

EYE ON AFRICA

MSU AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER
SPEAKER SERIES
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Speaker: **Kara Moskowitz**

Topic: **Seeing Like a Citizen: Decolonization, Development, and the Making of Kenya, 1945-1980**

Date: **Thursday, April 2nd, 2020**

Time: **12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

Place: **Room 201 International Center**

**All are welcome!
Lunch will be provided.**

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Kara Moskowitz is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She specializes in modern Kenya, international development, and decolonization. In her research, she looks in particular at how local negotiations over transnational development programs shaped states, citizenship, and political authority. She has publications in the *Journal of African History* and the *International Journal of African Historical Studies* and recently published her first book, *Seeing Like a Citizen: Decolonization, Development, and the Making of Kenya, 1945-1980* with Ohio University Press in the New Africa History series.

ABOUT THE TALK

This talk approaches Kenya's late colonial and early postcolonial eras as a single period of political, economic, and social transition. During this period, many Kenyans framed their aspirations for independence in the language of development. In the process of pursuing development, rural Kenyans helped determine the policy priorities of the new nation, and they worked out how citizens accessed resources. Centering on the diverse set of actors negotiating development exposes constraints on state power and reveals how average people fashioned citizenship in the postcolonial world. Focusing on deliberations over the meaning and method of development thus deepens our knowledge of how global political practices came to be composed and recomposed on the ground in local settings, offering important insights into the texture of political life in the early postcolonial world.



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International Studies & Programs
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CONTACT 517.353.1700 | africa.isp.msu.edu