

Christopher R. Conz, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Boston University, M.A., Ph.D., History
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, M.Ed.
University of Hartford, B.S.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025 – **Visiting Assistant Professor**, College of the Holy Cross, Department of History
2024 – 2025 **Fulbright U.S. Scholar**, University of the Free State, South Africa
2021 – 2025 **Research Fellow**, University of the Free State, South Africa
2021 – 2024 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, College of the Holy Cross, Department of History
2018 – 2021 **Lecturer**, Tufts University, Department of History
2017 – 2020 **Lecturer**, Boston University, Writing Program
2017 – 2018 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Tufts University, School of Nutrition Science & Policy
2016 – 2017 **Graduate Writing Fellow**, Boston University, Writing Program

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Environment, Knowledge, and Injustice in Lesotho: The Poverty of Progress. London: James Currey, 2024.

Articles, Book Chapters, and Manuscripts

“Narratives of Forced Removals and Environment in South Africa,” manuscript in progress for submission to *Environmental History*.

“Families, Personal Relationships, and Knowledge Production in African History,” manuscript in progress for submission to *History in Africa*.

“Stick to thy Hillock?: James Machobane and the Problem of Agroecology in Lesotho,” in Jane Carruthers, Nancy Jacobs, and Graeme Winn, eds., *Environment, Power, and Justice: Southern African Histories* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2022).

“Sheep, Scab Mites, and Society: The Process and Politics of Veterinary Knowledge in Lesotho, Southern Africa, c. 1900-1933,” *Environment and History* 26.3 (2020): 383—412.

*Winner, American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), Alice Hamilton Prize for best article.

“(Un)Cultivating the Disease of Maize: Pellagra, Policy, and Nutrition Practice in Lesotho, 1933-1963,” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 46.3 (2020): 509—526.

“Origins and Pathways of Agricultural Demonstration in Lesotho, Southern Africa, 1924-1960s,” *Agricultural History* 93.2 (2019): 233—263.

“‘Getting Our Grass Back’: Knowledge, Grazing Policy, and Practice in Lesotho,” Working paper, Boston University, *Program for the Study of African Environments* 15 (2018): 1—22.

Book Reviews

“Plunder for Profit: A Socio-environmental History of Tobacco Farming in Southern Rhodesia and Zimbabwe (Elijah Doro),” *American Historical Review* 130.2 (2025), pp. 834—835.

“The Carbon Calculation: Global Climate Policy, Forests, and Transnational Governance in Brazil and Mozambique (Raquel Rodrigues Machaqueiro),” *Environmental History* 29.4 (2024), pp. 750 —752.

“The Edible Gardens of Ethiopia: An Ethnographic Journey into Beauty and Hunger (Valentina Peveri),” *H-Africa*, October 2021, <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=56141>.

“To Swim With Crocodiles: Land, Violence, and Belonging in South Africa, 1800-1996 (Jill E. Kelly),” *H-Environment*, September 2020, <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=54859>.

“Wildlife between Empire and Nation in Twentieth-Century Africa (Jeff Schauer),” *Environment and History* 26.2 (2020), pp. 292—294.

“Birders of Africa: History of a Network (Nancy Jacobs),” *The International Journal of African Historical Studies* 49.2 (2016), pp. 297—299.

Public Writing & Commentary

“Humanizing Migrants and Miners of Southern Africa (with Christina Balch),” *Edge Effects*, July 24, 2025.

“White South African Refugees and the Myth of Reverse Racism: A Conversation,” *The Racial Justice Collaborative*, June 8, 2025.

“Pellagra,” *The Sweaty Penguin* (Podcast), No. 15, August 21, 2020.

“Agroecology and African Agricultural Innovation,” *A Correction* (Podcast), September 15, 2019.

“One Way to Resist Capitalist Food Production,” *Africa is a Country*, July 31, 2019.

“Learning from the Past to improve nutrition today – history of pellagra in Lesotho,” *Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Academy*, January 10, 2018.

COURSES TAUGHT

Global Environmental History
Environment, Health, and Justice
Histories of Disease and Healing
The Environment in Africa’s Past and Present
Critical Perspectives on ‘Development’ in African History

Sports, Society, and History
World History Since 1500
Gender and Power in African History
Reconstructing the African Past to 1800
Modern African History, 1800-Present

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

- 2024 Fulbright U.S. Scholar, South Africa
- 2021 Alice Hamilton Prize for best article, American Society for Environmental History
- 2020 Best Course Nominations for HIS 13, 14, 171, Tufts University
- 2017 IMMANA Postdoctoral Fellowship, Tufts University
- 2017 Environmental History Travel Grant, National Science Foundation
- 2016 Graduate Writing Fellowship, Boston University
- 2016 Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant, Boston University
- 2015 Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship, Boston University (United Kingdom)
- 2014 Fulbright Student Grant (IIE), Lesotho
- 2013 Graduate Summer Fellow, Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future
- 2012 US Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Sesotho)
- 2011 Graduate Dean's Fellowship, Boston University

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

“Lesotho, Scholars, and Story-making: A discussion of *The Poverty of Progress*,”

____ North West University, North West, South Africa, August 8, 2025.

____ Stellenbosch University, Western Cape, South Africa, April 24, 2025.

____ University of the Free State, Qwa Qwa, South Africa, April 17, 2025.

____ University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, March 13, 2025.

____ National University of Lesotho, Roma, Lesotho, March 7, 2025.

____ University of Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa, February 25, 2025.

“Problems and Possibilities in Agroecology: An Historical Perspective from Lesotho, Southern Africa,”

____ Green College Lectures, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, February 2020.

____ Hoch Cunningham Environmental Lectures, Tufts University, Medford, MA, October 2019.

“(Un)Cultivating the Disease of Maize: An Environmental History of Pellagra in Lesotho, c. 1933-1967,”

____ Department of History, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, April 2018.

____ Department of Development Studies, National University of Lesotho, Roma, March 2018.

“Fighting Rinderpest in Lesotho: Chiefs, Border Fences, and Shifting Veterinary Knowledge, 1896-1902,” Walter Rodney Seminar, African Studies Center, Boston University, September 2016.

“Constructing Dams to Build Knowledge in Lesotho: Historical lessons for health challenges,” Frederick Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, Boston, MA, July 2013.

Conference Panels Organized

“Knowledge, Injustice, and Action in Southern African Environmental Histories,” American Society for Environmental History, Ottawa, ON, March 2020 (canceled).

“Comparing Technologies of Environmental Control in Southern African Pasts,” North Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 2018.

Conference Panel Discussant

“Methods and Metrics in Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Research,” Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Academy, Accra, Ghana, June 2018.

“Parks, Boundaries, and Poachers,” African Studies Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“Rural Labor and Race,” Harvard Graduate Student Conference on the History of Capitalism, Cambridge, MA, October 2017.

Conference Papers Presented

“The Country has Eaten Wool: Nutrition, Environment, and Decolonization in Lesotho,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April 2024.

“Forestry in an Imperial Watershed: The Progress and Poverty of Trees in Lesotho,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Eugene, OR, March 2022.

“Stick to thy Hillock?: James Machobane, Environmental Justice, and the Problem of Sustainable Farming in Lesotho,”

_____ African Studies Association Meeting, Boston, MA, November 2019.

_____ North Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, April 2019.

“Tsoelopele ea Basotho: Towards a Critical History of ‘Progress’ in Lesotho,” African Studies Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

“(Un)Cultivating the Disease of Maize: an Environmental History of Pellagra in Lesotho, c. 1933-1967,” Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Academy, Accra, Ghana, June 2018.

“‘Getting Our Grass Back’: Knowledge, Grazing Policy, and Practice in Lesotho, c. 1933-1950s,” African Studies Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“‘Getting Our Grass Back’: Narratives of Grazing and Governance in Lesotho, c. 1933-1950s,” North Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, October 2017.

“Rethinking Soil Erosion and Conservation in Lesotho, c. 1901-1956,” American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2017.

“Fighting Rinderpest in Lesotho: Chiefs, Border Fences, and Shifting Veterinary Knowledge, 1896-1902,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 2016.

“‘Urging the People to Clean up their Country’: People, Sheep, and Pests in Colonial Lesotho,”

_____ African Environments & their Populations, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, April 2016.

_____ North Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, April 2016.

“Knowledge, Context, and Social Interaction in Lesotho’s Agricultural Extension Program, 1924-1960s,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2015.

_____ Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science (WHEATS), Boulder, CO, October 2015.

“Maize, Monotony, and Malnutrition: socio-environmental history and pellagra in Lesotho,” North Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT, April 2013.

OTHER EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & CREDENTIALS

Service & Other Work Experience

2025 Advisor: Ph.D. dissertations, University of the Free State, South Africa
2020 – 2025 Manuscript Reviewer: Michigan State University Press, Oxford University Press,
 Anthropology Southern Africa, Agricultural History
2022 – 2024 Advisor: Honors Theses, College of the Holy Cross, Department of History
2019 – 2021 Advisor: Honors Thesis and Graduate Field Exam, Tufts University
2012 Chairperson, Graduate Student Conference in African Studies, Boston University
2007 – 2010 United States Peace Corps Volunteer, Lesotho, Southern Africa
2007 Group Leader, Operation Crossroads Africa, Kenya
2004 – 2007 History Teacher, Longmeadow (MA) High School
2006 Volunteer Trail Worker, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Maine
2005 – 2007 Curriculum Development Committee, Longmeadow High School
2004 Volunteer, Operation Crossroads Africa, Ghana
2002 – 2004 Teacher, Environmental Center for Our Schools, Springfield, MA
2000 – 2001 Vineyard and Sheep Assistant, Suffield Farms, Springton, South Australia

Certificates & Courses

2017 Graduate Certificate in African Studies, School of Global Studies, Boston University
2017 Graduate Certificate in Teaching Writing, Writing Program, Boston University
2017 Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program)
2016 Teaching at Teaching-Intensive Institutions, UMASS, Boston
2012 – 2016 Teaching College History, Boston University
2014 Doing Oral History: Field Methods, Memory, and Ethics, Boston University
2006 The Civic Initiative, UMASS, Amherst
2005 – 2006 Teachers' Center for Global Studies, Clark University, Worcester, MA
2004 Massachusetts Department of Education, Teaching License, History, Grades 8-12

Research Languages

English – Native
Sesotho – Reading & Speaking Proficient
French – Reading Proficient
isiZulu – Functional

Memberships & Affiliations

African Studies Association
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Academy
American Historical Association
American Society for Environmental History
Friends of Lesotho

REFERENCES

Sahar Bazzaz, Professor and Chair, Department of History, College of the Holy Cross, O’Kane Hall, 1 College Street, Worcester, MA 01610, (508) 793-2781, sbazzaz@holycross.edu

Nancy Jacobs, Professor, Department of History, Brown University, 79 Brown Street, Providence, RI 02912, (401) 863-9342, Nancy_Jacobs@brown.edu

Clement Masakure, Professor and Chair, Department of History, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, MasakureC@ufs.ac.za

James McCann, Professor Emeritus, Department of History/African Studies Center, Boston University, 232 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215, (617) 353-3673, mccann@bu.edu

James Rice, Professor and Chair, Department of History, Tufts University, 6 The Green, Medford, MA 02155, (617) 627-3520, James.Rice@tufts.edu

Tumelo Tsikoane, Professor, Department of Development Studies, National University of Lesotho, Roma, Lesotho, tumetsik@gmail.com

Diana Wylie, Professor Emeritus, Department of History/African Studies Center, Boston University, 232 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215, (617) 353-3673, dwylie@bu.edu