

Online Training Workshop

7-8 July 2025

Organized by Southern Journal for
Contemporary History in in Collaboration
with Africa Oxford Initiative,
University of Oxford



PUBLISHING ON AFRICAN HISTORY IN INTERNATIONAL
JOURNALS FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS FROM MENA REGION

Key Details:



Dates: 7-8 July 2025



Time: 9:00 AM–2:30 PM
(GMT+2/Cairo) - Via Zoom



For: MA/PhD candidates & early-career

Highlights:

- SJCH editors explain the peer review process
- Offering training on research paper methodology and design
- Live feedback on academic writing
- Submission strategies for African-focused journals

Why MENA Scholars and African History?

The inclusion of marginalised voices of young scholars from North Africa and Middle East (MENA) in African History is vital for deconstruction of Eurocentric views and regionally fragmented historical narratives between Africa's North and "Sub-Saharan".

Thus, bridging the divide between northern and southern Africa will contribute to creating fresh insights to understanding the transnational history of the continent. Tailoring a workshop to train young scholars who are willing to address these gaps by providing them with the fundamental skills and tools to introduce their works in Africa-based international journals. By offering this training workshop, it will mainly enable MENA and Sub-Saharan African historians to collaboratively rethink the African historiography which will lead to a new understanding in dealing with African history from transnational and global contexts.

This Workshop is a collaborative initiative between the Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) at the University of Oxford and the Southern Journal for Contemporary History (SJCH), designed to empower young scholars from MENA region to publish their works on African History internationally. Participants will benefit from experienced editors, reviewers and historians with diverse experiences. Training sessions focus on addressing practical insights into academic writing, peer review and ethical guidelines. These foundations will be followed by in-depth training on challenges of doing transnational and global history related to Africa, overcoming the language barriers, and contextualising MENA-Africa connections within global historical context.

Programme:

Proposed Dates 7-8 July 2025(Monday and Tuesday)- Via Zoom

Day 1: Foundations and Fundamentals of Academic Writing and Research Design		
Session 1: Welcome and Introduction (AfOx and SJCH)		
TIME	Speaker	Title
9:00-9:15 AM	Dr. David Kerr Programme Manager of the Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) University of Oxford	Get to Know AfOx: Supporting Research and Collaboration
9:15-09:45 AM	Dr. Matteo Grilli Editor-in-Chief of SJCH, University of Pisa	Perspectives on African Contemporary History: SJCH's Scope and Opportunities for MENA Scholars
BREAK: 15 Minutes		
Session 2: Crafting Research Question(s)		
10:00-11:00 AM	Dr. David Damtar University of Oxford	Building Historian's Argument: From Topic to Thesis
BREAK: 15 Minutes		
Session 3: Archives and Primary Sources		
11:15-12:15 PM	Dr. Mostafa Abdelaal Cairo University	Mining the Archives and Primary Sources Analysis
BREAK: 15 Minutes		
Session 4: Writing Retreat and Structuring Academic Papers`		
12:30-1:30 PM	Dr. Amr Khairy CEDEJ-Cairo	From Introduction to Conclusion: Writing with Clarity and Impact

Day 2: Peer Review, Revisions, and Submission

Session 5: Understanding Peer Review Process

TIME	Speaker	Title
10:00-11:00 AM	Dr. Lazlo Passemiers Managing Editor of SJCH, University of Free State	Behind the scenes: How Editors and Reviewers Evaluate Submissions?

Session 6: Ethics and Open Access Publishing

11:00-12:00 PM	Dr. Matteo Grilli Editor-in-Chief of SJCH, University of Pisa	Plagiarism, Academic Integrity, and SJCH's Ethical Guidelines
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BREAK: 30 Minutes

Session 7: Case Studies of Successful Submissions

12:30-13:15 AM	Dr. Victor Gwande University of Free State	From Draft to Publication: Lessons from SJCH Successful Submissions
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BREAK: 15 Minutes

Session 8: SJCH Submission Process

1:30-2:15 PM	Dr. Lazlo Passemiers Managing Editor of SJCH, University of Free State	Practical Guide to Submission Process to SJCH
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Session 9: Final Remarks

2:15-2:30 PM	Dr. Matteo Grilli Editor-in-Chief of SJCH, University of Pisa <hr/> Dr. David Damtar University of Oxford
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Eligibility criteria

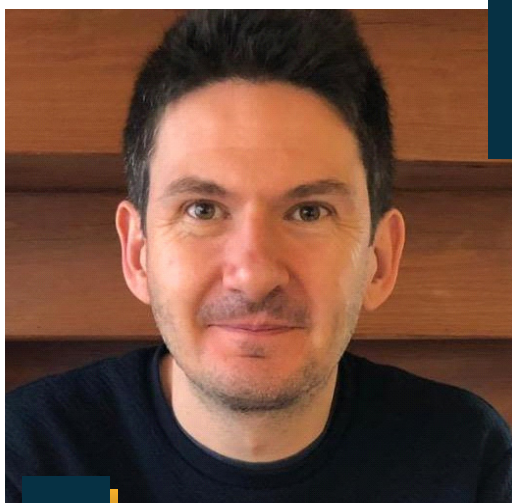
This workshop is open to early-career scholars who meet the following criteria: Currently enrolled in postgraduate studies (MA or PhD) OR early career scholars within 5 years of completing their PhD; Affiliated with an academic institution in the MENA region; Conducting research related to contemporary African history; and showing interest in publishing in international journals.

Application Requirements: Applicants must submit: Current CV (2 pages maximum), writing sample , and fill up the following application [[Click Here](#)]

Important dates and deadlines:

- ✓ Application deadline: 23rd of June 2025
- ✓ Notification of acceptance: 1st of July 2025
- ✓ Workshop Dates: 7th and 8th of July 2025
- ✓ Day 1: 7th of July: Foundations and Fundamentals of Academic writing and research Design
- ✓ Day 2: 8th of July: Peer Review, Revisions, and Submission
- ✓ Time: 9:00 AM–2:30 PM (CAIRO TIME) Via-Zoom
- ✓ Format: Virtual (Zoom)
- ✓ Eligibility: MA/PhD candidates & early-career researchers

Our Speakers:



Dr. David Kerr
Programme Manager of the Africa
Oxford Initiative, University of Oxford

Dr David Kerr is the Programme Manager of the Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx). David is responsible for managing AfOx

programs and supporting the development of partnerships with universities and research institutions. AfOx supports a wide range of activities including a travel grant scheme and visiting fellowships for African academics, supporting high quality meetings and providing academic and mentorship support to African students and research staff in Oxford. Prior to joining AfOx David was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Johannesburg where his research focused on street performance in Dar es Salaam.

Our Speakers:



Dr. Matteo Grilli **Editor-in-Chief of SJCH,** **University of Pisa**

Matteo is an Associate Professor at the University of Pisa and Research fellow at the University of the Free State, Matteo Grilli specialises in the political history of Ghana and Southern Africa. He also works on the history of European migrations in Africa. His first monograph, *Nkrumahism and African Nationalism*, with Palgrave Macmillan, was published in August 2018. He edited, together with Frank Gerits, the book *Visions of African Unity* in 2021. He has been awarded a P-rating by the National Research Foundation of South Africa. He taught African and European history in Italy and South Africa. He is editor-in-chief of the *Southern Journal for Contemporary History*.



Dr. David Damtar **University of Oxford**

David is the Turpin Junior Research Fellow in History at Oriel College, and also affiliated to both African Studies Centre and Faculty of History, University of Oxford. His research focuses on extractive industries and communities' relations in sub-Saharan Africa. Using historical approaches, he particularly explores the various forms and levels under which diverse socio-political actors seek benefits and contest existing forms of resource wealth distribution in Ghana. His forthcoming monograph, titled *Asante Gold: Late Colonial Capital and Ghana's Political Transition*, is published by Boydell and Brewer (James Currey) and contributes to the economic, social and cultural histories of extractive industries and their relations with communities from colonial retreat to early post-colonial Ghana. It draws on Asante's position as a pre-colonial kingdom of gold and its enduring role in Ghana's extractive economy by the mid-twentieth century. He also has a forthcoming journal article with the *Journal of African History* examining gender, contested mineral wealth and decolonisation in Ghana, titled *Of 'Akankyemaa' and Beyond: Gender and Mining Income Disruptions in Late Colonial Asante*.

Our Speakers:



Dr. Lazlo Passemiers University of Free State

Lazlo is currently a Senior Lecturer and Managing Editor of SJCH at University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. His research interest lies in the transnational histories of Southern Africa's decolonisation. While South Africa remains at the centre of most of Lazlo's research, its scope extends to neighbouring Anglophone and Lusophone Africa, as well as Francophone countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He is particularly fascinated by the former support networks of Southern African liberation movements and the relations that existed between the region's white minority governments and societies. In 2019, Lazlo published his first monograph titled 'Decolonisation and Regional Geopolitics: South Africa and the 'Congo Crisis', 1960-1965, which was shortlisted for the 2021 Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Humanities Book Prize. He is currently researching the exile relations of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and the Comité Revolucionário de Moçambique (COREMO). Lazlo is also working on a new research project provisionally titled "Uhuru Hoppers: Decolonisation and White Flight in Southern Africa, 1960-1994."



Dr. Amr Khairy CEDEJ-Cairo

Amr Khairy Ahmed is a postdoctoral fellow at CEDEJ/Ifao holds a PhD in human ecology (Lund University). He researches social and cultural histories of energy and technology in nineteenth-century Egypt, from the interdisciplinary perspective of Anthropocene History. His PhD thesis "Egypt Ignited: How Steam Power Arrived on the Nile and Integrated Egypt into Industrial Capitalism (1820s-76)" presented a social history of the arrival of fossil fuels to Egypt, through industrialisation, agrarian production, debts, and colonialism across the nineteenth-century. His ongoing projects include questions of solar energy for agriculture in contemporary arid environments, labour history in rural Egypt, and the cultural histories of industrialisation and industrial technology.

Our Speakers:



Dr. Victor Gwande University of Free State

Victor M Gwande is a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of the Free State. He is also currently a Fellow at the African Studies Center (ASC), University of Michigan under the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) Program. He has research interests in the economic, business, and labour history of Southern Africa spanning the 20th to the present. He has published in many international and regional journals including Business History Review and African Economic History. His recent book titled “Manufacturing in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1890-1979” addresses the industrial policy and the relationship between manufacturing, the state, and economic interest groups.



Dr. Mostafa Abdelaal Cairo University

Mostafa is an Assistant Professor of African History at the Faculty of African Postgraduate Studies, Cairo University and AFOX Visiting Fellow at University of Oxford. He is also the co-coordinator of the Economic History working group at Young Scholar Initiative (YSI-INET). Currently, he is collaborating with Dr David Damtar at the African Studies Centre, under the Africa Oxford Initiative (AFOX) Visiting Fellowship programme. His PhD research at the University of Cambridge investigated state resources and modern manufacturing in Zambia. He is working on developing his dissertation into a book that discusses the industrial diversification in Zambia from historical perspectives. Mostafa has extensive experience as an editor and researcher and currently serves as the Managing Editor of Ifriqiyyat, an academic series in Arabic on History and Society published by the General Egyptian Book Organization. Mostafa's recent research focuses on themes of economic history in Africa, and Afro-Arab economic relations.

Organizers

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Mostafa Abdelaal, Cairo University

Contacts

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