

Abstract

This project investigates Ugandan citizens' political decision-making processes during the 1981-1986 Ugandan Civil War. In January 1986, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) took power in Uganda after a brutal civil war in which thousands – if not hundreds of thousands – of Ugandans died. This project investigates the circumstances and motivations that drew civilians to the NRM during the 1981-1986 Ugandan Civil War. It does this to understand how communities understand and confer political legitimacy in moments of intense and protracted violence. This project is based on nearly two years of prior fieldwork. An NEH Summer Stipend will support the final oral and archival research necessary for the completion of a book manuscript in the fields of African Studies and History, tentatively titled *Suffering, Struggle, and the Politics of Legitimacy in Uganda, 1958-1996*.