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Born in 1932. American citizen.

Degrees: B.A. (Cambridge) 1954; Ph.D. (California) 1967.

1967-1980 Assistant, Associate and Professor of Anthropology, Haverford College.

1981-1998 John R. Coleman Professor of Social Sciences, Haverford College.

### Grants and Research

1964-1966 Field research, Lower Congo. Foreign Area Fellowship.

1970-1971 Field research, Lower Congo, SSRC grant. Library research on African religions, African Studies Institute, Cambridge University; NEH Fellowship.

1979-1980 Fulbright lecturer, National University of Zaire, Kisangani campus.

1993-1994 Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

1962. Cuba. New Haven: HRAF Press. (Reprinted, 1965, by Doubleday Anchor, as Twentieth-Century Cuba; and 1974, by Greenwood Press). With C. R. Barnett.

1970. Custom and Government in the Lower Congo, University of California Press, Los Angeles.

1974. Anthology of Kongo Religion. Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press. With J. M. Janzen.

1983. Modern Kongo Prophets. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

1986. Religion and Society in Central Africa. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

1991. Art and Healing of the BaKongo. Stockholm: Folkens Museum, and Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

1993. Astonishment and Power (Exhibition catalogue, National Museum of African Art). Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian. With Michael D. Harris.
2000. Kongo Political Culture: The Conceptual Challenge of the Particular. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- 2013a. Chiefs, Priests and Praise-Singers: History, Politics and Land Ownership in Northern Ghana. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYMPOSIA

1972. "The West in Congolese Experience," in Africa and the West, P.D. Curtin, ed., University of Wisconsin Press.
1977. "Economic and social dimensions of Kongo slavery," S. Miers and I. Kopytoff, eds., Slavery in Africa. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
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1994. "Dialogues of the deaf: Europeans on the Atlantic coast of Africa." In S. Schwarz, ed., Implicit Understandings. Cambridge University Press.
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2005. "Nationalisme kongo et ethnographie coloniale." In J.-L. Vellut, ed., La Mémoire du Congo: le temps colonial. Tervuren: Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale.
2008. "The ritual person as subject or object in ancient Greece and Central Africa." In S. Blakely, ed., Ancient Mysteries, Modern Secrets. *Electronic Antiquity* xii, 1: 107-27.
2011. "The plural society in northern Ghana: structural evolution and continuing conflict." In Brian Meeks, ed., M. G. Smith: Social Theory and Anthropology in the Caribbean and Beyond. Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers, 2011.
- 2013b. "African traditional religion." *Oxford Bibliographies in African Studies*, [www.oxfordbibliographiesonline.com](http://www.oxfordbibliographiesonline.com)
- 2013c "Minkisi on the Loango coast." In C. Deimel and C. Seige, eds., Minkisi: skulpturen vom unteren Kongo. Berlin: Deutscher Kunst Verlag.
- 2013d "Meaning and aesthetics in Kongo art." In S. Cooksey, R. Poynton, and H. Vanhee, ed., Kongo Across the Waters. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2013, 172-79.
- 2015a "Historiography of African religions," in J. C. Miller, ed., The Princeton Companion to Atlantic History. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.
- 2016a. "Dagbon, Oyo, Kongo: critical and comparative reflections on sacrifice," in Jacob K. Olupona and Rowland O. Abiodun, eds., Ifá Divination, Knowledge, Power and Performance. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- 2018b. "A Central African kingdom: Kongo in 1840." In K. Bostoen and I. Brinkman, eds., The Kongo Kingdom: The origins, dynamics and cosmopolitan culture of an African polity. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1918, pp. 42-59.

### ARTICLES

1961. "Social structure and mobility in Cuba." Anthropology Quarterly 34:94-109.
1966. "Concepts of race in the historiography of northeast Africa." Journal of African History: 7:1-17.
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1975. "Oral tradition in Central Africa." International Journal of African Historical Studies 7, 3:417-36.
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1981. "African ideology and belief." African Studies Review, 24, 2-3:227-74.
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1988. "Complexity, astonishment and power: the visual vocabulary of Kongo nkisi." Journal of Southern African Studies, 14: 188-203.
- 1988b "Science as theatre: the script of African studies." Canadian Journal of African Studies 22:323-30.
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1998. "Am I myself? Identities in Zaire then and now." Transactions of The Royal Historical Society, 6th series, 8: 291-307.
2000. "Aesthetics and politics of violence in Central Africa." Journal of African Cultural Studies 13, 1, 63-75.
2001. "Astonishment and stickiness in Kongo art: a theoretical advance." Res: Anthropology and aesthetics 39 (Spring 2001): 137-50.
2005. "Changing representations in Central African history." Journal of African History, 46:189-207.
2006. "Death of a king, death of a kingdom? Social pluralism and succession to high office in Dagbon, northern Ghana." Journal of Modern African Studies 44, 1:79-99.
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- 2013e. "A note on Vansina's invention of matrilinearity." Journal of African History 54, 2: 269-80
- 2015c "Franchising minkisi in Loango: questions of form and function." Res: Anthropology and aesthetics 65/66 148-57.
- 2016 "Constructing a Kongo identity: scholarship and mythopoesis." Comparative Studies in Society and History, 58, 1: 159-80.

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2022. "Precolonial beliefs in God, Nzambi and Chthonic Spirits," Journal of Religion in Africa 5, 2 (2022) 1–21.