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Curriculum Vitae

ROBERT HARMS

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Current Position

Professor of History, Yale University

Education

Ph.D. 1978, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Comparative World History with specialization in African History.

Certificate of African Studies, 1974, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Concentration in African history, anthropology, linguistics, and agricultural economics.

M.A. 1973, University of Wisconsin-Madison. African History.

B.A. 1968, Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas. Social Science.

Languages

French, Bobangi, Lingala, Swahili, some German

Experience

1988-Present: Professor of African History, Yale University

1995-96: Fellow, *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, Germany.

1991-92: Fulbright Research Professor, University of Conakry, Guinea.

1985-88: Associate Professor, African History, Yale University.

1979-85: Assistant Professor, African History, Yale University.

1981-82: Mellon Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University.

1979: Visiting Lecturer, African History, University of California, Berkeley.

1975-76: Research Associate with the *Centre d'Etudes Socio-Politiques pour l'Afrique Centrale*. Lubumbashi, Zaire.

Books

The Diligent: A Voyage Through the Worlds of the Slave Trade, New York: Basic Books, 2002.

- Winner of the Frederick Douglass Prize awarded by the Gilder Lehrman Center for the study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition.
- Winner of the J. Russell Major Prize in French History awarded by the American Historical Association.
- Winner of the Mark Lynton History Prize awarded by the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University.
- Winner of the Gustav Ranis International Book Prize awarded by the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University.
- Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in the category of History.
- Finalist for the L.L. Winship/PEN New England Literary Prize, awarded by the Boston Globe and PEN New England.
- Finalist for the Alf Andrew Heggoy Book Prize awarded by the French Colonial Historical Society.

Das Sklavenschiff: Eine Reise in de Welt des Sklavenhandels (Bertelsmann, 2004). This is the German translation of *The Diligent: A Voyage through the World of the Slave Trade*.

- Finalist for the German “History Book of the Year” award sponsored by *Damels* magazine.

O Diligent: Viagem pelos mundos do commercio de escravos (Portuguese translation of *The Diligent: A Voyage through the Worlds of the Slave Trade*). Lisbon: Editorial Caminho, 2007, forthcoming.

Games Against Nature: An Eco-Cultural History of the Nunu of Equatorial Africa. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987. Second edition, 1999.

- Winner of the 1991 George Perkins Marsh Prize awarded by the American Society for Environmental History.
- Selected in 2004 for publication in the History E-Book Project of the American Council of Learned Societies. This project is dedicated to selecting and creating an electronic collection of important scholarly monographs that are expected to have continuing relevance in the field of history.

River of Wealth, River of Sorrow: The Central Zaire Basin in the Era of the Slave and Ivory Trade, 1500-1891. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981.

Paths Toward the Past: African Historical Essays in Honor of Jan Vansina. Co-Editor with Joseph C. Miller, Michelle Wagner, and David Newbury. Atlanta: African Studies Association Press, 1994.

Articles

“Heinrich Barth’s Construction of Nature,” in *Heinrich Barth in Mali: Dialogue of Civilizations*, edited by Mamadou Diawara, Gerd Spittler, and Paul Férias. Cologne, Germany: Rudiger Koppe Press, 2006.

“The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in Cinema,” in *Black and White in Colour: African History on Screen*,” edited by Richard Mendelsohn and Vivian Bickford-Smith, co-published by Double Storey Books (Cape Town), James Curry Publishers (Oxford), and Ohio University Press, (Athens, Ohio), 2006.

“The Voyage of the Slave Ship *Diligent*,” *Seaport: New York’s History Magazine*, vol. XXXIX, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2004), pp. 12-17.

"King Leopold's Bonds," in *Origins of Value: Essays in the History of Financial Innovation*, edited by William N. Goetzmann and Geert Rouwenhorst (Oxford University Press, 2005).

"Early Globalization and the Slave Trade," *Yale Global Online*, May 9, 2003.

"The Voyage of *The Diligent*: Model or Anti-Model?" *Dialektik*. 1997 no. 1, pp. 95-104.

"Fishing and Systems of Production: The Precolonial Nunu of the Middle Zaire," *Cahiers des Sciences Humaines*, 1991.

"The Decline of Diversity along the Middle Zaire," in *Savoirs Paysans et Développement*, edited by Georges Dupré. Paris, 1991.

"Systems, Games, and History: Models for the Study of Africa's Past," *African Studies Review*, 30 (1987): 25-33.

"The Wars of August: Diagonal Narrative in African History," *The American Historical Review*, 88 (1983):809-34. (Lead article)

"Sustaining the System: Trading Towns along the Middle Zaire," in *Women and Slavery in Africa*, edited by Martin Klein and Claire Robertson (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1983), pp. 95-110.

"The World Abir Made: The Maringa-Lopori Basin, 1885-1903," *African Economic History*, no. 12 (1983): 125-13

"The Genesis of the Commercial Economy in the Central Zaire Basin," *Enquêtes et Documents d'Histoire Africaine*, 4 (1980): 101-113.

"Oral Traditions: Indicators of Collective Perceptions," in *The African Past Speaks: Essays on Oral Tradition and History*, Edited by Joseph C. Miller (Folkstone, England: Dawson Press, 1980), 178-200.

"Oral Tradition and Ethnicity," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, X, 1 (Summer, 1979): 61-85.

"Fish and Cassava: The Changing Equation," *African Economic History*, no. 7 (1979): 113-116.

"Slave Systems in Africa," *History in Africa*, 5 (1978): 327-335.

"The End of Red Rubber: A Reassessment," *Journal of African History*, 16 (1975): 73-88.

Distinguished Lecture Series

2006, The Jensen Memorial Lectures: “The Making of Colonialism in Equatorial Africa,” given at the Frobenius Institute of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. A series of seven weekly public lectures delivered during May and June 2006.

Activities

2006-present. Director of Undergraduate Studies, Yale History Department.

2006. Chair, Mark Lynton History Prize Committee. This prize is awarded to the “book-length work of history, on any subject, that best combines intellectual or scholarly distinction with felicity of expression.” Administered by the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and the Nieman Foundation at Harvard, the prize is part of the Lukas Prize Project established in 1998 to honor “the best in American nonfiction writing.”

1999-present. International board of directors for the **Center for the Study of Local Knowledge** in Bamako, Mali. The center promotes research on the relationship between global forms of scientific knowledge and local forms of folk knowledge.

2004-present. Board of Overseers of the **Institute for Advanced Study**, Nantes, France.

2004- present. Editorial Board of *History Compass*, a new on-line journal launched by Blackwell Publishing. It offers academic historians a convenient way to assess the state of a subfield of history or to see what major scholars consider important new directions and issues.

2002-2005 Chair, Council on African Studies, Yale University.

Fall, 2002 Director, Program on Agrarian Societies, Yale University.

2001-2002 Chair, Course of Study Committee, Yale University.

1999-Present Advisory Committee, Gilder Lehrmann Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. Yale University

1999 Director, African Studies Program, Yale University

- 1998-99 Director, Program on Agrarian Societies, Yale University
- 1994-97 Executive Committee, U.S. African Studies Association.
- 1994-95 Director, Program on Agrarian Societies, Yale University.
- 1993-95 Associate Director of Graduate Studies, History Department.
- 1989-91 Director, Yale African Studies Program.
- 1988-89 Director, Yale Southern African Research Program.
- 1988-89 Director of Graduate Studies, History Department.
- 1985-87 Director of Undergraduate Studies, History Department.
- 1980-84 Director of History Department Senior Thesis Program.

Work in Progress

Muslim Slavers, Christian Imperialists, and the Making of Colonialism in Equatorial Africa, book project under contract with Basic Books. This book will examine how the Arab slave trade in 19th century East Africa was intertwined with the establishment of a particularly brutal form of European colonialism. The book aims to break out of the nationalist traditions of British, French, and Belgian historiography and shed new light on the Arab slave trade by situating it in the currents and counter-currents of accelerating globalization and expanding European imperialism.