

CURRICULUM VITAE

**SAMUEL MARK ANDERSON**

+1 323 703 9624 • samuel.mark.anderson@gmail.com  
samuelmarkanderson.net

**EDUCATION**

---

Ph.D. Culture and Performance, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)	2014
Dissertation: "Celebrity, Violence, and the Mystic Arts in Postwar Sierra Leone"	
Readers: Allen F. Roberts (chair), Donald Cosentino, Steven Nelson, Aparna Sharma	
M.A. Performance Studies, New York University (NYU)	2009
B.A. Anthropology and Drama, University of Washington (UW)	2000

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

---

Politics and aesthetics, visual ethnography, media, war, violence, humanitarianism, nationalism, Islam, ritual, indigenous medicine, West Africa (Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Burkina Faso), South India.

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

---

Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University	
Research Associate	2015-16
Postdoctoral Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Seminar on "Violence/Non-Violence: War"	2014-15

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

---

**External:**

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation	2013-14
International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council	2011-12
Country: Sierra Leone	
Fulbright Artist Scholarship, Institute of International Education	2006-08
Host Country: Burkina Faso, Field of Study: Directing	
Project: "Masquerades of Burkina Faso: Traditions of Artistic Integration."	

**University:**

Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division	2013-14
Graduate Student Fieldwork Fellowship, UCLA International Institute	2012-13
Graduate Research Mentorship Scholarship, UCLA Graduate Division	2010-11
Dean's General Scholarship, UCLA School of Arts & Architecture	2010-11
Summer Research Mentorship Scholarship, UCLA Graduate Division	2010

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Peer-Reviewed:

“Inherent Vice: Contagion and the Archive in The Times Square Show” *e-misférica: Performance and Politics in the Americas* 6.1 (Summer 2009).

### Manuscripts in Preparation:

“Letting the Mask Slip: The Shameless Fame of Sierra Leone’s *Gongoli*” (under revision for resubmission to a special issue of *Africa* on “Performing Personalities” edited by Susan Gagliardi).

“A ‘Disarmament Program’ for Witches: Rebranding Culture with the Sierra Leone Indigenous Traditional Healers Union” (under review by *Cultural Anthropology*).

“The Public Life of Poro” (to be submitted in October).

“Times Past Under Fire: Fambul Tok and Traditions of Spectacular Justice in Postwar Sierra Leone” (book chapter for *The Art of Emergency*).

*The Art of Emergency: Aid and Aesthetics in African Crises* (ongoing co-edited book project, under review).

*Disappear Appear Loss Change: The Work of Spectacle in Postwar Sierra Leone* (ongoing book project).

### Other:

Review of *Harmattan: A Philosophical Fiction*, M. Jackson. *American Ethnologist* 43:2 (May 2016).

Review of *Visions from the Forests: The Art of Liberia and Sierra Leone*, eds. J.-L. Grootaers and A. Bortolot. *caa.reviews* (May 5, 2016). <http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/2695>.

Review of “Poetics & Politics: A Documentary Research Symposium” (co-authored with A. Singh). *Leonardo Reviews*, September 2015. <http://leonardo.info/reviews/sept2015/singh-sharma.php>.

Review of “ACASA Fifteenth Triennial” (co-authored). *African Arts* 44:3 (Autumn 2011).

“Les masques face au visage politique,” “Les pouvoirs du «zangbeto»,” and “Politique, identité et croyances au Nigeria.” *Puck* 18 (2011).

## PRESENTATIONS

---

“Ex-specting the Worst: Looking out for/from the State and the Ebola Response’s Border-zone Blindspots.” *115<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN. November 16-20, 2016 (upcoming).

“Viral Incoherence: Snake Charmers and Sensitization at the Outbreak of Sierra Leone’s Ebola Crisis.” *American Ethnological Society (AES) Spring Conference*, DC. March 31-April 2, 2016.

“Rebranding Culture: Infusing the Familiar and the Strange with SLITHU.” *114<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO. November 18-22, 2015.

“The Public Life of Poro in Sierra Leone.” *6<sup>th</sup> Euro. Conf. on African Studies*, Paris. July 8-10, 2015.

“The Tedium is the Message: The Laborious Extravagance of *Theyyam*.” *Poetics & Politics: A Documentary Research Symposium*, Santa Cruz, CA. May 15-17, 2015.

“Times Past Under Fire: Fambul Tok and Traditions of Spectacular Justice in Sierra Leone.” *57<sup>th</sup> Annual African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting*, Indianapolis, IN. November 20-23, 2014.

“Manifestations of Invisible Worlds: West African Masks in Action.” Invited Guest Speaker. The Baobab Cultural Center, Rochester, NY. October 31, 2014.

- “*Ndogboyosoi*: Histories of Invisible Horror on Sierra Leone’s Back Roads.” *American Ethnological Society (AES) Spring Conference*, Boston, MA. April 10-12, 2014.
- “Cultivating ‘True Sons of the Soil’: War, Diaspora, and Popular Culture in Sierra Leone.” *The University of Texas Africa Conference*, Austin, TX. April 3-6, 2014.
- “Letting the Mask Slip: Exception, Fame and the *Gongoli* in Sierra Leone.” *16<sup>th</sup> Triennial Meeting of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA)*, New York, NY. March 19-22, 2014.
- “Conjuring a New Public: Mystic Arts and National Culture in Postwar Sierra Leone.” *112<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Assoc. (AAA) Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL. November 20-24, 2013.
- “Redressing Conflict: Agency, Attire, and History in the Mystic Arts of Post-War Sierra Leone.” *Sierra Leone Past and Present 2012*, Freetown, Sierra Leone. April 22-27, 2012.
- “Rough Cuts: Video and Spectacle in Post-war Sierra Leone.” *Chew On This! World Arts and Cultures Departmental Lecture Series*, Los Angeles, CA. March 8, 2011.
- “Masking Relocation: Migration and Spirit Societies in West Africa.” *53<sup>rd</sup> Annual African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting*, San Francisco, CA. November 18-22, 2010.
- “Those Who Eat the Night: Policing the Invisible on the Benin Coast.” *16<sup>th</sup> Annual Performance Studies international (PSi) Conference*, Toronto. June 9-12, 2010.
- “*Gyinna-Gyinna* goes Gaga: Fashion and Fear from an African Mask to MTV.” *Anxieties of Over-exposure: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nat’l Grad. Conf. in Performance Studies*, Los Angeles, CA. April 30-May 1, 2010.
- “Possessing Itineraries, Possessing Choreographies: Spirits, Pilgrims, and Tourists at Ouidah’s National *Vodun Day Festival*.” *Emotion in Motion: Tourism, Travel, and Movement*, Leeds. July 4-7 2009.
- “Kafran Salma’s Polish Invitation: Hauka Spirit Possession and the Intercultural Impossible.” *15<sup>th</sup> annual Performance Studies international (PSi) Conference*, Zagreb. June 24-28, 2009.
- “NZAMBI – ZONBI – ZOMBIE: A Genealogy of the Living Dead.” *Specters, Hauntings and Archives Graduate International Conference*, Amsterdam. January 15-16, 2009.

## FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES

---

- Constructing Gulikan* (work in progress). Co-director, camera, editor. Collaboration with Neelima Jeychandran on ethnographic film and installation videos on South Indian *Theyyam* ritual, 2016.
- Punjabi Pioneers Digital Archive* (work in progress). Camera, editor. Video contributions for a UC Davis digital archive on the Punjabi American community in Central California.
- Project Z.E.R.O.*, dir. by Hubert Jégat. Video design. Créatures Cie, Tours, France, 2016.
- Lutu Chuktiwa*, dir. by David Shorter (22 min). Editor. Collaborative ethnographic film describing a Yoeme funeral in Sonora, Mexico. 2013. Screened at 2015 *RAI Int’l Festival of Ethnographic Film* (Bristol), 2015 *Ethnografilm Festival* (Paris), 2014 *Society of Visual Anthropology Film Festival* (Washington), 2014 *Int’l Ethnographic Film Festival* (Quebec).
- Ndogboyosoi*. Video installation. “Interstices” exhibition, Kochi Biennale, Kochi, India, 2012.
- ShowTime Ouagadougou* (4 min). Co-director, camera, editor. Dance film collaboration with French choreographer Philippe Ménard. 2010.
- Star Maps* (10 min). Director, camera, editor. Documentary on a salesman of celebrity maps. 2010.

*In|side|out* (10 min). Co-director, camera, editor. Collaboration with French choreographer Philippe Ménard and Burkinabé dancers. 2009. Screened at 2010 *Dance Camera West* (Los Angeles).

*Esther Buble: a Life in Photography* (10 min). Director, camera, editor. Documentary on a WWII-era photojournalist. 2008.

*Rendezvous with Kafra Salma* (15 min). Director, camera, editor. Documentary on Hauka spirit possession in Niamey, Niger. 2008. Screened at the 2008 Brave Festival (Wroclaw, Poland).

*La Vie dans un Jour*, dir. by Noah Bernstein (6 min). Editor. Documentary on a roadside mechanic in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. 2008.

*Ouaga Paris*, dir. by Hubert Jégat. Video design. Créatures Cie, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. 2007.

*Formation Professionnelle* (20 min). Director, camera, editor. Documentary on the first session of training at Ouagadougou's new Centre de Developpement Chorégraphique. 2007.

Videography for festivals and arts organizations in Burkina Faso, including Festima 2008, FITMO 2007, and Dialogues de Corps 2006. 2006-08.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

Adjunct Professor, HIST 1107-1: Themes in African History Emmanuel College Department of History	Fall 2016
Teaching Assistant, WAC C180: Video Practice–Dance and Camera (eval: 8.68/9) Prof. D. Rousseve, UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance	Spring 2013
Teaching Assistant, WAC C180: Video Practice–Documenting Culture (eval: 8.46/9) Prof. A. Sharma, UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures	Winter 2011

### ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

---

Peer reviewer for journals <i>Africa Today</i> and <i>SAGE Open</i>	
Co-organizer, “Demonstrating the Art of Emergency” panel (upcoming) <i>59th Annual African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting</i> , Washington, DC.	Fall 2016
Co-organizer, <i>The Art of Emergency</i> conference (upcoming) University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill	Fall 2016
Advisor and contributor, Arts and Ebola Response Network University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine	Winter 2015
Organizer, “Violence Visualized: Staging Image and Injustice in Africa” panel <i>57th Annual African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting</i> , Indianapolis, IN.	Fall 2014
Organizing Committee, Professional Development Workshop UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures	Spring 2011
Organizing Committee, <i>Anxieties of Overexposure</i> , national grad student conference UCLA Center for Performance Studies	Spring 2010
Oral History Training Workshop UCLA Library Center for Oral History Research	Spring 2010

**FIELDWORK**

---

Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Kailahun, etc.) for follow-up research and new work on cultural responses to the Ebola outbreak. Two trips totaling ten weeks.	2015-16
India (Kerala) to document Theyyam and other local rituals. Two trips totaling seven weeks.	2015
Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Kailahun, etc.) and Liberia for dissertation research in urban and postwar spectacles. Eighteen months.	2011-13
Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo) for ongoing study of urban and postwar spectacles. One month.	2010
Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo), Nigeria (Lagos, Osogbo, Ibadan), and Benin (Porto Novo) on comparative pilot research on African urban performance. Two months.	2010
Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou, Boni) to study and film a village initiation. One month.	2009
Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, and Niger on Fulbright-funded research in masked dance and other arts. Detailed study in Ouagadougou, Bobo-Dioulasso, and multiple Burkinabé villages. Additional research in Tombouctou, Abidjan, Ouidah, Cotonou, Osogbo, Makurdi, Agadez, and Niamey. Twenty months.	2006-08
India, Nepal, Thailand, Laos, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia for informal research in performing arts including Kathakali (Indian dance drama), Chhau (Bengali masked dance), Hun Lakhon Lek (Thai rod puppetry), Chinese Opera, and Wayang Kulit (Indonesian shadow puppetry). Nine months.	2002

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

---

Co-founder and co-director of Defibrillator Productions, an award-winning theatre company specializing in experimental approaches to technology and genre.	2000-05
--	---------

**LANGUAGES**

---

French: fluent speech and reading, good writing  
 Krio (Sierra Leone): good speech and reading, some writing  
 Mende (Sierra Leone): some speech, reading, and writing

**ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

---

Film Production, Photography, Graphic Design, Web Design, Animation, Theatre Production.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

African Studies Association (ASA)  
 American Anthropological Association (AAA)  
 American Ethnological Society (AES)  
 Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA)  
 Association for Africanist Anthropology (AfAA)  
 Performance Studies International (PSi)  
 Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA)  
 Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA)