

MADINA THIAM

53 Washington Square South, #423
New York, NY 10012, USA

EMPLOYMENT

2022–present **New York University**, New York, NY
Assistant Professor, Department of History
Affiliated Faculty, Institute of French Studies (since 2024)

EDUCATION

2022 **University of California**, Los Angeles, CA
Ph.D. in African History

2012 **The George Washington University**, Washington, DC
B.A. in History (with honors) and International Affairs; Economics minor
Study Abroad: **Universidad de Granada**, Spain ; **Al-Akhawayn University**, Morocco

PUBLICATIONS

Works-in-progress

- *The Inland Shore: an Intimate History of Muslim West Africa, 1804-1960* (book manuscript)
- "The Century's Firstborn: Intimacy, Time, and Trauma in the Colonial Sahel" (preparing for submission)

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Thiam, Madina, Devon Golaszewski, Moussa Beïdy Tamboura, Oumou Sidibé, and Gregory Mann, "[Le Projet Archives des Femmes du Mali: archiver, numériser et diffuser les luttes des femmes maliennes](#)," *Revue d'Histoire Contemporaine de l'Afrique* (2023): 1-13.
- Thiam, Madina. "[The Caliphate, the Black Writer, and a World in Revolution, 1957-1969](#)." *Journal of African History*, vol. 64, no. 2 (2023): 174-183.
- Thiam, Madina. "[Women in Mali](#)." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History* (2020): 1-35.
- Thiam, Madina, and Gregory Mann. "[The History of Mali: Connectivity and State Formation since the 18th Century](#)." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History* (2020): 1-27.

Essays and Chapters in Edited Volumes

- Thiam, Madina. "Fuir du Mali à la Mecque." In *Colonisations: Notre histoire*, edited by Pierre Singaravélou, Arthur Asseraf, Guillaume Blanc, Yala Kisukidi, and Mélanie Lamotte, 527-528. Paris: Le Seuil, 2023.
- Kiazolu, Yatta, and Madina Thiam. "Mabel Dove and Aoua Keita: Feminist and Internationalist Struggles from Ghana to Mali." In *She Who Struggles: Revolutionary Women Who Shaped The World*, edited by Marral Shamshiri-Fard and Sorcha Amy MacGregor Thomson, 34-49. London: Pluto Press, 2023.
- Thiam, Madina. "Struggle, Neglect and Archives," *CODESRIA Bulletin* no. 5&6, [Special Issue](#) on the Crisis in Mali and in the Sahel Region, edited by Amy Niang (2020): 21-23.
- Thiam, Madina. "Nicholas Said, étonnant voyageur." In *Sahara, mondes connectés*, edited by Sophie Caratini, Charles Grémont, Céline Lesourd and Olivier Schinz, 75-79. Paris: Gallimard, 2019.

Review Essay

Thiam, Madina. Review essay on *L'État de Sékou et ses chefferies aux XVIIIe et XIXe siècles. Côté cour, côté jardin*, by Moussa Sow, and *Conflicts of Colonialism: The Rule of Law, French Sudan, and Faama Mademba Sèye*, by Richard Roberts (forthcoming in the *Journal of African History*, June 2024).

Book and Film Reviews

Thiam, Madina. [Review](#) of *Sultan, Caliph, and the Renewer of the Faith. Ahmad Lobbo, the Tārīkh al-fattāsh and the Making of an Islamic State in West Africa*, by Mauro Nobili. *Islamic Africa* XI, no. 2 (2021): 257–260.

Thiam, Madina. [Review](#) of *Mali Blues*, by Gregor Lutz. *Research Africa Reviews* 2, no. 2 (2018): 46–48.

Thiam, Madina. [Review](#) of *Être Étudiant au Mali*, by Boubacar Sangaré. *Ufahamu: a Journal of African Studies* 40, no. 2 (2018): 179–182.

GRANTS

- 2023–24 Public Diplomacy Grant, United States Embassy in Mali (\$50,000), and
2020–23 Project Grant, Modern Endangered Archives Program (\$50,000), both received for:
[Projet Archives des Femmes du Mali \(PAF\)](#), with Oumou Sidibé, Devon Golaszewski, and Gregory Mann.
- 2018–20 Innovation Grant, Luskin Center for History and Policy (\$25,000)
[Developing a New Approach to Migration and Policy-Making in Africa](#), with E. Tendayi Achiume, Tamara Last, and Anita Vukovic.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2024-25 Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Scholar-in-Residence
2024-25 New York University Center for the Humanities, Faculty Fellow
2021-22 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellow
2021 Mini-Grant, UCLA Center for the Advancement of Teaching
2020 Bernadotte E. Schmitt Research Grant, American Historical Association
2020 Penny Kanner Dissertation Research Fellow, UCLA Center for the Study of Women
2018-19 Mellon/SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellow
2017 Young Professionals Forum, UNESCO World Heritage Committee
2016 & 2017 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award, UCLA Graduate Division
2016 Graduate Student Travel Award, African Studies Association
2016 Kurnitz Creative Writing Award, UCLA Dashew Center
2015 Five-Year Doctoral Fellowship, UCLA Department of History

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Invited Lectures

- 2024 University of Wisconsin-Madison, [William Allen Brown Memorial Lecture](#), *upcoming*
2024 Columbia University, Studies in Contemporary Africa Seminar, *upcoming*
2024 Rutgers University, Newark, [Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice](#)
‘Race and Religion Series: Global Circuits of Difference’

- 2024 University of California, Los Angeles, Department of History
‘The Inland Shore: An Intimate History of Revolution and Decolonization in Muslim West Africa’
- 2023 Harvard University, Department of History
‘The Inland Shore: An Intimate History of Revolution and Decolonization in Muslim West Africa’
- 2023 Institute of French Studies at NYU
‘Women’s Mobilization in Francophone Africa: Sources, Struggle, and Social Change’
- 2023 Williams College, Williamstown, CT
‘Preserving African Women’s Struggles: The Projet Archives des Femmes du Mali’
- 2023 Ottoman and Turkish Studies Initiative at NYU
‘Roundtable: Intimate & Family Histories,’ with Leyla Amzi, Asli İğsız, and Mostafa Minawi
- 2023 University of Maryland, College Park
‘“Absolutely and Utterly Free:” An Atlantic-Saharan Journey through Slavery and Race-Making’
- 2023 The Africa~Diaspora Institute for Social Studies Teachers, New York, NY
‘Africa and the African Diaspora in Modernity: 1920s to the Present’
- 2023 University of California, Los Angeles (Atlantic History Colloquium)
‘“Absolutely and Utterly Free:” An Atlantic-Saharan Journey through Slavery and Race-Making’
- 2023 Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada
‘Luttes féminines et décolonisation au Mali, 1946-1960’
- 2022 Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
‘Decolonizing African Women’s Archives: the Projet Archives des Femmes du Mali’
- 2022 York University, Toronto, Canada ([Albert Tucker Speaker Series](#), Glendon College)
‘Luttes féminines et décolonisation au Mali, 1946-1960’
- 2022 New York University ([CALAMEGS lecture series](#), Department of Comparative Literature)
‘African History and the Making of a Classic: Yambo Ouologuem’s *Duty of Violence*’
- 2022 Casa África, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain (Jornada de estudios sobre el Sahel ; [video](#))
‘Explotación, luchas, y sueños: la colonización en el Sahel’
- 2021 Boston University, Boston, MA (Walter Rodney Seminar ; [video](#))
‘Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Watara’s Journey through Slavery and Race-Making, 1834-1836’
- 2021 Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA (Department of History)
‘Seeking Freedom in the Sahel: Pan-Africanism and Decolonization in Post-Jihad Mopti’
- 2020 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL ([Timbuktu Talks Series](#))
‘Seeking Freedom in the Sahel: Transnational Politics and Islamic Networks in Colonial Mopti’
- 2019 University of the West Indies–Mona, Kingston, Jamaica (Department of History and Archeology)
‘Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq and the Muslim Sahel in Translation’

Invited Seminars/Article Workshops

- 2024 Rutgers University, New Brunswick, ([Center for African Studies Research Workshop](#))
‘After the Jihad, Before the Federation: Memory, Family and Belonging in Colonial Mopti’
- 2023 Sciences Po and Columbia University African History Workshop, New York, NY
‘The Inland Shore: an Intimate History of Revolution and Decolonization in Muslim West Africa’
- 2023 Program for African Social Research & Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France,
‘Connecting the Two Sudans: Mobile Histories of Faith, Colonialism, and Cotton’
- 2023 Stanford University, Stanford, CA ([Africa Research Workshop](#))
‘After the Jihad, Before the Federation: Memory, Family and Belonging in Colonial Mopti’
- 2023 Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD ([History Department Seminar](#))
‘After the Jihad, Before the Federation: Memory, Family and Belonging in Colonial Mopti’

- 2022 University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA ([Religion and Democracy in Africa](#))
 ‘Seeking Freedom in the Sahel: Transnational Islamic Networks and Decolonization in Mopti’
- 2022 University of California Africanist Workshop, Berkeley, CA
 ‘Mobility in the Transitional World of Mamadu Caam (1862-1956)’
- 2019 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Africa, Globalization and The Muslim Worlds workshop)
 ‘“Beyond Timbuktu”: Sahelian Networks and Texts in Pre-Emancipation Jamaica’
- 2018 Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (Global Africa and Ethnographies of Interconnection workshop)
 ‘Using 19th-century Sahelian Narratives to Write Global History’

CONFERENCES AND PANELS

- 2024 Canadian Association of African Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, *upcoming*
- 2024 Columbia University, Department of History, *upcoming*
[Book panel](#) for *Colonisations: Notre Histoire*
- 2023 NYU Center for Global Asia
[Book launch](#) for Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper’s *Post Imperial Possibilities*
- 2023 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, University of Ghana, Legon
 ‘Pan-Africanism, 1960s Mali, and the Study of Islam in Africa’
- 2023 Annual Meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society, Fort-de-France, Martinique
 ‘Soudan’s Venice: Making Mopti in the Colonial Economy, 1890-1930’
- 2022 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
 ‘Mobility, Space- and Place-Making in Senegambia’ panel chair
- 2022 [IMAF conference](#): Dans les plis des archives audiovisuelles africaines, CNRS, Aubervilliers, France
 ‘Le Projet Archives des Femmes du Mali’
- 2021 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
 ‘Fuutanke Archipelago: Transnational Politics and Islamic Networks in Colonial Mopti’
- 2021 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)
 ‘African Feminisms’ ([ASWAD Webinar](#) invited participant)
- 2020 American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY
 ‘Family Networks, Muslim Education and Emancipation in the Sahel and Caribbean, 1790-1853’
- 2019 Rethinking Refuge, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, Germany
 ‘Continuities of Statelessness in Southern Africa’
- 2019 Luskin Center for History and Policy Fellows Seminar, UCLA
 ‘Developing a New Approach to Migration and Policy-Making in Southern Africa’
- 2017 Dakar Institute of African Studies International Conference, Dakar, Senegal
 ‘African Men of Letters, Atlantic Slavery, and the Intellectual History of the Sahel’
- 2017 History Graduate Student Association Annual Conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
 ‘Empire State of Mind: Unsolicited Interventions and the 2012 Crisis in Mali’
- 2016 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
 ‘A Trail of Scented Salams: Migrating and Settling along the *Tarīq-al-Sūdān*’
- 2016 Transpositions Summer School, University of Bern, Kandersteg, Switzerland
 ‘Westerners along the Nile: West African Muslims in Sudan (19th and 20th centuries)’

TEACHING

NYU

- 2023 The French Colonial Empire (graduate seminar, co-taught with Audrey Célestine)

- 2023 African Decolonization and Radicalisms (undergraduate seminar)
2023 Caravans & Caravels: History of the Sahel (undergraduate seminar)
2023 Women, Gender and Sexuality in African History (undergraduate lecture)

UCLA

- 2021 *S* From Mecca to Jamaica: Global Histories of Muslim West Africa (undergraduate seminar)

Guest Lectures

- 2023 “Luttes féminines et décolonisation au Mali, 1946-1960,” University of Bamako, Kabala campus
2023 “Ecrire l’histoire des siens et des siennes,” NYU
2021 “Writing Family Histories: Power, Stigma, and Malian Archives,” Bard College
2019 “Black Francophone Women & Decolonization,” California State University, Long Beach

SUPERVISING

Phd Dissertation Committee Member

- 2024- Angie Epifano (Yale University, History of Art)
“Building the Samorian State: Material Culture and Architecture in Late-Nineteenth Century West Africa”
2022-3 [Dr. Sanyu Mulira](#) (NYU, History) ; PhD awarded Spring ‘23 ; Lecturer at Spelman College
“‘We were but women’: Print Culture, Anti-Colonialism, and Activism Amongst Black Women in the Francophone Diaspora, 1920-1976”

PhD Qualifying Examinations, Field Director

- 2024 Kinaya Hassane (Institute of Fine Arts)
2024 Julia Woods (History Department & Institute of French Studies)
2024 Catherine Behm (Department of French Literature, Thought and Culture)

Graduate Independent Studies and MA Theses

- 2024 Mayar Kotb (*Medieval Trans-Saharan Connections*)
2023 Zingha Foma (*Gender and Sexuality in Africa*) ; Waldemar Oliveira (*Islam in West Africa*)
2022 George Okoro ; thesis second reader ; MA awarded Fall ‘22

Undergraduate Independent Studies and Honors Theses

- 2024 Derrick Rivet ; Honors thesis second reader
2024 Vince Anani (*Third-Worldism in Ghana*) ; Jordan Esi (*Race in Early-Modern Scientific Thought*)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Print and Online Media

- 2022 “[Panafricanismo y papel histórico de las mujeres Africanas](#),” *La Provincia*
2022 “[15 African Female Historians Shaping Our Understanding of Africa’s Past](#),” *Amaka Magazine*
2021 [Q&A](#): “Is Mansa Musa the richest man of all time?” *BBC History Magazine*
2020 “[Histories of Refuge](#)” Editor, *Africa is a Country*; contributed essay: “[From the Niger to the Nile](#)”
2019 “[Le Mali ne doit pas devenir un fonds de commerce...](#)” collective op-ed, *Le Monde*
2018 “[De Tombouctou à la Jamaïque : les voyages d’Abū Bakr al-Şiddiq](#),” *Libération*

2018 [“History, Policy and Politics at the UNESCO,”](#) *Luskin Center for History and Policy*

2015 [“Mali and the Empire State of Mind,”](#) *Africa is a Country*

Television, Radio, and Public Talks

2023 [Address](#) at the African Burial Ground National Monument, New York City

2022 Canarias Radio [Interview](#), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain: ‘Canarias a las 6’

2021 *History Hit* [Documentary](#), London, UK: ‘Pinches of Salt and Gold: Mansa Musa’s Story’

2020 *Africa is a Country* [Discussion](#): ‘The 2020 protests in Bamako’

2019 *Le Monde* [Documentary](#), Paris, France: ‘Cheikh Anta Diop, l’historien révolutionnaire’

2019 NationWide FM Radio [Interview](#), Kingston, Jamaica: ‘Talking History with Verene Shepherd’

2017 41st session of the UNESCO World Heritage [Committee](#), Krakow, Poland: ‘Heritage in Timbuktu’

2016 Futures of History [Conference](#), Los Angeles: ‘What Do We See and Envision?’

SERVICE

2023– Faculty of Arts & Science/History representative, [NYU Accra](#) Advisory Committee

2023–24 Planning and Advisory Committee, NYU Department of History

Africa Field Faculty Coordinator, NYU Department of History

2023 Faculty reviewer, [NYU Faculty First Look](#) Program

2022– Faculty Mentor, [NYU Proud to be First](#) Program

2022– Faculty volunteer, NYU History Department Grant Workshop

2016–18 Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Ufahamu: a Journal of African Studies* (editor in 2015–16)

2016–17 President, UCLA History graduate students association

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS and DIGITAL HUMANITIES

2020– Host, *New Books in African Studies* podcast

2019– Co-director, [Projet Archives des Femmes](#)

Memberships African Feminist Initiative, African Studies Association, Association of Black Women Historians, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, French Colonial Historical Society, NYU Migration Initiative