ELIZABETH E. PREVOST

Curriculum Vitae

Research and teaching fields

Modern Britain and the British Empire/Commonwealth; modern Sub-Saharan Africa; colonialism and decolonization; women, gender, and feminism; missions and global Christianity; authorship, reading, and publishing; celebrity and fan studies; genre studies.

Education

2006 Ph.D. in History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
Dissertation: *Anglican Women Missionaries and the Culture of Spirituality in Africa, 1865-1930*.
Committee: Alex Owen (chair), T. William Heyck, Jonathan Glassman.
1998 MA in History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
1996 BA with Honors, Trinity College, Hartford, CT.

Academic positions

Professor of History, Grinnell College, 2018-
Associate Professor of History, Grinnell College, 2010-2018
Assistant Professor of History, Grinnell College, 2006-2010
Instructor of History, Grinnell College, 2004-2006

Publications and work in progress

Monographs

Agatha Christie's Armchair: The Global Making of British Mystery (under contract with Oxford University Press).

The Communion of Women: Missions and Gender in Colonial Africa and the British Metropole (Oxford University Press, 2010). Reviewed in the *American Historical Review*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Victorian Studies, Women's History Review, Journal of African History, Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, *Anglican & Episcopal History, Church Times, H-Net.* Named "Book of the Month" by the British Scholar Society, March 2011.

Edited collections

British Murder Mysteries, 1880-1965: Facts & Fictions, eds. Laura E. Nym Mayhall & Elizabeth Prevost (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2022).

Journal articles and book chapters

"The Wimseys at War: Dorothy L. Sayers's Chronicling of Early WWII," in Rebecca Milles & J.C. Bernthal, eds., *Golden Age Detection Goes To War* (under consideration).

"Agatha Christie in Southern Africa," in *British Murder Mysteries, 1880-1965: Facts & Fictions*, eds. Laura E. Nym Mayhall & Elizabeth Prevost (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2022), 165-185.

"On Feminists, Functionalists, and Friends: *Lobola* and the Gender Politics of Imperial Trusteeship in Interwar Britain," *Journal of Modern History* 89:3 (Sept 2017), 562-600. Awarded the 2018 NACBS Walter Love Prize (for best article in British history) and 2018 Judith Walkowitz Prize (for best article on gender and sexuality in British culture).

"Troubled Traditions: Female Adaptive Education in British Colonial Africa," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 45:3 (June 2017), 475-505.

"Anglican Mission in Twentieth-Century Africa," in William Sachs, ed., *Oxford History of Anglicanism, vol. 5: Global Anglicanism, 1910-2000* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

"Contested Conversions: Missionary Women's Religious Encounters in Early Colonial Uganda," in Andrew May and Patricia Grimshaw, eds., *Missionaries, Indigenous Peoples, and Cultural Exchange* (Sussex Academic Press, 2010).

"Assessing Women, Gender, and Empire in Britain's Nineteenth-Century Protestant Missionary Movement," *History Compass* 7:3 (May 2009), 765-799.

"Married to the Mission Field: Gender, Christianity, and Professionalization in Britain and Colonial Africa, 1865-1914," *Journal of British Studies* 47:4 (October 2008), 796-826.

"From African Missions to Global Sisterhood: The Mothers' Union and Colonial Christianity, 1900-30," in Hilary M. Carey, ed., *Empires of Religion* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), 243-64.

Compendium entries

"Helen Hanson," *Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

"Gertrude King," *Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

"Sudanese," *The Encyclopedia of Chicago History*, ed. James Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff (University of Chicago Press, 2004).

Public history

"Continuity Amidst Change: The Cuttyhunk School at 150." Cuttyhunk Historical Society Monograph Series, Summer 2023.

Book reviews

Lee Michael-Berger, *Modern Murders: The Turn-of-the-Century's Backlash Against Melodramatic and Sensational Representations of Murder, 1880-1914* (New York: Routledge, 2023), reviewed for *Journal of British Studies* (forthcoming).

Mo Moulton, *The Mutual Admiration Society: How Dorothy L. Sayers and her Oxford Circle Remade the World for Women* (New York: Basic Books, 2019), reviewed for the *Journal of Modern History* 93:4 (December 2021), 963-965.

Carina E. Ray, *Crossing the Color Line: Race, Sex, and the Contested Politics of Colonialism in Ghana* (Athens, OH, 2015), reviewed for the *Journal of Modern History* 89:3 (September 2017), 683-684.

Stephen S. Maughan, *Mighty England Do Good: Culture, Faith, Empire, and World in the Foreign Missions of the Church of England, 1850-1915* (Grand Rapids, 2014), reviewed for the *Journal of Modern History* 88:3 (September 2016), 668-670.

Esme Cleall, *Missionary Discourses of Difference: Negotiating Otherness in the British Empire* (Basingstoke, 2013), reviewed for the *American Historical Review* 119:3 (June 2014).

Hilary Carey, *God's Empire: Religion and Colonialism in the British World, ca. 1801*–1908 (Cambridge, 2011), reviewed for the *Journal of British Studies* 51:2 (April 2012).

Miranda K. Hassett, *Anglican Communion in Crisis* (Princeton, 2007), reviewed for *African Studies Review* 51:1 (April 2008).

Brian Stanley, ed., *Missions, Nationalism, and the End of Empire* (William B. Eerdmans, 2004), reviewed for the *Journal of British Studies* 44:3 (October 2005).

Joy Dixon, *Divine Feminine: Theosophy and Feminism in England* (Johns Hopkins, 2001), reviewed for the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 3:3 (Winter 2002).

Presentations and invited talks

"Death by drowning…in an apple bucket: Agatha Christie's 1969 *Hallowe'en Party*," presented at British Crime Historians' Conference, Manchester, UK, September 2024.

"Sensationalizing Agatha Christie," presented at the North American Conference on British Studies, Baltimore, November 2023.

Roundtable organizer, "Celebrity and Social Capital in the Interwar Media," North American Conference on British Studies, November 2023.

Presenter, Long Nineteenth-Century Colloquium, Northwestern University, May 2022.

Presenter and organizer, "Religion in Modern British History: A Roundtable in Memory of Jeffrey Cox," North American Conference on British Studies, virtual annual meeting, November 2020.

Chair and discussant, "Disclosure, Activism, and Citizenship: Interrogating Hierarchies of Access Services in Britain, 1880-2000," North American Conference on British Studies, Vancouver, BC, November 2019.

Presenter, British History Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, October 2019.

Presenter, Fellows Colloquium, Newberry Library, Chicago, October 2019.

Chair and presenter, "Empires on the Move" AALAC Workshop, Swarthmore College, October 2019.

"Detective Fiction in Historical Perspective," workshop co-organized for University of Illinois Humanities Center, May 2019.

"Mourning Poirot: The World's Eulogies for a (Belgo-)British Literary Detective," presented at the North American Conference on British Studies, Providence, RI, October 2018.

"Reading the British World: Global Circuits of National Narratives," panel organized for the North American Conference on British Studies, Providence, RI, October 2018.

"Agatha Christie in Southern Africa," presented at the North American Conference on British Studies, Denver, November 2017.

"Historians Read Detective Fiction: Revisiting the Golden Age," panel organized for the North American Conference on British Studies, Denver, 2017.

"The Feminizing Work of Christian Counter-Insurgency," presented at Midwest Conference on British Studies, Ames, IA, Sept 2016.

"Thinking Religiously in the British Empire," panel organized for Midwest Conference on British Studies, Ames, IA, Sept 2016.

Panel chair & comment, "Gender, Empire, and Human Nature: Late Victorian Reconceptualizations of the Relationship Between Individual Rights and State Intervention," Midwest Conference on British Studies, Sept 2016.

"Rehabilitating the Home: Women's Self-Help at the End of Empire," presented at International Decolonization Seminar Reunion Conference, Washington DC, July 2016.

"Colonial Cassandras: Feminizing Imperial Critique from East Africa to Britain," lecture at Northwestern University, Center for Equality Development and Globalization Studies, April 2016.

Panel Chair, "Race and Empire in British/Empire Studies," Modern British Studies Collaborative Workshop, Chicago, April 2016.

"Rehabilitating the Home: Fighting Mau Mau through Women's Self-Help," presented at Northeast Conference on British Studies, Ottawa, October 2015.

"Containing Contagion, Spreading Development: Welfare in the Twentieth-Century Empire and Commonwealth," panel organized for Northeast Conference on British Studies, Ottawa, October 2015.

"Preparing Future Faculty," panelist, Iowa State University, September 2015.

"The Gender Politics of (Anti-)Imperial Conscience: A View from East Africa," presented at Northwestern University, Conference in Honor of Alex Owen, May 2015.

"Education Reform and the Neotraditional Design of Womanhood in Colonial Africa," presented at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, October 2014.

"Gendering 'Tradition': The British debate over *lobola* in colonial Kenya," presented at the American Historical Association, Washington DC, January 2014.

"Remembering Nelson Mandela," Grinnell College, December 2013.

Panel chair, "Teaching Britishness: British Imperial and National Identity and the Problem of Religious Education," North American Conference on British Studies, Portland, OR, November 2013.

Panel chair, "Transnational debates and the International Order," Institute of Commonwealth Studies and King's College London workshop on Decolonization, June 2013.

"British debates over *lobola* in colonial Kenya and the gendering of African 'tradition,'" presented at the African History Seminar, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, May 2013.

"Gender, Mission Education, and the Crisis of Empire in British Africa," presented at American Historical Association, Boston, January 2011.

"The Significance of Jeffrey Cox's *The British Missionary Enterprise Since 1700* for Understanding the Indigenization of Christianity," Roundtable, American Society for Church History/ American Historical Association, San Diego, January 2010.

"Whose 'Civilizing Mission'? Regulating Vice in Colonial Uganda," presented at British Scholar Conference, University of Texas/Austin, February 2009.

"Gender and Christianity in Other British Worlds," panel organized for British World Conference, University of Bristol, July 2007.

"'True Christianity' or 'True Womanhood'? Marriage in the African Mission Field," presented at British World Conference, University of Bristol, July 2007.

"The Mothers' Union in Africa and the Globalization of Anglican Womanhood," presented at Empires of Religion Conference, University College Dublin, June 2006.

"'Missionary Feminism'? Gender and Spirituality in Colonial Africa," Trinity College, CT, March 2006.

"Negotiating the Nuptial Divide: Single women and the problem of marriage in the mission field," presented at Middle Atlantic Conference on British Studies, Rutgers, April 2003.

"The Politics of Respectability: Women in the Nineteenth-Century Mission Field," panel organized for North American Conference on British Studies, Baltimore, November 2002.

"Separate Spheres? Gender and authority in a Madagascar mission," presented at North American Conference on British Studies, Baltimore, November 2002.

"Protective Politics: Anglican women, Malagasy girls, and the boarding school campaign in the late nineteenth century," presented at New Frontiers in Graduate History Conference, York University, Toronto, March 2002.

Awards, fellowships, and honors

- Frederick L. Baumann Chair of History, 2021-
- Newberry Library Fellow, Chicago, Fall 2019.
- Co-director, Research in the Humanities Seminar, Associated Colleges of the Midwest, Fall 2019.
- Walter D. Love Article Prize, North American Conference on British Studies, 2018.
- Judith R. Walkowitz Article Prize, North American Conference on British Studies, 2018.
- NEH Summer Stipend, Grinnell College nominee, 2016.
- Visiting lecturer, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, October 2014.
- Henry Charles Chapman Visiting Fellowship, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, 2013.
- Mellon international research seminar on "Decolonization," sponsored by the National History Center and the Library of Congress, Washington DC, 2010.
- Harris Faculty Fellowship, 2007-2008.
- Northwestern University Alumnae Dissertation Fellowship, 2003-2004.
- Northwestern University Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2002-2003.
- Association for the Sociology of Religion, Fichter Research Grant, 2002.
- Woodrow Wilson Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship (finalist), 2002.
- Northwestern Center for International and Comparative Studies Research Grant, 2000 & 2002.
- T. William Heyck Research Fellowship, 2001.
- English-Speaking Union Research Fellowship, 2001.
- University Scholar in the Northwestern University Graduate School, 2000-2001.
- Northwestern University Summer Research Grant, 1999.
- Northwestern University Fellow, 1997-1998.
- Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1996.
- George B. Cooper Prize in British History, Trinity College, 1996.

Teaching

(Grinnell College)

Introductory & methods courses:
HIS 100: After the Great War
HIS 105: Cultural Encounters in History

Surveys:
HIS 236: Modern Britain and the Empire
HIS 262: Modern Africa from the Sahara to Zambezi
HIS 261: Southern Africa
HIS 295: Reckoning with the Past in Modern Africa
HUM/SST 295: Rethinking Global Cultures

HIS 295: Cultures of Empire in the Imperial Metropolis (Grinnell-in-London)
HIS 101: Basic Issues in European History

Seminars:
HIS 334: Decolonization
HIS 332: Gender and Empire in Victorian Britain
HIS 333: The Civilizing Mission and its Discontents
HIS 295: British Feminism (Grinnell-in-London)
SAM 401: Research Colloquium in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia

First-year tutorials:
Fan Histories
Escapism
Human Rights in the Modern World
Victoria's Secrets

(Associated Colleges of the Midwest)

One for the Books: The Pleasures & Politics of Reading (Research in the Humanities Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, co-taught with Ralph Savarese)

(Northwestern University)

British Culture and the Imperial Experience

Professional service

North American Conference on British Studies, Executive Committee
- Executive Secretary, 2017-2020
- Associate Executive Secretary, 2013-2017

American Historical Association
- Morris D. Forkosch Book Prize selection committee, 2019

American Council of Learned Societies
- Executive Officer representative for NACBS, 2017-2018

Grinnell College, History Department
- Department Chair, 2013-17
- Social Studies Division Personnel Committee, History department representative, 2013-17
- Search committee chair, tenure-track East Asian history position, 2017-18
- Prize committees, ongoing
- Faculty mentor and personnel reviews, ongoing

Grinnell College, college-wide service and elected positions
- Scholarship Selection Committee, 2024-2026
- Phi Beta Kappa Society, Beta of Iowa chapter, Vice President (2024-2025)
- Faculty Equity Advocate, 2024-
- Faculty Personnel Committee, elected At-large Member, 2021-2023

- Committee for the Support of Faculty Scholarship, At-Large representative, 2020-2022
- Faculty representative to Board of Trustees, Academic Affairs Committee, 2020-2022
- Chair, Studies in Africa, the Middle East, & South Asia Concentration, 2019-2022
- Faculty Personnel Appeals Board, 2015-2017 & 2017-2019
- Watson Fellowship Selection Committee, Chair, 2018-2019
- Student Government Association Faculty Adviser, 2017-2018
- Dining Services Committee & Director Search Committee, 2017-2018
- Faculty Executive Council, elected At-Large Member, 2014-2016
- Center for Humanities Advisory Board, 2014-2016
- Council for Diversity & Inclusion, 2014-2016
- Summer workshop facilitator, "Colonial Geographies, Transnational Futures," 2015
- Watson Fellowship Selection Committee, Grinnell College, 2013
- New faculty mentor, 2013-2014, 2017-2018
- Grinnell Corps Selection Committee, Lesotho & Namibia fellowships, 2005-2014
- Umoja Conference workshop leader, 2012
- Faculty coordinator for Grinnell Alumni College, 2011
- Faculty Organization Committee, 2010-2011
- Curriculum Committee, Social Studies Division representative, 2008-2011
- Center for International Studies Advisory Board, 2009-2011
- Off-Campus Study program advising, 2008-2018
- Task force on Certification in the Liberal Arts for Incarcerated Students, 2008-2009
- Off-Campus Study Board, 2005-2007
- Early Career Faculty coordinator, 2004-2007
- African Studies curricular development, 2005-2018
- Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies curricular development, 2005-2018
- South Asian Studies curricular development, 2008-2018

External program reviewer

- Knox College History Department, 2025
- Lake Forest College History Department, 2014-2015
- IES Abroad, Cape Town, South Africa, 2014

Manuscript peer reviews
(Journal articles)

- *American Historical Review*
- *Journal of British Studies*
- *Literature and History*
- *Journal of Women's History*
- *Women's History Review*
- *International Review of Social History*
- *Journal of Religion in Africa*
- *Studies in Church History*
- *Journal of Educational Administration and History*

(Books)

- Oxford University Press
- Ashgate Publishing/Routledge
- Brill Press
- Bloomsbury

- Palgrave

Present and past learned society memberships

- North American Conference on British Studies
- Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing
- American Historical Association
- African Studies Association
- British Scholar Society
- American Academy of Religion
- American Society for Church History

Contact information

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