

FLORENCE BERNAULT

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1. RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Education:

Ph.D.	1994	University of Paris 7-Denis Diderot, African History.
D.E.A.	1987	Diploma of Advanced Studies, University of Paris 7.
<i>Agrégation</i>	1986	History.
M.A.	1985	University of Paris 1-Sorbonne, African History.
B.A.	1984	University of Paris 1-Sorbonne, History.

Ecole Normale Supérieure de Saint-Cloud (1983-1987)

Academic Positions:

Full Professor, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2001-present.
Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1996-2001
Associate Professor (Maitre de conférences), Department of History, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Fontenay-St Cloud, 1995-1996, and 2007-2012 [*en détachement*].
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Fontenay-St Cloud, 1993-1995.
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of History, Université de Provence, 1987-1989 and 1991-1992.
Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Niamey (Niger), May 1992.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, Claremont Graduate School (Spring 1991).

Books

Struggles For the Sacred : Power and Witchcraft in Colonial Gabon [book manuscript under completion]

Démocraties ambiguës en Afrique centrale: Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, 1940-1965 [*Ambiguous Democracies in Central Africa, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, 1940-1965*] (Paris, Karthala, 1996).

Edited Volumes

Rupture Ruptures postcoloniales. Les nouveaux visages de la société française [*Postcolonial Ruptures: The New French Society*], co-edited with Nicolas Bancel, Pascal Blanchard, Ahmed Boubeker, Achille Mbembe & Françoise Vergès (Paris, La Découverte, 2010).

A History of Prison and Confinement in Africa (Portsmouth, NJ., Heinemann, 2003).

Enfermement, prison et châtements en Afrique du XIXe siècle à nos jours [*Confinement, Prison and Punishment in Africa from the 19th c. to Present Times*] (Paris, Karthala, 1999).

Guest-editor, Refereed Journals:

Fin de règne au Gabon, with Joseph Tonda, *Politique africaine* 115 (October 2009).

Pouvoirs sorciers, with Joseph Tonda, *Politique africaine* 79 (October 2000).

Crisis in Central Africa, with Thomas Spear, *Africa Today*, 45-1(1998).

Member of Editorial Boards

American Historical Review (2008-2011)

Journal of African History (2010-2014) (Advisory Board)

Crime, History, and Society (Geneva, Paris) (2001-present)

Afrique et histoire (1996-present) (Advisory Board)

Member, Press Committee, University of Wisconsin Press (2009-2011)

Grants and Awards

2010. Institute for Research in the Humanities, UW-Madison, Resident Fellowship, Spring semester.

2009. Summer Salary.

2008. Writing Fellow, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (August-September)

2007. Summer Travel Grant, UW-Madison

2006. Vilas Life Cycle Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2006. Support awarded by the Harvey Goldberg Center, the History Department, the African Studies Program (UW-Madison), the Department of French and Italian, the Center for Interdisciplinary French Studies (UW-Madison) and the Anonymous Fund for a Conference on *New Research in Equatorial Africa*

2005. PAship 33% one-year, UW-Madison Graduate School.

Summer Travel Grant, UW-Madison Graduate School.

2005. Sabbatical Semester and Faculty Development Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2001. John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

2001. PAship, 33% one-year, UW-Madison Graduate School.

Summer Travel Grant, UW-Madison Graduate School.

2000. Grant awarded by the Center for the Humanities and the Mellon Foundation, University of Wisconsin-Madison to organize a workshop on *Conflicting Culture and the Invention of Modernity in Africa*
2000. H. I. Romnes Faculty Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2000. Grant awarded by the Center for the Humanities and the Mellon Foundation, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2000-01) to organize a workshop on *Conflicting Cultures and the Invention of Modernity in Africa*.
2000. Institute for Research in the Humanities UW-Madison, Resident fellowship, Spring semester.
Summer and Travel Funding, UW-Madison Graduate School.
1998. Vilas Associateship, UW-Madison.
1998. PAship, 33% one year, UW-Madison Graduate School.

Refereed Articles and Book Chapters

2011

“Politics of the Fetish in Modern Africa,” in Barbara Meyer and Arne Steinforth (ed.) , *Spirits and Politics in Africa*, Amsterdam, Brill (forthcoming).

2010

“Quelque chose de pourri dans le post-empire: Le fétiche, le corps et la marchandise dans le Mémorial de Brazza au Congo,” *Cahiers d'études africaines*, 199, L (2-3-4)-198/199/200, pp. 171-198.

“Colonial Bones: The 2006 Burial of Savorgnan De Brazza,” *African Affairs*, vol. 109 (July), pp. 367-390.

“Les Barbares et le rêve d'Apollon,” *Ruptures postcoloniales. Les nouveaux visages de la société française*, edited by N. Bancel, F. Bernault et al., Paris, La Découverte, pp. 159-177.

“De la fracture coloniale aux ruptures postcoloniales,” [with N. Bancel, P. Blanchard, A. Boubeker, A. Mbembe, F. Vergès], *Ruptures postcoloniales. Les nouveaux visages de la société française*, edited by N. Bancel, F. Bernault et al., Paris, La Découverte, pp. 9-34.

2009

“Gabon: une dystopie tropicale,” with Joseph Tonda, *Politique africaine*, 115 (October), pp. 7-26.

“La chair et son secret: Transfiguration du fétiche et incertitude symbolique au sud-Gabon,” *Politique africaine*, 115 (October), pp. 99-122.

“De la modernité comme impuissance. Fétichisme et crise du politique en Afrique équatoriale et ailleurs,” *Cahiers d'Études africaines*, XLIX (3), 195, pp. 747-774.

“Colonial Syndrome: French Modern and the Deceptions of History,” *Frenchness and the African Diaspora*, edited by Charles Tshimanga, Peter Bloom, & Didier Gondola, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, pp. 168-206.

2007

“The Shadow of Rule: Colonial Power and Punishment in Africa,” *Cultures of Confinement: A Global History of the Prison in Asia, Africa, the Middle-East and Latin America*, edited by Frank Dikötter, London, Christopher Hurst, 2007, pp. 55-94.

“What Absence is Made of: Human Rights in Africa,” *Human Rights and Revolution*, edited by Lynn Hunt, Jeff Wasserstrom, and Marilyn Young, New York, Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 27-41 [2d ed.].

“Des noms de l'occulte. Fétichisme et crise du politique en Afrique équatoriale et ailleurs,” *Cahiers gabonais d'anthropologie* 17, pp. 2001-2018.

2006

“Body, Power and Sacrifice in Equatorial Africa,” *Journal of African History*, 47/2, pp. 207-39.

2005

“Économie de la mort et reproduction sociale au Gabon,” *Mama Africa: Hommage à Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch*, edited by Odile Goerg et Issiaka Mande, Paris, L’Harmattan, pp. 203-18.

“Magie, sorcellerie et politique au Gabon et au Congo-Brazzaville,” *Démocratie et mutations culturelles en Afrique*, edited by Marc Mve Mbekale, Paris, L’Harmattan, pp. 21-39.

2004

L’écriture scientifique en temps de crise, [Scholarly Writing in Time of Social Crisis] Florence Bernault guest-editor of special dossier in *Afrique et Histoire* 2, pp. 267-302, with introduction by F. Bernault, and papers by Danielle de Lame (Musée royal Tervuren, Belgium), Mamadou Diouf (Univ. Michigan-Ann Arbor), Jan Vansina (UW-Madison), Claudine Vidal (EHESS-Paris), Pierre Boilley (Univ. Paris-Sorbonne).

2003

“Dévoreurs de la nation: les migrations fang au Gabon,” *Etre étranger et migrant en Afrique au XXe siècle*, edited by Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch & Issiaka Mandé, Paris, L’Harmattan, pp. 169-87.

2001

“L’Afrique et la modernité des sciences sociales,” *Vingtième siècle. Revue d’histoire* (Paris), 70, pp. 127-38.

2000

“The Political Shaping of Sacred Locality in Brazzaville, 1959-1992/97,” *Africa’s Urban Past*, edited by David Anderson and Richard Rathbone, London James Currey, pp. 283-302.

“What Absence is Made of: Human Rights in Africa,” *Human Rights and Revolution*, edited by Lynn Hunt, Jeff Wasserstrom & Marilyn Young, New York, Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 27-41.

1999

“L’Afrique et la modernité des sciences sociales,” *Annales de la Faculté des Lettres et sciences humaines*, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, 29, pp. 73-88.

“Fin des Etats coloniaux et nouvelles donnes du politique en Afrique équatoriale française,” *Itinerario*, *Journal of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies* (Leiden), vol. XXIII, 3/4, pp. 136-144.

“Arbeitslager, Verliese und Bühnen der Macht” [Systems of Incarceration in Africa], *Der Überblick*, *Quarterly of the Association of the Churches Development Services* (Hamburg), March.

“Pour une histoire du contrôle social dans les mondes coloniaux : justice, prisons, et enfermement de l’espace,” *Revue française d’histoire d’outre-mer*, special issue guest-edited by Florence Bernault, Pierre Boilley and Ibrahima Thioub, tome 86, 325-326, pp. 8-13.

1998

“Archaïsme colonial, modernité sorcière et territorialisation du politique à Brazzaville, 1959-1995,” *Politique africaine*, 72, pp. 34-50.

“The French Africanist Community Put to the Test of the Rwanda Crisis,” *Africa Today*, 45-1, pp. 45-62.

“French Equatorial Africa: History of Colonial Rule From the Early 20th Century to Independence,” with Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, *Encyclopedia of Sub-Saharan Africa*, edited by John Middleton, London, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 162-7.

1997

“La communauté africaniste française au crible de la crise rwandaise,” *Politique africaine* 68, 112-20.

1995

“Aînés et cadets au Congo : histoire d’une fracture moderne,” *Rupture* (Brazzaville) 6, October-December, pp. 5-11.

1987

“Un journal missionnaire au temps de la décolonisation: La Semaine de l’AEF (1952-1960),” *Revue française d’histoire d’outre-mer*, 64-274, pp. 5-25.

Review Essays and Prefaces

2008

“Préface : D’une guerre l’autre,” *État et société civile en situation de post-conflit: le cas du Congo-Brazzaville*, edited by Joseph Gamandzori, Paris, L’Harmattan, pp. i-ix.

2007

“Autour d’un livre: Le Souverain moderne de Joseph Tonda,” *Politique africaine* 106 (December 2007), pp. 10-16.

“Préface : Conversations transcoloniales,” *Colonisation et colonisés au Gabon: Contribution au débat*, edited by Fabrice Nguiabama-Makaya, Paris: L’Harmattan, 2007, pp. 2-8.

2005

“Space, Power and Healing in Colonial Equatorial Africa. About Christopher Gray. Colonial Rule and Crisis in Equatorial Africa. Southern Gabon ca. 1850-1940., Rochester, N.Y., University of Rochester Press: 2002,” *Journal of African History*, 46/1, 139-43.

2003

“Tasting Modernities. Review of *African Modernities*. Edited by Jan-Georg Deutsch, Peter Probst and Heike Schmidt. Oxford, James Currey; Portsmouth N.H., Heinemann 2002,” *Journal of African History*, 44/3, pp. 528-9.

Book reviews

Regular book reviews published in the *International History Review*, the *Journal of African History*, the *Journal of Southern African Studies*, *African Studies Review*, the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Cahiers d’études africaines*, *Politique africaine*, *Revue française d’histoire d’outre-mer*, *Modern and Contemporary France*, and the *American Historical Review*.

Recent Scholarly Papers and Invited Lectures

2010

Participant, roundtable on “The Modernity of Witchcraft – 15 years on,” in honor of Peter Geschiere. African Studies Association, San Francisco, November 19. Other participants

include Adam Ashforth (Northwestern), Mariame Ferme (UC-Berkeley), Peter Geschiere (Amsterdam), and Kate Luongo (Boston U.).

Magic and Politics in Equatorial Africa, Workshop on Spirits in Politics: Violence and Social healing in African Societies. Cluster of excellence "Religion and Politics". Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (Germany), January 14-16.

2009

Something's Rotten in the Post-Empire: the 2006 Burial of Savorgnan de Brazza. African Studies Program Sandwich Seminar, UW-Madison, February 11.

2007

Discussant, Panel on Frenchness and African Diaspora, ASA Annual Conference, New York, November 14-15.

Ruminations on Colonial Hegemony in Africa, African History, Politics and Geography Seminar Series African History and Geography, Oxford University, October 7.

Colonial Bones, Continued: The 2006 Burial of Savorgnan De Brazza, Conference on the History of Death in Africa, Cambridge University, May 5-6 .

Critiquing the Quai Branly Museum: A Art History Duet Colloquium, with Henry Drewal, Elvehjem Museum, UW-Madison, March 15.

2006

Sorcellerie et trafic des corps en Afrique centrale: Marchandisation, globalisation, révolution morale, Ecole des Hautes études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, November 29.

Syndrome colonial: de la déstabilisation du chercheur, in Panel organized by Florence Bernault and Nicolas Bancel on Colonial/Postcolonial: perspectives épistémologiques, for National Conference on "Etudes Africaines: Bilan et Perspectives" Paris, November 29-December 1), CNRS [Centre National de la Recherche scientifique].

Colonial Syndrome: French Moderns and the Deceptions of History, in Panel "Why Is Paris Burning?: African Diaspora and Identity Issues in Contemporary France," ASA Annual Conference, San Francisco, November 18.

Modernity and Powerlessness: Fetishism and Political Crisis in Equatorial Africa, Conference on "New Research In Equatorial Africa," UW-Madison, October 14.

A Postcolonial Visit to the Museum of Quai Branly, Paris, Sandwich Seminar, African Studies Program, UW-Madison, October 11.

Compter les hommes. Réflexion sur la valeur des corps et des personnes, University Omar Bongo Ondimba, Libreville (Gabon), July 22.

Des noms de l'occulte: féchisme et infra-politique en Afrique équatoriale et ailleurs, Séminaire du Centre d'études africaines, EHESS [École des Hautes études en sciences sociales], Paris, April 24.

Body, Power and Sacrifice, UW Madison-Northwestern African History Annual Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, April 8.

2005

The Legacies of Empire in Equatorial Africa: A Discussion with Adam Hochschild, Center For the Humaniites, UW-Madison, April 27.

Power, Sacrifice and Transgression: On the Magic of Colonial Rule in Equatorial Africa, SOAS, London, December 1st.

Power and the Transformation of Power in Equatorial Africa, Symposium on "Precolonial History in a Postcolonial Age: Past and Present in African History," University of Wisconsin, March 11-13.

2004

Chair, panel on Coercion, Violence and Prisons in 20th Century Africa, ASA Annual Conference, New Orleans, November.

Death and Social Reproduction in Equatorial Africa, 1910-1940s, Panel on “Ripped From the Archives: Crime and Punishment in Colonial Africa,” ASA Annual Conference, New Orleans, November.

Magic and Knowledge in Southern Gabon, University of Basel, Zentrum für Afrikastudien, June.
Rethinking the Colonial Encounter in Africa, Conference Voices: The Wisconsin Review of African Languages and Literature, March 26.

2003

Discussant, Panel on Modern Congolese Diasporas, African Studies Association, 46th Annual Conference, Boston, November.

The State in Africa, Participant in Roundtable, French National History Conference, Blois (France), October.

Body and Power in the Colony, inaugural lecture to the Chris Gray’s Memorial Fund, Department of History and Africana Studies, Florida International University, April.

Body and Power in the Colony, African Studies Program Sandwich Seminar, UW-Madison, March.

2002

Witchcraft and Colonial Politics in Gabon, Seminar on African History, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, January 30.

Le corps des sorciers en colonie, Seminar Series on Medicine, Power and Disease, Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l’homme, Aix-en-Provence, April 14.

Participant to panel “Does the History of Europe Still Matter?,” sponsored by the Center for European Studies, with Lynn Hunt (UCLA) and Thongchai Winichakul (UW-Madison), Sept 18.

Did the Prison Model Fail in Africa? : Reflections on Postcolonial Cultures of Confinement, International Workshop on Cultures of Confinement in Asia and in Africa, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, Sept 5-8.

2001

The Occult State in Africa: Magical Politics in Congo-Brazzaville, Interdisziplinäre Forschungswerkstatt Afrikastudien, Zentrum für Afrikastudien, Basel, December 7.

Cemetaries, Corpses, and Crimes in Colonial Gabon, Panel on Spaces of Death in Central Africa, African Studies Association 43th Annual Conference, Houston, November 16.

Current Debates in African Studies, in Africa, Europe and the U.S., University Omar Bongo Ondimba, Libreville, July 13

Sony Labou Tansi et la ‘Vieille Salade des Nations’, Symposium Francophonie et littératures nationales, UW-Madison, April 20-21.

Magical Politics in Equatorial Africa, International Conference on Magical Modernities in Africa, UW-Madison, April 6.

Unmaking Sense of Africa: The Invention of Modern Witchcraft, Mellon workshop on Conflicting Cultures and the Invention of Modernity in Africa, UW-Madison, March 22.

Camp-Cities and Magical Territories in Congo and Gabon, International Conference Navigating Creativity and Crisis: African Cities in the Larger Urban World, Institute of African Studies, Columbia University, February 14.

2000

Vulnerable Bodies, Sacred Corpses: Struggling Over Life and Death in Colonial Gabon, Talk at the Institute for the Humanities, UW-Madison, May 10.

Sorcery and Power in French Equatorial Africa, Afrika 2000 International Conference, Vereinigung von Afrikanisten in Deutschland, Leipzig, April 1-4.

1999

Dévoreurs de la Nation: les migrations fang au Gabon, International Conference Etre étranger et migrant en Afrique au XXe siècle, University of Paris 7, December 9-10.

Occult wars: Sorcery and Power in Congo-Brazzaville, panel on "A New Congo Disaster ? The Congos in the Post-Cold-War Era," 42d African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, November 12.

Discipline and Confinement in Africa, Discussant for the panel organized for the 42th African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, November 14.

French Central Africa: A Late Colonial State or An Early African One ?, Itinerario Conference on The Late Colonial State, at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS), Leiden University, Wassenaar, October 29-30.

Le sens du chaos: les crises contemporaines en Afrique centrale, Club de l'Histoire, University of Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Senegal), May 22.

Prisons et histoire en Afrique, University of Aix-en-Provence and Institut d'histoire des cultures et civilisations, March 18.

1998

Sorcellerie et cannibalisme: vers une histoire de l'innovation culturelle en Afrique centrale, CERGEP (Research Center for Geopolitic and Prospective Studies), Department of Sociology, University of Libreville (Gabon), July 25.

Conferences and Workshops Organized

2004-present

Annual African History UW-Madison and Northwestern University Workshop, co-organized with Neil Kodesh, with faculty and graduate student presentations.

2006

"Etudes africaines: Bilan et perspectives," with Nicolas Bancel (Univ. of Strasbourg) Conference on *Colonial/Postcolonial perspectives épistémologiques*, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Paris, November 29

New Research in Equatorial Africa, Conference organized at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with participants from nine universities in the USA, Jamaica and Paris, October 13-14.

2005

Precolonial History in a Postcolonial Age: Past and Present in African History, Symposium organized with Thomas Spear, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 11-13.

2001

"Spaces of Death in Central Africa," interdisciplinary panel organized with Dominique Malaquais (Sarah Lawrence College), African Studies Association 43th Annual Conference (ASA), Houston, November 16.

Magical Modernities in Africa, of an International mini-Conference organized with Patrick Harries (University of the Cape/Basel University) and sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and the African Studies Program, with a grant from the Mellon Foundation, April 6.

Conflicting Cultures and the Invention of Modernity in Africa, Mellon Workshop sponsored by the Center for the Humanities, with monthly meetings : September 2000-May 2001.

2000

Wondering About the 'Wonders of the African World', roundtable organized about Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s TV series, African Studies Program, April 10.

1999

"Discipline and Confinement in Africa," panel organized at the 42th African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, November 14.

1997

International Symposium on Africa: Past and Present, organized with Thomas Spear, sponsored by the African Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 15-16.

Professional membership

2006-2008. President of CASA (Central African Studies Association), International Research Group affiliated to the ASA

African Studies Association, since 1996

CERGEF (Research Center for Geo-Political and Prospective Studies), University Omar Bongo, Sociology Department, Libreville, Gabon, since 1998

LUTO (Research Center for Oral Traditions), University Omar Bongo, Libreville, Gabon, since 1998

Laboratoire CNRS "Sociétés en développement dans l'espace et dans le temps," University of Paris 7, since 1987

Other Professional Activities

Evaluation of book manuscripts for scholarly presses (Cambridge University Press, University of California Press, University of Nebraska Press)

ASA Program Committee, Section Chair, Sub-theme Historical Perspectives on Transformation. Reviewed 172 papers and panel proposals for organizing the African Studies Association's 52nd Annual Meeting in November 2009.

Reviewer of articles submitted to the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Africa Today*, *Politique Africaine*, *Africa Spectrum* (German Institute of African Affairs), *Current Anthropology*

Initiator of a UW-Madison/Northwestern University Annual Graduate Students and Faculty Workshop, held since 2005 annually with the African History Program at Northwestern University. The workshop is now co-organized by Neil Kodesh and Jim Sweet.

Sponsored an exchange program for graduate students between UW-Madison, Basel University, and signed a memorandum of agreement between the two programs in African Studies (2006). Currently working on furthering the exchange with the University of Witwatersrand/WISER (South Africa)

Member of the International Research Group [GDRI: Groupement de recherche international] organized by Laurent Fourchard and Simon Bekker, and sponsored by the CNRS on *Governing the City*

Review letters for the tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in African History of Prof. Charles Didier Gondola, University of Indiana-Indianapolis (2002), Prof. Carolyn Elkins, Harvard University (2005), Prof. Marissa Moorman, Indiana University-Bloomington (2009)

Letter of comparative evaluation of Prof. Mahmood Mamdani for tenure as full professor of

African Politics, Harvard University (2005)

Solicited by the chancellor of the University Omar Bongo (Libreville, Gabon) to conduct an evaluation of the research programs in social sciences and the humanities, and to write an extensive report on the resulting consultation, Summer 2002.

Serving as Expert and Writing of Expert Affidavits for Congolese refugees presenting a Request for Asylum and Withholding of Removal to Immigration Courts in the US, 1997-present.