

Kente and Kinship

Mapping the Engagement of Ghanaian Poets with African Descendants of Slavery in the United States through Poetry

The **'Kente and Kinship: Mapping the Engagement of Ghanaian Poets with African Descendants of Slavery in the United States through Poetry'** project based at the Centre for Digital Humanities and funded by the African Poetry Digital Humanities Grant through the Mellon Foundation is hiring an additional temporary research assistant RA for cartography and graphic design.

Application Requirements

- Applications must include a CV and cover letter. those invited for interview will be asked to submit previous work.
- RAs must be UK based and available to work from January 2024 - December 2024
- RAs will be paid £15.52 per hour for 125-150 hours
- RAs will work a maximum of 10 hours per week

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Direct questions to mdj35@cam.ac.uk. Follow the project on IG @kindredlab.inc and LinkedIn for updates <https://www.linkedin.com/company/kindredlabinc/>

Research Assistant Role Description



[Cartography + Graphics Research Assistant](#)

Bachelor's degree or extensive experience in Geography, Cartography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Graphic Design, or a related field. Given the project's focus on geospatial data, a background in geography or GIS is particularly beneficial.

Demonstrated expertise in GIS software like ArcGIS or QGIS. The ability to work with geospatial data, perform spatial analysis, and create maps is crucial.

Strong graphic design skills, particularly in Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign). The ability to create aesthetically pleasing and informative visual materials.

Familiarity with the geography of the relevant regions (Ghana, United States) and an understanding of the importance of geographic context in historical analysis.

Experience in digital humanities, including familiarity with interactive mapping.

Project Abstract

The relationship between Africa and its diaspora is often centered around two major movements: 1) forced trans-Atlantic enslavement beginning in the early 1600s and 2) refugee and voluntary migration from the mid-1900s to contemporary times. In both periods, concepts of identity and kinship are integral. Historically, colonizers destroyed their captives' sense of identity and kinship during the slave trade.

Contemporarily, diasporans and Africans have sought to reconstruct their identities in relation to one another while also redefining notions of kinship. Through a geographical lens, this research project aims to explore how Ghanaian poets relate to diaspora and kinship in their poetry, as well as through their own travels. In this work, the term diasporans is scoped narrowly to focus on African Americans in the United States who are descendants of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

The research questions being investigated are:

1. In these poets' poems related to diaspora and kinship:
 1. what places in the United States and Ghana do they reference?
 2. are certain locations more frequently mentioned in poems than others?
 3. what diasporans in the United States do their works engage?
2. In the poets' biographies and in the historical contexts of the related locations:
 1. what locations in the United States and Ghana did they visit that allowed them to connect with diasporans?
 1. do certain locations become more or less popular over time?
 2. are certain locations more frequently visited than others?
 3. what value do these locations hold for the core themes of diaspora and kinship?

To answer these questions, this research examines how geographic mapping and close reading reveal how Ghanaian poets relate to diasporans and kinship in their poetry. The research methodology includes the collection and digitization of poetry, close reading of the selected poems, historical analysis, and geographic mapping.