

Sarah Van Beurden

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Education

2009 University of Pennsylvania, PhD in History
2002 Lehigh University, MA in American Studies
1999 Katholieke Universiteit Leuven Licentiaat/MA in History, *Magna Cum Laude*

Academic Appointments

The Ohio State University

2015- Associate Professor

Department of History (2017-)

Department of African American and African Studies

Affiliated Faculty Member, Department of History of Art

2009-2015 Assistant Professor

Visiting Positions and Temporary Appointments (Since 2010)

2022- **Université Libre de Bruxelles**, Center for Social and Cultural Psychology, scientific collaborator

2020-21 Belgian Parliamentary Commission on the Colonial Past, member of expert panel

2019-21 Committee for the Development of Guidelines for the Management and Restitution of Colonial Collections (Belgium) Chair.

2018-19 Ghent University, Department of African Studies, Visiting Scholar

2012 University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Historical Studies, Research Associate (Summer)

Publications

- Monographs

2021 *Congo au vitrine. Art Africain, muséologie et politique*. Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities, N. 180, Tervuren: AfricaMuseum Press, 2021. (French translation of *Authentically African*)

2015 *Authentically African: Arts and the Transnational Politics of Congolese Culture*. New African Histories Series, Athens: Ohio University Press, 2015.

Reviews in academic press: *Museum Anthropology Review*, *Museum Anthropology*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *American Historical Review*, *African Studies*

Quarterly, Art Libraries Society of North America, Africa, caa.reviews, Journal of African History, African Arts, Politique Africaine
Reviews in mainstream press: *De Tijd (BE)*
Finalist for the 2017 Triennial ACASA (African Arts Council of the African Studies Association) Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Prize for best book on the Arts of Africa

- **Edited Volumes and Journal Issues**

- (2024) Co-editor, with Sarah Blacker, Emily Brownell, Anindita Nag, Martina Schlünder and Helen Verran, *The Planning Moment: Histories of (Post)Colonial Planning* (forthcoming, Fordham University Press)
- 2023** Co-editor, with Agnès Lacaille, and Didier Gondola, *(Re) Making Collections: Origins, Trajectories, and Connections./La Fabrique des Collections: Origines, Trajectoires et Reconnexions*. Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities, Volume 181, Tervuren: AfricaMuseum Press, 2023.
- 2016** *Postcolonial Cultural Politics*, Special issue of *Critical Interventions: Journal of African Art History and Visual Culture*. Vol 10, no.3 (October 2016)

- **Exhibition Publications**

- 2023** with Maarten Hendriks, Sam Kniknie and Gillian Mathys, *Embroidered Past, Imagined Future: Lucie Kamuswekera and the Violence in Eastern Congo*. Columbus: Urban Arts Space at the Ohio State University.
(revised version of 2022 publication, edited by Sarah Van Beurden)
- 2022** with Maarten Hendriks, Sam Kniknie and Gillian Mathys, *Lucie Kamuswekera: Geborduurd verleden, verbeelde toekomst in Congo*. Gent: Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis.

- **Reports**

- 2021** *Rapport des experts. Commission Spéciale chargée d'examiner l'état indépendant du Congo et le passé colonial de la Belgique au Congo, au Rwanda et au Burundi, ses conséquences et les suites qu'il convient d'y réserver*. (Chambre des Représentants de Belgique, October 26, 202, Doc 55 1462/002) (689p) (co-author)
Published in French and Dutch

Part 1: Histoire

- “Introduction générale de la partie histoire” (13-31), with Gillian Mathys
“Histoires” (33-40), with Gillian Mathys
“Connaissances et sciences coloniales” (272-297)
“Collections coloniales, collections contestées?” (298-317)
“Musées, expositions et monuments: Le Congo dans la sphere publique belge” (318-344)
“La fin du colonialisme? Une courte réflexion” (345-353) with Gillian Mathys
“Archives” (354-405) with Gillian Mathys

“Conclusions et recommandations” (406-418)

Part II: Memoire, repatriations et participation

“Restitution d’objets de musée et des restes humains” (522-540)

2021 *Ethical Guidelines for the Management and Restitution of Colonial Collections in Belgium* (lead co-author), restitutionbelgium.be (with French and Dutch translations) supported by ICOM Wallonie-Bruxelles, ICOM Flanders, and FARO (Flemish Center for Cultural Heritage)
news coverage: *De Standaard*, *The Art Newspaper*, *Le Soir*, *Radio France Internationale*, *L’Humanité*, *Le Point Afrique*, *Modern Ghana*, *Artnet*, *Appolo the International Art Magazine*, *la Libre Belgique*, *VRT Nieuws*, *LN24*, *Monumentaal*

- Chapters and Articles

- (2024) with Sarah Blacker, Emily Brownell, Anindita Nag, Martina Schlünder and Helen Verran “Conclusion” in: *The Planning Moment: Histories of (Post)Colonial Planning*, Fordham University Press, forthcoming
- (2024) “Kishikishi: Belgian Congo, 1956” in: *The Planning Moment: Histories of (Post)Colonial Planning*, Fordham University Press, forthcoming
- (2024) with Sarah Blacker, Emily Brownell, Anindita Nag, Martina Schlünder and Helen Verran “Entanglements of (Post)Colonial Planning: An Introduction” in: *The Planning Moment: Histories of (Post)Colonial Planning*, Fordham University Press, forthcoming
- 2023** with Didier Gondola and Agnès Lacaille “Provenance, Politics, and Possession: An Introduction” in: *(Re) Making Collections: Origins and Trajectories*. Edited by Sarah Van Beurden, Didier Gondola and Agnès Lacaille, Tervuren: AfricaMuseum Press, 2023.
- 2023** “Ancestral Connections: A Conversation with Géraldine Tobe and Jeanpy Kabongo” in: *(Re) Making Collections: Origins and Trajectories*. Edited by Sarah Van Beurden, Didier Gondola and Agnès Lacaille, Tervuren: AfricaMuseum Press, 2023.
- 2022** “Loot: Colonial Collections and African Restitution Debates”
[Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective](#). Volume 15, March 2022.
- 2021** with Augustin Bikale “Korean Aid and Congolese Culture: Building a National Museum?” in: *National Museums in Africa. Identity, History and Politics*. Edited by George Abunga, Peter Probst, Raymond Silverman (New York: Routledge, 2021) 110-126.
- 2020** “Missions et artisanats d’art au Congo” in: *100 X Congo. Un siècle d’art congolais à Anvers*. Ed. Els de Palmenaer (Antwerpen: BAI/MAS Books, 2020) 95-105.
In Dutch Translation: “Missies en Kunstambachten in Congo” in: *100 X Congo. Een Eeuw Congolese Kunst in Antwerpen*. Ed. Els de Palmenaer, (Antwerpen: BAI/MAS books, 2020) 95-105.
- 2020** “Le colonisateur belge a-t-il créé, détruit ou volé l’art congolais?” in: *Le Congo Colonial. Une Histoire en Questions*. Edited by Guy Vantemsche, Amandine Lauro, and Idesbald Goddeeris (Waterloo: Renaissance du Livre, 2020) 373-384.
In Dutch translation: “Heeft de kolonisator de Afrikaanse kunst geschapen, vernietigd of gestolen?” in: *Koloniaal Congo. Stand van onze kennis*. (Brussel: Polis, 2020) 350-360.
- 2018** “The Zairian Avant-Garde: Modes of African Modernism”
Radical History Review, Issue 131 (May 2018) 151-158.

- 2018** “Culture, Artifacts and Independent Africa: The Cultural Politics of Museums and Heritage” in: *The Palgrave Handbook of African Colonial and Postcolonial History*, edited by Toyin Falola and Martin S. Shanguhyia (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2018) 1193-1212.
- 2018** “A New Congo Crisis? Political Authoritarianism and Economic Exploitation in Central Africa” *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*. Vol. 11, Issue 4, January 2018.
- 2016** “Aimé Mpane and the Shadow of History in Contemporary Congolese Art” *Critical Interventions: Journal of African Art History and Visual Culture*. Vol 10, no.3 (October 2016): 325-340.
- 2016** “Art, the “Culture Complex,” and Postcolonial Cultural Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *Critical Interventions: Journal of African Art History and Visual Culture*. Vol 10, no.3 (October 2016): 255-260.
- 2015** “Restitution or Cooperation? Competing Visions of Post-colonial Cultural Development in Africa” *Global Cooperation Research Papers 12* (Fall 2015) (Kate Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research)
- 2015** “The Art of (Re)Possession: Heritage and the Cultural Politics of Congo’s Decolonization” *Journal of African History* Vol. 56 , no. 1 (March 2015): 143-164.
- 2014** “International Security and Global Cooperation: The Politics of Cultural Property” *Global Dialogues 4* (Dec 2014), 27-30.
- 2013** “The Value of Culture: Congolese Art and the Promotion of Belgian Colonialism (1945-1959)” *History and Anthropology*, Vol. 24, no. 4 (December 2013): 472-492.
- 2013** “Internationale Politik des kulturellen Eigentums” *Sicherheit und Kooperation Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 63- 37 (Sept. 2013) 3-11.
- 2011** “African Art at the Museum of Primitive Art” *Rockefeller Archive Center Research Reports*. Vol. 2010/2011 (Nov 2011): 1-7.
- 2009** “‘Un Panorama de Nos Valeurs Africaines:’ Belgisch Kongo op Expo 58” (A Panorama of our African values: Belgian Congo on the World Exposition of 1958), in: *Congo in België. Coloniale Cultuur in de Metropool*. eds. Vincent Viane, Bambi Ceuppens, and David Van Reybrouck (Leuven: University Press Leuven)

- Catalogue Entries and Short Pieces

- 2020** “Les Tissus des écoles missionnaires” in: *100 X Congo. Un siècle d’art congolais à Anvers*. Ed. Els de Palmenaer (Antwerpen: BAI/MAS Books, 2020) 110-111.
In Dutch Translation: “Weefsels vervaardigd in missiescholen” in: *100 X Congo. Een Eeuw Congolese Kunst in Antwerpen*. Ed. Els de Palmenaer, (Antwerpen: BAI/MAS books, 2020) 110-111.
- 2020** “The Zairian Avant-Garde: A Manifesto” (introduction and translation) in: *Global Modernists on Modernism: An Anthology*, edited by Alys Moody and Stephen J. Ross, London: Bloomsbury, 2020, 155-160.
- 2019** Chéri Samba *Condamnation Sans Jugement* (1989-90) in: *Among Others: Blackness at MoMA*, edited by Darby English and Charlotte Barat, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2019, 390-391.
- 2018** “Atoinet Lubaki, untitled [Three men and a bird],” *Lieblingsstücke. 36 Objekte des Monats*. Bayreuth: Iwalewahauss, 2018.

- **Exhibition and Museum Reviews**

- 2019 “Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium” *The American Historical Review*, Volume 124, Issue 5 (December 2019): 1806-1809.
- 2019 “Museum Renovation and the Politics of Possession and Display” in *Renovating the AfricaMuseum*, on: [Africa is a Country](#), April 29, 2019.
2020 Published in Bulgarian translation: *Сара Ван Бърдън* “Реновиране на музея и политиката на събиране и притежание”, *Bulgarian Ethnology* (2020) issue 4, 581-582.
- 2015 “Beauté Congo wonderfully represents Congolese art, yet fails to completely evade European colonial baggage” on: [Africa is a Country](#), November 23 2015
- 2012 “Forty years of IMNC: 11 March 1970-11 March 2012”
African Arts, Vol. 45, no. 4 (Nov 2012): 90-93.

- **Book Reviews**

- 2023 Review of *Colonial Legacies. Contemporary Lens-Based Art and the Democratic Republic of Congo*. By Gabrielle Nugent (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2021) In: *H-France Review* Vol. 23 (August 2023), No. 136.
- 2022 Review of *Metropolitan Fetish. African Sculpture and the Imperial French Invention of Primitive Art* by John Warne Monroe (Cornell University Press, 2019)
Journal of African History, Vol. 62, Issue 1 (March 2022): 125-127.
- 2018 Review of *Congo Arts Works. Popular Painting*. Edited by Bambi Ceuppens and Sammy Baloji (Tervuren: Royal Museum for Central Africa, 2016)
African Arts, Vol. 51, No. 4 (Winter 2018) 94-96.
- 2018 Review of *The Politics of Heritage: Economies, Histories, and Infrastructures*. Edited by Derek R. Peterson, Kodzo Gavua and Ciraj Rassool (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015)
Journal of African History Vol. 59, No. 2 (July 2018) 351-353.
- 2017 Review of *Cultures of Decolonisation: Transnational Productions and Practices 1945-70*. Edited by Ruth Craggs and Claire Wintle (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016)
Visual Studies Vol. 32, No. 4 (Winter 2017) 403-404.
- 2013 Review of *Selling the Congo: A History of European Pro-Empire Propaganda and the Making of Belgian Imperialism* by Matthew G. Stanard (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2012)
H-France Review Vol. 13, No. 42 (April 2013)
- 2011 Review of *Gender and Decolonization in the Congo: The Legacy of Patrice Lumumba*. By Karen Bouwer (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)
Research in African Literatures, Volume 42, No. 4 (Winter 2011) 138-139.

- **Popular Publications, Public History, and Media Pieces**

- 2022 “Echec de la Commission sur le passé colonial belge: Tout est-il vraiment perdu?”
Quotidien Agence Presse Association Congo, December 27, 2022, with A.W. Mpoma, L. Uwase, Z.M. Etambala, M. Schotsmans and G.Mathys.
- 2022 “Geen Excuses? Sorry, maar dan doen we het anders.” *De Standaard*, December 22 2022, with A.W. Mpoma, L. Uwase, Z.M. Etambala, M. Schotsmans and G.Mathys.

- 2022** “La nouvelle loi sur la restitution: point final ou ouverture?” *RTBF*, June 9th 2022, with Restitution Belgium.
- 2022** “De nieuwe restitutiewet: eindpunt of opening?” *De Morgen*, June 9th 2022, with Restitution Belgium.
- 2021** “Kunst in Crisis: de dekolonisatie van onze musea” *Eos Wetenschap*, special issue on ‘Kolonialisme en Verzet’, June 2021, 124-129.
- 2019** “Museum Cultures on the Copperbelt: The Yabili Family Museum in Lubumbashi” [Comparing the Copperbelt blog](#), ERC project, Oxford University
- 2018** “La restitution doit être un point de depart” *Le Monde*, December 2 2018
- 2018** “Congolese Kunst voor de Congolezen” with Hein Vanhee et al, *De Standaard*, Oct. 18 French version: “Carte Blanche: La dialogue sur les trésors coloniaux doit s’emporter sur le paternalisme” *Le Soir*, October 18 2018
- 2018** “The Pitfalls of ‘Shared Heritage’” *How to Move on With Humboldt’s Legacy? Rethinking Ethnographic Collections* <https://blog.uni-koeln.de/gssc-humboldt/the-pitfalls-of-shared-heritage/>
- 2017** “Atoinet Lubaki, untitled [Three men and a bird],” *Objekt des Monats/Object of the Month Series #31*: Iwalewaha, University of Bayreuth
- 2016** “Een klasse-universiteit in een strijdstaat” for www.deredactie.be, 24 October 2016
- 2016** “Artisanaal en Kunstonderwijs bij de Zusters van het Heilig Hart in Congo” *Het Angelus. Cultureel Erfgoed Annunciaten Heverlee*. 8 (23) March 22 2016

Exhibitions

- 2023** Curator, *Embroidered Past, Imagined Future: Lucie Kamuswekera and the violence in Eastern Congo*. Urban Arts Gallery at the Ohio State University, September 21 - November 18 2023.
- 2022** Co-curator with Maarten Hendriks, Sam Kniknie and Gillian Mathys *Lucie Kamuswekera: Geborduurd verleden, verbeelde toekomst in Congo*. Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, November 17 2022 -March 31st 2023.
- 2018-21** Exhibition consultant, *100 x Congo. A Century of Congolese Art in Antwerp*, exhibition, Museum aan de Stroom (MAS), Antwerpen. Consultant for section on missionary collections.

Fellowships and Grants (External, Since 2010)

- 2023-24** School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe NM, Weatherhead Foundation Fellowship, 2023-2024
- 2014-18** Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
 ‘Art of Judgment’ and ‘Colonial and Postcolonial Planning’ project groups in Department III ‘Artefacts, Action and Knowledge’
 2014-2018 Affiliated Scholar
 2015-2016 and Summer 2017, Visiting Research Fellow
- 2013** University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany), Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Centre for Global Cooperation Research, In-Residence International Research Fellowship, Summer and Fall

- 2011 Rutgers University**, Center for Historical Analysis, Post-Doctoral Fellowship, (declined)
- 2011 Rockefeller Archives Center**, Research Grant
- 2010 University of Texas at Austin**, Institute for Historical Studies, Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Spring

Presentations and Panels

- Keynote Lectures

- 2023** “Missionary Collections, Craft Cultures, and the History of Colonialism: the Case of the Belgian Congo” Missionary Collecting in Africa Conference, University of East Anglia, Norwich (UK), May 26th 2023 (*keynote lecture*)
- 2022** with Dr. Gillian Mathys, “History by Commission? The Belgian Colonial Past in the Public Eye” (*keynote lecture*), Colonialism on the Public Stage Conference Utrecht University- NIAS (Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies), November 9th, 2022
- 2020** “African Art Restitution, Museums, and the Politics of Heritage: Lessons from the Belgian-Congolese Case” SEWHA (Southeast World History Association) annual conference, October 25 2020 (remote presentation, *keynote lecture*)
- 2018** “Une perspective historique du débat de restitution des biens culturels Congolais.” Symposium “Musées en Conversation” Organized by Goethe Institute Kinshasa and Centre d’art Waza Lubumbashi, Académie des Beaux Arts, Kinshasa (DR Congo) October 22-23, 2018 (*keynote lecture*)

- Invited Lectures and Presentations

School of Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM | Marist College | Free University of Brussels | University of Iowa | Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne | University of Cambridge | Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York | Maastricht University | Biennale de Lubumbashi (DR Congo) | Oxford University | Ghent University | Institut national d’histoire de l’art, Paris | University of Leuven | New York University Abu Dhabi | Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow | University of Rochester | University of Bayreuth | Royal Museum for Central Africa | University of California, Irvine | Max Planck Institute for the History of Science | Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich | Free University of Berlin | University of Duisburg-Essen | University of Pennsylvania | University of Texas in Austin | Denison University | Institute of National Museums, Kinshasa

- Public Lectures, Hearings, and Presentations

AfricaMuseum (RMCA) | Belgian parliament | Commission on Youth, Culture, Sports, and Media, Flemish Parliament | Festival Africa Style 3, Kinshasa | New Orleans Museum of Art

- Workshop Papers and Presentations

The Ohio State University | Cleveland Museum of Art | Max Planck Institute for the History Science, Berlin | Académie des Beaux Arts, Kinshasa | University of Texas at Austin

- **Conferences (Discussant, Chair or Panel Member)**

American Historical Association Annual Meeting (2023, 2011)
African Studies Association Annual Meeting (2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2011, 2009, 2006)
African Studies Association UK (2022, 2012)
German Lost Art Foundation (2021)
American Anthropological Association and African Studies Association Africa-based conferences (Johannesburg, South Africa 2017)
ACASA (African Arts Council of the African Studies Association) Tri-annual meeting (2017, 2014, 2007)
Association of Critical Heritage Studies Meeting (2014) ECAS (European Council of African Studies) Conference (2010)
Aegis (African Studies in Europe) conference (2010)

- **Conferences and Symposiums organized.**

2019 “Restitution of Colonial Collections in Europe: Possibilities, Challenges, Dilemmas”
Symposium co-organized with Prof. Berber Bevernage, Dr. Hugo DeBlock, Eline Mestdagh, and Marie-Gabrielle Verbergt, Departments of History and African Studies Ghent University, December 2-3 2019.

2017 “Creating, Curating and Studying Black Art”
Symposium in conjunction with the exhibition of the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Collection of Black Art , Co-organized with Dr. Simone Drake and the Urban Arts Space The Ohio State University, October 19-20 2017

2017 “Decolonizing the Plan: Concepts in the History of Planning”
Workshops co-organized with Sarah Blacker, Anindita Nag, Emily Brownell, Martina Schlünder, Dagmar Schäfer, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, June 12-16 and 26-30, 2017

Research and Professional Experience

- **Advisory Boards**

Advisory Board, PROCHE (Provenance Research on the Ethnographic Collections), AfricaMuseum, Belgium (2023-) | Advisory Committee, Belspo BRAIN 2.0 project “Transformative Heritage: customary governance, community building and digital restitution in contemporary Northeast Congo” (2020-2024) | Advisory Board, Esprit des Ancêtres exhibition project (contemporary Congolese art), Free University of Brussels (2020-2022) |

- **Editorial Board Membership**

Editor, Miami University/Ohio Consortium Board, *African Arts* (2022-)

- **Reviewer**

- Grants and Fellowships: American Philosophical Society | FNRS (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique Wallonie-Bruxelles -Fund for Scientific Research Wallonia-Brussels) | Swiss National Science Foundation | FWO Fonds (Flemish Science Research Fund) | European Science Foundation (ESF), College of Expert Reviewers | Belspo- Federal Science Policy Belgium
- Journals: *History and Anthropology*, *Research in African Literatures*, *Critical Interventions: Journal of African Art History and Visual Culture*, *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, *Artl@s Bulletin*, *Mededelingen van de Zittingen van de Koninklijke Academie voor Overzeese Wetenschappen/ Bulletin des Séances de l'Académie Royale des Sciences d'Outre-Mer*, *Safundi: Journal of Comparative Southern African and North American Studies*, *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, *The Public Historian*, *The Art Journal*
- Presses: Royal Museum for Central Africa Press | Cambridge University Press | Oxford University Press | University of Michigan Press

Teaching Experience

The Ohio State University

Undergraduate courses:

- AFAMAST 1121: African Civilizations, precolonial-1870
- AFAMAST 1122: African Civilizations, 1870- current
- AFAMAST/HIST ART 2101: Introduction to African Art and Archeology
- HIST 2301: African Peoples and Empires in World History
- HIST 2303: History of Africa, 1960-present
- AFAMAST 3310: Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora
- HIST 3314: From Rubber to Coltan: Violence and Exploitation in Central Africa
- AFAMAST 3376: Arts and Cultures of Africa and the Diaspora
- AFAMAST 527: Pan-Africanism and Nationalism
- AFAMAST 4193: Topics in African History

Graduate courses:

- HIST 5650/7650: Seminar in World History: Empire and Collecting (with Thomas McDow)
- HIST/AFAMAST 7301: African Historiography and Methodology (with Thomas McDow)
- AFAMAST/HIST 7430: Topics in African History: Africa and the Politics of Culture
- AFAMAST 8350: Transnational Histories of the African World
- HIST 8650: Writing Seminar in World History