

# Dawson McCall

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## Academic Appointments

2024-Present Assistant Professor, Department of History, Loyola University, New Orleans

2021-2024 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Loyola University, New Orleans

### Courses Taught:

Africa to 1800 (HIST-Q349)  
 Africa, 1800 to Present (HIST-Q350)  
 Religion, Law, and Human Rights in Africa (HIST-H295)  
 Africa and its Diasporas (HIST-T232)  
 Sport and Society in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Africa (HIST-Q280)  
 Global East Africa (HIST-Q274)  
 Historiography (HIST-Q400)  
 Global History II (HIST-T124)

## Education

2024 Ph.D. History, Michigan State University

Dissertation Title: 'We pray, we work, we play': A Social History of a Kenyan High School in Iten, 1961-1976

Dissertation Committee: Laura Fair (Chair), Walter Hawthorne, Peter Alegi, Bethany Wilinski, and Kenda Mutongi

Research Language: Kiswahili (Advanced, Conversational)

2004 B.A. History, Loyola University, New Orleans

## Previous Positions and Teaching Experience

2017 – 2021 Teaching and Research Assistant, Department of History, Michigan State University

2013 – 2016 History Teacher/Coach, Lusher High School, New Orleans, LA

- Courses Taught: World Geography, World History (AP), European History (AP), US Gov't (AP)
- Sports Coached: Boys and Girls Cross-Country, Boys Basketball

2006 – 2013 History Teacher/Coach, St. Stanislaus High School, Bay St. Louis, MS

- Courses Taught: World History, US Gov't, Mississippi Studies
- Sports Coached: Boys Cross-Country, Boys Track and Field, Boys Basketball

## Grants & Fellowships

2025 Loyola University, New Orleans, Marquette Fellowship

2023 Loyola University, New Orleans College of Arts & Sciences, Carter Fellowship

2022 Loyola University, New Orleans College of Arts & Sciences, Carter Fellowship

2019 US Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship

2018 Michigan State University College of Social Science, Research Scholars Award

2018 Michigan State University History Department, Summer Research Grant

2018 US Department of Education, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships (Kiswahili)

2017 US Department of Education, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships (Kiswahili)

2015 NEH Institute for School Teachers, Michigan State University, Africa in World History Seminar

2014 US Department of State Grant in cooperation with [Global Nomads Group](#)

## Scholarship

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2025 “‘A hero who made this country proud’: Boxing, Nation, and the Politics of Sport in Kenya, ca 1950-1968,” *International Journal of the History of Sport* 42:1 (2025): 25-47, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09523367.2023.2267451>.

2025 “Introduction: Africa in the Boxing Ring,” *International Journal of the History of Sport* 42:1 (2025): 1-5, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09523367.2025.2466320>.

2025 “Between Empire and Agency: Schools as Sites of Struggle and Negotiation in Colonial Kenya,” *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (Under Review)

### Digital History

*Kenya’s Global Running Lives: An Oral History Archive* (Website to be published January 2026)

- A digital history project documenting the life stories of Kenyan runners and coaches who have competed or coached internationally since the early 1970s.

### Non-Peer Reviewed Essays

2025 [“The anticolonial roots of Kenya’s student strikes,” \*Africa is a Country\*](#)

2023 [“Imagining a future through running,” \*Africa is a Country\*.](#)

2022 [“A pivot towards Africa,” \*Africa is a Country\*.](#)

### Conference Participation and Invited Talks

2025 Panelist for “Real Talks: Duality of Ethnicity and Race,” Part of the Loyola University New Orleans Black Student Union Real Talk Series, New Orleans, LA.

2025 Discussant for “Sport in Africa,” Studies of Sport Conference, Columbia University, NY.

2024 “Looking Beyond Harambee: Inter-Collegiate Running, Kenyan Athletic Agency, and Transnational East Africans in the 1970s,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.

2024 Panelist for “Keeping the Culture Alive,” An Educational Event Presented by the Loyola University Caribbean and African Student Association (CASA), New Orleans, LA.

2023 “Running Abroad: St. Patrick’s Scholar-Runners in US Colleges & Universities,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.

2023 “Making Men & Winning Medals at St. Patrick’s High School, Iten,” Sports Africa Conference, Gainesville.

2022 “Kenya’s Forgotten Heroes: Philip Waruinge, the ‘Hit Squad,’ & boxing in early post-colonial Kenya,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.

2022 “‘I like to run’: Joy in the lives of Kenyan schoolgirl runners, 1967-1974,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.

2022 “‘To rise above everyone else’: Competitive Achievement, Development, and the “Spirit of *Harambee*” at St. Patrick’s High School, Iten (1961-1972),” Eye on Africa, Michigan State University.

2021 “The “Spirit of *Harambee*” and the creation of an institutional identity at St Patrick’s High School, Iten,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual.

2020 “A single finger does not kill a louse’: Social Networks, Affect, and the Role of Schools in Kenyan Running History,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual.

2020 Panel Chair, “Sport and African History: The Case of Kenya,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual.

## Professional Memberships and Service

### *Memberships*

African Studies Association (ASA)  
 Sports Africa Network  
 American Historical Association (AHA)

### *Reviewer*

*The International Journal of the History of Sport*  
*Journal of East African Studies*  
*African Studies Review*

### *University Service*

2025-Present History Department Representative, Faculty Senate  
 2024-Present History Department Liaison for AP High School Student Recruiting Visits  
 2024-Present Co-Chair, Black Studies, Loyola University, New Orleans  
 2022-Present Committee Member, Black Studies, Loyola University, New Orleans

### *Department Service*

2023-Present Senior Thesis Advising

Kori Bartko, “The Role of Sports as a Peacebuilding Tool in Apartheid and Post-Apartheid South Africa.”  
 Janel Blessing, “Critical Thinking in a Time of Digital Pedagogy.”

### *Community Service*

2014 Co-leader of trip to Amman, Jordan with rising high school seniors from various New Orleans public high schools.

2009-2013 Co-Founder & Director of P.O.I.S.E., 501(c)(3). Organization provided financial assistance to schools and aspiring university students in Uganda. Responsibilities included fundraising and working with partners in Uganda to support aspiring students.

2007-2011 Moderator of the *Uganda Project*. School-wide, multi-year fundraising project at St. Stanislaus High School in support of the construction of the Project Uplift Free School in Kampala, Uganda. Organized and led trips to Kampala with graduated high school seniors.