

# ALISSA JORDAN, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

[www.alissajordan.org](http://www.alissajordan.org)

Associate Director

Center for Experimental Ethnography  
University of Pennsylvania

Jan 3 2024

## APPOINTMENTS

- 2022 *Associate Director*. Center for Experimental Ethnography. Department of Anthropology. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2018-2021 *Inaugural Post-doctoral Research Fellow*. Center for Experimental Ethnography. Department of Anthropology. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2017-2018. *Media, Teaching, & Anthropology Fellow*. Human Relations Area Files. Yale University.
- 2016-2017 *Melvin Ember Research Fellow*. Human Relations Area Files. Yale University.
- 2016 *Criser Fellow in Museum Studies*. Harn Museum of Art. University of Florida
- 2005 *Assistant Research Director*. Semliki National Forest, Uganda. Semliki Chimpanzee Project. Indiana University. Dr. Kevin Hunt.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Under Contract* “Atlas of Nanm: Bodily Openings and Encounters in Haiti”
- Forthcoming* “Law and Medicine are Two Different Things: Oral Histories of Hospital Detention, Reproductive Injustice, and Institutional Fragility in Haiti”
- 2023 “The Shame Herb: Birth and Debt in Hospital Detention” Essay and Film. 2023. *American Anthropologist*, Multimodal Anthropologies Section
- 2022 “Vodou Skins: Making Bodily Surfaces Social in Haitian Vodou Infant-Care” in *Spirit Service: Vodùn and Vodou in the African Atlantic World*, Indiana University Press
- 2018 “On the Cutting Edge: Emerging Contemporary Art in Ghana”. 2018. Co-authored with Rebecca Nagy. *African Arts*.
- 2014 “Kongo Memory in the Afro Atlantic.” 2014. In: *Kongo Across the Waters* edited by S. Cooksey, R. Poynor, H. Vanhee. Gainesville: University of Florida. *Peer Reviewed Book*.
- Other*
- 2020 “Va-Bene Elikem Fiatsi” *Artist Biopic*. in “Contemporary Ghanaian Artists in Fifty Takes”. Edited by Bernard Akoi Jackson. Nuvo Publishing: Accra, Ghana.

- 2019 “Creators of the Contemporary in Africa” in Anthropology News July/August Content 2019.
- 2012 “Border Agents of the Beyond in Haiti”. 2012. Anthropology News.
- 2011 “No Room for Fate.” 2011. Winning Photograph. Anthropology News.
- 2011 “Joy trumps Misery in Haiti”. Article, Photo. Gainesville Sun.

#### INVITED PAPERS/TALKS

- 2023 *Towards Different Representations. Art, Film, Experimental Ethnography*, in “Methods and Media of the Absent/Present: Approaches to Vodun” University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2022 *Medical Marronage: The Healing and Activism of Haitian Mothering in the Face of Hospital-Prison* at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Anthropology Colloquium
- 2022 *Law and Medicine are Two Different Things: Extra-legal Confinement, Hospital Detention, and the Bodily Collateral of Care* in Capitalism and Confinement Workshop, Academy for Global Humanities and Critical Theory
- 2021 *Corporeal Collateral*. In “Embodying Development” at the 119th American Anthropological Association Meeting. November 17th 2022.
- 2021 *Birthing & Refusal*. “Third Thursday” Series. Center for Experimental Ethnography. University of Pennsylvania
- 2020 *Anti-Fatalist Futures: Haitian Vodou Lessons on Living Well in Global End Times*. Center for the Humanities. Temple University. Climate Speaker Series. February 10, 2020
- 2019 *In Conversation with Alex Fattal*. Slought. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2019 *Collaborative Troubles: Collaborative Ethnography and its Discontents*. Screening Scholarship Media Festival. University of Pennsylvania
- 2018 *Thinking with Film and Non-Linear Narrative: Visible and invisible relations in a Haitian lakou a (family courtyard)*. in Visualising the Visible and the Invisible: ethnography and technologies of the unseen, chaired by Paolo Favero and Samuel Collins at the 117th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in San Jose, Nov 2018.
- 2018 *Travay/Travail*. Film Screening. 25 minutes. In Visual Vodou and Vodou: Resembling and Re-Assembling Spirit Service through Visual Anthropology, chaired by Christian Vannier at the AES/SVA Annual Meeting. Mar 2018.
- 2018 *Crafting Ethnographic Modernities: eHRAF and the Human Relations Area Files Project*. Jordan, A.M. In *Digital and Virtual Matter(s): Quasi-Objects of Archaeological Analysis and Representation*, chaired by Jeffrey Vadala. Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference. March 2018.

- 2017 *United States of Armageddon: Security, Discipline, and Apocalyptic Liberation in a Contemporary Right-Wing Militia*. Wesleyan University. November 2017.
- 2017 *Vodou Skins: Enculturated Perception in Early Childhood Practices in Rural Haiti*. In *Vodou Matters* chaired by Tim Landry, Eric Montgomery, Christian Vannier. The 116<sup>th</sup> Annual American Anthropological Association Conference. Washington, DC.
- 2015 *The Ethical Aesthetics of Recycling Your Body Parts: Zonbi Practices in Petwo Vodou* In: *Zombie: The Haitian and American Realities behind the Myth*, organized by J.L. Matory, Duke University. Presented by the Center for African and African American Studies.
- 2014 *Werewolf Metaphysics: Magic, Ritual, and Technology in Rural Haiti*. In Florida Association of Student Anthropologists at the University of Florida Department of Anthropology

## OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Organizing

- 2021 "Documentary Films for Imagining Futures: Celebration & Concluding Roundtable with *Global Filmmakers*" Chair of Closing Discussion. Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication. University of Pennsylvania
- 2021 [Responsive Roots: Vodou Beats Across the Waters](#). WXPB & Center for Experimental Ethnography. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2021 with Deborah A. Thomas. [Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Problem of Decolonizing Museums](#) Conference. Center for Experimental Ethnography and Hosted by the Penn Museum. October 20-23 2021.
- 2019 "[Ritual reALITies](#)," a conversation with Va-Bene Elikem Fiatsi (crazinisT artisT) and Alissa Jordan (December 5, 2019).
- 2017 with Rebecca Nagy, Susan Cooksey. *Round Table: Creative Coalescing/ Artists of KNUST and Ghana's Contemporary Art Revolution*. Arts Council of the African Studies Association Triennial Conference. August 2017
- 2014 *Why Anthropologists Need Us: Ethnographic Practices in Haiti from the perspective of an Ethnographic Participant*. Invited Speaker: Michel St. Phard. Presented by the Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and LUECI
- 2014 with Jeff Vadala, Randee Fladeboe. *Latourian Archaeology: Object Agency, Actor Network Theory and Modes of Existence*. At the Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference 2014. University of Illinois: Urbana-Champaign
- 2012 with Tess Kulstad. *Emergent Movements during States of Emergency in Post-Quake Haiti*. Co-Organized by At the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies. Gainesville, FL.

### Presentations

- 2017 *Closings*. In *Creative Coalescing/ Artists of KNUST and Ghana's Contemporary Art Revolution*. Arts Council of the African Studies Association Triennial

Conference (ACASA), chaired by Rebecca Nagy, Susan Cooksey, and Alissa Jordan. August 2017

- 2016  
the 115<sup>th</sup> *Zonbi Aesthetics and Surfaces of Selves: Practices of Assembling, Disassembling, and Reusing Persons in Haitian Petwo Courtyards.* In *Identity, Aesthetics, Possession* at Annual American Anthropology Association Meeting. Minneapolis.
- 2015 *Chanpwèl Security and Werewolf Metaphysics: Technologies of Magic, Defense, and Diagnosis in Petwo-Kongo and Chanpwèl Vodou Practice.* In: *Navigating the Sacred: American Ethnological Society at the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual American Anthropology Association Conference.*
- 2012 *Werewolves and Infrastructure, With Vigilante Justice In Between: Lougawou in Post-Quake Haiti and the Night Time Roads that Carry Them.* In: *Emergent Movements during States of Emergency in Post-Quake Haiti.* Organized by Tess Kulstad and Alissa Jordan. At the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies. Gainesville, FL.

### SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2023 Platinum Award for Staff Recognition. School of Arts and Sciences. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2022 SAS Working Group Grant for “Black Reproduction”, co-founded with Nwadiogo Ejiogu (Perelman School of Medicine), Grace Sanders Johnson (Africana Studies), and Dorothy Roberts (Penn Law).
- 2022 *Project Grant* for “Lòpital pa Prizon”. SACHS Art Foundation. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2016 *Research Award* for: “Creative Coalescing in Ghanaian Contemporary Artist Networks.” Center for African Studies. Univ of Florida.
- 2016 *Criser Award in Museum Studies.* Harn Museum of Art, Univ of Florida.
- 2016 *Dissertation Writing Award.* College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Univ of Florida
- 2012 *Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship.* U.S. State Department. Fellow in Haitian Creole. Center for Latin American Studies. University of Florida.
- 2010-16 *Alumni Graduate Fellowship.* Department of Anthropology. University of Florida

### TEACHING

- 2024 *Creative Studio for Ethnographers* with Jake Nussbaum, Department of Anthropology. University of Pennsylvania
- 2024 *Reckoning and Repair in Philadelphia: Reproductive Justice* with Daniela Brissett Department of Anthropology. University of Pennsylvania
- 2023 *Critical Qualitative Research and the Intentional Torts* with Regina Austin and Juan Castrillon, Penn Law

- 2022 *Graduate Filmmaking Study in Ethnographic Documentary: "Retold" Project.*
- 2022 *Reckoning & Repair: Contemporary Artists in Conversation.* Department of Anthropology. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2021 *Art, Magic & Medicine: Bodily Remedies.* Department of Anthropology. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2021 *African Religions in the New World.* Department of Religion. Temple University.
- 2020 *Religion & Film.* Department of Religion. Temple University
- 2016 *Global Humankind.* Instructor. Department of Anthropology. University of Florida.
- 2015 *Global Humankind.* Course Designer & Course Grant Recipient. Department of Anthropology. University of Florida and UF Online.
- 2014 *Race and Racism.* Instructor. Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.
- 2013 *Consumer Culture.* Course Designer with Dr. Susan Gillespie. Department of Anthropology. University of Florida.
- 2012 *Human Sexuality.* Instructor. Department of Anthropology. University of Florida.
- 2012 *Sex-Roles Cross-Culturally.* Instructor. Department of Anthropology. University of Florida.

## DIGITAL PROJECTS

- 2023 [Reckoning & Repair: The Art That's Touched Philadelphia.](#) Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple Podcasts
- 2019 [Hospital ≠ Prison Platform](#) Online networking, research and oral history platform dedicated to ending hospital detentions.
- 2020 [Akouchman ak Rezistans.](#) 63 minutes. Audio Documentary. Spotify & Soundcloud
- 2020 [Birthing and Resistance.](#) 58 minutes. Audio Documentary. Spotify & Soundcloud.
- 2019 Editor. *Grounds That Shout! (And Others Merely Shaking...)* Advocate Performance. Archival Cut of Performance..
- 2019 Editor. *Grounds That Shout! (And Others Merely Shaking...)* Procession. Archival Cut of Performance.
- 2018 *Jè Kle.* 25 minutes. Directed by Alissa Jordan, Maredel Exantus and Wobenso Exantus.
2016. *Cornfields in Accra.* 3D Binaural Exhibit Walkthrough designed & filmed in Accra, Ghana by Alissa Jordan.
2016. *On the Cutting Edge.* Interactive Social Network Mapping of Creative Culture in Ghana. Created by Alissa Jordan.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- 2015         *Elusive Spirits: African Masquerades*. Curatorial Assistant Harn Museum of Art. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL
- 2014         *The Visual Art of Anthropology*. Co-Curator with Scott Hussey. Turlington Hall Permanent Photography Exhibit presented by the Department of Anthropology, University of Florida. Gainesville, Florida.
- 2013         *Mother of the Sea: Tracing Yemaja in Africa and the Americas*. Co-Curator with Natalia DaSilva. University Galleries Exhibit, Grinter Hall. University of Florida. Gainesville, Florida.
- 2013         *Spirit Bodies: Kongo Inspirations in Afro-Creole Sacred Objects*. Curator. Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art. University of Florida. Gainesville, Florida 2013
- 2009         *Powerful Nature: History of Animal, Human and Environmental Representations in the Ancient Near East*. Audio-visual Tour Author. Oriental Institute Museum. University of Chicago. Chicago, Illinois.