

Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, Ph.D.

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Education

Ph.D., (History of Science), Harvard University, Cambridge, MA/USA 2005
Thesis Title: Bitter Roots: African Science and the Search for Healing Plants in
Ghana, 1885-2005
Advisor: Allan M. Brandt

A.B., History and Science (*magna cum laude*, with highest honors), Harvard University, 1998
Cambridge, MA/USA

Postdoctoral Training

Postdoctoral Scholar 2008-2009, 2005-2006
Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge,
MA

Academic and Leadership Appointments

Associate Professor 2017-present
History Department, University of Texas, Austin, TX

Department of Population Health, Dell Medical School (courtesy appointment) 2017-present
Tenure 2017

Assistant Professor 2014-2017
History Department, University of Texas, Austin, TX
Program in Medicine and Society (affiliate) 2014-present

Assistant Professor 2006-2014
History Department, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Department of Anthropology, History, and Social Medicine, University of California San 2006-2014
Francisco Medical School, San Francisco, CA (affiliate)

Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA 2008-2014
(affiliate)

Publications

Peer-reviewed publications

1. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (in progress). "Plants, Pharmaceuticals and the Unmaking of Traditional Birth Attendants in Ghana." In preparation to submit to special issue of *BioSocieties*.
2. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2016). "'Atomic Lands': Understanding Land Disputes near Ghana's Nuclear Reactor." *African Affairs*, 115 (460), 443-465. <http://doi:10.1093/afraf/adw021>
3. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2016). "Writing Medical Authority: The Rise of Literate Healers in Ghana, 1930-1970." *Journal of African History*, 57 (1), 69-91. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0021853715000742>
4. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2013). "Scientific Equity: Experiments in Laboratory Education in Ghana," *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society*, 104 (4), 713-741. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/674941>
5. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2008) "Bioprospecting and Resistance: Transforming Poisoned Arrows into Strophanthin Pills in Colonial Gold Coast, 1885-1922." *Social History of Medicine*, 21 (2), 269-290. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/shm/hkn025>

Books & Chapters

1. Osseo-Asare, A.D. (publication expected October 2019). *Atomic Junction: Nuclear Power in Africa after Independence*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. forthcoming.
2. Osseo-Asare, A.D. (2014). *Bitter Roots: The Search for Healing Plants in Africa*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. 300 pages.

Non-peer-reviewed publications

1. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (in progress). Review of Noemi Tousingant's *Edges of Exposure: Toxicology and the Problem of Capacity in Senegal*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*.
2. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (forthcoming). Review of *Steeped in Heritage: The Racial Politics of South African Rooibos Tea* by Sarah Ives. *Journal of Modern African Studies*.
3. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2018). "Comment on 'Eating Kola': The Global Circulation of Plants from Ghana," *Ghana Studies Journal* (30th Anniversary Special Issue) 21: 163-165.
4. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2016). Review of *Healing the African Body: British Medicine in West Africa, 1800-1860*, by John Rankin. *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 71 (4): 478-480.
5. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2016). Review of *Healing Roots: Anthropology in Life and Medicine* by Judith Laplante. *Social History of Medicine*, 28 (4): 440-441.
6. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2015). Review of *In the Shadow of Ebola* (documentary film, 27 minutes) by Gregg Mitman. *Medical History*, 59 (4), 645-647.
7. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2010). Review of *Healing Traditions: African Medicine, Cultural Exchange, and Competition in South Africa, 1820-1948*, by Karen E. Flint, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 84 (1), 136-137.
8. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2007). Review of *The African Aids Epidemic: A History*, by John Iliffe, *Social History of Medicine*, 20 (2), 401-402.
9. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** (2007). Entries for "Oku Ampofo," "Matthew Anum Barnor," "Susan de Graft-Johnson," and "Charles Odamtten Easmon." In W.F. Bynum and H. Bynum (Eds.), *Dictionary of Medical Biography* (Vol. 1, pp. 112-113, 159, Vol. 2, pp. 401-402, 446-447). Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Non-print / Online materials

1. **Osseo-Asare, A.D.** *Atomic Junction: The Road to Nuclear Power*. (HDV documentary film, approx. 30 minutes).

Honors and Awards

Institute for Historical Studies Faculty Fellow, University of Texas at Austin	2017-2018
Humanities Institute Fellow, University of Texas at Austin	Fall 2017
Herskovits Prize for best English language publication in African Studies for <i>Bitter Roots</i> (African Studies Association)	2015
Outstanding Academic Titles Book Award for <i>Bitter Roots</i> (Choice Magazine)	2015
Pacific Branch Book Award for <i>Bitter Roots</i> (American Historical Association)	2015
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies	2008-2009, 2005-2006
Society of Fellows, Columbia University (award declined)	2005-2008
Graduate Fellow, Dibner Institute for the History of Science & Technology, MIT	2004-2005
Graduate Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Studies, Harvard	2003-2005
Teaching Fellow and Course Instructor, History of Science Department, Harvard	2001-2004
Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities (Ford Foundation)	2003-2004
Sheldon Fellowship for Travel to Ghana and the U.K. (Harvard)	2003-2004
Weatherhead and Jennifer Cole Fellowships to Ghana (Harvard)	2002-2004
Graduate Prize Fellowship (Harvard)	1999-2004
Fulbright Fellowship to Ghana (Institute of International Education Fulbright Program)	1998-1999

Professional Memberships and Activities with Leadership Positions

American Association for the History of Medicine	2006-present
Member, Program Committee (2014)	
Panelist, Why Diversity Matters Panel (2017)	2005-present
African Studies Association	2009-present
Chair, Public Health Section, Program Committee (2015)	2007-present
Ghana Studies Association (Lifetime Member)	2007-present
History of Science Society	2007- present
Society for the Social Studies of Science	2007-present

Educational Activities

Educational Administration and Leadership

<i>University of Texas at Austin (Department of History)</i>	
Member, Executive Committee	2017-2019
Member, Assessment and Curriculum Committee	2016-2017
Member, Search Committee for Faculty Investment Initiative	2015-2017
Member, Search Committee for Asian-American History	2015
<i>University of Texas at Austin</i>	
Member, Pop Up Institute: Health and the Humanities Planning Committee	2017-2018
<i>University of California Berkeley (Department of History)</i>	
Member, Committee on History Undergraduate Majors	2007-2008
Member, History Department Prize Committee	2006-2007, 2009-2010, 2012
Member, Search Committee for African Studies Librarian	2006-2007

Teaching Activities*University of Texas at Austin (Department of History)*

HIS 350L Medicine in African History, Course Director, 18-25 students	2014-2018
HIS 366N Global History of Disease, Course Director, 30-50 students	2014-2018
HIS 381 Drugs in World History, Course Director, 5-8 students	2014, 2016, 2019
HIS 382L Material Culture, Course Director, 5 students	2016, 2017
HIS 350L African Travel Narratives, Course Director, 18-22 students	2014-2019

University of California at Berkeley (Department of History)

HIS 183A Global Health and Disease, Course Director, 30-45 students	2010, 2013
HIS 280S Drugs in World History, 5-8 students	2007, 2009
HIS 103HS Healing and Illness in African History, 18 students	2006
HIS 10: African since 1500, 30-45 students	2007, 2008, 2009
HIS 103H Modern Travelers: African Journeys since 1700, Course Director, 18 students	2007, 2008, 2010 2012
HIS 280H Material Culture, 3 students	

Harvard University (Department of the History of Science)

HOS 98r Histories of Science outside Europe, Course Instructor, ~5 students	2001, 2004
HOS 120 Disease and Society, Course Assistant, ~40 students	2002
HS A-34 Medicine and Society, Teaching Fellow, ~20 students/section	2001
HOS 152 Filming Science, Course Research Assistant	2000

Advising and Mentoring Students

University of Texas at Austin

John Carranza, History PhD, co-chair	2016-present
Daniel Jean-Jacques, History PhD, Dissertation Committee member	2017-present
Ogechukwu C. Ezekwem, History PhD, Dissertation Committee member Assistant Professor of History, Creighton University	2015-2017
Ben Breen, History PhD, Dissertation Committee member Assistant Professor History, University of California, Santa Cruz	2014-2015
Christle Nwora, Liberal Arts BA Honors Program, Thesis Supervisor	2016

University of California, Berkeley

Marlee Tichnor, Medical Anthropology PhD, Dissertation Committee member Postdoctoral Fellow, The University of Edinburgh	2014-2016
Katherine Hendy, Medical Anthropology PhD, Dissertation Committee member Visiting Assistant Professor, Comparative Studies, Ohio State University	2013-2015
Madeleine Seiwald, History Honors BA, Thesis Supervisor	2013
Beth Holtzman, History Honors BA, Thesis Supervisor	2013
Julian Rojas, History Honors BA, Thesis Supervisor	2013

University of California, San Francisco Medical School

Elena Conis, History of Medicine PhD, Dissertation Committee member Assistant Professor of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley	2009-2011
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Grants

Current	2019-2021
UT Experiential Learning Course-Developer Award Title: African Fabrics and Fashion Immersive Course Description: Research to create a course on African textile history with hands-on labs Amount: \$10,000 Role: PI	
UT Humanities Award Title: Particles in Bodies: Historical Perspectives on Radiation and Health in Ghana Description: Research on the history of medical physics and radiation protection in Ghana. Amount: \$15,000 Role: PI	2016-2019

Completed

National Science Foundation Award #: 0958104/1457784 2010-2015
 Title: Atomic Junction: Nuclear Power in an African Suburb
 Description: Research for a book and film on the history of nuclear research and radiation protection in Kwabenya, Ghana
 Amount: \$293,599.00
 Role: PI

Hellman Faculty Fund Award, University of California at Berkeley 2016-2010
 Title: Bitter Roots: The Search for Healing Plants in Africa
 Description: Research for book on the history of drug discovery from plants in Ghana, Madagascar, and South Africa.
 Amount: \$25,000
 Role: PI

Editorial Responsibilities

Social History of Medicine, Editorial Board 2018-present
Journal of African History, Book Reviews Editor 2017
Endeavour, Editorial Board 2016-present
 Reviewer, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *Social Studies of Science*, *Social History of Medicine*, National Science Foundation, Swiss National Science Foundation 2006-present

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

International

- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Atomic Junction: The Road to Nuclear Power in Ghana." African Studies Lecture. University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom. November 12, 2018
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Do not use herbs!: Historical Perspectives on Traditional Birth Attendants, Healing Plants, and Medical Ethics in Ghana." University of Kent Law School, Canterbury, UK. November 9, 2018
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Plants and Pills in Maternal Health Care in Ghana." Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference. Sydney, Australia. August 28, 2018
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Plants and Pills in Maternal Health Care in Ghana." Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference. Sydney, Australia. August 2018
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "African Science and Technology Studies: Past and Futures." Keynote. 4S Pre-Conference: STS Africa 2018. The University of Sydney, Australia. February 23, 2018
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Do not use herbs!: Plants and Pills in Maternal Health Care in Ghana." Conference on Vital Experiments: Living (And Dying) with Pharmaceuticals after the Human." Kyoto University. Kyoto, Japan.
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Don't use Herbs!'" Healers, Birthing, and Access to Care in late 20th Century Ghana." Forum for Africa Studies: Multiple Healths Conference. Uppsala University. Uppsala, Sweden. May 9, 2017
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Atomic Junction: The Road to Nuclear Power." Tri-Annual Meeting of the Ghana Studies Association. Cape Coast, Ghana. August 2016
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "(E)missions to and from Africa: How Radiation became safer in Ghana (1960-2010)," Society for the Social Study of Science meeting. Tokyo, Japan. August 2010
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "The Search for Grains of Paradise." Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls. Meyerton, Gauteng, South Africa. July 11, 2007
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Killing the Intellectual Properties': Managers of Bio-data in Africa," paper presented at Society for the Social Study of Science Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada. November 2006
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Once-Forgotten but Flavorful': Africa's Grains of Paradise from Chaucer to Sam Adams," Conference: Drug Trade in the Early Modern Atlantic World, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine. London, UK. April 13, 2007
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Bioprospecting in West Africa: The Ghana Quinine Patent," Conference: Culture, Nature, Future? Science in Africa, University of Edinburgh. Edinburgh, Scotland. April 12, 2006
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Plant Medicine Research in Ghana since Independence." Annual Meeting of the Ghana Historical Society. Teachers Hall. Accra, Ghana. August 2005

National*Invited*

- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Physics from the Soviets," Symposium on Soviet Union and Africa, New York University. New York, NY. October 13, 2017
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, Book Talk: "From Plants to Pharmaceuticals: Take Bitter Roots for Malaria"
 Program in the History of Science and Medicine, Yale. New Haven, CT. April 18, 2016
 History Department, University of California. Los Angeles, CA. October 5, 2015
 The Lilianna Sauter Lecture, New York Academy for Medicine. New York, NY. April 28, 2015
 History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Colloquium Series, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN. February 27, 2015
 Networks of Exchange Seminar, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. October 6, 2014
 Berkeley Center for Social Medicine, Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, University of California. Berkeley, CA. April 2014
 March 23, 2012
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "The King of Spices: Mapping Grains of Paradise from Chaucer to Herbal Viagra," Center for International History Lecture Series, Columbia University. New York, NY.. May 17, 2010
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Dilemmas of Drug Discovery in Madagascar: Plants, Patents and Pills," Lecture Series in the History of Modern Biomedicine, Medical School, University of California. San Francisco, CA. April 28, 2009
 May 14, 2008
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Who Owns Africa's Plants? The Case of Madagascar Periwinkle and Pennywort," University Herbarium, Harvard. Cambridge, MA.
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "African Healing Authority and Colonial Governance," Center for African Studies, Stanford University. Palo Alto, CA. April 28, 2007
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, Bioprospecting and Resistance: A view from West Africa." Conference: A2K2 (Access to Knowledge II), Yale Law School. New Haven, CT. April 20, 2007
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Strophanthin and the History of Bioprospecting in Africa," Conference: Empires, Colonialisms, and Contexts. Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. April 10, 2006
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Who Owns Africa's Plants? Bioprospecting, Pharmaceuticals and the Postcolony," Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA. March 15, 2006
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Green Gold: Ethical questions in the Search for healing Plants in Ghana," Guest Lecture for BI 85 (Biological and Social Context of Disease), Brown University. Providence, RI.

Conferences

- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "From Manpower to Hydropower and Atomic Power in Nkrumah's Ghana." Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. Chicago, IL. November 2017
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Author meets Critics: *A Nervous State* by Nancy Rose Hunt." Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. Washington, DC. December 2016
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Author meets Critics: *Bitter Roots* by Abena Osseo-Asare." Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. Washington, DC. December 2016
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Physics from the Soviets: African Independence, the Cold War, and Nuclear Power in Ghana." Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society. Atlanta, GA. November 2016
 August 2016
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Atomic Junction: The Road to Nuclear Power." Tri-Annual Meeting of the Ghana Studies Association. Cape Coast, Ghana. November 2015
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Historicizing Therapeutic Pluralism on the Gold Coast," presented with Jonathan Roberts. Annual Meeting of African Studies Association. San Diego, CA. Panel organizer. November 2015
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Author meets Critics: *Africa as a Living Laboratory* by Helen Tilley." Annual Meeting of Society for the Social Studies of Science Meeting. Denver, CO. November 2014
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Airing Grievances: Land Conflicts on Ghana's Nuclear Frontier from Colonial Courts to Online Forums." African Studies Association Meeting. Indianapolis, IN. October 2013
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Atomic Junction: Nuclear Science in an African Suburb." 20 minute documentary film in progress screened at Annual Meeting of Society for the Social Studies of Science. San Diego, CA.

- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "What was Traditional Healing? From African Scientific Herbalists, to Psychic and Traditional Healers in Ghana (1930-1975)." Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. Washington, D.C. November 2011
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Nuclear Prospects in Africa: Rights and Risks." Annual Meeting of Society for the Social Study of Science. Cleveland, OH. November 2011
May 2010
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "'No Logical Grounds for Compensation': Eli Lilly, La Roche and the Transformation of Plants into Pharmaceuticals (1940-1980)." American Association for the History of Medicine Meeting. Rochester, MN.
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Atomic Junction: Nuclear Power at the Crossroads in Ghana," African Studies Association meeting. New Orleans, LA. November 2009
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Scientific Citizens: Experiments in Flag Nationalism and Laboratory Science in Ghana, 1956-1977" History of Science Society Meeting. Pittsburgh, PA. Panel organizer November 2008
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "'Akwabaa, my sister': Recreational Genetics and the Future of Heritage Tourism in Ghana," African Studies Association Meeting. New York, NY. Panel organizer October 2007
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Drug Prospecting in Africa: Historical Lessons from Madagascar Periwinkle to Ghana Quinine," African Studies Association Meeting. San Francisco, CA. November, 2006
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Curing Konoruku: The interplay of Mangos, Malaria and the Mosquito in Colonial Gold Coast, 1860-1940." African Studies Association Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 2005
- Osseo-Asare, A.D.**, "Poisoned Arrows, *Strophanthus hispidus*, and the Rise of Pharmaceutical Chemistry in Britain and the Gold Coast (1880-1922)." History of Science Society Conference. Minneapolis, MN. Panel organizer November 2005