

James De Lorenzi
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York
Department of History
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Education

University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D. in History (2008)
University of Pennsylvania, A.M. in History (2003)
University of Texas at Austin, B.A. in History, with Honors (2000)
Austin Community College (1995-1997)

Employment

Associate Professor, History Department (2016-Present)
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City

Assistant Professor, History Department (2009-2016)
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City

Visiting Assistant Professor, History Department (2008-2009)
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City

Courses Taught

Imperialism in Africa and Asia	The Modern World
Orientalism	The Medieval World
Colonial Justice: Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East	Historiography
Critical Perspectives on the Middle East	Historical Research Methods
Making of the 99%	Senior Thesis in History

Publications: Books

Feasting on History: Ethiopia and the Orientalists (New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming). Completed book manuscript, contracted and in press. Approximately 150 000 words.

The Many Lives of Täsfa Şeyon: An Ethiopian Intellectual in Early Modern Rome (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2024). Co-authored with Matteo Salvatore and Deresse Ayenachew Woldetsadik.

Guardians of the Tradition: Historians and Historical Writing in Ethiopia and Eritrea (Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 2015). Paperback edition published in 2018.

Publications: Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"An Ethiopian Scholar in Tridentine Rome: Täsfa Şeyon and the Birth of Orientalism," *Itinerario: Journal of Imperial and Global Interactions* 45, no. 1 (2021): 17-46. Co-authored with Matteo Salvatore.

"The Orientalist on Trial: Enrico Cerulli and the United Nations War Crimes Commission," *Northeast African Studies* 18, no. 1/2 (2018): 165-200.

"A Cruel Destiny: The Armenian Stranger in Twentieth Century Ethiopia," *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 49, no. 3 (2016): 405-435.

"Missionaries and the Making of Colonial Notables: Conversions to Modernity in Eritrea and Ethiopia, 1890-1935," in *Cultural Conversions: Unexpected Consequences of Christian Missionary Encounters in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia*, ed. Heather Sharkey (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2013), 157-175, 255-261.

"Northeast African Studies," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 33, no. 2 (2013): 154-155.

"Red Sea Travelers in Mediterranean Lands: Ethiopian Scholars and Early Modern Orientalism, ca. 1500-1668," in *World-Building in the Early Modern Imagination*, ed. Allison Kavey (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), 173-200.

“Textbooks and Films, Facts and Problems: Linking Visual Literacy and Critical Thinking in the World History Survey,” *World History Bulletin* 26, no. 1 (2010): 49-51.

“‘Listening for History’ in an Amharic Histoire Universelle: Gabra Krestos Takla Hāymānot, Cosmopolitanism, and World Historiography, 1892-1932,” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 28, no. 2 (2008): 342-350.

“Caught in the Storm of Progress: Timoteos Saprichian, Ethiopia, and the Modernity of Christianity,” *Journal of World History* 19, no. 1 (2008): 89-114.

Publications: Book Reviews

Review of *Collision of Empires: Italy's Invasion of Ethiopia and its International Impact*, ed. G. Bruce Strang, *Itinerario* 40, no. 2 (2016): 311-312.

Review of *Paths Toward the Nation: Islam, Community, and Early Nationalist Mobilization in Eritrea, 1941-1961*, by Joseph Venosa, *Journal of African History* 57, no. 2 (2016): 296-298.

Review of *The Quest for Socialist Utopia: The Ethiopian Student Movement c. 1960-1974*, by Bahru Zewde, *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 48, no. 1 (2015): 118-120.

Review of *Early Modern Dutch Prints of Africa*, by Elizabeth Sutton, *Journal of African History* 55, no. 1 (2014): 122-124.

Review of *The Siege of Magdala: The British Empire against the Emperor of Ethiopia*, by Volker Matthies, *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 45, no. 2 (2012): 332-333.

Review of *Anglo-Ethiopian Relations 1869-1906: A Study of British Policy in Ethiopia*, by K.V. Ram, *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 44, no. 2 (2011): 333-334.

Review of *The Ethiopian Revolution: War in the Horn of Africa*, by Gebru Tareke, *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 43, no. 2 (2010): 383-384.

Review of *Red Sea Citizens: Cosmopolitan Society and Cultural Change in Massawa*, by Jonathan Miran, *Islamic Africa* 1, no. 1 (2010): 128-130.

Review of *Radicalism and Cultural Dislocation in Ethiopia, 1960-1974*, by Messay Kebede, *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 42, no. 2 (2009): 326-327.

Review of *Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History*, by Frederick Cooper, *University of Pennsylvania African Studies Newsletter* (Spring, 2007): 2-3.

Presentations

“Reading Philology in Addis Ababa: Ethiopian Critiques of Orientalism ca. 1900-1935” (Paper invited for presentation at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, May 3, 2025).

“Surviving the Years of Hardship: Microhistories of Detention in Africa Orientale Italiana” (Paper accepted for presentation at the Calandra Institute Conference “The Bitter Bread of War,” New York, April 25-26, 2025).

“The Feast of History: Enrico Cerulli, Ḥeruy Wäldä Śelassé, and the Colonial Politics of Expertise” (Invited paper presented at the Ifriqiyya Colloquium, Department of Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University, New York, November 26, 2019).

“Italian Orientalist Scholarship in the Wolfsonian Collection” (Invited paper presented at the Wolfsonian Library, Florida International University, Miami, July 19, 2019).

“Empire and the Politics of Expertise: Reconstructing the Multilingual Flame War of Enrico Cerulli and Ḥeruy Wäldä Śelassé” (Invited paper presented at the School of Oriental and African Studies/Delhi University workshop “Multilingual Locals and Significant Geographies,” New Delhi, India, December 14-16, 2017).

“Imperialism and its Legacies: A View from the Horn of Africa” (Invited paper presented at the Center for International

Human Rights, John Jay College, New York, November 16, 2017).

“Who’s the Expert? Intertextual Politics and Epistemic Injustice in the Work of Enrico Cerulli and Heruy Wäldä Śellasé” (Paper presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Association of African Studies, Toronto, Ontario, May 31-June 2, 2017).

“Orientalism on Trial: Enrico Cerulli and the United Nations War Crimes Commission” (Invited paper presented at the School for Advanced Research Summer Colloquia, Santa Fe, July 20, 2016).

“Rabbits and Poachers: Intercultural Collaboration and Discord in the Genealogy of Ethiopian Studies” (Invited paper presented at the symposium “Beyond Orientalism: Abyssinia and/in the World,” Washington University St. Louis, May 1, 2015).

“Heruy Wäldä Śellasé and the Lessons of Modern Egypt: Historical Texture in Ethiopian Travel Writing” (Paper presented at the International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, October 29-November 2, 2012).

“Publishing in Northeast African Studies” (Roundtable at the International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, October 29-November 2, 2012).

“Travel Writing as Intellectual Mediation: the Ethiopian Search for the New Queen of Sheba” (Paper presented at the annual meeting of the World History Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 27-30, 2012).

“Making Sense of Yä’islam Mängest: Constructions of the Muslim World in Early Modern Ethiopian Historiography” (Paper presented at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, December 1-4, 2011).

“Histories of the Sacred and Profane: Perspectives on Early Twentieth Century Historiography from the Bibliographies of Heruy Wäldä Śellasé” (Paper presented at the Junior Scholars Research Seminar, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, November 3, 2011).

“Uncovering Connected Histories: Red Sea Travelers and the Genealogy of Early Modern Orientalism” (Paper presented at the annual Sixteenth Century Society Conference, Montreal, Quebec, October 14-17, 2010).

“Divine Histories, Sacred Geographies, and Troubled Colonies: The Holy Land and Ethiopian Intellectual Life, 1500-1945” (Paper presented at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, Massachusetts, November 21-24, 2009).

“Being Modern Through the Past: Historiography, Print Culture, and Ethiopian and Eritrean Intellectuals, 1890-1935” (Paper presented at the International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, November 1-9, 2009).

“Films and Critical Thinking in the World History Classroom: Reflections on a Teaching Portfolio” (Paper presented at the annual meeting of the World History Association, Salem, Massachusetts, June 25-28, 2009).

“Manuscripts and Books, Chronicles and Histories: Print Culture and the Production of Knowledge in Colonial Eritrea, 1885-1935” (Paper presented at the conference “Technology and Print Media in Modern Italy,” Italian Studies Department, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, October 16-17, 2008).

“Reconciling Cultural Conversion and National Authenticity: A Colonial Notable’s History of Eritrea, 1900-1936” (Paper presented at the conference “Comparative Studies of Mission Christianity and Cultural Conversion in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia,” University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 10-11, 2008).

“World History on the Periphery: Listening for History in an Amharic Histoire Universelle, 1900-1924” (Paper presented at the annual University of Pennsylvania Humanities Forum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 22-23, 2007).

“Colonialism and Modernity in the Nile Valley” (Paper presented at the annual Middle Eastern Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 16, 2006).

“Caught in the Storm of Progress: Timoteos Saprighian, Ethiopia, and Armenian Modernity” (Paper presented at the annual conference of the Barnes Club, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 19, 2005).

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards: College and University

Seed Grant (Co-PI), Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College (2023-2024)
Open Publishing Collective Grant (Co-PI), CUNY Open Press/Office of Library Services (2023-2024)
Faculty Scholarship Award, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College (2022)
Professional Staff Congress/CUNY Research Award (A), PSC/CUNY (2022)
Faculty Kickstart Grant, John Jay College (2022)
Faculty Scholarship Award, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College (2019)
Mid-Career Research Award, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College (2018)
Professional Staff Congress/CUNY Research Award (B), PSC/CUNY (2017)
Program Improvement Grant (Co-PI), Teaching and Learning Center, John Jay College (2017)
D3 Faculty Fellowship, John Jay College (2016)
Collaborative Incentive Research Grant (Co-PI), CUNY (2014-2015)
Book Publication Funding, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College (2014)
Professional Staff Congress/CUNY Research Award (A), PSC/CUNY (2014)
Seed Grant, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College (2013)
Pedagogy Development Grant, Center for Advancement of Teaching, John Jay College (2013)
William Stewart Travel Award, University Faculty Senate, CUNY (2012)
Professional Staff Congress/CUNY Research Award (A), PSC/CUNY (2011)

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards: External

Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society (2023)
Faculty Research Grant (Co-PI), American University of Sharjah (2019-2021)
Research Fellowship, Wolfsonian Library, Florida International University (2019)
William Y. and Nettie K. Adams Fellowship in the History of Anthropology, School for Advanced Research (2016)
Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society (2014)
Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society (2011)
Summer Seminar Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities (2010)
Associate Fellowship, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University New Brunswick (2008-2009, declined)
Heckman Grant, Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, St. John's University (2006-2007)
Barnes Club Conference Prize for Best Paper in World History, Temple University (2005)
Foreign Language Area Studies Scholarship (FLAS), US Department of Education (2003-2005)

Service: University and College

Chairperson, History Panel, PSC/CUNY Research Award Program (2023-2025)
Chairperson, Student Election Review Committee (2011-2012)
Co-Editor, Torchbearer Comics, CUNY Open Publishing Collective (2023-present)
Member, University Faculty Senate (2021-2023)
Member, College Wide Assessment Committee (2012-2014)
Member, History Department Personnel and Budget Committee (2018-2019, 2024-present)
Member, History Department Curriculum and Assessment Committee (2009-present)
Member, History Department Grade Appeal Committee (2014-2015)
Member, History Department Faculty Development Committee (2008-2009)
Member (Alternate), Student Election Review Committee (2015-2016)
Co-Coordinator, History Remix COVID Recovery Program (2021-2022)
Major Advisor, History (2011-2021)
Major Advisor, International Criminal Justice (2024-present)
Minor Coordinator, Middle East Studies (2021-present)
Faculty Advisor, College Democrats (2012-2014)
Faculty Advisor, Student Council (2010-2011)
Coordinator, History Department First Year Experience (2012)
Participant, CUNY Online/Hybrid Instruction Workshop (2011)
Participant, History Department Teaching Portfolio Project (2009)

Service: Professional

Contributing Editor, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* (2013-present)
Managing Editor, *Northeast African Studies* (2010-2016)
Member, Society of Friends of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University (2021-present)

Member, Martin A. Klein Prize Committee, American Historical Association (2019-2020)
External Reviewer (Journals): *Aethiopica*, *Critical African Studies*, *Humanity*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Islamic Africa*, *Journal of African History*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Journal of Law and Religion*, and *Northeast African Studies*
External Reviewer (Academic Presses): Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, University of Rochester Press, Syracuse University Press, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Pearson-Prentice Hall Publishers, and Bedford-St. Martins
External Reviewer (Grant Agencies): MacArthur Foundation, American Philosophical Society
External Reviewer (Dissertations): University of Pennsylvania
Member (past or current): Middle East Studies Association, African Studies Association, Canadian African Studies Association, History of Anthropology Network, and World History Association
Grader, AP World History Exam (2009, 2010)
Coordinator, Title VI National Resource Center Grant, University of Pennsylvania (2007)
Coordinator, Conference on Comparative Studies of Mission Christianity and Cultural Conversion in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia (2008)
Coordinator, Annual Sudan Studies Conference, Sudan Studies Association (2007)
Coordinator, Title VI African Studies Colloquium, Philadelphia (2007)
Coordinator, African Studies Scholar for a Day Conference, University of Pennsylvania (2007)
Associate, Communicating within the Curriculum Pedagogy Program, University of Pennsylvania (2005)
Media Literacy Curriculum Coordinator, Media Tank, Philadelphia (2004)
Public Historian, Spiral Q/Living Loft Community Arts Museum, Philadelphia (2002-2004)
Family Services Social Worker, San Francisco (2000-2001)

Languages

English, Amharic, Italian, French