

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Paulla A. Ebron**

Department of Anthropology  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305-2034

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**Education**

Ph.D.	1993	University of Massachusetts, Amherst Department of Anthropology, (with distinction)
M.A.	1987	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
B.A.	1984	University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Professional Employment**

Associate Professor. Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University, 2003-Present.

Assistant Professor, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University, 1992-2003.

**Teaching and Research Interests**

Modern Diasporas; History of Anthropological Thought; Contemporary Social Theory: cultural Studies, performance, gender studies, and narrative analysis  
African Studies, cities; landscape and memory; landscapes.

**Books**

n.d. Making Tropical Africa in the Georgia Sea Islands. Book Length work in progress.  
2002. *Performing Africa*. Princeton University.

**Peer Reviewed Articles**

2018. "Feminism and the Anthropocene: Assessing the field through recent books." co-authored with Anna Tsing. *Feminist Studies* 43(3):658-683.  
2015. "Which Memory." in *Transnational Memories of Slavery: Reimagining the Past, Changing the Future*. Elisa Bordin and Anna Scacchi, editors. Amherst, NY: Cambria Press. pp. 133-160  
2015. "Writing and Rhythm." *Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute*. 21(3): 683-687.  
2014. "Slavery and Transnational Memory: The Making of New Publics." in *Transnational Memory. Circulation, Articulation, Scales*. Editors, Chiara De Cesari and Ann Rigney. Berlin; Boston: Walter de Gruyter. pp. 147-168.  
2008. "Strike a Pose: Capitalism's Black Identity. In *Recharting the Black Atlantic* Annalisa Oboe and Anna Scacchi, editors. London: Routledge Research in Atlantic Studies. pp. 319-336.  
2007. "Constituting the Subject Through Performative Acts: The Making of West African Gendered Subjects." Catherine Cole, Takyiwaa Manuh, Stephan F. Miescher, editors. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. pp. 171-190.  
2004. "Continental Riffs: Encounters with Mande Music." *African Identities* 2(2):133-149. Also in *Black Cultural Traffic*. Harry Elam and Kennell Jackson, Editor. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2005.  
2001. "Contingent Stories: Anthropology, Race, and Feminism." In *Black Feminist Anthropology: Theory, Praxis, Politics and Poetics*. Irma McClaurin, editor. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers. pp. 211-232. Also Reprinted in *Feminist Anthropology*. Oxford; Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006.  
1999. "Tourists as Pilgrims: Commercial Fashioning of Trans-Atlantic Politics." *American Ethnologist* November: 26(4): 910-932.  
1998. "Enchanted Memories of Regional Difference in African American Culture" *American Anthropologist* March: 94-106.  
1996. "Traffic in Men." In *Gendered Encounters: Challenging Cultural Boundaries and Social Hierarchies in Africa*. Maria Grosz-Ngate and Omari Kokole, editors. Routledge, pp. 223-244.  
1995a. "From Allegories of Identity to Sites of Dialogue." *Diaspora* 4(2):125-51, (with Anna Tsing).

- 1995b. "In Dialogue: Reading Across Minority Discourses." In *Women Writing Culture*. Ruth Behar and Deborah Gordan, editors. University of California Press, pp. 390-411, (with Anna Tsing).
1991. "Rapping Between Men: Performing Gender." *Radical America* Spring, pp. 23(4):23-27

### **Commissioned Essay**

2009. "Beyond the Written Document: Looking for Africa in African American Culture." Essay commission by National Humanities Center for their website for teachers. Listed under *Freedom's Story*. Misc.
2013. "Writing and Rhythm: Call and Response." With Anna Tsing. Department of Anthropology Durham University, *Writing Across Boundaries: Writing on Writing*.  
<https://www.dur.ac.uk/writingacrossboundaries/writingonwriting/tsingandebbron/>

### **Book Reviews**

2005. "Political Life of Nature." Review Essay. Roger Lancaster's *Trouble With Nature. Nature, and The Politics of Difference*. Edited by Donald S. Moore, Jake Kosek, and Anand Pandian. Durham: Duke University Press.  
*American Anthropologist*. 107(2): 264-267.
- 2001 *Rumba on the River*. By Gary Stewart. *Journal of Modern African Studies*. Volume 39 (4): 717-743.
2000. *Mestizo Logics*. By Jean Loup Amselle, *American Anthropologist*. 102 (1):178-79.
1999. *Hair Raising*. Noliwe Rooks and *Beauty Queens*. Beverly Stoelje, Richard Wilks, and Colleen Ballerio, editors. *Signs*. 24(2):545.
1994. *Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America*. Tricia Rose *Contemporary Sociology*. May.
1988. *The Woman in the Body: Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Emily Martin, *American Ethnologist* 15(1): (with Anna Tsing).

### **Academic Fellowships and Grants**

2018. Institute for Research in the Social Sciences. Fellow 2018-2019.
2017. Lang Fund for Environmental Anthropology.
2016. Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. Department of Anthropology.
- 2015-2016. Research Fellow. Clayman Institute, Stanford University.
2014. Stanford Campus, Bing Overseas Program, Berlin Germany. (Fall term teaching)
2013. NEH Summer Seminar. African American History and Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry: Savannah and the Coastal Islands. Savannah, Georgia.  
 Lang Grant for Environmental Anthropology. Stanford University. 2013; 2014.
2010. Fellow. NEH Summer Seminar. Visual Culture of the American Civil War, City University of New York.
- 2008-2009. Research Fellow. Clayman Institute, Stanford University. Non-leave. Support for travel for my research on "Ethical Citizenship."
2008. Fellow. NEH Summer Seminar: Rethinking Global History, Washington, D.C.
2007. Freeman Spogli (\$2500. For maps and research materials)
- 2004-2005. Member of the School of Social Science. Institute for Advanced Study. Princeton.
2004. School of American Research. Santa Fe, New Mexico. Awarded but not accepted.
2003. Radcliffe Institute. Cambridge, Massachusetts. Awarded but not accepted.
- 2000-2001. National Humanities Center, John Hope Franklin Fellow and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow.
- 2000-2001. OTL Award. Stanford University. Research Support of Project: "Making Tropical Africa in the Georgia Sea Islands."
- 1997-1998. Stanford Humanities Center, Fellow.
- 1995-1996. Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship.
1996. Zora Neale Hurston Fellow, Institute for the Advanced Study and Research in the African Humanities, Northwestern University.
- 1995-1996. Center for Cultural Studies, Fellow, University of California, Santa Cruz.
1995. Marilyn Yalom Research Award, Stanford.

1994. Five College Women's Studies Center, Research Associate, Mt. Holyoke College, Autumn.  
 1991-1992. Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, Northwestern University, Institute for the  
 Advanced Study and Research in African Humanities.  
 1990-1991. Scholar in Residence, Reed College.  
 1990. American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship (awarded but not  
 accepted).  
 1990. Ford Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (awarded but not accepted).  
 1989. 1990. Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Dissertation Research Grant  
 for Research in The Gambia.  
 1988-1990. Roothbert Fellowship.

### **Presentations and Papers**

2018. Keynote address: "Music and Memory: West African Kora in the World of the Harp."  
 University of Limerick. Worlds of the Harp Conference. May 25-27.  
 2018. Lecture: "Griots Performing Africa." UCSC  
 2016. "On Looking" Feminist Film Criticism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century." Clayman Institute, Stanford  
 University, March.  
 2015. "Entangled Histories: Colonial Threads that Bind Plants People." Invited Speaker  
 Postcolonial Natures Workshop. Aarhus University Aarhus, Denmark. June 17-18.  
 2014. "The Dialogue among Anthropologists and Historians on Philosophies of Histories." Master  
 seminar Department of History, Department of Anthropology, Adam Mickiewicz University,  
 Poznan, Poland. October 24.  
 2013. "Almost Near Tropical." Paper presented Panel: Place Making in Non-Places. American  
 Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, Nov. 24.  
 2013. Commentator on Professor Elazar Barkan paper, "The Challenge of History to Redress and  
 Conflict Resolution, Treaty of Utrecht Commemoration, Centre for the Humanities. Utrecht  
 University. June 21-22.  
 2013. "Heritage as Property." Paper Presented at Conference: The Past for Sale. University of  
 Massachusetts, Amherst. May 13-15.  
 2012. "Pest House." American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings..  
 Landscape and Writing. San Francisco, CA Nov.  
 2009. "Ethical Citizenship." Clayman Center, Stanford. March. Invited Speaker.  
 2012.  
 2007. "Memory's Enactments: Texts, Monuments, Performances." Invited Speaker for  
 Symposium on *The Politics of Memory*. Duke University Department of Anthropology. April 2.  
 2006. "Competing Narratives of Memorialized History." Invited Speaker for Conference Slavery  
 as an International Problem in Public History. Gilder Lehrman Center, Yale University. November  
 3-4.  
 2006. "Global Capitalism's Black Identity." Society for Cultural Anthropology Meetings, Theme:  
*Translations of Value*. Milwaukee, WI. May 5-6.  
 2005. "TransAtlantic Bad." Invited Speaker: Gendering the Diaspora, Race-ing the Transnational.  
 Duke University, November 17-19.  
 2005. Comment: Crowds, Youth, and Africa. Stanford Humanities Lab Crowds project. November  
 4-5.  
 2005. "Strike A Pose." Conference: Sea Changes: Bodies, Practices and Discourses Around the  
 Atlantic. University of Padova, Italy. October.  
 2005. Invited presentation. "Post-Colonialism and Africa." Conversation with Carolyn Martin-  
 Shaw. University of California, Santa Cruz, CA. April.  
 2005. "Moving Mud: Colonial Projects in South Carolina's Sea Islands." Institute for Advanced  
 Study, School of Social Science, Princeton. March.  
 2004. "Memory as Object." Institute for Advance Study, Interdisciplinarity, Princeton. December.  
 2004. Invited Lecture. Swarthmore College. Swarthmore, PA. April.  
 2001. "The Aura of the Aural: Mande Music in Global Contexts." African Studies. Indiana  
 University. Bloomington. September.

2001. "Constituting the Subject through Performative Acts." Invited Paper, Presented at Conference: "Africa After Gender? Conference," Humanities and Research Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara, April.
2000. "Curating the Everyday: Landscape and Meaning in African American Imagination." Cultural Studies Conference. Birmingham, England, June.
2000. "Continental Riffs." Invited Paper, Presented At "Performing Africa." Conference. University of California, Santa Cruz, May.
2000. "Performance and the Making of Africa in Global Contexts." Invited Presentation, Five College African Studies, Amherst, MA, March.
1999. "Transgressing Boundaries." Paper Presented at "Making the Spirit" Conference, Stanford University, October.
1999. "Tourists as Pilgrims." Invited Paper, Presented at Black Atlantic Conference. Rutgers University, April.
1999. "Making Tropical Africa in the Sea Islands, Paper Presented at African American Studies forum on the Georgia Sea Islands, Stanford University, February.
1998. "The Business of Identity." Paper Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December.
1998. "Diasporic Travel and Commercializing Identity." Conference: Histories of the Future, University of California, Santa Cruz, May.
1998. "Race, Region and Representation II" (South-South Dialogues: Africa and the Making of an American Tropics). Presentation at Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, Stanford, January.
1997. "Race, Region, and Representation, I" (Technologies of Memory). Paper Presented at the Annual Meetings of American Ethnological Society, Seattle, March..
1997. "Words and Voices: Entangled Objects and the Performance of History." Paper Presented at Rockefeller Conference, Bellagio, Italy, February.
1990. "Subverting Young Minds: Teaching a Women's Studies General Education Course." Paper Presented at the Meeting of the New England Women's Studies Association, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, April.
1990. "Negotiating Africa: Mandinka Jali Perform for the West," Invited paper, Reed College, Portland, March.
1990. "Gender and Social Transformation," Participant. Invited Conference, Social Science Research Council, June.
1990. "Politics and Music in West Africa." Invited Paper, Hampshire College, Amherst, February.
1988. "Strategies of Representation: Reading Ethnographies and Life Histories of African Women," Paper Presented at the Meetings of the National Association for Ethnic Studies, Springfield, March.
1987. "Othering Others: Women Anthropologists and the Ethnographic Account," Paper delivered at the Annual Meetings of the National Women's Studies Association, Spelman College, Atlanta, June.

**Panels: Organizer/Chair/Discussant**

2013. Caribbean Connections: Plantation Landscapes in the Making of Modern History. Panel Discussion featuring Sidney Mintz, Elizabeth DeLoughey and John McNeil. Department of Anthropology, Stanford. December, 2.
2012. Organizer and Chair of panel, "Landscape and Writing." Annual Anthropological Association Meetings. Nov. San Francisco.
2007. Chair/Organizer: Cities. American Anthropological Association Meeting. Washington, D.C. November.
2000. Chair/Organizer: Narratives of Place: Performative Landscapes. Cultural Studies Conference, Birmingham, England, June.
1998. Discussant: Materializing Culture: Science and Technology. Stanford Humanities Center Conference, May.
1997. Panel Participant: African Studies: Stanford/ Berkeley Conference, April.
1997. Rockefeller Foundation International Conference, Invited Seminar, "Words and Voices in Africa and African Studies." Bellagio, Italy, February.

1996. Chair/ Organizer: "Travel and Transnational Cultural Production." Symposium for the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November.
1996. Discussant: "Gendered Freedoms? The Social Space of Difference in Post-Colonial Africa," Symposium for the Annual Meetings of the African Studies Association, San Francisco, November.
1994. Discussant: "Interrogating Anthropology's Disciplinary Boundaries." Invited Session for the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Atlanta, December.
1992. Chair/Organizer: "Border Crossings, Crossing Borders." Invited Symposium, Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, December.

#### Languages

Mandinka, French (reading) Advanced beginner German

#### Field Research

- United States, South Carolina & Georgia. 8/2018.
- United States, North Carolina Archival Research 2014.
- United States, South Carolina 7/07-2013.
- United States, South Carolina 4/86, 6/2001.
- Senegal and The Gambia, 7/94.
- The Gambia, West Africa 10/83 and 2/89-1/90.

#### Summer Institutes

2013. NEH African-American History and Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry: Savannah and the Coastal Islands.
2012. NEH The Visual Culture of the American Civil War (7/7-7/18)
2008. NEH Summer Seminar. Rethinking America and Globalization. (6/15-7/14)
2007. Gullah Studies Institute.
1998. School of Criticism and Theory. Seminar: "Theory of the Text." Seminar led by Hayden White, 1998.

#### Peer Reviewer

*African Studies Review, American Anthropologist, American Ethnologist, Anthropological Quarterly, Journal Cultural Anthropology, Journal of European Studies Signs, Blackwell; Journal of Social Archaeology; Duke University Press, University of Illinois Press; Oxford University Press; Wenner-Gren manuscripts for forthcoming journal special issue.*

#### Professional Service

- 2015-2016. Reviewer: Ford Foundation Fellowship Program.
2015. Institutional Review Committee Member. School of Critical Social Inquiry, Hampshire College.
2014. External Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Department of Anthropology, University of California Santa Cruz.
2014. Reviewer for Promotion to Tenure Dartmouth College.
- 2009-2011, 2013, Reviewer of proposals National Humanities Center.
- 1996-2009. National Academies, Ford Foundation Review Panel.
- 2001-2002. Ford Fellowship Program, Regional Liaison.
1993. Teachers Curriculum Institute, Palo Alto, (suggested materials on praisesingers for grade school lesson plans). (Consultant)

#### University Service

- Department Representative on Non-Medical IRB committee Winter quarter 2016.
- Department of Anthropology: Admissions Committee 2014-2015
- Member: Writing and Rhetoric Committee 2012-2015
- Member: Introductory Seminar Advisory Board. 2012-2015
- EDGE-SBE Mentor. Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education. Stanford. 2010-Present.
- University Chair for Dissertation Defense, School of Education; Department of History; Modern Thought and Literature. Search Committee for Drama Department.
- Qualifying Exam Member for Departments MTL and History Department.
- Program Director: Stanford University Sea Island field School for Undergraduate. 2007-2011.
- Facilitator: Summer Honor's College for Department of Anthropology, August, 1997. Faculty Mentor: Mellon Program, 1997 to present; Faculty Mentor: Irvine Program, 1996; Faculty Mentor:

Minority Student Program (coordinated by Kennell Jackson 1996). Board Member Black Performing Arts.

Department: Chaired mid-career review committee.

Stanford Committees: African Studies, African American Studies, Committee on Black Performing Arts, Feminist Studies.

**Professional Organizations** American Anthropological Association, Society for Cultural Anthropology.