

Kate Ekama

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Current position

2022- Postdoctoral Fellow, Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University.

Affiliated to Slavery's Afterlives Project (PI Dr Bronwen Everill, Cambridge Humanities Research Grant, 2023-2024) and the Cape of Good Hope Panel Project (PI Dr Erik Green, Riksbanken Jubileumsfond, Sweden, 2021-2026).

2023 Visiting scholar, Centre of African Studies, Cambridge University

2023 Visiting Fellowship, Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies, University of Glasgow

Previous position

2019-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, Stellenbosch University. Affiliated with the Biography of an Uncharted People Project (A. W. Mellon)

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.

Publications

Edited Book

with L. Hellman and M. van Rossum, *Slavery and Bondage in Asia, 1550-1850: Towards a Global History of Coerced Labour*. Dependency and Slavery Studies Vol. 3 (Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2022)

Journal Articles

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

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) 101390.

'Precarious Freedom: Manumission in eighteenth-century Colombo' *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.

Book chapters

with W. Raaijmakers, 'Advertising the enslaved for sale: A quantitative approach to the *Zuid-Afrikaan*, 1830-1834.' In *Quantitative History and Uncharted People: Case studies from the South African Past* edited by J. Fourie (Bloomsbury, 2023).

'Boundaries of Bondage: Slavery and Enslaveability in VOC Ceylon.' In *Slavery and Bondage in Asia, 1550-1850: Towards a Global history of coerced labour* edited by K. Ekama, L. Hellman and M. van Rossum, 121-140. *Dependency and Slavery Studies Vol. 3* (Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2022).

with L. Hellman and M. van Rossum, 'Slavery and Labour Coercion in Asia—Towards a Global History.' In *Slavery and Bondage in Asia, 1550-1850: Towards a Global history of Coerced Labour* edited by Kate Ekama, Lisa Hellman and Matthias van Rossum, 3-16. *Dependency and Slavery Studies Vol. 3* (Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2022).

'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).

Selected recent presentations

2023 Self-liberation, contested finances, and life after slavery in the British Cape Colony.
Sawyer Seminar Global Slavery, Fugitivity and the Afterlives of Unfreedom Workshop
Indiana University, Bloomington (1 December)

- 2023 Roundtable: Big data and writing the history of the global south: The Case of the Cape of Good Hope Panel. Social Science History Association Conference, Washington D.C. (17 November)
- 2023 Enslaved and manumitted South Asians in nineteenth-century Cape Town: A first attempt at tracing lives. Bonn Centre for Dependency and Slavery Studies, Slavery, Servitude, Service International Workshop (via Zoom, 15 July)
- 2023 The Financial Lives of the Enslaved in Cape Town, 1825-1834. Lund University, Development Lunch Seminar (20 April)
- 2023 Roundtable: Quantitative History and the Unaccounted (Network: Theory) European Social Science History Conference, Gothenburg (14 April)
- 2022 with Wouter Raaijmakers, Slave Sale Advertisements. Stellenbosch University, Economics of Slavery at the Cape workshop (16 May)
- 2022 Profiting from Slavery after Abolition: Emancipation and the business of compensation in the Cape Colony. Nijmegen University, The Netherlands (28 April)
- 2022 with Robert Ross, From mortgage holders to slum landlords: Compensated emancipation and the building of Cape Town in the 1830s-1840s. Cambridge University, African Economic History Seminar series (April 26)

Teaching and advising

I have taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in multi-lingual, collaborative learning environments, in person and online. I co-supervise graduate research in history and economics and contribute to student development through mentoring graduate students.

PhD Supervision

Graduated 2024

Karl Bergemann, Department of History, Stellenbosch University (co-supervised with Prof. Dr Johan Fourie and Assoc. Prof. Dr Laura Mitchell) *Thesis*: The Runaways: A study of enslaved, apprenticed and indentured labour flight at the Cape in the emancipation era, 1830-1842.

Ongoing

- 2024- Wouter Raaijmakers, Department of History, Radboud University Nijmegen (co-supervised with Dr D. Lyna, promoter Prof. Dr M. van Rossum). *Thesis*: Between Social and Legal Identities? Litigation in Dutch and British Colonial South Africa and Sri Lanka, 1730-1830.
- 2023- Paul van der Linde, Department of History, Radboud University Nijmegen (co-supervised with Dr D. Lyna, promoter Prof. Dr Jan Kok) *Thesis*: "With the Express Conditions": Landownership Patterns Amongst Formerly Enslaved People in the Dutch Mercantile Empire, 1624-1744.
- 2023- Lauren Stevens, Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University (co-supervised with Prof. Dr J. Fourie and Dr C. Links) *Thesis*: The Currency of Freedom: The Economics of Manumission in the Cape Colony.

Master's thesis supervision

Graduated 2024

Benjamin Crous (co-supervised with Dr C. Fransch) *Thesis*: "All my companions are free, I alone am excepted": A socio-economic history of Recaptured Africans at the Cape Colony in the Age of Reform, c. 1807-1834.

Ongoing

2022- Christiaan Burger (co-supervised with Prof. Dr J. Fourie) *Thesis*: “A spirit of cabal and insubordination”: Tax resistance and revolt at the end of the Dutch East India Company’s rule of the Cape Colony, 1787–1798.

Honours thesis supervision

2021-2 Christiaan Burger (co-supervised with Prof. Dr J. Fourie) *Thesis*: The origins of the opgaafrolle at the Cape (Graduated 2022, *cum laude*)

2019 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, *cum laude*)

Institute for History, Leiden University, The Netherlands

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

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)

Public engagement/media

2024 Collaborator with Pedro Machado and Olimpia Rosenthal, “Refuse” Exhibition, Process Gallery, Gayle Karch Cook Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA (April)

2023 “The freedom of Marseille” Guest blog post on *Our Long Walk* (1 December): <https://www.ourlongwalk.com/p/the-freedom-of-marseille>

2023 translated by Mischa Hoyinck, “Ik wil niet zwijgen”: slavernij en kolonialisme in en rondom Zuid-Afrika’ in *Staat & Slavernij: Het Nederlandse slavernij-verleden en zijn doorwerkingen* edited by Rose Mary Allen, Esther Captain, Matthias van Rossum and Urwin Vyent (Amsterdam: Athenaeum).

2022 Contributor to Grant Parker and Paul Weinberg’s video installation series on slavery and emancipation

2022 Contributor to Charting the Uncharted exhibition: Chelsea Ingham, *Men who mortgage men, 2021* exhibited at GUS Stellenbosch, and complementary documentary.

2022 Invited moderator of the Uncovering Stories panel discussion with Dr Linda Mbeki and Dr Antonia Malan at the #CoCreateSANL festival, Cape Town (6 June)

2022 Invited participant, with Jennifer Tosch and Sylvia Vollenhoven in Who Speaks? Voices from the Past, Mail&Guardian webinar (31 May)

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

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

2020 '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 commissioned by Amsterdam City Council (Amsterdam: Spectrum).

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)
2010-2012 Encompass Full Scholarship, University of Leiden
2006 Faculty Scholarship, University of Cape Town (Dean's Merit List)
2005 Faculty Entrance Merit Scholarship, University of Cape Town

Academic service

In 2021 I accepted a nomination to become secretary of the Economic History Society of Southern Africa (EHSSA) supporting research and promoting interest in Economic History in the region. I am a member of the Economic History Society (EHS), the Social Science History Association (SSHA) and Historical Association of Southern Africa (HASA).

I review articles for journals in the field of historical studies and have published three book reviews in peer-reviewed international journals. I am an editorial board member of the *Slavery and Emancipation* series at Amsterdam University Press.

I coordinated the Death Notice transcription project at LEAP (2019 – 2022), managing the group of transcribers (up to 7).

I have organised several conferences and workshops (in person and online) including hosting the international series 'Slavery, Emancipations, Legacies' (via Zoom, 2021) and organising the hybrid international workshop 'Commodity, Capital and labour in southern African economies in the nineteenth century' at Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies, April 2024.