

Matthew Francis Rarey
Curriculum Vitae
Updated October 2024

Contact

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Research and Teaching Interests

Visual cultures of the Black Atlantic world, early modern to contemporary; Slavery and its roles in the visual field; Arts of Afro-Atlantic religions; Mapping and cartography; Aesthetics of assemblage, ephemerality, and accumulation; Museum and curatorial studies; Critical intersectional studies of archives, diaspora, race, sexuality, and colonization.

Education

2014 Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Art History and Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies
2010 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Certificate in African Studies
2008 M.A. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Art History
2005 B.A. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Anthropology and Art History (Highest Distinction)
2004 Universidad Nacional de Trujillo (Peru), Certificate in Archaeological Studies

Positions Held

Academic Appointments

2021-Present Associate Professor of Art History, Oberlin College
2015-2021 Assistant Professor of Art History, Oberlin College
2014-2015 Visiting Assistant Professor of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
2010-2011 Adjunct Lecturer in Art History, Carthage College
2008-2009 Teaching Assistant, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Administrative Appointments

2023-Present Chair, Department of Art History, Oberlin College
2021-2022 Chair, Latin American Studies Program, Oberlin College

Residential Fellowship and Visiting Scholar Appointments

2018-2019 Visiting Scholar, Program of African Studies, Northwestern University

Museum and Curatorial Positions

2009-2010 Curatorial Fellow in African Art, Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2005-2006 Anthropology Collections Assistant, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois
2005 Regenstein Intern in South Pacific Anthropology, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois
2002-2004 Collections Assistant, Spurlock Museum of World Cultures, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fellowships and Grants***External***

- 2022 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, “Mapping the Early Modern World.”
The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018-2019 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
- 2012-2013 Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research
in Original Sources
- 2011 James R. Scobie Memorial Award, Conference on Latin American History

Internal (Oberlin College)

- 2023 Oberlin College Teaching Grant (\$3,000 to develop course “Sacred Arts of Vodou and Santería”)
- 2022-2023 Oberlin College Research Status (full salary plus research funds during sabbatical)
- 2022 H.H. Powers Travel Grant (\$2,800 for archival research in Brazil)
- 2018-2019 B. Wade & Jane B. White Fellowship in the Humanities
- 2017 Mellon Foundation Writing Advanced Curriculum Development Grant, “Reassessing Art History
Writing in a Global Curriculum” (\$1,500)
- 2016 Oberlin College Teaching Grant (\$2,300 to develop course “Looking for Africa in Brazil”)

Internal (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

- 2015 Support for Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Office of Undergraduate Research (declined)
- 2014 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) Faculty Research Travel Award

Internal (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- 2013-2014 Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities
- 2013 Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Dissertation Fellowship
- 2011 Vilas Research Travel Grant, The Graduate School
- 2011 Chancellor’s Fellowship, Department of Art History
- 2009-2010 Graduate Curatorial Fellowship, Department of Art History
- 2009 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (Brazilian Portuguese)
- 2009 Shirley L. and Dr. Willard Fritz Mueller Art History Graduate Student Travel Award
- 2008-2009 Teaching Assistantship, Department of Art History
- 2008 Shirley L. and Dr. Willard Fritz Mueller Art History Graduate Student Travel Award
- 2007-2008 Visual Resources Project Assistantship, Department of Art History
- 2007 Tinker-Nave Field Research Grant, Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program
- 2006-2007 Chipstone Project Assistantship, Material Culture Program

Honors and Awards

- 2024 Murdo J. MacLeod Book Prize, Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical
Association
- 2024 Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Award, Arts Council of the African Studies Association
- 2024 Award for Curatorial Excellence (Shortlisted), Arts Council of the African Studies Association
(shared with Andrea Gyorody)
- 2024 Charles Rufus Morey Book Award, College Art Association
- 2024 Afro Latin American/Afro-Latinx Scholarship Prize, Association of Latin American Art and the
Visual Culture Section of the Latin American Studies Association
- 2020 Award for Excellence, Association of Art Museum Curators (shared with Andrea Gyorody)

2010	Joaquim Nabuco Award, Brazil Initiative of the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2008	University Housing's Honored Instructor Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2008	Art Institute of Chicago Graduate Symposium Award, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2008	Graduate Student Presentation Award, Midwest Art History Society
2005	Outstanding Senior in Art History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2005	James Scholar Graduation Honors, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Publications

Books

- 2023 Rarey, Matthew Francis. *Insignificant Things: Amulets and the Art of Survival in the Early Black Atlantic* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2023). 304pp.
- Awards:
 - 1) 2024 Charles Rufus Morey Book Award, College Art Association (for “an especially distinguished book in the history of art, published in the English language”)
 - 2) 2024 Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Award, Arts Council of the African Studies Association (single-author category, for “excellence in scholarship on the arts of Africa and the African Diaspora”)
 - 3) 2024 Murdo J. MacLeod Book Prize, Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association (for “the best book published in the previous year in the fields of Latin America, Caribbean, American Borderlands and Frontiers, or Atlantic World history”)
 - Reviews:
 - 1) John D. Thornton, [The International Journal of African Historical Studies](#) 56:3 (September 2023): 458-459.
 - 2) Avenel Rolfsen, [Research Africa Reviews](#) 7:3 (December 2023): 17-19.
 - 3) Amidu Olalekan Sanni, [Research Africa Reviews](#) 7:3 (December 2023): 22-25.
 - 4) Rosa de Jorio and Joseph Hellweg, [Africa Today](#) 70:4 (Summer 2024): 71-87.
 - 5) Ana Struillou, [The Journal of Early Modern History](#) 28:4 (September 2024): 351-353.
 - 6) Matt D. Childs, [The Journal of Social History](#) (2024)
 - 7) Hermann W. von Hesse, [The Journal of African History](#) (2024)
 - Featured mentions:
 - 1) Michael Kennedy, “[Books of Interest.](#)” *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 56:2 (July 2023): 211.
 - 2) Alexander Filippides, “[Humanities Researchers Remember the Slave trade and its Abolition.](#)” *National Endowment for the Humanities Blog*, August 23, 2023.
 - 3) Ana Lucia Araujo, “[The best books on the material culture of the Atlantic slave trade and colonialism.](#)” *Shepherd*, December 2023.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Under review Rarey, Matthew Francis. “A Black Cartographer of the Long Eighteenth Century: Anastácio de Sant’Anna’s *Guia de Caminhantes*.” *Arts*, special issue “Black Artists in the Atlantic World,” ed. Paul Niell and Emily Thames. Submitted for peer review, September 2024.

- Forthcoming Rarey, Matthew Francis. "Mapping the Black Atlantic After Slavery: Material Lessons from Jaime Lauriano." In *The Art and Architecture of Mapping: Visual and Material Approaches to Cartographic Objects*, ed. Emily Mann and Stephen H. Whiteman (London: The Courtauld Institute of Art).
- Forthcoming Rarey, Matthew Francis. "Anxious Cartographies: Mapping Quilombos in Colonial Brazil." In *Environmental Histories of the Black Atlantic World*, ed. Oscar de la Torre (Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks). Submitted final edits, September 2024.
- 2020 Rarey, Matthew Francis, with Henry John Drewal. "[Never at Rest: African Art at the University of Wisconsin](#)." *African Arts* 53:4 (Winter 2020): 68-85.
- Rarey, Matthew Francis. "['And the Jet Would Be Invaluable': Blackness, Bondage, and The Beloved](#)." *The Art Bulletin* 102:3 (September 2020): 28-53.
- Selected as one of nineteen articles in Routledge's [2022 Black History Month collection](#), made open-access through the end of 2022.
- 2018 Rarey, Matthew Francis. "[Assemblage, Occlusion, and the Art of Survival in the Black Atlantic](#)." *African Arts* 51:4 (Winter 2018): 20-33.
- Portuguese translation: Rarey, Matthew Francis. "[Assemblagem, oclusão e a arte da sobrevivência no Atlântico Negro](#)." *19e20* 16:1 (January-June 2021).
- 2015 Rarey, Matthew Francis. "Counterwitnessing the Visual Culture of Brazilian Slavery." In *African Heritage and Memories of Slavery in Brazil and the South Atlantic World*, ed. Ana Lucia Araujo (Amherst, NY: Cambria Press, 2015): 71-108.
- French translation: Rarey, Matthew Francis. "Contre-regard porté sur la culture visuelle de l'esclavage au Brésil." In *Esclavages: Représentations visuelles et cultures matérielles (Atlantique-océan Indien)*, ed. Ana Lucia Araujo, Myriam Cottias, and Klara Anna Boyer-Rossol (Paris: CNRS éditions / UNESCO, 2024): 283-312.
- 2014 Rarey, Matthew Francis. "[Camera Lucida Mexicana: Travel, Visual Technologies, and Contested Objectivities](#)." *Visuality's Romantic Genealogies*, special volume of *Romantic Circles Praxis Series*, ed. Theresa M. Kelley and Jill H. Casid (December 2014).
- 2012 Fullerton, Lindsay and Matthew Francis Rarey. "[Virtual Materiality: Collectors and Collection in the Brazilian Music Blogosphere](#)." *Communication, Culture, and Critique* 5:1 (March 2012): 1-19.

Invited Contributions to Edited Volumes and Journal Special Issues

- Forthcoming Rarey, Matthew Francis. "Renaming the Fetish: Assembling *Bolsas de Mandinga*." In *The Fetish A(r)t Work: African Objects in the Making of European Art History, 1500-1900*, ed. Anne Lafont (Williamstown, MA: The Clark Art Institute). Submitted September 2024.
- Forthcoming Rarey, Matthew Francis. "The Magic of Decolonization." *West 86th: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture*, special issue, "Magic," ed. Ittai Weinryb (Spring 2025).
- In production Rarey, Matthew Francis. "Preface." In *Portraits in a Nutshell: The Art and History of Coquilla Nut Snuff Bottles and Boxes*, ed. Donna S. Sanzone (Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2025).

- 2023 Rarey, Matthew Francis. “[Sela Adjei: Seeing in Black](#).” In [Zadokeli: Efo Sela x Mawuli Adzei x Elikplim Akorli](#), ed. G. Edzordzi Agbozo and Niklas Wolf (Accra: Grin Publications, 2023): 13-21.
- Rarey, Matthew Francis. “Leave No Mark: Blackness and Inscription in the Inquisitorial Archive.” In [Black Modernisms in the Transatlantic World](#), ed. Steven Nelson and Huey Copeland (Washington: National Gallery of Art, 2023): 34-55.
- Winner of the 2024 Afro Latin American/Afro-Latinx Scholarship Prize, awarded jointly by the Association of Latin American Art and the Latin American Studies Association-Visual Culture Section
- 2012 Rarey, Matthew Francis. “Visualism.” In [Theorizing Visual Studies: Writing Through the Discipline](#), ed. James Elkins and Kristi McGuire with Maureen Burns, Alicia Chester, and Joel Kuennen (New York: Routledge, 2012): 278-281.
- Commissioned Entries in Dictionaries**
- 2016 Rarey, Matthew Francis. “Francisco das Chagas;” “Manuel da Cunha;” “José Theóphilo de Jesus;” and “Joaquim Pinto de Oliveira (Thebas)” in [Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Biography](#), ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Franklin K. Knight (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).
- Reviews of Books, Films, and Exhibitions**
- Forthcoming Rarey, Matthew Francis. Review of *The Gift: How Objects of Prestige Shaped the Atlantic Slave Trade and Colonialism*, by Ana Lucia Araujo (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023). *The American Historical Review*. Submitted October 2024.
- 2022 Rarey, Matthew Francis. [Review of *Second Careers: Two Tributaries in African Art*](#) (Cleveland Museum of Art, November 1, 2020 – March 14, 2021), curated by Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi. *African Arts* 55:2 (Summer 2022): 85-87.
- Rarey, Matthew Francis. [Review of *Sensory Reflections: Traces of Experience in Medieval Artifacts*](#), edited by Fiona Griffiths and Kathryn Starkey. *Monatshefte* 114:1 (April 2022): 133-135.
- 2017 Rarey, Matthew Francis. [Review of *Shine: The Visual Economy of Light in African Diasporic Aesthetic Practice*](#), by Krista Thompson. *African Arts* 50:4 (Winter 2017): 90-92.
- 2016 Rarey, Matthew Francis. [Review of *Jean-Michael Basquiat: Now's the Time*](#), ed. Dieter Buchhart. *CAA Reviews*, February 2016.
- 2015 Rarey, Matthew Francis. [Review of *Black Art in Brazil: Expressions of Identity*](#), by Kimberly L. Cleveland. *Luso-Brazilian Review* 52:1 (June 2015): 163-166.
- 2013 Rarey, Matthew Francis. [Review of *Brazilian Art under Dictatorship: Antonio Manuel, Artur Barrio and Cildo Meireles*](#), by Claudia Calirman. *Luso-Brazilian Review* 50:2 (December 2013): 163-166.
- Rarey, Matthew Francis. “[The Black Presence in Argentina: A Review of *Afroargentinos*, a film by Jorge Fortes and Diego H. Ceballos](#).” H-AfrArts, H-Net Reviews, March 2013.

- 2011 Rarey, Matthew Francis. "[Uruguay as Race and Nation: A Review of *Blackness in the White Nation: A History of Afro-Uruguay*, by George Reid Andrews.](#)" H-AfrArts, H-Net Reviews, August 2011.
- 2010 Rarey, Matthew Francis and Alyson Williams. "[The Direction of Afro-Mexican Studies: A Review of *Black Mexico: Race and Society from Colonial to Modern Times*, ed. Ben Vinson, III and Matthew Restall.](#)" H-AfrArts, H-Net Reviews, April 2010.
- 2009 Rarey, Matthew Francis and Alyson Williams. "[Rethinking Black and Christian Lives in New Spain: A Review of *Colonial Blackness: A History of Afro-Mexico*, by Herman L. Bennett.](#)" H-AfrArts, H-Net Reviews, November 2009.

Works in Progress (date on left is date of submission; peer reviewed marked with *)

- 2025 January Rarey, Matthew Francis. "The 'Slave Coast' and the Black Atlantic, ca. 1700." In *The Routledge Companion to West African Art History*, ed. Moyo Okediji (New York: Routledge). Solicited and in progress.
- In preparation *Rarey, Matthew Francis. "A Bundle of Silences': Histories and Historiographies of an Unassuming Form." In *Bundles*, ed. Cécile Fromont (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press). Solicited and in progress.
- In preparation Rarey, Matthew Francis. "Bolsas de Mandinga." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Renaissance World*, ed. Wendy Beth Hyman.

Exhibitions and Curatorial Projects

- 2020 *Subjects of Freedom: Archives Against Slavery, ca. 1790-1980*. Mary Church Terrell Main Library, Oberlin College. Lead curator overseeing seven students of the advanced undergraduate seminar "Slavery, Freedom, and the Problem of the Visual" (Oberlin College, Fall 2019). February 10-29, 2020. Oberlin College Special Collections hosts [a digital version of the exhibition](#).
- 2019 *Afterlives of the Black Atlantic*. Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College. Co-curator with Andrea Gyorody. August 20, 2019-May 24, 2020 [Closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19].
- Awards:
 - 1) 2020 Association of Art Museum Curators' Award for Excellence for an exhibition from an organization with an operating budget under \$5 million.
 - 2) Shortlisted, 2024 Award for Curatorial Excellence from the Arts Council of the African Studies Association
 - Reviews: [African Arts](#), [Hyperallergic](#), [CAN Journal](#), and [The Plain Dealer / Cleveland.com](#).
- 2017 Installation of the Arts of Africa, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College. Lead curator overseeing fifteen students of the advanced undergraduate seminar "African Art in Museums: From Collection to Display" (Oberlin College, Fall 2016). Opened January 31, 2017; with significant changes to objects and labels in July 2019 and July 2020.
- 2015 Temporary installation of the Arts of Africa, Emile H. Mathis Art Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. August-December 2015.

- 2011 Installation of the Arts of Africa, Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Co-curator with Henry J. Drewal and Freida High W. Tesfagiorgis. Opened October 22, 2011.
- 2009 “Stereopsis: Artists Take on Perception.” Co-curator with Willow Hagge. 734 Gallery, Madison, Wisconsin. February 7-14.

Conferences, Panels, Presentations

Conferences and Workshops Organized

- 2018 *Creating Space: Curating Black Art Now*. Co-organizer with Andrea Gyorody. Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. November 1-2.
- African Art and Undergraduate Pedagogy*. Co-organizer with Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi, Ugochukwu Smooth Nzewi, and Key Jo Lee. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio. March 30.
- 2009 *Ways of Showing / Ways of Knowing: African/Diaspora Arts in a Museum*. Co-organizer with Henry John Drewal and Freida High W. Tesfagiorgis. Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin-Madison. October 7-8.

Conference Panels Organized

- 2024 “What is a Map? A Question Investigated through African and African Diasporic Arts and Architecture.” Co-organizer with Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi. Triennial Conference of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois. August 8.
- 2023 “If There Is No Such Thing as Cartography, Then What Is a Map?” Co-organizer with Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi. Conference of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, Colorado. March 23.
- 2017 “Thinking About Slavery in African Visual Culture.” Triennial Conference of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, University of Ghana, Legon. August 10.
- “Is There an African Atlantic?” Conference of the Midwest Art History Society, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio. April 6.
- 2014 “African art and University Museums: Challenges and Goals in the 21st Century.” Triennial Conference of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York. March 19.

Presentations and Roundtables at National and International Conferences

- 2024 “Umbanda Guides, Racial Democracy, and the Melancholic Work of Jaime Lauriano’s Maps.” Triennial Conference of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois. August 8.
- Panel chair and discussant, “The Art of Magic in the Afro-Iberian Atlantic World, 1400-Present,” organized by Nathalie Miraval and Sophia Kitlinski. Conference of the College Art Association, Chicago, Illinois. February 17.

- 2023 Panelist/author, "Author-Meets-Critic: *Seeing the Unseen and Insignificant Things*." With Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi (author), Joseph Hellweg (critic), and Rosa de Jorio (critic). Conference of the African Studies Association, San Francisco, California. December 2.
- "Conversation with Ghanaian Artist Sela Adjei." Conference of the Caribbean Philosophical Association: Shifting the Geography of Reason XXI, Online. June 23.
- "Reckoning with Maps After Brazilian Slavery: Lessons from Jaime Lauriano and Rejane Rodrigues." Conference of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, Colorado. March 23.
- 2020 "Afterlives of the Black Atlantic: Contemporary Art and Curatorial Practice in Slavery's Wake." Presented with Andrea Gyorody. Conference of the College Art Association, Chicago, Illinois. February 12.
- 2017 "Reframing the Quilombo: Aesthetic Strategies for the 21st Century." Worldwide African Diaspora Biennial Conference, Universidad de Pablo Olavide, Seville, Spain. November 9.
- "Porous Objects: Pouches at the Edges of Black Atlantic Religion." Triennial Conference of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. August 11.
- 2016 "The Sorcerous Work of Classification." Conference of the African Studies Association; Washington, DC. December 3.
- 2015 "*Bolsas de mandinga* and the Art of Survival in the African-Portuguese World." Conference of the College Art Association, New York, New York. February 14.
- 2014 "Undermining Oversight: Secret Visualities and Rebellion in Bahia." Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association, King's College, London, United Kingdom. August 23.
- "*Aquilombado*: Fugitive Landscapes and the Politics of Cartography in Colonial Brazil." Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois. May 22.
- "The Provocations, Pitfalls, and Possibilities of Exhibiting African Art in University Museums." Museum Day, Triennial Symposium of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York. March 19.
- 2013 "Codes of Looking and Counter-witnessing in the Visual Culture of Brazilian Slavery." Conference of the American Historical Association; New Orleans, Louisiana. January 4.
- 2011 "Spectacle and Slave Punishment in Brazil: A Thesis on the Agency of the Visual." Conference of the Southern Historical Association; Baltimore, Maryland. October 30.
- 2010 "Holy War in Bahia': Representing Violence and Spectacle in Brazilian Slavery, 1760-1850." Conference of the African Studies Association; San Francisco, California. November 20.
- "Virtual Materiality: Collectors and Collection in the Brazilian Music Blogosphere." Presented with Lindsay Fullerton. Conference of the International Communication Association; Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. June 22.

2008 “Afro-Mexican Identity and Institutional Representation.” Congreso Internacional Diáspora, Nación y Diferencia: Poblaciones de Origen Africano en México y Centroamérica; Veracruz, Veracruz, México. June 13.

“Adrift on the Kalunga: The Transculturation of Kongo Minkisi.” Conference of the Midwest Art History Society; Chicago, Illinois. April 3.

- Winner of the Graduate Student Presentation Award

“The Political Economy of Afro-Mexican Identity: Representing Race and Diaspora in an Institutional Space.” *Global Movements, Local Identities* Conference on Afro-Latino Studies; University of California, Los Angeles. March 7.

Presentations at Specially Organized Conferences and Symposia (Refereed marked with *)

2024 “Cosas insignificantes en los archivos de la esclavitud del Atlántico Negro.” Invited talk at “Cultural Visual y Inquisición en América Latina y el Caribe,” a colloquium organized by the Centro de Investigaciones sobre América Latina y el Caribe (CIALC), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico. February 20.

2023 “Renaming the Fetish: Assembling *Bolsas de Mandinga*.” Invited talk at *The Fetish A(r)t Work: African Objects in the Making of European Art History, 1500-1900*, organized by Anne Lafont. The Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts. October 19.

“Reckoning with Maps After Brazilian Slavery: Lessons from Jaime Lauriano and Rejane Rodrigues.” Invited talk at *The Art and Architecture of Mapping: Visual and Material Approaches to Cartographic Objects*, organized by Emily Mann and Stephen H. Whiteman. The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, United Kingdom. June 21.

*“Mapping Marronage: Cartography and Fugitivity in Colonial Brazil, September 1763.” Speaker at *Environmental Histories of the Black Atlantic World: Landscape Histories of the African Diaspora*, organized by N. D. B. Connolly and Oscar de la Torre. Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC. May 12.

2022 “Mapping Black Fugitivity in Colonial Brazil, September 1763.” Invited talk at *Unchaining/ Reconnecting: Rethinking Africa in the Arts of Brazil*, organized by Roberto Conduru. Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. October 28.

2020 “Empty-Handed, But Not Empty-Headed: Lessons in Front of a Work by José Rodríguez.” Invited talk at *Across Oceans and Hemispheres: The Career of Henry J. Drewal*, organized by Shannen Hill and Cynthia Becker. Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC. February 28.

2018 “Dirt, Concrete, and the Substance of Memory in Slavery’s Dungeon.” Invited talk at *Honoring Ancestors in Africa: Arts and Actions*, organized by Henry John Drewal. University of Wisconsin-Madison. April 6.

2017 “At the Edge of the Water: Possibilities for a Black Atlantic Art History.” Invited talk at *Exploring Beauty and Truth in Worlds of Color: A Conference on Race, Art, and Aesthetics in the 21st Century*. Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. September 30.

- 2009 “Mirror Neurons and the Transmission of Culture.” Invited talk at *Perception*, part of the series *Parallax: Changing Perspectives in Visual Culture*, organized by Jill H. Casid. Center for Visual Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison. February 13.
- 2006 “Our Tibetan Cabinet: Jamba Juice, Enlightened Smoothies, and the Commodification of Tibet.” Invited talk at *TRANS: A Visual Culture Conference*, organized by Jill H. Casid. University of Wisconsin-Madison. October 22.
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Participation in Closed Academic Seminars

- 2023 “Archival Bundles: Assembling *Bolsas de Mandinga*.” Invited speaker at *Bundles: Empowered Packets in the Early Modern Atlantic World*, organized by Cécile Fromont and Hannah Murphy. King’s College, London, United Kingdom. April 28.
- 2019 Invited participant, “Seminar Papers: Black Modernisms: Part 2,” organized by Huey Copeland and Steven Nelson. Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. April 10-11.
- 2018 Invited participant, “Seminar Papers: Black Modernisms: Part 1,” organized by Huey Copeland and Steven Nelson. Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. October 12.
- Invited participant, “A State of the Field Convening: The Future of African Art,” organized by Kristina Van Dyke and Julián Zugazagoitia. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri. March 22-24.
- 2009 “De-Territorializing the Borderland: Museums as Diasporic Journeys.” Seminar in Borderlands and Latino Studies, The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois. April 25.
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Individual Speaking

Invited Public Lectures, Discussions, and Workshops

- 2025 “Objecting (to) the Fetish: Debating African Art History in Lisbon, 1731.” Invited lecture to the Open Digital Seminar in Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of Bristol, England. May 14.
- 2024 “Renaming the Fetish in the Eighteenth-Century African Atlantic.” Distinguished Alumni Lecture, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison. December 2.
- “Insignificant Things and the Art of Survival in the Black Atlantic.” Public interview and discussion with Larissa Brewer-García, sponsored by the University of Chicago Working Group on Slavery and Visual Culture and hosted by the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, Chicago, Illinois. May 24.
- “Insignificant Things in the Archives of Atlantic Slavery.” Annual Friends of Art History Lecture, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. March 28.
- “Cartographic Anxieties: On Maps, Blackness, and Fugitivity in 1763.” Presentation to the Atlantic History Workshop at New York University, New York, New York. January 30.

- 2023 “Atlantic Slavery and the Ethics of Cartography: Brazil, 1763.” The 2023 Stern Lecture, Newcomb Art Department, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. March 20.
- 2022 “Mapping Marronage: A Fugitive Landscape in Colonial Brazil, September 1763.” University Seminar in the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, Columbia University, New York, New York. March 3.
- 2020 “*Bolsas de mandinga*: Amuletos Africanos no Mundo Atlântico” [*Mandinga* Pouches: African Amulets in the Atlantic World]. Lecture for the series “Amulets,” organized by Galeria Alice Floriano, Porto Alegre, Brazil. October 20.
- 2019 “Pouches, Archives, and the Art of Survival in the Black Atlantic.” Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. March 6.
- “Leave No Mark: Traces of Blackness Inviolable.” Department of Religion, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts. February 26.
- 2018 “Glimpsing the Flight from Enslavement.” Department of the History of Art & Architecture, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois. October 18.
- “Questions of Value and Bondage at a Hotel in London, March 1865.” Center for Visual Culture, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. September 12.
- 2013 “The Plantation, *Aquilombando*: Rebellious Landscapes and Colonial Visuality.” Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison. October 28.
- 2011 “Torture and Spectacle.” Invited to lead faculty and graduate student workshop for the series *Visualities Beyond Ocularcentrism*, Center for Visual Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison. May 4.
- “Camera Lucida Mexicana.” Annual Graduate Lecture delivered to the Friends of Art History, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison. February 2.
- 2010 “The Cross and the Pelourinho: Christian Violence, Visual Culture, and the Memory of Slavery in Brazil.” Inaugural Joaquim Nabuco Award Lecture; Brazil Initiative of the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program; University of Wisconsin-Madison. September 14.

Invited Participation in Public Panels and Roundtables

- 2017 Invited speaker and panelist, “Memória da Ancestralidade da Pequena África e Sua Resistência: Avanços e Desafios.” [“Ancestral Memory of Rio de Janeiro’s *Little Africa* Neighborhood and its Resistance: Advances and Challenges”]. Roundtable held at the Casa da Tia Ciata and organized by the Organização Remanescentes da Tia Ciata, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. January 13.
- 2014 Invited panelist, “The Place of Place in the Humanities.” Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison. May 5.

- 2013 Invited speaker and panelist, “Coordinated Seeing? Thinking with Vision, Hand, and Mind: A Symposium Exploring the Intersections of Brain Research, Vision Science, and the Humanities.” Organized by the Center for Visual Cultures and the McPherson Eye Research Institute. Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin-Madison. November 1.
- 2011 Invited panelist, “New Directions in Curatorial Practice and the University Art Museum.” Department of Art History Alumni Symposium, University of Wisconsin-Madison. October 28.
- 2007 “Afro-Mexican Cultural Production and Identity.” Panelist at “Graduate Student Research in Latin America” Colloquium; Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program; University of Wisconsin-Madison. December 4.

Guest Lectures in University Classes (not including Oberlin College)

- 2024 “Methodologies for Black Atlantic Art History.” Department of Art History, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York. November 7.
- “*Bolsas de Mandinga* and the Circulation of Afro-Atlantic Commodities.” Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. March 28.
- 2023 “*Bolsas de Mandinga* and the Visual Cultures of the African Atlantic.” Department of Art History, Hamilton College, Clinton, New York. September 27.
- 2021 “Visualizing the Slave Coast: Art and Forced Labor in Benin.” Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, California. September 7.
- 2020 “Afterlives of the Black Atlantic: Art and Curatorial Practice in Slavery’s Wake.” Delivered with Andrea Gyorody. Department of Art History, Sarah Lawrence College, Yonkers, New York. November 18.
- “Afterlives of the Black Atlantic: Art and Curatorial Practice in Slavery’s Wake.” Delivered with Andrea Gyorody. Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison. October 28.
- 2019 “Assemblage, Occlusion, and Possession: Servitude in the Afro-Atlantic Religions.” Department of Religion, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts. February 26.

Interviews and Media Appearances

- 2024 “[Insignificant Things: A Conversation with Matthew Rarey](#).” Interview by Nyaradzai Mahachi. *The Africanist* podcast. April 17.
- 2023 [Interview by Rick Jackson](#) about *Insignificant Things: Amulets and the Art of Survival in the Early Black Atlantic. The Sound of Ideas*, WKSU-FM / Ideastream Public Media. May 25.
- Interviewee in the documentary [Bastidores da Exposição: Tia Ciata e a Pequena África e Seu Legado \(Part 4\)](#) (“Behind the Scenes of the Exhibition *Tia Ciata and Rio de Janeiro’s ‘Little Africa’ Neighborhood and Its Legacy*, Part 4”). Produced by Armázem Cultura and the Casa da Tia Ciata, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- 2019 [“Oberlin Exhibit Explores the Shadow of Slavery.”](#) Joint interview with Andrea Gyorody by Mark Arehart about the exhibition *Afterlives of the Black Atlantic* at the Allen Memorial Art Museum. *State of the Arts*, WKSU / Ideastream Public Media. September 13.
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Teaching Experience

All course syllabi are self-designed. Courses I proposed and launched are indicated by an asterisk (*). Dates in parentheses indicate the most recent term the course was taught.

Oberlin College (2015-Present)

- Arth 154 Approaches to African Art* (Fall 2024)
 Arth 270 Africa, Europe, and the Art of Colonization* (Spring 2022)
 Arth 271 Looking for Africa in Brazil* (Fall 2021)
 Arth 272 Sacred Arts of Vodou and Santería* (Fall 2023)
 Arth 299 Methods of Art History (Spring 2024)
 Arth 370 Slavery and the Problem of the Visual* (Fall 2024)
 Arth 371 African Art in Museums: From Collection to Display* (Fall 2016)
 Lats 100 What is Latin America? Issues in Latin American Studies (Fall 2023; Team-taught course)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2014-2015)

- Art Hist 104 African, New World, and Oceanic Art and Architecture (Spring 2015)
 Art Hist 270 Contact and Cultural Change in the Americas (Spring 2015)
 Art Hist 371 African Art (Fall 2014)
 Art Hist 482 Black Atlantic Aesthetics* (Spring 2015)

Carthage College (2010-2011)

- Art 115 Introduction to Art History (Fall 2010)
 Art 305 Arts of Africa (Fall 2010)
 Art 675 The African Diaspora: Arts, Music, and Ritual in the Americas* (January 2011)
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Advising

Oberlin College (B.A. with Honors)

- 2024 Ava Chessum, “Empire of Sight or Empire of Tactility? An Examination of Touch’s Significant Role in Museum Spaces, From Private Collections to MoMA.” (Committee)
 Cecil Pulley, “Queer Obsession, Dark Bodies & Silhouettes: Keith Haring’s Images of Eroticized & Racialized Oppression.” (Committee)
- 2021 Madi Goetzke, “Plasticity and the Art of Recovery: Wangechi Mutu’s Praxis of Afrofeminist Reassemblage.” (Chair)
 Anna Farber, “Holy Roots, Holy Branches: Angevin Devotion to Mary Magdalene as Dynastic Strategy.” (Committee)
- 2020 Lucy Haskell, “Zurbarán’s Reimagining of *Jacob and His Twelve Sons*” (Committee)
- 2018 Michelle Fikrig, “Haunted by Solitude: Isolation and Communal Representation in Zanele Muholi’s Archive” (Chair)

Sadie Gelman, “This Unleavened Bread: Matzot as an Insight into Iberian History, Culture, and Power Dynamics” (Committee)

2017 Alexandra Nicome, “Visualizing Postcolonial Identities in J.D. ‘Okhai Ojeikere’s *Hairstyles* Series” (Chair)

Elizabeth Halide Akant, “Organic Honey’s Immaterial Body: No-Wave Feminism, Deceptive Technology, and the Pre-Cyborg in Four Works by Joan Jonas” (Committee)

Jacob Roosa, “Sound and Silence in the Forge: Work, Space, and Communication in Early Cistercian Monasticism” (Committee)

Oberlin College (Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellows)

2017 Anthony Moaton, “‘To Make You Feel Something’: *An Octoroon* and the Boundaries of Black Art.”

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (M.A. in Art History)

2016 Emily Ann Cornish, “Gender Politics, Presence and Erasure: Tattoo in *In Pursuit of Venus [infected]* and *Les Sauvages de la Mer Pacifique*” (Chair)

Service

Editorial

2023-Present *African Arts* (Member of the Miami University editorial board as part of the *African Arts* consortium)

Peer Review (Articles unless otherwise indicated)

2024 Duke University Press

African Arts

Nederlands Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek

2023 *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*

Cambridge University Press (Proposal for a monograph)

Arts

2022 Routledge (Proposal for a monograph)

2021 Routledge (Proposal for an edited volume)

History Compass

Perspectivas Afro: Revista de investigaciones en estudios afrolatinoamericanos y afrocaribeños

2020 *Colonial Latin American Review*

2019 *African Arts*

Award and Prize Committee Service

2023 Committee Member, First Book Prize, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora

2017 Committee Member, Arnold Rubin Outstanding Book Award, Arts Council of the African Studies Association

2016 Committee Member, Joaquim Nabuco Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Committee Service at Oberlin College

2024-Present Professional Conduct Review Committee

2024-Present Cultural Property Steering Committee

2023-Present Public Humanities Concentration Advisory Committee (also 2021-2022)

2023-Present Honorary Degrees Committee (also 2016-2018)

2023-2024 Diversity Studies Committee (also 2021-2022)
2020-2022 Latin American Studies Program Steering Committee (also 2016-2018, Chair 2021-2022)
2019-2021 Mellon AMAM/Oberlin College Library Faculty Advisory Committee (also 2017-2018)
2017-2018 Haskell Lectureship Committee

Committee Service at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

2014-2015 Art History Gallery Committee

Other Service

2023-Present Member of the Board of Directors Transition Team, ATNSC: Center for Healing & Creative Leadership, Cleveland, Ohio.

2019-Present Member of the Advisory Board, ATNSC: Center for Healing & Creative Leadership, Cleveland, Ohio.

2019-Present Founding member of the Arts of Islam in Africa Initiative at the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa, Northwestern University.

2019 Led screening and discussion of the film *Yeelen* (Souleyman Cissé, 1987) to the Northwestern University Cinema Club. February 8.

2012-2015 President, Board of Directors (elected), Evanston Escola de Samba (EEDS), Evanston and Chicago, IL. Non-profit organization working to foster community arts engagement and Brazilian-American cultural exchange in Chicagoland. In 2015, EEDS won the Brazilian International Press Award for Outstanding Promotion of Brazilian Culture in the United States.

2011-2012 Host, “The Black Atlantic: Musical Explorations through Africa and its Diasporas.” WNUR-FM Evanston-Chicago.

2010 Presentation on African art to third grade classes of Sauk City Middle School at Calabash Gifts, Madison, Wisconsin. February 3.

Professional Memberships

African Studies Association
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
Arts Council of the African Studies Association
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
Brazilian Studies Association
College Art Association
Midwest Art History Society

Languages

Portuguese Reading (Fluent), Writing and Speaking (Highly Proficient)
Spanish Reading, Writing, and Speaking (Proficient)
French Reading (Proficient)