

VICTORIA M. MASSIE

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Sociocultural Anthropology with Designated Emphasis in Science & Technology Studies
Assembling Genetic Ancestry: Race, Return, and the Materiality of Home in Cameroon
Committee: Cori Hayden (Chair), Mariane Ferme, and Donna V. Jones
- 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) and African & African American Studies
Cum Laude with highest distinction in Anthropology and highest distinction in African &
African-American Studies
Honors Thesis: *(Re)Connection: Networking African-American Identity in Genetic Ancestry Testing*
Advisor: Eleana Kim
- 2010 CIEE Semester Study Abroad Program, University of Ghana, Legon, Spring.
- 2009 Malawi Immersion Seminar Study Abroad Program, University of Rochester. Summer.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 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 Stanley Brandes Grant for Ethnographic Fieldwork, Department of Anthropology, UC
Berkeley
- 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
- 2015 Awarded Lifetime Membership, West African Research Association, Boston University
- 2014 - 2015 Rocca Dissertation Fellowship, Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley
- 2014 - 2015 Dissertation Research Grant, University of California Center for New Racial Studies
Theme: "Global Raciality: Empire, Postcoloniality, and Decoloniality"
- 2013 Rocca Pre-dissertation Fellowship, Center for African Studies, 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
- 2011 - 2013 Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study, UC Berkeley
- 2011 - 2012 Faculty Mentored Research Award, UC Berkeley
- 2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (deferred 2013 - 2015)
- 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, Deans Committee, University of Rochester
Approved to devote senior year to single research project.
- 2009 - 2011 Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, University of Rochester
- 2008 National Society of Collegiate Scholars, University of Rochester
- 2007 - 2011 Renaissance Scholarship, University of Rochester
Full-tuition scholarship awarded to top 1% of incoming freshmen demonstrating outstanding intellectual promise, and academic achievement.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Non-Refereed 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 LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2018 “The Risks We Bear to Belong.” Situated Knowledges || Thirty Years Later.” Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. November.
- 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, 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

- 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.

Invited Talks

- 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.

TEACHING

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

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

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

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Research

Nov. 2017 - Nov. 2018 *Cameroon:* Fieldwork providing a comparative analysis of genetic diaspora 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 including gel electrophoresis, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and genotyping tissue samples from cancer patients.

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, Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley.

University Service

- 2012 - 2013 President, Black Graduate Students Association, Graduate Assembly, UC Berkeley.

WRITING AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016 - 2017 Communications Coordinator, The Center for Genetics & Society, Berkeley, CA.
- 2016 Race & Identities Writing Fellow, Vox Media, Washington, DC.
- 2015 Staff Writer, Black Youth Project, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 NTRSCITN News Intern, Complex Magazine, New York, NY.
- 2014 Awarded “Funniest Poem” at College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI), Boulder, CO.
- 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 Non-Fiction Writer, Mutated Text: A Cross-Genre Creative Writing Workshop, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
- 2010 Publisher, The Campus Times, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.
- 2009 Copy Editor, The Campus Times, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.
- 2009 Editor-in-Chief, The Participant Observer, Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Science FARE (Feminist, Anti-Racist, Equity) Collective
California STS Network
Society for Social Studies of Science
American Anthropological Association
Association for Africanist Anthropology
Society for Cultural Anthropology
Association of Black Anthropologists
African Studies Association
West African Research Association
North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon

LANGUAGES

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

REFERENCES

Available upon request