

# Matthew J. Bowser, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Modern World History  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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2026–Present **Assistant Professor of Modern World History**, Department of History, Ohio Wesleyan University  
2022–2026 **Assistant Professor of Asian History**, Department of Social Sciences, Alabama A&M University  
2020–2022 **Lecturer**, Department of History, Tufts University  
2019–2020 **Fellow**, Humanities Center, Northeastern University  
2018–2022 **Lecturer**, Department of History, Northeastern University

## EDUCATION

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2020 **Ph.D., Northeastern University**, World History  
2018 **M.A., Northeastern University**, World History  
2013 **B.Phil., University of Pittsburgh Honors College**, History and Classics

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Books

2025 *Containing Decolonisation: British Imperialism and the Politics of Race in Late Colonial Burma*. Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2025.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

2026 “Reasonable Parties: Empire and Ethnonationalism in Burma and Malaya, 1945–1948” *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2026). Scheduled for Print Publication; Published Online at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03086534.2025.2589496>

2026 “The Rohingya and Arakan: Decolonization at the Margins of Empire” *Journal of Asian Studies* 85, 2 (2026).

- Lead Article for the Forum: “Reforging an Arena: Bengal, Burma, and Northeast India at the Margins of Empire”

2021 “‘Buddhism Has Been Insulted, Take Immediate Steps:’ Burmese Fascism and the Origins of Burmese Islamophobia, 1936–1938” *Journal of Modern Asian Studies* 55, 4 (2021): 1112–1150.

- 2021 “Partners in Empire? Co-Colonialism and the Rise of Anti-Indian Nationalism in Burma, 1930-1938” *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 49, 1 (2021): 118-147.

## Book Reviews

- 2026 “Joshua Ehrlich. *The East India Company and the Politics of Knowledge*.” *World History Bulletin* XLI, 1 (2025): 75-76.
- 2025 “Carol Ann Boshier. *Forgotten Voices of the British Empire: How Knowledge Was Created and Curated in Colonial India and Burma*.” *Journal of British Studies* 64, 1 (2025).
- 2025 “Kate Imy. *Losing Hearts and Minds: Race, War, and Empire in Singapore and Malaya, 1915-1960*.” *The American Historical Review* 130, 3 (2025).
- 2024 “Martin Thomas and Gareth Curless, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Late Colonial Insurgencies and Counter-Insurgencies*.” *World History Bulletin* XL, 1 (2024): 91-92.

## Other Publications

- 2026 “Reading about Colonialism at the Scranton Public Library.” *Friends of the Scranton Public Library Newsletter*. 2026.
- 2022 “Reflections from the Field: The View of Yangon From London.” *The Inya Institute Quarterly Newsletter*. Fall 2022.
- 2022 “[Islam and Race in Myanmar: The Racialization of the Rohingya](#).” *The Maydan*. 9 June 2022.
- 2020 **Digital Project:** “[Rethinking Immigration in 1930s Burma](#).” *ArcGIS StoryMaps*. April 2020.
- 2019 ““[‘Treasures More Permanent Than the Commercial’: Orientalism & The Civilizing Mission in Women Writers Online](#).” *Women Writers in Context*. November 2019.
- 2019 **Interview:** “[From Istanbul to Tokyo: An Interview with Eric Tagliacozzo](#),” *Toynbee Global History Foundation*. April 2019.
- 2018 “[Historical Data in the Birth of Boston Project](#).” *Boston Research Center Blog*. September 2018.
- 2018 “[Misdirected Rage: The Socioeconomic Roots of Burmese Islamophobia](#).” *Perspectives on History*. August 2018.
- 2018 “[Origins of an Atrocity: Tracing the Roots of Islamophobia in Myanmar](#).” *Perspectives on History*. June 2018.

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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### Major Fellowships

- 2022            **Fellowship for Study of Myanmar in a Third Country**, Council of American Overseas Research Center (CAORC) & Inya Institute
- 2020 – 2021    **Emerging Voices Fellowship**, American Council of Learned Societies (Finalist)
- 2019 – 2020    **Dean's Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities Center**, Northeastern University

### Research Grants & Travel Awards

- 2024-2026      **HBCU Faculty Grant (3x)**, American Council of Learned Societies (Finalist)
- 2022            **Faculty Mentor Research Award**, Summer Scholars Program, Tufts University
- 2017 – 2020    **Conference Travel Grant (4x)**, Department of History, Northeastern University
- 2019            **Graduate Thesis/Dissertation Research Grant**, Dean's Office, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University
- 2018 – 2019    **Gillis Family World History Research Award (2x)**, Department of History, Northeastern University
- 2017            **Lucille R. Zanghi and James M. Dow Endowed History Research Award**, Department of History, Northeastern University
- 2017            **Asian Studies Research Award**, Asian Studies Program, Northeastern University

### Honors & Awards

- 2025            **Outstanding Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching**, Alabama A&M University
- 2018            **Winner**, American Historical Association Summer Blog Contest

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware OH

- 2026 – Pres.    *Assistant Professor of Modern World History*, Department of History
- Classes Taught: Introduction to Modern World History, Historical Inquiry, Imperialism and Colonialism, Modern Asia: From Turkey to Tokyo, Decolonizing the Modern World
  - Traditional format; class sizes: 5-25

## Alabama A&M University, Normal AL

2022 – 2026 *Assistant Professor of Asian History*, Department of Social Sciences

- Classes Taught: World History I (and Honors), World History II (and Honors), Modern Asia (Undergraduate and Graduate), Historiography (Graduate), Race and Capitalism (cross-listed with SOC and PSC)
- Formats included traditional, hybrid, and asynchronous online. Class sizes ranged from 5 to 75

## Tufts University, Medford MA

2020 – 2022 *Lecturer*, Department of History

- Classes Taught: Britain and the British Empire, British Empire and American Nation from Revolution to Pearl Harbor, Decolonization in Asia
- Hybrid format. Class size: 30

## Northeastern University, Boston MA

2018 – 2022 *Lecturer*, Department of History

- Classes Taught: Colonialism and Imperialism, The World Since 1945, Origins of Today, Modern Europe, Senior Methods and Writing Seminar: Modern Insurrection, Race and Racial Inequality in the Modern World, NUSart Freshman Seminar, History of Global Pandemics
- Formats included traditional, hybrid, and asynchronous online. Class sizes ranged from 15 to 125

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2022 **Fellow**, Council of American Overseas Research Center (CAORC)–Inya Institute Scholars Fellowship for Study of Myanmar in a Third Country

2022 **Faculty Mentor**, Tufts University Summer Scholars Program

- Yunzhu Pan, “The ‘Chinese Problem’ at the Edges of Empire”

2019 – 2020 **Fellow**, Northeastern University Humanities Center

- 2019-2020 Theme: “Authority and Subversion”

2018 – 2019 **Research Assistant**, Department of History, Northeastern University, Dr. Christopher Parsons

- [The Birth of Boston](#): ArcGIS digital humanities mapping project

2019 **Research Assistant**, Digital Scholarship Group, Northeastern University

- Intertextual Networks in the [Women Writers Project](#)

2019 – Pres. **Peer Reviewer**, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Modern Asian Studies*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *Nations and Nationalism*, *Journal of*

## CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited Talks

- 2026 “Meet the Author: *Containing Decolonisation*,” World History Association (WHA) Annual Conference, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- 2025 “The Burma Campaign: World War II from an Asian Perspective,” 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Allied Victory and the End of World War II, Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, Huntsville AL
- 2024 “Containing Decolonisation: British Imperialism and the Politics of Race in Late Colonial Burma,” Indian Ocean in the Age of Empire seminar series, Oxford University, Virtual
- 2023 “Imperialism/Colonialism in Asia,” Asian Inclusion and Diversity Alliance (AIDA) Chai & Green Tea Chat, Guardian Life Insurance Company, Virtual
- 2022 “Containing Decolonization: Fascism and the Politics of Race in Late Colonial Burma” Inya Institute, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2021 “Imperialism and Race: The Legacy of British Rule in the Rohingya Genocide,” Tufts University History Society, Medford MA

### Workshops/Roundtables

- 2027 “The Global 20th Century: Histories, Historiographies, and New Directions” Roundtable (co-sponsored by the Society for Advancing the History of South Asia), American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans LA
- 2026 “Teaching World History in an Age of Global Backlash” Roundtable, World History Association (WHA) Annual Conference, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- 2026 “Teaching Britain and the World” Lunch Roundtable, Britain and the World Annual Conference, British Scholar Society, Boston, MA
- 2026 “New Work and Work-in-Progress in Transimperial Approaches to the Study of Empires” Roundtable, American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, Chicago IL
- 2020 “Teaching the History of Race and Racism” Workshop, New England Regional World History Association (NERWHA) Annual Conference, Virtual

- 2020 “Ideas and Methods for Teaching Global Indigenous Histories” Workshop, American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, New York City, NY
- 2019 “Imperial and Global: World Histories of the British Empire” Roundtable, Northeastern University Annual Conference in World History, Boston MA
- 2018 “Global Anti-Imperialism in the Interwar Period and Beyond” Workshop, Department of History, Northeastern University, Boston MA
- 2018 “Situating Empire: The Great War and Its Aftermaths” Workshop, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- 2018 “Race, Space, and Empire in the Indo-Pacific World” Roundtable, World History Association Annual Conference, Milwaukee WI
- 2018 “Meet the Podcasters: Breaking History Podcast” Roundtable, World History Association Annual Conference, Milwaukee WI

**Panel Chair**

- 2026 “Southeast Asia: Empire, Commerce, and Legal Sovereignty,” World History Association (WHA) Annual Conference, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- 2026 “Ecologies of Empire: Science, Migration, and Development Across the British World,” Britain and the World Annual Conference, British Scholar Society, Boston, MA
- 2025 “Frontiers,” International Burma Studies Conference, Center of Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
- 2025 “Imperial Logics and Strategic Futures: Race, Development, and Geopolitical Power,” World History Association (WHA) Annual Conference, Louisville KY
- 2024 “Decolonization or Containment? Blurring the Boundary between Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism in the Postwar World,” American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA
- 2023 “Japan Within the British Worldview,” Britain and the World Annual Conference, British Scholar Society, Pittsburgh PA
- 2023 “Reforging an Arena: Bengal, Burma, and Northeast India at the Margin of Empire,” Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting, Virtual
- 2022 “Race, Religion, and Right-Wing Politics in Myanmar, Malaysia, and Indonesia,” Association for Southeast Asian Studies, Virtual
- 2022 “Race and Intellectual History,” Northeastern University Annual Conference in World History, Boston MA

- 2022 “Looking At and Learning From Conflict,” Rethinking War: A Virtual Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Virtual
- 2021 “Political Philosophy, Political History and the State,” International Burma Studies Conference, Center of Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University, Virtual
- 2018 “Bengal: Ancient and Modern,” World History Association (WHA) Annual Conference, Milwaukee WI
- 2018 “Intellectual Journeys in Asia,” Northeastern University Annual Conference in World History, Boston MA

### **Papers Presented**

- 2026 “Globalizing Ethnonationalism: British Imperial Strategy during Decolonization” Britain and the World Annual Conference, British Scholar Society, Boston, MA
- 2025 “Aung San, U Saw, and the Legacy of Planning for a Neo-Colony in Burma,” International Burma Studies Conference, Center of Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
- 2025 “When Is a Protest Safe for Empire? The 1946 Singapore Strike and the 1946 Rangoon Strike,” World History Association (WHA) Annual Conference, Louisville KY
- 2024 “War and Race: The Indian Refugee Crisis in WWII Burma,” Rethinking War: A Virtual Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Virtual
- 2024 “‘Sham Independence:’ Decolonization and the Cold War as a Singular Struggle in Burma,” American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA
- 2023 “Containing Decolonization: The British Colonial State’s Attempt to Shape Decolonization in Burma,” Britain and the World Annual Conference, British Scholar Society, Pittsburgh PA
- 2022 “The ‘Reasonable’ Leader: How the British Amplified Ethnonationalist Politics in Burma,” Association for Southeast Asian Studies, Virtual
- 2022 “The British Colonial State’s Attempt to Shape Decolonization in Burma,” Western Conference on British Studies, University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City OK
- 2022 “Islam and Race in Myanmar: The Racialization of the Rohingya,” Race and Islam: Global Histories, Contemporary Legacies Conference, Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies (AVACGIS), George Mason University, Virtual

- 2021 “Anti-Colonial Fascism? The Alliance of U Saw and the British State,” International Burma Studies Conference, Center of Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University, Virtual
- 2021 “Interwar Containment? Choosing Nationalism over Internationalism in Burma, 1938-1942,” Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting, Seattle WA
- 2020 “‘Buddhism Has Been Insulted, Take Immediate Steps:’ Anti-Indian Nationalism in Colonial Burma and the Origins of Burmese Islamophobia, 1930-1939” (Panel co-sponsored by North American Conference on British Studies), American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, New York City, NY
- 2019 “Burmexit: The Controversy Around Burma’s Separation from India and the Rise of Anti-Indian Sentiment in Burmese Politics, 1929-1937,” North American Conference on British Studies (NACBS) Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada
- 2019 “‘I Don’t Want to See Them in this Country:’ Colonialism, Capitalism, and the Origins of Burmese Islamophobia,” International Conference on the Rohingya Crisis in Comparative Perspective sponsored by the Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction (IRDR), the Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies, and University College London, London, UK
- 2019 “Partners in Empire? Co-Colonialism and the Rise of Anti-Indian Nationalism in Burma, 1930-1938,” Britain and the World Annual Conference, British Scholar Society, Kansas City, MO
- 2018 “Sub-Imperial: On the Possibility of Non-White Colonialism,” Northeastern University Annual Conference in World History, Boston MA
- 2017 “The Great Depression in Myanmar: Economic Collapse and the Rise of Burmese Nationalism,” World History Association (WHA) Annual Conference, Boston MA
- 2017 “Rice, Race, and Rebellion: The Dynamics of Anti-Colonialism in the Saya San Rebellion,” Britain and the World Annual Conference, British Scholar Society, Austin TX

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### Department

- 2024 – 2026 **Faculty Advisor**, Bulldog Book Club, AAMU
- 2023 **Member**, Faculty Job Search Committee for Latin American and African History, AAMU
- 2022 – 2025 **Member**, Committee for Establishing a Minor in African American Studies, AAMU

2022 – Pres. **Academic Advisor**

### College

2023 – 2026 **Chair**, Societal Impact Committee, AAMU

2023 – 2026 **Member**, Student Recruitment, Scholarship, and Outreach Committee, AAMU

### University

2026 – 2026 **Member**, Honors Faculty Advisory Committee, AAMU

2025 – 2026 **Member**, Faculty Professional Development Committee, AAMU

2024 – 2026 **Senator**, Faculty Senate, AAMU

2023 – 2026 **Member**, Faculty Handbook Committee, AAMU

2023 – 2024 **Blackboard Ultra Ambassador**, Office of Distance Education, Extended Studies, and Instructional Technology (ODEESTI)

2023 **Course Designer**, Synchronous & Asynchronous Online HIS 101 & HIS 102, ODEESTI Certification Program

### Service to the Profession

2026 – Pres. **Paper Prize Committee**, World History Association/Phi Alpha Theta

2025 – Pres. **Programme Committee Co-Chair**, Britain and the World Conference, British Scholar Society

2024 – Pres. **Editor**, *Huntsville Historical Review*

2024 – Pres. **Board Member**, Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society (HMCHS)

2018 – 2020 **Editor-at-Large**, Toynbee Global History Foundation

2018 **Contributor**, Center for International Education and Study Abroad, <https://ciesa.org/author/mattbowser129/>

2016 – 2020 **Co-founder and Producer**, [\*Breaking History: A World History Podcast\*](#)

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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2025 **Invited Speaker**, “The Burma Campaign: World War II from an Asian Perspective,” 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Allied Victory and the End of World War II, Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, Huntsville AL

- 2025      **Guest/Interviewee**, “[Containing Decolonization](#)” *New Books Network*
- 2023      **Invited Speaker**, “Imperialism/Colonialism in Asia,” Asian Diversity and Inclusion Alliance (AIDA) Chai & Green Tea Chat, Guardian Life Insurance Company
- 2019      **Guest/Interviewee**, “[Misdirected Rage: The Origins of Islamophobia in Burma, 1930-1948 with Matt Bowser](#),” *Breaking History: A World History Podcast*
- 2018      **Guest/Interviewee**, “[Entrepreneurship & 1940s Burma](#),” *Brain Waves Podcast*
- 2017      **Producer/Co-Host**, “[Living Through Dictatorship and Resistance: An Oral History of the 1965 Indonesian Communist Purge with Dr. Kemal Taruc](#),” *Breaking History: A World History Podcast*

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#### SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Microsoft Suite (incl. Teams) | Adobe Creative Suite | AI Tools              |
| WordPress/Google Sites        | ArcGIS               | TEI/XML               |
| Omeka                         | Canvas/Blackboard    | Zoom/Google Classroom |

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#### LANGUAGES

|                                        |                              |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| English (native)                       | Malay (research proficiency) |
| Burmese/Myanmar (research proficiency) |                              |

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#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Association of Asian Studies (j. 2020) | American Historical Association (j. 2020) |
| British Scholar Society (j. 2017)      | World History Association (j. 2018)       |
| Inya Institute (j. 2022)               | Huntsville Historical Society (j. 2023)   |