

JORDANNA MATLON

Email: jmatlon@american.edu
jmatlon@gmail.com

Website: jordannamatlon.com

EMPLOYMENT AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor – School of International Service, American University – 2015 – Present

Postdoctoral Fellow – Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, France – 2012 – 2015

Visiting Scholar – African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa – 2014

EDUCATION

PhD University of California, Berkeley – Sociology – Spring 2012

MA University of California, Berkeley – Sociology – Fall 2007

BA Columbia University – Urban Studies – Spring 2002

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- [In alphabetical order] Africa and the African diaspora, capitalism, classical and postcolonial theory, development and globalization, ethnography, gender, informal economy, intersectionality, masculinity, media, modernity, neoliberalism, popular culture, public sociology, qualitative methods, race, urbanization, visual sociology, work

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles

2016. “Racial capitalism and the crisis of black masculinity.” *American Sociological Review* 81(5):1014-1038.
- *Winner, 2018 Best Scholarly Article Award for the American Sociological Association’s Section on Global and Transnational Sociology
 - *Winner, 2018 Distinguished Article Award for the American Sociological Association’s Section on Race, Gender, and Class
 - *Honorable mention, 2017 Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award for the American Sociological Association’s Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities
2015. “This is how we roll: Peripheral black masculinity and the status economies of bus portraiture.” *Laboratorium* 7(2):62-82.
- *Extended abstract available in Russian;
 - *Translated in Italian and reprinted in: 2017. *A fior di pelle: Razza e visibilità*. Edited by Elisa Bordin and Stefano Bosco. Verona (Italy): Ombre corte.
2015. “Elsewhere’: An essay on borderland ethnography in the informal African city.” *Ethnography* 16(2):145-165.
- *Lead article

2014. "Narratives of modernity, masculinity and citizenship amid crisis in Abidjan's *Sorbonne*." *Antipode* 46(3):717-735.
2011. "Il est garçon: Marginal Abidjanais masculinity and the politics of representation." *Poetics* 39(5):380-406.
- *Winner, 2012 International Visual Sociology Association John Rieger Graduate Paper Award
2010. "Creating public fictions: The black man as producer and consumer." *The Black Scholar* 40(3):36-42.
-

Other academic publications

2018. Book review. Fleming, Crystal Marie. 2017. Resurrecting slavery: Racial legacies and white supremacy in France. *Contemporary Sociology* 47(3):320-322.
2017. "Africa rising, Afro-pessimism – or racial capitalism?" *CODESRIA Bulletin 1&2: 9-11. From renaissance to emergence: How to renew the debate on development in Africa*.
2014. "Unpacking the crisis narrative of Black theater." Pages 228-230 in *Figuring the plural: Needs and supports of Canadian and US ethnocultural arts organizations*. Project leads/edited by: M.P. Matlon, I. Van Haastrecht and K. Wittig Mengüç. Commissioned and funded by School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Joyce Foundation and National Endowment for the Arts.
- Book review. 2014. Newell, Sasha. 2012. The modernity bluff: Crime, consumption, and citizenship in Côte d'Ivoire. *African Studies Review* 57(1):209-210.
2014. "Côte d'Ivoire: The symbolic capital of the mobile phone." *Global Dialogue* 4(1):33-34.
- *Translated in fourteen languages
2013. "Cinematic sociology." *Global Dialogue* 3(4):36-38.
- *Translated in fourteen languages
2011. "Informality and visibility on the periphery." Photo essay, *Contexts* 10(2):58-63.

Works in progress

- Book manuscript. Story of a minor term: Racial capitalism and imaginaries of black masculinity from colonialism to crisis.*
- Book chapter. "Black masculinity and racial capitalism." In, The Black Geographic: Praxis, resistance, futurity (eds. Camilla Hawthorne and Jovan Scott Lewis). Under consideration with Duke University Press.*
- Article. Steatopygia as "condition"? Race and the medicalized other.*
- Ethnographic film. This is how we roll: Black masculinity, visibility, and the status economies of bus portraiture on the African urban periphery.*

Public sociology

May 16, 2017. "The art of domination: On decolonizing the curriculum. *Black Perspectives*. Blog of the African American Intellectual Historical Society. (Original version published with *The Eagle*.)

May 05, 2017. "The art of domination." *The Eagle*. Opinion.

April 03, 2013. "Culture, attack: Art, identity and MP2013." Personal blog.

March 06, 2013. "The basketball diplomacy affair did not take place." Personal blog.

June 25, 2012. "Life in Dúbravica." PERIFÉRNE CENTRÁ website. Contribution as invited guest, Dúbravica, Slovakia. June 2012. Also translated into Slovak.

December 13, 2010. "High stakes for Gbagbo loyalists in Côte d'Ivoire." *The Africa Report*. Opinion.

June 01, 2010. "UC Berkeley is losing its essence." *The Daily Californian*. Special to the Daily Cal - Op-Ed.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Best Scholarly Article Award – American Sociological Association Section on Global and Transnational Sociology, 2018

Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award – American Sociological Association Section on Race, Gender, and Class, 2018

Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship – The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2018

Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award, *Honorable Mention* – American Sociological Association Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 2017

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship – Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, 2012-2015

John Rieger Graduate Paper Award – International Visual Sociology Association, 2012

UC Dissertation-Year Fellowship – UC Berkeley, 2011

Leo Lowenthal Dissertation Fellowship – UC Berkeley (Sociology), 2011 (*Declined*)

Simpson Award – UC Berkeley (Institute of International Studies), 2011

Fall Research Grant – UC Berkeley (Sociology), 2010

Undergraduate Mentorship Recognition – UC Berkeley (Sociology), 2010

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, *Alternate* – Ford Foundation, 2010

Dean's Normative Time Fellowship – UC Berkeley, 2008

National Science Foundation Fellowship – National Science Foundation, 2005

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship – United States Department of Education, 2005

Graduate Opportunity Program Fellowship – UC Berkeley, 2004

Fulbright to India, *Finalist* – Institute of International Education, 2002-2003

Honors in Urban Studies – Columbia University, 2002

TEACHING

Racial capitalism: Originally conceived and developed course, undergraduate level, Spring 2017

Seeing Africa (previously *Visuality in Africa*): Originally conceived and developed course, undergraduate level, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016

Urban development: Original syllabus, MA level, Fall 2017 and Fall 2016

The postcolonial city: Originally conceived and developed course, undergraduate level, Spring 2017, Spring 2016 and Fall 2015

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ADVISING

Team leader for Economy, Antiracist Research and Policy Center, American University, 2017-Present

Coordinator of Undergraduate Thematic Area in Identity, Race, Gender and Culture, School of International Service, American University, 2017-Present

Co-founder and co-leader (2016-2017) of Ethnographies of Empire Research Cluster, School of International Service, American University, 2016-Present

Faculty fellow, Metropolitan Policy Center, American University, 2017-2018

Faculty facilitator, “Black issues and experiences on and off campus,” Intergroup Dialogue, Center for Diversity and Inclusion, American University, 2017

Member, Races, Empires and Diasporas Humanities Lab, American University, 2015-Present

Member, Urban Studies Humanities Lab, American University, 2015-Present

Search committee member for Assistant Professor in Race and Global Studies, School of International Service, American University, 2016

Participant, “Staying in the conversation: Race and its intersections.” Faculty Learning Community, supported by the Dean of Academic Life, American University, 2016.

Substantial Research Paper Master's supervisor, "Marginalized populations and civic engagement: Recommendations for empowerment" (Allison Beaufort), 2017.

Master's Thesis Committee Member, "French foreign policy and democratization in Francophone Africa" (Jean-Baptiste Guiatin), 2015-2016

Olson Scholar Faculty Advisor, "Narratives of resilience in post-Katrina New Orleans" (Lina Alam), 2015-2016

TALKS

"Black masculinity in racial capitalism: Politics of representation and political economy." American Sociological Association (Session on Race and Organizations). Summer 2019 (Forthcoming).

"Critiquing Empire from within: Undisciplined pedagogies and research for our time." Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Spring 2019 (Forthcoming).

"TBA." Gender and Power Workshop. University of Chicago, Sociology Department. Spring 2019 (Forthcoming).

"Fragile intersections: Theorizing tropes of black masculinity in racial capitalism." Sociological Working Group on Aesthetics, Meaning, and Power. University of Virginia, Department of Sociology. Spring 2019 (Forthcoming).

"Imaginations of black masculinity in racial capitalism." Historical International Studies Research Cluster Seminar Series, American University, School of International Service. Spring 2019 (Forthcoming).

"The visual terrain of blackness." Africa Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2019 (Forthcoming).

"Black masculinity in racial capitalism: Politics of representation and political economy." Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship Retreat. Summer 2018.

"A story of racial capitalism: Dialectics of place and imaginaries." International Sociological Association XIX World Congress (Theorizing and Historicizing Economic Culture). Summer 2018.

"A story of racial capitalism: Dialectics of place and imaginaries." Mariners, Renegades, and Capitalism: Researching the Urban Atlantic for the Coming Century." New York University, Spring 2018.

"Imaginations of black masculinity in racial capitalism." Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting (Representations of the Black Spatial Imaginary). Spring 2018 .

"Fragile intersections: Theorizing tropes of black masculinity in racial capitalism." Africa Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2018.

“Black men as surplus labor in racial capitalism.” Gender and Power Workshop. University of California, Berkeley, Sociology Department, Spring 2018.

“Racial capitalism and imagining blackness.” African Studies Association Annual Meeting (Creativity and Disruption: The Polyvalence of Africa’s New Political Economies), Fall 2017.

Panel chair: Youth, Precarity, and Performance in Africa and the Diaspora: Creative Practices and Adaptations to the Youth Unemployment Crisis. African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Fall 2017.

Guest professor, three-lecture series: “Masculinity in the modern economy: The breadwinner ideal,” “Masculinity in crisis: Men in the post-wage economy,” and “Thinking beyond postcolonial exceptionalism to racial capitalism.” University of South Africa, Summer School (Men in the Ex-colonies stream). Fall 2017.

“Black matters are spatial matters.” Black Geographies: Insurgent Knowledge, Spatial Poetics, and the Politics of Blackness. University of California, Berkeley, Geography Department Symposium, Fall 2017.

“Theorizing black men as surplus labor in racial capitalism.” School of International Service, American University (Ethnographies of Empire Symposium), Fall 2017.

“A story of racial capitalism: Dialectics of place and imaginaries.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Session on Culture and Inequality), Summer 2017.

“Abidjan: A story of racial capitalism,” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting (Labor Narratives and Urban Informality in the Global South), Spring 2017.

“Education and the arts of domination: A reflection on Robert Vitalis’s *White world order, Black Power politics*.” American University, School of International Service (Program in Intercultural and International Communication). Fall 2016.

“Insights in Abidjan *Bizness*,” re:work, Humboldt University (DE), Summer 2016.

“Racial capitalism and the crisis of black masculinity,” (Lecture), Work in the contemporary city, Berlin “Think and Drink” Colloquium, co-sponsored by re:work, Humboldt University and the Center for Metropolitan Studies, Technical University of Berlin (DE), Summer 2016.

“Complicit masculinity and the black urban imaginary: Locating belonging in the mediascape,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting (Male Identities in Social Contexts), Fall 2015.

“Narratives of masculinity, modernity and citizenship at Abidjan’s Sorbonne.” School of International Service and School of Public Affairs, American University (Urban Politics in the Developing World), Fall 2015.

“Researching race and gender on Africa’s urban periphery,” District of Columbia Sociological Society (New Sociology Professors Panel), Fall 2015.

“African masculinity and work,” American University, School of International Service (Dean’s Council), Fall 2015.

“Informality and visibility on the periphery.” School of International Service, American University (International Development Program Friday Forum), Fall 2015.

“Complicit masculinity and the black urban imaginary: Locating belonging in the mediascape,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Race, Class and Gender in Global Crossroads), Summer 2015.

“Complicit masculinity and the black urban imaginary: Locating belonging in the mediascape,” International Visual Sociology Association Annual Meeting (Gender and Race), Summer 2015.

“Being modern/being seen: Gendered subjectivities in the African informal city,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting (“Modern” Embodiments: Meditations of Migrancy, Myth, and Mobility in Four African Contexts), Fall 2014.

“Being modern/being seen: Asserting gendered subjectivities through technologies of visibility in the African informal city,” American Ethnological Society Annual Meeting with the Society for Visual Anthropology, Spring 2014.

“This is how we roll: Bus portraiture, peripheral masculinity and the black urban imaginary,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting (Creative Efforts toward Economic Development in Urban Africa), Fall 2013.

“This is how we roll: Bus portraiture, peripheral masculinity and the black urban imaginary,” University of Ghana (Legon) Institute for African Studies “the First International Congress of Africanists in a Globalised World” (Gender Panel), Fall 2013.

“Entrepreneurs and consumers: Complicit masculinity on the African periphery,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Global and Transnational Sociology Session), Summer 2013.

“Complicit masculinity on the African periphery.” Junior Theorists Symposium (Organized by the Theory Section of the American Sociological Association), Summer 2013.

“This is how we roll: Black masculinity, visibility, and the status economies of bus portraiture on the African urban periphery,” International Visual Sociology Association Annual Conference (Street Art, the City and the Public: Changing the Urban Vision), Summer 2013.

“This is how we roll: Representations of masculinity in the black urban imaginary,” European Conference on African Studies (The theory and methodology of representation(s): The analytical potential of a concept for contexts of transformation and innovation in contemporary Africa), Summer 2013.

“Gendered promises, gendered betrayals: The African urban crisis, masculinity, and the public in Abidjan,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Masculinities), Summer 2011.

“Complicit masculinity, complicit nationalism: Comparing strategies of self-affirmation among informal sector men in an African crisis state” (Lecture), University of California, Berkeley Center for African Studies, Spring 2011.

“Theorizing ‘Complicit Nationalism’: Ivoirian exceptionalism, neoliberalism and informal politicians’ masculinities in an African crisis state,” University of California, Berkeley Department of Sociology “States of Emergency” Conference, Spring 2011.

“Il est garçon: marginal Abidjanais masculinity and the politics of representation,” University of Veracruz Center for Intercultural Education (MX), Spring 2011.

“Masculinity, work, and consuming global identities: The socio-cultural politics of marginal Abidjanais men,” African Studies Association Annual Conference (Diaspora, Community, Gender and Sexuality Session), Fall 2010.

“Il est garçon: A visual exploration of marginal men’s identities at the global-local nexus,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Social Theory Conference (Visuality Panel), Spring 2010.

“Gendering Urban Sociology: The black man as producer and consumer,” University of California, Berkeley Sociological Research Symposium, Spring 2010.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING (PRIOR TO PROFESSORSHIP)

Graduate Student Instructor, Sociology of Gender (Raka Ray), Spring 2010

Graduate Student Instructor, Introduction to Sociology (Tom Gold), Spring 2007

Reader, Sociology of Development (Tom Gold), Fall 2004

Research Assistant to Sudhir Venkatesh, Columbia University’s Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (NYC), 2002

Researcher, Andrew Cuomo Gubernatorial Primary Campaign, (NYC), 2002

Researcher, National Student Partnerships, Columbia University (NYC), 2000-2002

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

Council Member, Political Economy and the World System Section, American Sociological Association. 2018-current.

Award Selection Committee for the Best Scholarly Article Award written in 2018. American Sociological Association, Global and Transnational Sociology Section.

Award Selection Committee for the 2018 Junior Theorist Award. American Sociological Association, Theory Section.

Award Selection Committee for best article written in 2015. American Sociological Association, Race, Gender and Class Section.

Award Selection Committee for the Geertz Prize for Best Article written in 2014. American Sociological Association, Sociology of Culture Section.

Award Selection Committee for the Edward Shils – James Coleman Memorial Award for best theory paper written by a graduate student in 2014. American Sociological Association, Theory Section.

Co-organizer of the 2014 Junior Theorists Symposium (organized in part by the American Sociological Association Theory Section).

Occasional reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Men and Masculinities*, *Poetics* and France's Agence Nationale de la Recherche.

Member of American Sociological Association, African Studies Association, American Association of Geographers, District of Columbia Sociological Society and International Visual Sociology Association.

EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO GRADUATE STUDIES

Composition, Grammar and Philosophy Teacher, Tito's Place (Cochabamba, Bolivia), 2004

Written and Oral English Teacher, Shaanxi Medical College (Xi'an, China), 2003

Projects Assistant, Derby City Partnership (Derby, England), 2002

Intern, Contour Consultants (Melbourne, Australia), 2000

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

French