

# THE POLITICS OF HERITAGE IN SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA: REPRESENTATION OF THE WOLAITA

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CMU 202



Postcolonial theory has offered important critiques of the representation of minority groups in the field of heritage studies. However, the colonizer/colonized binary often found in postcolonial theory can be problematic in a country that has “never been formally colonized.” Situating postcolonial discourse in Ethiopia, Dr. Dunnivant explores the representational strategies of the Wolaita across various museal and tourist spaces. As one of the largest minority groups in southern Ethiopia, Wolaita culture and heritage provide an entrée into the politics of representation in Africa more broadly and the ways in which identity is reified and by various institutions.

**Dr. Justin Dunnivant** is an Academic Pathways Postdoctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt University's Spatial Analysis Research Laboratory. His current work in the US Virgin Islands investigates the relationship between ecology and enslavement in the former Danish West Indies. Justin has conducted archaeological research in US Virgin Islands, Belize, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, and The Gambia. Working with *Diving with A Purpose's* Maritime Archaeology Training Program he has assisted with the documentation of the Slobodna and Acorn wrecks as well as the search for the slave ship, Guerrero. Justin is co-founder and President of the Society of Black Archaeologists, an AAUS Scientific SCUBA Diver, and consults for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture Slave Wrecks Project.



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