

MEGAN CRUTCHER

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

May 2025	Ph.D. Anthropology (ABD) Nautical Archaeology Program Dissertation: <i>The Kru in the Atlantic World: A History of Globalization, Racialization, Colonization, and Maritime Labor in Southeastern Liberia</i> Committee: Christopher Dostal, Violet Johnson, Piotr Bojakowski, Sergio Lemus, B. Kofi Nutor	Texas A&M University
May 2022	Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies Graduate Certificate in Conservation	Texas A&M University
May 2020	M.A. Public History	Duquesne University
May 2018	B.A. History, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Grove City College
August 2016	Cours de Langue et Civilisation Françaises (Certificat)	Université Paris-Sorbonne

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

August 2023- Present	Instructor, Texas A&M University Department of Anthropology Graduate Instructor of Record (IOR) for ANTH 313: Historical Archaeology and FYEX 101: First Year Experience	
August 2021- May 2023	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Texas A&M University Department of Anthropology Supervisors: Dr. Chris Dostal, Dr. Carolyn Kennedy	
August 2018- May 2020	Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Duquesne University Department of History Supervisors: Dr. Robin Chapdelaine, Dr. Philipp Stelzel, Dr. Daniel Lieberfeld	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Maritime history; Early Modern Atlantic World; West Africa, Liberia; Portugal; heritage politics; racialization; public archaeology; museology; migration and forced displacement; oral history; social history; historical archaeology.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Crutcher, Megan. “‘For King and Empire’: The Changing Political, Economic, and Cultural Identities of Kru Mariners in Atlantic Africa, 1460-1945.” *Journal of African History* 64:3 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021853723000567>
- Crutcher, Megan and Madicke Gueye. “Developing a New Theoretical Model for West African Maritime Archaeology.” *Critical African Studies*. Accepted; in revision.
- Crutcher, Megan and Lloyd Belton. “Sailors, Seamen, and Servants: Racialization of Maritime Professions in the 18th-Century Luso-Atlantic.” In progress.
- 2022 Crutcher, Megan. “Jack Tar’s Ink: A Comparative Analysis of Sailors’ Tattoos in Europe and West Africa from the Eighteenth to Twentieth Centuries.” *Maritime Studies* 22: 3 (December 2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40152-022-00291-0>

COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND FUNDING

2023	Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) and RECON Offshore Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Student Travel Award (\$1000)
2022	Texas A&M University Department of Anthropology, Pilot Study Grant (\$2500)
2022	Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University, Fieldwork Grant (\$1000)

2022	Texas A&M University Department of Anthropology, Conference Travel Grant (\$700)
2022	Texas A&M University Department of Anthropology, Professional Development Grant (\$1000)
2020-25	Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Merit Fellowship (\$192,550)
2021	Texas A&M University Department of Anthropology, Professional Development Grant (\$1500)
2020	National Council on Public History (NCPH), Graduate Student Travel Award (\$300)
2019	Collegio di Sant'Isidoro and Duquesne University Archival Fellowship (\$9000)
2018-20	Duquesne University Department of History, Graduate Research Assistantship
2017	American Overseas Research Center for Khmer Studies Fellowship (DECLINED)

CURRENT RESEARCH

June 2023- Present	<p>The Krao/Kru Coast Heritage Initiative (KCHI) – Greenville, Liberia Co-Principal Investigator (with Prince Kondeh Swen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted 13 oral history interviews with elders from Greenville region, Sinoe County, Liberia; transcribed oral history interviews for placement in a national repository. Surveyed terrain and archaeological/heritage sites.
April 2022- Present	<p>Social History of Sailors and Race on Portuguese Ships, 1767-1788</p> <p>This project transcribes, translates, and catalogues 44 volumes of sailors' registrations from the <i>Junta Do Comércio</i> records at the Arquivo Nacional Torre do Tombo (ANTT) in Lisbon, Portugal with a focus on ships bound for African destinations and the racial and ethnic compositions of their crews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a data set of Black sailors Led a team of 4 undergraduate research assistants on the project from 2022-2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mentee presented research at the Vaughn M. Bryant Memorial Anthropology Conference in April 2023 Traveled to the ANTT to photograph and manually examine the texts in summer 2022, winter 2023, and summer 2023

FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

May-June 2023	<p>Back to Africa Heritage and Archaeology Project – Monrovia, Liberia Principal Investigators: Dr. Matthew Reilly (City College of New York), Craig Stevens (Northwestern University)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with a multi-university, international team of archaeologists and curators to analyze and catalogue historic ceramics, pipes, metals, and other finds from 3 sites, including the first archaeologically-excavated indigenous Liberian coarse earthenware. Created 30 artifact drawings of coarse earthenware. Excavated test pits and units at Providence Island site in Monrovia
July-August 2022	<p>Gaspé Bay Historic Shipwreck Survey – Gaspé, Montreal, Quebec Archaeologist, Diver Principal Investigators: Dr. Carolyn Kennedy, Dr. Christopher Dostal (Texas A&M University)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted diver survey, reaching 70 working dives Deployed sidescan and magnetometer to conduct remote sensing survey Analyzed sidescan and magnetometer data in Hypack, ArcGIS, and SonarWiz resulting in identification of more than 3 anomalous sites for future diver groundtruthing Piloted boat during sidescan and magnetometer survey Excavated in an intertidal zone on estimated 18th or 19th century wooden ship timbers, including creation of the site map and daily recording, measurement, field crew leadership
June-July 2022 June-July 2021	<p>Santiago de Galicia Galeón de Ribadeo Excavation and Maritime Survey – Ribadeo, Spain Dive Lead, Registrar, Conservation Technician Principal Investigator: Dr. Miguel San Claudio (Xunta de Galicia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveyed underwater using direct survey measurement, triangulation, and trilateration, and captured GPS coordinates underwater at depths of 10-20m with visibility ranging from 1-6m, and from a boat using handheld systems

- Conducted monitoring on the *Santiago de Galicia* galleon site and excavated a 2x2m test plot to determine sand and sediment depths on the covered wreck
- Identified an anomalous wood feature during a diver survey that was sampled using dendrochronology and dated to the 11th century CE
- Excavated features using water dredges, hand fanning, airlifts
- Assessed and treated materials collected from 2019-2022
- Catalogued, analyzed, and photographed artifacts; managed database and laboratory; and prepared reports.

August 2019-
May 2020

**Pittsburgh Refugee Stories Oral History Initiative
Oral Historian**

The Pittsburgh Refugee Stories Oral History Project aimed to understand the refugee crisis by partnering with refugees from central Africa to better understand experiences, values, and identities in ways that would be accessible to participants, their families, and communities as full partners. www.refugeesofpittsburgh.weebly.com.

- Led oral history interviews with Congolese and Burundian refugee narrators, including recording, transcription, indexing of oral history interviews of 50-90 minutes
- Conducted community outreach and narrator recruitment, including home visits

August 2018-
May 2020

**Histories of Childhood and Economics in West Africa
Research Assistant to Dr. Robin Chapdelaine, Duquesne University Department of History**

Conducted literary research, primary and secondary source parsing, and proofing for research on African economic history and the history of childhood, labor, slavery, and gender. Resulted in acknowledged contributions in the following products: Chapdelaine, R. *The Persistence of Slavery: An Economic History of Child Trafficking in Nigeria*. University of Massachusetts Press. 2021. AND Chapdelaine, R. "Marriage Certificates and Walker Cards: Nigerian Migrant Labor, Wives, and Prostitutes in Colonial Fernando Pó." *African Economic History* 48, No. 2 (2020): 1-36.

January-May
2019

A Message of Liberation: Queer Christians in the Gay Rights Movement

This master's capstone project investigated the responses, identities, activism, and belief of LGBTQ+ self-identified Christians and churchgoers from a historical and anthropological perspective to produce a 6-part documentary film series on YouTube and Vimeo.

May-July 2017

Marco Simone Villa Conservation and Excavation, Field School – Rome, Italy

Principal Investigator: Roberto Nardi (Centro di Conservazione Archaeologica)

- Surveyed, excavated, and conducted *in situ* excavation and conservation of mosaic flooring and artifacts from a 1st century B.C.E. Roman villa. Learned terrestrial archaeological methods and conservation practices.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

April 2022-
April 2023

Graduate Assistant, Gulf Coast Heritage Preparedness Initiative – College Station, TX

Supervisors: Dr. Andrea Roberts (University of Virginia), Dr. Rebecca Hankins (Texas A&M)

Conducted archival research and historic preservation fieldwork under the Texas Target Communities Office at Texas A&M University and collaborated across the university on an interdisciplinary effort to create a community heritage preparedness assessment protocol for at-risk heritage in the Gulf Coast region.

July 2019-
July 2020

Historic Preservationist, Pfaffmann + Associates – Pittsburgh, PA

Primary public historian on four multi-million-dollar historic preservation projects. For the August Wilson House, Pittsburgh PA, I drafted and published interpretive planning framework and historic reports, conservation proposal, and conservation treatment reports. For 2400 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh PA, I drafted historic reports, interpretive plan, and historic structure report. For Blairsville Armory, Blairsville PA, I supervised, drafted, and coordinated Keystone Planning Grant application, research, compliance with grant and with Secretary of the Interior's Standards. For Ateleta Beneficial Society Hall, Pittsburgh PA, I drafted historic structure report.

- June 2018 **Lead Conservation Technician, Carnegie Museum of Natural History – Pittsburgh, PA**
 June 2020 Advanced 5 grant-supported multistage conservation treatment and display projects and managed daily condition assessments and cleanings for the museum’s millions of collections. Engaged the public in a visible lab space, educating over 30 visitors daily.
- April 2019- **Docent, The Frick Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA**
 April 2020 Led 60-90 minute tours of the Car and Carriage Museum for groups of up to 20 visitors.
- September 2018- **Consulting Conservation Technician, Fine Art Conservation Services LLC – Pittsburgh, PA**
 February 2020 Treated and documented outdoor bronze sculpture twice per year.
- May-June 2019 **Project Archivist, Collegio di Sant’Isidoro – Rome, Italy**
 Assessed, arranged, and described over 10,000 collections, culminating in drafting of a finding aid for the Quaracchi Archives.
- May-August **Summer Camp Supervisor, Carnegie Museums – Pittsburgh, PA**
 2018 Supervised a team of 6 to run summer camp programs for over 100 children weekly.
- May-August **Curatorial Intern, Carnegie Museum of Natural History – Pittsburgh, PA**
 2018 Assessed, managed, and created database for the Education Department collections.
- August 2016 **Marketing and Underwriting Assistant, Lititz Mutual Insurance Company – Lancaster, PA**
 Proofread and drafted marketing materials geared towards a new generational audience. Managed database of homeowner policy claims and identified discrepancies in reporting.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2024 Crutcher, Megan and Jah Christopher Morris. “‘Mississippi Street Was Eaten by the Sea’: Urgent Threats to Coastal Heritage in Liberia.” *Society for Historical Archaeology*. Oakland, January 3-6, 2024. (accepted)
- 2023 Crutcher, Megan and Kelsey Rooney. “Narratives of African Maritimity: Early Modern Images of Africans and Their Watercraft.” *European Association of Archaeologists*. Belfast (presented virtually), August 30-September 2, 2023.
- Crutcher, Megan. “Appropriating Language: The Historical-Archaeological Context of ‘Grumetes’ in Sources on West African Mariners.” *Society for Historical Archaeology*. Lisbon, January 3-7, 2023.
- Varmer, Ole, Louise Sanger, Athena L. Trakadas, Ben Ferrari, Laura Boon, Sheryllyne Haggerty, Cassandra Goptar, Alix Mortimer, Maria Pena Ermida, and **Megan Crutcher**. “Learning from the Past for a Shared, Sustainable Ocean Future.” *Society for Historical Archaeology*. Lisbon, January 3-7, 2023.
- 2022 Crutcher, Megan. “GIS Mapping Maritime Cultural Landscapes in Liberia and Sierra Leone.” *European Association of Archaeologists*. Budapest, August 31-September 3, 2022.
- Crutcher, Megan. “Mediating Empire: Liberian ‘Krumen’ in Atlantic History.” *History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO)*. College Station, March 18-19, 2022.
- Crutcher, Megan. “From Canoes to Canoemen in West African History: West African Seafaring Traditions and their Importance in Atlantic World History.” *Charting African Waterscapes: A Conference on African Maritime History Across Time and Space*. Virtual, March 18-19, 2022.
- Crutcher, Megan. “Biofilms, Biocolonization, and the Conservation of Marble from Submerged Archaeological Environments.” *Society for Historical Archaeology*. Philadelphia, January 4-7, 2022.

- 2021 Crutcher, Megan. "Reinterpreting Anne Bonny and Mary Reade: Public History and the Commemoration of Piracy, Sexuality, and Gender in Maritime Spaces." *North American Society for Oceanic History*. Virtual, July 2021.
- Crutcher, Megan and Celestin Mpagaze. "Oral History as a Tool for Activism: The Pittsburgh Refugee Stories Oral History Initiative." *National Council on Public History*. Session: Oral History and COVID-19. Virtual, March 2021.
- 2020 Crutcher, Megan. "Student Films: A Message of Liberation." *National Council on Public History*. Virtual, asynchronous, March 2020. www.thehistoriansgaze.weebly.com
- 2019 Crutcher, Megan. "Engaging Visitors with Conservation: The Key to Museum Sustainability." *Duquesne University Graduate Research Symposium*. Pittsburgh, April 2019. <https://dsc.duq.edu/gsrs/2019/Proceedings/7/>

The following conferences were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic after the authors had completed the papers:

Crutcher, Megan and Amy Covell-Murthy. "What They Ate and What They Drank and What They Threw Away: Using Conservation to Continue Verna Cowin's Historic Urban Archaeology." *Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology*. Ligonier, April 2020.

Crutcher, Megan, Stephanie Walrath, Celestin Mpagaze, Taylor Noakes, and B. Kasongo. "The Pittsburgh Refugee Stories Oral History Initiative." *Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR)*. Shepherdstown, April 2020.

Crutcher, Megan. "African Cultural Heritage Preservation as a Human Right." *Penn State University Center for African Studies*. State College, March 2020.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS CHAIRED

- 2023 Weaving Archaeology, Art, and Literature: Narratives and Representations. *European Association of Archaeologists*. Belfast, August 2023. Co-chaired with Ana Cristina Martins (Universidade de Lisboa, Universidade de Évora), Andrea Mouriño Schick (Universidad de Vigo), and Tania Casimiro (Universidade NOVA de Lisboa). (15 papers)
- Maritime Archaeology in West Africa. *Society for Historical Archaeology*. Lisbon, January 3-7, 2023. (7 papers)
- 2022 Trade and Mobilities by River and Sea. *Charting African Waterscapes: A Conference on African Maritime History Across Time and Space*. Virtual, March 2022. (4 papers)
- 2020 The Historian's Gaze: Moving Images and Visual Texts in Public Interpretation of Social Justice Issues. *National Council on Public History*. Virtual, March 2020. (4 papers)

CONFERENCE POSTERS

- 2023 Berrocal, Raul Oswaldo Palomino, and **Megan Crutcher**. "A Preliminary Study of the Earliest Known Archaeological Watercraft in Northern Spain." *Vaughn M. Bryant Memorial Anthropology Conference*. College Station, April 2023.
- Zak, Claire, **Megan Crutcher**, Charlotte Jarvis, and Sheri Kapahnke. "Life Under Water: Maritime Archaeology and Climate Change." *Life on a Dynamic Planet Symposium*. College Station, February 2023.
- 2022 Crutcher, Megan. "Defining the Terms: A Review of Trends in Maritime Public Archaeology." *National Council on Public History*. Virtual, May 2022.
- 2021 Crutcher, Megan. "Cultural Heritage, Cultural Rights, and Human Rights: A Statistical Analysis." *Vaughn M. Bryant Memorial Anthropology Conference*. College Station, April 2021.

LECTURES AND SYMPOSIA

- 2021 *Cultural Heritage 360: Arts and Science*. UK Arts and Humanities Research Council. April 2021.
Discussant. *Public History Education Working Group*. International Federation of Public History. September 2020-January 2021.
- 2019 Young Professional Panelist, Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums Conference. Fall 2019.
Discussant. *Children, Youth and Labor on the Eve of Independence*. Duquesne University Center for African Studies, Department of History, and University of Pittsburgh Department of History. April 2019.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2023 “Reflections from SHA 2023: A More Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Underwater Archaeology.” *Deep Thoughts*. Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology. January 2023.
- 2022 *The Mariner’s Mirror* Podcast. Maritime Africa, Episode 1: African Canoemen. <https://play.acast.com/s/the-mariners-mirror-podcast/maritime-africa-african-canoemen>. October 2022.
- 2020 “Artificial Reality is the Likely Future of Preservation.” *History@Work*. National Council on Public History. <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/artificial-reality-likely-future-of-preservation/> June 2020.
“Reflections on Stonewall: Fifty years after the “Stonewall Riots,” not much has changed about how we commemorate LGBTQ+ history.” *History@Work*. National Council on Public History. <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/reflections-on-stonewall/> January 2020.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- February 2023 3rd Place Graduate Poster, *Life on a Dynamic Planet* Symposium, Texas A&M University (\$200)
- November 2021 Finalist, 3 Minute Thesis (3MT), Texas A&M University (\$100)
- May 2020 Excellence in Graduate History Award, Duquesne University Department of History (\$300)
- May 2019 1st Place Clio Award for Graduate Research, Duquesne University Department of History (\$200)
- 2018 NCAA Scholar All-American for Swimming and Diving
- 2016-2018 Phi Alpha Theta National History Honorary Society

CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- Diving Qualifications** Rescue Diver (PADI-03/2022), Drysuit (PADI-03/2022), Nitrox/EANx (PADI-04/2021)
- GIS/Remote Sensing Software** Esri ArcGIS Pro 2.8, ArcMaps, QGIS, ArcGIS StoryMaps, Hypack, SonarWiz R, RStudio, KE EMu, ArchiveSpace
- 3D Design** Revit, SketchUp, Autodesk Suite, Rhino 7, Agisoft Metashape, RealityCapture, DesignX
- Digital Imaging** Adobe Photoshop, Canva, archaeological drawing, photogrammetry, Faro ScanArm
- Misc.** Audacity Software, Tascam recording, Artifact conservation (organics/composite/metals), ceramic reconstruction, Intertidal Excavation, XRF, boat pilot

TEACHING AND PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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| Fall 2023 | Team Leader | Aggie Research Program |
| Fall 2023 | Instructor of Record | ANTH 313: Historical Archaeology |
| Fall 2023 | Instructor of Record | FYEX 101: First Year Experience |
| Spring 2023 | Teaching Assistant | ANTH 402: Archaeology Artifact Conservation (10 students) |
| Fall 2022 | Teaching Assistant | ANTH 402: Archaeology Artifact Conservation (10 students) |
| Spring 2022 | Teaching Assistant | ANTH 313: Historical Archaeology (35 students) |
| Fall 2021 | Southeastern Conference Emerging Scholars Program, selected participant | |
| Fall 2021 | Teaching Assistant | ANTH 605: Conservation of Archaeological Resources I (10 students) |
| Spring 2021 | “Teaching Anthropology” Training, Department of Anthropology | |
| Fall 2020 | Academy for Future Faculty Teaching Certificate | |

MENTEES AND ADVISEES

Aarya Newasakar (TAMU '26 – Anthropology)
Olivia Sink (TAMU '25 – History)
Jose Davila (TAMU '25 – Industrial Engineering)
Philip Hulzing (TAMU '24 – History)
Jade Gooden (TAMU '24 – Anthropology)
Mary Hess (TAMU '24 – Classics)
Angela Estrada (TAMU '24 – Animal Science)
Hazel Jessup (TAMU '23 – Anthropology)
Andrea De Leon (TAMU '22 – Anthropology)

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

TO THE UNIVERSITY

2023- Secretary of Aggie Allies
2022- Secretary of the Archaeological Diving Club, Texas A&M
2021- Co-coordinator of the Vaughn M. Bryant Memorial Anthropology Conference, Texas A&M
2021- Outreach Coordinator for Association of Anthropology Graduate Students
2021- Undergraduate Mentorship Coordinator for Anthropology Department, Texas A&M University
2020- Workshop Facilitator for Aggie Allies
2021-2023 Graduate Representative of Aggie Allies
2019-2020 PR and Events Manager of Graduate and Professional Student Council, Duquesne University
April 2019 Panelist for Faculty Senate Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, Duquesne University

TO THE DISCIPLINE

September 2022 Volunteer, European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting
July 2021 Reviewer for World Monuments Watch Site Nominations, ICOMOS/World Monuments Fund
2020-2021 Advisory Board on Public History Education, International Federation for Public History (IFPH)

TO THE COMMUNITY

April 2022 Volunteer, DRAGgieland Support, Texas A&M University Queer Empowerment Council
November 2021 Volunteer, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Brazos Valley Pride Community Center
October 2021 Step In Stand Up Training, Texas A&M University Office of Health Promotion
September 2021 Green Dot Bystander Training, Texas A&M University Office of Health Promotion
September 2020 Aggie Allies Workshop, Texas A&M University Office of the Dean of Student Life
2018-2020 English Conversation Mentor for refugees, Northern Area MultiService (NAMS), Pittsburgh
2019-2020 Interpretive Planning Committee for the August Wilson House rehabilitation project, Pittsburgh
July-Aug 2017 TOEFL Tutor/English Teacher at Go Global, Bamako, Mali

LANGUAGES

English (native); French (advanced); Spanish (proficient); Portuguese, Italian, Latin (reading); Kɛlɔ (Kru) (beginning)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA); Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA); Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA); International Council of Museums (ICOM)