

CURRICULUM VITAE

SAMUEL MARK ANDERSON

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EDUCATION

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

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Politics and aesthetics, visual and material culture, performance, media, postcolonial theory, war, violence, humanitarianism, development, Islam, ritual, healing, local medicine, pop and subcultures, written and visual ethnography, West Africa (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso), India

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017- Lecturer, New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) Writing Program
- 2015-16 Research Associate, Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard
- 2014-15 Postdoctoral Fellow, Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard
Andrew W. Mellon Seminar on "Violence/Non-Violence: War"

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

External:

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

University:

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

PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Review of *Harmattan: A Philosophical Fiction*, M. Jackson. *Amer. Ethnologist* 43:2 (May).
 Review of *Visions from the Forests: The Art of Liberia and Sierra Leone*, eds. J.-L. Grootaers and A. Bortolot. *caa.reviews* (May 5). <http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/2695>.
- 2015 Review of “Poetics & Politics: A Documentary Research Symposium” (co-authored with A. Singh). *Leonardo Reviews*. <http://leonardo.info/reviews/sept2015/singh-sharma.php>.
- 2011 Review of “ACASA Fifteenth Triennial” (co-authored). *African Arts* 44:3 (Autumn).
 “Les masques face au visage politique,” “Les pouvoirs du «zangbeto»,” and “Politique, identité et croyances au Nigeria.” *Puck* 18.
- 2009 “Inherent Vice: Contagion and the Archive in The Times Square Show” (peer-reviewed). *e-misérica: Performance and Politics in the Americas* 6.1 (Summer).

Manuscripts in Preparation:

“Letting the Mask Slip: The Shameless Fame of Sierra Leone’s *Gongoli*” (in press for a special issue of *Africa* on “Performing Personalities” edited by S. Gagliardi).

“Sierra Leone: History, Culture, and Geography of Music” and “Sierra Leone: Modern and Contemporary Performance Practice” (in press for *The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Music and Culture*).

“A ‘Disarmament Program’ for Witches: The Speculative Politics of the Sierra Leone Indigenous Traditional Healers Union” (revised and resubmitted to *Cultural Anthropology*).

“Times Past Under Fire: Accounting for the Efficacy of Reconciliation Rituals in Postwar Sierra Leone” (book chapter under revision for *The Art of Emergency*).

The Art of Emergency: Aid and Aesthetics in African Crises (book project co-edited with C.R. Ndaliko, under contract and revision with Oxford University Press).

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

PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “Multimodal Ethnography and Oral Histories as Models for Academic Writing.” Invited Speaker. PSMO College, University of Calicut, Malappuram, Kerala, India. Aug 8.
 “Shifting Past Violence: Mystic Arts as a Model for Post-war Transformation in Sierra Leone.” *Africa in the World joint conference of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and African Studies Association (ASA)*, Johannesburg. May 25-28.
 “‘When Old Banana Trees Die, the Young Suckers Must Grow’: Resemblances in Professional Lineages of Mystic Artists and Healers.” *American Ethnological Society (AES) and Society of Visual Anthropology (SVA) Joint Spring Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA. Mar 22-24.
- 2017 “Tactics of Tactility for Disarming and Reintegrating Witches in Postwar Sierra Leone.” *60th African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting*, Chicago, IL. Nov 16-18.
 “A National and International Player’: King Hassan Jalloh and the Local Authority of Foreign Acclaim.” *17th Triennial Symposium on African Art*, Accra, Ghana. Aug 8-13.
 “Un don pour l’intégration : La production mystique de cadeaux et de publics dans la Sierra Leone de l’après-guerre.” *10th Intl Conference of the Mande Studies Association*, Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire. Aug 2-6.

- “Art and Culture in Postwar Sierra Leone: An Introduction to *Sierra Leone’s Refugee All-Stars* (2005).” Invited Speaker. Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. May 25.
- 2016 “Ex-specting the Worst: The Ebola Response’s Border-zone Blindspots.” *115th American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN. Nov 16-20.
- “Fambul Tok and the Reinvention of Tradition in Rural Sierra Leone.” *The Art of Emergency: Aesthetics and Aid in African Crises* conference, Chapel Hill, NC. Oct 27-28.
- “Viral Incoherence: Snake Charmers and Sensitization at the Outbreak of Sierra Leone’s Ebola Crisis.” *American Ethnological Society (AES) Spring Conference*, DC. Mar 31-Apr 2.
- 2015 “Rebranding Culture: Infusing the Familiar and the Strange with SLITHU.” *114th American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting*, Denver, CO. Nov 18-22.
- “The Public Life of Poro in Sierra Leone.” *6th European Conference on African Studies*, Paris. Jul 8-10.
- “The Tedium is the Message: The Laborious Extravagance of *Theyyam*.” *Poetics & Politics: A Documentary Research Symposium*, Santa Cruz, CA. May 15-17.
- 2014 “Times Past Under Fire: Fambul Tok and Traditions of Spectacular Justice in Sierra Leone.” *57th African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting*, Indianapolis, IN. Nov 20-23.
- “Manifestations of Invisible Worlds: West African Masks in Action.” Invited Guest Speaker. The Baobab Cultural Center, Rochester, NY. Oct 31.
- “*Ndogboyosoi*: Histories of Invisible Horror on Sierra Leone’s Back Roads.” *American Ethnological Society (AES) and Society of Visual Anthropology (SVA) Joint Spring Meeting*, Boston, MA. Apr 10-12.
- “Cultivating ‘True Sons of the Soil’: War, Diaspora, and Popular Culture in Sierra Leone.” *The University of Texas Africa Conference*, Austin, TX. Apr 3-6.
- “Letting the Mask Slip: Exception, Fame and the *Gongoli* in Sierra Leone.” *16th Triennial Symposium on African Arts*, New York, NY. Mar 19-22.
- 2013 “Conjuring a New Public: Mystic Arts and National Culture in Postwar Sierra Leone.” *112th American Anthropological Assoc. (AAA) Meeting*, Chicago, IL. Nov 20-24.
- 2012 “Redressing Conflict: Agency, Attire, and History in the Mystic Arts of Post-War Sierra Leone.” *Sierra Leone Past and Present 2012*, Freetown, Sierra Leone. Apr 22-27.
- 2011 “Rough Cuts: Video and Spectacle in Post-war Sierra Leone.” *Chew On This! World Arts and Cultures Departmental Lecture Series*, Los Angeles, CA. Mar 8.
- 2010 “Masking Relocation: Migration and Spirit Societies in West Africa.” *53rd African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting*, San Francisco, CA. Nov 18-22.
- “Those Who Eat the Night: Policing the Invisible on the Benin Coast.” *16th Performance Studies international (PSi) Conference*, Toronto. Jun 9-12.
- “*Gyinna-Gyinna* goes Gaga: Fashion and Fear from an African Mask to MTV.” *Anxieties of Over-exposure: 2nd Nat’l Grad. Conf. in Performance*, Los Angeles, CA. Apr 30-May 1.
- 2009 “Possessing Itineraries, Possessing Choreographies: Ouidah’s National *Vodun* Day Festival.” *Emotion in Motion: Tourism, Travel, and Movement*, Leeds. Jul 4-7.
- “Kafran Salma’s Polish Invitation: Hauka Spirit Possession and the Intercultural Impossible.” *15th Performance Studies international (PSi) Conference*, Zagreb. Jun 24-28.
- “NZAMBI – ZONBI – ZOMBIE: A Genealogy of the Living Dead.” *Specters, Hauntings and Archives Graduate International Conference*, Amsterdam. Jan 15-16.

DOCUMENTARIES AND VIDEO PROJECTS

- 2017-18 *Constructing Gulikan* (work in progress). Co-director, camera, editor. Collaboration on ethnographic film and installation videos on South Indian *Theyyam* ritual.
Projet Z.E.R.O., dir. by H. Jégat. Video design. CréatureS Cie, Alençon, France.
- 2016 *UC Davis Punjabi Pioneers Digital Archive*. Camera, editor. Video contributions for a digital archive on the Punjabi American community in California.
- 2013 *Lutu Chuktiwa*, dir. by D. 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).
- 2012 *Ndogboyosoi*. Video installation. "Interstices" exhibition, Kochi Biennale, Kochi, India.
- 2010 *ShowTime Ouagadougou* (4 min). Co-director, camera, editor. Dance film collaboration with French choreographer P. Ménard.
Star Maps (10 min). Director, camera, editor. Profile of an immigrant salesman of celebrity home maps.
- 2009 *In|side|out* (10 min). Co-director, camera, editor. Collaboration with choreographer P. Ménard and Burkinabé dancers. Screened at 2010 *Dance Camera West* (L.A.).
- 2008 *Esther Bublely: a Life in Photography* (10 min). Director, camera, editor. Documentary on a WWII-era photojournalist.
Rendezvous with Kafran Salma (15 min). Director, camera, editor. Documentary on spirit possession in Niamey, Niger. Screened at the 2008 Brave Festival (Wroclaw, Poland).
La Vie dans un Jour, dir. by N. Bernstein (6 min). Editor. Documentary on a roadside mechanic in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
- 2007 *Ouaga Paris*, dir. by H. Jégat. Video design. CréatureS Cie, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
Formation Professionnelle (20 min). Director, camera, editor. Documentary on the first session of training at Ouagadougou's new Centre de Developpement Chorégraphique.
Videography for festivals and arts organizations in Burkina Faso, including Festima 2008, FITMO 2007, and Dialogues de Corps 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017- Lecturer, New York University Abu Dhabi Writing Program
WRIT-UH 1115: The Art and Aesthetics of International Aid (Spr/Fall 2017)
WRIT-UH 1116: The Politics of Spectacle (Spr/Fall 2018)
- Fall 2016 Adjunct Professor, Emmanuel College Department of History
HIST 1107-1: Themes in African History
- Spr 2013 Teaching Assistant, Prof. D. Rousseve, UCLA Dept of World Arts and Cultures/Dance
WAC C180: Video Practice – Dance and Camera
- Win 2011 Teaching Assistant, Prof. A. Sharma, UCLA Dept of World Arts and Cultures
WAC C180: Video Practice – Documenting Culture

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2017- Member, NYUAD African Studies Committee
- 2017- Faculty Advisor for Sofia Gomez-Doyle's Capstone Research Project on Theatre and Public Policy in Ghana, NYUAD
- 2017- Pre-major Academic Mentor for four students, NYUAD
- 2017 First-Year Dialogue Facilitator for eight students, NYUAD

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

FIELDWORK

- 2015-18 Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Kailahun, etc.) for follow-up research and new work on cultural responses to the Ebola outbreak. Four trips, fifteen weeks.
- 2015 India (Kerala) to document Theyyam and other local rituals. Two trips, seven weeks.
- 2011-13 Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Kailahun, etc.) and Liberia for dissertation research in urban and postwar spectacles. Eighteen months.
- 2010 Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo) for ongoing study of urban and postwar art. One month.
Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo), Nigeria (Lagos, Osogbo, Ibadan), and Benin (Porto Novo) on comparative pilot research on African urban performance. Two months.
- 2009 Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou, Boni) to study and film a village initiation. One month.
- 2006-08 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.
- 2002 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.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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

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)
Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA)
Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA)

REFERENCES

Allen F. Roberts, PhD
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Professor, Department of World Arts and Cultures
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