

# :: JOEVA SEAN ROCK

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## **EDUCATION**

- PhD **Anthropology, American University (2018)**  
MA **Public Anthropology, American University (2016)**  
BA **International Studies, University of California-San Diego (2010)**  
African Studies Minor. Graduated Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.65  
--- **University of Ghana (2008-2009)**  
Enrolled as a full-time international student

## **POSITIONS HELD**

- 2019 – present **Professorial Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology, American University  
2019 – present **Visiting Research Scholar**, Department of International Studies, University of San Francisco  
2018 – 2019 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, New York University

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

### **Extramural**

- 2019 Boahen-Wilks Outstanding Scholarly Article in Ghana Studies Prize (Ghana Studies Assoc.)  
2017 Association for Africanist Anthropology Graduate Essay Award (Honorable Mention)  
2015 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship  
2015 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant  
2015 Explorers Club Washington Group Exploration and Field Research Grant  
2014 Society for Applied Anthropology Student Committee's Student Endowed Award

### **Internal**

- 2020 American University Adjunct Faculty Professional Development Grant  
2017 American University College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) Student Conference Grant (2015-17)  
2016 American University CAS Graduate Student Mellon Research Grant (declined)  
2015 American University Office of Graduate Studies Doctoral Student Research Award  
2014 American University Greenberg Professional Development Grant (2013-14)  
2013 American University CAS Graduate Student Mellon Research Grant  
2012 American University Department of Anthropology Graduate Assistantship (2012-15, 2016-17)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

- 2020 "Complex Choreographies: Theorizing Agricultural Biotechnology Trajectories in Africa." (Forthcoming in *African Affairs*, with Rachel Schurman)  
2018 "'We Are Not Starving': Challenging Genetically Modified Seeds and Development Discourse in Ghana." *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment* 41(1): 15-23.  
2018 "Complex Mediascapes, Complex Realities: Critically Engaging with Biotechnology Debates in Ghana." *Global Bioethics* 29(1): 55-64.

### **Book Manuscript**

Under Review "We are not starving: the Struggle for Food Sovereignty in Ghana." Book Manuscript.

## **Selected Public Scholarship**

- 2019 "The Fight for the Future of Food." *Africa is a Country*, December 18.
- 2018 "Don't Turn Foreign Aid Over to the Heritage Foundation." *Foreign Policy in Focus*, December 20 (with Jacob M. Grumbach).
- 2018 "Only the Soil Can Save Us." *Africa is a Country*, November 27.
- 2018 "Catering Ghana's Agricultural Development." *Anthropology News*, November 21.
- 2018 "Silent Aid." *Africa is a Country*, October 11.
- 2018 "Abject Lessons." *Popula*, August 8.
- 2018 "Pythons and Lily Pads." *Africa is a Country*, April 2.
- 2014 "Why Are We Sending Soldiers Trained for War to Respond to the Ebola Crisis?" *The Nation*, September 25.
- 2014 "Militarized Humanitarianism in Africa." *Foreign Policy in Focus*, May 14.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Invited Talks**

- 2020 "Genetically Modified Crops for Africa? A Qualitative View from Ghana." The Innovative Genomics Institute, University of California-Berkeley. March 10.
- 2019 "A Vision that Refuses to Die: The Struggle for Food Sovereignty and Political Freedom in an Era of Climate Change." University of California-San Diego. May 31.
- 2018 "'The Africans, I think, will choose to let their people have enough to eat': Global Assemblages and Genetically Modified Crops for Africa." New York University. August 31.
- 2018 "We are not starving: Debating Development and Genetically Modified Crops in Ghana." University of Texas-Austin. March 22.
- 2017 "We are not starving: Genetically Modified Crops and Development Debates in Ghana." University of California-Berkeley. February 7.
- 2016 "'There are no hungry people in this land': Understanding Food Sovereignty in Ghana." University of San Francisco. December 7.
- 2016 "Constructions and Practices of Food Sovereignty in Ghana." University of Ghana. March 11.

### **Conference Panels Organized**

- 2020 "Political Ecology and the New Green Revolution for Africa." Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). [*cancelled due to COVID-19*]
- 2019 "Critical Technologies and Ecologies in Ghana." The Ghana Studies Association Triennial Conference.
- 2017 "Reports from the Field: Critical Perspectives on Food and Agricultural Development in Ghana." The Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association (ASA).
- 2015 "Food as Continuity and Change." The Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Annual Meeting.
- 2014 "Anthropology, Militarization and Development." The SfAA Annual Meeting.
- 2013 "Anthropological Explorations of Debt." The Northeastern Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.

### **Conference Papers Presented**

- 2020 "Not too big to fail? Theorizing Agricultural Biotechnology Trajectories in Africa" (with Rachel Schurman). Annual Meeting of the AAG. [*cancelled due to COVID-19*]
- 2019 "We are not starving: the Struggle for Food Sovereignty in Ghana." The Ghana Studies Association Triennial Conference.
- 2018 "'We are made to believe that our food is not good': Development Foodscapes in Ghana." The Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA).
- 2017 "'The So-Called NGOs, Some of Them are Just Killing Us!': Recipient Fatigue and Agricultural Development in Ghana." The Annual Meeting of the AAA.

- 2016 “Does Bill Gates Love Africa More Than Me?’ Ghanaian Agricultural Advocacy in the Age of the African Green Revolution.” The Annual Meeting of the ASA.
- 2016 “GMOs and Anti-Colonial Narratives in Ghana.” The 1Annual Meeting of the AAA.
- 2015 “Food as a Marker of Continuity and Change in an Economic Crisis.” The SfAA Annual Meeting.
- 2015 “Queer Corn and Foodscapes of Activism in Ghana.” Lavender Languages Conference.
- 2014 “Contemporary Coloniality, Sites of Resistance and Contestations of Development in Ghana.” The Annual Meeting of the AAA.
- 2014 “‘Our stomachs are being colonized!’ Food and Resistance in Ghana.” American University Public Anthropology Conference.
- 2014 “Capacities, Cooperation and Coercion: Militarized Development in Contemporary Africa.” The SfAA Annual Meeting.
- 2013 “Sankofa: Navigating Spaces, Identities and Loyalties.” The Annual Meeting of the ASA.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Instructor of Record, American University (Department of Anthropology)**

- Health, Care and Social Movements (graduate, Spring 2020)
- Health Geographies (graduate, Fall 2019)
- Living in Multicultural Societies (undergraduate, Summer 2017)
- Militarization and Health (graduate, Summer 2019)
- Neoliberal Globalization and Health (graduate, Fall 2019)

#### **Teaching Assistant, American University (Department of Anthropology)**

- Anthropology of Life in the U.S. (undergraduate, Fall 2013)
- Culture and the Human Experience (undergraduate, Spring 2013 & 2014)
- Environmental Anthropology (undergraduate, Spring 2015)
- Health, Care and Social Movements (undergraduate, Spring 2017)
- Militarization and Health (graduate, Fall 2016)
- Neoliberal Globalization and Health (graduate, Fall 2017)
- Sex, Gender and Culture (undergraduate, Fall 2012 & 2014)

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

#### 2018 – present **Research Consultant**

I work with small to medium scale international development organizations to integrate qualitative research in their planning, analysis and assessment. Previous work has included desk reviews, grant assessments, and policy review and analysis.

#### 2015 – 16 **Dissertation Fieldwork, Ghana**

Grants from funded Fulbright and Wenner-Gren Foundation funded 11 months of participant observation and semi-structured interviews with government officials, scientists, farmers and activists to understand the social, political and economic aspects of genetically modified crops in Ghana.

#### 2014 **Pre-Dissertation Research, Ghana**

Carried out two months of ethnographic research on the Food Sovereignty Platform, a social movement based in Accra, Ghana.

#### 2012 – 14 **Research Assistant, Washington, DC**

Conducted archival and ethnographic research in support of the Civil War Contraband Ethnographic Study, an ethno-historical project funded by the National Park Service.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE**

- 2019 **Co-organizer**, “[The Fight for the Future of Food: a Conversation with African Activists.](#)” Forum at the University of San Francisco (October 23)

2018 – present **Contributor**, [Africa is a Country](#) [website]  
2018 – present **Secretary**, Association for Africanist Anthropology  
2013 – 2018 **Associate Copy-editor**, African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review  
2012 – 2014 **Secretary**, Anthropology Graduate Council, American University  
2014 **Intern**, Foreign Policy in Focus, Institute for Policy Studies  
2013 **Conference Co-Coordinator**, American University Public Anthropology Conference

### **TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS**

2017 Online Faculty Training, American University  
2012 – 2015 Greenberg Ph.D. Seminars for Effective Teaching, American University

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

African Studies Association, American Anthropological Association, Association for Africanist Anthropology, Ghana Studies Association, West Africa Research Association