

Benjamin Kofi Nutor

Visiting Assistant Professor and ACES Fellow
Department of Anthropology | Texas A&M University
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EDUCATION

- 2015 – 2021: PhD in Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin
Dissertation title: “The Landscapes of Transatlantic Contacts and Slavery at Peki in Eastern Ghana, c. 1600–1900.”
Dissertation Committee: James Denbow (Co-chair), Maria Franklin (Co-chair), Alan Covey, Toyin Falola, and Kodzo Gavua.
- 2007 – 2010: Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Archaeology, University of Ghana, Accra
Thesis title: “An Archaeology of Indigenous Religion at Dzake-Peki, Volta Region—Ghana.”
Thesis Advisor: Kodzo Gavua
- 2001– 2005: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Archaeology and Philosophy (First Class Honors),
University of Ghana, Accra.

EMPLOYMENT

Texas A&M University, College Station

2022 – n.d: Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology and ACES Fellow

The University of Texas at Austin

2019 – 2019: Assistant Instructor of Anthropology

2017 – 2021: Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology

University of Ghana

2011 – 2015: Assistant Lecturer, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies

2008 – 2011: Teaching/Graduate Assistant, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies

African University College of Communication, Accra-Ghana

2011 – 2013: Adjunct Lecturer of Anthropology

FELLOWHIPS AND GRANTS

Princeton University, Program in African Studies (Declined)

2022–2024: African Humanities Postdoctoral Research Associate – (\$120, 000)

Emory University, Department of African and African American Studies (Declined)

2022–2023: Mellon-Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellowship – (65,000)

Social Science Research Council

2019–2020: International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF) – (\$30,600)

The Fulbright Ghana Commission

2015 – 2017: Fulbright Junior Staff Development Fellowship – (\$58,711)

African Studies Association/Royal Air Maroc

2017: Field Research Travel Award – (\$1500)

The University of Texas at Austin Internal Competitive Grants

- January 2021 to May 2021: Spring Dissertation Writing Fellowship, UT Graduate School (\$12,500)
- June 2020 to August 2020: Summer Dissertation Writing Fellowship, UT Graduate School (\$6,572)
- May 2018: Summer Research Grant, UT Department of Anthropology (\$2000)
- January 2018: Professional Development Award, UT Department of Anthropology (\$300)
- April 2016: Professional Development Award, UT Department of Anthropology (\$300)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

The University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School

2022 – Michael Granof Award for the University’s Top Dissertation (\$1000)

2022 – Outstanding Dissertation Award (\$5000)

The University of Ghana, Department of Archaeology

2005 – Merrick Posnansky Prize for Best Graduating Student in Archaeology

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters:

Nutor, Benjamin K. 2020. African “Historians, Are Archaeologists Your Siblings?”: A Critical Appreciation of Toyin Falola’s Contribution to the Archaeology of Africa and the African Diaspora. In Abikal Borah and Mobolanle Sotunsa (ed.), *Imagining Vernacular Histories: Essays in Honor of Toyin Falola*. Lanham: Rowan and Littlefield, pp. 27–45.

Gavua, Kodzo and **Benjamin K. Nutor**. 2014. Bringing Archaeology to the People. Towards a Viable Public Archaeology in Ghana. In J. Anquandah, B. Kankpeyeng and W. Apoh (ed.), *Current Perspectives in the Archaeology of Ghana*. Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, pp. 264–275.

Book Review:

Nutor, Benjamin K. 2018. “Material Culture, and African Archaeology – Material Explorations in African Archaeology”. By Timothy Insoll. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2015. Pp. xiv 473. \$125.00, hardcover (ISBN 9780199550067). *The Journal of African History* 59. Cambridge University Press: 318–19.

Encyclopedia Entries:

Nutor, Benjamin K. 2018. Crossland, Leonard Brighton. In C. Smith(ed.), *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-51726-1>.

Nutor, Benjamin K. 2018. Anquandah, James. In C. Smith (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-51726-1_2357-2.

Journal Article in Preparation:

Nutor, Kofi (In preparation). “The Dente Shrine at Peki: Investigating the Landscapes and Memories of Transatlantic Slavery in Eastern Ghana.”

CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

- 2018. Intricacies of Early Atlantic Trade in Enslaved People in the Gold Coast (Ghana) and its Implications for Ethnogenesis and Identity Formation. Southeast Regional Seminar in African Studies (SERSAS) & Southeast Africanist Network (SEAN) Annual Joint Meeting on “African Roots: Reflections on Origins, Identities and Voices from the African Past and Present”. University of Florida, Gainesville. January 26–27, 2018.
- 2017. From the Dead’s Own Mouth? Towards an Anthropological Analysis of Trance Talk at a Funeral in Ghana. The 17th Annual Africa Conference, University of Texas at Austin. March 31–April 2, 2017.
- 2016. The Dente Shrine at Dzake-Peki, Volta Region: Investigating the Narratives and Memory of Trans-Atlantic Slavery in Eastern Ghana. 2016 Northwestern Program of African Studies Conference on “Knowing Africa: The Power of Narrative on a Global Continent”. Northwestern University, Evanston IL. April 15–17, 2016.
- 2015 (with Kodzo Gavua). Intricacies of Slavery and the Slave Trade in Ghana: Implications for Slave Origin Research. EUROTAST Training Network’s Conference on Genetics/Heritage: New Perspectives on the Study of Atlantic Slavery: International Slavery Museum, Liverpool-UK. April 23–25, 2015.
- 2014 (with Kodzo Gavua). Shrines and Transatlantic Contact Discourse in Ghana: A Spotlight on the Dente Shrine at Dzake-Peki, Ghana. EUROTAST Training Network’s West Africa Symposium on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: Legon, Accra and Goree Island/ UCAD, Dakar- Senegal. April 7–16, 2014.

- 2013 (with Kodzo Gavua). *Beyond Digging: Archaeological Research and Ghana's Socioeconomic Development*. 2nd Conference on Archaeology and Heritage Management in Ghana: University of Ghana, Legon-Accra. September 12–13, 2013.

GUEST LECTURES

- June 2018. Reflections on Early Transatlantic Social Formation Processes and the Near Fallacy of Ethnicity in Ghana. 2018 Fulbright Lecture Series. US Embassy, Accra – Ghana. June 28, 2018.
- August 2017. Trajectories in Ghanaian Archeology: An Insider's Perspective. Travis County Archaeological Society (TvCAS) Meeting. Austin TX. August 10, 2017.

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Instructor:

May 2019 to July 2019, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin.
Course taught:

- *ANT 304: Introduction to Prehistory and Archaeology*

Instructor/Lecturer:

August 2011 – July 2015, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Ghana.

Courses taught:

- *Arch 112: Archaeology and the African Cultural Heritage*
- *Arch 323: Method and Theory of Archaeology*
- *Arch 324: Ethnoarchaeology of Africa*
- *Arch 325: Foragers and Farmers in West Africa's Prehistory*
- *Arch 424: Cultural Resource Management*
- *Ugrc 100: Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Technologies in Ghana*

Instructor/Lecturer in Anthropology:

August 2011 – July 2013, African University College of Communications, Accra, Ghana.
Course taught:

- Laas 203: Archaeology, Anthropology and Cultural Evolution

Teaching/Graduate Assistant:

August 2017 – December 2021, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin.

Courses taught:

- *ANT 326L: Cultures in Contact (with Dr. R. Alan Covey)*

- *ANT 304: Introduction to Prehistory and Archaeology (with Dr. Fred Valdez and Dr. James Denbow)*

August 2005 – June 2011, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Ghana, Accra.

Academic Mentor:

March 2016 – July 2017, Student Services of Intercollegiate Athletics, University of Texas at Austin.

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017–2021: The Peki and the Atlantic World, Doctoral Dissertation Project at Peki, Ghana.
- 2008–2010: Archaeology of Indigenous Religion at Dzake-Peki, Volta Region-Ghana. MPhil Dissertation Research.
- July 2010: Atimpoku / Adomi Archaeological Research Project, Ghana Directed by Dr. Kodzo Gavua, University of Ghana, Legon.
- December 2009 and July 2010: Kormantse Archaeological Research Project (KARP) - Kormantse, Central Region, Ghana. Directed by Professor Kofi Agorsah, Portland State University. Portland, Oregon, USA.
- August 2007–December 2008: ‘Religion and Identity among the Northern Ewe of Ghana’. Directed by Dr. Kodzo Gavua, University of Ghana, Legon.
- June 2007: Banda Archaeological Research Project, Ghana. Directed by Dr. Ann Stahl, University of Victoria, Canada.
- July 2006 - August 2006: Wusuta Archaeological Research Project - Volta Region, Ghana. Directed by Dr. Kodzo Gavua, University of Ghana, Legon.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- **Organizer**, 18th Annual Africa Conference at The University of Texas at Austin, March 30–April 1, 2018.
- **Solicited Applications Reviewer**, The Fulbright Commission, Ghana, 2019–2020
- **Conference facilitator**, EUROTAST Training Network’s West Africa Symposium on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. University of Ghana, Accra; April 7–16, 2014.
- **Academic Advisor**, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Ghana, 2011-2015.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- African Studies Association (ASA)
- Ghana Studies Association (GSA)
- Society for Africanist Archaeologists (SAFA)
- Association for the Worldwide Study of the African Diaspora (ASWAD)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Historical Archaeology of West Africa
- Historical Anthropology and Archaeology of Atlantic Slavery and Colonialism in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Material Culture Studies and Historic Artifacts Analysis
- The Archaeology/anthropology of African Indigenous Religion
- Public Archaeology
- Social Identities