

Christian Alvarado, Ph.D.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

African Studies : History and Literature of the Mau Mau Uprising : Comparative Literature
Cultural Studies : Memory Studies : Historiography: Postcolonial Theory : Intellectual History

EDUCATION

- 2017 - 2023 University of California, Santa Cruz, History of Consciousness Department, Ph.D.,
Designated Emphasis in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies
- 2014 - 2017 San Diego State University, History Department, M.A.
- 2009 - 2013 University of Nevada, Reno, Economics Department, B.S.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Project (in progress)

“The Storm in Kenya”: Mau Mau and the End of Empire

Articles & Book Chapters

- 2024 Forthcoming: “Ghosts at the Banquet: Mau Mau and Global Memory,” in *Kritika Kultura*,
Special Issue on “Decolonizing the Study of Memory.”
- 2022 “On Reading Mau Mau,” in *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*
(Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press), Vol. 9, Iss. 3.
- 2022 “Mau Mau as Method,” in *History in Africa* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University
Press), Vol. 49.
- 2021 “‘In the Spirit of Harambee’: Kenyan Student Unions in the German Democratic Republic
and Yugoslavia, 1964-68,” in *Socialist Encounters: Relations, Transfers and Exchanges
between Africa and East Germany* (Berlin: DeGruyter).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independently Designed and Taught Courses

- 2024-2025 *Humanities in the Modern World* • Upper-level Undergraduate Seminar (San Jose State University)
- 2019-2025 *Chronicles of Education* • Lower Division Undergraduate Course (San Jose State University)
- 2021 *Politics of Violence* • Upper-level Undergraduate Seminar (UC Santa Cruz)

Teaching Assistant (UC Santa Cruz)

- 2020 *What is Resistance?* • Prof. Banu Bargu, Lower-Division Undergraduate Course
- 2020 *Gender and Transnational Migration* • Prof. Ceylan Cemali, Upper-Division Undergraduate course
- 2019 *Introduction to Critical Race and Ethnic Studies* • Prof. Christine Hong, Lower-Division Undergraduate Course
- 2018 *Understanding Popular Music* • Prof. Jared Gampel, Lower-Division Undergraduate Course

Other Academic Positions (UC Santa Cruz)

- 2022 *Employing Humanities Initiative* • Graduate Student Researcher, Dr. Jasmine Alinder, Office of the Dean of Humanities
- 2020-2021 *Communications Team* • Graduate Student Researcher, Dr. Nathaniel Deutsch, The Humanities Institute

GRANTS & AWARDS (SELECTED)

University of California, Davis

- 2023-2025 University of California President's and Andrew Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow

University of California, Santa Cruz

- 2022-2023 American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellow
- 2022-2023 Ford Dissertation Completion Fellow (*Declined*)
- 2022-2023 University of California President's Pre-Professoriate Fellow (*Declined*)
- 2021-2023 Peer Mentor Fellow, Graduate Student Success Program

- 2021 Hayden White Fellow in Historical and Cultural Theory
- 2021 Modern Language Association Summer Teaching Institute
- 2021 Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning Graduate Pedagogy Fellow
- 2020 Humanities Institute Summer Dissertation Fellow
- 2019 Center for Archival Research and Training Fellow
- 2019 Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellow
- 2018 Humanities Institute Summer Research Fellow
- 2017-2019 Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellow

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES (SELECTED)

UPCOMING

- 2024 “From Hauhau to Mau Mau: Secret Societies, Ethnicity, and Colonial Conspiracism” and
December “Global Dimensions in the Literary Study of Mau Mau,” African Studies Association
Annual Conference, Chicago, US

PAST

- 2024 Keynote Address: “‘The Storm in Kenya’: Mau Mau, pan-Africanism, and the End of
Empire,” Mau Mau: Transitions and Contours of the Postcolonial State Conference,
University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 2024 “‘The Tragic Silliness of Fanatic Man’: (Post)Colonial Despair and Conspiracist Desires,”
Association of Postcolonial Thought Symposium, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2024 “Alex Jones’ Africa: the Era of Decolonization in Africa and the Roots of Right-Wing
Conspiracism,” Memory Studies Association Annual Conference, Lima, Peru
- 2023 “African Studies in California: Emerging Scholars on Connections, Constraints, and
Methodologies,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, US
- 2023 “Ghosts at the Banquet: Mau Mau and Global Memory,” Memory Studies Association
Annual Conference, Newcastle, United Kingdom
- 2022 “The Spirit of Mau Mau: Global Memory, Local Contestation, and the Events of African
Decolonization,” Memory Studies Association Annual Conference, Virtual Symposium
- 2021 “Pathologies of Crisis: the Social Sciences and the Problem of African Freedom,” African
Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual Symposium

- 2021 “‘They’ve Got Mau Mau on the Brain’: Civilization, Decolonization, and Mid-20th Century Terrorism,” American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch Annual Conference, Virtual Symposium
- 2018 “‘Immediate and Complete Independence’: Neoliberal Capitalism, Development, and the Historiography of the Angolan Revolution,” 8th Annual AISA International Interdisciplinary Conference, Multimedia University of Kenya

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (SELECTED)

- 2024-2027 Book Review Editor, *African Studies Review*
- 2024 Delegate of the African Studies Association, National Humanities Alliance Annual Humanities Advocacy Day, Washington DC
- 2023 Local Arrangements Committee, African Studies Association
- 2023 Vice-Chancellor for Research Search Committee (UC Santa Cruz)
- 2022-2023 Graduate Council of the Academic Senate (UC Santa Cruz)
- 2021-2022 Graduate Representative, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Department (UC Santa Cruz)
- 2021 Design Workshop for a New Academy, UC Santa Cruz Team, American Council of Learned Societies
- 2021 Lecturer Representative, Humanities Department Operating Committee (SJSU)
- 2020 Dean of Humanities Search Committee (UC Santa Cruz)
- 2018-2020 *Cultivamos Excelencia* (UC Santa Cruz)

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- Portuguese Professional Working Proficiency
- French Working Proficiency
- Kiswahili Working Proficiency (*currently conducting studies*)
- Gĩkũyũ Limited Proficiency (*currently conducting studies*)
- isiZulu Introductory (*currently conducting studies*)
- Amharic Introductory (*currently conducting studies*)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- African Studies Association
- Memory Studies Association (Co-Chair of the Global Memories Working Group)
- American Historical Association