



UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES

Ghana's Electric Dreams



Inauguration of the Akosombo Dam, 22 January 1956

This talk by UCSB's Professor Stephan Miescher is based on his forthcoming monograph on the history of Ghana's most ambitious development project, the Volta River Project and the Akosombo dam, completed in 1965, and their importance for the process of nation building. It will include the showing of part of a documentary film based on Miescher's research which was directed and edited by R. Lane Clark. The film visits sites affected by the dam and the broader vision of modernization that it represents. Historical footage and interviews with Ghanaians reveal the complexities, contradictions and unintended consequences that have ensued.



Miescher (left) and R. Lane Clark with Ibrahim Yussig, the chief of New Makongo, Ghana

Stephan Miescher, after receiving his Ph.D. from Northwestern University, published his first book (Making Men in Ghana) in 2005 and has edited six collections of essays on African history. His major fellowships include the UC President's Fellowship in the Humanities (2010-11) and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) (2007-08). He served as co-editor of Ghana Studies from 2008-2013. He will speak at 4 pm in the Faulkner Gallery of the SB Public Library on Saturday, October 5.

Ghana's Electric Dreams - Santa Barbara Public Library (Faulkner Gallery) - 40 East Anapamu St. - Saturday, Oct. 5, 4 pm.

This event is free and open to the public, but please remember that donations to help with expenses are always welcome!