

JORDANNA MATLON

Email: jcmatlon@american.edu
jcmatlon@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 – 2012

MA University of California, Berkeley – Sociology – 2007

BA Columbia University – Urban Studies – 2002

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

PUBLICATIONS

Book

A man among other men: The crisis of Black masculinity in racial capitalism.
Forthcoming with Cornell University Press.

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 visualità*. 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

2020. “Black masculinity.” Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, 2nd Edition. Edited by George Ritzer and Chris Rojek.
2020. Book review. Kleinman, Julie. 2019. Adventure capital migration and the making of an African hub in Paris.” *Antipode Online*. 7 April.
2019. “Branded.” *Boston Review, Racist Logic Forum* 10(44.2):75-85.
- * Follow up podcast interview with Dr. Vibe, 30 September 2019
 - * Follow up blog interview with Asia Art Tours, 27 September 2020
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.
2014. Book review. 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.

Additional works in progress

Book chapter. "From Acculturation-as-erasure to Black urbanism in the colonial African City." In, The Black Geographic: Praxis, resistance, futurity (eds. Camilla Hawthorne and Jovan Scott Lewis). Revise and resubmit with Duke University Press.

Book chapter. "Tapping imaginaries: Guinness and the African man." In, Youth politics and practices of self-making in the Global South (eds. Raka Ray and Amita Baviskar).

Book chapter. "Interrogating power." In, Du Boisian Sociological Methods (eds. Ricarda Hammer, José Itzigsohn, and Michael Rodriguez-Muñiz). Volume under consideration with Cambridge University Press.

Book chapter. "Gender and the city." In, Oxford Handbook of Urban Sociology (eds. Ryan Centner and Leonard Nevarez). Under contract with Oxford University Press.

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

The modern African metropolis: Originally conceived and developed course, undergraduate level, Spring 2021

Race in the world political economy: Originally conceived and developed course, undergraduate level, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

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

Seeing Africa (previously *Visuality in Africa*): Originally conceived and developed course, undergraduate level, Spring 2020, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016

Urban development: Original syllabus, MA level, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2017 and Fall 2016

The postcolonial city: Originally conceived and developed course, undergraduate level, Spring 2020, Spring 2017, Spring 2016 and Fall 2015

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ADVISING

Faculty facilitator, “Capitalism and Identity,” Intergroup Dialogue, Center for Diversity and Inclusion, American University, 2021

Member, Dean’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion, School of International Service, American University, 2019-Present

Faculty advisor (previously Team leader for Economy), Antiracist Research and Policy Center, American University, 2017-Present

Co-founder and co-leader (2016-2017, 2020-Present) of Ethnographies of Empire Research Cluster, School of International Service, American University, 2016-Present

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

Faculty representative, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, School of International Service, American University, 2020

Member, Faculty Actions Committee, School of International Service, American University, 2019-2020

Coordinator of Undergraduate Thematic Area in Identity, Race, Gender and Culture, School of International Service, 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, 2015-2017

Member, Urban Studies Humanities Lab, American University, 2015-2017

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

Olson Scholar faculty advisor (Elizabeth Wade), 2019-2020

Master’s Thesis Committee Member, “Development for the people by the people: A comparative study of community based banking in India” (Kanika Varma), 2020-2021

Substantial Research Paper Master’s mentor, “Economic development and the Caribbean reparations movement: Lessons from Israel and New Zealand” (Gabrielle Hansford), 2021

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Editorial Board Member, *Gender & Society Journal*, Sociologists for Women in Society, 2021-2024.

Editorial Board, HUMA (Institute for Humanities in Africa), University of Cape Town, South Africa. 2021-Present.

Editorial Advisory Board, Corona Times Blog – A HUMA (Institute for Humanities in Africa at the University of Cape Town, South Africa) Public Engagement Project. 2020-Present.

Council Member, Sociology of Development Section, American Sociological Association. 2019-2022.

- Committee member of 2021 Miniconference: Immanuel Wallerstein
- Chair, Ward Selection Committee for Best Graduate Student Paper written in 2019

Council Member, Political Economy and the World System Section, American Sociological Association. 2018-2021.

- Committee on Publications member 2020-2021
- Mentoring Program coordinator 2019

Session Organizer for “Gender and the Crises of Global Capitalism” Session, Global and Transnational Sociology. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2019.

Organizer for Theory Section Roundtables. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2019.

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).

Past and occasional reviewer for *Annual Review of Sociology*, *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, International Visual Sociology Association, and Sociologists for Women in Society.

TALKS

“Imaginarities of Black masculinity in racial capitalism.” Invited speaker of interest, African School of Physics Biannual Meeting. Original date cancelled due to Covid-19, date TBA.

“Thinking through Black masculinity with James Baldwin.” The 2020 Conference on James Baldwin for Academics, Artists, and Activists. Saint-Paul de Vence, France. Original date cancelled due to Covid-19, date TBA.

“Circulations of Blackness in Racial Capitalism: Between Place and Imaginaries.” Social Science History Association (Power and Normativity in Society and History: Capitalism and Socialism). (Forthcoming) Fall 2021.

Discussant, TBA. Decolonizing Sociological Theory. Brown University. (Forthcoming) Fall 2021.

Book Salon Panelist. José Itzigsohn and Karida L. Brown’s *The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois: Racialized Modernity and the Global Color Line*. American Sociological Association. (Forthcoming) Summer 2021.

Guest Panelist. “*David Makes Man*: Conversation with Dr. Wizdom Powell.” On Episodes 1 (David’s Sky) and 2 (Dai Out). With Big Picture Learning, Carlos Moreno, and Dr. Jacqueline Mattis. Summer 2021.

“Black masculinity in the long crisis of racial capitalism.” University of Geneva Department of Sociology and Anthropology Seminar. Spring 2021.

“Imaginarities of Black masculinity in the long crisis of racial capitalism.” University of Virginia Women, Gender & Sexuality, Sociology and the Carter Woodson Institute. Spring 2021.

“Imaginarities of Black masculinity in the long crisis of racial capitalism.” Penn Sociology Colloquium Series. University of Pennsylvania. Spring 2021.

“Black masculinity in the long crisis of racial capitalism.” Historical International Studies Research Cluster Seminar Series, American University, School of International Service. Spring 2021.

“The Culture of Poverty Myth and Anti-Blackness.” Moderator. Sociology of Culture Section, American Sociological Association. Spring 2021.

“Antiracism and decoloniality in Humanities: Virtual faculty panel.” Antiracist Research and Policy Center, American University. Summer 2020.

“Tapping imaginaries: Guinness and the African man.” Dwelling in Liminalities: Uncanny Conversations – A seminar series by Michele Lancione and AbdouMaliq Simone. University of Sheffield, The Urban Institute. Spring 2020.

Gender, Power, and Theory Workshop. “Tapping imaginaries: Guinness and the African man.” University of Southern California, Sociology Department. Spring 2020.

“Tapping imaginaries: Guinness and the African man.” Conference on Youth Politics and Projects of Self-Making in the Global South. M.S. Merian – R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies ‘Metamorphoses of the Political’ (ICAS-MP). Delhi, India. Fall 2019.

“Imaginarities of Black masculinity in the long crisis of racial capitalism.” Northwestern Department of Sociology Colloquium. Northwestern University. Fall 2019.

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

“Story of a minor term: Introduction.” DC Area Africanists Workshop. American Political Science Association (Headquarters). Summer 2019.

“Imaginarities of Black masculinity in racial capitalism.” Princeton African Humanities Colloquium on Africa and Racial Capitalism. Princeton University, Summer 2019.

“Story of a minor term: Introduction.” Gender, Power, and Theory Workshop. University of Chicago, Sociology Department. Spring 2019.

“Remarks on Geography and Global Studies: Whence Africa in Black Geographies?” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Spring 2019.

“Critiquing Empire from within: Undisciplined pedagogies and research for our time.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Spring 2019.

“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.

“Imaginarities of Black masculinity in racial capitalism.” Historical International Studies Research Cluster Seminar Series, American University, School of International Service. Spring 2019.

“Introduction: Story of a minor term.” Africa Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2019.

“Racial capitalism and the crisis of Black masculinity.” Racism and Racial Experiences Working Group. Rice University. Fall 2018.

“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.

“Imaginarities 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

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

French