

Stanford



Joel Cabrita

Associate Professor of History and, by courtesy, of Religious Studies and of African and African American Studies

Bio

BIO

Joel Cabrita is a historian of modern Southern Africa who focuses on Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and South Africa. She examines the transnational networks of the Southern African region including those which connect Southern Africans to the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. Her most recent book (*The People's Zion: Southern Africa, the United States and a Transatlantic Faith-Healing Movement*, Harvard University Press, 2018) investigates the convergence of evangelical piety, transnational networks and the rise of industrialized societies in both Southern Africa and North America. The *People's Zion* was awarded the American Society of Church History's Albert C Outler Prize for 2019 <https://churchhistory.org/grants-and-awards/> She is also the co-editor of a volume examining the global dimensions of Christian practice, advocating for a shift away from Western Christianity to the lateral connections connecting southern hemisphere religious practitioners (*Relocating World Christianity*, Brill, 2017).

Cabrita has a long-standing interest in how Southern Africans used and transformed a range of old and new media forms. Her first book (*Text and Authority in the South African Nazaretha Church*, Cambridge University Press, 2014) investigates the print culture of a large South African religious organization, while her edited collection (*Religion, Media and Marginality in Africa*, Ohio University Press, 2018) focuses on the intersection of media, Islam, Christianity and political expression in modern Africa.

Her current project (under contract with Ohio University Press) is the biography of a pioneering African feminist, Christian Pentecostal pioneer and liberation leader, Regina Gelana Twala (1908 – 1968), who co-founded Swaziland's first political party in 1960 and introduced the Assemblies of God denomination to the region. Celebrated during her lifetime, Twala's remarkable story is today largely forgotten, in part a consequence of her untimely death in 1968, one month before Swaziland's independence. Cabrita's project considers the radically new perspective a figure such as Twala affords on the contribution of women to Africa's anti-colonial liberation movements and to evangelical history. The book will probe the politics of memory whereby certain African nationalist and religious icons have been erased from the historical record.

Cabrita did her PhD at the University of Cambridge and was subsequently a Junior Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. Before moving to Stanford, she held permanent posts at SOAS (University of London) and the University of Cambridge. Her research has been recognized by two major early-career research prizes, the British Arts and Humanities Early Career Research Fellowship (2015) and the Philip Leverhulme Prize (2017).

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, History
- Associate Professor (By courtesy), Religious Studies
- Associate Professor (By courtesy), African and African American Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D, University of Cambridge

Teaching

COURSES

2023-24

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Curating the Image: African Photography and the Politics of Exhibitions: HISTORY 248C, HISTORY 348C (Aut)
- Introduction to African Studies II: Who Owns the Past? African Museum Collections in the Bay Area: AFRICAAM 246, HISTORY 245, HUMCORE 136 (Win)
- PRACTICAL TRAINING: INTNLREL 189 (Sum)

2022-23

- PRACTICAL TRAINING: INTNLREL 189 (Sum)
- Research Seminar in African History: HISTORY 445B (Sum)
- Show and Tell: Creating Provenance Histories of African Art: AFRICAAM 46N, AFRICAST 46N, HISTORY 46N (Spr)

2021-22

- Doing Religious History: AFRICAAM 200P, AFRICAST 200, HISTORY 200P, RELIGST 210X (Win)
- PRACTICAL TRAINING: INTNLREL 189 (Sum)

2020-21

- Africa in the 20th Century: AFRICAAM 145B, HISTORY 145B (Spr)
- Africa in the 20th Century: HISTORY 45B (Spr)
- Religion, Radicalization and Media in Africa since 1945: AFRICAST 248, AFRICAST 348, HISTORY 248, HISTORY 348, RELIGST 230X, RELIGST 330X (Spr)
- Visible Bodies: Black Female Authors and the Politics of Publishing in Africa: AFRICAAM 140N, AFRICAST 51N, ENGLISH 54N, HISTORY 41N (Win)
- Women and Autobiography in African History: HISTORY 346F (Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Gloria Chikaonda, Ozgul Ozdemir

Orals Evaluator

Kyle Harmse, Ozgul Ozdemir, Adele Stock

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Caryce Tirop

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Janice Ndegwa, Adele Stock, Wallace Teska

Doctoral (Program)

Mathew Ayodele, Wallace Teska, Caryce Tirop

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Writing Apartheid: Ethnographic Collaborators and the Politics of Knowledge Production in Twentieth- Century South Africa** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
Cabrita, J.
2020; 125 (5): 1668–98
- **Faith, Power and Family: Christianity and Social Change in French Cameroon (Book Review)** *STUDIES IN WORLD CHRISTIANITY*
Book Review Authored by: Cabrita, J.
2020; 26 (2): 204–6