

HELEN TILLEY

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

2012 - now Associate Professor, History Department, Northwestern University
2021 - now Associate Professor, Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern University (by courtesy)
2024 - now Associate Professor, Anthropology Department, Northwestern University (by courtesy)

LEADERSHIP AND EDITORIAL POSTS

2020 - now Editorial Board, *Journal of the History of Knowledge*
2020 - now Editorial Board, *History of Science*
2016 - 2021 Founder and Editor, Global Medical Cultures and Law Program, Northwestern
2016 - 2019 Faculty Fellow, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern
2014 - 2018 Director, Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern
2014 - 2019 Advisory Board, Program in Environmental Policy and Culture
2012 - 2017 Executive Board, Program in African Studies, co-author of Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2020
2012 - now Editorial Board, *Méthod(e)s*, CODESRIA (Senegal)

EDUCATION

1997 - 2002 Ph.D., University of Oxford, African and Commonwealth History and Medical Anthropology
Title: "Africa as a 'Living Laboratory' - The African Research Survey & the British Colonial Empire: Consolidating Environmental, Medical, & Anthropological Debates, 1920-1940"
Awarded Audrey Richards Prize for Best Dissertation in African Studies submitted between Jan 2000 and Jan 2002, African Studies Association of the UK
1996 - 1997 Fulbright Fellow, University of Oxford
1993 - 1996 M.A., University of California-Berkeley (and PhD Qualifying exam, 1996)
Fields: History of Science, Environmental History, and Political Ecology (outside field)
1986 - 1990 B.A., University of Chicago (registered as Helen Denham)
History of Science/Medicine & History of Social Movements

WORKS IN PROGRESS (2024-2025)

With Michael Ọládẹ̀jọ Afọláyan, a translation of and introduction to Joseph Odùmósù's *Ìwé Ìwòsàn* (Book of Healing), a 380-page landmark study of Yorùbá therapeutics published in 1910 in Ìjẹ̀bù, Nigeria. In press with University of Wisconsin Press for a 2025 publication date, 270,000 words.

"The Wisdom of the Peoples" - A Global History of Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Knowledge - Pan-African Precedents, Imperial Legacies, Legal Fictions, and Cold War Properties, 1870 to 2020

A monograph exploring the end of European empires, the rise of transnational legal regimes, and the growth of scientific research into "traditional medicine," emphasizing especially pan-African trends and their relationship to developments in Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

"Ignoring the Obvious About the World: Four Kinds of Not Knowing in African Studies," Invited article for special issue of *Journal of the History of Knowledge* on "Decentering the Global," forthcoming 2024.

"Geopolitical Fairytales and the Pan/Demos of Covid-19: How to Upend Reality and Turn the World On Its Head," Essay for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. [10,000 words]

Special Issue of *History of Science* on longue durée African history in collaboration with Hannah-Louise Clark.

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS AND EDITED VOLUMES

Therapeutic Properties: Global Medical Cultures, Knowledge, and Law, Osiris v. 36 (2021). Sole editor and author of 2 of 16 chapters. Introduction: "Medical Cultures, Therapeutic Properties, and Laws in Global History" and "Traditional Medicine Goes Global" [Total volume length, 175,000 words]

Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development, and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge, 1870-1950 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011). [Length: 218,000 words, including notes and bibliography]

2014 Ludwik Fleck Prize, Society for the Social Studies of Science

2012 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award

2012 Finalist, Herskovits Prize, African Studies Association, USA

Utopia and Dystopia: Conditions of Historical Possibility, edited with Michael Gordin and Gyan Prakash (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010). Translated into Turkish, 2015.

Ordering Africa: Anthropology, European Imperialism, and the Politics of Knowledge (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 2007; paperback edition 2010), edited collection with Robert Gordon (Professor of Anthropology, Vermont). Sole author of introduction "Africa, Anthropology, and Empire," pp. 1-45.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"Ten Theses and Two Stories on Teaching the Science/Knowledge Divide in Global History," Accepted for publication, *Capitalism: A Journal of History and Economics* v. 5 (2024), pp. 152-199.

"Experiment" Entry in *Keywords in Health Humanities*, Sari Altschuler, Jonathan Metzl, and Priscilla Wald, eds. New York: New York University Press, 2023, pp. 86-89.

Jérôme Baudry and Yi-Tang Lin. Roundtable discussion with Matheus Alves Duarte da Silva, Lisa Hellman, Kenji Ito, and **Helen Tilley**. "Beyond 'Plato to NATO.' Navigating the Global Turn in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine." Special 10th Anniversary Issue, *Monde(s)* No. 21 (2022), pp. 97-116.

"Medical Cultures, Therapeutic Properties, and Laws in Global History," *Osiris* v. 36 (2021), pp. 1-24.

"Traditional Medicine Goes Global: Pan-African Precedents, Cultural Decolonization, and Cold War Rights/Properties," *Osiris* v. 36 (2021), pp. 132-159.

"COVID-19 Across Africa: Colonial Hangovers, Racial Hierarchies and Medical Histories," invited essay for special issue on COVID-19, *Journal of West African History* v. 6 (2020), pp. 155-179.

"How to Make Sense of Traditional (Chinese) Medicine and COVID-19: Cold War Origin Stories and the WHO's Role in Making Space for Polyglot Therapeutics," *Somatosphere* (May 25, 2020).

"A Great (Scientific) Divergence: Synergies and Fault Lines in Global Histories of Science," *Isis* Focus Section on Joseph Needham's enduring relevance, *Isis* v. 110 (2019), pp. 129-136.

*"The History and Historiography of Science," in Thomas Spear, ed., *The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Historiography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019). Online: November, 2018. [22,000 words]

*Encyclopedia awarded 2021 American Historical Association Leland Prize as "the outstanding reference tool in history" published in last 5 years.

- "On Disciplines and Their Crises, Or, The Rise and Fall of Empires," *History of Anthropology Newsletter* 41 (2017): <http://histanthro.org/notes/disciplines-and-their-crisis/>
- "Medicine, Empires, and Ethics in Colonial Africa," *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics* v. 18 n. 7 (2016), pp. 743-753.
- "Experimentation in Colonial East Africa and Beyond," conclusion for a special issue of the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* v. 47 (2014), pp. 495-505.
- "Racial Science, Geopolitics, and Empires: Paradoxes of Power," for a special issue of *Isis* on "Racial Science," *Isis* v. 105 (2014), pp. 773-781.
- "Global Histories, African Genealogies, and Vernacular Science, or, Is the History of Science Ready for the World?" for a special issue of *Isis* on "Non-European Peoples in the History of Science," *Isis* v. 101 (2010), pp. 110-119.
- "Anthropology and the End of Empire?" *Reviews in History* n. 641, on-line journal, published Jan 2008: <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/paper/willis.html>.
- "Ambiguities of Racial Science in Colonial Africa: The African Research Survey and the Fields of Eugenics, Social Anthropology, and Biomedicine, 1920-1940," in Benedikt Stuchtey, ed., *Science Across the European Empires, 1800-1950* (Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 245-287.
- "Ecologies of Complexity: Tropical Environments, African Trypanosomiasis and the Science of Disease Control in British Colonial Africa, 1900-1940," in Gregg Mitman, Michelle Murphy, and Christopher Sellers, eds., *Landscapes of Exposure: Knowledge and Illness in Modern Environments*, *OSIRIS* v. 19 (2004), pp 21-38.
- "William Allan: the African Husbandman," new introduction to the reprint of William Allan, *The African Husbandman* (London: Transaction Publishers and the International African Institute, 2004), pp. xi-xxxix.
- "African Environments and Environmental Sciences: the African Research Survey, Ecological Paradigms, and British Colonial Development, 1920-1940," in William Beinart and JoAnn McGregor, eds., *Social History and African Environments* (Oxford: Heinemann/James Currey Press, 2003), pp. 109-130.
- "Colonialism and Imperialism," *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*, Shepard Krech III, J.R. McNeill, and Carolyn Merchant, eds., (New York: Routledge Press, 2003), pp. 246-248.
- "The Cunning of Unreason and Nature's Revolt: Max Horkheimer and William Leiss on the Domination of Nature," *Environment and History*, 3 (1997): 149-175.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Heather Bell, *Frontiers of Medicine in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1899-1940* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).
- Suke Wolton, *Lord Hailey, the Colonial Office and the Politics of Race & Empire in the Second World War: The Loss of White Prestige* (London: Macmillan Press, 2000).
- Owen White, *Children of the French Empire: Miscegenation and Colonial Society in French West Africa 1895-1960* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).
- James McCann, *Green Land, Brown Land, Black Land: An Environmental History of Africa, 1800-1990* (Oxford: James Currey Press, 1999).
- Nancy Hunt, *A Colonial Lexicon: Of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999).
- Reynolds and Tansey, eds., *British Contributions to Medical Research and Education in Africa after the Second World War* (London: Wellcome Trust, 2001).
- Peder Anker, *Imperial Ecology: Environmental Order in the British Empire, 1895-1945* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001).
- Londa Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire: Colonial Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004).

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2020 - 2024 Lead PI, "African Medical Heritage, Legacies of Empire, and Geopolitics of Culture, 1890-1990," with Hannah-Louise Clark (Glasgow University) & Michael Ọládẹ̀jọ Afọláyán (Independent Scholar), \$245,000.
- 2021 - 2022 Senior Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Cambridge University (UK)
- 2022 Faculty Exchange Fellow, Sciences Po, History Department and Law School, Paris
- 2019 - 2020 Distinguished Visiting Professor, History Faculty and Clare Hall College, Cambridge University
- 2020 Northwestern University Student Government Teaching Honor Roll
- 2017 - 2018 Lead PI, Weinberg College, Northwestern, Research Innovation Grant for "Medicine Across Cultures: Translating *Ìwé Ìwòsàn (Book of Healing)*," \$25,000.
- 2016 - 2019 Inaugural Senior Faculty Fellowship (1 of 5), Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern.
- 2016 - 2019 Lead PI, "Global Medical Cultures and Law," collaborative project with colleagues in sociology, anthropology, law, and history, Buffett Institute, \$150,000
- 2015 - 2021 Solo PI, National Science Foundation Scholar's Award for current book project, \$240,000
- 2013 - 2014 Faculty Fellow, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University [external selection committee]
- 2006 - 2007 Visiting Fellow, Hutchins Center for African and African-American Studies, Harvard University.
- 2005 - 2008 Philip and Beulah Rollins Bicentennial Preceptorship, Princeton University [Faculty nominated award with sabbatical funds]
- 2003 - 2008 Solo PI, National Science Foundation Scholar's Award & Supplementary Grant, \$140,000
- 2004 - 2005 Member, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- 2002 Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize, African Studies Association, United Kingdom
- 2001 - 2004 Solo PI, Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine – Post-Doctoral Fellowship, £120,000 or \$180,000 [declined final 2 years]
- 1999 - 2000 Institute of Historical Research – Royal Historical Society Centenary Fellowship [one for U.K.]
- 1999 - 2000 Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine – Dissertation Research Grant
- 1997 - 2000 African Environmental History Bursary, Rhodes Race Relations Fund, Oxford
- 1997 - 2000 Royal Historical Society Bursary [one allocated annually]
- 1997 - 2000 Overseas Research Studentship, British Government Award
- 1996 - 1997 Fulbright Fellowship-United Kingdom
- 1996 Environmental History Keynote Panel, "Histories of Environmental Ideas and Movements," Environmental Grantmakers Association with William Cronon (University of Wisconsin)
- 1995 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, University of California
- 1990 Commencement Speaker, Class of 1990, University of Chicago

PREVIOUS POSTS

- 2010 - 2012 Visiting Professor, Department of Medical History (Medical School) and Program in African Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2009 - 2010 Lecturer (History of Medicine and African History) and Coordinator of MA Programs, Department of History, Classics, and Archaeology, Birkbeck College, University of London

- 2002 - 2008 Assistant Professor, History Department (affiliations to African Studies and History of Science Programs), Princeton University
- 2001 - 2002 University of Oxford – Research Fellow – Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Project: History of Sleeping Sickness in British Colonial Africa

CONFERENCE AND PANEL ORGANIZING PLUS RECENT KEYNOTE & INVITED TALKS

- 2025 Fifth Thyssen Lectures on “Science, Knowledge, and the Legacy of Empire,” German Historical Institute London and University of Durham, May 20-21.
- 2024 Invited Speaker, Roundtable for Opening Panel at the Biennial Conference on International Law and the Social Sciences, Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern, September 27-28.
- 2024 Invited Keynote Address for Symposium: “Remeasuring Self and Society: The Human Sciences and Decolonization,” Graduate Institute of Development and International Studies, Geneva, May 22 to 24.
- 2023 “Global Histories of Science,” Workshop at Columbia University, May 5-6
- 2022 “Genetic Property Governance-Commentary,” Commentator, Faculty Forum on Law and STEM, Pritzker Law School, Northwestern (21-22 Oct).
- 2022 “A Global History Hackathon: African Medical Heritage and ‘Object’ Biographies,” University of Glasgow, multiday research project (July 4-8) and hybrid event (July 7) coordinated with Hannah-Louise Clark and Michael Afoláyan.
- 2022 “Intellectual Properties for the People” – two versions given at Lauterpacht Center for International Law’s Global Legal History Seminar (8 March) and half-day workshop with Graham Dutfield (Leeds Law School) on “Global IP and Ethnoscience” (14 June).
- 2022 “A Dialogue on Systemic Racism in Science and Its Institutions” a panel with Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga (MIT), Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, April 5, 2022.
- 2021 - 2022 “Traditional Medicine Goes Global” – two versions given at Cambridge University (21 Oct) and King’s College London (9 Feb) in Global History seminars.
- 2021 1 of 4 Keynote Speakers at annual American Association for the History of Medicine on, “Racism and Memory in the History of Medicine,” May 13, 2021.
- 2021 Featured panel at the Annual History of Science Society conference on *Osiris* volume, *Therapeutic Properties: Global Medical Cultures, Knowledge, and Law*, Nov 19, 2021.
- 2017 & 2018 “Medical Cultures, Traditions, and Law” – two 3-day conferences bringing together historians, anthropologists, sociologists, and legal scholars to explore the constitutive role of law in the globalization of biomedicine and the codification of “traditional medicine” during the long 20th century. Northwestern University, May 2017 and June 2018.
- 2015 “Making Knowledge and the Problem of Place” a 2-day conference bringing together 12 scholars in history, sociology, anthropology, and law to consider how space and place have affected the production of knowledge across continents. Northwestern University.
- 2006 “Science at the Crossroads: Geopolitics, Marxism, and 75 Years of Science Studies” – Two-day workshop exploring the emergence of Marxist interpretations of science and their influence on both science and science studies in the developed and developing worlds. Co-organized with Michael Gordin (History).
- Nov 2005 “Connecting Medical History and Anthropology – Part I: Ethnographic Turns in Science, Magic, Medicine, and Race and Part II: The Body Politic, Infectious Disease, and Biomedical Frameworks” – Two panels organized for the African Studies Association with leading scholars in anthropology and history to revisit scholarship on medicine in Africa.

- 2003 - 2004 "Science Across Cultures: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives" – Three one-day workshops exploring the philosophical ramifications of cross-cultural research in the history of science; co-organized with Daniel Garber (Philosophy) as part of the Princeton History of Science Workshop series. Workshops focused on Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and Africa.
- May 2002 "African Trypanosomosis and Historical Debates over Eradication versus Control" – A 2 day conference bringing together senior scientists/practitioners and historians for a roundtable discussion of the relevance of historical research to debates on disease eradication.
- Mar 2000 "Anthropology & Africa: A Cross-Colonial Investigation" – A 3 day, international conference comparing the development of anthropological and ethnological studies in German, French, British, Belgium, Italian, and Portuguese Africa during the colonial era. University of Oxford.
- Mar 1998 "Matrices of Scientific Knowledge and Practice in Colonial Africa" – A 1 day conference exploring British, French, and South African scientific networks in Africa from WWI until decolonization.
- Jan 1993 "Environment, Development, and Trade: the North/South Debates" – A ten day conference for the nine member organizations of A SEED (see below), held at the offices of the Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2023 - 2024 Search Committee Member, Tenure-Track Search in African History
- 2022 - 2023 Member, Graduate Affairs Committee, History Department
- 2019/21/23/25 Search Committee, Science in Human Culture, Postdoctoral Fellowships (2 positions)
- 2021 - 2022 Search Committee Member, Senior Search in African History, Successful
- 2016 - 2021 Director and Editor, Global Medical Cultures and Law Program; responsibilities included leading five-member faculty team at Northwestern plus 14-member faculty research collaboration; securing \$150k grant; organizing two international conferences; and editing special issue of journal, *Osiris*.
- 2014 - 2018 Director, Science in Human Culture; responsibilities included annual speaker series (12-14 talks), biannual conference, doctoral colloquium (9 seminars/yr), undergraduate majors and minors, postdoctoral fellowship search (two positions filled every two years), and programmatic fundraising.
- 2014 - 2019 Faculty affiliate and advisory board member, Environmental Policy and Culture; helped inaugurate new student internship program with Chicago Field Studies on "Environment, Science, and Sustainability."
- 2012 - 2017 Executive Committee, Program in African Studies; co-authored 2015 Strategic Plan for university-wide initiatives and served as liaison to 2014-15 search in Medical Anthropology.
- 2013 - 2014 Chair, Latin American History Search, resulting in three hires: one assistant professor, one associate professor, and one visiting assistant professor (for a six-year contract).
- 2012 - 2013 Search Committee Member, West African History open rank, resulting in successful hire at the associate professor level.
- 2009 - 2010 Director for Birkbeck College's 10 MA history programs, which enrolled over 200 students per year; responsibilities included retention, curriculum review, and faculty/student liaison.
- 2003 - 2008 Executive Committee, African Studies Program, Princeton University and liaison work with Akwaaba, the African student association.
- 2007 - 2008 Chair, History of Science Seminar, Princeton University.

- 2005 - 2006 Executive Secretary, Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University; proposed, with colleague Michael Gordin, two-year series on "Utopia and Dystopia in History."
- 2002 - 2008 Program Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Finance Committee, Hiring Committees (for posts in Islamic History and Latin American History), and Davis Center Fellowship Committee, Princeton University.
- 2004, '05, '07 Elections Committee, African Studies Association, USA [to elect President and Vice-Presidents]
- 2010s National Science Foundation, General Advisory Panel for Science, Technology and Society Program, Washington, D.C.
- Ongoing Manuscript reviews for specialist journals, university presses, and trade presses.

EMPLOYMENT, BOARDS OF DIRECTOR, & NGO EXPERIENCE

Between 1990 and 1998, I worked with several organizations involved in environmental and social justice activities in different parts of the world and across the United States. My formal positions allowed me to travel in Europe, Asia, and Latin America and speak on the official programs of two preparatory meetings in Geneva and New York for the 1992 Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development). I also worked as a trainer of other organizers, using methods developed by Midwest Academy (Chicago), and led strategic planning workshops with various community-based organizations and different networks involved in transnational policy-making and movement building.

- 1998 Research Fellow at the Environmental & Economic Justice Project, Los Angeles – Project Title – "International Trade and LA's Regional Economy - a Background Briefing on Trade Infrastructure Projects and Their Possible Effects by Race and Income."
- 1994 - 1998 Board of Directors and Program Chair (1995-96), New World Foundation, New York City, a progressive philanthropy funding community organizing efforts across the US. Author of "Organizing and Social Change: The State of Progressive Social Movements and the Role of Young People," (New York: New World Foundation, 1993). [commissioned report, 126pp; under "Denham"]
- 1993 - 1996 Board of Directors & Chair of Board, Youth Action, Albuquerque, New Mexico, a national non-profit involved in bringing low-income young people into community organizing efforts.
- 1992 - 1994 Organizer with "Freedom Summer 1994" under the stewardship of Carolyn Goodman (mother of slain organizer Andrew Goodman) and several of the original SNCC Freedom Summer organizers including Robert (Bob) Moses, founder of the Algebra Project.
- 1991 - 1996 Co-Founder & Co-Director, Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development (A SEED), with affiliations to the Third World Network (Asia HQ-Malaysia, Africa HQ-Ghana) & Friends of the Earth International (The Netherlands).
- 1990 - 1993 National Organizer, Fundraiser, and Media Coordinator for Student Environmental Action Coalition [a national student-led non-profit with income from grants of ~\$250,000 annually]