

Benjamin Kofi Nutor

Assistant Professor

Department of Anthropology | Texas A&M University 4352 TAMU | College Station, TX
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EDUCATION

2015 – 2021: Ph.D. 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.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Texas A&M University, College Station

Sept. 2023 – n.d: Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Aug. 2022 – Aug. 2023: 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

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CRM) PROJECT EXPERIENCE

CoxIMcLain Environmental Consulting (CMEC)/Stantec, Austin, TX, USA

December 2021– July 2022: Archaeological Technician

- Pedestrian Survey and Data Recovery
- Desk-based Assessment

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

American Council of Learned Societies

2023–2024: ACLS Fellowship Program – (\$60,000)

Princeton University, Institute for International and Regional Studies (Declined)

2022–2024: Princeton African Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow – (\$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

Texas A&M University

2023– Amplifying External Awards Program: Highly Prestigious Award (\$10,000)

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 and Heritage Studies

2005 – Merrick Posnansky Prize for Best Graduating Student in Archaeology

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles:

Nutor, Benjamin K. & Kodzo Gavua. 2023. Historical Archeology of the Dente Shrine at Peki, Ghana: Landscapes of Power and Memories of Atlantic Slavery in West Africa. *African Archaeological Review*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10437-023-09550-9>.

Nutor, Benjamin K. (under review). “Power, Status, and the Archaeology of the Atlantic slave trade in Peki, Ghana.” Submitted to the *Journal of Field Archaeology*.

Nutor, Benjamin K. (In Preparation with Laure Dussubieux). “The Glass Beads of Peki and the Atlantic Slave Trade in the Gold Coast (Ghana).” To be submitted to *Archaeometry*.

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: Rowman 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.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2024. “Accessing Global Competitive Fellowships in the Arts and Humanities.” African Humanities Research and Development Conference on “Citizenship.” Online, February 20, 2024.

- 2022. “The Dente Shrine at Peki in Eastern Ghana: Landscapes of Power and Memories of Atlantic Slavery in West Africa.” Institute of African Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. October 13, 2022.

Conference Sessions Chaired

- 2023. “Africa and the Eighteenth Century.” African Studies Association (ASA) 66th Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. November 30-December 2, 2023.
- 2023. “Emerging Voices in African Indigenous Archaeologies.” Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA) 26th Biennial Conference. Rice University, Houston, TX. June 1-6, 2023.
- 2023. “Global Colonialisms.” Society of American Archaeology 88th Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon. March 29-April 2, 2023

Conference Papers Presented

- 2024. “Archaeology, Indigenous Archiving Practices, and the African Past: Researching the History of Atlantic Slavery in Peki, Ghana.” Society of American Archaeology 89th Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana. April 19-22, 2024.
- 2024. “Power, Status, and the Archaeology of the Atlantic Experience in Peki, Ghana.” The University of Texas African Conference, Austin, TX. March 29-31, 2024.
- 2023. “Collaborative Archaeology, Egalitarian Archives, and the Decolonization of the African Past: Researching the Landscapes of Atlantic Slavery and European Colonialism in Peki, Ghana.” African Studies Association (ASA) 66th Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. November 30-December 2, 2023.
- 2023. “The Peki in the Atlantic World: Landscapes, Memories, and Materialities of Slavery in Southeastern Ghana.” Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA) 26th Biennial Conference. Rice University, Houston, TX. June 1-6, 2023.
- 2023. “The Landscapes, Memories, and Identities of Atlantic Slavery at Peki, Ghana.” Society of American Archaeology 88th Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon. March 29-April 2, 2023.
- 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.” University of Ghana, 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

- 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.
- 2017. “Trajectories in Ghanaian Archeology: An Insider’s Perspective.” Travis County Archaeological Society (TvCAS) Meeting. Austin, TX. August 10, 2017.

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

TEACHING

Texas A&M University

Fall 2024 – **Instructor:** Department of Anthropology

ANTH 204: Introduction to Archaeology

ANTH 360: Ancient Civilizations

Spring 2023 – **Instructor:**

ANTH 205: Peoples and Cultures of the World

The University of Texas at Austin.

Summer 2019 - **Assistant Instructor:** Department of Anthropology

ANT 304: Introduction to Prehistory and Archaeology

2017 – 2021 - **Teaching Assistant:** Department of Anthropology

- 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)

2016 – July 2017: **Academic Mentor:** Student Services of Intercollegiate Athletics.

University of Ghana

2011 – 2015 - **Instructor/Lecturer:** Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies

- 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

African University College of Communications, Accra, Ghana

August 2011 – July 2013 - **Instructor/Lecturer**

Laas 203: Archaeology, Anthropology, and Cultural Evolution

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

External Services

Conferences

- 2024 Program Committee Member, Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 89th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. April 17-21, 2024.
- 2023 Program Committee member, Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 88th Annual Conference, Portland, OR. September 2022–April 2023.
- Organizer, 18th Annual Africa Conference at The University of Texas at Austin, March 30–April 1, 2018.
- Conference facilitator, EUROTAST Training Network’s West Africa Symposium on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. University of Ghana, Accra; April 7–16, 2014.

Academic Journal Review and Editorial Services

- Reviewer, 2024: Journal of Archaeological Research
- Reviewer, 2024: Journal of Conflict Archaeology
- Reviewer, 2023: Journal of Anthropological Archaeology
- Manuscript Reviewer, 2023: Routledge
- Solicited Applications Reviewer, The Fulbright Commission, Ghana, 2019–to date.

Internal Service (Texas A&M University)

- Spring 2024. Dissertation Committee Member: Jillian Glantz – Dept. of History
- Fall 2023 – n.d. **Dissertation Committee Member:** Megan Crutcher – Dept. of Anthropology

- Fall 2023– n.d. Undergraduate Committee Member (Archaeology) and Anthropology Program Redesign (PRD) Committee member.
- Fall 2023 – n.d. **Faculty Mentor:** Aggie Research Program team of seven TAMU undergraduate students led by Megan Crutcher (Anthropology graduate student)

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

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 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)
- Society for American Archaeology (SAA)