

# VICTORIA M. MASSIE

## *Curriculum Vitae*

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### EDUCATION

- Expected* Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
*May 2020* Sociocultural Anthropology with a Designated Emphasis in Science & Technology Studies  
*Assembling Genetic Ancestry: Race, Return, and the Materiality of Belonging 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.
- 2008 Malawi Immersion Seminar Study Abroad Program, University of Rochester. Summer.

### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2019 - 2020 Mellon-Sawyer Dissertation Fellowship, Center for the Humanities, Tufts University  
Theme: "Defamiliarizing the Family: Genealogy and Kinship as Critical Method" with Kendra Field and Sarah Pinto
- 2018 Fall Graduate Student Research Grant, Center for Race & Gender, UC Berkeley.
- 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
- May 2019

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, 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
- 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*

- 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, 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.

### ***Discussant***

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

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

## FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

### ***Dissertation Research***

Nov. 2017 - Dec. 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                      NTRSCN 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