

The Africanist Seminar

PRESENTS:

“Carceral Modernities: Prison Officers and Professionalism in Postcolonial Uganda”



A talk by Dr. Katherine Bruce-Lockhart

Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Historical Studies at UTM and the Jackman Humanities Institute

WHEN: FRIDAY: January 25, 2018 | From 2PM-4PM

WHERE: Room 2007D | Wilson Hall, New College



From the forts used to hold slaves prior to crossing the Atlantic to the iconic moment of Nelson Mandela’s release from Robben Island, spaces of incarceration have been central to shaping imaginaries of the African continent. Yet, scholars know very little about African prisons beyond alarming statistics and images of abuse. While historians have begun to trace the expansion of the prison through colonial rule, its postcolonial afterlives have either ignored or used to support narratives of state failure. Prisons, however, were crucial spaces in which the stakes of decolonization and visions of postcolonial modernity were negotiated. Turning to the case of the Uganda Prisons Service, this talk explores the ways in which the prison was imagined between Uganda’s independence in 1962 and the current president’s assumption of power in 1986. In particular, it focuses on the perspectives of prison officers, illuminating how they used their professional status to form new subjectivities as public servants and providers during decades of significant political upheaval and violence.



Bio of Dr. Katherine Bruce-Lockhart

Katherine Bruce-Lockhart is a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Historical Studies at UTM and the Jackman Humanities Institute. After doing her Bachelor’s degree in African Studies and History at U of T, she did an MSc in African Studies at the University of Oxford and a PhD in History at the University of Cambridge. She has several publications on women’s detention during the Mau Mau Rebellion in colonial Kenya and is currently completing a book manuscript on prisons in postcolonial Uganda, which is under advance contract with Ohio University Press. Katherine has taught African History courses at all three U of T campuses, and is currently teaching the course “Women in Sub-Saharan Africa” at the University of Toronto at Scarborough.

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