

# ABENA DOVE OSSEO-ASARE

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## EDUCATION

2005 Ph.D. History of Science Harvard

Thesis: 'Bitter Roots: African Science and the Search for Healing Plants in Ghana, 1885-2005'  
Committee: Allan M. Brandt, K. Emmanuel Akyeampong, Bridie Andrews Minehan, Kwame A. Appiah  
Exam Fields: History of Medicine, African History, Postcolonial Studies

1998 A.B. History & Science *magna cum laude*, with highest honors Harvard

Thesis: 'Twenty-one Palmnuts: Maternal Mortality and the Development of Midwives and Traditional Birth Attendants in Ghana, 1919-1998'

1998 Certificate in African Studies Harvard

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2005- Assistant Professor, Department of History U.C. Berkeley

2005-06; 08-09 Junior Scholar, Harvard Academy for International & Area Studies Harvard

2004-05 Graduate Fellow, Dibner Institute for the History of Science & Technology MIT

2003-05 Graduate Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Studies Harvard

2001-04 Course Instructor & Teaching Fellow, History of Science Department Harvard

## PUBLICATIONS/MEDIA

Book: *Bitter Roots: The Search for Healing Plants in Africa*. Manuscript under consideration.

Articles: 'Bioprospecting and Resistance: Transforming Poisoned Arrows into Strophanthin Pills in Colonial Gold Coast, 1885-1922,' *Social History of Medicine* vol. 21 no. 2 (2008): 269-290.

'Scientific Citizens: Experiments in Laboratory Education in Ghana, 1957-1967.' Under review.

Reviews: *The African Aids Epidemic: A History* by John Iliffe, *Social History of Medicine* vol. 20 no. 2 (2007): 401-402.

*Healing Traditions: African Medicine, Cultural Exchange, and Competition in South Africa, 1820-1918* by Karen E. Flint, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. forthcoming

Popular: Oku Ampofo,' Charles Easmon,' Mathew A. Barnor,' and 'Susan DeGraft-Johnson,' in *Dictionary of Medical Biography*. Helen and Bill Bynum, eds. Greenwood Press, 2007.

*Let's Go Guide to India*. St. Martin's Press, 1998. revised coverage of Tamil Nadu District

Films: 'Atomic Junction, Ghana' 20 mins. HDV. editing in progress

'Michelle A. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.,' 2000, 10 mins. VHS.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2006-	Department of History	U.C. Berkeley
History 183A:	Health and Disease	(lecture)
History 280S:	Drugs in World History	(grad seminar)
History 103HS:	Healing and Illness in African History	(undergrad seminar)
History 103H:	Modern Travelers: African Journeys since 1700	(lecture)
History 10:	Africa since 1500	(undergrad seminar)
2001-04	Department of the History of Science	Harvard
HOS 98r:	Ancients, Moderns, Indigenes: Histories of Science outside Europe	(Course Instructor)
HOS 120:	Disease and Society	(Course Assistant to Charles Rosenberg)
HS A-34:	Medicine and Society	(Teaching Fellow to Allan M. Brandt)
HOS 152:	Filming Science	(Course Research Assistant to Peter Galison, Robb Moss)

## SELECTED AWARDS

2007-08	Hellman Family Faculty Fund Award \$25,000
2005-06; 08-09	Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies Fellowship \$88,000
2004-05	Dibner Institute for the History of Science & Technology at MIT, Graduate Fellowship \$17,000
2005-08	Columbia Society of Fellows (award declined)
2005	African Studies Association Award for Best Graduate Essay
2003-04	Ford Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities \$18,000
2003-04	Sheldon Fellowship for Travel to Ghana and the U.K. \$17,000
2002-04	Weatherhead and Jennifer Cole Fellowships to Ghana \$5,000
1999-2004	Harvard Graduate Prize Fellowship \$45,000
1998-99	IEE Fulbright Fellowship to Ghana \$20,000

## FIELD AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ghana:	Sekondi, Cape Coast, Accra, Kumasi, Mampong-Akwapim, Akropong
South Africa:	Cape Town, Pretoria, Johannesburg
Madagascar:	Antananarivo, Tolagnaro
England, UK:	London, Oxford, Kew
India:	Chennai, Pondicherry, Madurai, Udagamandalam, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli

## RESEARCH PROFECIENCY

Twi	(Ghanaian language, speaking)
French	(reading, speaking)
Final Cut Pro	(Video editing software)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of the History of Medicine, African Studies Association, History of Science Society, Society for Social Studies of Science

## INVITED LECTURES

- 'Who Owns Africa's Plants? The Case of Madagascar Periwinkle and Pennywort,' Harvard University Herbarium, 28 April 2009.
- 'African Healing Authority and Colonial Governance,' Center for African Studies, Stanford University, 14 May 2008.
- 'The Search for Grains of Paradise,' Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, South Africa, 11 July 2007.
- 'Bioprospecting and Resistance: A view from West Africa,' Conference: A2K2, Yale Law School, 28 April 2007.
- 'Once-Forgotten but Flavorful': Africa's Grains of Paradise from Chaucer to Sam Adams,' Conference: Drug Trade in the Early Modern Atlantic World, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London, 13 April 2007.
- 'Strophanthin and the History of Bioprospecting in Africa,' Conference: Empires, Colonialisms, and Contexts, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Cambridge, MA, 20 April 2007.
- 'Bioprospecting in West Africa: The Ghana Quinine Patent,' Conference: Culture, Nature, Future? Science in Africa, University of Edinburgh, 12 April 2006.
- 'Who Owns Africa's Plants? Bioprospecting, Pharmaceuticals and the Postcolony,' Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, 10 April 2006.
- 'Benefit-Sharing and Drug Discovery in Ghana,' Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, 5 April 2006.
- 'Green Gold: Ethical questions in the Search for healing Plants in Ghana,' Guest Lecture for BI 85 (Biological and Social Context of Disease), Brown University, 15 March 2006.

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- 'Atomic Junction: Nuclear Power at the Crossroads in Ghana,' paper for African Studies Association meeting, New Orleans, November 2009.
- 'Scientific Citizens: Experiments in Flag Nationalism and Laboratory Science in Ghana, 1956-1977' paper presented at the History of Science Society Meeting, Pittsburgh, November 2008. – panel organizer
- 'Akwabaa, my sister': Recreational Genetics and the Future of Heritage Tourism in Ghana,' paper presented at the African Studies Association Meeting, New York, October 2007. – panel organizer
- 'Drug Prospecting in Africa: Historical Lessons from Madagascar Periwinkle to Ghana Quinine,' paper presented at African Studies Association Meeting, San Francisco, November, 2006.
- 'Killing the Intellectual Properties': Managers of Bio-data in Africa,' paper presented at Society for the Social Study of Science Meeting, Vancouver, November, 2006.
- 'Curing Konoruku: The interplay of Mangos, Malaria and the Mosquito in Colonial Gold Coast, 1860-1940,' paper presented at the African Studies Association Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 2005.
- 'Poisoned Arrows, Strophanthus Hispidus, and the Rise of Pharmaceutical Chemistry in Britain and the Gold Coast (1880-1922)', paper presented at the History of Science Society Conference, Minneapolis, November 2005. – panel organizer
- 'Plant Medicine Research in Ghana since Independence,' Annual Meeting of the Ghana Historical Society, Teachers Hall, Accra, Ghana, August 2005.
- 'Mining the Forest for Health: Literacy, Secularism and the Society of African Herbalists in the Gold Coast, 1924-1942,' presented at American Association for the History of Medicine Meeting, Birmingham, March 2005.
- 'Poisoned Arrows and the Legacy of Colonial Botany on the Gold Coast,' paper presented at African Studies Association Meeting, New Orleans, November 2004.
- 'No Time to Dance': Herbal Drug Research in Post-colonial Ghana,' paper presented at the History of Science Society Conference, Boston, November 2003.
- 'Peddlers, Bitters, Teas: Marketing Traditional Medicine to Modern Ghanaians,' paper presented at the African Studies Association Conference, Boston, November 2003.