

:: JOEVA SEAN ROCK

EDUCATION

- PhD **Anthropology, American University (2018)**
MA **Public Anthropology, American University (2016)**
BA **International Studies, University of California-San Diego (2010)**
Minor in African Studies

POSITIONS HELD

- 2020 – present **Lecturer**, International and Area Studies, University of California, Berkeley
2020 – present **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Department of International Development Studies,
Dalhousie University (GEAP3 Network)
2019 – 2020 **Visiting Research Scholar**, Department of International Studies, University of San
Francisco
2019 – 2020 **Professorial Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology, American University
2018 – 2019 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, New
York University

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2020 “The Complex Choreography of Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa.” *African Affairs* (with
Rachel Schurman).
2019 “‘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 Reviews

- 2020 “Rethinking ‘Food Security’ in Africa.” *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community
Development* (forthcoming).

Book Manuscript

- “We are not starving: the Struggle for Food Sovereignty in Ghana.” Under revision.

Selected Public Scholarship

- 2020 “GMOs for Africa?” *Africa is a Country*, July 30 (with Rachel Schurman).
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 “Catering Ghana’s Agricultural Development.” *Anthropology News*, November 21.
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.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Awards and Honors

- 2019 Boahen-Wilks Outstanding Scholarly Article in Ghana Studies Prize (Ghana Studies Assoc.)
2017 Association for Africanist Anthropology Graduate Essay Award (Honorable Mention)

2014 Society for Applied Anthropology Student Committee's Student Endowed Award

Extramural Grants

- 2020 The Schmidt Family Foundation (grant in support of mBio Project; co-Primary Investigator)
- 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

Internal Grants

- 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)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2020 Invited Panelist, Resilient40 Virtual Summit: Tunakutana for Climate Resilience.
- 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 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 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 Annual 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, University of California, Berkeley (International and Area Studies)

Global Poverty: Challenges and Hopes (summer and fall 2020)

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 & 2020)

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

- 2020 **Co-Primary Investigator**, mBio: Mapping Biotechnologies in Africa Project
I oversee a team of faculty and student researchers using tools from data science, social science and the digital humanities to construct interactive platforms and datasets of agricultural biotechnologies on the African continent.
- 2020 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, GEAP3 Network
In collaboration with the GEAP3 Network, an EU-funded research consortium, I analyze the potential impacts of genome-edited crops on the African continent.
- 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.

- 2018 **Fieldwork**, Ghana
Conducted follow up interviews and validated research findings with key informants.
- 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.

PROFESIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

- 2020 **Reviewer**, *Agriculture and Human Values*
- 2019 **Co-organizer**, “[The Fight for the Future of Food: a Conversation with African Activists.](#)” Public 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

LANGUAGES

English (native), Spanish (basic), Twi (basic)