

Curriculum Vitae
CHRISTEN A. SMITH, Ph.D.

Department of Anthropology
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 2007

Dissertation: “*Acting Out: Theater and the Politics of Citizenship at the Periphery in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil*”

M.A., Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 2003

A.B., Anthropology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 1999

Certificate, African-American Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Certificate, Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, Princeton NJ

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007- present Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin
- Faculty Affiliate, Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies
- Faculty Affiliate, The Warfield Center for African and African American Studies

2009-2011 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Africana Studies, Johns Hopkins University

2007- 2010 Instructor, Curso de Atualização em Diáspora Africana: A Teoria e as Questões
Políticas da Diáspora Africana nas Américas, Centro de Ciências Sociais,
Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

2006-2007 Postdoctoral Fellow, The Warfield Center for African and African American Studies, The
University of Texas at Austin

PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

Performance, race, violence, the body, transnational racial formation, Brazil, Latin America, the African Diaspora, social protest theater, social movements, grassroots organizing, black and indigenous struggles

PUBLICATIONS

Articles (**indicates peer reviewed*)

*2008 “Scenarios of Racial Contact: Police Violence and the Politics of Performance and Racial
Formation in Brazil,” *E-Misférica* (5.2) [http://www.hemisphericinstitute.org/hemi/es/e-
misferica-52/smith](http://www.hemisphericinstitute.org/hemi/es/e-misferica-52/smith)

Under Review

“Putting Prostitutes in Their Place: Black Women, Social Violence and the Brazilian Case of
Sirlei Carvalho”, submitted to *Latin American Perspectives* in March 2012

Book Chapters

2009 “Strategies of Confinement: Environmental Racism, Police Terror and the Built Environment in Brazil.” in *Environmental Justice in the New Millennium: Global Perspectives on Race, Ethnicity and Human Rights*, Filomina Steady, ed. Pp. 93-114. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan

In Press

“O Corpo Coletivo da Mulher Negra” in *Línguas, Linguagens e Fronteiras: As Amazôniaas, as Áfricas e as Áfricas na Pan-Amazônia*, Universidade do Acre, Brazil.

Translations

(From Portuguese to English) *The Promise Keeper*, by Alfredo Dias Gomes [premiered at SUNY-New Paltz in February 2008]

Other Publications

2005 “Genocide? Police Abuse and the Black Community in Brazil.” *LEVANTAMOS: The Center for Afro-Brazilian-American Cooperation*.
http://www.levantamos.org/br/news_genocide.htm

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (ABRIDGED)

2010 Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship

2009 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship For Achieving Excellence in College and University Teaching

2009 Summer Research Assignment, Graduate School, The University of Texas at Austin

2008 Certificate of Merit, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (for the new translation of the play “The Promise Keeper” (*O Pagador de Promessas*))

2006-2007 Robert Bayard Textor Award for Outstanding Creativity in Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University

2006 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Africana Research Center, The Pennsylvania State University (Declined)

2005-2006 Stanford Humanities Center Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellowship, Stanford University

2005 Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowship

2004-2005 Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Dissertation Writing Grant

2003-2004 Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Travel and Research Grant

2002 Mellon Foundation Summer Research Grant, Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University

2001 Graduate Research Opportunity Grant, Stanford University School of the Humanities

2001 Stanford University Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Grant

- 2000-2005 Stanford University Cultural and Social Anthropology Department Doctoral Fellowship
- 1998 Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (SSRC), Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (1998)

INVITED LECTURES AND PAPERS

- 2010 “Tearing Down the Big House: Performance, Racial Formation, Violence and the Body in Brazil”, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Fellows Retreat, October 22
- 2010 “Tearing Down the Big House: Performance, Racial Formation, Violence and the Body in Brazil”, Johns Hopkins University, October 13
- 2010 “Culture Shock”, “Popular Theater, Youth and Empowerment on Two Continents”, Re-Imagining the Americas Conference Series, The Program on Latin America and the Caribbean, Syracuse University, April 1
- 2009 “O Corpo Coletivo da Mulher Negra (The Collective Black Female Body): Transnational Black Female Assemblages”, III Simpósio Linguagens e Identidades da/na Amazônia Sul-Occidental: Línguas, Linguagens e Fronteiras/II Colóquio Internacional as Amazônias, as Áfricas e as Áfricas na Pan-Amazônia, Acre, Brazil, November 23-27
- 2009 “Formação racial, representação e a saúde da mulher negra na diáspora Africana”, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 1
- 2009 “Raça, representação, violência e formação racial no mundo”, EDUCAFRO, São Paulo, Brazil, June 27
- 2009 “Raça, violência e performance na diáspora Africana”, Pontifícia Universidade Católica, São Paulo, Brazil, June 16
- 2008 “Brazilian Political Street Theater,” SUNY – New Paltz, New Paltz, NY, February 29
- 2007 “Inscribing Blackness on to the Body and the Landscape: Race and Space in Brazil,” Environmental Justice Symposium: Environmental Justice Cross-Culturally: Theory and Praxis in the African Diaspora and in Africa, Africana Studies, Wellesley College, Boston, MA, November 9 -10
- 2005 “A Scream from the Margins: Theater, the Politics of Resistance and the Bahian Verbal Revolution Completely without Firearms,” Emerging Scholars Speakers Series, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, November 9

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION [ABRIDGED]

- 2011 “Remembering Beatriz Nascimento”, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada, November 16-20, 2011
- 2009 “O Corpo Coletivo da Mulher Negra: Two Cases of Violence, Meaning Making and the Black Female Body in Brazil and the United States,” Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 11-14

- 2008 “Environmental Racism and the Spatial Toxicity of Police Violence in Brazil,”
Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA), New Orleans, LA, March 27-29
- 2007 “The Racial Economy of Carnaval da Bahia: The Performance and Performativity of
Inequality and the Largest Street Festival in the World,” American Anthropological
Association (AAA) Meeting, Washington, DC, November 29 - December 1
- 2007 Discussant, “Interrogations of Freedom: Memories, Meanings, Migrations,”
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Bi-Annual
Conference, Barbados, October 9 – 12
- 2007 “A Scream from the Margins: Theater, the Politics of Black Identity, Protest and
Performance in Bahia, Brazil,” Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Meeting,
Montreal, Canada, September 5-8
- 2006 Co-Organizer, “Critical Intersections of Race, Space and Gender: Conflict Representation
and Racisms,” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting, San Jose, CA,
November 14-19
- 2006 “Inscribing Blackness onto the Body and the Landscape: Police Violence, Race and Space in
Brazil,” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting, San Jose, CA, November
14-19
- 2005 “The Story of a War That Did Not End: Theater, the Politics of Resistance and the Verbal
Revolution Completely without Firearms in Bahia,” American Anthropological Association
(AAA) Meeting, Washington, DC, November 30-December 4
- 2005 “Shock and Siege: Street Theater and the Verbal Revolution without Firearms in Salvador,
Bahia, Brazil,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Bi-
annual Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 5-7

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS CAMPUS-WIDE AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE (ABRIDGED)

- 2012 Panelist, “POLITICS BECOMES PERSONAL: The Fight for Women’s Health in Texas”,
Sponsored by the *Texas Observer* and the Center for Women and Gender Studies at the
University of Texas at Austin, April 26
- 2012 Featured Author, Faculty Seminar: “Spiritual Terror: Gender, Spectacle and the Shadow
State in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil”, The Warfield Center for African and African-American
Studies, April 5
- 2012 Panelist, “Brazilian Music and Culture on the Streets”, Brazilian Frevo Music from Carnival
to Concert Hall, March 21
- 2012 Featured Faculty Member, Faculty Conversations, Center for Women and Gender Studies,
February 15
- 2011-2012 Merit Committee, Department of Anthropology,
- 2009-2010 Artes Americas Committee
- 2008- present Community Outreach Committee, The Bernard and Audre Rappaport Center for Human

Rights and Justice

- 2008- 2010 Curator, The John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies Collection, University of Texas Digital Repository
- 2008-2009 Search Committee, African Diaspora Position, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2008 Debater, Zumbí dos Palmares: 2008 Black Brazilian Consciousness Day, The Warfield Center for African and African Studies, November 10
- 2008 Co-organizer, Afro-Indigenous Cluster Symposium, LLILAS, May 6
- 2008 Chair, “What’s Left of Chavez? A Historical Perspective,” What’s Left of the Latin American Left Conference, April 28–29
- 2008 Co-coordinator, “Gender, Sexuality, Violence and the Racial State,” The Warfield Center for African and African-American Studies, April 24-25
- 2008 Co-coordinator, Abriendo Brecha V Conference, February 21-23
- 2007-2008 Search Committee, Folklore and Public Culture Position, Department of Anthropology
- 2007 Chair, “Examining Inequality” Panel, Brazil Week, Brazil Center, October 26
- 2007 Co-organizer, “Afro-Latin America: Political Actions/Performance Legacies,” The Warfield Center for African and African American Studies, March 23-25
- 2007 Grant Writing Workshop, The Warfield Center for African and African-American Studies, September 28
- 2006 Public Lecture, “Culture Shock and the Verbal Revolution Without Firearms: Theatre, Social Protest and the Politics of Race in Brazil,” Diaspora Talk - Race/Gender/Nation, The Warfield Center for African and African American Studies, December 1

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- 2010 Reviewer, Ethnic and Racial Studies
- 2009 Reviewer, Third World Quarterly

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2009 – present Board Member, Harriet Tubman Collective, Austin, TX
- 2008 – present Board Member and Volunteer, *Texas After Violence Project*, Austin, TX
- 2005 – present Advisory Board Member, *LEVANTAMOS*: The Center for Afro-Brazilian/American Cooperation

- 2009 International Observer, The People's Gathering for Life and a Better Model for Public Safety (I ENPOSP – *Encontro Popular Pela Vida e por um Outro Modelo da Segurança Pública*), Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, August 14-16
- 2008 Dramaturge, "The Promise Keeper" (new translation premiere), Department of Theatre Arts, SUNY-New Paltz, New Paltz, NY
- 2007 Portuguese Translator, "International Tribunal on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita," People's Hurricane Relief Fund, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2004 Collaborator/Co-instructor, "*Espelho Quebrado*," Video Documentary, *Ampliando Direitos e Horizontes*, CEAFFRO, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
- 2003-2004 Volunteer English Teacher, *Escola Fonte do Capim*, San Martins, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil,
- 2003-2004 Volunteer English Teacher, *Centro Comunitário de Nova Sussuarana*, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

FIELD RESEARCH

- 2003-2005 Dissertation field research, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
- Autumn 2002 Dissertation field research, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
- Summer 2002 Preliminary dissertation field research, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
- Summer 2001 Preliminary dissertation field research, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil and São Paulo, Brazil
- Summer 1998 Fieldwork for undergraduate thesis, Fez, Morocco
- Summer 1997 Fieldwork for undergraduate thesis, Fez, Morocco

CHAIR, DISSERTATION COMMITTEES:

Alix Chapman, ABD
 Christopher Johnson, ABD
 Monique Ribeiro

CHAIR, MA:

2010 Lorena Martinez (LLILAS)

CO-CHAIR, MA:

2008 Kara Koonce (LLILAS)

COMMITTEE MEMBER (MA AND PHD):

2012 Jaime Alves (PhD)
 2009 Sean Sellers (MA)
 2008 Damien Schnyder (PhD)

LANGUAGE SKILLS AND TRAINING

Near-native fluency reading, writing, conversational skills in Portuguese
Moderate, reading, writing and conversational skills in Arabic
Academic reading skills in Spanish and French

1998/1997 Arabic Language Institute in Fez (Fez, Morocco)

1996 Middlebury Language Schools, Arabic (Middlebury, Vermont)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2006- present Member, Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

2004- present Member, American Association of Anthropologists (AAA)

2002- present Member, Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA)