

JONATHAN OKOE

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ACADEMIC EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in African History

Austin, Texas, USA

May 2030(Expected Defense)

Comprehensive Exam Fields: History of Medicine, British Empire, and History of West Africa

Examiners: Toyin Falola, Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, Justin Roberts

Dissertation: Imperial Lunacy: Migration, Labor, and Mental Illness in Colonial Greater Asante, c.1920-1957

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Master of Arts in African History

Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

May 2024

Thesis: *Ayaresa*: The Licensure of Native Physicians in Kumase and Greater Asante During the Colonial Period, 1934-1957

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

Bachelor of Arts in History and English

Kumase, Ghana

May 2016

Thesis: A Socio-Historic Study of Inadequate Mental Health Facilities in Kumase for Mentally Ill Students: A Case Study of Knust Hospital's Psychiatric Division

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Google

Certificate in Project Management

Coursera (Online)

December 2025 to Date

Ghana Insurance College

Certificate in Agency Practice (Insurance)

Distance Education, Ghana

August 2017

London Center of Management (LCM)

Single Subject Diploma in Marketing

Distance Education, Ghana

April 2017

London Center of Management (LCM)

Executive Single Subject Diploma in HRM

Distance Education, Ghana

December 2016

London Center of Management (LCM)

Single Subject Diploma in Business Administration

Distance Education, Ghana

December 2013

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

GTA, Works with Professor Leonard N. Moore (UT)

Attends level 300 classes (History of College Football), offers TA office hours for students' questions and further discussions, and grades students' exams

Jan. to May 2026

GTA, Worked with Professor David M. Lauderback (UT)

Aug. to Dec. 2025

Attended level 300 classes (The United States, 1492-1865), offered TA office hours for students' questions and further discussions, and graded students' exams

GTA, Worked with Professor Matthew Heaton (VT) Jan. to May. 2024

Attended level 100 and 300 classes (Africa Since 1850/ Health and Illness in Africa), contributed to discussions, and graded students' work

GRA, Worked with Professor LaDale Winling (VT) Aug. to Dec. 2023

Located secondary sources that have cited specific books on Racial Covenants and wrote citations in the 17th Edition of the Chicago Manual of Style for the professor; Sorted soft archival materials in Microsoft Drive; Created a Google Sheet for the soft archival data

GTA, Worked with Professor Samuel Cook (VT) Aug. to Dec. 2023

Attended level 300 class (History of Appalachia) with the professor and got relevant sections of books for classes either scanned or printed; Graded students' review paper on the book, *The Harlan Renaissance*

GTA, Worked with Professor Edward Polanco (VT) Jan. to May 2023

Graded level 200 students' (History of Latin America) mid-term and end-of-semester examination papers; Lectured level 200 students once on the History of West Africa; Took students' attendance

GRA, Worked with Prof. Lucien Holness (VT) Aug. to Dec. 2022

Researched primary sources on African American, Mulatto, and Negro from Google Books, HathiTrust, and Proquest, and scanned or printed relevant sections for the professor.

Facilitator, Kotei-Deduako M/A Junior High Sch. (Kumase) Oct. 2018 to Aug. 2022

Taught ICT and Science, Created examination questions, and graded Science and Information and Communication Technology examinations and exercises for level 7 to 9 students; Performed an administrative role for the school.

SRO, National Identification Authority (NIA) (Kumase) Dec. 2019 to Sept. 2020

Coordinated or managed the activities of Registration Center officials, prospective applicants, community members, and other people at the Registration Center; Undertook careful examination of verification and other institutional documents presented by applicants for registration and assessed their genuineness and evidential value as legal documents

Facilitator, The Hilltop Queen Esther Academy (Kumase) Sept. 2017 to Sept. 2018

Taught English, literature, and the Ghanaian language for level 7 to 9 students; developed examination questions and graded students' work.

Facilitator, National Service at K. N. U. S. T Basic School (Kumase) Sept. 2016 to Jul. 2017

Taught English literature to level 6 pupils, created examination questions, and graded pupils' work

General Manager, Westrick Enterprise (Accra) April 2009 to Sept. 2012

Ensured the company was on track to meet its financial objectives; Managed ethical accounting practices; taxes, accounts receivable, and accounts payable; Managed customer services and relationship marketing; Involved in data analysis and organized the purchasing decisions of the

firm; Managed the marketing outlet and other administrative practices; Evaluated and monitored the activities of other employees

PUBLICATION(S)

BOOKS

Falola, Toyin, and **Jonathan Okoe**. *A Social History of Ghana*. Lehigh University Press—*Under Review*

Okoe, Jonathan (Contributor), *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Black British Writing, Volume 1 (1723-1914)*. Bloomsbury Publishing—*Entries Submitted*

ARTICLES

Okoe, Jonathan. "Healing and the State: Medical Authority and Indirect Rule in Colonial Asante, 1920s-1957"—*Writing Stage*

Okoe, Jonathan, and Samuel Adu-Gyamfi. "Healing and Colonialism: Gender, Medicine, and Domestic Governance in Colonial Ghana, c.1920s-1957"—*Writing Stage*

Okoe, Jonathan, and Yahaya Halidu. "Constructing Madness: Media Narratives and Public Understandings of Mental Illness in Contemporary Ghana, c. 2000-2025." *Journal of Academic History and Idea* 13 no. 3 (2026): 1-14

Okoe, Jonathan, and Yahaya Halidu. "Highway Infrastructure Politics: Cold War Power, Culture, and the US Interstate Highway Abroad." *International Journal of Social and Humanities Sciences Research* 12, no. 126 (2025): 2569-2576

Okoe, Jonathan, and Yahaya Halidu. "Negotiating Mental Health and Colonial Power: Land, Resistance, and Infrastructure in Gold Coast, 1919-1957." *Acta Globalis Humanitatis et Linguarum* 2, no. 2 (2025): 186-193

BOOK REVIEWS

Okoe, Jonathan. "Review of *Floating Power: Energy, Infrastructure, and South-South Relations*, by Gökçe Günel." *African Studies Quarterly*—*Sequenced*

Okoe, Jonathan. "Review of *Preparing the Modern Meal: Urban Capitalism and Working-Class Food in Kenya's Port City*, by Devin Smart." *African Studies Review*. First View (May 2026): 1-2

Okoe, Jonathan. "Review of *Medicines that Feed Us: Plants, Healing, and Sovereignty in a Toxic World*, by Stacey A. Langwick." *African Studies Quarterly* 24, No. 2(April 2026):52-53

Okoe, Jonathan. "Review of *African Pharmakon: The Asylum as Shrine from Slavery to the Return*, by Nana Quarshie Osei." *Acta Globalis Humanitatis et Linguarum* 3, no. 1 (2026): 273-275

Okoe, Jonathan. "Review of *An Archive of Possibilities: Healing and Repair in Democratic Republic of Congo*, by Rachel Marie Niehuus." *African Studies Quarterly* 24, no. 1 (March 2026): 93-94.

MEDIA MENTIONS

Okoe, Jonathan. "Ghanaian Scholar Jonathan Okoe Calls for Shift in Media Narratives on Mental Illness." Asaase Radio. Accessed May 15, 2026

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Okoe, Jonathan. "Madness and Mobility: Migration, Labor, and Mental Illness in Colonial Asante, c.1920-1940." 2026 Paper to be presented on the panel, *Birth, Reproductive Justice, Wellness, and Decolonial Healing*, at the 69th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association (ASA), *Rupture and Remake: African Possibilities in a Shifting World*, New Orleans, Louisiana, December 2026

Okoe, Jonathan. "Constructing Madness: Media Narratives and Public Understandings of Mental Illness in Contemporary Ghana, c. 2000-2025." Paper to be presented on the panel "Amplifying Ghana: Health, Media, and Africanfuturism" at the Ghana Studies Association 2026 Triennial Conference, *Ghana in Uncertain Times*, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumase, Ghana, July 2026

Okoe, Jonathan. "Madness and Mobility: Migration, Labor, and Mental Illness in Colonial Asante, c.1920-1940." Paper presented on the panel "Migrant Labor, Sacrifice, & (Under)Development" at the 25th Annual African Conference, *Movements, Migration, Labor, and Displacements in Africa and the African Diaspora*, University of Texas at Austin, April 2026

Okoe, Jonathan. "Healing and Authority: The Regulation of Indigenous Medicine in Colonial Asante, 1934-1957." Paper presented on the panel *Beyond Binaries: Reimagining Medicine, Knowledge, and Healing in African Contexts*, at the 68th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association (ASA), *Crossing Boundaries and Recovering Intellectual Traditions*, Atlanta, GA, November 2025

Okoe, Jonathan. "Ayaresa: The Licensure of Native Physicians in Kumase and Greater Asante during the Colonial Period, 1934-1957." Paper presented on the panel "Medical Professionals and Practices" at the 24th Annual African Conference, *Health and Illnesses in Africa and the African Diaspora*, University of Texas at Austin, March 2025

COLLOQUIUM(S)

**Okoe, Jonathan. "Therapeutic Frontiers: Plural Healing, Mental Care, and the (Re)making of Well-Being in Greater Asante, c.1820-2012." Presentation on Summer 2025 Research in Ghana (Pre-Dissertation Travel), Department of History, University of Texas at Austin
October 2025**

LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZING POSITIONS

Organizing Vice Chairman, Annual Africa Conference, UT Austin Austin, USA
Part of the strategic leadership and planning committee of the conference; Part of fundraising, resource mobilization, and call for papers; Assists in the maintenance of high standards for research presentation and panel organization; Part of peer-reviewers of conference and journal publication of papers
May 2026 to Date

President, UT Austin African History Graduate Students Organization Austin, USA

Heads and represents the African History Students Organization at the University level; Leads in drawing programs for the organization; Leads in seeking funds for the organization; Chairs the ongoing constitution drafting committee for the organization **Aug. 2025 to Date**

History Students Representative, Graduate Students Assembly, UT Austin **Austin, USA**
Represents the interests of history graduate students at the Graduate Students Assembly; Vets' applications for Graduate Students Assembly summer funding **Aug. 2025 to Date**

Panel Chair, "African Women, Migration & Trafficking" and "Migration for Development & also Imperialism and African Movements/Migrations" at the 25th Annual Africa Conference, *Movements, Migration, Labor, and Displacements in Africa and the African Diaspora*, University of Texas at Austin, **April 2026**

Member, Organizing Committee, the 25th Annual Africa Conference, *Movements, Migrations, Labor and Displacements in Africa and the African Diaspora*, University of Texas at Austin, **Aug. 2025 to April 2026**

Member, Organizing Committee, the 24th Annual Africa Conference, *Health and Illnesses in Africa and the African Diaspora*, University of Texas at Austin **Aug. 2024 to March 2025**

Electoral Commissioner, Historical Society of Knust **Kumase, Ghana**
Chaired the Planning, Organizing, and Coordinating committee for free and fair elections for the Historical Society of KNUST **2015/2016 Academic Year**

Electoral Official, Social Science Society of Knust **Kumase, Ghana**
Co-chaired the Planning, Organizing, and Coordinating committee for free and fair elections for the Social Science Society of KNUST **2015/2016 Academic Year**

Member, Welfare Committee of The Historical Society Of Knust **Kumase, Ghana**
Helped in identifying less endowed students within the Historical Society of KNUST for assistance **2014/2015 Academic Year**

Tratech Official, Historical Society of Knust **Kumase, Ghana**
Marketed History to the University community and the general populace **2014/2015**

COMMUNITY SERVICE POSITIONS

Bible Studies Facilitator, Tabernacle Baptist Church **Kumase, Ghana**
Led Bible discussions and teachings **Jul. 2022 to Aug. 2022**

Youth President, Tabernacle Baptist Church, **Kumase, Ghana**
Presided over all meetings, seminars, and camps for the Youth Fellowship; Managed, advocated, and budgeted for the fellowship **Mar. 2019 to Aug. 2022**

Member, Church Council, Tabernacle Baptist Church **Kumase, Ghana**
Facilitated the drawing of programs for the church **Mar. 2019 to Aug. 2022**

Member, Funeral And Marriage C'tee, Tab. Baptist Church **Kumase, Ghana**

Managed and planned social activities of the church; Helped in preliminary processes for funeral and marriage ceremonies for the church **Mar. 2020 to Mar. 2022**

Publicity Rep, National Union of Baptist Students, Knust
Updated the hall's notice board with the church's programs

Kumase, Ghana
2012/2013 Academic Year

FIELD AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ghana: Accra, Kumase

USA: Maryland, Virginia

RESEARCH PROFICIENCY

GA-Adangbe (Ghanaian language, Speaking, Reading, Writing); **Twi-Dialect** (Ghanaian language, Speaking, Reading, Writing); **Pidgin** (West Africa, Speaking, Reading, Writing)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

African Studies Association(ASA)	Since 2025
American Historical Association (AHA)	Since 2026
American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM)	Since 2026
Ghana Studies Association (GSA)	Since 2026

SCHOLARSHIP(S) AND AWARD(S)

University of Texas at Austin Professional Development Fellowship(Award)	2025
University of Texas at Austin Departmental Summer Fellowship (History)	2025
University of Texas at Austin Departmental Fellowship(History)	2024-2025
Funding for Master of Arts in History (VT History Department)	2022-2024

REFREES

Professor Toyin Falola
Department of History
University of Texas at Austin
toyinfalola@austin.utexas.edu

Professor Dove Abena Osseo-Asare
Department of History
University of Texas at Austin
osseo@austin.utexas.edu

Professor Matthew Michael Heaton
Department of History (Former DGS)
Virginia Tech
mheaton@vt.edu