

EMILY HARDICK

Department of History, The Ohio State University, 230 Annie and John Glenn Ave, Columbus, OH 43210, +1 (512) 963-2188 • hardick.2@osu.edu

Education

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Ph.D., African History, anticipated May 2026

Dissertation: **Choreographing (Im)mobility: Touring Performance and the Cultural Politics of Movement in the Congo**

Major Field: African History

Minor Fields: Comparative Colonial History, Dance History

Advisor: Sarah Van Beurden

Committee: Sarah Van Beurden, Alice Conklin, Thomas McDow, Pedro Monaville (McGill)

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

M.A., History, May 2021

Thesis: **Conspicuous Collectors: European Presence and Congolese Objects in Johannesburg, 1992 and 2019**

Major Field: African History

Minor Field: European History

Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas

B.A., History and French, 2017

Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, departmental honors

Thesis: Where is the Spirit of Africa? Regional Context on the Radio Program “Africa Abroad”

Publications

“‘Our Explored Become Explorers’: Subversive Performance and Belgian Colonial Control in the Productions of Adolphe Kisimba (1958-9),” (Forthcoming in *The Journal of African History*)

“Book Review of Monaville, Pedro. 2022. *Students of the World: Global 1968 and Decolonization in the Congo*,” *Africa Today*, Vol. 70, no. 3 (Spring 2023).

“Review: African Performance Arts and Political Acts, ed. Naomi André,” *African Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 21, no. 3 (November 2022).

Major Fellowships and Grants

Belgian American Educational Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2022
Research in Belgium, affiliated with Ghent University	

Fulbright IIE Belgium Student Program Research Award	2021-22
Research in Belgium, affiliated with Ghent University	

Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, Swahili	2021
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Wolof (declined)	2018-19

Fellowships, Awards and Honors

Dean's Distinguished University Fellowship, The Ohio State University	2018-2024
OSU Graduate School Alumni Grant for Graduate Research and Scholarship	2020
OSU Mershon Center for International Security Studies	2018-19
Graduate Research Grant	
OSU History Departmental Research Awards	2018-2024
OSU Office of International Affairs International Research Grant	2018
OSU Phyllis Krumm Memorial International Scholarship	2018
Fulbright US/UK Summer Institute Scholarship	2015

Courses Taught

The Ohio State University

As Instructor of Record

The World since 1914 (HIST 2650)

History of Modern Africa, 1800 - 1960s (HIST/AAAS 2302)

As Teaching Assistant

Wars of Empire and Decolonization, Dr. Lydia Walker (HIST 3590)

Europe and the Modern World, Online, Dr. Elizabeth Bond (HIST 1212)

History 1212: European History II, Online, Dr. Sarah Douglas (HIST 1212)

HIV: From Microbiology to Macrohistory, Dr. Thomas McDow and Dr. Jesse Kwiek
(History/Microbiology 3704)

Western Civilization, Online, Dr. Sarah Douglas (HIST 1212)

Languages

French – Fluent Reading, Advanced Writing, Listening and Speaking Proficiency

Dutch – Intermediate Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking Proficiency

Swahili – Intermediate Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking Proficiency

Lingala – Beginning Listening and Speaking

Public Scholarship/Humanities

Historical Researcher, [TRACER Artistic Research Collective](#)

With Sarah Van Lamsweerde, Anne Wetsi Mpoma, Emmanuelle Nsunda, Nizar Saleh, Esther Mugambi, Raoul Carrer.

Residencies and showings at: Enough Room for Space Independent Art Initiative (Brussels, 2022), Wetsi Art Gallery (Brussels, 2023), Kunsthalle Mainz (Mainz, Germany, as part of "Unextractable: Sammy Baloji Invites," 2024), and Atelier Picha (Lubumbashi, DRC, as part of the Lubumbashi Biennale, 2025).

Supported by the Flemish Government Arts Decree. Information on first residencies [here](#) and 2023 feature in *Bruzz* Magazine [here](#).

“[Congolese Rumba: Soundtrack to African Political Struggle Past and Present](#).” *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, The Year of Africa, 13, no. 15 (December 2020). [Available online in video format](#).

“[The Tender Letters Project](#).” Center for Folklore Studies, Ohio Field Schools Initiative, 2019.

“[James Ensor’s Colonial Connection](#),” Fulbright Belgium Blog, September 7, 2022.

Service and Professional Activities

Departmental/University

History Department Chair Search Committee, OSU	2025-2026
Graduate Student Member, Committee on Academic Misconduct, OSU	2024-present
Fulbright Campus Committee Evaluation Reviewer, OSU	2025
Student Mentor, Undergraduate Summer Fellowship Workshop, OSU	2024

Professional

Participant, “Other/Alternative: Monsters As a Way to Understand Ourselves,” Workshop with Dunia Dance Theater, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium	2022
Universeum Conference Pre-conference Workshop Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium	2022
Archives and Serials Volunteer Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas, Austin	2018
Exhibits Research Intern Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin, TX	2017

Invited Talks

“Changwe Yetu and Mwenze Kibwanga: Historical Background and Contemporary Resonances,” lecture and aftertalk, 12-13 October, 2023, Tracer Exhibition at Wetsi Art Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.

“Colonial History and Dance Studies Methodologies: Touring Troupes in the Belgian Congo (1908-1960),” invited guest lecture, 16 February 2023, Barnard College, New York City, NY.

“Soirées de Belgique to Spectacles Populaires: Shifting Publics, Subsidized Theater, and Late Colonial Politics in the Belgian Congo, 1949-1960,” invited guest lecture, 9 November 2022 Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium.

Selected Conference Presentations

“Ana Kamatwa: The Union Congolaise, Exotic Revues, and Captive Audiences in Interwar Belgium,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, 21 November 2025, Atlanta GA.

“Experimental Theater, International Collaboration, and the Spatial Imaginary of Mobutu's Zairian

Authenticité Campaign,” OSU Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 17 March, 2025, Columbus, OH.

“Pan-African Festivals, Experimental Theater, and the Creation of an “Authentic” National Ballet of Zaire, 1972-1975,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, 12 December, 2024, Chicago, IL.

“The Congolese National Folkloric Ballet, Cultural Diplomacy, and Neocolonial Collaboration, 1960-1966,” OSU Center for African Studies Africa @ Noon Series, 16 April 2024, OSU, Columbus, OH.

“Global, African, Congolese: Cultural Diplomacy and Neocolonial Collaboration in the Making of a Congolese National Ballet, 1964-1967,” Congo Research Network PhD Days, 8 December 2023, AfricaMuseum, Tervuren, Belgium.

“Congolese Objects and Curatorial Placemaking in the Wits Art Museum’s ‘Burton Collection,’ 1931-2019,” African Studies Association of Africa Biennial Conference, 26 October 2023, Centre Arrupe pour la Recherche et Formation, Lubumbashi, DRC.

“Staging the ‘Belgo-Congolese Community’ in Changwe Yetu and Mu Kongo – Mu Belgique (1956-1959),” Rethinking ‘Late Colonialisms’ in Africa Conference, 14-16 September 2022 (virtual).

“Soirées de Belgique to Spectacles Populaires: Shifting Publics, Subsidized Theater, and Late Colonial Politics in the Belgian Congo, 1949-1960,” Fulbright IIE Belgium U.S. Grantee Mid-Year Meeting, 4 February 2022, Brussels, Belgium.

“Le Grand Spectacle Changwe Yetu: State-Sponsored Performance, International Tours, and Articulations of National Culture in Congo,” African Studies Association 63rd Annual Meeting, November 2020, (virtual).

“Conspicuous Collectors; European Presence and Congolese Objects in Johannesburg, 1992 and 2019,” Rice University History Department Graduate Student Conference, February 2020, Rice University, Houston, TX.

Affiliations

African Studies Association
French Colonial History Society
Dance Studies Association
American Society for Theatre Research
Central African Studies Association
Congo Research Network

Research and Teaching Interests

19th and 20th Century African History, Central Africa, Francophone Africa, History of Belgium and the Low Countries, Comparative Colonial History, World History, Decolonization, Performance Studies, Mobility Studies, African Studies, Public History/Humanities

References

Dr. Sarah Van Beurden
Associate Professor of History and African American and African Studies
The Ohio State University
vanbeurden.2@osu.edu
614-688-4266

Dr. Alice Conklin
Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of History
The Ohio State University
conklin.44@osu.edu
614-292-6325

Dr. Thomas McDow
Associate Professor of History
The Ohio State University
mcdow.4@osu.edu
614-292-6722

Dr. Pedro Monaville
Associate Professor of History
McGill University
pedro.monaville@mcgill.ca

Dr. Lydia Walker
Assistant Professor and Myers Chair in Global Military History
The Ohio State University
walker.1380@osu.edu