

OUSMAN MURZIK KOBO
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Employment

- 2012-Present Associate Professor, History Department, The Ohio State University
- 2006-2012 Assistant Professor, History Department, The Ohio State University
- 2005-2006 Derek Gondwe Visiting Scholar in History, Gettysburg College
 Department of History
 Courses Taught: History of Islam to 1800 and History of Islam in Africa
- Spring 2005 Visiting Assistant Professor in African History, Marquette University
 Department of History
 Courses Taught: African History to 1870 and an upper level course on Islam in West Africa.

- Education** B.A. International Studies and Economics, summa cum laude with Departmental and Faculty Distinction, City College of New York (CUNY) 1992
 M.A. International Relations, City College of New York (CUNY) 1995
 M.A. History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1999
 Ph.D. History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2005.

Publications:

Book:

- 2012 *Unveiling Modernity in Twentieth Century West African Islamic Reforms*. Brill Publishers. 2012.

Articles:

- 2016 "Paths to Progress: Madrasa Education and Sub-Saharan Muslims' Pursuit of Socioeconomic Development." In Richard Estes and Tiliouine Habin (eds.) *"Social Progress in the Islamic world"*. Springer Publishers. Forthcoming 2016
- 2016 "Islam and Higher Education in Ghana: The Case of Islamic University College, (IUCG)." In *Muslim Institutions of Higher Education in Postcolonial Africa*. Mbaye Lo and Muhammed Haron (eds.) Palgrave Macmillan. 2016
- 2016 "Islam in West Africa." *Encyclopedia of Islam*.
- 2015 "Shifting Trajectory of Salafi/Ahl-Sunna Reformism in Ghana," *Islamic Africa*, 2015

- 2013 “Yussif Afa Ajura, A Muslim Reformer in Ghana.” *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*, April, 2013
- 2013 “A New World Order: Africa and China,” *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, vol. 6 (8): 3013
- 2012 “Islamic Reform in Colonial Space: The Jihad of Shaykh Boubacar Sawadogo and French Islamic Policies in Burkina Faso, 1920-1946.” *Journal of Islamic Studies*, Vol. 32, 2012, pp. 47-69
- 2010 “‘We are Citizens Too’: the Politics of Citizenship in Independent Ghana.” *Journal of Modern African Studies*, vol. 48 no. 1 (2010): 67-94
- 2009 “The Development of Wahhabi Reforms in Ghana and Burkina Faso, 1960–1990: Elective Affinities between Western-Educated Muslims and Islamic Scholars,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 51 no. 3 (2009): 502-532

Work in Progress

Book Length Monograph:

- (a) “The Transformation of the Office of the National Chief Imam in Ghana: Islam and Politics in post-independent Ghana.”

Articles:

- (a) “Muslim Women Preachers and the Transformation of Muslim Women’s Religious Functions in Ghana.”

Long-Term Project

The Zongo Oral History Project: A Collection and Digitizing of the Histories of Zongo Communities in Ghana.

Grants and Fellowships

- 2017 International Travel Grant, Office of International Affairs, The Ohio State University.
- 2014 Travel Grant, International Affairs Grant, The Ohio State University.
- 2013 Visiting Scholar, Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, Oxford University, Oxford (UK)
- 2013 Seed Grant, The Ohio State University
- 2013 Travel Grant, Mershon Center for International Security Studies
- 2010 Visiting Scholar, École des Hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, France.
- 2010 Seed Grant, The Ohio State University
- 2008 Summer Travel Grant, Mershon Center for International Security Studies
- 2006 Research Grant, Gettysburg College
- 2005 CSMP Fellow, Gettysburg College
- 2003 West African Research Association Fellow, West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal
- 2000-2002 MacArthur Fellowship for International Peace, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2001-2002 Boren Fellow (National Security Education Program)
- 2001 UW-Dissertation Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Awards and Honors

- 2019 2019 Ohio State University Faculty Impact Award, offered by OSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion the OSU African American Community.
- 2019 2019 Seleshi Asfaw Distinguished Community Leader Award, Ohio State University African Youth League.
- 2002 Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, History Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 1997 Distinguished Service Award for service to the City College Community, Co-recipient, City College of New York, awarded during the 150th Year Anniversary of the founding of City College

Conferences and Lectures

- 2019 2019 Black History Month Keynote Lecture, “Blacks Africans in the Americas before and during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.” Connecticut College, February 11, 2019.
- 2018 2018 Harrison Distinguished Lecture: “Good Muslims, Bad Muslims: Colonial Enlightenment Discourse and the Genesis of Salafi Movements in West Africa.” Western Kentucky University, Department of History, March 29, 2018.
- 2017 Invited Lecture: Islamic Education in the 21st Century, Ghana Institute of Local Government, Accra (Ghana), October 17, 2017.
- 2016 “The Transformation of the Office of the National Chief Imam since the 1960s.” **Global Ghana**, Ghana Studies Association Triennial Conference, University of Cape Coast, July 6-9, 2016.
- 2014 Invited Conference Participant, “Analytic Exchange on Prophecy, Revealed Knowledge and Prophetic Authority in Africa,” The U.S. Department of State, Washington DC, August 26, 2014
- 2014 “Global Islam in West African Salafi Discourse,” Conference, “Global Islam and the Quest for Public Space.” Launching Conference of the new Center for Global Islamic Studies, University of Florida, September 18-19.
- 2014 “Salafi Modernity in West African Islamic Reform.” Invited Talk, Center for African Studies’ Friday Brazza, University of Florida, September 19, 2014.
- 2013 Invited Talk and “Roundtable Discussion: Understanding Islamist Extremism in Northern Nigeria.” African Studies Center, National Defense University, Washington DC., November 19, 2013.
- 2013 Conference Participant. “Islamic University of Higher Learning” Duke University. October 17-18.
- 2013 “Roundtable: Atlas of the Muslim World,” Oxford Center for Islamic Studies,” Oxford, UK. March 22-23.
- 2012 “Roundtable Discussion: Reconceptualizing African Islam” 55 Meeting of the African Studies Association, Nov. 28-Dec. 1
- 2012 “Understanding Islamic Radicalism in 20th Century West Africa.” "Islam in Africa" Symposium, Islamic Studies Program at the University of Michigan. November 27th 2012
- 2012 “The Faydah Tijaniyya in Ghana Since the 1950s,” International Conference on the Revival of the Islamic Tradition in Africa, Doha,

- Qatar (May 12, 2012)
- 2012 “Historicizing Contemporary Islamic Reforms in West Africa,” 50/FORWARD, Celebrating 50 Years Anniversary of the Founding of the African Studies Program at UW-Madison, April 20-22
- 2012 “Racializing Islam,” Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity Transforming Race: Visions of Change, Invited Talk, The Ohio State University, March 15, 2012
- 2011 *My Rosary is My Sword: The Peaceful Jihad of Sheikh Boubacar Sawadogo and French Colonial Policies toward Muslims in Burkina Faso (Upper Volta)*. Conference on Islamic Reform and Public Life, University of Cape Town from October 12 to 15, 2011
- 2011 Keynote Speaker, African Health and Development International (AHADI) Annual Conference, Atlanta (GA), October 8, 2011
- 2010 Seminar with Marie Miran, "Islam in and out: the ambiguities of postcolonial citizenship in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire," École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris (France)
- 2010 Lecture, "French Colonialism and the Hamawiyya Movement in Burkina Faso, 1920-1946," École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris (France)
- 2010 Presenter, “Revisiting French Islamic Policies in West Africa,” Journée d’Etude, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) and University of Paris VI, Paris (France)
- 2010 Workshop Presenter, “Confronting Modernity: West African Wahhabi Reform in Postcolonial Ghana,” Workshop on Anthropology of Religion, University of Paris VI, Paris (France)
- 2010 Presenter, “Health and Healing in Islam,” United States Conference on African Immigrant Health, Atlanta (GA).
- 2009 Seminar on Wahhabi Resurgence in Ghana, Institute for the Study of Islam in Africa, ISITA Northwestern University, Evanston (IL)
- 2009 Invited Lecture, “Modernity and Islam in Postcolonial West Africa,” Many Faces of Islam Lecture Series, Ohio University, Athens (OH)
- 2008 “Western Modernity and 20th Century West African Islamic Reform,” Center for African Studies Brown Bag Seminar
- 2008 Roundtable: “Counterterrorism in West Africa,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago (IL)
- 2008 Co-Keynote Speaker (Closing Remark) Patterson School of Diplomacy Fall Conference: “Africa and US Foreign Policies in the 21st Century,” University of Kentucky (KY)
- 2008 Public Lecture, “Islam and the Paths to Democracy,” University of Ghana, Legon
- 2008 Invited Speaker, “US-Africa Relations in the 21st Century,” 2nd Chicago Summit on African Immigrants & Refugees: Harvesting Hope, Weaving Change: Contemporary Africa & the African Experience in the United States.
- 2007 “Ambiguous Citizenship: Construction of Political Identity and Citizenship by Descendants of Labor Migrants in Post-Independent Ghana,” Presented at the 106th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC
- 2007 “Contesting Heretical Innovations (bid’a): The Transformation of Sunna/Wahhabi Movements in Ghana and Burkina Faso, 1985-2000,” Presented at the 50th

- Anniversary of the Founding of the African Studies Association and 50th Annual Meeting, New York (NY)
- 2007 “Engaging China: Sino-African Relations in the Post-Cold War Era,” Keynote Presentation at the First Chicago Summit on African Immigrants and Refugees organized by the United African Organization, Chicago (IL)
- 2007 “French Islamic Policy in West Africa: Resistance, Collaboration or Coexistence?” Presented at the quarterly meeting of The Journal Club for African American History and Related Areas, OSU History Department
- 2006 “Contemporary Faces of Islam in West Africa: A Workshop Organized the West African Research Center, Dakar Senegal
- 2006 “Western-Secular Educated Muslim Elites and the Development of Ahl-as-Sunna Reform in Ghana and Burkina Faso, 1960-2000,” Presented at American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington DC, November 18, 2006.
- 2006 “‘My Rosary is My Sword:’ The Jihad of Sheikh Aboubakar Maiga of Burkina Faso, 1920-1946.” Invited Lecture, Imperialism and Culture Lecture Series, Stanford University (CA)

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

French:	Intermediate reading, writing and speaking
Arabic:	Intermediate reading and writing, beginners’ level comprehension
Hausa:	Full fluency in reading and speaking, intermediate writing
Mossi:	Full fluency in reading and speaking, intermediate writing
Akan:	Full fluency in speaking, intermediate reading and writing
Ga:	Full fluency in speaking

Archival Research Experience:

Archives National du Sénégal, 2003; 2006; 2013
 Centre des Archives d’Outre-Mer, Aix-en-Provence, France 2002
 2003 Archives National du Burkina Faso, 2002; 2014
 Ghana National Archives, 1998; 2001; 2006; 2014; 2016; 2017
 Northern Regional Archives, Tamale (Ghana) 2001; 2014
 Ashanti Regional Archives, Kumasi (Ghana) 2001; 2006; 2014; 2017
 Founder and Senior Supervisor, The Zongo Oral History Project, 2016-Present.

Professional Organizations:

American Academy of Religion (External Reviewer of African Religion’s Group, 2016)
 African Studies Association
 American Historical Association
 West African Research Association
 Interfaith Association of Central Ohio

Professional Services

Member and Senior Advisor, African Education Research Network (AERN) (since 2018)
 External Examiner, Department of History and Political Science, Kwame Nkrumah

University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana (since 2016).
Editorial Board Member, *Islamic Africa* (a premier peer reviewed journal on study of Islam in Africa (since 2014)
Team Member, “The Atlas of the Muslim World,” Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, University of Oxford (UK) (since 2013)
Editorial Board Member, *Journal of the Islamic University of Uganda* (since 2012).