

Kate Ekama

Academic CV

last updated: 11 October 2021

Contact: kateekama@sun.ac.za | www.kateekama.com | Orcid ID: 0000-0003-3912-808X

Current position

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, Stellenbosch University.

Affiliated to the Biography of an Uncharted People Project and Cape of Good Hope Panel Project.

Academic Qualifications

2018 PhD, Institute for History, University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Dissertation: 'Courting Conflict: Managing Dutch East and West India Company disputes in the Dutch Republic' (Supervisors: Prof. Dr. C. Antunes, Dr. K. Fatah-Black)

2012 Research MA, Institute for History, University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Thesis: 'Slavery in Dutch Colombo: A social history' (Advisors: Prof. Dr. R. Ross, Dr. A. Schrikker)

Graduated cum laude

2010 BA (Honours), Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.

Thesis: 'Honour amongst slaves at the eighteenth-century Cape' (Advisor: Prof. Dr. N. Worden)

Graduated with distinction

Working papers

'Profiting from Slavery after Abolition: Emancipation and the Business of Compensation in the Cape Colony'

'Boundaries of bondage: enslavement and 'enslaveability' in Dutch Ceylon' in Kate Ekama, Lisa Hellman, and Matthias van Rossum (eds.), *Slavery and Bondage in Asia: Towards a Global History of Coerced Labour 1550–1850* (under review, de Gruyter)

with Robert Ross, 'From mortgage holders to slum Landlords: Emancipation, compensation and the building of Cape Town.'

with Johan Fourie, Lisa Martin and Robert Ross, 'The effect of industry rather than of necessity': Slave occupations and capitalism at the Cape.'

Publications - Journal Articles

'Bondsmen: Slave Collateral in the 19th-Century Cape Colony', *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 47.3 (2021):437-53.

Editorial with R. Ross, 'The Emancipation of the enslaved in the Cape Colony: Historiography and Introduction', *Journal of Southern African Studies* 47.3 (2021):405-16.

with J. Fourie, H. Heese and L. Martin, 'When Cape Slavery Ended: Introducing a new slave emancipation dataset' *Explorations in Economic History* 81 (2021).

'Precarious Freedom: Manumission in eighteenth-century Colombo, Sri Lanka' *Journal of Social History* 54.1 (2020):88-108.

'Taking the Companies to Court: Wage litigation against the Dutch East and West India Companies in the High Court' *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* 131.3 (2018):409-30.

with M. Fusaro et. al., 'Entrepreneurs at sea: Trading practices, legal opportunities and early modern globalization.' *International Journal of Maritime History* 28.4 (2016):774-86.

Publications - Book chapters

'Connected Lives: Experiences of slavery in VOC Colombo.' In *Being a slave in the Indian Ocean world* edited by A. Schrikker and N. Wickramasinghe (Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2020).

with C. Antunes, 'Mediterranean and Atlantic Maritime Conflict Resolution: Critical Insights into Geographies of Conflict in the Early Modern Period.' In *Mediterranean and Atlantic Maritime Conflict Resolution* edited by L. Sicking and A. Wijffels (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

with A. Schrikker, 'Through the lens of slavery: Dutch Sri Lanka in the eighteenth century.' In *Sri Lanka at the Crossroads of History* edited by Z. Biedermann and A. Strathern (London: University College London Press, 2017).

'Conflict in Court: Suing the Dutch East and West India Companies.' In *Mechanisms of Global Empire* edited by C. Antunes and A. Polónia (Porto: CITCEM/Edições Afrontamento, 2017).

'Just Deserters: Runaway slaves from the VOC Cape, c. 1700-1800.' In *Desertion in the Early Modern World: A comparative history* edited by M. van Rossum and J. Kamp (London: Bloomsbury, 2016).

Published book reviews

A. Jaffer, 'Lascars and Indian Ocean Seafaring, 1780-1860: Shipboard life, unrest and mutiny' *Tijdschrift voor Zee geschiedenis* 35:2 (2016):83-5.

Z. Biedermann, 'The Portuguese in Sri Lanka and South India: Studies in the history of diplomacy, empire and trade, 1500-1600' *International Journal of Maritime History* 27:2 (2015):348-9.

W. B. Stephens, 'The Seventeenth Century Customs Service Surveyed: William Culliford's investigation of the western ports, 1682-84' *The Mariner's Mirror* 100:1 (2014):96-7.

Other writing/media

'Tracing Bonded Lives: Stories of enslaved individuals from the archive' blogpost for Stichting Nederland-Sri Lanka (29 June 2021): <https://stichtingnederlandsrilanka.nl/?p=659>

interviewed by Tanya Farber for *Sunday Times* Insight article: Casting off the Shackles (28 February 2021).

'Op zoek naar slaven in Kaap de Goede Hoop' in *De Slavernij in Oost en West. Het Amsterdam Onderzoek* edited by Pepijn Brandon, Guno Jones, Nancy Jouwe and Matthias van Rossum (Amsterdam: Spectrum, 2020).

Recent presentations

- 2021 with Robert Ross, From mortgage holders to slum landlords: Compensated emancipation and the building of Cape Town in the 1830-1840s.
Cape of Good Hope Panel International Workshop (18 August)
- 2021 Boundaries of Bondage: Enslavement and 'enslaveability' in VOC Ceylon.
Panel: Tackling coerced labour in Asia (co-organised with Matthias van Rossum).
ENIUGH Sixth European congress on World and Global History (16 June)
- 2021 Profiting from Slavery after Abolition: Emancipation and the business of compensation in the Cape Colony.
Business History Collective Fall seminar series (8 June)
- 2020 Capitalising on Emancipation: Insights from Cape Colony datasets.
Life After Slavery: Slave histories in the Global Era, 1750-1900 International workshop (7 December)
- 2020 The men who mortgage men: credit networks and the history of capitalism in the Cape Colony.
Economic History Society Southern Africa international workshop. Theme: Business, financial and monetary history of South Africa (6 October).
- 2020 Profiting from Slavery after Abolition: Emancipation and the business of compensation in the Cape Colony
LEAP seminar (5 February)

Teaching experience

I have taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in multi-lingual, collaborative learning environments, in person and online.

Proficient in English, Afrikaans and Dutch.

Postgraduate supervision and teaching

Department of History, Stellenbosch University

PhD Supervision

Karl Bergemann *Thesis: Enslaved, apprenticed and contract runaways in the Cape Colony, 1830-1842* (2020-)

Honours thesis supervision

Christiaan Burger (co-supervised with Prof. Johan Fourie) *Thesis: The origins of the opgaafrolle at the Cape* (ongoing, 2021)

Ilse Brookes *Thesis: 'Dead' money or concealed capital? How did 1723's Cape small farmers employ their slave labour to turn a profit?* (Graduated 2019)

Institute for History, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Early Modern Encounters: Money, Migration and Microbes (Masters seminar, 1st sem, 2015-2016)

Undergraduate teaching

Stellenbosch University

Perspectives, institutions and systems related to wealth and poverty: A historical perspective (2nd year online lecture series, Term 1, 2021)

South Africa in the 18th and 19th century (2nd year lecture series, Term 3, 2019)

University of Leiden/ Leiden University College, The Netherlands

Slaves in Court at the Cape (1st sem, 1st year seminar series, 2016-2017)

Dutch History in Global Time (1st sem, 3rd year seminar series, 2015-2016)

Project management and student development

Mentor (2020-present) PhD candidates and Masters student, Department of History, Stellenbosch University

Coordinator (2019-present) *Capitalising on Emancipation* interdisciplinary research group, Stellenbosch University.

Current participants: Lisa Martin (Phd candidate, economics), Karl Bergemann (PhD candidate, history), Christiaan Burger (Honours student, history)

Manager 2020-present Death Certificate transcription project; **2019-2020** Mortgage Roll transcription project; **2019** *Government Gazette* Digitisation project

Grants, awards and honours

2021 Stellenbosch University Subcom A postdoctoral funding

2020 Banking sector education and training authority (BANKSETA) postdoctoral funding: 'Capitalising on Emancipation' (450.4710.680000 PhD/680/002)

2019 Banking sector education and training authority (BANKSETA) postdoctoral funding: 'Banking on slavery' (475.4710.675000 PhD/675/009)

2010 Encompass Full Scholarship, University of Leiden

- 2006 Faculty Scholarship, University of Cape Town
- 2005 Faculty Entrance Scholarship, University of Cape Town