

UMSAEP Report Kara Moskowitz

The purpose of this project was to make a short-term visit focused on teaching and presenting to the University of the Western Cape. In doing so, we hoped to facilitate greater collaboration between the UMSL and UWC history departments, and to expand the intellectual and historical material offered to undergraduate and graduate students at UWC.

The visit succeeded on all accounts. I presented my paper, “Decolonization, Development and the Making of Kenya,” to the UWC Contemporary History and Humanities seminar. The seminar was very well attended, by a set of interdisciplinary graduate students, undergraduates, and faculty. In presenting this paper, I introduced students to new topics, but still touched on important issues – especially, on decolonization and land reform – currently being debated within contemporary South Africa, and within the South African academy. The presentation was of mutual benefit to the grant director, as I received some helpful feedback on a work in progress. Certainly, the presentation has helped me to make final revisions to the introduction of my book manuscript.

I also offered guest lectures to undergraduate and graduate courses. I gave a guest lecture – entitled, “The Gendered Politics of Decolonization and Development in Kenya – to the “Gender in African History” class taught by Phindezwa Mnyaka. I sat in as a guest discussant in Leslie Witz’s “Public History and Tourism” course, where we discussed the tourists’ gaze in Cape Town. I also met with graduate students to discuss their work and interests.

I participated actively in campus events and campus life during my visit, attending a contentious lecture and discussion on land reform in South Africa, hosted by UWC’s Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies. I also attended another presentation at the Contemporary History and Humanities Seminary. In addition, I took a tour of the UWC Robben Island Museum and Mayibuye Archives.

Lastly, I worked closely with the faculty in the history department at UWC, to learn more about their research and to discuss future directions in the UWC-UMSL history department collaboration. I visited the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum with Professor Witz (who is on the board) to learn more about the work of the Museum and Heritage Studies Programme at UWC. In addition, I attended a history faculty meeting to discuss the UWC-UMSL partnership with the department. In the future, we plan to collaborate on international conferences, joint publications, shared teaching, and study abroad programs. We also hope to bring a younger member of the UWC faculty to UMSL in the next few years. Undoubtedly, this visit has contributed to strengthening the relationship between the two campuses and the two history departments, and I feel confident that we will continue to collaborate with one another in the future.