and community functions during the academic year.

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

2019–2020

- Compiled lesson plans and led weekly recitation sections and seminars for 48 undergraduate students in the UNC history department.
- Attended bi-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.

Pike Place Market Heritage Project—*Intern and Assistant*

2018–2019

- Assisted the Market Foundation in categorizing and replacing several outdated heritage markers at the Historic Pike Place Market in Seattle, Washington.
- Helped to plan fundraising opportunities in order to fund new heritage exhibits and contribute to the Market Safety Net Fund.
- Transcribed existing heritage markers into an online archiving software database.
- Worked closely with professional curators and museum professionals in order to create new heritage markers.

Crescent Heights Elementary School—*Student Teacher*

2013–2014

- Performed duties as a student teaching assistant in a fourth-grade classroom at Crescent Heights Elementary School in North 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.