"Making [Digital] Heritage in Banda:"
Photos as Affordances in Community-engaged Memory Work

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Monday, September 16th, 2019
11:30 am – 12:50 pm
Cornett Building: B107

For centuries--indeed millennia--life in rural West Africa has been connected to far-flung places which affected life at home. This is no less true of recent decades in the Banda area of west central Ghana where I have been involved in archaeological and historical research since the early 1980s. Here my focus is on how photo and other archives of the Banda Research Project (BRP, 1982-2011) act as affordances for Banda families and community as they reflect on changes wrought through recent and longer-term connections. Riffing on the title of my 2001 book-- "Making History in Banda"--and echoing its focus on historical knowledge production as a process embedded in present-day contexts with future implications, I'll share in-progress work that puts BRP archives in community hands. Working together with the Banda Heritage Initiative Local Committee, I'll discuss memory work and performance sparked by archival photos and share examples of the digital heritage resources that are emerging from this community-engaged SSHRC-funded partnership project.