

Curriculum Vitae
SIBEL B. KUSIMBA
October 2025

Education

- 1997 Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1992 M.A. in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1988 A.B. in Anthropology, Departmental Honors and Cum Laude, Bryn Mawr College

Academic Appointments

- 2020- Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of South Florida Tampa FL
2014-2020 Anthropologist in Residence, American University, Washington, DC
2020 Visiting Research Fellow in the Human Economy Program, University of Pretoria, South Africa
2018 Visiting Professor of Ethnology, Minzu University of China, Beijing
2007-2014 Associate Professor of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University
2009-2010 Fulbright Professor, Egerton University, Egerton, Kenya
2003-2007 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University
2001-2003 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI

Research Interests

Economic change and development; East African archaeology; impact of technology on society, culture, and environment; money, economics, and value systems; technological change in finance and banking; financial technologies and Fintech in the Global South and the United States.

Publications – Books

- 2021 Kusimba, S. *Reimagining Money: Kenya in the Digital Finance Revolution*. Stanford University Press.
2003 Kusimba, S. *African Foragers: Environment, Technology, Interactions*. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, CA.
2003 Kusimba, C. M., and S. Kusimba (Editors). *East African Archaeology: Foragers, Potters, Smiths, and Traders*. MASCA, the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Publications – Editor of a Special Journal Issue

- 2025 *Journal of Cultural Economy*. Special Issue Co-Editor with Maia Green and Erik Bahre, Volume 18, Issue 3. Theme: Finance and Care.
2020 *Economic Anthropology*. Special Issue Editor, Volume 7, Issue 2. Theme: Wealth in People.

Publications – Journal Articles

- 2025 Bahre, E., M. Green, and S. Kusimba. Finance and Care. *Journal of Cultural Economy* 18(3):339-351.
- 2025 Kusimba, S. Crowdfunding Care in Kenya. *Journal of Cultural Economy* 18(3):386-403.
- 2025 Yount, C., Kusimba, S., Bledsoe, C., & Zaloom, C. Legacies, Logics, Labors of Love: Essays on the Economic Anthropology of Jane Guyer. *Economic Anthropology* 12(1): e1243.
- 2023 Brielle, Esther S., Jeffrey Fleisher, Stephanie Wynne-Jones, Kendra Sirak, Nasreen Broomandkhoshbacht, Kim Callan, Elizabeth Curtis, Sibel Kusimba, Chapurukha Kusimba, R. Reich et al. Entwined African and Asian Genetic Roots of Medieval Peoples of the Swahili Coast." *Nature* 615, no. 7954: 866-873.
- 2021 Alpaslan-Roodenberg, S., Anthony, D., Babiker, H., Kusimba, S. *et al.* Ethics of DNA Research on Human Remains: Five Globally Applicable Guidelines. *Nature* 599, 41–46. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-04008-x>
- 2020 Kusimba, S. Embodied Value: Wealth in People. *Economic Anthropology* 7(2):1-10.
- 2018 Kusimba, S. It is Easy for Women to Ask: Gender and Digital Finance in Kenya. *Economic Anthropology* 5(2):247-260. Special issue: Financialization.
- 2018 Kusimba, S. Money, Mobile Money, and Ritual in Western Kenya: The Contingency Fund and the Thirteenth Cow. *African Studies Review* 61(2):158-182. Special Issue Theme: Post-Colonial Kenya.
- 2017 Kusimba, C. M. and S. Kusimba. Preindustrial Water Management in Eastern Africa. *Journal of Global Archaeology and Anthropology*. 1(2):1-13.
- 2016 Kusimba, S.B., Y. Yang, and N. Chawla. Hearthholds of Mobile Money in Western Kenya. *Economic Anthropology* 3:266-279.
- 2015 Kusimba, S., Y. Yang, and N. Chawla. Family Networks of Mobile Money in Kenya. *Information Technology and International Development* 11(3):1-21.
- 2013 Kusimba, C., S. Kusimba, and L. Dussubieux. Beyond the Coastalscapes: Preindustrial Social and Political Networks in East Africa. *African Archaeological Review* 30:399-426.
- 2008 L. Dussubieux, C. M. Kusimba, V. Gogte, S. Kusimba, B. Gratuze, R. Oka. The Trading of Ancient Glass Beads: New Analytical Data from South Asian and East African Soda-Alumina Glass Beads. *Archaeometry* 50:797-821.
- 2005 Kusimba, C. M., S. Kusimba, and D. Wright. The Development and Collapse of

- Precolonial Ethnic Mosaics in Tsavo, Kenya. *Journal of African Archaeology* 3(2):135- 192.
- 2005 Kusimba, S. 2005. What is a Hunter-gatherer? Some problems in the archaeology of Eastern and Southern Africa. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 13:337-366.
- 2004 Kusimba, C. M., and S. Kusimba. Archaeology as Anthropology Today and Tomorrow: Perspectives from Africa. *Teaching Anthropology: The Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges Notes*, 10:13-17.
- 2003 Terrell, J. E., J. Hart, S. Kusimba, N. Cellinese, A. Curet, T. Denham, C. Kusimba, Kyle Latinis, Rahul Oka, Joel Palka, M. Pohl, K. Pope, P. Williams, H. Haines, and J. Staller. Domesticated Landscapes: The Subsistence Ecology of Plant and Animal Domestication. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 10:323-368.
- 2002 Kusimba, S. The Early Later Stone Age in East Africa: Excavations and Lithic Assemblages from Lukenya Hill, Kenya. *African Archaeological Review* 18:77-123.
- 2000 Kusimba, C. M., and S. Kusimba. Hinterlands and Cities: Archaeological Investigations of Economy and Trade in Tsavo, Southeastern Kenya. *Nyame Akuma* 54: 97-100.
- 1999 Kusimba, S. Hunter-gatherer Land Use Patterns in Later Stone Age East Africa. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 18:165-200.
- 1997 Kusimba, S. Later Stone Age Site Use Patterns at Lukenya Hill, Kenya. *Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology* 13:9-25.
- 1994 Kusimba, S. Middle and Later Stone Age Lithic Technology and Land Use Patterns in East African Savannas. *African Archaeological Review* 12:44-70.

Publications – Book Chapters

- 2027 Forward. In *Digital Human Finance*, edited by Erin Taylor. Forthcoming.
- 2027 Mediating Relational Work on a Crowdfunding Website. In *Global Money Talks*, edited by Daniel Fridman and Ariel Wilkis. Forthcoming.
2026. Kusimba, Sibel. On Remittances: Money Networks in Migration. In *The Handbook of International Migration and Social Networks*, edited by Miranda Jessica Lubbers and Basak Bilicen, Edward Elgar Publishing. Forthcoming.
- 2026 Kusimba, Sibel, and Naomi Wanga, Understanding Informality and Mutuality in Kenya's Digital Finance Space. In *Sustainable Digital Finance*, edited by Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Soh Young In and Thomas Puschmann, Springer Verlag, pp. 241-264.
- 2025 Kusimba, Key Symbols of Gender and Money. In *The Elgar Encyclopedia of Economic*

Anthropology, edited by Cristina Grasseni, Coco Kanters, and Douglas Holmes. Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 220-225.

- 2024 Kusimba, Sibel. Africa, Tropical: East African Foragers. In: Nikita, E., Rehren, T. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Archaeology, 2nd Edition*, vol. 3, pp. 126–131, London: Academic Press. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-90799-6.00163-4>. ISBN: 9780323907996
- 2021 Kusimba, S. and C. M. Kusimba. 2025. Cowries and Blood: Money, Value and Relationships in Precolonial East Africa. In *Merchants, Measures and Money: Understanding the Technologies of Early Trade in a Comparative Perspective*, edited by L. Rahmstorf, G. Barjamovic, and N. Ialongo. Weight & Value 2: Proceedings of Two Workshops Funded by the European Research Foundation (ERC). Wachholtz Verlag, Kiel, Hamburg.
- 2018 Kusimba, S., Gabriel Kunyu, and Elizabeth Gross. “Social Networks of Mobile Money in Kenya.” In *Money at the Margins: Global Perspectives on Technology, Financial Inclusion, and Design*, edited by B. Maurer, S. Musaraj, and I. Small. Berghahn Books, London, pp. 179-199.
- 2018 Kusimba, C. M., Sloan R. Williams, Janet Monge, Mohamed Mchula, Rahul Oka, Gilbert Oteyo, Sibel Kusimba, and Laure Dussubieux. "Mtwapa: Betwixt and Between Land and Sea, Founding of an African City-State." In *The Swahili World*, edited by Stephanie Wynne-Jones and Adria LaViolette, Routledge, London, pp 226- 230.
- 2018 Kusimba, C. and Kusimba, S. “Mosaics: Rethinking African Connections in Coastal and Hinterland Relationships.” In *The Swahili World*, edited by Stephanie Wynne-Jones and Adria LaViolette. Routledge, London, pp. 403-418.
- 2017 Kusimba, C., R. Oka, V. Gogte, L. Dussubieux, and S. Kusimba. “Predatory Commerce and Economic Disaster: A Cautionary Tale from the Seventeenth-Century Indian Ocean Economy.” In *Africa and its Diaspora: History, Identity, and Economy*, edited by Samuel Oloruntoba. Panafican University Press, Austin, Texas, pp. 89-102.
- 2017 Kusimba, C., and Kusimba, S. “Trade and State Formation on the Ancient East African Coast and Southern Zambezia.” In *Feast, Famine, or Fighting: Multiple Pathways to Social Complexity*, ed. R. Chacon and R. Mendoza. Springer, New York, pp. 61-90.
- 2016 Kusimba, S. “An American in Kenya: Experiences at an African University.” In *Distant Mirrors: America as a Foreign Culture*, edited by Philip DeVita. Fourth Edition, pp. 57-66. Waveland Press, Long Grove, IL.
- 2013 Kusimba, C. M., J. Monge, and S. Kusimba. “The Identity of Early Kenyan Coastal Peoples: A Comparative Analysis of Human Remains from Shanga, Mtwapa and Taita.” In *Coastal Identities in East Africa*, edited by R. Gearhart. Africa World Press, Trenton, NJ. Pp. 1-24.
- 2013 Kusimba, S. “Hunter-gatherers of Eastern and Southeastern Africa from 20,000 years ago to the present.” In *The Oxford Handbook of African Archaeology*, edited by Paul Lane and Peter Mitchell. Oxford University Press, Oxford. Pp. 310-326.

- 2009 Kusimba, C.M. and S.B. Kusimba. "Leadership in Middle Range African Societies." In *Evolution of Leadership*, edited by J. Kantner, and K. Vaughn. School of Advanced Research Press, Santa Fe. Pp 223-248.
- 2008 Kusimba, S.B. "East African Foragers." In *The Encyclopedia of Archaeology*, edited by Deborah Pearsall. Elsevier Science, Academic Press, New York. Pp. 15-17.
- 2007 Kusimba, S., and C. M. Kusimba. "Intensification and Protohistoric Agricultural Practices in East Africa." In *Seeking a Richer Harvest: The Archaeology of Subsistence Intensification, Innovation, and Change*, edited by T. Thurston and C. Fisher. New York: Kluwer/Academic. Pp. 127-143.
- 2006 Kusimba, C. M., S. Kusimba, and B. Abgaje-Williams. "Precolonial African Cities: Size and Density." In *Urbanism in the Preindustrial World: Cross-Cultural Approaches*, edited by G. Storey. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa. Pp. 145-160.
- 2005 Kusimba, C. M., and S. Kusimba. "Mosaics and Interactions: East Africa, 2000 BP to the Present." In *African Archaeology: A Critical Introduction*, edited by Ann Stahl, pp.392-419. London: Blackwell Studies in Global Archaeology, Blackwell Press.
- 2003 Kusimba, S., and C. M. Kusimba. "Comparing Prehistoric and Historic Hunter-gatherer Mobility in Southern Kenya." In *Current Research Themes in Later East African Archaeology*, edited by C. Kusimba and S. Kusimba, pp.1-16. MASCA, The University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 2002 Kusimba, S. "History." In *Darwin in Archaeology: A Handbook of Concepts*, edited by John Terrell and John Hart, pp. 143-160. Westport, Ct: Bergin and Garvey.
- 1999 Kusimba, S., and Fred H. Smith. "Acheulean." In *The Encyclopedia of Prehistory*, edited by P. Peregrine and M. Ember, pp. 1-22. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum.
- 1995 "Obsidian Source Use at Lukenya Hill, Kenya." In *Aspects of African Archaeology*, edited by G. Pwiti and R. Soper, pp. 303-313, Harare, Zimbabwe: University of Harare Press.

Publications - Research Reports

- 2023 Kusimba, Sibel, and Naomi Wanga. *Understanding Persistent Informality: Gender and the FinAccess Data*. Final Report Submitted to Financial Sector Deepening Kenya, Nairobi.
- 2019 Sibel Kusimba and Changa Labs, M-Changa, Busara Center for Behavioral Economics. *Understanding Digital Fundraising in Kenya: A Case Study with M-Changa*. Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2017 Kusimba, S., G. Kunyu, and N. Musombi. *Feeling, Information, Networks, Value*. Final

Report to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. 141 pages.

- 2016 Kusimba, S. G. Kunyu, and N. Musombi. Dynamic Networks of Mobile Money among Unbanked Women in Western Kenya. Final Report to Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion, University of California at Irvine. 12 pages.
- 2015 Kusimba, S., G. Kunyu, and A. Wanyama. Mobile Money and Coming of Age in Western Kenya. Final Report to Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion, University of California at Irvine. 67 pp.
<http://www.imtfi.uci.edu/files/docs/2015/Final%20Report%20Kusimba.pdf>
- 2013 Kusimba, S., Harpeth Chaggar, Elizabeth Gross, and Gabriel Kunyu. Social Networks of Mobile Money in Kenya. Working Paper, Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion, University of California at Irvine.
http://www.imtfi.uci.edu/files/2013-1_kusimba_1.pdf

Publications – Conference Reports

- 2019 Remittances. In *Digital Finance in Africa's Future: Innovations and Implications*. Proceedings of an International Colloquium held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 22—26 October 2018. Organized by the Human Economy Research Programme at the University of Pretoria and the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS), in association with Disrupting Africa. Edited by John Sharp, Lena Gronbach and Riaan de Villiers. University of Pretoria, South Africa, pp. 42-48.

Blog Posts

- 2020 Sharp, John, and Sibel Kusimba. South Africa in Lockdown: Innovation in G2P Payments.
http://blog.imtfi.uci.edu/2020/06/part-3-south-africa-in-lockdown.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ImtfiBlog+%28IMTFI+Blog%29
- 2020 Kusimba, Sibel, Chap Kusimba, and Gabriel Kunyu. The War on COVID in Kenya: Will the Social Networks of Mobile Money Survive?
<http://blog.imtfi.uci.edu/2020/05/part-2-war-on-covid-in-kenya-will.html>
- 2020 Kusimba, Sibel. Covid and Digital Payment in Kenya and South Africa: Crisis Innovation? <http://blog.imtfi.uci.edu/2020/05/part-1-covid-and-digital-payment-in.html>
- 2016 Kusimba, S., G. Kunyu, and D. Mark. Women, Social Capital, and Financial Inclusion: Linking Customer Data with Ethnographic Perspectives. IMTFI Blog, August 9.
<http://blog.imtfi.uci.edu/2016/08/women-social-capital-and-financial.html>
- 2015 Kusimba, S., G. Kunyu, and A. Wanyama. The Contingency Fund and the Thirteenth Cow, Part 1. IMTFI Blog, July 13. <http://blog.imtfi.uci.edu/2015/07/the-contingency-fund-and-thirteenth-cow.html>

- 2015 Kusimba, S., G. Kuniyu, and A. Wanyama. The Contingency Fund and the Thirteenth Cow, Part 2. IMTFI Blog, July 18. http://blog.imtifi.uci.edu/2015/07/the-contingency-fund-and-thirteenth-cow_20.html
- 2015 Kusimba, S. Interactive Webinar Recap with Professor Kusimba and *M-Changa*. IMTFI Blog, March 26. <http://blog.imtifi.uci.edu/2015/03/interactive-webinar-recap-with.html>
- 2015 Kusimba, S. Two New Videos about Networks and Mobile Money in Western Kenya. IMTFI Blog, April 3. <http://blog.imtifi.uci.edu/2015/02/two-new-videos-about-networks-and.html>
- 2013 Kusimba, S. Grandmothers as Mobile Money Brokers in Western Kenya. IMTFI Blog, Nov. 11. <http://blog.imtifi.uci.edu/2013/11/grandmothers-as-mobile-money-brokers-in.html>

Research Grants

- 2022 Financial Sector Deepening Trust Kenya, Nairobi. *Persistent Informality: Exploring the FinAccess Survey Using Ethnography* (US \$18,400). Principal Investigator, with Co-PI Naomy Wanga.
- 2021 USF Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship Application 2021-2022, with Scott Ferguson (Media Studies) and Nathan Johnson (English). *Money and Social Justice: Reclaiming the Public Sphere*. Unsuccessful.
- 2021 Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Financial Inclusion (WEE-DeFine) Research Initiative, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh. (US \$50,000). *Women's Economic Empowerment and Social Networks in Western Kenya*. With Chapurukha M. Kusimba (Anthropology) and Isaac Nyamongo (Cooperative University of Kenya). Unsuccessful.
- 2021 Financial Sector Deepening Trust Kenya, Nairobi. *Gendered Financial Products Survey and Evaluation* (US \$16,000). Unsuccessful.
- 2016 The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to Changa Labs, Nairobi. *Catalyzing Community Fundraising at Scale Using Mobile Money*. (\$30,000).
- 2015 The Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion at the University of California, Irvine. *Group versus Individual Strategies: Dynamic Social Networks of Mobile Money among Unbanked Women in Western Kenya* (\$11,400).
- 2015 Mellon Fund for Faculty Research, American University (\$4,000).
- 2014 The Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion at the University of California, Irvine. *Mobile Money and Coming of Age in Western Kenya*. (\$27,410).
- 2012 The Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion at the University of California, Irvine. *Family Wealth, Family Ties: Remittances and Kinship in Western Kenya*. (\$19,800).

- 2011 Research and Artistry Grant, Northern Illinois University. International Remittances in Kenya. (\$10,000).
- 2009 Fulbright Senior Scholar to Kenya, 11 months, 2009-2010. US Department of State (\$60,000).
- 2008 Lorraine Cobb Faculty Fellowship for Travel to Istanbul, Türkiye, Northern Illinois University (\$2000).
- 2007 National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) #0648762 *Archaeology of Mount Elgon, Kenya* (\$127,000) (Principal Investigator; C. Kusimba, Co-Principal Investigator).
- 2005 Research and Artistry Grant, Northern Illinois University. Archaeology of Mount Elgon (\$10,000).
- 2004 Faculty Research Grant, Northern Illinois University (\$35,000)
- 2002 Faculty Research Grant, Lawrence University (\$2500).
- 2000 Co-PI with National Science Foundation Archaeology Division Research Grant BCS-0106664. Hinterlands of Swahili Cities: Archaeological Investigations of Economy and Trade in Tsavo, Kenya. (\$150,702) (Co-Principal Investigator; C. Kusimba, Principal Investigator).
- 1995 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (\$10,000).
- 1994 National Science Foundation Dissertation Research Grant BNS SBR 93-20534 DISS (\$11,712).
- 1993 Fulbright Junior Scholar to Kenya (\$24,910).
- 1993 Center for African Studies Dissertation Research Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (\$400).
- 1993 Graduate College Dissertation Research Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (\$700).
- 1987 Travel and Tuition Grant to attend the Harvard University/National Museums of Kenya Koobi Fora Field School, Koobi Fora, Kenya, Department of Anthropology, Bryn Mawr College.

Invited Grants from LOI; Not Awarded

- 2015 Not awarded, but one of three finalists invited to apply for a World Bank initiative on mobile money. Title: Situating the Mobile Money Experience: Ethnographic Case Studies from sub-Saharan Africa (a collaborative grant with the University of California, Irvine with a total budget of \$300,000; American University component of the proposed budget was \$60,000)
- 2015 Not awarded, but one of 250 out of more than 2000 proposals selected from the LOI stage to final proposal: *Follow the money: How are new digital financial services impacting women's social networks and empowerment in Western Kenya?* The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (\$500,000).

Grants to Improve Teaching

- 2022 Participated in the Decolonizing Social Sciences and Humanities Course FLC Pedagogical Shukuk run by Tangela Searls and Kiran Najaram in Fall Semester.
- 2012 Course Transformation Project Faculty Fellow, Northern Illinois University. Redesign introductory course from in person to hybrid format.
- 2011 University Honors Program Course Development Grant, Northern Illinois University. (\$5000). Developed Honors Section of Introductory Course in Archaeology.
- 2002 Curriculum Development Grant, Lawrence University (\$1800). Redesign Introduction to Biological Anthropology Course.

Conference Chairperson

- 2022 International Conference Co-Chair with Dr. John Sharp, University of Pretoria. Conference Title: “Persistent Barriers, Emergent Frontiers: Fintech Futures in Africa.” Conference of the Human Economy Programme, University of Pretoria, October.
- 2019 Conference Chair, Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, February 2019. Meeting Theme: Wealth in People.

Invited Lectures

- 2025 Invited Speaker at the *Sustainable Digital Finance* Book Launch, Global Center for Sustainable Digital Finance and Stanford University in Washington, Washington, DC, April 24, 2005.
- 2025 Kusimba, C., and S. Kusimba. “Home with the Ancestors: Caring for the Dead in East Africa.” Invited paper for the conference, Caring for the Dead. Ancestor Veneration, Religious Encounters, and The State in The Mongol Empire and Africa. Northwestern University, April 3-5.
- 2025 “Digital Money as Mediator in Social and Financial Networks in Kenya.” Invited paper for the conference Financial Mediation of Quotidian Life at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Cinema and Media Studies, March 21-22.
- 2025 “Crowdfunding Care: A Hostile World?” Invited Paper presented at the International Conference and Workshop *Global Money Talks*, Department of Sociology and Program in Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, February 26-28.
- 2025 “Social Finance in Kenya: A Double-Edged Sword.” Invited Keynote Speaker for the International Conference Mis/Trust: Kinship, Gender, and Digital Economies in Kenya and Beyond. Kisii University, Kisii, Kenya, July 31.
- 2022 “Gender and the Mutual Sphere: Qualitative and FinAccess Perspectives.” Invited Speaker, with Naomi Wanga, at The Financial Inclusion Statistics Conference: Leveraging Financial Inclusion Statistics for Policy and Creation of Economic Opportunities. 8-11 November,

Nairobi, Kenya. Available on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEiyWAcoObc>.

- 2022 “Reimagining Money.” Chat to Senior Seminar in Anthropology about *Reimagining Money*, Macalester College, November (over Zoom).
- 2022 “Reimagining Money.” Invited Speaker, Technological Globalization from Below, Université de Paris Cité, Paris, France (over Zoom).
- 2022 “Digitalization in Africa.” Invited Speaker, Institute for African Studies, Cornell University (over Zoom).
- 2022 “Political Belonging and Financial Innovation among Kenyan Women in the United States.” Keynote Speaker for the International Conference The Values of Remittances in Times of Upheaval: Methods, Theories, and Approaches. The University of Leiden, Leiden, the Netherlands, October 13.
- 2022 “Research Methods in the Study of Digital Networks.” Invited Lecture to Research Methods Class, Department of Development Studies, University of Pretoria (Over Zoom).
- 2022 “Fintech in Africa: The Case of Kenya.” Co-Organizer Lecture at the International Conference Persistent Barriers, Emergent Frontiers: Fintech Futures in Africa. Fintech Futures Conference, University of Pretoria, October.
- 2022 “Women, Care, and Digital Money in Kenya.” Invited lecture for the online conference “Gender and Money. A Cross-Cultural Perspective.” Department of History and Archaeology, Cornell University. Over Zoom. 25 March.
- 2021 Book Talk on *Reimagining Money* for the Annual “Baraza” (Discussion) at the University of Florida Center for African Studies. Via Zoom. November.
- 2021 “Predators on the Silicon Savanna.” Invited Lecture for Eye on Africa, Michigan State University Department of African Studies. Oct 28, 2021.
- 2021 Project Lead, The Hustle Economy Academic Conference: Race, Gender, and Digital Entrepreneurship. Lecture Title: “Crowdfunding Care in Kenya.” Data and Society. Via Zoom. May 20.
- 2021 Book Talk on *Reimagining Money*. University of California, Irvine. Via Zoom. May 18.
- 2021 “M-Pesa in Kenya.” Speaker at Global Asymmetries, Digital Extractivism, and Economic Justice. Arizona State University, Program in Sustainability. Via Zoom. April 6.
- 2021 “Research Methods in the Study of Digital Networks.” Invited Lecture to Research Methods Class, Department of Development Studies, University of Pretoria (Over Zoom).
- 2021 Invited Panelist for *Webscraping and Digital Cultures in/of Africa: New Tools for Distanced Ethnography and Critique*. A Wenner-Gren Sponsored Webinar Panel. Via

Zoom. February 15 and 16.

- 2020 with Chapurukha M. Kusimba. “Cowries and Blood: Money, Value and Relationships in Precolonial East Africa.” *Weights and Measures: Understanding Money in Comparative Perspective from Prehistory to Modern Times*. Weights and Money May 27-29, Gottingen, Germany.
- 2020 “Digital Finance in Kenya: Cooperatives, Digital Credit, and Social Networks.” Invited Paper Presented at the Human Economy Programme, University of Pretoria, South Africa, March 8.
- 2019 “Family Fundraising, Networks, and Care.” Invited Paper Presented at the ERC-Funded Workshop, *Moralizing Misfortune: Anthropological Perspectives on Finance, Care, and Morality*. University of Leiden, The Netherlands, July.
- 2019 Conference Chairperson, Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meeting, February, Orlando, Florida. Theme: Wealth in People.
- 2018 “Remittances in Kenya.” Invited Lecture at the conference *Digital Finance in Africa’s Future*, University of Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, Johannesburg, South Africa, October 23, 2018.
- 2018 (with Muchen Zhou and Boyang Ma). “Kenya and China: Digital Payment Compared.” Invited paper for Shanghai-California Innovation Dialogues: From Fintech to Insurtech in China and the United States. The University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA, Sept. 27.
- 2018 “Debt, Dignity, and Digital Finance.” Invited Paper presented at the *Inaugural Roundtable of the Debt and Dignity Group*, Princeton University, May 10.
- 2017 “Group Finance and Digital Products in Kenya.” *Mobile Money, Development and Financial Inclusion in Africa*, The Center for Development Studies, Cornell University, April 22.
- 2016 “Mobile Money and Finance in Kenya.” Invited Lecture at *Financial Inclusion Research Day*, University of Bath Program in International Development, United Kingdom, November 2.
- 2016 “A Social Network Approach to Women’s Social and Economic Empowerment through M-Pesa Use.” Invited Lecture at *Women’s Empowerment and Digital Financial Services: Exploring the Connections*. USAID, Washington, DC, June 8.
- 2016 “M-Changa: A Digital Fundraising Platform in Kenya (with David Mark).” Invited Lecture to CGAP, Washington, DC, April 28.
- 2013 “Social Networks and Mobile Money in Kenya.” Presentation to the Africa Council of The Field Museum, Chicago, September 24.

- 2006 “Slave Trade and Ivory Trade on the Kenya Coast.” Invited Lecture, American Institute of Archaeology, University of Iowa, November 6.
- 2006 “Anthropology and the African Past.” Invited Lecture at one hundred Years at Loyola University Anthropology Celebration, Loyola University, Chicago, March 31.
- 2006 “Archaeology of the Ivory Trade in Africa.” Public Lecture presented at the Midwest Museum of Natural History, Sycamore, Illinois, February 12.
- 2005 “African Archaeology and Hunter-gatherers.” Colloquium Series, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge, April 28.
- 2004 “Mosaics in East African Archaeology.” Department of Anthropology Colloquium Series, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Oct. 25.
- 2002 “New Research on Trade in Africa.” Society of Wisconsin Archaeologists, The Oshkosh Public Museum, May 12.
- 1997 “Hunter-Gatherer Land Use Patterns in Later Stone Age East Africa.” Noon Balloon, Field Museum, Chicago, October 28.
- 1998 “Human Adaptations in Africa: Ideas from the Hunter-Gatherer Ethnographic Record.” Colloquium Presented to the Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, April 8.
- 1999 “Fossils and DNA: Modern Human Origins.” Talk for the Women’s Board, The Field Museum, April 11.
- 1999 “Origins.” Public Lecture at The Field Museum for Origins: Five Million Years of Human Evolution. Chicago, February 10.

Webinars, Podcasts, and Web Videos

- 2022 Crowdfunding Care in COVID Nairobi: Talk at Michigan State University.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0qTWL9SmRQ>
- 2022 Podcast with Jenny Huberman for Mergers and Acquisitions, the Society for Economic Anthropology podcast: <https://podcast.econanthro.org/2022/05/17/reimaging-money-in-kenya-a-conversation-with-sibel-kusimba/>
- 2021 Money on the Left Podcast Episode 36: <https://moneyontheleft.org/2021/06/01/kenya- in-the-digital-finance-revolution-with-sibel-kusimba/>
- 2018 Podcast for The Human Show: <https://worldpodcasts.com/sibel-kusimba-mobile-money-and-how-it- impacts-peoples-practices-relationships-and-perception-of-money-in-kenya-the- human-show-podcast-20/>

- 2016 Featured Guest on *UpFront*, the *Voice of America* broadcast to Africa about Mobile Money in Kenya.
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1360738550627552&id=440676892633727
- 2015 Featured Guest for an International Webinar hosted by the INGO NetHope: *Mobile Money, Philanthropy, and the Social Network Effect: Recent Research from Kenya and Product Innovation from M-Changa*. February 26.
- 2015 *Social Networks of Mobile Money in Kenya*. Seven-minute web video produced with videographer Steven McCord with the support of IMTFI, University of California.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sywez6yKEbo>
- 2014 *Mobile Economies in Kenya* - Webinar Wednesday at the American Anthropological Association, October 15. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atbC_eF8jiI

Conference Papers Presented

- 2025 *#NoWomanLeftBehind*: Political Belonging and Financial Innovation among Kenyan Women in the United States. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November.
- 2020 COVID-19, Wealth in People, and the Valuing of Life. Paper Presented at the 2020 Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November. Online.
- 2019 Fundraising Care in Kenyan Families. Paper Presented at the American Anthropological Association / Canadian Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, November.
- 2019 Media of Relational Work in Kenya's Digital Consumer Finance. Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics (SASE), New York City, June.
- 2018 Kenya and China: Digital Finance Compared. Paper Presented at the Shanghai-California Innovation Dialogues: From Fintech to Insurtech in China and the US. Irvine, California, Sept. 28.
- 2017 It is Easy for Women to Ask: Gendered Finance in Kenya. Paper presented at the Society for Economic Anthropology Meetings, Iowa City, April 7.
- 2016 Dynamic Networks of Mobile Money among Unbanked Women in Western Kenya. Paper Presented at the Seventh Conference for Funded Researchers, IMTFI, Irvine, California, April 20.
- 2015 Mobile Money and Emergent Finance in Kenya. Paper Presented at the PAC conference, American University, October 3.

- 2015 Social Networks of Mobile Money among Friends and Family in Western Kenya. Society for Economic Anthropology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, April 15.
- 2015 Idioms of Practice with Mobile Phones and Mobile Money in a Coming of Age Ritual in Western Kenya. American Ethnological Society, San Diego, CA, March 15.
- 2014 Mobile Money and Coming of Age in Western Kenya. Paper Presented at the Sixth Conference for Funded Researchers, IMTFI, Irvine, California, December 10.
- 2014 Family Networks of Mobile Money in Kenya. American Anthropological Association, December 3.
- 2014 The Anthropology of Mobile Communication in Kenya. Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa, Washington, DC, November 1.
- 2013 International Remittances and Networks of Mobile Money: Chicago-Bungoma, Kenya. Remapping the Black Atlantic, DePaul University, Chicago, April 13.
- 2012 Mobile Money and Social Networks in Kenya. Paper Presented at the Fourth Conference of Funded Researchers, IMTFI, Irvine, California, December 3.
- 2011 Family Wealth, Family Ties: Remittances and Stay-behinds in Bungoma, Kenya. African Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 12.
- 2008 Fortified and Refuge Sites of the Late Iron Age. African Studies Association, Chicago, November 22.
- 2004 (with Chapurukha M. Kusimba). Tsavo Archaeology: Mosaics of the Iron Age. African Studies Association, New Orleans, November 18.
- 2004 Quaker Missionaries as Anthropologists in Western Kenya. African Studies Association, New Orleans, November 21.
- 2004 Later Stone Age Archaeology in Tsavo. Society for American Archaeology, Montreal, April 9.
- 2003 Four Fields and African Archaeology. American Anthropological Association. Chicago, November.
- 2000 Archaeology of Urban Hinterlands in the Tsavo National Park, Kenya. Society for Africanist Archaeology, Cambridge, July.
- 2000 (with Chapurukha M. Kusimba). Later Stone Age Archaeology in Tsavo, Kenya. Society for American Archaeology, Chicago, March.
- 1998 The Howieson's Poort Industry from Nelson Bay Cave, South Africa. Paper read at the biennial meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Syracuse, New York, April.

- 1997 (With Chapurukha M. Kusimba). Who Were the Iron Age East Africans? African Studies Association, Columbus, Ohio, December.
- 1997 (With Chapurukha M. Kusimba). Who Were the Iron Age East Africans? American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November.
- 1995 Technological Organization Approaches to Africanist Lithic Analysis. American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November.
- 1995 Obsidian Raw Material Transport and Use at Lukenya Hill, Kenya. Pan African Congress of Prehistory and Related Studies, Harare, Zimbabwe, July.
- 1995 Later Stone Age Lithic Raw Material Use at Lukenya Hill, Kenya. Society for American Archaeology, Minneapolis, April.
- 1994 Middle and Later Stone Age Lithic Transport at Lukenya Hill, Kenya, and Nasera Rockshelter, Tanzania. Society of Africanist Archaeologists, Indianapolis, March.

Other Professional Activities

- 2001 Host and Content Specialist for *Origins* Electronic Field Trip, an interactive nationwide television broadcast. The Field Museum, Chicago, April 8.
- 1999 Curator and Content Specialist for the Human Evolution Exhibit *Origins*, The Field Museum, Chicago.

Campus Lectures

- 2023 “Studying Digital Media from an Economic Anthropology Perspective in Kenya. Guest Speaker for Foundations of Applied Anthropology Course Taught by Professor Heide Castaneda and Professor Tara Deubel, November.
- 2021 “Making a Video on Mobile Money Research in Kenya.” Guest Speaker for Visual Anthropology Course Taught by Professor Tara Deubel, March, 2021.
- 2018 Using Smartphone and iPhone in Visual Anthropology Assignments. Presentation at the Ann Ferren Conference, American University, January 11.
- 2015 Mobile Money, Digital Money, and Development in Kenya. Presentation to the Anthropology Society, American University, October 6.
- 2014 Mobile Money in Kenya. Lecture to Introduction to International Business with Professor Tomasz Mroczkowski, American University, November 13.
- 2014 Studying Social Networks of Mobile Communication. Presentation to the Anthropology Club, Northern Illinois University, March 18.

2004 Hunters and Others in East African Archaeology. Brown Bag, Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University, February 29.

2002 The Tsavo Research Program, Last Chance/First Chance Lecture Series, Lawrence University, May 25.

Student Theses Supervised

M. A. Thesis Supervisor, Jakai Wade, University of South Florida.

Ph.D. Thesis External Examiner for Summa Cum Laude Designation, Nikki Mulder, University of Leiden, The Netherlands.

M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Alanah Cooper, University of South Florida, 2024.

Ph.D. Thesis Committee Member, Salah Hamdoun, Arizona State University, 2024.

M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Francesca Ibarra, University of South Florida, 2024.

Ph.D. Thesis Supervisor, Shaye Wright, University of South Florida, 2022-2024. Student did not complete study.

Ph.D. Thesis External Examiner, Decide Mabumbo, University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2024.

Directed Study, University of South Florida, Shaye Wright; 2023.

M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Shaye Wright, University of South Florida, 2022.

Directed Study, University of South Florida: Kristen Vogel, 2022.

Ph.D. Thesis External Examiner, Ireoluwa Deborah Aderibigbe, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 2022.

M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Kirsten Vogel, University of South Florida, 2021.

Ph.D. Thesis External Examiner, Thibault Uytterhaegen, University of Bath, UK, 2021

Ph.D. Thesis External Examiner, Josiah Taru, University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2020

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Mark Baker, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Laurel Gupton, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Addison Marry, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Rebecca Aker, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Patsy Glad, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Kathryn Scavuzzo, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Shelby Moring, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Laura Sislen, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Moira Hamilton, American University, 2019

B. A. Thesis Capstone Supervisor, Adriana Hooks, American University, 2019

B. A. Honors Thesis Capstone, Shannon Keene, American University, 2017
B. A. Honors Thesis Capstone, Angie Cook, American University, 2016
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Sean McConnell, Northern Illinois University, 2013
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Kate Dewitt, Northern Illinois University, 2013
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Adam Kutryb, Northern Illinois University, 2013
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Shawn Smith, Northern Illinois University, 2013
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Tiffany Arnold, Northern Illinois University, 2012
M. A. Thesis Supervisor, Sarah Howard, Northern Illinois University, 2009
M. A. Thesis Supervisor, Ryan Szymanski, Northern Illinois University, 2008
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Jennifer Howard, 2008
Ph.D. Committee Member, University of Illinois at Chicago: Rahul Oka, 2008
M. A. Thesis Supervisor, Justin Faulkner, Northern Illinois University, 2007
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Susan Kwosek, 2006
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Rebecca Bria, 2004
Ph.D. Committee Member, University of Illinois at Chicago: David Wright, 2004
M. A. Thesis Committee Member, Kevin Cooney, 2003

Courses Taught

University of South Florida:

Foundations of Applied Anthropology
Peoples and Cultures of Africa
Applied Anthropology
Cultural Anthropology
Theories of Culture
Contemporary Anthropological Theory
Introduction to Anthropology

American University:

Culture and the Human Experience
Culture and Power
Senior Capstone (Thesis)
Taboos
Anthropological Research Methods
Anthropological Theory
Foundations of Anthropological Theory
Living in Multicultural Societies
Contemporary Ethnographies
Digital Humanity
Ancient Civilizations

Northern Illinois University:

Archaeological Method and Theory
Archaeology of Gender
Archaeology of Africa
Foragers and Others: Hunter-gatherer Lifeways
Ecological Anthropology
Migration and Diaspora
Peoples and Cultures of Africa
Ancient Civilizations
Ethnohistory

Lawrence University:

Freshman Studies
Introduction to Anthropology
Introduction to Biological Anthropology
Introduction to Archaeology
Colonial and Post-Colonial East Africa
Ecological Anthropology
Senior Thesis

Awards

- 2004 *African Foragers* named as a CHOICE outstanding academic book for 2003 by the American Library Association
- 1995 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (\$15,000).
- 1994 Graduate Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (\$5,000).
- 1992 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for the study of Advanced Swahili (\$5,000), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 1989 Departmental Honors in Anthropology, Bryn Mawr College.
- 1987 Frederica de Laguna Award for Meritorious Academic Work, Department of Anthropology, Bryn Mawr College.

Professional and University Service

University of South Florida: Publications Committee, CAS; Graduate Committee, Department of Anthropology; Committee on Staff, Student, and Faculty Success, Department of Anthropology.

Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA): Chairperson for 2019 Meeting and Local Arrangements Committee for 2019 Meeting; Awards Committee, Meetings Schedule and Other

Ad-hoc Committees

African Studies Association (ASA): Local Planning Committee for 2008 Meetings

American University: Undergraduate Studies Committee, Curriculum Committee, Anthropology Club Faculty Advisor

Northern Illinois University: Provost's Committee on University Affairs (Nominated; one-year term), Library Committee, College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Committee on Tenure and Promotion (Nominated, one-year term); Department of Anthropology, Committee on Faculty Review, Committee on Exams

Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University: Personnel, Curriculum, Exams, Hiring Committees

Referee

African Affairs, Antipode, Journal of Cultural Economy, Cultural Anthropology, Journal of Critical African Studies, Africa Today (Indiana), Journal of East African Studies, Africa, African Studies Review, Journal of Development Studies, World Development, Oxford Development Studies, Socio-Economic Review, Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East Economic Anthropology, Antiquity, American Antiquity, African Archaeological Review, National Science Foundation, Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory, Critique of Anthropology, Stanford University Press, Zed Books, Cambridge University Press.

Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion

Mralini Tankha, Portland State University, 2025.

Non-Profit Board Member

2015-2018 Scientific Advisor to Changa Labs, a non-profit focusing on crowdfunding and development in sub-Saharan Africa.

2024-2025 Treasurer of the Mama Doing Good Foundation, an American 501c3 foundation focusing on connecting Kenyan women entrepreneurs with economic opportunities and markets in the US for products like honey, skin care, and handicrafts made by Kenyan women cooperatives.

Memberships

American Anthropological Association; Society for Economic Anthropology; African Studies Association.