

# Kathleen E. Alfin

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## Education

**University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI** Anticipated May 2023  
Ph.D. Candidate (ABD Spring 2018), History  
Dissertation: "‘An Exceptional Situation:’ Race, Sex, and the U.S. Army in Liberia, 1942-1946"

**University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI** May 2018  
M.A., History

**Troy University, Troy, AL** October 2015  
M.S., International Relations-Regional Studies: Africa and the Middle East

**University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI** May 2009  
B.A., History (with Distinction)  
Certificate, African Studies

## Additional Coursework

Summer 2016 Summer Institute for Languages of the Muslim World, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Elementary Swahili  
2015 – 2016 Oregon State University, First- and Second-Year French

## Teaching Experience

**United States Military Academy, Department of History, West Point, NY**  
*Assistant Professor* July 2020 – July 2021  
Spring 2021 HI 158A: Advanced Regional Studies in World History-Africa  
HI 108A: Regional Studies in World History-Africa  
Fall 2020 HI 101: The Army of the Republic-Leading Citizen Soldiers

*Instructor* May 2018 – July 2020  
Spring 2020 HI 158A: Advanced Regional Studies in World History-Africa  
HI 108A: Regional Studies in World History-Africa  
Fall 2019 HI 345: Modern Africa  
HI 158A: Advanced Regional Studies in World History-Africa  
Spring 2019 HI 158A: Advanced Regional Studies in World History-Africa  
HI 108A: Regional Studies in World History-Africa  
Fall 2018 HI 108A: Regional Studies in World History-Africa

## Publications

### Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

*In press* "‘Uncle Sugar’s Belles:’ Liberian Women and the U.S. Army’s Program of Tolerated Prostitution in World War II Liberia," *Radical History Review* Issue 146, "Political Imprisonments and Confinements" (forthcoming May 2023).

### Book Reviews

2019 [Kevin J. A. Thomas’s \*Contract Workers, Risk, and the War in Iraq: Sierra Leonean Labor Migrants at US Military Bases\*](#) (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2017), *H-War, H-Net Reviews* (May 2019).

- 2017 [Yuka Suzuki's \*The Nature of Whiteness: Race, Animals, and Nation in Zimbabwe\*](#) (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2017), *African Studies Review* Volume 60, no. 2 (2017): 239-240.
- 2017 [Marc Epprecht's \*Welcome to Greater Edendale: Histories of Environment, Health, and Gender in an African City\*](#) (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2016), *Canadian Journal of African Studies/Revue canadienne des études africaines* Volume 51, no. 2 (2017): 332-334.

#### Other Publications

- 2018 ["A Firsthand Account of Finding Nature on a U.S. Military Base,"](#) *Edge Effects*, February 27, 2018.

### Conference Papers, Presentations, and Interviews

#### Conference Papers

- Nov 2019 "Uncle Sugar's Belles: Liberian Sex Workers and the U.S. Army during World War II," *Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association*, Boston, MA.
- Feb 2018 "Boots on the Ground: An Environmental History of the American War in Afghanistan," *University of Wisconsin Culture, History, and Environment (CHE) Graduate Student Symposium*, Madison, WI.
- Apr 2018 "Uncle Sugar's Belles: Liberian Sex Workers and the U.S. Army during World War II," *Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History*, Louisville, KY.
- Nov 2017 "Saplings of Neo-Colonialism: The Great War, Firestone, and the Dawn of the Rubber Industry in Liberia," *Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association*, Chicago, IL.
- Oct 2017 "Saplings of Neo-Colonialism: The Great War, Firestone, and the Dawn of the Rubber Industry in Liberia," *World War I Centennial Symposium*, Madison, WI.

#### Poster Presentations

- Apr 2017 "East African Working Women: A Comparative Study of Four Postcolonial Cities, Independence to 2000," *University of Wisconsin-Madison Digital Salon 2017 Exhibition*, Madison, WI.

#### Radio Interviews

- Apr 2017 "'East African Working Women: A Comparative Study of Four Postcolonial Cities, Independence to 2000,' at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Digital Salon 2017 Exhibition," *Amplify!*, WSUM 91.7 FM Madison, WI.

### Awards and Fellowships, and Grants

#### Awards

- 2020 Phi Kappa Phi Peter L. Zhu Scholastic Achievement Award, United States Military Academy Phi Kappa Phi Chapter
- 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of History, United States Military Academy

### Fellowships

- 2021 Omar N. Bradley Historical Research Fellowship, Omar Nelson Bradley Foundation
- 2020 Omar N. Bradley Historical Research Fellowship, Omar Nelson Bradley Foundation
- 2019 Omar N. Bradley Historical Research Fellowship, Omar Nelson Bradley Foundation
- 2018 Omar N. Bradley Historical Research Fellowship, Omar Nelson Bradley Foundation
- 2017 Omar N. Bradley Historical Research Fellowship, Omar Nelson Bradley Foundation
- 2016 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (Swahili), University of Wisconsin-Madison

### Grants

- 2020 Faculty Research Funding, United States Military Academy
- 2019 Faculty Research Funding, United States Military Academy
- 2019 Research Travel Grant, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2017 Research Assistantship, *Empire of Rubber* with Professor Gregg Mitman, University of Wisconsin-Madison

### Academic Service and Outreach Experience

**United States Military Academy**, Department of History, West Point, NY  
*Department of History Academic Counselor* May 2020 – May 2021  
*International History Division Academic Counselor* March 2019 – May 2020

**United States Military Academy**, West Point, NY  
*Secretary, Professor, United States Military Academy (PUSMA) Search* Sep – Oct 2019  
*Junior Faculty Representative to the Faculty Council* AY 2019 – 20  
*African Military Education Program (AMEP)* 2019 – 2020  
*Team Member, Groupement d'écoles militaires Interarmée (GEMIA), N'Djamena, Chad*  
*Team Lead, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Nigeria*

### Research and Teaching Areas

Modern African History | Black African Diasporic History | Black Transnationalism | African American Military History | Race, Gender, and Sexuality | American Military Empire

### Languages

French 2 years | Basic speaking, writing, and reading  
 Swahili 1 year | Basic speaking, reading, and writing

## Employment

*Aviation Officer*, United States Army May 2009 – Present  
Current Position: *Watch Captain, Joint Operations Center*, U.S. Southern Command,  
Doral, FL  
*Editorial Assistant*, Wisconsin Historical Society Press September 2005 – August 2009

## Professional Affiliations

*American Historical Association*, member since 2020  
*African Studies Association*, member since 2016  
*The Society for Military History*, member since 2021  
*Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society*, member since 2020  
*Veterans for Peace*, member since 2022  
*Army Aviation Association of America*, member since 2009

## References

*Neil Kodesh*  
Professor  
History  
UW-Madison  
[kodesh@wisc.edu](mailto:kodesh@wisc.edu)

*Mary Lou Roberts*  
Professor  
History  
UW-Madison  
[maryroberts@wisc.edu](mailto:maryroberts@wisc.edu)

*COL Gail Yoshitani*  
Professor and Department Head  
History  
United States Military Academy  
[gail.yoshitani@westpoint.edu](mailto:gail.yoshitani@westpoint.edu)