

Ethan R. Sanders

Associate Professor and Chair

Department of History

Regis University

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Academic Positions

Associate Professor, Department of History, Regis University (2020-)

-Chair (2025-)

Non-Resident Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University (2025-)

Assistant Professor, Department of History and Politics, Regis University (2014-2020)

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Bridgewater State University (2012-2014)

Education

University of Cambridge, PhD in History, 2013.

Supervisors: Derek R. Peterson and John Lonsdale

University of Cambridge, M.Phil. in Historical Studies, 2008.

Supervisor: Brian Stanley

Wheaton College, M.A. in Church History, 2007.

Supervisor: Mark A. Noll

Baylor University, B.A. in History with Distinction, 2005.

Crane Scholar Faculty Mentor: Thomas S. Kidd

Research and Publications

Books

Building the African Nation: The African Association and Pan-Africanism in Twentieth Century East Africa. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2025)

In progress, “Julius Nyerere: Africa’s Global Visionary of the Twentieth Century”

Articles, Book Chapters, and Essays

“Ujamaa” in *The Cambridge History of African Political Thought* 2 vols. eds. Jonathon Earle, Emma Hunter, Harry Odamtten, Ayesha Omar, Nana Osei-Opare (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

“Ethiopianism in Africa” in *Palgrave Handbook on Christianity in Africa from Apostolic Times to the Present*, eds. Andrew Barnes and Toyin Falola (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024)

- “James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey: Educator, Minister, and Global Black Intellectual” in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History* (2023), <https://oxfordre.com/africanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.001.001/acrefore-9780190277734-e-1439>
- “James Aggrey and the African Nation: Pan-Africanism, Public Memory and Political Imagination in Colonial East Africa” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 52:3 (2019): 399-424.
- “A Small Stage for Global Conflicts: Decolonization, the Cold War and Revolution in Zanzibar” *Canadian Journal of History* 52 (Winter 2017): 479-508.
- “Rethinking Patriarchy, Respectability and Women’s Mobility in Zanzibar,” review essay in *African Studies Review* 59 (December 2015): 225-230.
- “Women and Non-Ethnic Politics in East Africa, 1934-1947” in *Gendering Ethnicity in African Women’s Lives*, Jan Bender Shetler, ed. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2015), 123-152.
- “Missionaries, Empire and African Studies,” review essay in *African Studies Review* 58 (April 2015): 237-242.
- “Conceiving the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union in the Midst of the Cold War: Internal and International Factors” *The African Review: A Journal of African Politics, Development and International Affairs* 41 (April 2014): 35-70.
- “Close Encounters of the Muslim Kind: The CMS and Islam on the East African Coast, 1874-1911” *Transformation* 27 (October 2010): 248-260.
- with Mark A. Noll, “Evangelicalism in North America” in *Twentieth-Century Global Christianity: A People’s History of Christianity*, vol. 7 ed. Mary Farrell Bednarowski (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008)

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

- Book Review: *Zanzibar Was a Country: Exile and Citizenship Between East Africa and the Gulf* by Nathaniel Mathews in *The American Historical Review* 130 (September 2025).
- Book Review: *Visions for Racial Equality: David Clement Scott and the Struggle for Justice in Nineteenth-Century Malawi* by Harri Englund in *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* (October 2023): 896-898.
- Book Review: *Faith in Empire: Religion, Politics, and Colonial Rule in French Senegal, 1880-1940* by Elizabeth A. Foster in *Fides et Historia* 46 (Summer/Fall 2014): 106-108.
- Book Review: *The East African Revival: History and Legacies* edited by Kevin Ward and Emma Wild-Wood in *Missiology: An International Review* 41:3 (July 2013), 361-362.
- Book Review of *Dhow Cultures and the Indian Ocean: Cosmopolitanism, Commerce, and Islam* by Abdul Sheriff in *Africa Today* 57:4 (Summer 2011), 133-135.
- “James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey” in *Dictionary of African Biography Vol. 1* eds. Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), 115-116.

- “Fred Kubai” in *Dictionary of African Biography Vol. 3* eds. Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), 433-434.
- “Harry Thuku” in *Dictionary of African Biography Vol. 6* eds. Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Emmanuel Akyeampong (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), 14-16.
- Book Review of *Pan-Africanism or Pragmatism? Lessons of Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union* by Issa G. Shivji in *Africa Today* 57:1 (Fall 2010), 79-81.
- Book Review of *Evangelical Christianity and Democracy in Africa* ed. Terence O. Ranger in *Fides et Historia* 41 (Summer/Fall 2009): 88-90.
- “Central African Christianity” in *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization* ed. George Kurian (London: Blackwell Publishing, 2008).

Presentations and Papers given

Academic

- “African Global Visions of the 20th Century, Revisited in the 21st: The Intellectual Traditions of Julius Nyerere and James Aggrey”
66th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association [USA]
 Atlanta, Georgia 20 November 2025
- “Pan-Africanism’s Backwater: Ethiopianism in Colonial East Africa”
12th Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)
 St. Louis, Missouri 31 October 2025
- “Building the African Nation and New Directions in Pan-Africanism”
African Studies Seminar, Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 27 October 2025
- “Pan-Africanism, African Identity, and Building *the* African Nation in East Africa”
The Cause Distinguished Lecture Series, Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS), University of Colorado.
 Boulder, Colorado 7 October 2025
- “The Global Legacy of Ujamaa Thought”
Ujamaa Virtual Colloquium, University of Kansas 25 September 2025
- “*Kujenga Umoja*: Nyerere’s Evolving Conception of Unity”
Ujamaa, Ubuntu, and New Pan Africanisms: the Future of World Peace
 Arusha, Tanzania 24 May 2024
- “Ghana’s Global Son of the 1920s: Aggrey, the Academy, and His Intellectual Legacy”
64th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association [USA]
 San Francisco, California 1 December 2023
- Keynote address, “Africa’s Soulful Politician: The Catholic Social Thought of Julius Nyerere and the Shaping of Global Catholicism”
‘Politician with a Soul’ *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Fratelli Tutti*, and the Wisdom and Witness of Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Pontifical Gregorian University
 Rome, Italy 24 November 2023

- Panel organizer, “Pan-Africanism, Christianity and the Black Atlantic: A Reassessment”
The Transatlantic Studies Association Annual Conference, University of Plymouth
Plymouth, United Kingdom 5 July 2023
- “African Unity, Ethiopianism, and the Black Atlantic in East Africa”
The Transatlantic Studies Association Annual Conference, University of Plymouth
Plymouth, United Kingdom 5 July 2023
- “Global Intellectuals and Christian Mission: James Aggrey and the Black Atlantic”
Christian Missions in Global History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of London
Online 17 May 2022
- “Julius Nyerere and Human Dignity: Freedom and Justice for Africa and the World”
Conference on Faith and History, Biennial Meeting
Baylor University, Waco Texas 1 April 2022
- “Human Dignity and Equality: The Catholic Roots of Nyerere’s Political Thought”
64th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association [USA]
Online 20 November 2021
- “Julius Nyerere, Radical Philosophers and His Moral Vision for the Future of Africa and the World”
The Third Biennial African Philosophy World Conference: Building Africa’s Future on African Philosophy, University of Dar es Salaam
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 29 October, 2019
- “Creating New Ethnographies: The Local and Global Thought of James Aggrey”
Currents, Perspectives, and Ethnographic Methodologies in World Christianity Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, New Jersey 16 March 2019
- “Scripture in the Political Thought of Julius Nyerere”
27th Annual conference of the Yale-Edinburgh Group on the History of the Missionary Movement and Non-Western Christianity, New College, University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, United Kingdom 30 June 2018
- Chair, “South Africa: Resistance, Conflict and Remembering”
59th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association [USA]
Chicago, Illinois 17 November 2017
- “The *African* Political Thought of Julius Nyerere”
59th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association [USA]
Chicago, Illinois 16 November 2017
- “A Multi-Polar World: Decolonization and the Cold War in Zanzibar”
SHAFR Conference
Washington D.C. (Invited) 22 June 2017

- “James Aggrey and the Impact of Aural Biography on Egalitarian Politics in East Africa”
African Christianity Biography Conference,
 Boston University 29 October 2015
- “Crossing Boundaries and the Creation of African Consciousness: The Continental Influence of James Aggrey”
14th Annual Africa Conference at the University of Texas
 Austin, Texas 5 April 2014
- “Narratives of African Intellectual History: Transnational Connections”
Bridgewater State University Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship May Conference
 Bridgewater, Massachusetts 15 May 2013
- “Conceptualizing East Africa: The Historical Writings of Paul Sindi Seme”
The Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada 6 April 2013
- “Re-examining African Elite: The Political Activists of Colonial Tanganyika”
55th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association [USA]
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA 1 December 2012
- “A Small Stage for a Global Conflict: Decolonization, the Cold War and Revolution in Zanzibar”
7th International Seminar on Decolonization, Library of Congress
 Washington D.C., USA 1 August 2012
- “Women and Non-Ethnic Politics in East Africa, 1934-1947”
54th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association [USA]
 Washington D.C., USA 17 November 2011
- “The Women of the African Association and women's political activity in Tanganyika and Zanzibar during the 1930s and 1940s”
African Research Forum Seminar, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 17 May 2011
- “Islam and History in West Africa: New Approaches to Social and Economic Change”
 Chair and Discussant
Africa Research Forum, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 16 March 2011
- “Missionaries and Muslims in East Africa before the Great War”
Henry Martyn Seminar, Westminster College, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 9 March 2011
- “Rethinking the Origins of Political Thought in Colonial East Africa: The Local, Regional and Global Intellectual Influences on the African Association”
African History and Politics Seminar, University of Oxford
 Oxford, United Kingdom 7 February 2011
- “James Aggrey’s “African Nation” and alternative identities in Colonial East Africa”
53rd Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association [USA]
 San Francisco, California, USA 21 November 2010

- “Thinking outside the (Colonial) Boundaries: The Continental thinking of the African Association in the 1930s”
African Studies Association [UK] Biennial Conference
 Oxford, United Kingdom 17 September 2010
- “Inter-Religious Competition as a Catalyst for Intra-Faith Cooperation in East Africa, 1907-1913”
19th Annual conference of the Yale-Edinburgh Group on the History of the Missionary Movement and Non-Western Christianity, New College, University of Edinburgh
 Edinburgh, United Kingdom 2 July 2010
- “Missionary Perceptions of Islam in East Africa Before the First World War”
African Studies Research Group, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies
 Oxford, United Kingdom (Invited) 30 March 2010
- “Africa’s Awkward Integration into the writing of ‘Modern’ World History”
What is World History? seminar, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 9 November 2009
- “A Post-Nationalist Reading of African Politics in late Colonial East Africa”
World History Seminar, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 21 May 2009
- “Mediating Territorial Activism with Local Political Energy in Colonial Tanganyika and Zanzibar: The Case of the African Association”
History Graduate Student Seminar, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 27 Feb 2009
- “Analyzing Chatterjee’s Moments of Departure, Manoeuvre, and Arrival in light of African Nationalism”
Post-Colonialism: History and Theory seminar, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 17 Feb 2009
- “Unexpected Encounters: Missionary perceptions of Islam in late nineteenth century East Africa”
African History Seminar, University of Cambridge
 Cambridge, United Kingdom 13 May 2008
- “Britain’s African Treasure: The history of modern Uganda”
Baylor Capstone course in Uganda
 Kampala, Uganda 18 March 2008

Campus-wide or Community Talks and Media Appearances

- “Ask Me Anything”
 Live online forum where readers asked questions about my new book, *Building the African Nation*.
AskHistorians.com 14 August 2025

- “The Christian Thought of Julius Nyerere, Africa’s Philosopher King”
 Trinity Academy: World Religions, Spirituality, the Bible, and Social Issues
Trinity United Methodist Church
 Denver, CO 10 March 2024
- “Religion and Politics in Modern Africa”
 Trinity Academy: World Religions, Spirituality, the Bible, and Social Issues
Trinity United Methodist Church
 Denver, CO 3 March 2024
- “Gathering in Response to War in Israel/Palestine: Historical Context of the Israel-Hamas Conflict”
Regis University
 Denver, Colorado 13 October 2023
- Organizer, and panelist with Heider Tun Tun, “Black in Mexico”
Regis University
 Denver, Colorado 16 February 2022
- Panelist with Erica Ferg, Forrest Huntington and Ian Zuckerman, “Understanding the US-Iran Conflict”
Regis University
 Denver, Colorado 18 February 2020
- “A History of Race Relations in Denver”
 Vision for Life series, “Racial Reconciliation”
Fellowship Denver Church
 Denver, Colorado 17 February 2020
- “Julius Nyerere: Africa’s Global Visionary”
URSC Scholarship Symposium
 Regis University
 Denver, Colorado 16 April 2019
- Panelist, “The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: An Invitation to Learn Revisited”
Church of the Transfiguration
 Evergreen, Colorado 29 April 2018
- Panelist, “The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: An Invitation to Learn”
Church of the Transfiguration
 Evergreen, Colorado 11 March 2018
- with Allie Holmquist, “The Syrian Conflict: A Civil War?”
Regis University
 Denver, Colorado 18 April 2017
- “Understanding ISIS”
Regis University
 Denver, Colorado 14 April 2016

Chair and discussant, “Conflict Transformation in Africa,” roundtable discussion with the
Tanzanian Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Dr. Laura DeLuca, Dr. Connor Seyle
The Posner Center for International Development
Denver, Colorado 18 November 2014

“Whither the Arab Spring?”
Regis University
Denver, Colorado 6 October 2014

Honors/Awards

Invited to be a Non-Resident Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University,
2025.

Awarded the Regis College Outstanding Service Award, 2023-2024.

Invited to be a keynote speaker at an international symposium at the Pontifical Gregorian
University in Rome, Italy, November 2023.

Awarded a Faculty Research Grant from the University Research and Scholarship Council of
Regis University for research in Tanzania and the United Kingdom, June-July 2018.

Awarded a Summer Research Grant from the Faculty Development Committee of Regis
University for research in Tanzania and the United Kingdom, June-July 2018.

Awarded a research grant from the Center for the Advancement of Research and
Scholarship at Bridgewater State University for research in Ghana, March 2013.

Selected to be a participant of the Seventh International Seminar on Decolonization held at
the Library of Congress, sponsored by the National History Center, the American
Historical Association, the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress and funded by
the Andrew Mellon Foundation, July-August 2012.

Awarded a research grant from the *Smuts Memorial Fund* for translating and edited the papers
of Paul Sindi Seme for a monograph entitled *African Moses: The Life and work of Paul
Sindi Seme, Pan-African Visionary*.

Awarded a research grant from the *Prince Consort Fund* for research in Kenya and Uganda in
2010.

Received the *Vera London Award* by the Royal Historical Society for research in the United
Kingdom in 2009.

Awarded a research grant from the *Holland Rose Fund* for research in Tanzania in 2009.

Awarded a *Sir Bartle Frere Exhibition* award for research in Tanzania in 2009.

Awarded a *Selwyn College Travel Grant* for research in Tanzania in April-May 2009.

Awarded a research grant from the *Smuts Memorial Fund* for research in Tanzania in 2009.

Awarded a *Lightfoot Grant* for research in Tanzania in 2009, and again in 2010.

Awarded a History Faculty *Doctoral Language Training Award* for studying Swahili, 2008-2009.

Awarded a *Selwyn College Travel Grant* for research in Zanzibar in March-April 2008.

Received the *Corfield Scholarship* of Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, 2007-2008.

Awarded a *Cambridge Overseas Trust Bursary*, 2007-2008, and again in 2008-2011.

Received the *Kenneth A. Kantzer Award in Church History*, Wheaton College, 2007.

Elected a *William Carey Crane Scholar*, Baylor University, 2002-2005.

Courses Taught:

Nobel Peace Laureates of Africa and Their Worlds (First-Year Writing Seminar)

-2016, 2017, 2021, 2022

Africa to 1800

-2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2024

Africa since 1800

-2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2023, 2025

The Middle East to 1800

-2014, 2016, 2018, 2021

The Middle East since 1800

-2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2024

World History Since 1500

-2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Sustainability and Collapse in World History

-2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

The Israel-Palestine Conflict

-2017, 2020, 2023

East Africa and the Indian Ocean Region

-2010

The Indian Ocean World

-2012, 2013, 2017, 2018

Revolutions and Inter-Religious Relations in the Modern Middle East

-2014

Human Rights and Humanitarianism in Africa and the Middle East

-2016, 2018, 2020, 2023

Religion and Politics in Modern Africa

-2013

The History of Inter-Religious Relations in the Middle East

-2019, 2021, 2025

The Syrian Conflict

-2017, 2018

Senior History Capstone: Theory and Methods

-2019, 2022, 2023, 2024

Senior History Capstone: Research and Writing (Senior Thesis)

-2018, 2019, 2024, 2025

Service and Research Experience

Regis University-Wide Faculty Senate (2025-)

Regis College Ron A. DiSanto New Faculty Mentor Fellow, (2024-)

Regis University Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Inquiry (URISE) Program, board of directors, (2024-)

Regis College Committee on Rank and Tenure, (2021-2024)
-Chair (2022-2024)

Regis College Faculty Senate, (2019-2025)
-Secretary (2021-2022)

Regis College Academic Integrity Review Board, (2017-present)

Regis College Academic Policies and Standards Committee, (2017-2020)
-Academic Unit Review Coordinator, (2018-2020)

Regis College Faculty Search Committees: 2017, 2018 (Chair), 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

History Assessment Coordinator, (2017-2020, 2024-present)

Regis University Inter-Faith Seminar and Working Group, (2017-2018)

The Committee on Teacher Education at Regis (COTER), (2016-present)

Ignatian Advising Network, (2016-2017)

Regis College Faculty Development Committee, (2015-2018)

Bridgewater State University Working Group on Academic Integrity, (2013-2014)

Curriculum Committee Member, Department of History, Bridgewater State University, (2012-2014)

Departmental Library Liaison, Bridgewater State University, (2012-2014)

Guest Faculty and Program Co-Director, 'Wheaton in East Africa,' Zanzibar, (12 May – 5 June, 2010)
 Responsibilities: I helped design and co-lead (with Charles Weber, can be contacted for references) a study-abroad course in Zanzibar for eighteen students in which the above course was given. Responsibilities included making arrangements for accommodation, air travel, local transport and other program activities as well as organizing outside lecturers who presented talks to the group.

Research Assistant for Dr. Brian Stanley, University of Cambridge, (2006-2007)
 Responsibilities: Conducted research for *The Global Diffusion of Evangelicalism: The Age of Billy Graham and John Stott*, Intervarsity Press, 2013.

Research Assistant for Dr. Mark A. Noll, Department of History, Wheaton College (2005-2006)
 Responsibilities: Conducted research for presentations and articles, did editorial work on *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*, University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

Research Assistant for Dr. Thomas S. Kidd, Department of History, Baylor University (2005)

Responsibilities: Did primary and secondary source research for *The Great Awakening: The Roots of Evangelical Christianity in Colonial America*, Yale University Press, 2007.

Research Assistant for the *Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion*, Baylor University (2005)

Responsibilities: Conducted interviews and research for the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative. Helped in the formation of questions for the inaugural *Baylor Survey of Religion*.

Manuscript Reviewer

-*African Studies Review*
-*International Journal of African Historical Studies*
-Springer Publishing

Language Training

Kiswahili

-Chuo Kikuu cha Taifa cha Zanzibar (The State University of Zanzibar).
-School of Oriental and African Studies, London, United Kingdom.

French

-Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Professional Memberships

African Studies Association [USA]

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

Conference on Faith and History