

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 1880 (HIST-Q349)
 Africa, 1880 to Present (HIST-Q350)
 Religion, Law, and Human Rights in Africa (HIST-H295)
 Africa and its Diasporas (HIST-T232)
 Sport and Society in 20th 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 and Fellowships

2025 Loyola University, New Orleans, Marquette Fellowship
 2023 Loyola University, New Orleans College of Arts and Sciences, Carter Fellowship
 2022 Loyola University, New Orleans College of Arts and 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](#)

Journal Articles

- 2026 “Between Empire and Agency: African Autobiographies and Schools as Sites of Struggle in Colonial Kenya,” *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2026): 1-50, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03086534.2026.2689700>.
- 2025 “‘A hero who made this country proud’: Boxing, Nation, and the Politics of Sport in Kenya, ca 1950-1968,” *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 42:1 (2025): 25-47, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09523367.2023.2267451>.
 - Chosen as the “[Best Article](#)” for 2025 for *The International Journal of the History of Sport*.
- 2025 “Introduction: Africa in the Boxing Ring,” *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 42:1 (2025): 1-5, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09523367.2025.2466320>.

Public Scholarship

Essays

- 2026 [“Kenya’s running stars attract suspicion and awe – our research gives a more human picture,” co-authored with Chepchirchir Tirop, *The Conversation*.](#)
- 2026 [“Continuities in exclusion,” *Africa is a Country*.](#)
- 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*.](#)

Digital History

[Voices of Expression](#) is a collaborative oral history project undertaken by the Loyola University, New Orleans Black Studies Program, History Department, and Digital Humanities Studio. Its primary goal is to document, archive, and transmit the oral histories of the founders of Expression, a Loyola University, New Orleans student organization created in 1968 to counter racism and racial prejudice on campus. As the first student organization in the school’s history to directly address the interests of Black students, Expression provided a platform for students of color, advanced racial integration, and promoted social justice at Loyola.

Conference Participation, Seminars, and Invited Talks

- 2026 “Three Kenyan Running Lives: African Sport at the Margins of Elitism,” SADS Seminar Series 2026, University of Johannesburg (online)
- 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)

Professional Service

Peer Reviewer for *The International Journal of the History of Sport* and *Journal of East African Studies*.
Co-Chair, Local Area Committee, African Studies Association Annual Conference, 2026.

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

2025-Present History Major Advising
2023-Present Senior Thesis Advising

Kori Bartko, “The Role of Sports as a Peacebuilding Tool in Apartheid and Post-Apartheid South Africa” (2023- 2024)
Janel Blessing, “Critical Thinking in a Time of Digital Pedagogy” (2023-2024)
Oliver Ball, “An Islamic View of the Trans-Atlantic” (2025-2026)
Abigail Gallagher, “Access and Repression: How Information Technology Drives Censorship” (2025-2026)

Community Service

- 2014, Summer 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.