

CURRICULUM VITAE

**SAMUEL MARK ANDERSON**

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**EDUCATION**

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- 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**

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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**

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- 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**

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**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

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### Peer-reviewed:

- 2020 *The Art of Emergency: Aid and Aesthetics in African Crises* (co-edited with C.R. Ndaliko). Oxford University Press.  
 “Times Past Under Fire: Accounting for the Efficacy of Reconciliation Rituals in Postwar Sierra Leone.” In *The Art of Emergency: Aid and Aesthetics in African Crises*, 249–79. OUP.
- 2019 “A Disarmament Program for Witches: The Prospective Politics of Antiwitchcraft, Postwarcraft, and Rebrandcraft in Sierra Leone.” *Cultural Anthropology* 34 (2): 240-71.
- 2018 “Letting the Mask Slip: The Shameless Fame of Sierra Leone’s *Gongoli*.” *Africa* 88 (4): 718-43.
- 2009 “Inherent Vice: Contagion and the Archive in The Times Square Show.” *e-misférica: Performance and Politics in the Americas* 6 (1).

### Other:

- 2019 “Sierra Leone: History, Culture, and Geography of Music” and “Sierra Leone: Modern and Contemporary Performance Practice.” In *The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Music and Culture*, edited by J. Sturman, 1947–51. SAGE Publishing.
- 2016 Review of *Harmattan: A Philosophical Fiction*, M. Jackson. *American Ethnologist* 43 (2): 384–5.  
 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): 1–9.  
 “Les masques face au visage politique,” “Les pouvoirs du «zangbeto»,” and “Politique, identité et croyances au Nigeria.” *Puck* 18.

### Manuscripts in Preparation:

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

## PRESENTATIONS

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- 2019 “Becoming Partisan: Mystic Games and Mystifying Politics in Sierra Leone.” *62<sup>th</sup> African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting*, Boston, MA. Nov 21-23.  
 “Crowd Disruptions: Political Rallies and Audiences of Electoral Violence in Sierra Leone.” *8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies*, Edinburgh. Jul 12-15.  
 “Potential/Violence: Manifesting Uncertain Futures during Sierra Leonean Elections.” *American Ethnological Society (AES), Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA), and Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists (ALLA) Joint Meeting*, St. Louis, MO. Mar 14-16.
- 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 Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA. Mar 22-24.
- 2017 “Tactics of Tactility for Disarming and Reintegrating Witches in Postwar Sierra Leone.” *60<sup>th</sup> 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.” *17<sup>th</sup> 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.” *10<sup>th</sup> 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.” *115<sup>th</sup> 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.” *114<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting*, Denver, CO. Nov 18-22.
- “The Public Life of Poro in Sierra Leone.” *6<sup>th</sup> 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.” *57<sup>th</sup> 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 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.” *16<sup>th</sup> 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.” *112<sup>th</sup> 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.” *53<sup>rd</sup> African Studies Association (ASA) Meeting*, San Francisco, CA. Nov 18-22.

“Those Who Eat the Night: Policing the Invisible on the Benin Coast.” *16<sup>th</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.” *15<sup>th</sup> 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, INSTALLATIONS, AND VIDEO DESIGN

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2017- *Constructing Gulikan* (work in progress). Co-director, camera, editor. Collaboration on ethnographic film and installation videos on South Indian *Theyyam* ritual.

2018 *An Incident at the Theechamundi Kavvu*. Video installation. *117<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting*, San Jose, Ca. Nov 14-18.

2017 *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 Buble: 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**

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- 2017- Lecturer, New York University Abu Dhabi Writing Program  
 CADT-UH 1044JX: Sensory Ethnographic Methods in Kerala  
 WRIT-UH 1115: The Art and Aesthetics of International Aid  
 WRIT-UH 1116: The Politics of Spectacle  
 WRIT-UH 1125: Graphic Violence
- 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**

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- 2017- Member, NYUAD African Studies Committee
- 2017- Pre-major Academic Mentor, NYUAD
- 2019 Faculty Committee Member for Ankita Sadarjoshi's Capstone Performance Project on Performance, Materiality, and Violence, NYUAD
- 2017-18 Faculty Advisor for Sofia Gomez-Doyle's Capstone Research Project on Theatre and Public Policy in Ghana, NYUAD
- 2017 First-Year Dialogue Facilitator for eight students, NYUAD

**ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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- 2015- Peer Reviewer for the Journals *African Arts*, *Africa Today*, *Mande Studies*, and *SAGE Open*
- 2019 Reviewer, Social and Cultural Anthropology Diploma Programme  
 International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization
- 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**

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- 2015-19 Sierra Leone (Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Kailahun, etc.) for follow-up research and new work on cultural responses to the Ebola outbreak. Five trips, eighteen 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**

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

## **LANGUAGES**

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

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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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

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Allen F. Roberts, PhD

Professor, Department of World Arts and Cultures, French and Francophone Studies (affiliated)  
University of California Los Angeles, Kaufman Hall 130E, Los Angeles, CA 90095  
aroberts@arts.ucla.edu

Chérie Rivers Ndaliko, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Music  
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Hill Hall 218, Chapel Hill, NC 27599  
ndaliko@unc.edu

Donald J. Cosentino, PhD

Professor (emeritus), Department of World Arts and Cultures  
University of California Los Angeles, Kaufman Hall 150, Los Angeles, CA 90095  
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David Delgado Shorter, PhD

Professor, Department of World Arts and Cultures  
University of California Los Angeles, Kaufman Hall 130F, Los Angeles, CA 90095  
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Aparna Sharma, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of World Arts and Cultures  
University of California Los Angeles, Kaufman Hall 130D, Los Angeles, CA 90095  
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