**Wolfgang Alders**

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World wolf.a.alders@gmail.com

New York University +1-510-575-4392 15 East 84th St., New York wolfalders.github.io

NY 10028 ORCID: 0000-0002-8656-3765

**EDUCATION**

2022 PhD, Anthropology (Archaeology), **University of California, Berkeley**

Dissertation Title: Uneven Ground: The Archaeology of Social Transformation in Zanzibar, Tanzania

2016 M.A. Anthropology (Archaeology), University of California, Berkeley

2014 B.A. Dual Degrees, Anthropology (Honors) and Archaeology, Johns Hopkins University

**EMPLOYMENT**

2026-2028 Marie Sklodowska-Curie European Fellow, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge University. Supervisor: Paul Lane

2025, Fall Lecturer, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA

2024-2025 Visiting Research Scholar, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU

2024, Fall Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, NYU

2022-2024 National Science Foundation SBE Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies, University of Arkansas Fayetteville. Supervisor: Carla Klehm

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

In Review **Alders, W.** Trajectories of high and low-density urbanism on the tropical eastern African Swahili Coast. In review with the *Journal of Archaeological Research.*

In Review **Alders, W.** Evaluating forced displacement on the eastern African Swahili Coast, 500-1900 CE. In review for the edited volume *Archaeologies of Forced Displacement: Methods, Case Studies, and Prospects,* eds. Aaron Burke and Li Min. Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press.

In Review Dumitru, I.A., **Alders, W.,** Kristiansen, S.M., Lupien R., Raja, R., Sindbæk, S.M., Olsen, J. Global climate event coincides with extreme drought and migrations in 6th – 7th centuries CE eastern Africa. In review for *Science*.

In Press **Alders W.**, Juma, K., Manzi, Z., Muhammed, H., Musa, H., Suleiman, H., Ubwa, A.,

Vuai, A., Ali, A. Raiding, refuge, and mobility on the eastern African Swahili Coast. Accepted and in press in *Current Anthropology*.

2025 **Alders, W.;** Lim, J.; Brunner, L. Detecting baobab trees (Adansonia digitata) in drone imagery and evaluating their anthropogenic legacy in eastern Africa. Accepted and in press in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

2025 Haji, F.; Haji, K. S.; Ally, A.; **Alders, W.;** Othman, B.; Mussa, M.; Kasala, A.; Hamad, H. F.; Khamis, A. A. Archaeological investigations at Pungume, a small island off the coast of southern Unguja in Zanzibar, Tanzania. *Nyame Akuma.*

2024 **Alders, W.** Rural settlement dynamics in a rapidly urbanizing landscape: insights from satellite remote sensing and archaeological field surveys in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The *Journal of Field Archaeology.* 49(8), 634–652. https://doi.org/10.1080/00934690.2024.2402962

2024 **Alders, W.**, Davis, D.; Haines, J. Archaeology in the fourth dimension: studying landscapes with multitemporal PlanetScope satellite data. *The* *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*. 31: 1588–1621. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10816-024-09644-x

2024 **Alders W.** Clientage, debt, and the integrative orientation of non-elites on the East African Swahili coast. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*. 73. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaa.2023.101553

2023 **Alders W.** Open-access archaeological predictive modeling using zonal statistics: a case study from Zanzibar, Tanzania. *Journal of Computer Applications in Archaeology* 6(1): 117-142. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5334/jcaa.107

2023 **Alders W.** The archaeology of social transformation in rural Zanzibar, Tanzania, eleventh to nineteenth centuries CE. 40(4): 741-760. *African Archaeological Review*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10437-023-09523-y

2020 **Alders W.** Preliminary results of a 2019 survey in inland Zanzibar, Tanzania.

*Nyame Akuma* 94: 38-45.

2016 **Alders W.** Archaeological survey and landscape history at Gede, Kenya. *Nyame Akuma* 85: 33-43.

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

(in prep) **Alders, W.,** Dumitru, I., Mjema, E.The archaeology of Iron Age East Africa from 1-1500 CE: fragmented between classical, historical, and anthropological traditions (in prep for *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa*).

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS** **(total: $592,462)**

2026-2028 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, Cambridge University ($286,200)

2025 American Philosophical Society, Franklin Research Grant ($6500)

2024 Research Fund, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU ($5717)

2022-24 PI, NSF SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, “Modeling Long-Term Urban and Rural Settlement Dynamics.” National Science Foundation ($148,000)

2023-24 ARUA/Universitas 21 Early Career Researcher Collaboration Award, “Dynamic Coasts and Landscapes of Resilience: Exploring Historical Adaptations to Climatic and Environmental Extremes in Tropical East Africa”. With Ioana Dumitru (University of Sydney), Musa Mwitondi, and Elinaza Mjema (University of Dar es Salaam). ($15,000)

2022-23 Spatial Archaeology Residential and Online Institute (SAROI) Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities, Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies, University of Arkansas ($13,630)

2021 Al-Falah Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern Studies ($7000), UC Berkeley

2020 Lowie-Olson Research Grant, UC Berkeley ($3000), Dept. of Anthropology

2019-2020 Doctoral Completion Fellowship Award, University of California, Berkeley ($23,000)

2019 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Research Grant (#1836770), “The Relationship between Agriculture and Population Distribution.” National Science Foundation ($25,200). (PI: Lisa Maher)

2019 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (#9725), “Settlement History in the Plantation Landscapes of Central Zanzibar, AD 1500-1850”. Wenner-Gren Foundation ($20,000)

2019 Simpson Dissertation Fellowship, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley ($15,000)

2017 Rocca Dissertation Fellowship, Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley ($2400)

2016 - 2021 Stahl Endowment Research Grant, UC Berkeley, Archaeological Research Facility ($3000)

2016 Conference Travel Grant, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley ($1500)

2016 Language Award, Advanced Kiswahili, FLAS, Yale University ($7500)

2016 Pre-Dissertation Grant, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley ($5000)

2016 Summer Language Grant, Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley ($3000)

2015 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention. National Science Foundation

2015 Andrew Mellon Foundation Research Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC

Berkeley ($1815)

2014 George and Mary Foster Fellowship, Dept. of Anthropology, UC Berkeley

2014 William V. Power Graduate Award, UC Berkeley

2012 Dean’s Undergraduate Research Award (DURA) “Remote Sensing with an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for Archaeology in Oman”.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Instructor**

2025 Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles

GIS for Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management (Fall)

2024 Dept. of Anthropology, New York University

Anth-UA 213, Topics in Archaeology, “Landscape Archaeology” (Fall)

2022 Dept. of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley

R5B Freshman Writing Seminar, “Politics of African Archaeology and Heritage” (Spring)

**Teaching Assistant**

2021 Dept. of Environ. Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley

ESPM 72 – Intro to Geographic Information Systems (Summer)

2015-2020 Dept. of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley

Anth 2AC: Intro to Archaeology (Fall 2015, 2018, 2020)

2016-2018 Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley

MES 15: Intro to Near Eastern Art and Archaeology (Spring 2016, 2017, 2018)

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2011-2014 Collections Assistant, Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum

Fall 2012 GIS Technician at Cultural Site Research and Management Foundation (CSRM) in Baltimore, Maryland. Supervisor: Doug Comer.

**TRAINING, MENTORSHIP, AND WORKSHOPS**

2025 Created QGIS for Archaeology modules. UCLA, sub-contractor for Dr. Stephen Acabado.

2025 Workshop: “Detecting Archaeologically Significant Trees in Drone Imagery with Automated Methods”. In Automated Methods in Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, New York University

2024 Workshop: “Archaeology in the Fourth Dimension: CORONA, HEXAGON, and Other Multitemporal Satellite Imagery”, delivered for the Archaeology of China graduate seminar class, Cotsen Institute, UCLA

2023 Training and mentoring in ceramic analysis and data management for Anthropology major, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

2023 Workshop: “GIS and GNSS for Archaeology”, delivered for staff in Dept. of Museums and Antiquities, Zanzibar, Tanzania

2023 Trained two PhD and three undergraduate students in survey methods, GNSS, GIS, and ceramic analysis during fieldwork in Zanzibar, Tanzania

2020 Supervised two undergraduates in managing field data in Excel. PI: Lisa Maher

2019 Trained five students from State University of Zanzibar in archaeological field methods, remote sensing, and ceramic analysis

2018 Supervised two undergraduates in soil analysis of sediments from Zanzibar, Tanzania. PI: Lisa Maher, UC Berkeley

2016-17 Trained five undergraduates doing structure-from-motion photogrammetry of Iron Age ceramics from Jordan. PI: Benjamin Porter, UC Berkeley

2015 Supervised two undergraduates in a collaborative research project with Musanda Royal Council of Tsimbupfe, South Africa. PI: Jun Sunseri, UC Berkeley

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES LED BY THE RESEARCHER**

2023-2025 Co-PI, CALOR Project, Pangani, Tanzania.

2022-2024 PI, Zanzibar Urban-Rural Complexity Project. Zanzibar, Tanzania

2016-2022 Co-PI, Inland Zanzibar Archaeological Survey. Zanzibar, Tanzania.

2013 Co-PI, Archaeological Survey of Gede, Kenya.

**OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2022-23 Field archaeologist, Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, sUAS mapping projects, Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies, University of Arkansas

2017 Field archaeologist, Later Zanzibar Archaeology Project. PIs: Adria LaViolette,

University of Virginia, Neil Norman, College of William and Mary.

2017 Field archaeologist, Old Fort, Zanzibar. PI: Mark Horton, Bristol University.

2017 Field archaeologist, Unguja Ukuu, Zanzibar. PIs: Stephanie Wynne-Jones, University of York, Federica Sulas, Aarhus University.

2016-17 Graduate Research Assistant, structure-from-motion photogrammetry of Iron Age Jordan ceramics. UC President’s Catalyst Award Project. PI: Benjamin Porter, UC Berkeley

2015 Field archaeologist, Later Zanzibar Archaeology Project. PIs: Adria LaViolette,

University of Virginia. Neil Norman, College of William and Mary.

2014 Field archaeologist, Albany Bulb Archaeological Survey. PI: Annie Danis, UC Berkeley.

2014 Field archaeologist, Ifugao Archaeological Project, Philippines. PI: Stephen Acabado, UCLA.

2014 Collections Assistant, Roman Coin Translation and Cataloguing Project. Supervisors: Sanchita Balachandran and Elisabeth Campbell, Johns Hopkins University.

2013 Field Archaeologist, Archaeological Water Histories of Oman Project. PI:

Michael Harrower, Johns Hopkins University.

2012 Field School Participant - Dzhungar Mountains Archaeological Project, Kazakhstan. PI:

Michael Frachetti, Washington University in St. Louis

**ORGANIZED CONFERENCE SESSIONS**

2025 Chair, “Catastrophes in African Archaeology: Exploring Responses to Both Extreme and Incremental Challenges”. Society of Africanist Archaeologists Biennial Meeting, with Ioana Dumitru and Elinaza Mjema. Discussant: Paul Lane.

2023 Chair, “25 Years Beyond Chiefdoms: Susan McIntosh's Pathways to Complexity Influence on African Archaeology.” Society of Africanist Archaeologists Biennial Meeting, with Carla Klehm. Discussants: Susan McKintosh and Stephanie Wynne-Jones

2021 Organizer, “Uses of Survey in Worldwide Contemporary Archaeology.” Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Online.

**PRESENTATIONS IN PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES**

2025 Dumitru, I., Mjema, E., **Alders, W.**, Mwitondi, M.; Kisoma, M., Lelio, H. “Dynamic Coasts and Landscapes of Resilience (CALOR): A LiDAR Survey from Pangani Bay (N. Tanzania)”. *Society of Africanist Archaeologists Biennial Meeting, 2025.* In session “Catastrophes in African Archaeology: Exploring Responses to Both Extreme and Incremental Challenges.” Co-Chairs: Wolfgang Alders, Ioana Dumitru, Elinaza Mjema

2024 **Alders W.** “Modeling Socioecological Transformation in Coastal East Africa: A Case Study from Unguja Island, Zanzibar, Tanzania”. *Society for American Archaeology, 89th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.* **Invited talk,** in “African Islands: A Comparative Archaeology.” Chair: Krish Seetah

2024 Dumitru, I., **Alders, W.** “Dynamic Coasts and Landscapes of Resilience: Archaeological and Environmental Hotspot Modeling on the Swahili Coast (Sixth-Nineteenth Century CE).” *Society for American Archaeology, 89th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.* In “Environmental Archaeology in Africa.” Chair: Asia Alsgaard.

2023 **Alders W.** “Heterarchy, Anti-Colonial Infrastructures, and the Busaid State in 19th- Century Zanzibar.” *Society of Africanist Archaeologists Biennial Meeting, Houston, TX.* In session “25 Years Beyond Chiefdoms: Susan McIntosh's Pathways to Complexity Influence on African Archaeology.” Co-Chairs: Carla Klehm and Wolfgang Alders

2023 **Alders W.**, Haines, J. “Landscapes of Stone in Mauritius and Zanzibar.” *Society for American Archaeology, 88th Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.* **Invited talk,** in “Adventures in Spatial Archaeometry: A Survey of Recent High-Resolution Survey and Measurement Application.” Session organizers: Sarah Watson and Elizabeth Clay

2021 **Alders W.** “Long-Term Settlement in Plantation Regions of Unguja, Zanzibar.” *Society for American Archaeology 86th Annual Meeting, Online.* In session, “Uses of Survey in Worldwide Contemporary Archaeology.” Session organizer: Wolfgang Alders, University of California, Berkeley

2021 **Alders W.** “Settlement and Environment on Zanzibar in the Context of the Western Indian Ocean”. *Society for American Archaeology 86th Annual Meeting, Online*. **Invited talk,** in lightning-round panel “An Ocean of connections: tangible and intangible exchanges in the IOW.” Organizers: Stefania Manfio and Alessandra Cianciosi

2017 **Alders W.**, Ali, A. K. “Preliminary Results of Geoarchaeological Sampling and Survey to Investigate Landscape History in Northern Unguja, Zanzibar.” *Society for American Archaeology 82nd Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC.* In the panel, “Advances in Geoarchaeological Research Methods.” Session organizer: Michael Wilson, Simon Fraser University

2016 **Alders W.**, Rice, Mwamba Agriculture, and Civilizational Discourse in Zanzibar: 11th- 17th Centuries AD. *Society of Africanist Archaeologists Biennial Meeting, Toulouse, FR.* In panel, “Landscape formation processes and archaeological research in Africa.” Session Organizer: Brian Clark, Rice University

**OTHER INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS**

2025 Moderator for the session “Means of Movement, in the ISAW Graduate Student Conference, Itinerancy and Agency Across the Ancient World. NYU.

2025 East Africa and Indian Ocean Trade. Discussant in the *Interconnected Seminar* at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU.

2025 A Socioecological Model for Long-Term Settlement Dynamics on the Eastern African Swahili Coast. Invited Talk. *Department of Anthropology, University of Texas, Arlington.*

2025 Rural Settlement Dynamics in a Rapidly Urbanizing Landscape: Insights from Satellite Remote Sensing and Field Surveys in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Invited Talk. *Seminars in the School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability, Missouri State University*

2024 The Archaeology of Zanzibar’s Colonial Landscape. Lecture for the class *Archaeological Connections Across the Indian Ocean, Anth 300.* University of Syracuse.

2024 “Zanzibar resembles a city with a hostile army encamped in its neighborhood”: Coastal Raiding and the Archaeology of Refuge on the Swahili Coast. Invited talk, *Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Advanced Seminar, Archaeologies of Forced Migration: Approaches, Case Studies and Prospects.* Organized by Li Min and Aaron Burke, UCLA

2024 Social Transformation in the Shadow of the Stone Town: The Archaeology of Rural Landscapes in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Invited talk, *Columbia Center for Archaeology, Columbia University.*

2024 The Archaeology of East African Cities: Past, Present, and Future. Lecture for the class *African and African American Studies 1003.* University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

2023 Integration and Autonomy in the Island Hinterland of Zanzibar Stone Town, 8th-19th centuries CE. *The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA*

2022 Exploring Swahili Urban Transformations. Anthropology Brown Bag, *University of*

*Arkansas, Fayetteville*

2022 Uneven Ground: The Archaeology of Settlement Reorganization in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

*Archaeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley*

2022 Moderator for the panel “Abdulrazak Gurna’s Nobel Prize in Literature:

Implications in the African Language Classroom.” *Dept. of African and African-American Studies, UC Berkeley:* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3C0rx72X8Y

2020 Presenter, “Long-Term Inland Settlement and Agricultural Change in Zanzibar, Tanzania.” *Dept. of Anthropology, UC Berkeley:* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvpBzCwJfGM

2020 Land Use, Labor, and Long-Term History in Rural Zanzibar, Tanzania. African

Archaeology Research Day. *University of Leicester*

2020 Long-Term Inland Settlement and Agricultural Change in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

*Archaeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley*

2016 Cultivating Cosmopolitanism: Long-Term Archaeological Histories, Agriculture and Poetry in Zanzibar. In *Symposium on Early Modern Identities. UC Berkeley*

2016 Becoming Zanzibar: Comparative Archaeological and Ecological Histories of Unguja and Pemba. *Archaeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley*

2014 Museum Chat, “Roman Coins from the Franklin Wright Collection”. With Elisabeth Campbell and Sheri Leonard. *Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum. Johns Hopkins University*

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

2024 Early Globalization and Ancient Connectivity on the Eastern African Swahili Coast: A View from Pangani Bay in Northern Tanzania. Public Lecture, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University.

2024 Archaeological Research at Kiwani Vee. Presented to the Sheha and Community of Fuoni Kibondeni, Zanzibar, Tanzania, in collaboration with the Zanzibar Department of Museums and Antiquities

2022 The Archaeology of Social Transformation in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Public Lecture, The Ko-ko-ci Arkansas Archaeological Survey

2022 Translation and dissemination of archaeological results into Swahili and community meetings in Zanzibar, Tanzania. With Jackson Kimambo and Abdallah Khamis Ali

2019 Archaeology Outreach Day – Dig Kits at East Oakland Youth Development Center.

2019 Archaeology Outreach Day – Dig Kits at Mosswood Park, Oakland, CA.

2017-2018 ORIAS Speaker Bureau, “The Archaeology of the Swahili Coast: East Africa and the Indian Ocean.” Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley. Three talks for 12th grade AP Human Geography at Bishop O’Dowd High School, two talks for 6th grade Social Science at Park Day School and two talks for 7th grade World History at Life Academy of Health and Bioscience.

2016 GIS technician, SaveNubia Project, Contra Costa College.

2016 Madera Elementary School Archaeological Outreach Day visit, Oakland CA.

2015-ongoing Created and contributed to the Swahili Archaeology and Poetry Blog: https://archaeologyinswahili.wordpress.com/

2015 Madera Elementary School Archaeological Outreach Day visit, Oakland CA.

2015 “Archaeology, Race and Colonialism in Africa”, a talk presented to students in the African-American History class at Bishop O’Dowd High School, Oakland, CA

**OPEN-ACCESS DATABASES**

2025 **Alders, W.**; Lim, J.; Brunner, L. “Baobab Detection and Analysis to Evaluate Anthropogenic Legacies in Eastern Africa”, Mendeley Data, V2, doi: 10.17632/k7fnj5ks6n.2. <https://data.mendeley.com/drafts/k7fnj5ks6n>

2022 **Alders, W.** “Zonal Statistics and Historical Map Analysis: Zanzibar, Tanzania. Harvard Dataverse. <https://doi.org/doi:10.7910/DVN/BA4VKT>.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

2025 Review, journal article, Archaeological Prospection

2025 Reviewer, journal article, African Archaeological Review

2024 Reviewer, journal article, Journal of African Archaeology

**LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

English (native), Swahili (fluent), German (intermediate)

**RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

Geographic Information Systems (ESRI ArcGIS Pro, QGIS)

Remote Sensing (ENVI, Trimble eCognition)

Terrestrial and Drone-Based Photogrammetry (Agisoft Metashape)

UAV / Drone Applications for Archaeology (US FAA Remote Pilot License: 4782391)

GNSS Mapping (Trimble, Emlid)

Artifact Photography

**MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

European Association of Archaeologists

Society for American Archaeology

Society of Africanist Archaeologists