

# Brian J. Yates

St. Joseph's University  
Department of History  
Barbellin Hall 112-Q

5600 City Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19131  
610-660-3353 (office)  
byates@sju.edu

## EDUCATION:

Ph.D., History, **University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign**, Champaign, IL, 2009

- ◆ Dissertation "Invisible Actors: The Oromo and the Creation of Modern Ethiopia"

BA, **Morehouse College** Atlanta, GA, History, 2002

- ◆ Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

## PUBLISHED WORK:

The Oromo of Ethiopia *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History* ARTICLE  
(forthcoming)

Ethiopia and Ethiopians in Philadelphia *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* ARTICLE  
(forthcoming)

"Too Close for Comfort: The Struggles of the Oromo Studies  
for the Oromo and African centered studies for Africa." ARTICLE  
(forthcoming, *International Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, XI, no. 2)

Yates, B. J. (2022). Coloring Ethiopia?: Western Utilization of Colorism in Presentations of  
Ethiopia During the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. *Journal of Colorism Studies*, Vol. 4:1  
ARTICLE

"Does Adwa have a Colonial Legacy? Assessing the viability of the Colonial Thesis for  
Understanding Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Ethiopia"  
*Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities (EJOSSAH)*:  
V. 17, No. 1- Special Issue ( 2022) ARTICLE

*The Other Abyssinians: The Northern Oromo and the Creation of Modern Ethiopia*.  
Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 2020. BOOK

"Ethiopian Categories, British Definitions: British Discovery of Ethiopian  
Identities from the Nineteenth Century to the First Decade of the  
Twentieth Century." *Northeast African Studies*, 17:2(2019) ARTICLE

Paneling Blackness: of *FIRE!!!: A Multimedia Journal of Black Studies*,  
vol. 4:2 (2018) EDITOR

- “Introduction” Paneling Blackness: A special volume of *FIRE!!!: A Multimedia Journal of Black Studies* vol. 4:2 (2018) ARTICLE
- “Ethnicity as a Hindrance for Understanding Ethiopian History: An argument Against an Ethnic Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.” *History in Africa*, vol. 44 (2017) ARTICLE
- “From hated to Häbasha: Oromo identity shifts in Wällo and Shäwa during the late nineteenth century” *African Identities* vol. 15:2 (2016) ARTICLE
- “21<sup>st</sup> Century Race Man: Reginald Hudlin’s *Black Panther*” Article *FIRE!!!: A Multimedia Journal of Black Studies* vol.3, no. 2(2016) ARTICLE
- “Christian Patriot or Oromo Traitor?: The Ethiopian State in the Memories of Ras Gobäna Dach’ë” *Northeast African Studies* vol. 13:2 (2013) ARTICLE
- “From White Males to Black Females: Understanding the National Bodies of Ethiopia (1896-1936)” *Journal of Black Studies* vol. 44:1 (2013) ARTICLE
- “Acculturation in the Däga: Local Negotiations in Amhara/Oromo Relations” *International Journal of Ethiopian Studies* vol. 5:2 (2011) ARTICLE
- “Invisible Matter: ‘Galla’ in the European and Ethiopian Imagination” *Journal of Oromo Studies* vol. 16: 2 (2009) ARTICLE
- “Review of Shell’s *Children of Hope*” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* (forthcoming) BOOK REVIEW
- “Review of Mohammed Hassen’s *The Oromo & the Christian Kingdom of Ethiopia 1300-1700*” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 49:1 (2016) BOOK REVIEW
- “Review of *A History of the Hadiyya of Southern Ethiopia*, by Ulrich Braukämper” *Northeast African Studies* 12:2 (2014) BOOK REVIEW
- “Review of *Reminiscences of My Life*, by Emmanuel Abraham” *Northeast African Studies* 12:1 (2012) BOOK REVIEW

## **PAPERS PRESENTED**

“Understanding the Ethnic tensions in 2020s Ethiopia, Lessons from the 19th century”  
62nd Annual Meeting  
African Studies Association  
Philadelphia, PA

November 17-19, 2022

“Does Adwa have a Colonial Legacy? Assessing the viability of the Colonial Thesis for Understanding Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Ethiopia”  
2021 Adwa 125<sup>th</sup> Conference, Addis Ababa

“The Black Panther and the Teaching of African Political History”  
The Africa Network: Decolonizing the Classroom  
Smith College, Northhampton, MA  
September 27-29, 2019

“Native Tribes in Menilek’s Ethiopia? Assessing the viability of the Colonial lens for Understanding Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Ethiopia”  
62nd Annual Meeting  
Being, Belonging and Becoming in Africa  
Boston, MA  
Thursday, November 21 – 23, 2019

“The World of Wakanda and African Studies”  
61st Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association  
Energies: Power, Creativity and Afro-Futures  
Atlanta, GA  
November 29 – December 1, 2018

“Popular Culture and African Studies”  
30 Years Later: Afrocentric Scholarship In Praxis At The Cheikh Anta Diop Conference  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Cheik Anta Diop International Conference  
October 12 -13, October 2018

“The Global Nature of Ethiopian Colorism”  
Greater New York African Studies Conference, African World Histories and the Modern World  
The CUNY Graduate Center  
New York, New York  
April 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

“Creating Colorism in Ethiopian Society” at the 28th Annual Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference in Philadelphia - Channeling Classical African Wisdom as a Response to Contemporary Challenges  
Philadelphia, PA  
October 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016

“Too Close for Comfort: Too Close for Comfort: The Struggles of the Oromo Studies for the Oromo and African centered studies for Africa” at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Knowledge, Collective Consciousness & Transformation of Oromo Politics: *Peace, Governance & Development in the Horn*  
Washington DC, July 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 2016

“Ethiopia, The League of Nations and Justice” The UN and the Horn of Africa, St Joseph’s University, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2016

“British Fillings in the Ethiopian *Dabbo*: 19<sup>th</sup> century British Understandings of Ethiopian Identities.” Greater New York African Studies Conference, Drexel University, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

“Martin Luther King: Africa, Religion and Employment”  
MLK Week Celebration St. Joseph’s University  
January 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

“Ethiopian Identities from the Outside: Preliminary notes from the British Foreign Archives.”  
African Studies Association 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, San Diego  
November 2015

“Ethiopianisms from within? Understanding the role of Pan-Ethiopian culture in the making of the modern state.”  
19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethiopian Studies (ICES) "Ethiopia - Diversity and Interconnections through Space and Time"  
Warsaw, Poland  
24-28 August, 2015

“Ethnicity as a Hindrance for Understanding Ethiopian History: An Argument against an Ethnic 19<sup>th</sup> Century.”  
March 2015  
SERSAS/SEAN Conference

“From Hated to Hābāsha: Shāwan and Wälloye Oromo Identity Shifts in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century”  
St. Joseph’s University Writing group.  
November 2013

“Ethnicity as a Hindrance for Understanding Ethiopian History: An Argument against an Ethnic 19<sup>th</sup> Century.”  
November 2013  
African Studies Association 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Baltimore, MA

“21<sup>st</sup> Century Race Man: Reginald Hudlin’s Black Panther”  
October 2013  
The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Cheik Anta Diop Conference: Afrocentricity and Hip-Hop, Philadelphia, PA

“Ethnicity as a Hindrance for Understanding Ethiopian History: Preliminary Notes from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.”  
April 2013  
New York African Studies Association 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Binghamton, NY

“Christian Patriot or Oromo Traitor?: The Ethiopian State in the Memories of Ras Gobäna Dach’ë”

November 2012

African Studies Association 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA

“From White Males to Black Females: Understanding the National Bodies of Ethiopia (1896-1936)

February 2012

Faculty Research Forum, School of Liberal Arts, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY

“What about the Häbäsha Oromo?: Liberating Northern Oromo Experience from Competing Nationalisms”

November 2011

African Studies Association 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Washington D.C.

“From Hated to Häbäsha: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Northern Oromo Identity”

November 2010

African Studies Association 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

“Acculturation in the Däga”

March 2010

SERAS/SEAN Conference, Chapel Hill, NC

“From Christian Africans to African Christians: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ethiopian National Identity,”

November, 2005

African Studies Association 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Washington DC

“From White Males to Black Females: Understanding the National Bodies of Ethiopia (1896-1936),” February, 2003

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign Africa-in-Academics Student Association 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Conference: Global Africa Challenging Borders, Champaign, IL

“Akan Ethics: The Roots and Rationale,” March, 2001

Southern Conference of African American Studies Incorporated Conference, Savannah, GA

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

“Ethiopianisms from within? Understanding the role of Pan-Ethiopian culture in the making of the modern state.” (under review in *Proceedings of 19th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies (ICES) "Ethiopia - Diversity and Interconnections through Space and Time" 24-28 August, 2015*)

*Warsaw, Poland*

ARTICLE

The Rican in AmeRican: American Identities in Edwin Torres’ *Carlito’s Way* and *After Hours* (under review at *Centro*)

Abandoning her nature as a woman: T'aytu and the Paths for Empowerment for Ethiopian Women (under review at *Meridian*)

ARTICLE

Living Black: The Impact of African immigrations to America on Black Diapora Identity  
BOOK

### **ACADEMIC/RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Modern Ethiopian History, Ethiopian political history, Race/Ethnicity, African American History, African History, African and African American Relations

### **FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS/AWARDS**

Faculty Research Award, Saint Joseph's University (2017)

Faculty Research Grant, Saint Joseph's University (2015)

Travel Grant, Marist College (2013)

Travel Grant, Marist College (2012)

Travel Grant, Marist College (2011)

Powers Travel Grant, Oberlin College (2010)

Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Oberlin College (2009-2011)

SSRC Dissertation Completion Grant, (2008-9)

University of Illinois Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2007-8)

Mellon Mays Research Grant (2005 and 2006)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship Academic Year, University of Illinois (2004-5)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, University of Illinois (Summers 2004)

Graduate College Under-Represented Students Fellowship, University of Illinois (2003-4)

Competitive Doctoral Enrichment Fellowship 4 year Fellowship at Michigan State University (2002 – 3)

United Negro College Fund Mellon Fellow, Morehouse College (2001-2)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Associate Professor of History, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA  
Fall 2019 – Present

### Courses:

- ◆ Historical Introduction to Modern Africa
- ◆ Inequality 101
- ◆ African Ethnicities (Ethics Intensive)
- ◆ Forging the Modern World
- ◆ Philosophy and Religion in Africa Communities (Faith Reason Course)
- ◆ Race and Sport in American Society (First Year Seminar)

Assistant Professor of History, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA  
Fall 2013 – Spring 2019

### Courses:

- ◆ Historical Introduction to Modern Africa
- ◆ African Diaspora Identities
- ◆ African Ethnicities (Ethics Intensive)
- ◆ Forging the Modern World
- ◆ Historical Introduction to Pre-Modern Africa
- ◆ Philosophy and Religion in Africa Communities (Faith Reason Course)
- ◆ Race and Sport in American Society (First Year Seminar)

Assistant Professor of History, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Fall 2011-Spring 2013

### Courses:

- ◆ African History from 1800
- ◆ African Ethnicities
- ◆ Modern Themes in History
- ◆ African American History
- ◆ African History until 1800
- ◆ Modern African History (Study Abroad in Ghana)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH  
Fall 2010-Spring 2011

### Courses:

- ◆ Modern African History
- ◆ African Ethnicities
- ◆ Pre-Modern African History
- ◆ African Diaspora Identities

## **COLLEGE SERVICE**

GDNW Chair 2021-2022

Hearing Committee 2020-

Honorary Degree Committee 2021-

Faith Reason Subcommittee – 2018-

Faculty Senate Executive Committee 2017-19, 21-22

Canvas Ambassador 2017-

Advisor, African Student Group 2016-

MLK Week subcommittee St. Joseph's University 2015-7

Diversity sub-Committee 2015-18

Library Liaison Department of History St. Joseph's University 2014-

Mellon Mays Mentor, 2014--

Director, African and African American Studies Program, Marist College, Fall 2011-Spring 2013

## **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL**

London, The National Archives in Kew, 2015

Poland, *International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, 2015

Accra, Ghana: Institute of African Studies, 2012

Addis Abba, Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University and the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, 2007-8

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University and the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, 2004

Legon, Ghana: University of Ghana, 2000

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

*Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* – external reviewer

*Journal of Contemporary African Studies* – external reviewer

*African Identities* – external reviewer

*Journal of Black Studies* – external reviewer



*African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review* – external reviewer

*History in Africa* – external reviewer

*Journal of World History* - – external reviewer

*Journal of Military History* – external reviewer

*International Journal of African Historical Studies* – external reviewer

James Currey Press – external reviewer

Oxford University Press – Race/Ethnicity Series external reviewer

Institute of Ethiopian Studies

Phi Beta Kappa Society

African Studies Association

Phi Alpha Theta Society

## **LANGUAGE ABILITIES/ SKILLS**

English - Native

Amharic - Reading and Writing Proficiency

French – Reading Proficiency

Tigrinya - Basic Level

Italian – Reading Proficiency