
SARAH STEFANA SMITH

www.sarahstefanasmith.com
sarahsts@american.edu

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- July 2020- Assistant Professor of Gender Studies
 Mount Holyoke College
- Aug. 2018- Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity
June 2020 College of Arts & Sciences
 Department of Art and the Critical Race, Gender, and Cultural Studies
 Collaborative
 American University
- 2016-18 Postdoctoral Fellow
 Africana Research Center and African American Studies Department
 The Pennsylvania State University

EDUCATION

- PhD University of Toronto, Department of Social Justice Education
 Degree August 2016
 Dissertation: Towards a Poetics of Bafflement: The Politics of Elsewhere in
 Contemporary Black Diaspora Art Practice (1990-Present)
- MFA Interdisciplinary Art, Goddard College, Plainfield, VT, 2010
- BA Sociology and Anthropology, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, 2004
 Phi Beta Kappa Society, magna cum laude

PUBLICATIONS

- Book Manuscript**
Poetics of Bafflement: Aesthetics of Frustration. (in progress)
- 2019 **Refereed Journal Articles**
Performing Bafflement: Time and Space in Photographer Ayana Jackson's *To Kill or Allow to Live*. In Shante Paradigm Smalls and Elliott H. Powell (eds.). *The Black Scholar, Black Queer and Trans Aesthetics*. 49.1: 17-27.
- 2018 Surface Play: Rewriting Black Interiorities through Camouflage and Abstraction in Mickalene Thomas's Oeuvre. In Uri McMillan (eds). *Women & Performance, Special Issue: Surface Aesthetics: Art, Race, Performance, and Play*. 28.1: 46-64.
- 2017 Aesthetic Deception in *Selling the Shadow* (2016). *Liquid Blackness, Suspension*. 4(7): 117-138.

2015 A Composite Field (2015) on 'Nothingness' and Mu. Avantkia Bawa and Celina Jeffery (eds.). *Drain: A Journal of Contemporary Art and Culture*, July 12.1.

Book Chapters

2018 Smith, Sarah Stefana and B. Stephen Carpenter II. (2018) "Discursive Materials: Narratives, Performances, and Material Cultures." In Amelia M. Kraehe, Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, and B. Stephen Carpenter, II (eds.), *The Handbook on Race in the Arts in Education*. London: Palgrave-MacMillan.

2013 Appetites: Destabilizing the Notion of Normalcy and Deviance Through the Black Woman's Body. In N. Wane, Z. Murad, and J. Jagire (eds.), *Ruptures: Anti-colonial and Anti-Racist Feminist Theorizing*. New York: Sense Publishers.

Reviews and Other Publications

2018 Exhibition Review. Curators, Karen E. Milborne, Mary Nooter Roberts, and Allen F. Roberts, *Senses of Time: Video and Film Based Works of Africa*. November 30, 2018. College Art Association. caa.reviews.org.

2017 Book Review: Rinaldo Walcott, *Queer Returns: Essays on Multiculturalism, Diaspora, and Black Studies*. In K. Fritsch and R. Simpkins (eds). *Somatechnics Special Issue: The Somatechnics of Sexuality in Canada*. 7 (2).

Book Review: Eds. E. Patrick Johnson and Ramón H. Rivera-Servera, *Blacktino Queer Performance*. July 10, 2018. College Art Association. caa.reviews.org.

2015 Dreadhead. *A Different Eye: Sistagraphy Celebrates 20 Years of Photography*. Self-published.

The Long and Short of It: On Violence and Grief and All the World's History. July 2015. *Peeps Magazine*. www.peepsmagazine.com

2013 Remixed to the Color Purple. *Mambu Badu: Open Call*. Winter 2013, 2(1): 70-75.

2010 Artist highlight: Sarah Stefana Smith. In Patton, L. (Ed), *Goddard College MFA-IA Graduate Catalogue*. Self-Published.

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2019 Puffin Foundation, Grant (\$600)
Merriweather District Artist-in-Resident Program, May-June 2019 (\$10,000 stipend).

2018 DC Art Center Sparkplug Collective, Washington D.C., January 2018-2020
Postdoctoral Fellowship of Academic Diversity with the College of Arts & Sciences. American University, August 2018-2020.

2016 Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Africana Research Center and Department of

- African American Studies. Pennsylvania State University, August-May 2017.
- 2013** Bremen Santander BISIP Scholarship, (€3,000) University of Bremen, Fall 2013
- Co-Recipient with La Boi Band Collective, (£3,500) IdeasTap Zine Submission, February 2013
- Co-Recipient with Massmus Collective (\$6,000) Ontario Arts Council Grant, February 2013
- 2012** Art Reach Project Grant (\$10,000), Art Reach Toronto, in partnership with Rexdale Pride, July 2012
- Research Travel Grant (\$3,000), School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto, April 2012
- 2010** OISE/UT Graduate Funding Package (\$30,000 per/year) University of Toronto, September 2010- August 2014
- John Pavlis Fellowship Fund for Artists, Vermont Studio Center, June 2010
- 2008** Audre Lorde Scholarship for LGBTQ Students of Color (\$4,000), Zami Organization, July 2008
- 40th Street Artist in Residence Program, March 2008-2009
- 2006** Leeway Foundation Art & Change Grant (\$2,500, Artist Recipient & Change Partner), 2006-2007

INVITED TALKS & PAPERS

- 2019** Panelist. (November 11), Creativity and Change Symposium, American University.
- Moderator for Artist Talk with Kyle Hackett, Rate of Contingency-Kyle Hackett (March 14), Baltimore City Hall-Rotunda, Baltimore, MD.
- 2017** Tough Geographies. (May 2017). Paper to be presented at 20th Anniversary of Black Like? Writing Black Canada, Conversations on the Writings of Rinaldo Walcott at Innis Town Hall, Toronto, ON.
- Black Social Death/Life and Re-orienting Queer Temporalities in Ayana Jackson's *To Kill or Allow to Live* (2016). (March 2017). Guest Lecture with the Black Cultural Studies Collective, Department of English and Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania, PA.
- Black Atlantic Art as Pedagogy of Justice (February 2017). Guest Lecture at THEA 497: Truth and Reconciliation- "Race Relations in America— Performing Arts and Artists Moving Us Forward" at The Pennsylvania State University, PA.
- 2016** Black Affects[s], Queer Sensibilities: Corporealities of Contestation in Contemporary Photographic Work. (October 2016) Paper presented at the Department of African American Studies Works in Progress, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

Figuring Slavery, Figuring Bafflement in Contemporary Black Visual Art. (February 2016). Presentation at Emerging Speaker Series with Africana Research Center, The Pennsylvania State University. University Park, PA.

- 2014** Media Meditation Series: Aesthetics, Beauty and Black Visual Culture. (July 2014). Presentation at Xtreme Teens Program, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Temple Hills, Maryland.
- 2013** A Poetics of Bafflement and Queer Affect in the Work of Contemporary Black Visual Art. (November 2013). Presentation at Stuart Hall Library Research Network Meeting. Inivia, London, UK.
- Towards a Poetics of Bafflement: Politics of Elsewhere in Contemporary Black Visual Art (1990-Present). (October 2013). Presentation at Black Studies Colloquium. University of Bremen, Bremen Germany.

PAPERS, PANELS & LECTURES

- 2020** (February 2020). Panel. Femme Aesthetics in Contemporary Art (February 12-14), College Art Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2019** (October 2019). Panel. Call and Response: Poetics, Visuality, and Artist-Writers on the Archive, (October 10-12), Black Portraiture[s] V. New York University, NY.
- 2018** (November 2018). Chair. Visualizing In/Emergence: Race, Aesthetics and the Ethics of Obfuscation. American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- (October 2018). Aesthetic Deception in Contemporary Black Women's Art. ASAP/10, New Orleans, LA.
- (August 2018). Surface Play in Mickalene Thomas and Zanele Muholi's Art. Capacious Conference, Millersville University, Lancaster, PA.
- 2017** (November 2017). Aesthetics of Dissent in Black Art and Performance. American Studies Association. Chicago, IL.
- (Nov. 2017). Panels on "Aesthetics and Activism: Freedom, Precarity, and Embodied Practices" and "The Black Queer Women's Collective", National Women's Studies Association. Baltimore, MD.
- (May 2017). Surface Play: Rewriting Black Interiorities through Artifice, Camouflage, and Abstraction in Mickalene Thomas's Oeuvre Paper to presented at Queer Feelings/ Feeling Queer Symposium. Toronto, ON.
- Guest Lecturer. (February 2017). THEA 497: Truth and Reconciliation: Race Relations in America—Performing Arts and Artists Moving Us Forward.
- 2016** (December 2016). Black Affects[s], Queer Sensibilities: Corporealities of Contestation in Ayana Jackson and Zanele Muholi's Photographic Work. Paper presented at Black Portraiture[s] Conference III, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- (November 2016). Black Affects[s], Queer Sensibilities: Corporealities of Contestation in Ayana Jackson and Zanele Muholi's Photographic Work. Paper presented at the Association for Cultural Studies on Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference, Sydney, Australia.

- 2015** (October 2015). Composite Field (2015) on Nothingness and Mu. Paper presented at Black + Queer + Human Conversations Symposium, Toronto, Ontario.
- (October 2015). Black Queer Diaspora Practis & Its Mainfold Futures. Paper presented at the American Studies Association on The (Re)production of Misery and the Ways of Resistance, Toronto, Ontario.
- (November 2015). Frustrating Subjectivities and Archives of Struggle: Zanele Muholi's *Faces & Phases* (2006-Present). Paper presented at the National Women's Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2013** (November 2013). Residual Affects: the Future of Slavery in Contemporary Black Art. Lecture presented to Slavery and Literature Course, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany.
- (March 2013). Bafflement's Residue: Considerations on the Visuality of Bishop Eddie Long and Col. Russell Williams. Paper presented at the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) on Dreams Deferred, Promises and Struggles, Atlanta, Georgia.
- (February 2013). Constantly a Stranger: Ruin, Impermanence and the Work of the Door. Paper presented at American Comparative Literature Association on Ruin and Remembrance: Positioning the Spatial and Temporal in Historical Trauma, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2012** (September 2012). 'My Mic Sounds Nice': towards a black queer diasporic critique of Toronto's Hip Hop Karaoke. Paper presented at The Queerness of Hip Hop and the Hip Hop of Queerness Symposium, Boston, Massachusetts.
- (July 2012). Dissin' Identification: Psychic re/arrangements of the Door of No Return. Paper presented at the Association for Cultural Studies on Crossroads in Cultural Studies 2012, Association for Cultural Studies, Paris, France.
- (April 2012). Cultural Production & the Im/possibility of the Door of No Return". Paper presented at the 56th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Educational Society. San Jose, Puerto Rico.
- (February 2012). 'My Mic Sounds Nice': Towards a Black Queer Diaspora Critique of Toronto's Hip Hop Karaoke. Paper presented at Central Pennsylvania Consortium Africana Studies Conference on Performance, Memory, History and Identity in the Black World, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
- 2011** (May 2011). Pathologies of Self, Masculinity, Race & Sexuality: A Photographic Discourse Analysis of Bishop Eddie Long and Col. Russell William. Paper presented at the Canadian Sociological Association and Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Fredricton, New Brunswick.
- (April 2011). Door of No Return: the critical and the creative, a consideration of Brand's Map to the Door of No Return and knowledge production. Paper presented at the 3rd Annual Decolonizing the Spirit Conference, Centre for Integrative Anti-racism Studies. Toronto, Ontario.

(January 2011). Positioning, Position as Desired: the photographic image and imagined communities in black diaspora. Paper presented at Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture on State of African American and African Diaspora Studies. New York, New York.

2010 (November 2010). In the Spaces We Create...The Self is Made Visible": Three Black Women Artists Map Identity, Formulate Methodologies, and Challenge Medium". Presented at the National Women's Studies Association on Difficult Dialogues II, Denver, Colorado.

(February 2010). Gesturing Cartography and the Examination of a Personal Epistemology. Paper presented at Goddard College Conference of Interdisciplinary Art on Liminal Spaces, Plainfield, Vermont.

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

2019 (March 28, 2019). Artist Talk: Sarah Stefana Smith. To be Presented at Katzen Welcome Center Auditorium, American University.

2016 (September 2016). Black Affects[s], Queer Sensibilities: Corporealities of Contestation in Ayana Jackson and Zanele Muholi's Photographic Work. Talk presented at the African American Studies department at the Pennsylvania State University on works in progress brown bag series, State College, Pennsylvania.

2013 (April 2013). Towards a Poetics of Bafflement: The Politics of 'Elsewhere' in Contemporary Black Diaspora Visual Practice (1990-Present). Talk presented at the Center for Media and Culture in Education at the University of Toronto on Works in Progress Seminar Series, Toronto, Ontario.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018- Instructor for "WGSS150: Women's Voices Through Time" and "ARTS601,
2019 Contemporary Art Theory".

American University

2017- Instructor for "WGSS150: Women's Voices Through Time", "AFAM110: Introduction to
2018 African American Studies", "WMST100: Introduction to Women's Studies", and "AFAM/WMST102: Women of Color Cross Cultural Perspectives"

The Pennsylvania State University and American University

2016 Course Instructor for "AMST230: The Arts in America", "ENGL101: Introduction to
College Writing", and "ENGL102: Critical Reading, Writing and Research"

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Montgomery College, Takoma Park

2012- Teaching Assistant for "Introduction to Theories of Feminism", "Introduction to Women
2015 and Gender Studies", "Race, Class and Gender", "Understanding Visual Culture", "International Migration and Immigrant Incorporation" and "Women in the Media"

University of Toronto, St. George and Scarborough Campuses

2010- Program Coordinator, Leave Out Violence, Toronto, Ontario
2013

2006- Art and Media Instructor, Peoples Emergency Center, Shaw Middle School, Ayuda
2009 Community Center and Media Mobilizing Project, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017- Co-Organizing Developer, Charles L. Blockson, Digital Humanities Project, The
2018 Pennsylvania State University (in development)

2016- Co-Organizing Committee Andrew Mellon, Sawyer Seminar on "Racial Dispossession
Pres and Cultures of Resistance", at The Pennsylvania State University.

2010- Rinaldo Walcott, "Black/Queer Conversations"
2015 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Social Justice Education. University of Toronto

2012- Melanie Knight, "Black Women Entrepreneurs"
2014 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Ryerson University

2010- Queer of Color Critique Working Group.
2011 University of Toronto

2003- Mona Phillips, "Health Disparities in Southern African
2006 American Women ", Undergraduate Research Assistant, Public Health Science Institute, Spelman College

SELECT EXHIBITIONS & ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2019 77ARTS Artist-in-Resident Program. (August 1-31). Rutland, VA.

Merriweather District AIR Program (May 13-June 24). Columbia, MD.

Fourth Annual Young Art Contemporary. (March 21-24). Crosstown Arts Center, Memphis, TN.

Transcendence juried by Antonius Bui. (March 1-31). IA&I Hillyer, Washington D.C.

Light Liminal curated by Karen Joan Topping. (February 22-March 24). DC Art Center. Washington D.C.

Under, Over, Back, Forward curated by Blair Murphy. (January 12-March 31). Arlington Art Center. Arlington, VA.

Tick Tock: Memory Metamorphosis devised work with choreographer Kelly Bartnik (January 1-February 4), Theater and Dance Department, Colby College and Performed

- at the Boston Center for the Performing Arts, Boston, MA.
- 2018** The Shape of Memory. (Nov-December 2018). Borland Project Space. State College, PA, Pennsylvania State University
- Interstices. Capacious Conference, (August 2018), Lancaster, PA.
- Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Residency (July 3-23, 2018) Amherst, VA.
- The Shape of Memory. (June 29th), Living Room Gallery, Pleasant Gap, PA.
- Strength in Practice. (June 1-July 21), Waller Gallery & Gallery CA, Baltimore MD.
- 2017** Lab Bodies BBB: Performance Art Review III: Freedom. (November) Space Camp Gallery, Baltimore, MD.
- Feminist Art Conference Residency. (May 12-26, 2017). Artscape Gibraltar Point, Toronto Island, ON.
- 2014** Visual Art Series: Tattered. (October 2014). Living Art House, Bethesda, Maryland.
- 2013** A Different Eye: Sistagraphy Celebrates 20 Years of Photography. (September 2013). Hammond House, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Black Diaspora Conversations: Gender, Sexuality and Queer Thoughts. (May 2013). OISE | UT, Toronto ON
- 2010** Vermont Studio Center. (June 2010). John Pavlis Award and Artist Residency. Johnson, VT.
- 2008** West Philadelphia Artists Group Show, White Dog Café, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Transmutations, AIRSPACE Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 40th Street AIR Residency Program (May 2007-June 2008. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2007** Philadelphia Center for the Photographic Image Group Show. (December 2007). Higher Ground Coffee Shop, Philadelphia, PA.
- Philadelphia Open Studio Tours: Group Show. (October 2007). Freeman's Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2006** Shootout: Reverberating the Spirit and Legacy of Jack T. Franklin. (August 2006). African American Museum in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2004** Storm in a Tea Cup. (March 2004). Atlanta Fulton Pubic Library, Atlanta, Georgia.
- feMCees: Women Re-defining Hip Hop in Atlanta. (April 2004). Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2002** Pictures Tell Our Story. (February 2002). High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Connected Vision. (March 2002). Buckhead Fulton Public Library, Atlanta, Georgia.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2019** Programming Committee, Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, Conference (October 2019) University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
- 2017** Organizing Committee, “Racial Dispossession and Cultures of Resistance”, Sawyer Seminar, Pennsylvania State University (recipient).
- 2013** Organizing Committee, “Black Diaspora Conversations: Gender, Sexuality and Queer Thought” a symposium, University of Toronto.
- Organizing Committee, “Cinematic Translations: The Work of John Akomfrah” tri-campus symposium, University of Toronto.
- 2012** Editorial Board, Trans/forms Journal, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, 2010-2012.
- 2011** Co-Chair, 12th Annual Social Justice Education Conference, University of Toronto, 2010-2011.
- 2009** Board Member, Philadelphia Center for the Photographic Image, 2005-2009.

EXTRACURRICULAR UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2016** Queer Critique of Color Working Group, University of Toronto, 2010-2016.
- 2012** Department of Social Justice Education Student Caucus, University of Toronto, 2010-2012.

NON-ACADEMIC WORK

- Present** Co-Founder, Collective Conjure, State College, PA 2017-Pres.
Co-Founder, Massmus Collective, Toronto Ontario, 2012-2014.
Co-Founder, La Boi Band Collective, International Art Collective, 2012-2014.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP & AFFLIATION

- Present** Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present
American Studies Association
Association of Cultural Studies
National Women’s Studies Association

REFERENCES

Available on request.