

Dr. Clélia Coret

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RESEARCH THEMES

- History of East Africa / Swahili Coast / Kenya
- 19th-20th centuries
- Slave Trade and Slavery; Marronage
- Social History
- History of Missions
- History of Knowledge and Sciences / Linguistics

EDUCATION

2016 **PhD, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, History Department, Paris**
Awarded with the highest academic distinction: *Mention très honorable avec les félicitations du jury à l'unanimité*
 The Refoundation of a Swahili City at Witu. Writing History and the Legitimation of Power on the Northern East African Coast (1812-1895)], 632 p., in French.
 Thesis committee: Pr. Bertrand HIRSCH, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University (supervisor); Pr. Henri MÉDARD, Aix-Marseille University; Pr. Brigitte REINWALD, Leibniz University of Hannover; Pr. Isabelle SURUN, Lille 3 University; Pr. Justin WILLIS, Professeur, Durham University; Dr. Thomas VERNET, Paris 1.

Thesis prize 2017 : Best Thesis in Social History
Fondation Mattei Dogan and Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 3,000 €

2007-2009 **MA in History / Africa Department, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University,**
 (with Distinction)
 2007 **BA in History, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, (with Distinction)**
First year of BA in Sociology, Marc Bloch University, Strasbourg.

CURRENT POSITION

2021-... **Postdoctoral Fellow**
European Research Council « Aftermath of Slavery in East Africa »
 Ghent University, Belgium
 PI: Pr. Felicitas Becker

WORK EXPERIENCE AND FELLOWSHIPS

Janv-Dec 2020 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Laboratoire d'Excellence (LabEx) History and Anthropology of Knowledge, Technologies and Beliefs
École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales / Centre Alexandre-Koyré
 Project: "Linguistic contacts on the East African Coast. Local informants and German missionaries in the co-production of linguistic knowledge (1886-1939)".
 Referent: Antonella Romano (EHESS)

Nov-Dec 2019 **Post-doctoral Fellow**
 French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA), Nairobi / Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme
 Fieldwork: Kenya National Archives (Nairobi) ; Zanzibar National Archives (Zanzibar)

Sept-Oct 2019 **Visiting Research Fellow**
 Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin
 Referent: Heike Liebau (ZMO)

2018-19 History and Geography Teacher
 Maristes high school, Dakar, Senegal.

July 2018 **Post-doctoral Fellow**
 Interdisciplinary Centre of Studies and Research on Germany (CIERA)
 Fieldwork: Mission Archives, Neukirchen-Vluyn; Research in the Staatsbib., Berlin

2017-18 Scientific collaborator for the "Maitron" project: biographical dictionaries on the labour and social movement.
 Referent: Claude Penner (CNRS)

2016-17 History and Geography Teacher
 High school, Paris

2015-16 **End-of-PhD funding, HeSam University, Paris.**
 Project: "Free labour/Forced labour. Local coercions and global dynamics. Africa, Europe, Asia from the 15th century to nowadays"
 Referent: Alessandro Stanziani (EHESS)

2012-14 **PhD Fellow, Interdisciplinary Centre of Studies and Research on Germany**
 Fieldwork: Bundesarchiv, Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Auswärtige Amt, Berlin

- 2009-12 **PhD Fellow, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Paris.**
 Three-year PhD research funding (*Contrat doctoral* state scheme) from the French government
Temporay Lecturer, Contemporary History, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, History Department, Paris.

Fieldwork and Research Fellowships as a PhD candidate

- **French Institute for Research in Africa,** Nairobi, 3,000 €
 3 months on the Kenyan coast (Mombasa, Malindi, Witu, Lamu archipelago), interviews; Zanzibar: Zanzibar National Archives
- **College of the Doctoral Schools of Paris 1 University,** 1,600 €
 2 months in London and Oxford: National Archives, National Maritime Museum, Royal Geographical Society, British Library, School of Oriental and African Studies (archives), Bodleian Library, Rhodes House
- **Franco-German Institute for Historical and Social Sciences,** Frankfurt am Main, 1,000 €
 2 months in Berlin: German Federal Archives
- **Franco-German University,** 500 €
 2 weeks in Frankfurt am Main: Library of African Studies, Goethe University

PUBLICATIONS

(i) Special Issues (2)

- 2020 “[Power in the City](#). Spaces, Material Cultures, Scenographies in Africa before the 20th century”, *Afriques. Débats, méthodes et terrains d’histoire*, n° 11. with R. ZAUGG, University of Zurich and G. CHOUIN, College of William & Mary Williamsburg
- 2014 “Les mobilités contraintes”, *Hypothèses. Travaux de l’École doctorale d’Histoire*, n° 17 (with Delphine DIAZ, Romy SANCHEZ).

(ii) Journal Articles (5)

- 2021 “Runaway Slaves and the Aftermath of Slavery on the Swahili Coast. New Perspectives from Witu in the 19th Century”, *Journal of Global Slavery*, Vol. 6, n° 3, 275–313.
- 2020 “[Cities in Africa before 1900](#). Historiography and Research Perspectives”, *Afriques. Débats, méthodes et terrains d’histoire*, n° 11.
 With R. ZAUGG and G. CHOUIN

- 2019 “La souveraineté de Witu au XIX^e siècle. De la refondation à la colonisation d’une cité-État sur la côte est-africaine”, *Revue d’histoire du XIX^e siècle*, n° 59, p. 49-69. Special issue ed. by I. SURUN, S. SANCHEZ, L. ARZEL: “Une histoire des souverainetés africaines au XIX^e siècle”.
- 2019 “L’invention du ‘Sultanat Swahili’. Usages d’une identité swahili à Witu sur la côte est-africaine (XIX^e siècle)”, *Cahiers Afriques*, vol. 30, p. 25-46. Special issue ed. by E. BERTHO, J.-L. MARTINEAU, C. PAUTHIER, F. PITON : “Du héros à la communauté. Le cheminement des identités en Afrique du XIX^e au XXI^e siècle”.
- 2014 “[Mobilités contraintes, mobilités choisies?](#) La fondation d’une cité-État par des esclaves échappés et des élites swahili exilées à Witu sur la côte est-africaine au XIX^e siècle”, *Hypothèses. Travaux de l’École doctorale d’Histoire*, n° 17, p. 187-196.

(iii) Book Chapters (5)

- 2020 “[History, Memory, and the Heritage of Slavery on the Kenyan Coast](#): The Witu and Shimoni Cases”, in M.A. FOUÉRE, M.E. POMMEROLLE, C. THIBON (dir.), *Kenya in Motion 2000-2020*, Paris&Nairobi, Africae, p. 345-347. With Patrick ABUNGU.
- 2019 “Where is the Border? Territorial Claims and Regional Cartographies on the East African coast, 1860-1890s”, in D. GUIGNARD, I. SERI-HERSCH (eds.), *Spatial Appropriations in Modern Empires, 1820-1960*, Newcastle upon Tyne, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, p. 75-100.
- 2017 “‘Voici le sultan qui fonda Witu’. Refondation d’une cité-État swahili et légitimation du pouvoir au XIX^e siècle (côte est-africaine)”, in P. GERVAIS-LAMBONY, F. HURLET, I. RIVOAL (eds.), *(Re)Fonder. Les modalités du (re)commencement dans le temps et dans l’espace*, Colloques de la Maison Archéologie Ethnologie, René-Ginouvès, n° 14, 2017, p. 201-215.
- 2017 “Savoirs missionnaires, savoirs d’ethnologues. Production et circulation des premiers savoirs ethnologiques et linguistiques sur les Pokomo (Kenya) à la fin XIX^e siècle et au début du XX^e siècle”, in J.-L. GEORGET, G. HALLAIR, B. TSCHOFEN (eds.), *Saisir le terrain ou l’invention des sciences empiriques en France et en Allemagne*, Lille-Villeneuve d’Ascq, Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, Collection Mondes germaniques, p. 113-130.
- 2013 “Le pouvoir de l’écrit: les chroniques swahili dans l’historiographie”, in N. GAYIBOR, M. GOMGNIMBOU et D. JUHE-BEAULATON (eds.), *L’écriture de l’histoire en Afrique: L’oralité toujours en questions*, Paris, Karthala, p. 369-393.

(iv) Preface (1)

- To be pub. Novel *Abubakar’s Dream*, written by Otieno Ogai.
Dec 2021

(v) Encyclopaedia Entries (2)

- 2020 “[Habari za Pate](#): les ‘chroniques’ de Pate (Afrique orientale)”, in N. KOUAME, E. P. MEYER, A. VIGUIER (dir.), *Encyclopédie des Historiographies : Afriques, Amériques, Asie. Vol. 1 : sources et genres historiques*, Paris, Presses de l’Inalco, p. 686-699.
- 2019 “[La conférence de Berlin et le partage de l’Afrique](#)”, *Encyclopédie pour une Nouvelle Histoire de l’Europe*.

(vi) Reviews (7)

- 2021 VAN DEN AVENNE, C., *De la bouche même des indigènes. Échanges linguistiques en Afrique coloniale*, Paris, Vendémiaire, 2017, 272 p., *Journal des Africanistes*, vol. 90, n° 1, p. 230-233.
- 2020 “[The Musée des Civilisations Noires of Dakar](#). Past and Present Issues” (with Martin Mourre), on H-Soz-Kult, *in English*.
- 2018 LOVEJOY, P., *Une histoire de l’esclavage en Afrique : Mutations et transformations*, Paris, Karthala, 2017, 442 p. *Politique africaine*, n° 150, p. 209-211.
- 2017 BELLAGAMBA, A., GREENE, S.E., KLEIN, M.A., *African voices on slavery and the slave trade*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2016, 206 p. *Politique africaine*, n° 145, p. 219-220.
- 2017 PUGACH, S., *Africa in Translation. A History of Colonial Linguistics in Germany and Beyond, 1814-1945*, Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press, 2012, 303 p. *Cahiers d’Études Africaines*, n° 225, pp. 200-204.
- 2017 LENOBLE-BART, A. (dir.), *Missionnaires et Églises en Afrique et à Madagascar (XIX^e-XX^e siècles). Anthologie de textes missionnaires*, Turnhout, Brepols, 2015, 732 p. *Journal des Africanistes*, n° 87 (1-2), p.478-480.
- 2014 “[Bridging Histories of East and Central Africa](#)”, Conference hold in Bayreuth, 7-8 June 2013, published on **H-Soz-u-Kult, in English**.

(vii) Online articles (5)

- 2020 Presentation of the postdoctoral project on linguistic knowledge ([LabEx HASTEC](#))
- 2017 Summary of the PhD thesis on the “[Carnet d’Afriques](#)” blog of Hypothèses.org
- 2015 “Quand une petite partie du Kenya était allemande”, on the [Africa4 blog](#) of the French daily *Libération*
- 2012 “[The last Swahili State](#), the Foundation of the Witu Sultanate in the Nineteenth Century”, *Mambo*, 10 (1), p. 1-5.
- 2010 “Etre esclave en Afrique de l’Est”, paper following a conference at Musée du Quai Branly, 1st October.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2017-... **Associate Editor** for the academic journal *Afriques. Débats, méthodes et terrains d'histoire*. Member of the editorial board since 2009
- 2021-... Member of the **editorial bord** for *Sources. Matériaux & terrains en études africaines*
- 2021-... Member of the **editorial bord** for *Journal des Africanistes*.

COMMISSION OF TRUST

Evaluation of articles for *Cahiers d'Études Africaines*; *Journal des Africanistes*; *Revue d'Histoire Contemporaine de l'Afrique*; *Afriques. Débats, méthodes et terrains d'histoire*; *Mambo ! Revue de l'IFRA Nairobi*.

ORGANISATION OF ACADEMIC EVENTS / ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

(i) Member of Research Programmes

- 2021-... **Co-organisation of the scientific activities related to the ERC Program "Aftermath of Slavery in East Africa"**
- 2013-2015 **Research Programme between France and Norway, Hubert Curien Partnership**; leaders of the project: **Anne K. BANG** and **Bertrand HIRSCH**

(ii) Conferences

- 2013 **National Conference of Young Researchers in African Studies**
Paris, Sciences Po Paris/Sorbonne University, 11-12 January.
Funding: GIS Etudes Africaines, Campus Condorcet, Sciences Po Paris and Bordeaux. <https://jcea2013.sciencesconf.org/>

(iii) Research Seminars

- 2021-2023 "African History Group", Seminar of the ERC Program "Aftermath of Slavery in East Africa"
- 2016-17 "Au cœur des sources: pratiques, méthodologie et interdisciplinarité", Seminar for PhD students, Institut des Mondes Africains.
- 2013-15 "Penser le temps et construire l'histoire de l'Afrique", Seminar for PhD students, Institut des Mondes Africains.

(iv) Workshops

- 2013 "Les mobilités contraintes", Doctoral School of Paris 1 University, 23 March.

(v) Panels in international conferences

- 2017 "Urban Scenographies of Political Power in Africa before 1900", with Roberto ZAUGG (University of Zurich)
- 7 **7th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS)**, Basel, 29 June-1 July.

- 2015 “African consumers of imported goods. Studies on the globalization of ordinary things (18th-21st c.)”, with Thomas GUINDEUIL (IMAF)
6th ECAS, Paris, 8-10 July.
- 2014 “New Insight into the ‘Children of Ham’: Runaway Slaves on the 19th Century Swahili Coast”
Slavery in Africa: Past, Heritage, Present, Nairobi, 27-29 October.
- 2014 “Le rôle des informateurs dans la transmission et la circulation des savoirs en Afrique (XIX^e-XX^e siècles)”, with Nathalie CARRE (INALCO)
Rencontres du GIS Études Africaines, Bordeaux, 30 June-2 July.

AFFILIATIONS

- 2021-... Department of History, Ghent University, Belgium
2021-... Société des Africanistes, Paris
2020-... Centre Alexandre-Koyré, EHESS, Paris
2017-... PALOC « Patrimoines locaux, environnement et globalisation », National Museum of Natural History, Paris
2016-... Institut des Mondes Africains (IMAF), Paris 1

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2017 **Qualified for applying for full-track Lectureship in France** (*Qualification*)

(i) Undergraduate student teaching

2010-12 **Temporary Lecturer, History Department, Paris 1 University**

Supervising, teaching and examining undergraduate students through lectures, seminars, coursework and tutorials.

Proofreading exam papers, organising exam script distribution and collation of marks.

Participating in regular teaching meetings.

Courses taught (in French) included:

- “**History of Africa in the 20th century**” (lectures), first-year undergraduates, 2 hours per week on term course, 20 students.
- “**History of Africa in the 19th century**” (lectures), first-year undergraduates, 2 hours per week on term course, 25 students.
- “**International relations in the 20th century. Global systems and transnational dynamics (1890-2010)**”, first-year undergraduates, 3 hours per week of lectures, for 1 semester 25 students.
- “**European Political Cultures in the 19th century**”, second-year undergraduates, 3 hours per week of lectures for 1 semester, 15 students.

(ii) Postgraduate Research Seminars in French

- 2016 **Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University**

- 2016 “Writing a research project”
Classes Préparatoires, Paris
- 2016 “The Writing of African History during the Colonial Period (1870-1960)”
Paris 7 Descartes University
- 2013 “The Swahili Chronicles as Historical Theme and Historical Sources”
National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO)
“A Swahili ‘Identity’ in the 19th century?”

PRESENTATIONS

(i) Round-Tables (3)

- 2020 **Rendez-Vous de l’Histoire, Blois**, « Souverainetés africaines », 10 October [Invited].
- 2020 Presentation of *L’Encyclopédie des historiographies : Afrique, Amériques, Asie*, BULAC/Inalco 13 October [Invited].
- 2019 Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar: About the book of C. Labrune-Badiane and E. Smith, *Les Hussards noirs de la colonie. Instituteurs et petites patries en AOF*, (Paris, Karthala, 2018), 24-25 June. [Invited]

(ii) Discussant (2)

- 2021 Seminar organized by Centre Marc Bloch: “Dynamiken und Erfahrungen der Globalisierung”. Paper presented by F. Brahm (IHA London): “Merchandise of Power : On the History of the East African Firearms Trade, 1850-1919”, 24 June [Invited].
- 2021 Seminar organized by C. Rabier (EHESS) and R. Tiquet (CNRS): “Histoire des sciences et de la médecine coloniales : états des lieux”, EHESS. Paper presented by C. Van den Avenne (Paris 3): “Entre description et appropriation. La construction du savoir sur les langues d’Afrique subsaharienne à l’époque coloniale”, 21 January.

(iii) International Conferences (17) - selection

- 2021 **Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin** : “La fabrique des savoirs dans la mission chrétienne (côte est-africaine, 1850-1940)”, *France, Allemagne, Afrique : représentations, transferts, relations*, Colloque du comité franco-allemand des historiens, 18-19 November.
- 2019 **Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar** : “‘Regarder au-delà des lunettes européennes’. Informateurs swahili et missionnaires allemands dans la co-production des premiers savoirs linguistiques (1886-1939)”, *Intermédiaires et intermédiations en Afrique. Perspectives sur la longue durée*, 24-25 June. [Invited]
- 2017 **7th European Conference on African Studies**, Basel: “The city, the palace, and the mosque. Asserting political legitimacy through urban re-foundation on the 19th-century Swahili coast”, Panel: “Urban Scenographies of Political Power in Africa before 1900”, Basel, 29 June-1^{er} July.
- 2017 **Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l’homme**, Aix-en-Provence: “Où est la frontière? Tensions et négociations territoriales au nord de la côte swahili à la fin du XIX^e siècle”, *Appropriations d’espaces en contexte colonial et impérial*, 12-14 June.
- 2016 **African Studies Association of the UK**, Cambridge: “Between clients and slave raiders careers. The runaways on the Northern Swahili Coast in the 19th-Century”, Panel: “The aftermath of slavery in Indian Ocean Africa” (org. Felicitas Becker), 7-9 September.

- 2015 **6th European Conference on African Studies**, Paris: “Culture, consumption and trade. The various uses of tobacco on the East African coast (19th-Century)”, Panel: “African consumers of imported goods. Studies on the globalization of ordinary things (18th-21st c.)”, 8-10 July.
- 2014 **Catholic University of Nairobi**, Nairobi: “The *watoro* of Witu: ‘Malcontent Felons’ or ‘Unlucky Oppressed’? Reflections on the Historical Role of Runaway Slaves on the Northern Swahili Coast in the 19th-Century”, Conference: *Slavery in Africa: Past, Heritage, Present*, 27-29 October.
- 2014 **Goethe University**, Francfort-am-Main: “Savoirs missionnaires, savoirs d’ethnologues: la construction d’une première connaissance ethnologique sur les Pokomo (Kenya) à la fin XIX^e siècle et au début du XX^e siècle”, *Leo Frobenius: histoire croisée de la constitution et l’appropriation d’un savoir ethnologique en France et en Allemagne*, 19-20 February.
- 2012 **Ghent University**: “Routes and settlements of runaway slaves on the northern Swahili coast in the 19th century”, *Crossroads between Empires and Peripheries – Knowledge Transfer, Product Exchange and Human Movement in the Indian Ocean World*, 21-23 June.
- 2011 **Lomé University**: “Les chroniques swahili dans l’historiographie”, *Sources orales et histoire africaine: bilan et perspectives*, 24-26 May.

(iv) Research Seminars (15) - Selection

- 2021 **École Normale Supérieure, Transferts culturels**, “Linguistic encounters. Christian-Muslim interactions on the East African coast (19th century)”, 15 October.
- 2021 **University of Ghent**, “Fugitive Slaves on the Swahili Coast. The Witu Case”, *ERC Aftermath of Slavery in East Africa*, 2 February.
- 2020 **University of Zurich**, “History and Memories of Slavery and the Slave Trade on the Swahili Coast”, Master Seminar *Disputed Memories of Slavery*, 10 October.
- 2019 **French Institute for Research in Africa, Nairobi**: “‘Africanizing Linguistics’. Knowledge Production on the Swahili Coast (1887-1939)”, 3 December.
- 2019 **Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin**, “Linguistic contacts on the East African Coast (1850s-1939) Some hypothesis of work”, 10 October.
- 2016 **Paris 7 University**, “Les chroniques swahili: entre objet d’histoire et sources historiques”, Master, 3 November.
- 2016 **École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris**: “Écriture de l’histoire et usages du passé au nord de la côte swahili au XIX^e siècle”, *Histoire sociale de l’Afrique Orientale*, 5 February.
- 2014 **Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Bergen**: “The unknown ‘Swahili Sultanate’ of Witu (1862-1890). Political and social perspectives”, 28 August.

(v) Workshops (5)

- 2020 **LabEx Hastec**, “Apprendre, débattre, décrire. Les contacts autour des langues dans la mission chrétienne. Kenya, XIX^e siècle”, EPHE, Paris, 25 September.
- 2014 **Young Researchers of Institut des Mondes Africains**, Aix-en-Provence: “Le sultanat de Witu à la veille de la colonisation européenne: recompositions politiques et sociales au nord de la côte swahili au XIX^e siècle”, 4th June.
- 2013 **Doctoral School of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University**: “Esclaves déracinés et élites swahili dépossédées dans la fondation d’un nouvel État sur la côte de l’Afrique orientale au XIX^e siècle”, *Les mobilités contraintes*, 23 March.
- 2011 **Kassel University**: “Expansion of Islam and political competition on the Swahili coast in the 19th century”, *With the Power of the Sword, Gold and the Koran*, 18-19 November.
- 2010 **Institut de Recherche et de Développement (IRD)/ National Museums of Kenya**, Ivry-sur-Seine: “Environmental strategies and uses of the forest by a Swahili

city-state looking for its legitimacy: the foundation of Witu (19th century)”, *Sites sacrés, patrimoine et identité en Afrique de l’Est: approches locales et régionales*.

LANGUAGE AND PALEOGRAPHY SKILLS

Languages	Speaking	Reading / writing
French	Native	Native
English	Fluent	Fluent
Swahili (Inalco, B1)	Intermediate	Advanced
German	Intermediate	Advanced
Arabic	Basic	Basic
Spanish	Basic	Basic