

VICTORIA M. MASSIE

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Anthropology - MS 20
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77005

Email: vm28@rice.edu

victoriamassie.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021-present Assistant Professor, Rice University
Department of Anthropology
Faculty Affiliate, Center for African and African American Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Medical Humanities Program
Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

EDUCATION

2021 Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Sociocultural Anthropology with a Designated Emphasis in Science & Technology Studies

2017-2018 Visiting Student Researcher, University of Yaoundé I, Center for Applied Social Science
Research & Training

2015 M.A., University of California, Berkeley
Anthropology

2011 B.A., University of Rochester
Anthropology (Honors in Research, Highest Distinction) and African & African-American
Studies (Highest Distinction); *Cum Laude*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Extramural Fellowships

2019 - 2020 Mellon-Sawyer Dissertation Fellowship, Mellon Foundation, Center for the Humanities,
Tufts University, Theme: "Defamiliarizing the Family: Genealogy and Kinship as Critical
Method" with Kendra Field and Sarah Pinto

2019 Nonfiction Writing Fellow, Hurston/Wright Foundation, Howard University, Week Writing
Workshop with W. Ralph Eubanks

2019 Nonfiction Writing Fellow, Hurston/Wright Foundation, Howard University, Weekend
Writing Workshop on "Ways of Knowing" with Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts

2017 - 2018 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for Science,
Technology, and Society (declined)

2017 - 2018 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Research Grant

2017 - 2018 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, Cameroon, U.S. Department of
Education

2017 Institute for Critical Social Inquiry Fellow, The New School for Social Research
Seminar: "The Cosmopolitan Nationalism of W.E.B. Du Bois" with K. Anthony Appiah

2014 - 2015 Dissertation Research Grant, University of California Center for New Racial Studies,

Theme: “Global Raciality: Empire, Postcoloniality, and Decoloniality”

2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (deferred 2013 - 2015)

Intramural Fellowships

2018 Fall Graduate Student Research Grant, Center for Race & Gender, UC Berkeley

2017 Stanley Brandes Grant for Ethnographic Fieldwork, Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley

2014 - 2015 Rocca Dissertation Fellowship, Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley

2011 - 2013 Chancellor’s Fellowship for Graduate Study, UC Berkeley

2013 Rocca Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley

2011 - 2012 Faculty Mentored Research Award, UC Berkeley

2011 Lowie Olson Block Grant for Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork, Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley

2011 Block Grant for Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork, Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley

2007 - 2011 Renaissance Scholarship, University of Rochester
Full-tuition scholarship awarded to top 1% of incoming freshmen demonstrating outstanding intellectual promise and academic achievement.

Honors and Awards

2016 Invitation, 3rd Annual White House LGBTQ Tech & Innovation Summit, Washington, D.C.

2015 Awarded Lifetime Membership, West African Research Association

2014 Awarded “Funniest Poem” with Brandon Anthony Melendez at College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI), Boulder, CO.

2011 Helen S. Jones Award, University of Rochester
Awarded annually by the University of Rochester to a graduating senior who demonstrates significant achievement in the areas of sociology, international relations, and/or political science.

2011 Distinguished Service Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester

2010 - 2011 Senior Scholar, Multidisciplinary Studies Center, University of Rochester
Approved by Deans Committee to devote senior year to single intellectual research project.

2009 - 2011 Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, University of Rochester

2008 National Society of Collegiate Scholars, University of Rochester

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

2021 “Spillers’s Baby, Anthropology’s Maybe: A Postgenomic Reckoning,”

Book Reviews

- 2022 (In Publication) Review, “Genetic Afterlives: Black Jewish Indigeneity in South Africa,” by Noah Tamarkin, *Transforming Anthropology*.

Manuscripts in Progress

- ND “Molecularization.” *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*. John L. Jackson, Jr. ed. New York: Oxford University Press.
- ND “Of Albert Perry: Rewriting Genealogical Myths of Father-Right through Genetic African Ancestry”
- ND “The Disinterested Land Gift: For the Love of Return”

Editorially Reviewed Publications

- 2015 “When Conversation is Not Enough: Reflections on the Makings of the #AAA2014 Die-In.” *Anthropology News*. Guest Column with Bianca C. Williams. American Anthropological Association. March/April.
- 2014 “Rethinking 21st Century Racism on the Way Home.” *GeneWatch Magazine*. Special Issue: Ancestry & DNA. Council for Responsible Genetics. May/June.

Selected Public Press & Public Writing

- 2021 “Genetic Ancestry Testing and Reconnection: An Interview with Dr. Victoria Massie,” *UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix Podcast*. November.
<https://matrix.berkeley.edu/research-article/genetic-ancestry-testing-and-reconnection-an-interview-with-dr-victoria-massie/>
- 2017 “A New Myth: Untethering My Name from White Folks’ Imaginations.” *Catapult*. October.
<https://catapult.co/stories/legacies-untethering-my-name-from-white-folks-imaginations>
- 2016 “My pop-pop was a groundbreaking black chemist - who helped create the atomic bomb.” *Vox*. May.
<https://www.vox.com/2016/5/27/11719462/hiroshima-obama-manhattan-project>
- 2016 “The Clintons’ long history of pandering to young black voters like me.” *Vox*. January.
<https://www.vox.com/2016/1/12/10749984/hillary-clinton-pander>
- 2016 Daniel Holtzclaw and the Limits of “Community Policing.” *The Intercept*. January.
<https://theintercept.com/2016/01/25/daniel-holtzclaw-and-the-limits-of-community-policing/>

SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2021 AAA Roundtable Panelist: “Centering Blackness in the Anthropology of Africa.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Association of African Anthropology Section. Baltimore, MD. November
- 2020 “Resituating Knowledge: Reimagining Genetic African Ancestry from Cameroon” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Conference, Prague, Czech Republic. August.
- 2019 ASA Roundtable Panelist: “What does Research on Health, Science, Technology and Medicine Offer to African Studies?” African Studies Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. November.

- 2019 “Return to Bimbia.” African Studies Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. November.
- 2019 “Spiller’s Baby, Anthropology’s Maybe: A Genealogy.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Association of Black Anthropologists Section, Vancouver, BC, Canada. November.
- 2019 “‘When Things Fall Apart’: Genetic Return and Racial (Re)pair of American History in Cameroon.” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Conference, New Orleans, LA. September.
- 2019 “Assembling Genetic Ancestry: Race, Return and the Materiality of Belonging in Cameroon.” Student Research Symposium, UC Berkeley Center for Race & Gender, Berkeley, CA. April.
- 2019 “(In)Secure Belonging: DNA Diasporic Return In the Midst of the Anglophone Crisis.” The Annual Africa Conference, UT Austin, Austin, TX. March.
- 2018 “Genetic Sensibilisation: Reconfiguring the Materiality of Genetic Ancestry in Cameroon.” Center for Race & Gender, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. October.
- 2013 “Time is Elastic: (Re)Connecting Home, Race, and History Through Genetic Ancestry Testing.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Biological Anthropology Section. Chicago, IL, November.
- 2013 “Time is Elastic: (Re)Connecting Home, Race, and History Through Genetic Ancestry Testing.” UC Irvine Annual Anthropology in Transit Conference, Irvine, CA, April.
- 2011 “(Re)Connection: Networking the African-American Identity in Genetic Ancestry Testing” National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Ithaca, NY, March.
- 2009 “Cultural Trauma and Genetics: The ‘New’ African American in Our Midst.” Annual Rochester Academy of Sciences Fall Paper Session, Rochester, NY, October.

Organized Panels

- 2021 “Organizing as Anthropological Method: Toward a Critical Disciplinary Praxis For Our Time,” Co-organized with Krystal Strong, Executive Session Roundtable, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. November.
- 2018 “What’s New About New Materialisms?: Black and Indigenous Scholars on Science, Technology, and Materiality” with Marcelo Garzo Montalvo & Jen Rose Smith, UC Berkeley Center for Race & Gender Thursday Forum Series. October.
<https://soundcloud.com/center-for-race-gender/whats-new-about-new-materialism>

Discussant

- 2019 “The Postgenomic Condition” with Jenny Reardon, UC Berkeley Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society. March.

Invited Talks & Workshops

- 2021 “The Disinterested Land Gift: Leveraging Genetic Reconnection through the Specter of Autochthony.” Discussant: Peter Geschiere. Harvard African Studies Workshop. Harvard University Center for African Studies. November.
- 2021 Reviewer, Black Feminist Health Science Studies Collaboratory Workshop. April. (via Zoom)
- 2021 “Sovereignty in Return through Genetic Reconnection in Cameroon.” Graduating STS DE Symposium. UC Berkeley Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society. UC Berkeley. April

(via Zoom).

- 2021 “The Art of the Op-Ed.” STS Futures Initiative. UC Berkeley Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society and the University of California Humanities Research Institute. April (via Zoom)
- 2020 “A Black Feminist Bioethics for the Postgenomic Era.” PRISM Black History Month Lecture Series. The Francis Crick Institute. London, UK. October (via Zoom)
- 2020 “Sharing Cameroonian Ancestry, Building Utopia.” Guest Lecture, “STS Lunch Seminar,” Program Director: Moon Duchin. Program in Science, Technology, and Society. Tufts University, Medford, MA, March. (Cancelled due to COVID19)
- 2019 “Deconstructing Black Reproduction: African Ancestry & Kinship in Genomic Time.” Guest Lecture, “Reproducing While Black.” Professor: Ugo Edu. Department of Afro-American Studies. University of California, Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA, November.
- 2017 “Why We Need a Black-Feminist Centered Bioethics in the Age of Gene Editing.” Black Women for Wellness Annual Conference. Black Women for Wellness. Los Angeles, CA, October.
- 2017 “Postgenomic Politics: From Genetic Ancestry to CRISPR.” Guest Lecture, “Politics, Science, Body.” Professor: Priscilla Yamin. Department of Political Science, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR, March.
- 2015 “Who is African? Reflections on Black and African Identities.” West African Research Association Black History Month Keynote. Boston University. Boston, MA, February.
- 2014 “Genetic Ancestry and Modern Concepts of Race.” Guest Lecture, “Foundations of Human Biological Variation.” Lecturer: Madza Farias-Virgens. Department of Anthropology, San Francisco State University. San Francisco, CA. September.
- 2013 “Genetic Ancestry in Cameroon.” Guest Lecture, “Special Topics in Medical Anthropology: (Con)Sequential Genealogies of Difference: Anthropology and Genomics.” Lecturer: James Battle. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. March.
- 2009 Keynote Speaker, Freshman Orientation Candlelight Ceremony. University of Rochester. August.

TEACHING

Rice University

Instructor. Department of Anthropology. Rice University. “Medical Anthropology.” (Spring 2022)

Instructor. Department of Anthropology, Rice University. “Social Life of DNA.”* (Fall 2021)

University of California, Berkeley

2020 *Graduate Student Reader.* Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. “Violence & Subjectivity.” Fall.

2019 *Graduate Student Instructor.* Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. “History of Anthropological Thought.” Spring.

University of Rochester

2009 *Teaching Assistant.* Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester. “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.” Fall.

2008 *Tutor.* Department of Chemistry, University of Rochester. “Chemical Concepts, Systems and Practices I.” Fall.

*Newly Developed Course

WRITING AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016 - 2017 Communications Coordinator, The Center for Genetics & Society, Berkeley, CA.
- 2016 Race & Identities Writing Fellow, Vox.com, Washington, DC. Calendar Year.
- 2015 Staff Writer, Black Youth Project, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Fall.
- 2015 NTRSCITN News Intern, Complex Magazine, New York, NY. Fall.
- 2013- 2014 Member of CalSlam National Slam Poetry Team, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
- 2013 CalSlam Grand Slam Champion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
- 2012 Writer, "Playing with Fear" Exposé & Exploration. Siren Theatre Project, San Francisco, CA.
- 2012 Featured Poet, The Naked Bulb. 1st Annual Lit Crawl, Oakland, CA.
- 2012 Creative Nonfiction Writer, Mutated Text: A Cross-Genre Creative Writing Workshop, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
- 2010 Publisher, *The Campus Times*, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. Fall.
- 2009 Copy Editor, *The Campus Times*, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. Calendar Year.
- 2009 Editor-in-Chief, *The Participant Observer*, Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. Calendar Year.
- 2008 Staff Writer, Arts & Entertainment, *The Campus Times*, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. Calendar Year.

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Research

- Nov. 2017 - Dec. 2018 *Cameroon*: Fieldwork providing a comparative analysis of genetic reconnection programs in Cameroon; interviews of Cameroonian genetic ancestry test takers; surveys around land politics and belonging in Kribi
- March 2015 - May 2015 *Yaoundé, Cameroon*: Fieldwork examining ARK Jammers programming initiatives following the 2010 and 2011 Ancestry Reconnection Program, including CamerAction for Peace, promoting national pride amongst Cameroonian youth.
- Nov. 2014 - March 2015 *Washington, DC*: Fieldwork examining ARK Jammers programming initiatives following the 2010 and 2011 Ancestry Reconnection Program, including CamerAction for Peace, promoting national pride amongst Cameroonian youth.

Pre-dissertation Research

- May 2013 - July 2013 *Douala & Kribi, Cameroon*: Fieldwork examining how African Americans' genetic ties to Cameroon are redefined by how they maintain land gifts in Kribi that they received during the 2010 and 2011 Ancestry Reconnection Programs.
- Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012 *Yaoundé & Kribi, Cameroon*: Fieldwork on second Ancestry Reconnection Program (ARP), a cultural-immersion program for African Americans whose genetic ancestry

traces to Cameroon created by Baltimore, MD-based nonprofit ARK Jammers.

Honors Thesis Research

May 2010 - Aug. 2010 *Silver Spring, MD*: Fieldwork examining African American, Inc.'s 14-city "We Are Africa" Road Tour marketing campaign.

Related Research Experience

- May 2014 - Aug. 2014 DNA Database Intern, Center for Genetics & Society, Berkeley, CA
Analyze domestic policy and pop-cultural references that contribute to misunderstandings around forensic DNA and its collection in DNA databases.
- May 2009 - Aug. 2009 McNair Summer Research, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Used cultural trauma theory to analyze genetic ancestry testing's popularity amongst African Americans as spurred by PBS documentaries *African American Lives* (2006) and *African American Lives 2* (2008).
- Aug. 2008 Malawi Immersion Seminar, Lilongwe and Ntcheu, Malawi
Fieldwork examining the high drop-out rate of girls in rural Malawian secondary schools through participant observation and interviews of faculty, parents, and students in Ntcheu; community mapping and Chichewa language training.
- May 2007 - Aug. 2007 Bioinformatics Intern, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME
Created web-interface database for genetics and biomedical researchers focused on cancer quantitative trait loci (QTLs) using sequence query language (SQL).
- Sept. 2006 - Feb. 2007 Student Researcher, UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
Internship in partnership with the North Carolina School of Science & Mathematics (NCSSM). Tested role of ErbB3 gene in lung tumor formation for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients by designing lentiviral and retroviral vectors of parallel Dsk5 mutation in mice.
- July 2006 Student Researcher, NIEHS, Raleigh, NC
Internship in partnership with the North Carolina School of Science and Math (NCSSM) to develop training in key genetics research techniques used in cancer research.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Departmental Service

- 2013 -2014 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Hiring Committee in "Anthropology of Race and Racialization," Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley.
- 2012 - 2013 Chair, Anthropology Graduate Students Organized for Research and Action (AGORA), Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley.
- 2010 - 2011 President, Undergraduate Anthropology Council (UAC), Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester.

University Service

- 2022-present Steering Committee, Medical Humanities Program, Rice University
- 2012 - 2013 President, Black Graduate Students Association, Graduate Assembly, UC Berkeley.
- 2010 - 2011 Senior Representative, Renaissance Scholars Leadership Committee, University of Rochester.

2009 - 2011 Student Alumni Ambassador, Office of Alumni Relations, University of Rochester.

Service to the Profession

2022-2025 Editorial Board Member, *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

2021-present Manuscript Reviewer, *Feminist Anthropology Journal*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)

American Anthropological Association

Association for Africanist Anthropology

Association of Black Anthropologists

Society for Medical Anthropology

African Studies Association

West African Research Association

North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon

West African Research Association

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker); French (advanced proficiency); Twi (elementary proficiency); Chichewa (elementary proficiency)

REFERENCES

Available upon request