

R. Dela Kuma

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Pittsburgh 2023-Present

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

Faculty Affiliate, Center for African Studies 2023-Present

EDUCATION

Northwestern University – Evanston, Illinois 2022
Ph.D. Anthropology

Northwestern University – Evanston, Illinois 2017
M.A. in Anthropology

The Sapienza University of Rome – Rome, Italy 2016
University of Evora – Evora, Portugal
MSc in Archaeological Materials Science

Kazan Federal University Kazan-Volga Region, Russia 2015
Advanced Certificate in History of Ceramics

University of Ghana – Legon, Ghana 2013
B.A. in Archaeology and Heritage Studies (Honors)

Research & Teaching Interests: African Atlantics, West African foodways, Food Security and Environmental (In)Justice, 19th-century Africa, Domestic Economies and Global trade, Public and Community Archaeology, Archaeological Science, Black Studies, and the African Diaspora.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory 2022
Visiting Scholar

University of Missouri Research Reactor 2021-2022
Senior Research Specialist, Archaeometry Laboratory

University of Ghana 2020-2021
Visiting Scholar, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies

PUBLICATIONS

1. Kuma, D. (in review). “Trade Networks & Consumer Practices in Amedeka, Ghana: Negotiating “Nkudzedze” in 19th and early 20th Centuries.”
2. Kuma, D. (in prep). “Preliminary Report of Archaeological Fieldwork at Amedeka, southeastern Ghana.”
3. Kuma, D. (in prep). “Spatio-temporal distribution and consumption of Local Earthenwares from Southeastern Ghana.”
4. Kuma, D. (in prep). “Legitimate’ Trade and Daily Life in 19th-century Ghana.”

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

1. The National Geographic Society Level I Grant (\$20,000), 2023
2. Gloria S. King Fellowship in Archaeology (\$1,600), 2022
3. University of Missouri Research Reactor NSF Pre-Doctoral Award (\$14,400), 2021-2022
4. Social Science Research Council Andrew Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$36,350), 2020-2021
5. The Black Trowel Collective Microgrants (\$200), 2020
6. Society of Africanist Archaeology Student Conference Travel Grant (\$600), 2018
7. Erasmus Mundus European Education and Culture Executive Agency Fellowship (\$30,000), 2014-2016
8. Graduate Fellowship, The Graduate School, Northwestern University (\$34,176/year), 2016-2022
9. The Graduate Research Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University (\$2,975), 2021
10. Morris Goodman Language Research Award, Program of African Studies, Northwestern University (\$3,000), 2019
11. The Program of African Studies Student Organized Conference Grant, Northwestern University (\$1,000), 2019
12. Morris Goodman Language Research Award, Program of African Studies, Northwestern University (\$3,000), 2018
13. Dissertation Research Award, The Buffett Institute, Northwestern University (\$5000), 2018
14. Hans E. Panofsky Pre-Dissertation Research Award, Program of African Studies, Northwestern University (\$2000), 2018
15. Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, Buffett Institute, Northwestern University (\$400), 2018
16. Program of African Studies Conference Travel Award, Northwestern University (\$350), 2018
17. Department of Anthropology, Graduate Conference Travel, Northwestern University (\$350), 2018
18. The Program of African Studies Student Organized Conference Grant, Northwestern University (\$2,500), 2018

19. Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Student Organized Conference Grant, Northwestern University (\$2,000), 2018
20. The Graduate School Student Organized Conference Grant, Northwestern University (\$1,500), 2018
21. Hans E. Panofsky Pre-Dissertation Research Award, Program of African Studies, Northwestern University (\$2000), 2017
22. Morris Goodman Language Research Award, Program of African Studies, Northwestern University (\$3,000), 2017
23. LeCron Foster and Friends of Anthropology Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$1,000), 2017
24. Dissertation Research Award, The Buffett Institute, Northwestern University (\$5000), 2017

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

1. Kuma, D. Legitimate Trade: Local Tastes & Consumer Power in Southeastern Ghana, Amedeka (19th to 20th C). Paper presented at the 26th SAfA Biennial Meetings, Houston-Texas, 2023.
2. Kuma, D. Negotiating shifts in local productions and social life during ‘legitimate’ trade in Amedeka, Ghana (AD 1807-1900). Paper presented at the 25th SAfA Meetings, Oxford, 2020 (Canceled due to COVID-19).
3. Kuma, D. The Relationship between Land use Dynamics and Foodways in Amedeka, Southeastern Ghana. Paper presented at the 15th PANAF Congress. Rabat, Morocco, 2018.
4. Logan, A and **Kuma, D.** Foodscapes as Gendered Taskscapes in West Africa. Paper presented at the 83rd SAA Meetings, Washington DC, 2018.
5. Kuma, D. Foodways in Atlantic Era West Africa – Ghana: Towards an Archaeology of Daily Life. Paper presented at the 83rd SAA Meetings, Washington DC, 2018.
6. Kuma, D. Engendering Food Acquisition Practices: Rethinking Everyday Life in Ghana- An Ethnographic Case of Amedeka. Paper presented at the 24th SAfA Meetings, Toronto, 2018.
7. Kuma, D. Foodways in Ghana-Amedeka. Paper presented at the African Seminar Annual Conference. Evanston-Illinois, USA, 2018.

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURE

1. Fear of the #Woke University: A politics of exclusion. Invited speaker, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh-Pennsylvania. April 11, 2023.
2. It Tastes Like Home: Local Tastes and Consumer Practices in Southeastern Ghana. Invited speaker, Center of Comparative Archaeology’s Research Fair, University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh-Pennsylvania. April 14, 2023.

3. Introduction to Paleoethnobotany, Guest Lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh-Pennsylvania. February 27, 2023.
4. African Civilization, Kaplan Humanities Program, Northwestern University. Evanston-Illinois. February 25, 2019
5. Thinking Like an Archaeologist. The Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston-Illinois. February 28, 2019.
6. Interdisciplinary Gallery Talk. Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture, and Exchange across Medieval Saharan Africa. Exhibit at the Block Museum, Northwestern University, Evanston-Illinois. March 6, 2019.
7. The Archaeology of Trade in Africa, Anthropology Department Freshman Seminar Series, Northwestern University, Evanston-Illinois. May 9, 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. ANTH X: Community Archaeology & Public Engagement (created) | SPRING 2023 - 4 |
| 2. ANTH 1565: Archaeology of Foodways (created) | FALL 2023 - 4 |
| 3. ANTH 1540: Africa & the World (created) | SPRING 2022 - 3 |
| 4. ANTHRO 214: Archaeology – Unearthing Histories | FALL 2018, 2019 |
| 5. ANTHRO 213: Biological Anthropology – Human Origins | WINTER 2019 |
| 6. ANTHRO 215: Linguistic Anthropology – Culture through Language | WINTER 2018 |
| 7. ANTHRO 255: African Studies – Contemporary African Worlds | FALL 2017 |

SELECTED FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

1. Principal Investigator, Amedeka Ethnoarchaeology Project (AAP), Ghana, 2015-present.
2. Project Archaeobotanist, Ife-Sungbo Archaeology Project, Nigeria. Principal Investigator: Dr. Gerard Chouin, 2019.
3. Unit Supervisor, Manot Cave Archaeology Project, Western Galilee, Israel. Principal Investigators: Dr. Elisabetta Boaretto and Prof. Steve Weiner, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, 2015.
4. Field Supervisor, Krobo Mountains Archaeology Project, Ghana. Principal Investigator: Dr. William Gblekpor, University of Ghana, 2014.
5. Field Crew, Nkwantanso Ethnographic project, Techiman, Ghana. Principal Investigator: Prof. Raymond Silverman, University of Michigan, 2014.

6. Field Supervisor, Ethnoarchaeology of Ironworking and Economic Practices in Adome, Ghana. Principal Investigator: Prof. Kodzo Gavua, University of Ghana, 2013-2016.

SELECTED LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

1. Senior Research Specialist of Archaeometry, University of Missouri Research Reactor Laboratory, 2021-2022.
2. Macrobotanical Analyst, archaeobotanical materials from Banda, Ghana. Principal Investigator: Dr. Amanda Logan, 2019.
3. Ceramic Analyst, Museo delle Origini Laboratory, Sapienza University of Rome. Principal Investigator: Prof. Marcella Frangipane, The Sapienza University of Rome, 2016.
4. Ceramic Analyst, ceramics from Cacela Velha Poço Antigo, Hercules Archaeometry Laboratory, Evora-Portugal, 2015.

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

1. Co-organizer, Department of Anthropology Colloquia. University of Pittsburgh, 2023-present.
2. Co-organizer, Brown Bag on Diversity, Race & Blackness, Department of Africana Studies. University of Pittsburgh, 2023-present.
3. Mentor, Graduate School Goals, 2016-present.
4. Co-facilitator, Northwestern University Program of African Studies Graduate Student Seminar, 2018-2019.
5. Co-organizer, Northwestern University African Seminar Graduate Students Conference, 2019.
6. Co-organizer, Northwestern University African Seminar Graduate Students Conference, 2018.
7. Co-organizer, Northwestern University Department of Anthropology Diversity Committee, 2017.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

1. African Studies Association (ASA)
2. Ghana Studies Association (GSA)
3. West African Research Association (WARA)
4. Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA)
5. Society of American Archaeologists (SAA)
6. Society of Black Archaeologists (SBA)
7. World Archaeological Congress (WAC)
8. American Anthropological Association (AAA)
9. Society of Historical Archaeologists (SHA)

LANGUAGES

1. West African Pidgin (fluent)
2. Ewe (fluent)
3. Twi (fluent)
4. English (fluent)
5. French (beginner)
6. Italian (beginner)