

## Yolanda Denise Covington-Ward, PhD

Department of Africana Studies

4160 Wesley W. Posvar Hall

230 South Bouquet Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

[www.covington-ward.com](http://www.covington-ward.com)

(412) 648-7556 (office) • (412) 648-7214 (fax) • E-mail: [ydc1@pitt.edu](mailto:ydc1@pitt.edu)

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### Education

- December 2008    **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Ph.D. in Anthropology
- December 2003    **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Masters of Arts in Anthropology
- 2002 – 2004        Graduate Program in Performance Studies, Center for World Performance  
Studies
- May 2001          **Brown University**, Providence RI  
Bachelor of Arts in Afro-American Studies, with Honors
- Fall 1999          **University of Ghana**, Legon, Ghana  
Semester of Study Abroad

### Research and Teaching Interests

Group identity, Performance, Body and Embodiment, African Christianity and Religious Movements, Social Integration of African Immigrants, Social Determinants of Immigrant Health, Power Relations, Africa and African Cultures, Congo, African Diaspora, Liberian immigrants, Women of Africa and African Diaspora

### Academic Positions

- 2008 – present    University of Pittsburgh, Department of Africana Studies  
Assistant Professor  
Secondary Appointment: Department of Anthropology (since 2015)  
Affiliated Faculty Appointments:  
African Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Programs, Global  
Studies Center
- 2008 – 2009        University of Michigan, Center for Afro American and African Studies &  
Dept. of Anthropology  
Research Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor

**Publications: Books**

- 2016\* Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo (Religious Cultures of African and African Diasporic Peoples Series, *Duke University Press*)
- Transforming Communities, Recreating Selves: Performance and Immigrant Identity Formation in the Liberian Diaspora” (*Book manuscript in progress*)

**Publications: Journal Articles (\*peer-reviewed)**

- 2016\* Yolanda Covington-Ward. “African Immigrants in Low-Wage Direct Health Care: Motivations, Job Satisfaction, and Occupational Mobility.” *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* (forthcoming, DOI: 10.1007/s10903-016-0400-8)
- 2016\* Carlos Siordia and Yolanda Covington-Ward. “Association Between Perceived Ethnic Discrimination and Health: Evidence from the National Latino & Asian American Study.” *Journal of Frailty and Aging* 5(2):111-117.
- 2014\* Yolanda Covington-Ward. “Your Name is Written in the Sky”: Unearthing the Stories of Kongo Female Prophets in Colonial Belgian Congo, 1921-1960” *Journal of Africana Religions* 2(3):317-346.
- 2013\* Yolanda Covington-Ward. “Transforming Communities, Recreating Selves: Interconnected Diasporas, Performance, and the Shaping of Liberian Immigrant Identity.” *Africa Today*. 60(1):28-53.
- 2012\* Yolanda Covington-Ward. “Vive l’ABAKO! Vive l’Indépendance! Joseph Kasa-Vubu, ABAKO, and Performances of Kongo Nationalism in the Congolese Independence Movement,” *Journal of Black Studies* Vol. 41, No. 1: 71-93.
- 2011\* Yolanda Covington-Ward, Siatta Dennis, Katie Reding, Anthony Simpson, and Megan Willison. “The Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Recent Liberian Immigrants to the United States: An Update” *Liberian Studies Journal* Vol. 36(1): 25-52.
- 2009 Yolanda Covington-Ward. “A Guide to Africanist Research in the Archive of the American Baptist Historical Society.” *African Research and Documentation* No. 111:21-29.
- 2006\* Yolanda Covington-Ward. “South Bronx Performances: The Reciprocal Relationship between Hip-Hop and Black Girls’ Play.” *Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* Volume 16, No. 1: 117-132.

**Publications: Book Chapters (\*peer reviewed)**

- 2013\* Yolanda Covington-Ward. "Fighting Phantoms: Mammy, Matriarch, and other Ghosts Haunting Black Mothers in the Academy," In *Laboring Positions: Black Women, Mothering, and the Academy*, Sekile Johnson, Editor, Demeter Press, Pp. 236 – 256.
- 2007\* Yolanda Covington-Ward. "Threatening Gestures, Immoral Bodies: The Intersection of Church, State, and Kongo Performance in the Belgian Congo," In *Missions, States, and European Expansion in Africa*. Chima Korieh and Raphael Njoku, eds. New York: Routledge Press. Pg 73-100.

**Publications: Book Reviews**

- 2014 Yolanda Covington-Ward. Book Review of "The Making of the Pentecostal Melodrama." *American Anthropologist* 116(4):887-888.
- 2014 Yolanda Covington-Ward. Book Review of "A Dance of Assassins." *Anthropos* 109 (2):737-738.
- 2013 Yolanda Covington-Ward. Book Review of "The Predicament of Blackness." *Cultural Dynamics* 25(3):334-338.
- 2010 Yolanda Covington-Ward. Book Review Essay: "Danced Nations, Performed Identities: Ethnographic Perspectives on Power and Performance in Africa." *Transforming Anthropology* Vol. 18(2):207-210.
- 2009 Yolanda Covington-Ward. Book Review of "White Men's God." *Journal of Religion in Africa*. Vol. 39, No. 4:462-464.
- 2008 Yolanda Covington-Ward. Book Review of "Prayer has Spoiled Everything: Possession, Power, and Identity in an Islamic Town in Niger." *Transforming Anthropology* Vol. 16, No. 1:83-84.
- 2004 Yolanda Covington. Book Review of "Performing Africa." *African Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 7, No. 4: 50-51.

**Manuscripts Under Review**

"We feel like it was better back home": Stress, Coping, and Health in a U.S. dwelling African Immigrant Community" (Submitted and Under Review at *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*) (with K. Agbemenu and A. Matambanadzo)

**Manuscripts in Progress**

"Centering the Body in Africana Studies: Using Performance Pedagogy to Teach about Africa" (in preparation for the *Journal of African American Studies*)

“Digital Peacekeeping in Sonic Diasporas: Liberians Creating a Transnational Community of Reconciliation through Online Radio” (in preparation for *Anthropological Quarterly*)

“Back Home, People Say America is Heaven”: Pre-Migration Expectations and Post-Migration Adjustment for Liberians in New Immigrant Destinations” (in preparation for *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*)

“Trembling Bodies, Inspired Visions: Bangunza Narratives and Embodied Callings in the Lower Congo” (in preparation for *The Journal of Religion in Africa*)

“Some call you Slave’: Every Day Experiences of Racial Discrimination and African Origin Prejudice as Occupational Stressors for African Immigrant Direct Health Care Workers” (in preparation for *Medical Anthropology: Cross-Cultural Studies in Health and Illness*)

“Between Black and Foreign: Racial Identity Formation among Liberian Immigrants in Pittsburgh” (in preparation for *Transforming Anthropology*)

### Research Grants

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2014 – 2015 | Ford Institutional Allowance, National Academies (\$1500)<br>Project: Transformations of Group Identity in the Congo and the Liberian Diaspora<br>Role: PI                |
| 2013 - 2014 | UC Davis Center for Poverty Research Small Grant (\$24193)<br>Project: African Immigrants in the Low Wage Health Care Labor Market: Incorporation and Poverty<br>Role: PI |
| 2013        | Univ. of Pittsburgh, Arts and Sciences Third Term Research Grant (\$1000)<br>Project: Liberian Immigrants and the Creation of Community Online<br>Role: PI                |
| 2011-2015   | Univ. of Pittsburgh, Central Research Development Fund (\$14811)<br>(no-cost extension)<br>Project: Immigrant Identity Formation: The Liberian Diaspora<br>Role: PI       |
| 2011        | Univ. of Pittsburgh, Arts and Sciences Third Term Res. Stipend (\$4000)<br>Project: Gesture and Power<br>Role: PI   |
| 2011        | Univ. of Pittsburgh, Global Studies Faculty Research Grant (\$4000)<br>Project: The Changing Role of Women in Kongo independent Churches<br>Role: PI                      |

### Honors, Fellowships, and Other Grants

2016	Faculty Fellow, Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh
2015	African Studies Conference Travel Grant (\$500)
2015	New Connections Training Grant (SAS workshop) (RWJF) (\$945)
2014	Global Studies Course Dev. Grant (with Michele Reid-Vasquez) (\$1500)
2012	Honors Summer Research Award (with Robert Ogum) (\$3500)
2012	Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$40000)
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015	Dean's Discretionary Funds for Courses (\$865)
2011	Joint Program in Survey Methodology Short Course Fellowship (\$800)
2011	Honors Research Assistantship (with Katie Reding) (\$600)
2011	Recognized as Fab 40 Honoree (New Pittsburgh Courier)
2010, 2011, 2012, 2013	Hewlett Grant (Conference Travel), UCIS (U. of Pittsburgh) (\$4880)
2010	Writing in the Disciplines Faculty Seminar (U. of Pittsburgh) (\$1200)
2010	Women's Studies Course Development Grant (U. of Pittsburgh) (\$1000)
2010	Speaking in the Disciplines Faculty Seminar (U. of Pittsburgh) (\$1200)
2009	Bowman Travel Grant (U. of Pittsburgh) (\$2000)
2009	African Studies Course Development Grant (U. of Pittsburgh) (\$3000)
2007-2008	Institute for the Humanities, Grad. Fellow (U. of Michigan) (\$20640)
2007-2008	Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowship (declined)
2002-2007	Rackham Merit Fellowship (U. of Michigan) (\$88000)
2002, 2004, 2006	Africa Initiatives Research Award (U. of Michigan) (\$6500)
2005-2006	Fulbright Award (Int. Inst. of Education)- Dem. Rep. of Congo (\$28000)
2005	Rackham Discretionary Funds (U. of Michigan) (\$2250)
2005	Dept. of Anthropology Supp. Research Funds (U. of Michigan) (\$2026)
2005	Anna Alcott Smith Award/Outstanding Women Grad. Students (\$5000)
2003-2005	Council of Alumnae Women Alison Meyers Scholarship (\$4000)
2003, 2004	Roy A. Rappaport Outstanding Grad. Student Instructor Award (\$200)
2004	Summer Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (KiKongo) (\$3000)
2003, 2004	Center for World Performance Studies Research Grant (\$4000)
2002, 2003	International Institute Pre-dissertation Award (\$3000)
2002	Department of Anthropology Research Grant (\$1500)
2001-2002	Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies (\$17000)
2000-2001	National Gates Millennium Scholar (\$5000)
1997-2001	National Ron Brown Scholar (\$40000)

### Conference Paper Presentations

Nov 2015	Denver, Colorado Annual Conference of the American Anthropological Association Title of Paper: Embodiment, Movement, Personhood: The Role of Spirit-Induced Trembling in Becoming Bangunza in the Lower Congo
Nov 2015	Charleston, South Carolina Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

- Title of Paper: “Some Call you Slave”: Racism and African Origin Prejudice in Everyday Experiences of African Immigrant Direct Care Health Workers
- Oct 2015 Davis, California  
Center for Poverty Research, UC Davis, Small Grants Recipients Conference  
Title of Paper: African Immigrants in Low Wage Direct Care Occupations: Motivations, Mobility, Prejudice, and Poverty
- Dec 2014 Washington, DC  
Annual Conference of the American Anthropological Association  
\* Organizer of a Panel entitled “Digital Diasporas: African Migrants, Mediated Communication, and Transnational Identities”  
Title of Paper: Digital Transnationalism, Sonic Diasporas: Liberians Connecting through On-line Radio
- Nov 2014 Indianapolis, IN  
Annual Conference of the African Studies Association  
Title of Paper: “Embodiment, Belonging, and Self-Making in Religious Conversion Narratives in the Lower Congo”
- Oct 2014 Indianapolis, IN  
Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion  
Title of Paper: “The Body as Center: Embodiment as a Method in the Study of African Religious Movements”
- Nov 2013 Chicago, IL  
Annual Conference of the American Anthropological Association  
\* Organizer of Double Panel entitled “African Migrants and the Politics of Place: Identity, Community, Power” with 10 panelists and two discussants  
Title of Paper: “Eating FuFu in the Steel City: The Social Integration of Liberian Immigrants in Pittsburgh”  
  
\* Discussant on Panel Entitled “Powers of Narrative: Spiritual Imaginaries and the Ethnography of the Particular”
- Oct 2013 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)  
\* Chair of Panel Entitled “Media, Culture, and Public Expression in the African Diaspora”  
Title of Paper: Sonic Digital Diasporas: Liberians Creating Community through Online Radio”
- Dec 2012 Philadelphia, PA  
Annual Conference of the African Studies Association  
Title of Paper: “Trembling Bodies, Inspired Visions: *Bangunza* Narratives and Embodied Callings in the Lower Congo”

- Nov 2012 San Francisco, CA  
Annual Conference of the American Anthropological Association  
Title of Paper: "Trembling Prophets and Performative Encounters:  
Embodied Resistance in Colonial Belgian Congo, 1921-1960"
- Sep 2012 Pittsburgh, PA  
Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life  
and History  
Title of Paper: "Female Saints, Nationalism, and Everyday Performances in Early  
18<sup>th</sup> century Kongo."
- Mar 2012 Ithaca, NY  
Cornell University  
Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association  
Title of Paper: "Connecting Diaspora and Homeland: Liberians Creating  
Community through On-Line Radio"
- Feb 2012 Carlisle, PA  
Central Pennsylvania Consortium Africana Studies Conference  
Title of Paper: "Everyday Performances in the Liberian Diaspora: Creating  
Community through On-Line Radio Discourse"
- Nov 2011 Montreal, Canada  
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference  
Title of Paper: "Gesture and Power: Bundu dia Kongo and Embodied  
Nationalism in the Congo"
- Nov 2011 Pittsburgh, PA  
Assoc. for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference  
\*Chair of Panel Entitled "Performance & Black Power: Agency, Resistance, and  
the Cultural Politics of Identity in Africa and its Diasporas"  
Title of Paper: "Embodied Revolutions: The Body Politics of Bundu dia Kongo"
- April 2011 Charlotte, NC  
University of North Carolina Dept. of Africana Studies Annual Conference  
Title of Paper: "Transforming Communities, Recreating Selves: The Role of  
Dance in Shaping Liberian Immigrant Identity"
- Mar 2011 Cincinnati, OH  
National Council for Black Studies Annual Conference  
Title of Paper: "Small Miracles: The Shifting Roles of Women and the Holy  
Spirit in a Kongo Church"
- Nov 2010 Leuven, Belgium  
KADOC, Religion, Colonisation, and Decolonisation in the Congo, 1885-1960  
Title of Paper: "Your Name is Written in the Sky": Unearthing the Stories of  
Female Prophets in Kongo Colonial History, 1921-1960."

- Nov 2010      New Orleans, LA  
American Anthropological Association National Conference  
\*Chair of Panel Entitled “African Expressions: Performance and Artistic Engagements”  
Title of Paper: “The Circulation of Dances: The Changing Role of the Grand March in Liberian and Liberian-American Identity”
- May 2010      West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV  
African Research Consortium Meeting  
Title of Paper: “Shaping Identities and Symbolizing Nations: The Grand March in Liberia and the Liberian Diaspora”
- April 2010     Columbia University, New York, NY  
Building an African Presence Conference, Committee on Global Thought  
Title of Paper: “Shifting Representations, Transformational Dances: The Grand March and Liberian Identity”
- Dec 2009      Philadelphia, PA  
American Anthropological Association National Conference  
\*Chair of Panel Entitled “History, Tradition, Modernity, and the State in Africa”  
Title of Paper: “Performing the Nation in the Bedroom: Political Animation, Coercive Authority, And Gendered Dancing Bodies under Mobutu”
- Nov 2008      San Francisco, California  
American Anthropological Association National Conference  
Title of Paper: “Revelations and Ritual, Purity and Danger: White Cloth and Spiritual Power in the DMNA Church”
- Mar 2008      University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Black Humanities Collective Conference  
Title of Paper: “Performing Kongo Pride: Cultural Performances Transforming Modern Society”
- May 2007      University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario  
Joint American Ethnological Society/Canadian Anthropological Society Conference  
Title of Paper: “The Angels Sing with Us”: Trembling Hands, Christian Hearts, and Dancing for Nzambi in the Congo”
- Nov 2006      Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, CA  
International Conference of the African Studies Association  
Title of Paper: “Dumuka mu Mvita! (Jump into the fight!): Bundu dia Kongo and the Restoration of the Kongo Kingdom”
- May 2006      Depaul University, Chicago, IL  
Theorizing African/Black Diaspora Conference: History, Memory, and Representation



Title of Paper: "Rebuilding the Kingdom: The Kongo Diaspora in Bundu dia Kongo."

June 2002 Panama City, Panama  
International Conference of the Association of Black Anthropologists  
Title of Paper: "Congos and Embodied Histories"

### Invited Lectures

June, 2016 Bridging the Gap Lecture Series, Union of African Communities  
University of Pittsburgh  
Panel Discussant, on identifying challenges to and seeking solutions for collaboration between African, Afro-Caribbean, and African-American Communities; also assisted with planning/locating sponsors

April 2016 "Meet the Author" Session at the "Doing the Body" Conference  
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program  
University of Pittsburgh  
Session for Discussion of new book *Gesture and Power* (Duke Univ. press)

Mar 2016 Department of Sociology and Anthropology & Global Studies Program  
Lehigh University  
Digital Peacekeeping: Liberians Creating a Transnational Community of Reconciliation through Online Radio

June 2015 Bridging the Gap Lecture Series, Union of African Communities  
Duquesne University  
Panel Discussant, on identifying challenges to and seeking solutions for collaboration between African, Afro-Caribbean, and African-American Communities

May 2015 Black Performance Theory Working Group  
New York University  
"The Sound of Neurons"  
Group Presentation/Performance with Tavia N'yongo, Jayna Brown, Uri MacMillan, and Zakiyyah Iman Jackson

August 2014 Seshemet Community Council Lecture Series  
CCAC, Homewood Branch  
"Africans and African-Americans"

June 2014 Rights and Responsibilities  
Carnegie Library, East Liberty Branch  
Panelist and Discussant, "Dark Girls" Film Screening

Dec 2013 RISE Student Mentoring Dinner  
University of Pittsburgh

- “What are you doing with your summer? Summer Research Opportunities”
- October 2013 K-12 Teacher’s Workshop  
Global Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh  
“Global Issues Through Literature: The House at Sugar Beach”
- April 2013 Black Performance Theory Working Group  
University of Texas, Austin  
“What is Africa to Me?: Black Gold”  
Group Presentation/Performance with Xavier Livermon and Omi O. Jones
- Dec 2012 Interracial Relations Group RAP Meeting  
Center for the Study of Race and Social Problems  
University of Pittsburgh  
“Danced Nationalisms, Transformed Consciousnesses: Everyday Performances under Mobutu Sese Seko”
- July 2012 Leadership Alliance Annual Conference (Hartford, CT)  
“Alumna Reflections on Leadership Alliance”
- May 2012 Interdisciplinary Humanities Center/African Studies Research Focus Group  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
“A War Between Soldiers and Prophets: Embodied Resistance in Colonial Belgian Congo”
- Feb 2012 Black History Month Program  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Pittsburgh, PA)  
“Black Women, Her-Story, and the Challenge of Self-Definition”
- Nov 2011 K-12 Teacher’s Workshop  
World History Center, University of Pittsburgh  
“Historical Connections Within Africa”
- July 2011 Liberian Community Association, Pittsburgh, PA  
Liberian Youth Event, Independence Weekend  
“Unity, Education, Persistence”
- May 2011 Black Performance Theory Working Group  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
“Transformative Gestures in Southern Rotation”  
Group Presentation/Performance with Raquel Monroe and Grisha Coleman
- Feb 2011 K-12 Teachers Workshop  
World History Center, University of Pittsburgh  
Title of Paper: “Africa in World History: Twentieth Century Africa”  
(Co-presented with Rebecca Shumway, Dept. of History)
- Dec 2010 Religious Studies Colloquium Series

Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh  
Title of Paper: “Embodying the Spirit: Kongo Female Prophets and Religious Movements in the Lower Congo”

- Oct 2010 Anthropology Lecture Series  
Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh  
Title of Paper: “Dancing with the Invisible: Gender, Performance, and the Cult of Mobutu in Post-Colonial Congo”
- August 2010 Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo  
American Cultural Center, Embassy of the United States of America  
Title of Paper: “Le Geste et le Pouvoir dans la culture Kongo” (Delivered in French)
- July 2010 Luozi, Democratic Republic of Congo  
Université Libre de Luozi  
Title of Paper: “L’enseignement Supérieure et Universitaire quelque organize aux Etats Unis d’Amerique” (Delivered in French)
- Oct 2006 University of Michigan  
“Africa and its Diasporas” class, Center for AfroAmerican and African Studies  
Lecture on “Kongo Cosmology and Kongo Christianity”
- Jan 2006 Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo  
Centre d’Etudes et de Diffusion des Arts à L’Institut National des Arts  
Title of Paper: “Les Makinu des BaKongo comme expression de l’Histoire” (Delivered in French)

### Invited Attendance

- June 2013 New Connections Symposium, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Princeton, NJ

### Courses Taught

#### University of Pittsburgh:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Introduction to Africana Studies         | Fall 2009, Spring/Fall 2010, Spring/Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Summer 2012, Spring 2014, Spring 2016 |
| Women of Africa and the African Diaspora | Fall 2009, Spring 2011, Spring 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2017                                     |
| Cultures of Africa                       | Spring 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2017   |

Power and Performance in Africa Fall 2010, Spring 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2015

Global Diasporas: Contemporary African and Caribbean Migration Fall 2014, Fall 2016

**University of Michigan:**

Black Performance Culture in the Atlantic World Winter 2009

Introduction to Anthropology (co-taught) Winter 2009

**Research Experience**

- 2015 - 2016 **Mixed Methods Research on Stress and Coping among African Immigrants in Southwestern PA** (with Dr. Kafuli Agbemenu and Dr. Annamore Matambanadzo)  
• Led focus groups and currently collecting survey data on sources of stress and coping strategies among African immigrants in SW PA
- 2014 **Ethnographic Research**, Pittsburgh Area  
• Conducted individual interviews on the entry, experiences, and occupational mobility of African immigrants in low wage direct care occupations
- 2013 - 2015 **Online Survey Research**  
• Performed survey research on Liberian immigrants, their online and offline social networks, and self-assessed health and well-being
- 2009 - 2015 **Ethnographic Research**, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and other cities in United States  
• Conducted ethnographic research, newspaper research, interviews, and focus groups on community identity formation in the Liberian Diaspora
- Summer 2012 **Archival Research**, Baptist Miss. Society, Angus Library (Oxford, UK)  
• Conducted archival research on British Baptist reactions to the prophetic movements inspired by the Prophet Simon Kimbangu in colonial Belgian Congo
- Summer 2010 **Ethnographic Research**, Luozi, Democratic Republic of the Congo  
• Conducted ethnographic research on Kongo female prophets, the status of women in the DMNA church, and negotiating power through gestures
- Summer 2009 **Archival Research**, American Baptist Historical Society (Atlanta, GA)  
• Conducted archival research on American Baptist reactions to the prophetic movements inspired by the Prophet Simon Kimbangu in colonial Belgian Congo

- Summer 2006      **Archival Research**, Brussels and Tervuren, Belgium  
• Conducted archival research in the African Archives of the Minster of Foreign Affairs and the Royal Museum for Central Africa
- 2005-2006      **Ethnographic Research**, Luozi and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo  
• Conducted ethnographic and archival research for dissertation on Kongo embodied practices and cultural performances
- Summer 2002;  
Feb 2003      **Ethnographic Research**, Portobelo and Panama City, Panama  
• Performed ethnographic research on Congo dance traditions in Portobelo

### **Public/Media Appearances**

- Feb, 2016      KQV Radio (Pittsburgh), 1410 AM, Interview for *Gesture and Power*  
Dec, 2015      Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Newsmaker for new book  
Oct, 2014      Part of Pittsburgh Tribune-Review story on Liberians and ebola  
Sep, 2014      Ebony Spectrum Talk Show, 88.3 FM, Pittsburgh  
March, 2011      Panelist on Winning Images Show, Pittsburgh Public Television  
Feb, 2011      Profiled in the Pitt Chronicle Newspaper  
October, 2011      Dancer in Kongo Dance Piece (Mbongi Dance Theatre) with Nego Gato Performance Group, "From Kongo to Brazil" (Kelly Strayhorn Theater)

### **Pedagogical Training**

- Fall, 2010      Writing in the Disciplines Faculty Seminar, Univ. of Pittsburgh  
Spring, 2010      Speaking in the Disciplines Faculty Seminar, Univ. of Pittsburgh  
Summer, 2007      Preparing Future Faculty Seminar, Univ. of Michigan  
• Designated a Michigan Teaching Fellow  
Fall, 2006      Training for Multicultural Classroom Facilitation, Univ. of Michigan

### **Methodological Training**

- Sep, 2015      SAS Virtual Workshop (Center for Statistical Consultation and Research (CSCAR), University of Michigan)  
Nov, 2012      Text Analysis Workshop (American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA)  
Nov, 2011      Social Network Analysis Extended Workshop (American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada)  
Oct, 2011      Focus Group Training Short Course (Joint Program in Survey Methodology, Washington, DC)

### **Mentorship and Independent Study**

- Spring 2010      First Experiences in Research Mentor (Nadia Johnson and Emily Livingston)  
Spring 2011      Independent Study (Black Cultural Research Tours) (Titilope Akinlose)  
Spring 2011      Independent Study (Liberian Immigrants and Grand March) (Siatta Dennis)  
Spring 2011      First Experiences in Research Mentor (Katie Reding and Megan Willison)

Fall 2011	Independent Study (Socio-demographics of Liberian Immigrants) (Anthony Simpson and Megan Willison)
Fall 2011	Honors Research Assistantship Mentor (Katie Reding)
Spring 2012	Independent Study (Liberians Online) (Malika James)
Spring 2012	First Experiences in Research Mentor (Elizabeth Tubito)
Summer 2012	Honors Summer Research Award (Robert Ogum)
Spring 2016	First Experiences in Research Mentor (Zoe Creamer, Noah Coco, Eden Hailu, Amiya Kalra)
Summer 2016	Summer Undergraduate Research Award (Brandon Small)
Summer 2016	Independent Study (Vashti Webb)

### **Student Thesis Committees**

2012	Cory Rodgers (B Phil, University of Pittsburgh, Committee Member)
2014	Devin Tatro (Honors Thesis (Anthropology), Bates College, External Member)
2015	Elizabeth Tubito (B. Phil, University of Pittsburgh, Committee Member)

### **Membership**

2014 – present	<i>Member</i> , Population Association of America
2012 – present	<i>Member</i> , Emerging Scholars Interdisciplinary Network
2012 – present	<i>Member</i> , Central African Studies Association
2012 – present	<i>Member</i> , Congolese Studies Association
2012 – present	<i>Member</i> , Assoc. for Study African Am. Life & History
2011 – present	<i>Member</i> , Liberian Studies Association
2011-present	<i>Member</i> , Assoc. for Study of Worldwide African Diaspora
2009 – present	<i>Member</i> , National Council for Black Studies
2008 - 2010	<i>Volunteer</i> , Alumni Interviewing Team (Brown University)
2007 – present	<i>Member</i> , Association for Africanist Anthropology
2003- present	<i>Member</i> , African Studies Association
2001- present	<i>Member</i> , American Anthropological Association
2001- present	<i>Member</i> , Association of Black Anthropologists
2001- 2008	<i>Member</i> , Students of Color of Rackham (SCOR)
2001- 2003	<i>Member</i> , Bichina Bia Congo Dance Company
2003- 2005	<i>Volunteer Coach</i> , Tappan Middle School Step Team

### **Professional Service Activities**

#### **Service to the Department of Africana Studies**

2014	<i>Chair</i> , Postdoctoral Selection Committee
2014	<i>Member</i> , Faculty Search Committee for New Department Administrator II position
2011	<i>Organizer</i> , Black Cultural Research Tours Feasibility Study

2010 *Discussant*, Department Film Series

**Service to the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences**

2015 – present *Member*, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee

2015 *Respondent* for D. Soyini Madison  
Humanities Center and Department of Theatre Arts  
University of Pittsburgh  
Spectacles of Labor: Performance and the Working Class Symposium

2014 *Respondent* for Armando Garcia  
Faculty Fellows Colloquium  
Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh

2014 *Respondent*, Session IV: “Blooded Thought, Embodied Engagement”  
Public Praxis: Performing, Race, History (symposium)  
Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh

**Service to the University of Pittsburgh**

2016 *Commentator* for Catherine Besteman for Moving: Gendered Experiences of Migration, Gentrification, and Displacement, A Workshop (Global Studies Center)

2015 *Panelist and Discussant* for film “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”  
Global Health Film Series, Global Health Students Assoc.  
Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

2014 – present *Faculty Advisory Board Member*, African Studies Program

2013 – 2014 *Search Committee Member*, Director of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) and Senior Director of International Programs (appointed by the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies)

2013 – 2014 *Boren Awards for International Study Campus Interview Committee*, University Honors College

2010 – 2012 *Faculty Advisor*, Pan African Graduate Students Association

2011 *Invited Speaker*, Black History Month Program  
Xi Delta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta, University of Pittsburgh  
Title of Lecture: “Correction! I KNOW I’m Bad! Black Women and the Challenge of Self-Definition”

2011 *Selection Committee*, UCIS Hewlett Grants

2010	<i>Selection Comm.</i> , FLAS Fellowships (UCIS)
<b>Service to External and Professional Organizations</b>	
2016	<i>Member</i> , Paper Award Committee, Central African Studies Association
2009 - present	<i>Secretary</i> , Association for Africanist Anthropology
2012 - present	<i>Member</i> , African American Advisory Committee (Heinz History Museum)
2010 – present	<i>Article Manuscript Reviewer</i> , American Ethnologist (twice), International Journal of African Historical Studies, PLOS ONE, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Disparities, Journal of Africana Religions, Social Science and Missions, Syllabus, Alif: Comparative Journal of Poetics
2013 – 2014	<i>Head of Award Review Committee and Member</i> , Selma Jeanne Cohen Award, Society of Dance History Scholars
2012 - present	<i>Advisory Board Member</i> , Union of African Communities of Southwestern Pennsylvania
2010-2011	<i>Local Organizing Committee</i> , Biennial Conference, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Pittsburgh 2011
2010-2011	<i>Selection Committee Member</i> , John Gwaltney Scholarship, Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA)

### Language Proficiency

<i>French</i>	Intermediate reading, writing and speaking ability
<i>Spanish</i>	Intermediate reading, and basic writing and speaking ability
<i>KiKongo</i>	Basic reading, writing, and speaking ability