

Sauda Nabukenya

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan: Ph.D. in History | 2015–2024

- Dissertation: “In Pursuit of Justice, Right, and Peace: Ordinary Litigants and the Making of Uganda’s Legal Culture, 1900–1970”

Makerere University, Uganda: M.A. in History | 2002–2008

- Thesis: “The Power Dynamics of the Constitutional Making Process in Uganda, 1959–1995”

Makerere University, Uganda: B.A. with Education, Second Class Honors – Upper Division | 1997–2001

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024–Present: Assistant Professor, Department of History, Utah State University
- 2015–2024: Graduate Student Instructor, Department of History, University of Michigan
- 2013–2015: Lecturer, Kyambogo University
- 2009–2013: Assistant Lecturer, Kyambogo University
- 2009–2010: Part-time Lecturer, Makerere University
- 2001–2008: Teaching Assistant, Kyambogo University
- 2000–2004: Teaching Assistant and In-Service Program Coordinator, Kampala International University

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters

- Nabukenya, Sauda. “Rethinking Law through Vernacular Records: Archive Encounters and the Recovery of Native Court Records in Uganda.” *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* (2025): 1–14. Cambridge University Press.
- Nabukenya, Sauda. “Court Cases as Epistemology: Reconstructing African History through Legal Archives.” *Hypotheses Blog*, September 23, 2025. <https://gtw.hypotheses.org/31635>.
- Nabukenya, Sauda. “Epistemological Limits of Government Archives: Recovering the Voices of Ordinary Litigants in Local Legal Archives.” In *Adventure Inquiry Discovery: CLIR-Mellon Fellows and the Archives*. CLIR Symposium, 2023.
- Nabukenya, Sauda. “Why Constitutions in Africa Do Not Stand the Test of Time: Lessons from Uganda’s 1995 Constitution.” In *Constitution-Building in Africa*. University of the Western Cape Community Law Centre, 2015.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- **Monograph:** The People and Their Pursuit of Justice, Right, and Peace: Vernacular Legal Culture and the Making of Law in Uganda, ca. 1900–1995. Revision of doctoral dissertation into book manuscript.
- **Article Manuscript:** “Obwenkanya (Justice) and Emirembe (Peace): Vernacular Meaning and the Making of Law in Colonial Buganda.” Under preparation for presentation at the Law and Society Association Graduate Student and Early Career Workshop, 2026.

- **Edited Volume Chapter:** “From Domestic Service to Tenancy: Contractual Relations in Colonial Buganda.” For *Towards a Law and Anthropology of Contracts: Contracting Africa*, edited by Kelly Askew and Jatin Dua.
- **Handbook Chapter:** “The Legal History and Future of Uganda’s Constitution.” For *The Oxford Handbook of African Constitutions*, edited by Richard Albert and Berihun Gebeye.
- **Handbook Chapter:** “Customary Law as a Localized Legal Order and the Limits of Colonial Legal Governance.” For *The Oxford Handbook of Traditional Law and Governance in Africa*, edited by Jan Erk and Anthony.
- **Article Manuscript:** “Technology vs Tradition: The Historical and Legal Controversy of DNA Paternity Testing in Uganda.” In preparation for *The Journal of African History*.
- **Article Manuscript:** “From Court Basements to National Archives: Salvaging and Cataloguing 150,000 Abandoned Legal Records in Uganda.” Forthcoming.

BOOK AND PROPOSAL REVIEWS

- 2025: Invited reviewer, *An African People’s Quest for Freedom and Justice: A Political History of Eritrea, 1941–1962* by Alemseged Tesfai (Hurst, forthcoming). Review for *African Studies Review*.
- 2025: Invited reviewer of book proposal, *Themes in East African History: Power, Resistance, and Transformation* by Nakanyike B. Musisi, for Routledge.
- 2025: Reviewer, *Colonial Algeria and the Politics of Citizenship* by Avner Ofrath (Bloomsbury, 2024). Review for *African Studies Review*.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2026: “*Obwenkanya* (Justice) and *Emirembe* (Peace): Vernacular Meaning and the Making of Law in Colonial Buganda,” Law and Society Association Graduate Student and Early Career Workshop, San Francisco, CA.
- 2025: “Women, Land, and the Law: Gendered Struggles and Strategies for Property Rights in Colonial Buganda,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 20–22, 2025.
- 2024: “Technology vs Tradition: The Historical and Legal Controversy of DNA Paternity Testing in Uganda,” African Studies Association Annual Conference.
- 2024: “From Subjects to Citizens with ‘Rights’: A Legal History of (De)Colonization and Nation-Building 1950–1970,” University of Michigan AHAW Workshops.
- 2023: “Law Versus Custom: The Vernacular Legal Culture on Trial in British Courts,” University of Michigan AHAW Workshops.
- 2022: “The Role of Everyday People in Community Policing and Criminal Justice in Buganda (1900–1962),” University of Michigan AHAW Workshops.
- 2021: “In Pursuit of Right, Justice, and Peace: Ordinary Litigants and the Making of Uganda’s Legal Culture ca. 1900–1980,” Makerere University History Seminar.
- 2021: “Struggles of the Landless: Contesting Possession in Buganda,” University of Michigan AHAW Workshop.
- 2017: “Ethnic Balancing, Racial Bargaining, and Political Exclusions in Uganda (1950–1967),” Race, Law, and History Conference, University of Michigan.
- 2016: “The UPC-KY Political Alliance Through Munno: Pre-Independence Politics in Uganda,” University of Michigan.
- 2016: “Civic vs. Ethnic Nationalism in Uganda (1958–1962),” Singular Voices, Multiple Identities Conference, University of Toronto, Canada.

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Keynote Speaker, History End of Year Social, Utah State University, April 8, 2025
- Graduate Student Speaker, Rackham Graduate Exercises, University of Michigan, May 2, 2025

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

- Featured Expert, *How to Become a Tyrant* (Netflix Documentary Series, 2021). Contributed historical expertise on law, governance, and authoritarianism.

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2026: Selected Participant, Graduate Student and Early Career Workshop, Law and Society Association (LSA), San Francisco, CA
- 2024: The Harvey G. and Joyce H. Behner Graduate Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2022: ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2021: IRWG/Rackham Community of Scholars Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2019: Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan
- 2019: CLIR Mellon Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2019: South African Initiatives Fellowship, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
- 2018: International Institute Individual Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2018: Passed with Distinction in Doctoral Qualifying Exams, University of Michigan
- 2017: Centre for Education of Women (CEW) Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2016: African Studies Research Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2016: SIAO Fellowship, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS), University of Michigan
- 2016: Summer School Scholarship for Constitution Building in Africa, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2016: Race, Law & History Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2015: South African Initiatives Fellowship, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
- 2015: African Studies Center Funding for Research Support, University of Michigan
- 2015: Weiser Emerging Democracies Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2015: Fulbright Scholarship, U.S. Department of State
- 2014: Multi-Method Research Course Scholarship, Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), Kenya
- 2014: Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
- 1997–2001: Undergraduate Scholarship, Government of Uganda

TEACHING

Utah State University (2024–Present)

- Comparative Legal History
- History and Theory
- Africa and the Modern World
- The Modern World

University of Michigan (2015–2024), Graduate Student Instructor

- Africa to 1850

- Islam in Africa
- Europe in the Era of War
- The Holocaust
- History of the Economy
- The American South: A History of Race and Culture Since Reconstruction

Kyambogo University (2009–2015)

- Imperialism in the Third World Since the Mercantilist Era
- World Revolutions
- History of Uganda
- European History

DISSERTATION AND THESIS COMMITTEES

- Member, Doctoral Committee for Miriam Mukasa, Department of Psychology, Utah State University (2025)
- Member, Thesis Committee for Josephine Buabeng, English Department, Utah State University (2026)
- Member, Thesis Committee for Madison Maw-Carlstrom, History, Cultures and Ideas, Utah State University (2026)

GRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION

- Faculty Supervisor, HIST 6560 Professional Research Internship, Spring 2026. Supervised Sam Schmuhl and Madison Maw-Carlstrom in qualitative and quantitative research analysis of the Michigan Department of Corrections' security classification system.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND COLLABORATION

- 2025–Present: Associate Editor, *African Journal of Legal Studies (AJLS)*, a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal on human rights, rule of law, and governance in Africa, co-published with Martinus Nijhoff Publishers (Brill).
- 2025–Present: Collaborator, AI and Archives Project, Hub for Artificial Intelligence Research in Archives (HAIRA), Utah State University
- 2024–Present: Researcher, Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration. Led research evaluating the Michigan Department of Corrections' security classification system, focusing on racial and gender disparities
- 2024–2025: Member, Dean's Scholarship Committee, Utah State University
- 2024–Present: Member, History Department Scholarship Committee, Utah State University
- 2023: Co-Coordinator, African History and Anthropology Workshop (AHAW), University of Michigan
- 2018–2019: Coordinator, Archival Preservation and Cataloging Projects for High Court and Buganda Native Court Records. Oversaw the preservation and cataloging of more than 150,000 endangered native court files

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING WORKSHOPS

- 2026: Participant, ETE Mentoring Students with Intention, EmpowerED Workshop, Utah State University, February 13, 2026
- 2025: Participant, ETE New Course Design Academy, Utah State University, August 6–8, 2025
- 2025: Participant, Empower Teaching Excellence (ETE) Annual Conference, Utah State University, August 13, 2025

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Certificate in Multi-Method and Policy-Oriented Research, Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), Kenya, 2014
- Certificate in Constitution Building in Africa, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, 2016
- Certificate of Graduate Studies in African Studies, University of Michigan, 2024

RESEARCH FIELDS AND INTERESTS

- African Legal and Constitutional History; Social and Cultural History of East Africa; Property, Labor, and Contract; Gender and Law; Intellectual History; Archival Studies and Preservation; Public History; Mass Incarceration and Criminal Justice

LANGUAGES

- English (fluent), Luganda (native speaker), Lugishu (native speaker), Swahili (intermediate)