

DR. JETHRON AYUMBAH AKALLAH

Department of History and Archaeology

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EDUCATION

Dec 2014 To April 2018: PhD, History of Technology, Technische Universität, Darmstadt

Title of Dissertation: *In the Technological Footprints of Urbanity: Water, Sanitation and Informality in Nairobi, 1899 to 2015*

Sept 2008 To Nov 2012: Master of Arts (History), Maseno University, Kenya

Sept 2002 To Dec 2006: Bachelor of Education (Arts) History/Kiswahili, Maseno University, Kisumu, Kenya
-attained First Class Honors

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

1. Archival Research in Nairobi Kenya (Kenya National archives and Macmillan Library), British National Library at Kew Richmond, London; Bodleian Library Oxford — as part of the PhD research between March 2015 and September 2016 intermittently. This coupled with document/desk-top/library research at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London and Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE), Westminster, London.
2. Field Research in Kibera, Mathare, Kariobangi and Ruiru in Kenya for a period of three months starting July 2016. Mostly conducted key informant interviews, Focus Group Discussions and used field observatory methods.
3. Archival and Field/ethnographic research at Kenya National Archives in Nairobi and Kibera respectively for the MA project between 2009 and 2010.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 08/2019 to date** Lecturer, Maseno University
- 10/2017 to 04/2018** Research Assistants, Global History of Technology (Global-HoT), TU Darmstadt, Germany
- 10/2016/02/2017** Teaching Assistant (African Sources of History), TU Darmstadt, Germany
- 11/2012-08/2019** Tutorial Fellow, Maseno University, Kisumu, Kenya
- 09/2012-11/2012** Graduate Assistant, Maseno University, Kisumu, Kenya
- 01/2007-08/2008** Teacher of History and Government/Kiswahili, Nairobi Muslim Academy, Nairobi Kenya
- 09/2006-01/2007** Teacher of History and Government/Kiswahili, Malava Boys High School, Kakamega, Kenya

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 10/2019-10/2020** Society of History of Technology (SHOT) International Scholars Award 2019/2020
- 11/2014-11/2017** PhD Fellowship funded by the Hans Boekler Stiftung, Germany
- 06/09-11/2012** Maseno University Graduate Trainee Scholarship Award

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Society of History of Technology
Associate member, Global History of Technology Research Group, TU Darmstadt, Germany
Graduate School for Urban Studies (URBANgrad), Darmstadt University of Technology
- British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA)
- Kenya University Academic Staff Union
- West Kenya Historical Association
- Kenya Teachers Service Commission

SKILLS AND TRAINING

- Teaching/Lecturing/Postgraduate supervision/Examination
Research (Archival and Field/Ethnographic)

Presentation
Leadership
Writing
Article and Book Review
Translation (English-Swahili/Swahili-English)
Computer proficiency skills
German language (elementary proficiency)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Member, Postgraduate Committee, School of Graduate Studies, Maseno University, 2019 to date
School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) Learner Support Assistant, e-Learning, Maseno University (2018 to date)
Patron, Debating Club, Nairobi Muslim Academy (2008)
Class Teacher, Nairobi Muslim Academy (2007-2008)
Chairman, Bunyore University Students' Association (Maseno Chapter), 2004-2006
Organizing Secretary, Bunyore University Students' Association (2003-2006)

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

1. "*The Notion of "Home and House": Understanding the Technological Landscapes of Water and Sanitation Supply in Postcolonial Nairobi*" Annual Conference for the Society of History of Technology (SHOT) in Milan, Italy. Presented a paper in the session on **Knowledge, Race, and Power in the History of Global Technology (24th to 27th October 2019)**
2. Participant in the International Workshop on *Resources, Infrastructures and the Anthropocene: Dialogues between the Global North and the Global South*, Lisbon, Portugal at the *Campus de Caparica of the Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (18th to 20th September 2019)*.
3. "*Under the Historian's Radar: Local Water-supply Practices in Nairobi, 1940 – 1980*" Co-presented a paper with Mikael Hård at the Annual Society of History of Technology (SHOT) Conference at St. Louis, Missouri, USA in the Panel Session on **Infrastructure in Africa: Local Knowledge and Technological Know-How (October 11th – 14th 2018)**
4. "*Walking the Thin Line: The Technological Triad in Urban Water and Sanitation Provisioning for Nairobi, 1963 to 1975*" Presented paper in the Workshop on "**The Role of Users in Global Technological History**", University of Bern, Switzerland (**June 14th – 15th 2018**)

5. "Un-packing the socio-political character of LTS: The Race Question and Nairobi's Water and Sanitation Infrastructure, 1899 to 1963" Annual Society of History of Technology (SHOT) Conference at Tembusu College, University of Singapore- presented paper in the plenary on **Imperialism, Technology and Culture (June 22nd - 26th 2016)**

6. *(Re)Producing Engineering: Retracing Nairobi's Water Supply Practices*, Conference on water regimes in the Global South, organized in New Delhi, India by the Centre for Policy Research (CRP) (**January 15th - 17th 2016**)

7. "From Blind Spot to Blank Spot: Fragmentation, Ethnic Mobilization and Service Provision within Kibera Flexible Settlement in Nairobi, Kenya" presented at ECAS 2015 6th European Conference on African Studies, at Sobourne University, Paris, on **Identity Mobilization, Citizenship and Public Services Provision (July 8th - 10th 2015)**

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Akallah, J.A. and Hård, M. 'Under the Radar': Local Water Supply Practices in Nairobi, 1940-1980 (under review)

Thesis

In the Technological Footprints of Urbanity: A Socio-political History of Water and Sanitation in Nairobi, 1899-2015 (<https://tuprints.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/8550/>)

Book Chapters

Akallah, J.A., Infrastructure, Race and Socio-spatial differentiation: Unbundling Nairobi's Water System, 1899 to 1939, in Monstadt J.; de Bercegol R.; Bon B. (forthcoming) *Translating the networked city: Urban Infrastructures in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam*, Routledge (upcoming)

Akallah, J.A (2013), "The Second Kibaki Era; 2007-2013: Seeking Stability within Turbulent Waters" in W.R Ochieng (ed), *A History of Independent Kenya: A celebration of 50 years of Independence*, Kisumu, Lake Publishers and Stationers Limited

Akallah, J.A. (2012), "The Luhya Politics" in Ochieng, W.R ; Cokumu, P.O ; Akallah, J. A. (ed); *A History of Western Kenya in the 20th and 21st Centuries*, Kisumu, Lake Publishers and Stationers Limited

Conference Proceedings

Akallah, J.A. ; de Bercegol R. ; Kanini Wamuchiru E. (2016), *(Re)Producing Engineering: Retracing Nairobi's Water Supply Practices*, Centre for Policy Research,


Delhi, India

<http://www.cprindia.org/sites/default/files/events/Conference%20Proceedings%20Water%20Regimes.pdf>

Editorship

Guest Editor of *Tanzania Zamani* journal : Manuscripts

Reinstating Local Agency: Origins and Development of Irrigated Rice Production in the Usangu Plains, 1920s to 1960

Name	Dr. Jethron Ayumbah Akallah
Qualification	PhD (History of Technology), Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany MA (History), Maseno University, Kenya BED (Arts) First Class Honors, Maseno University Kenya
Picture (JPEG or better)	
Department	History and Archaeology
Email:	aayumbah@maseno.ac.ke/jakallah46@gmail.com
Postal Address:	Box 75 (50307) Luanda, Kenya
Brief Bio	Dr. Jethron Ayumbah Akallah holds a PhD in History of Technology from Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany and currently serves as a Lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology at Maseno University, Kenya. He holds the Society of History of Technology (SHOT) 2019/2020 International Scholars Award, awarded at the 2019 Annual SHOT Conference at St. Louis, Missouri, USA. Dr. Akallah has special interest in urban history with the main focus on urban infrastructure especially water and sanitation provisioning in African cities. He pays special attention to the everyday experiences of ordinary people in the fringes/off-grid/informal settlements in Nairobi.
Current	1. " Pandemic urbanism? COVID-19 and frugal regimes of the urban poor

Research: We also need past research activities

in the global South "

We critique top-down universal approaches to securing the city during a pandemic. We critique their embellished faith in standard solutions. We argue that the translation of such solutions need to take into consideration the local context and their limitation to a kind of developmentist proposals which barely ever look beyond neoliberal level compliance in their search of what works. Here, we contend that Nairobi, being a splintered and fragmented city, dominant solutions must attend to the city's differences in particularly.

2. Race, Gender, and Power in the History of Users of Global Technology

We explore how users re-create perceptions and cultural norms about the use, design, and re-development of old and new technologies. We also examine access to new technology, which was not always equitable or equally distributed. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, regulations for integrating machinery into the daily lives of communities relied upon notions of race, gender, and education to establish who would enjoy the privilege of access to newly introduced technology. This new technology could become a source of empowerment for a community or individual, but the explicit and implicit rules governing it could exacerbate the social divide between the already privileged and nonprivileged.

3. In the Technological Footprints of Urbanity: A Socio-political History of Water and Sanitation in Nairobi, 1899-2015 (<https://tuprints.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/8550/>)

The research proposes a bottom-linked approach to history of technology. Through infrastructure provision and visualizing the need to capture the day-to-day experiences of ordinary people, the research anchors itself on the process of technology transfer as being defined by contestation, adaptability, innovation, and hybridization and in some cases rejection. People as co-prod-users are (and must be seen) as asset in the processes of reproducing the city as a contested and socially constructed space.

4. The Role of Government in the Marginalization of the Urban Poor: A Case of Kibera Informal Settlement. 1963 to 2002

The research explored the historical and benign neglect of informal settlements in Nairobi. By focusing on Kibera, the research questioned the treatment of informal settlements as 'blind spots' and 'blank spaces' by the central government and the municipal authorities. Through the citizenship debate, it was imperative to note that

	<p>while the livelihoods in informal areas may be assumed as temporal, rapid urbanization and governance vacuums continue to reproduce informality as a permanent imprint on the urban scape.</p>
<p>Publications:</p>	<p>1. Articles</p> <p>Akallah, J.A. and Hård, M. ‘Under the Radar’: Local Water Supply Practices in Nairobi, 1940-1980 (under review)</p> <p>2. Thesis</p> <p><i>In the Technological Footprints of Urbanity: A Socio-political History of Water and Sanitation in Nairobi, 1899-2015</i> (https://tuprints.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/8550/)</p> <p>3. Book Chapters</p> <p>Akallah, J.A., Infrastructure, Race and Socio-spatial differentiation: Unbundling Nairobi's Water System, 1899 to 1939, in Monstadt J.; de Bercegol R.; Bon B. (forthcoming) <i>Translating the networked city: Urban Infrastructures in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam</i>, Routledge (upcoming)</p> <p>Akallah, J.A (2013), "The Second Kibaki Era; 2007-2013: Seeking Stability within Turbulent Waters" in W.R Ochieng (ed), <i>A History of Independent Kenya: A celebration of 50 years of Independence</i>, Kisumu, Lake Publishers and Stationers Limited</p> <p>Akallah, J.A. (2012), "The Luhya Politics" in Ochieng, W.R ; Cokumu, P.O ; Akallah, J. A. (ed); <i>A History of Western Kenya in the 20th and 21st Centuries</i>, Kisumu, Lake Publishers and Stationers Limited</p> <p>4. Conference Proceedings</p> <p>Akallah, J.A. ; de Bercegol R. ; Kanini Wamuchiru E. (2016), <i>(Re)Producing</i></p>

	<p><i>Engineering: Retracing Nairobi's Water Supply Practices</i>, Centre for Policy Research, Delhi, India http://www.cprindia.org/sites/default/files/events/Conference%20Proceedings%20Water%20Regimes.pdf</p> <p>5. Podcasts https://urbanpolitical.podigee.io/23-informal_settlements_southafrica_kenya_1</p> <p>https://urbanpolitical.podigee.io/24-informal_settlements_pandemic</p>
Attachment	<p style="text-align: center;">Full CV (align to the provided format)</p>
Digital Footprint	<p>https://www.tu-darmstadt.de/global-hot/the_project_global_hot/profile/associates/jethron_ayubah_akallah/Jethron_Akallah.de.jsp</p> <p>https://www.urbangrad.tu-darmstadt.de/urban/grad/urbangrad_mitglieder/doktorandinnen/ayubah.de.jsp</p> <p>https://chdr.cah.ucf.edu/rgp/about.html / https://chdr.cah.ucf.edu/rgp/index.html</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2CRb-UTctc</p>