

Bruce S. Hall, Ph.D.

Associate Professor,
Department of History, Department of African and African American Studies
Duke University

Email: bruce.hall@duke.edu *or* ouagadoo@yahoo.com

Current Position:

Duke University

Associate Professor, Department of History, 2013-present
Assistant Professor, Department of History, 2008-13
(secondary appointment in the Department of African and African American Studies)

Previous Positions:

University at Buffalo (SUNY):

Assistant Professor, Department of History, 2006-2008

Johns Hopkins University:

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Department of History, 2005- 2007

Education:

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D., History, 2005, Dissertation: "Mapping the River in Black and White: Trajectories of Race in the Niger Bend, Northern Mali." Dissertation Advisor: Charles Stewart; Committee Members: Donald Crummey, Kenneth Cuno, Jean Allman. Major Field: Africa; Minor Fields: Modern Middle East, Islamic Sciences (in the Department of Religious Studies)

American University in Cairo, Egypt

Arabic Language Institute, Intensive Program, Advanced Level, 1998-99.

University of Chicago

Intensive Arabic Program, Summer 1998

Northwestern University

Traveling Scholar (CIC), 1997

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

M.A., History, 1995

University of Toronto

B.A., History and African Studies, 1994.

Publications:

(* indicates works that were peer reviewed)

Books:

* Bruce S. Hall, *A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011). Co-winner of the Martin A. Klein prize for the most distinguished work of scholarship on African history published in English, 2012. American Historical Association.

Articles and Book Chapters:

* Ghislaine Lydon and Bruce Hall, "Excavating Arabic Sources For the History of Slavery in Western Africa," in *African Slavery/African Voices, Volume 2, Methodology*, ed. Alice Bellagamba, Sandra Greene, Carolyn Brown and Martin Klein (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

Bruce S. Hall, "Enslaved Paths of Circulation in the Sahara: Commercial Networks and Slave Agency between Ghadames (Libya) and Timbuktu (Mali) in the Nineteenth Century," in *Confluence of Cultures*, ed. Chouki el Hamel and Paul Lovejoy (Princeton: Marcus Wiener, forthcoming).

Ami Shah, Bruce S. Hall and Edward Carr, "Bono, Band Aid, and Before: Celebrity Humanitarianism, Music and the Objects of its Action," in *Soundscapes of Wellbeing in Popular Music*, ed. Gavin J. Andrews, Paul Kingsbury and Robin A. Kearns, (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2014), pp.269-88.

Bruce S. Hall, "Saharan Commerce and Islamic Law: The Question of Usury (ribā) in the Nawāzil literature of Mali and Mauritania, 1700-1929," *African Economic History* 41 (2013), pp.1-20. [published in 2014]

* Bruce S. Hall, "Arguing sovereignty in Songhay," *Afriques: Débats, methods et terraines d'histoire* 4 (2013), pp.2-17.

* Bruce S. Hall, Baz Lecocq, Gregory Mann, Bruce Whitehouse, Dida Badi, Lotte Pelckmans, Nadia Belalimat, Wolfram Lacher, "One Hippopotamus and Eight Blind Analysts: A multivocal analysis of the 2012 political crisis in the divided Republic of Mali," *Review of African Political Economy* 40, no. 137 (2013), pp.343-57.

* Bruce S. Hall and Yacine Daddi Addoun, "The Arabic Letters of the Ghadames Slaves in the Niger Bend, 1860-1900," in *African Slavery/African Voices*, ed. Alice Bellagamba, Sandra Greene, Carolyn Brown and Martin Klein. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013), pp.485-500.

* Bruce S. Hall, "How slaves used Islam: The letters of enslaved Muslim commercial agents in the nineteenth-century Niger Bend and Central Sahara," *Journal of African History* 52, no. 3 (2011), pp.279-97.

* Bruce S. Hall, "Bellah histories of decolonization, Iklan paths to freedom: The meanings of race and slavery in the late-colonial Niger Bend (Mali), 1944-1960," *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 44, no.1 (2011), pp.61-87.

* Bruce S. Hall and Charles C. Stewart, "The historic 'Core Curriculum,' and the book market in Islamic West Africa" in *The Trans-Saharan Book Trade: Arabic Literacy, Manuscript Culture, and Intellectual History in Islamic Africa*, ed. Graziano Krätli and Ghislaine Lydon (Leiden: Brill, 2010), pp.109-74.

Bruce S. Hall, "An early Tuareg anti-colonial manifesto? A local critique of the French occupation of the Niger Bend" in *Le Temps des Oulèmas: les manuscrits africains comme sources historiques*, ed. Seyni Moumouni and Viera Pawlikova-Vilhanova (Niamey: Etudes Nigériennes, 2009), pp.107-48.

Bruce S. Hall, "Bellah Highwaymen: Slave banditry and crime in colonial northern Mali" in *Islam, Slavery and Diaspora*, ed. Ismael Musah Montana, Behnaz A. Mirzai, Paul Lovejoy (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2009), pp.193-215.

Bruce S. Hall, "Historiography of Islamic Africa" in *New Encyclopedia of Africa*, ed. John Middleton and Joseph Miller (New York: Charles Scribner's sons, 2007), pp. 561-65.

Bruce S. Hall, "The Question of 'Race' in the Pre-colonial Southern Sahara," *Journal of North African Studies*, vol. 10, No. 3-4 (2005), pp. 339-67.

Book Reviews:

Review of Judith Scheele, *Smugglers and Saints of the Sahara: regional connectivity in the twentieth century* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012), in "Lectures autour d'un livre," *Politique Africaine* 131 (October 2013), pp.224-31.

Review of John Wright, *A History of Libya* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012), in *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 46, no. 2 (2013), pp.332-3.

Review of John Wright, *A History of Libya* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2010), in *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 44, no. 3 (2011), pp.458-60.

Review of Ghislaine Lydon, *On Trans-Saharan Trails: Islamic Law, Trade Networks, and Cross-Cultural Exchange in Nineteenth-Century Western Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), in *Journal of World History* 22, no. 2 (2011), pp.618-21.

Review of John Hunwick, *West Africa, Islam, and the Arab World: Studies in Honor of Basil Davidson* (Princeton: Marcus Wiener, 2006), in *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 40, 2 (2007), pp. 332-33.

Awards and Fellowships:

Visiting professor [chaire sécable] at IISMM (Institut d'études de l'Islam et des Sociétés du Monde Musulman), part of the EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales), Paris, France, May-June 2014.

Co-winner, American Historical Association, Martin A. Klein prize for the most distinguished work of scholarship on African history published in English, 2012.

Stanford Humanities Center, external faculty fellow, 2012-13.

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Book Fellowship, 2007-2008

Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University, research fellow, 2007-2008.

Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2005-2007.

University of Illinois, Graduate College, Scott Completion Fellowship, 2004-2005.

University of Illinois, Department of History, William Widener Teaching Fellowship, 2004-2005. (declined)

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), International Dissertation Research Fellow, 2000-2001.

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Doctoral Fellow, 1998-2000.

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), International Pre-Dissertation Fellow, 1998-99.

University of Illinois, Graduate College, Foreign Language Enhancement Program (FLEP) Fellow, 1998.

Queen's University, Graduate College, Graduate Fellow, 1994-95.

Invited Papers and Lectures:

“What are the Islamist Solutions to Post-colonial Crises in West Africa? Rethinking Competing Muslim Modernities in Mali,” University at Buffalo (SUNY), April 23, 2015.

“Qui a peur de l’islamisme au Nord du Mali ? Vers un cosmopolitisme sahélien,” in the seminar “le Mali demain,” Institut des mondes africains (IMAf), Paris, France, June 13, 2014.

“Les critiques de l’esclavage au Sahel musulman, à travers les opinions juridiques,” Journées d’études “Islam, ‘esclaves’ (ou ‘castés’) et catégories de race en Afrique de l’ouest musulmane,” Collège de France, Paris, France, June 5-6, 2014.

“Que sont les manuscrits de Tombouctou ? Histoire perdue où tradition vivante?” Institut des Sciences de l’Homme, Lyon, France, June 3, 2014.

“Les chaînes des affaires : Esclavage et commerce au Sahara et Sahel au 19^e siècle,” in the seminar “Anthropologie et histoire du Sahel Musulman,” Institut des mondes africains (IMAf), Paris, France, May 30, 2014.

“‘We must correspond with the slaves in order to gather news’: Slavery and Agency inside the 19th-century Saharan Commercial House of `Isa b. Hmida al-Ghadamisi in Timbuktu,” University of Chicago, March 5, 2014.

“Competing Racial Narratives of Violence in Contemporary Mali,” African Studies Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 31, 2013.

“The Power of Old Paper: ‘Saving Manuscripts’, ‘Tolerant Islam’ and the Meanings of Timbuktu in Mali and Beyond,” Comparative Muslim Societies Program, Cornell University, October 10, 2013.

“What does race have to do with the conflict in Mali? Histories and Memories of Slavery and Violence in the West African Sahel,” Red Lion Lecture, Northwestern University/University of Chicago, April 18, 2013.

“Bonds of Trade: Slavery and Commerce in the 19th-century circum-Saharan World,” Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, March 21, 2013.

“Bonds of Trade: Slavery and Commerce in the 19th-century circum-Saharan World,” African Studies Center, Stanford University, February 6, 2013.

Presentation of “A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960,” and round table with Jean-Louis Triaud, Jean Schmitz, and Charles Grémont, Centre d’études des mondes africains (CEMAf), Paris, November 9, 2012.

“The Morality of Descent: African histories of race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960.” Institute of African Studies, Columbia University, January 26, 2012.

“Enslaved Paths of Circulation in the Sahara and Sahel: Commercial networks and slave agency between Ghadames (Libya) and Timbuktu (Mali) in the 19th century.” Ifriqiyya Colloquium, Columbia University, January 26, 2012.

“An African history of race in the Black Atlantic.” Keynote, Stanford Forum for African Studies, Stanford University, October 28, 2011.

“The Morality of Slavery, according to Shaykh Bay al-Kunti (d.1929): Sahelian legal arguments about the didactic value of enslavement in Islam.” University of Florida, April 8, 2011.

“Towards an African history of race: Blackness and slavery in the Muslim scholarship of West Africa, c. 1700-1900.” Stephen Allen Kaplan Memorial Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, March 3, 2011.

“Reading Race in Islamic Law: the meanings of “blacks” (sudan) in the Arabic Legal literature of pre-colonial West Africa, c.1600-1900.” School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, March 11, 2010.

“Arguments about blackness and enslavement in the Arabic literature of the West African Sahel, c.1600-1900.” Centre of West African Studies (CWAS), University of Birmingham, March 10, 2010.

with Yacine Daddi Addoun, “The Epistolary Network of Anjay Isa, Slave from Ghadames in Timbuktu, 1857-1900.” Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, March 5, 2008.

with Charles Stewart, “The Historic ‘Core Curriculum,’ and the Book Market in Islamic West Africa.” The Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University, November 5, 2007.

“Making ‘Race’ in the Southern Sahara, c.1650-1850.” The History Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, February 27, 2006.

Conference/Workshop Presentations:

“Salt, Slavery and Credit in the functioning of Saharan Commerce,” Workshop on Doing Business with Strangers: Finance and Enterprise in the Preindustrial World, Yale University, May 1-2, 2015.

“Narrating the Political Imaginary in Muslim West Africa,” The Many Histories of the Present: Pasts and Possibilities in the Muslim World, Duke University, April 17-19, 2015.

“The New Race History outside the West,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, New York, January 2-5, 2015.

“Ethnic nationalism and racialized violence in the Sahara: State collapse and the prospect of Islamist cosmopolitanism in Mali,” Workshop on Military Regimes, Diversity and Sectarianism in Muslim Societies, Harvard University, October 24-25, 2014.

“Towards a history of Arabic writing and commercial institutions in nineteenth-century West Africa,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 21-3, 2013.

“Narrating Power: Stories of Authority Betrayed in the Oral and Written Literature of the Niger Bend,” Reframing the Sahel as a Political Space, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, November 8-9, 2013.

“The Politics of Old Paper: Narratives of Rescue or Cashing in on the Arabic Manuscripts of Timbuktu?” Women, War and Peace, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, September 20-21, 2013.

“Towards a new cosmopolitanism in Northern Mali?” Mali in Transition, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, May 29-30, 2013.

“Publishing Nawāzil on Slavery: New debates about Islam and slavery in the Sahel,” Religion, Media and Marginality in Africa since 1800, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, March 22-23, 2013.

“Bonds of Trade: Slavery and Commerce in the 19th-century circum-Saharan World,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 29-December 1, 2012.

“Didactic poetry and Islamic law in West Africa: Shaykh Bāy al-Kuntī’s nawāzil and its audiences,” Islamic Studies and the Literary Imagination, Johns Hopkins University, October 27, 2012.

“‘Commercial Transactions with the Blacks’: Trade, Race, and the Problem of Muslim Comportment in Sahelian West Africa, c. 1600-1900,” Slavery, Race and Gender in Islamic Societies: A Comparative Perspective, Princeton University, March 16-18, 2012

“The jurisprudence of the Saharan slave trade: from fatwa to furu’ in West African legal thought, 1600-1900,” Slave Trade and Slavery in the Arab Islamic World: Untold Tragedy and Shared Heritage, Calabar, Nigeria, March 14-15, 2012. [paper read, unable to attend in person]

“Saharan Commerce and Islamic Law: Problems of credit and limited partnerships in the Fatwa literature of Mali and Mauritania, 1700-1900,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, January 5-8, 2012.

“Le discours d’esclavage et affranchissement au Sahara, passé et présent,” C’est qui, c’est quoi le *hrâtâni*? Etude comparative entre le sud Maroc et la Mauritanie *bidane*, Collège de France, Paris, September 28-30, 2011.

“Enslaved Paths of Circulation in the Sahara: Commercial networks and slave agency between Ghadames (Libya) and Timbuktu (Mali) in the 19th century,” Confluence de cultures ou convergence de diasporas, Marrakech, Morocco, May 20-21, 2011.

“The Place and Meaning of Race in the Fatwa Literature of Mauritania and Mali,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 18-21, 2010.

“Slaves on the move: Life stories of travel, trade and manumission among Ghadames slaves in the 19th-century Niger Bend,” Workshop on Post-slavery and Migration, Centre for the Study of International Slavery, University of Liverpool, March 15, 2010.

“Race” into the circum-Saharan World,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, San Diego, January 7-10, 2010.

“The role of slaves as agents of the trans-Saharan slave trade: evidence from a Ghadames-based commercial network in the Niger Bend, 1850-1900,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) conference, Accra, Ghana, August 2-6, 2009.

“The Arabic Letters of the Ghadames Slaves in the Niger Bend, 1860-1900,” Tales of Slavery: Narratives of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Enslavement in Africa, University of Toronto, May 20-23, 2009.

“Reading the black-ness of the “sūdān”: Southern Saharan literary productions of ‘race’,” Conference on the Historical Constructions of “Race” and Social Hierarchy in Muslim West and North Africa, Dakar, Senegal, December 10-12, 2008.

“The Epistolary Network of Anjay Isa, Slave from Ghadames in Timbuktu, 1857-1900,” African Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Chicago, 13-16 November, 2008.

“Ghosts in Modibo Keita’s Mali: The politics of “race” and violence in Northern Mali and the radicalization of Malian nationalism, 1946-68,” Mande Studies Association (MANSA) Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, June 23-27, 2008.

“Into the Saharan Diaspora: The Epistolary Network of Anjay Isa, Slave from Ghadames in Timbuktu, 1857-1900” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) conference, Barbados, October 9-13, 2007.

“La première manifeste anti-coloniale touarègue ? : Une critique saharienne de l’occupation française à la Boucle du Niger,” Colloque internationale sur les manuscrits africains comme sources historiques en Afrique, Université Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, Niger, January 30 – February 3, 2007.

“The Perilous Future of the Tuareg ‘Race’: Muhammad Ali ag Attaher and debates over women’s bodies in colonial Northern Mali, 1930-1960,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, November 17-20, 2005.

“Une base de données électroniques des manuscrits arabes en Afrique occidentale,” Chemins du savoir: Journées d’études sur les manuscrits de Tombouctou, Rabat, Morocco, June 13-17, 2005.

“Making ‘White’ Nomads: Touareg and Arab discourses of ‘race’ in colonial northern Mali, 1893-1940,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, November 11-14, 2004.

“The Question of ‘race’ in the pre-colonial southern Sahara,” The Sahara: Past, Present and Future, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, June 22-24, 2004.

“Racialized Borderland : Racial Identity and the Politics of Separatism in the Agitation for the O.C.R.S. in Northern Mali in the 1950s,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Boston, October 30 - November 2, 2003.

“Bellah Highwaymen: Slave banditry and crime in colonial northern Mali,” Conference on Slavery, Islam and Diaspora, Harriet Tubman Resource Centre on the African Diaspora, York University, October 24-26, 2003.

“The making of a Racially-Usable Past: Local histories and racial identity formation in colonial northern Mali,” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Nashville, November 16-19, 2000.

Service:

IDRF Reviewer (Social Science Research Council), 2012-14.

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Reviewer, 2008

Peer Reviewer for book manuscripts for Cambridge University Press, University of Wisconsin Press, Brill

Peer Reviewer for articles for the Canadian Journal of African Studies, Journal of Modern African Studies, International Journal of African Historical Studies, Journal of West African History, and the Journal of International and Global Studies

Teaching Competencies:

Africa

Muslim world

Comparative histories of slavery, race, colonialism

Muslim intellectual history

Languages:

Arabic, French, Songhay

Professional Memberships:

African Studies Association (ASA)

Association for the Study of the African Diaspora (ASWAD)

Saharan Studies Association

Mande Studies Association (MANSA)

American Historical Association (AHA)