

Steven Press

Curriculum vitae

Department of History
450 Serra Mall, Building 200
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2024
(404) 245-6186 / smpress@stanford.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Stanford University, September 2016 - Present
Research Assistant Professor, Department of History, Vanderbilt University, 2015-2016
Lecturer and College Fellow, Department of History, Harvard University, 2014-2015

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Harvard University, 2014

B.A., History, English, German, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, 2006
Highest Honors, *Summa cum laude*

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

Blood and Diamonds: Germany's Imperial Ambitions in Africa. Forthcoming with Harvard University Press in April 2021.

Rogue Empires: Contracts and Conmen in Europe's Scramble for Africa (Harvard University Press, 2017).

- Recipient of 2018 American Historical Association Pacific Branch Award for "Best First Book on Any Historical Subject."

- A *CHOICE* Book of the Month, August 2017. Reviewed in *Foreign Affairs*, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Journal of African History*, *Business History Review*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Jus Gentium*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *CHOICE*, *Journal of World History*, *African Studies Quarterly*. Mentioned in *Financial Times*, *Diplomatic History*.

ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS:

“Sovereignty at Guantánamo: New Evidence and a Comparative Historical Interpretation,” *Journal of Modern History* 80 (September 2013): 592-631.

“False Fire: The Wartburg Book-Burning of 1817,” *Central European History* 42 (December 2009): 621-646.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

“Sovereignty and Diamonds in Southern Africa, 1908-1920,” *Duke Journal of Comparative & International Law* 28:3 (2018), 473-481.

“Sovereignty can be bought and sold like a commodity,” *Aeon*, January 2nd, 2017.

“Honduran Model-Cities: A Historical Perspective,” *Centerpiece: Newsletter of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University* 27:1 (2012), 5-15.

“To Govern, or Not to Govern: Prussia, Neutral Moresnet,” *Social Science Research Network*, 1-23 (2011).

BOOK REVIEWS:

“Erik Grimmer-Solem, *Learning Empire*,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, forthcoming late 2020.

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Annenberg Faculty Fellowship, Stanford University, 2020-2022

American Historical Association - Pacific Coast Branch Book Award, 2018

Seed Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Developing Economies Research

Grant, Stanford Graduate School of Business, 2017-2018

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Vanderbilt University, 2015-2016

College Fellowship in History, Harvard University, 2014-2015

Dissertation Fellowship, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2013-2014

Global History Fellowship, Initiative in Global History, Harvard University, 2012-2013

Research Fellowship, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University, 2011-2012

Samuels Family Research Fellowship, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2011-2012

Mellon Fellowship for Research Relating to League of Nations, Columbia University, 2011

Krupp Foundation Research Fellowship, Harvard University, 2010-2011

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Research Fellowship, 2007

INVITED TALKS AND COMMENTS

“Revisiting the Economics of German Overseas Imperialism, 1884-1918,” Institute for European Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA, February 18th, 2020. Invited presentation.

“Capitalism and German Imperialism before World War I: A Reassessment,” Business History Seminar, Harvard Business School, and Weatherhead Initiative for Global History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, November 25th, 2019. Invited presentation.

“German History and the World,” A Conference in Honor of David Blackbourn, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, November 9th, 2019. Invited presentation.

“Sovereignty and the German Colonial Empire, 1884-1918,” Conference on the Politics of Sovereignty and Globalism in Modern Germany, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C., March 22nd, 2019. Invited presentation.

“Blood and Diamonds: Germany’s Imperial Illusions,” German Studies Lecture Series, Stanford University Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, March 5th, 2019. Invited presentation.

“Critical Issues in Global Affairs,” Global Studies Division, Stanford University, January 22nd, 2019. Guest lecture.

“Blood and Diamonds,” Historical Conversations Series, Stanford University History Department, November 28th, 2018. Invited presentation.

“New Directions in Modern German History,” Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, November 17th, 2018. Invited presentation.

“What Is International History Now?,” Laureate Research Program in International History, University of Sydney, Australia, July 26th, 2018. Invited presentation.

“Privatization - A Concept in Dispute,” Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Tel-Aviv University, Israel, June 10th, 2018. Invited presentation.

“Boundaries of the International: Law and Empire,” Political Theory Workshop, Stanford University Political Science Department, May 25th, 2018. Invited comment.

“The First World War,” Structured Liberal Education Program, Stanford University, May

3rd, 2018. Guest lecture.

“Neutral Moresnet,” Junior Faculty Reading Group, Stanford University History Department, March 13th, 2018. Invited presentation.

“Namibian History,” Desert Biogeography of Namibia Seminar, Stanford University School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences, February 26th, 2018. Guest lecture.

“Critical Issues in Global Affairs,” Global Studies Division, Stanford University, January 16th, 2018. Guest lecture.

“Corporate Rights and International Law: Past, Present and Future,” Center for International and Comparative Law, Duke University, Durham, NC, November 17th, 2017. Invited presentation.

“Colonial Africa and the Diamond Trade,” Center for African Studies, Stanford University, October 25th, 2017. Invited presentation.

“New Thoughts on the Scramble for Africa,” Barry Ruderman Conference on Cartography, Rumsey Map Center, Stanford University, October 21st, 2017. Invited presentation.

“Blood and Diamonds: Europe and Southwest Africa, 1908-1918,” Embedding Cultural Brokers: Institutionalization and Impact in the Arts, Sciences and Economy, Universität Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany July 6th, 2017. Invited presentation.

“Value Added: Understanding German Southwest Africa’s Diamonds, 1908-1910,” European History Workshop, Stanford University, April 26th, 2017. Invited presentation.

“Rogue Empires,” A Company of Authors, Stanford Humanities Center, April 22nd, 2017. Invited presentation.

“Diamonds, Sovereignty, and Indigenous Labor in German Southwest Africa, 1883-1918,” African Social History Workshop, Stanford University, March 8th, 2017. Invited presentation.

“Diamonds, Sovereignty, and the Politics of Protection in Southwest Africa, 1883-1918,” Protection and Empire: A workshop at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, co-sponsored by Harvard University, Vanderbilt University, and Monash University, April 2nd, 2016. Invited presentation.

“Neutral Moresnet: Or, A Problem of Statelessness, 1814-1914” Vanderbilt University Department of History, Nashville, TN, January 21st, 2016. Invited presentation.

“A Market in Sovereignty: Europe and the Scramble for Africa,” Stanford University Department of History, Palo Alto, CA, November 18th, 2015. Invited presentation.

“The Market in State Jurisdiction: Its Past and Present,” Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Cambridge, MA, March 7th, 2014. Invited presentation.

“The Private State: A New Perspective on the European Partition of Africa,” Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Cambridge, MA, May 6th, 2013. Invited presentation.

“Sovereignty at Guantánamo: New Evidence and a Comparative Historical Interpretation,” Georgetown University, Mortara Center for International Studies, Washington, D.C., January 17th, 2013. Invited presentation.

“The Men Who Would Be King,” Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Cambridge, MA, September 25th, 2012. Invited presentation.

“Sovereignty at Guantánamo: New Evidence and a Historical Interpretation,” Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Cambridge, MA December 7th, 2011. Invited presentation.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANELS

“Administering Space and Time in the Long Nineteenth Century,” German Studies Association Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, September 27th-30th, 2018. Invited Comment.

“Transitions: States and Empires in the Longue Durée,” Con-IH (Harvard University Conference on International History), Cambridge, MA, March 13th, 2015. Invited Comment.

“The Price of Sovereignty in the Era of New Imperialism.” German Studies Association Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 6th, 2012.

“Sovereignty as a Commodity in Modern History,” Harvard History Department Prospectus Conference, January 21st, 2011.

TEACHING WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited speaker, “Job Market Orientation,” Graduate Student Workshop, Department of History, Stanford University, October 3rd, 2019.

Invited speaker, “Navigating The Academic Job Market,” Graduate Student Workshop, Department of History, Stanford University, November 7, 2018.

Invited speaker, “The Academic Job Market,” Graduate Student Workshop, Department of History, Stanford University, October 5, 2017.

Invited speaker, “The Graduate Job Market,” Graduate Student Workshop, Department of History, Stanford University, October 5, 2016.

COURSES TAUGHT**STANFORD:**

- History 9N: How to Start Your Own Country: Sovereignty and State-Formation in Modern History (Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Winter 2020)
 History 37D: Germany's Wars and the World (Winter 2019, Spring 2020)
 History 131G: From Oil to Opium: Commodities and Consumption in European and Global History, 1800-present (Spring 2018)
 History 238J: The European Scramble for Africa: Origins and Debates (Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Winter 2020)
 History 331B: Core Colloquium on Modern Europe: The 19th Century (Winter 2017, Winter 2019)
 History 331B: Core Colloquium on Modern Europe: The 20th Century (Winter 2017, Spring 2020)
 History 433A: Graduate Research Seminar in Modern Europe (Winter 2018)
 History 433B: Graduate Research Seminar in Modern Europe (Spring 2018)

VANDERBILT:

- History 2270: Nineteenth-Century Europe (Spring 2016)

HARVARD:

- History 60L: The European Scramble for Africa (Spring 2015)
 History 60M: Histories of Sovereignty and State Formation (Spring 2015)
 History 1015: European and American Empires in the Nineteenth Century (Fall 2014)

ADVISING**UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING:**

- Jake Haan, History ('20)
 Anatole Schneider, History ('20)
 Chapman Caddell, History ('20)
 Ani Prabhu, History ('20)
 Justin Daniels, CDDRL ('20)
 Brian Grenadier, History ('22)
 Salon Sanwalka, History ('22)
 Taiwo Odunowo, History ('22)

GRADUATE ADVISING:*Dissertation Committee Member:*

Ian Beacock

Osei Boakye
 Kristo Nurmis
 Brooke Durham
 Matthew Wormer

Exam Committee Member:

Matthew Wormer
 Brooke Durham
 Ian Crookston
 Nathaniel Hay
 Matthew Signer

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Media consultation: *Aeon, Stanford Report, Toynebee Prize Foundation, Radiolab*

STANFORD UNIVERSITY:

Member, Faculty Appointments Committee, Department of History, 2017-2019
 Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of History, 2018-Present
 Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of History, 2016-2018, 2019-2020
 Member, Modern Africa Search Committee, Department of History, 2017-18
 Member, Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities Search Committee, 2017-18
 Coordinator, Junior Faculty Reading Group, Department of History, 2017-Present
 Chair, Modern European History Graduate Admissions, 2018-19
 Chair, Transnational, International, and Global History Graduate Admissions, 2018-19
 Faculty Sponsor, Humanities Center's Approaches to Capitalism Workshop, 2016-2018

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Germany (Berlin, Koblenz, Frankfurt, Freiburg, Hamburg, Bremen, Munich, Weimar), 2006-Present; Belgium (Brussels, Tervuren), 2010-Present; Britain (Kew, London, Oxford, Cambridge), 2010-Present; France (Paris, Aix-en-Provence, Nice), 2014-Present; Austria (Vienna), 2007-Present; Namibia (Windhoek), 2010-Present; South Africa (Johannesburg, Pretoria), 2010-Present; United States (Boston, Claremont, Washington, D.C.), 2009-Present; People's Republic of China (Qingdao), 2013; Hong Kong, 2013; Switzerland (Geneva), 2017.

LANGUAGES

English (native), German (near-native), French (advanced reading)

PROFESSIONAL REFEREEING

European Research Council (Brussels)
Institute of European History (Leibniz)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
German Studies Association
Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction
Stanford Law School
Stanford Center for African Studies
Freeman Spogli Institute