

## HELEN TILLEY

History Department  
1881 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, IL 60208  
847-467-3397 (office)  
helen.tilley@northwestern.edu

### CURRENT POSTS

- 2012 - now Associate Professor, History Department, Northwestern University  
2014 - 2018 Director, Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern University

### PREVIOUS POSTS

- 2010 - 2012 Visiting Professor, Department of Medical History and Program in African Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2009 - 2010 Lecturer (History of Medicine and African History) and Coordinator of MA Programs, Department of History, Classics, and Archaeology, Birkbeck College, University of London  
2002 - 2008 Assistant Professor, History Department (affiliations to African Studies and History of Science Programs), Princeton University  
2001 - 2002 University of Oxford – Research Fellow – Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Project: History of Sleeping Sickness in British Colonial Africa

### EDUCATION

- 1997 - 2002 Ph.D., University of Oxford, in African and Commonwealth History  
Title: "Africa as a 'Living Laboratory' - The African Research Survey & the British Colonial Empire: Consolidating Environmental, Medical, & Anthropological Debates, 1920-1940"  
Awarded Audrey Richards Prize for Best Dissertation in African Studies submitted between Jan 2000 and Jan 2002, African Studies Association of the UK  
1996 - 1997 Fulbright Fellow, University of Oxford  
1993 - 1996 M.A., University of California-Berkeley (and PhD Qualifying exam, 1996)  
Fields: History of Science, Environmental History, and Political Ecology  
1986 - 1990 B.A., University of Chicago (registered as Helen Denham)  
History of Science/Medicine & History of Social Movements

### WORKS IN PROGRESS (2016-17)

"The Wisdom of the Peoples" – African Decolonization, Global Governance, and Cold War Constructions of Traditional Medicine

A monograph exploring the end of European empires, the rise of international legal regimes, and the growth of scientific research into "traditional medicine," emphasizing especially pan-African trends and their relationship to developments in Asia and Latin America.

"Plural Worlds: Law and Therapeutics in an Age of Global Colonialism" – An exploration of the role played by civil and criminal laws within colonial states in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, focusing especially on the consequences of medical licensing laws within the British empire that allowed for "native systems of therapeutics" to be legal by exemption.

With Michael Oladejo Afolayan, a translation of and introduction to Joseph Odùmósù's *Ìwé Ìwòsàn* (Book of Healing) published in Ijebu, Nigeria circa 1910.

## PUBLICATIONS

### MONOGRAPHS AND EDITED VOLUMES

*Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development, and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge, 1870-1950* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011). [word count: 218,000, including notes and bibliography]

2014 Ludwik Fleck Prize, Society for the Social Studies of Science

2012 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award

2012 Finalist, Herskovits Prize, African Studies Association, USA

*Utopia and Dystopia: Conditions of Historical Possibility*, edited with Michael Gordin and Gyan Prakash (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010). Translated into Turkish, 2015.

*Ordering Africa: Anthropology, European Imperialism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 2007; paperback edition 2010), edited collection with Robert Gordon (Professor of Anthropology, Vermont). Sole author of introduction "Africa, Anthropology and Empire," pp. 1-45.

### ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"Medicine, Empires, and Ethics in Colonial Africa," *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics* v. 18 n. 7 (2016), pp. 743-753.

"Experimentation in Colonial East Africa and Beyond," conclusion for a special issue of the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* v. 47 (2014), pp. 495-505.

"Racial Science, Geopolitics, and Empires: Paradoxes of Power," for a special issue of *Isis* on "Racial Science," *Isis* v. 105 (2014), pp. 773-781.

"Global Histories, African Genealogies, and Vernacular Science, or, Is the History of Science Ready for the World?" for a special issue of *Isis* on "Non-European Peoples in the History of Science," *Isis* v. 101 (2010), pp. 110-119.

"Anthropology and the End of Empire?" *Reviews in History* n. 641, on-line journal, published Jan 2008: <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/paper/willis.html>.

"Ambiguities of Racial Science in Colonial Africa: the African Research Survey and the Fields of Eugenics, Social Anthropology, and Biomedicine, 1920-1940," in Benedikt Stuchtey, ed., *Science Across the European Empires, 1800-1950* (Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 245-287.

"Ecologies of Complexity: Tropical Environments, African Trypanosomiasis and the Science of Disease Control in British Colonial Africa, 1900-1940," in Gregg Mitman, Michelle Murphy, and Christopher Sellers, eds., *Landscapes of Exposure: Knowledge and Illness in Modern Environments*, *OSIRIS* v. 19 (2004), pp 21-38.

"William Allan: the African Husbandman," new introduction to the reprint of William Allan, *The African Husbandman* (London: Transaction Publishers and the International African Institute, 2004), pp. xi-xxxix.

"African Environments and Environmental Sciences: the African Research Survey, Ecological Paradigms, and British Colonial Development, 1920-1940," in William Beinart and JoAnn McGregor, eds., *Social History and African Environments* (Oxford: Heinemann/James Currey Press, 2003), pp. 109-130.

"Colonialism and Imperialism," *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*, Shepard Krech III, J.R. McNeill, and Carolyn Merchant, eds., (New York: Routledge Press, 2003), pp. 246-248.

"The Cunning of Unreason and Nature's Revolt: Max Horkheimer and William Leiss on the Domination of Nature," *Environment and History*, 3 (1997): 149-175.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

- Heather Bell, *Frontiers of Medicine in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1899-1940* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).
- Suke Wolton, *Lord Hailey, the Colonial Office and the Politics of Race & Empire in the Second World War: The Loss of White Prestige* (London: Macmillan Press, 2000).
- Owen White, *Children of the French Empire: Miscegenation and Colonial Society in French West Africa 1895-1960* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).
- James McCann, *Green Land, Brown Land, Black Land: An Environmental History of Africa, 1800-1990* (Oxford: James Currey Press, 1999).
- Nancy Hunt, *A Colonial Lexicon: Of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999).
- Reynolds and Tansey, eds., *British Contributions to Medical Research and Education in Africa after the Second World War* (London: Wellcome Trust, 2001).
- Peder Anker, *Imperial Ecology: Environmental Order in the British Empire, 1895-1945* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001).
- Londa Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire: Colonial Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004).

## **FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS**

- 2016 - 2019 Faculty Fellowship, Buffett Institute for Global Studies
- 2016 - 2019 PI, "Biomedicine and Traditional Medicine in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Global History," collaborative project with colleagues in sociology, anthropology, law, and history, Buffett Institute, \$150,000
- 2015 - 2018 PI, National Science Foundation Scholar's Award for current book project, \$220,000
- 2013 - 2014 Faculty Fellowship, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University [external selection committee]
- 2005 - 2008 Philip and Beulah Rollins Bicentennial Preceptorship, Princeton University [Faculty nominated award with sabbatical funds]
- 2003 - 2008 National Science Foundation Scholar's Award & Supplementary Grant, \$140,000
- 2004 - 2005 Visiting Fellow, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- 2002 Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize, African Studies Association, United Kingdom
- 2001 - 2004 Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine – Post-Doctoral Fellowship, £100,000 or \$160,000 [declined final 2 years]
- 1999 - 2000 Institute of Historical Research – Royal Historical Society Centenary Fellowship [one for U.K.]
- 1999 - 2000 Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine – Dissertation Research Grant
- 1997 - 2000 African Environmental History Bursary, Rhodes Race Relations Fund, Oxford
- 1997 - 2000 Royal Historical Society Bursary [one allocated annually]
- 1997 - 2000 Overseas Research Studentship, British Government Award
- 1996 - 1997 Fulbright Fellowship-United Kingdom
- 1996 Environmental History Keynote Panel, "Histories of Environmental Ideas and Movements," Environmental Grantmakers Association
- 1995 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, University of California
- 1990 Commencement Speaker, Class of 1990, University of Chicago

## CONFERENCE AND PANEL ORGANIZING

- 2017 "Medical Cultures, Traditions, and Law" a two-day conference bringing together historians, anthropologists, sociologists, and legal scholars to explore the constitutive role of law in the globalization of biomedicine and the codification of "traditional medicine" during the long 20<sup>th</sup> century. Northwestern University.
- 2015 "Making Knowledge and the Problem of Place" a two-day conference bringing together 12 scholars in history, sociology, anthropology, and law to consider how space and place have affected the production of knowledge across continents. Northwestern University.
- 2006 "Science at the Crossroads: Geopolitics, Marxism, and 75 Years of Science Studies" – Two-day workshop exploring the emergence of Marxist interpretations of science and their influence on both science and science studies in the developed and developing worlds. Co-organized with Michael Gordin (History).
- Nov 2005 "Connecting Medical History and Anthropology – Part I: Ethnographic Turns in Science, Magic, Medicine, and Race and Part II: The Body Politic, Infectious Disease, and Biomedical Frameworks" – Two panels organized for the African Studies Association with leading scholars in both anthropology and history to revisit scholarship on medicine in Africa.
- 2003 - 2004 "Science Across Cultures: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives" – Three one-day workshops exploring the philosophical ramifications of recent cross-cultural research in the history of science; co-organized with Daniel Garber (Philosophy) as part of the Princeton History of Science Workshop series. Workshops focused on Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and Africa.
- May 2002 "African Trypanosomosis and Historical Debates over Eradication versus Control" – A 2 day conference bringing together senior scientists/practitioners and historians for a roundtable discussion of the relevance of historical research to debates on disease eradication.
- Mar 2000 "Anthropology & Africa: A Cross-Colonial Investigation" – A 3 day, international conference comparing the development of anthropological and ethnological studies in German, French, British, Belgium, Italian, and Portuguese Africa during the colonial era. University of Oxford.
- Mar 1998 "Matrices of Scientific Knowledge and Practice in Colonial Africa" – A 1 day conference exploring British, French, and South African sciences relating to Africa from WWI until decolonization.
- Jan 1993 "Environment, Development, and Trade: the North/South Debates" – A ten day conference for the nine member organizations of A SEED (see below), held at the offices of the Third World Network, Penang, Malaysia.

## CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PAPERS [a selective list]

- Apr 2016 Plural Worlds: Law and Therapeutics in an Age of Global Colonialism, presented at a conference on Big Stories and Close (up) Research: Health and Science in the African World, UW-Madison.
- Nov 2015 Author-Meets-Critics Panel at the annual conference of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, convened to discuss *Africa as a Living Laboratory* with an interdisciplinary group of senior scholars, Denver.
- June 2015 The Wisdom of the Peoples and Cold War Therapeutics, presented at three-day conference, Dreaming of Health and Science in Africa, Wellcome Trust Conference Center, UK.
- Apr 2015 Keynote Address for international African Studies conference for and by graduate students, organized on the theme of Africa as a Laboratory, Northwestern.

- Apr 2015 Ebola, Trust, and Flawed Narratives, panel on global health at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Buffett Institute for Global Studies.
- Apr 2014 The Wisdom of the Peoples: African Decolonization, Global Governance, and Cold War Constructions of Traditional Medicine, Presentations on project at Northwestern's Kaplan Institute for the Humanities.
- Nov 2013 Invited seminar to discuss *Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge*, University of Texas-Austin.
- May 2013 The Wisdom of the Peoples: African Decolonization, Global Governance, and Cold War Constructions of Traditional Medicine, Buffett Center, Northwestern.
- May 2013 Discussion of *Africa as a Living Laboratory* for historians in the history of science and African studies, University of Chicago.
- Apr 2012 The Wisdom of the Peoples: African Decolonization, Traditional Medicine, and the Post-Colonial State," presented to an international conference on the Post-Colonial State in Africa, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Jan 2012 The Wisdom of the Peoples: African Decolonization, Global Governance, and Traditional Medicine," presentations on book project at Northwestern University and Cambridge University.
- Nov 2010 "Appropriation, Exchange, or Entanglements: Studying the History of African Colonialism, Decolonization and the Codification of 'Traditional Medicine'," Delivered at UW-Madison and again at Harvard in 2011.
- Feb 2008 "African States and Sovereign Science: Law, Knowledge, and Systems of Expertise in Twentieth Century Africa," Comparative Politics Colloquia, Political Science Dept, University of Chicago.
- Oct 2007 "The Nature of Vernacular Science in British Colonial Africa: Scientific Fieldwork, Ethnography, and Indigenous Knowledge," Boston University, African Studies.
- Sept 2006 "African 'Witchcraft', Imperial Administration, and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge," at three-day conference at Cambridge University, "Beyond Deconstruction: Engaging Colonial Knowledge."
- Apr 2006 "The Scientific Partition of Africa: Geopolitics, Scientific Societies and Territorial Demarcation" at "Culture, Nature, Future: Perspectives on Science and Development in Africa," 2-day African Studies Conference at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Feb 2006 "The Scientific Partition of Africa: Geopolitics, Scientific Societies, and Territorial Demarcation, 1869-1906," Princeton University Works-in-Progress, History Department and Davis Center.
- Nov 2005 "Metropolitan Witchcraft Debates in the 1930s: Imperial Administration, Disciplinary Developments, and Ethnographic Research Priorities," African Studies Association, Washington, D.C. as part of two panels I organized on Medical History and Anthropology.
- April 2005 "The Scramble for Africa, Racial Acclimatization, and the Scientific Investigation of African Climates and Disease Environments, 1880-1920," Bryn Mawr conference on the History of Medicine in Africa.
- Spring 2005 Talks on book manuscript at the University of Michigan (Feb), MIT and UC-Berkeley (March), and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (April)
- Feb 2004 "Africa as a Living Laboratory: Science, Nature and Imperial Development in the Tropics," Johns Hopkins University

- Nov 2003 "Tropical Africa and Environments of Disease: Imperial and International Research Priorities, 1880-1940," History of Science Society, Boston.
- May 2003 "The 'Scramble for Africa': Racial Science, Acclimatization, and Tropical Development, circa 1880-1900," American Association for the History of Medicine, Boston. [I revised and updated this paper for a talk at University of Pennsylvania, January 2004]
- March 2003 "Empire and the Advent of Subversive Sciences: Ecology and Epidemiology in the Development of British Colonial Africa, 1900-1940," American Society for Environmental History, Providence.
- Dec 2002 "Tropical Environments, African Trypanosomiasis and the Science of Disease Control in British Colonial Africa," African Studies Association, Washington D.C.
- May 2002 "Mission Impossible? or That Noble Dream?: A Review of Colonial Endeavours to Understand and Control African Trypanosomiasis, with an emphasis on the Biosciences," 2-Day symposium, Oxford.
- Feb 2001 "Indigenous Knowledge & the Construction of Agroecology: *The African Husbandman & the History of Environmental Sciences in British Colonial Africa*," African Environmental History Seminar, Oxford
- Oct 2000 "Ambiguities of Racial Science: Eugenics, Mental Capacity, and the African Research Survey," Imperial & Commonwealth History Seminar, Oxford.

### **SUMMER ACADEMIES AND INSTITUTES**

- Aug 1997 Panel Discussant, Max Planck Summer Academy for History of Science, "Nature's Histories," Berlin.
- Aug 1995 Discussant, Dibner Summer Institute for the History of Science and Technology, "History of Ecology and Conservation Biology," Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
- July 1994 Discussant, Third World Network International Institute, "Redefining the Life Sciences: Biotechnology, Intellectual Property, and the Developing World," Penang, Malaysia.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **GRADUATE TRAINING – SEMINARS AND READING COURSES**

- "Modern Global History"
- "African States, Imperial History, and Legal Regimes in Comparative Perspective, 1870-2000"
- "Ethnoscience and Technoscience in Global History, 1500-2000"
- "Africa, Epistemic Pluralism, and the Question of Science"
- "Tropical Empires and the Biosciences: Environment, Race, Medicine, and Anthropology"
- "African Environmental History in the Twentieth Century"
- "Africa, Medical Pluralism, and the History of Health and Disease"
- "Racial Science, Racial Medicine: the Idea of 'Race' in the History of the Biological, Medical, and Human Sciences, 1700-2000"
- "Environment and Health in Global Perspective"

#### **UNDERGRADUATE LECTURE COURSES [L] AND SEMINARS [S]**

- "Africa, Medical Pluralism, and the History of Health and Disease" [S]
- "Experimental Africa: Science, Health, and Development in the Long Twentieth Century" [S]
- "The Rise of Modern Biomedicine: Global Trends in Health and Healing, 1500-2000" [L]

"Racial Science, Racial Medicine: the Idea of 'Race' in the History of the Biological, Medical, and Human Sciences, 1700-2000" [S]

"Environment and Health in Global Perspective" [L]

"Global Histories of Ecology" [L/S]

"Global Environments and World History" [L]

"Biomedicine and World History" [L]

## PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND SERVICE

- 2014 - now Director, Science in Human Culture; responsibilities include annual speaker series, biannual conference, doctoral colloquium, undergraduate majors and minors, postdoctoral fellowship search (two positions filled every two years), and programmatic fundraising.
- 2012 - 2015 Executive Committee, Program in African Studies; co-authored 2015 Strategic Plan for university-wide initiatives and served as liaison to 2014-15 search in Medical Anthropology.
- 2012 - now Faculty affiliate and advisory board member, Environmental Policy and Culture; helped spearhead new student internship program with Chicago Field Studies on "Environment, Science, and Sustainability."
- 2013 - 2014 Chair, Latin American History Search, resulting in three hires: one assistant professor, one associate professor, and one visiting assistant professor (for a six-year contract).
- 2012 - 2013 Member, West African History Search Committee, resulting in successful hire at the associate professor level.
- 2013 National Science Foundation, General Advisory Panel for Science, Technology and Society Program, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 - 2010 MA director for Birkbeck College's 10 MA history programs, which enrolled over 200 students per year; responsibilities included retention, curriculum review, and faculty/student liaison.
- 2003 - 08 Executive Committee, African Studies Program, Princeton University and liaison work with Akwaaba, the African student association.
- 2007 - 08 Chair, History of Science Seminar, Princeton University.
- 2005 - 06 Executive Secretary, Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University; proposed, with colleague Michael Gordin, two-year seminar theme on "Utopia and Dystopia in History."
- 2002 - 08 Program Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, Finance Committee, Hiring Committees (for posts in Islamic History and Latin American History), and Davis Center Fellowship Committee, Princeton University.
- 2004, '05, '07 Elections Committee, African Studies Association, USA [to elect President and Vice-Presidents]
- Ongoing Reviewer for National Science Foundation and Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine

- Ongoing Reviewer for articles in *OSIRIS*, *Environmental History*, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, and book manuscripts in African studies, environmental history, and the history of science for University of Chicago Press, Ohio University Press and Palgrave.
- Ongoing Editorial board, *Méthodes: Revue Africaine de Méthodologie des Sciences Sociales*

## EMPLOYMENT & NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

- June-Sept '98 Research Fellow at the Environmental & Economic Justice Project, Los Angeles – Project Title – “International Trade and LA’s Regional Economy - a Background Briefing on Trade Infrastructure Projects and Their Possible Effects by Race and Income.”
- 1994 - 1998 Board of Directors and Program Chair (1995-96), New World Foundation, New York City, [a progressive philanthropy which funds community organizing efforts across the US] Author of “Organizing and Social Change: The State of Progressive Social Movements and the Role of Young People,” (New York: New World Foundation, 1993). [commissioned report, 126pp; under “Denham”]
- 1993 - 1996 Board of Directors & Chair of Board, Youth Action, Albuquerque, New Mexico [a national non-profit involved in bringing low-income young people into community organizing efforts]
- 1991 - 1994 Co-Founder & Co-Director, Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development (A SEED), with affiliations to the Third World Network (Malaysia) & Friends of the Earth International (The Netherlands).
- 1990 – 1996 National Organizer, Fundraiser, and Program Coordinator for Student Environmental Action Coalition [a national student-led non-profit with income from grants of ~\$250,000 annually]