

Scott Ross

Curriculum Vitae

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY St. Louis, MO
2023-current Lecturer, Department of Anthropology
Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity

EDUCATION

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY Washington, DC
2023 PhD. in Anthropology
Dissertation: Networks of Protection: Infrastructures of Intervention in Northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo
2018 M.A. in Anthropology

YALE UNIVERSITY New Haven, CT
2014 M.A. in African Studies
Thesis: The Role of Radio in Reducing LRA Violence and the Effects of Humanitarian Intervention

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY Tempe, AZ
2011 B.A. in Global Studies (concentration in Violence, Conflict, and Human Rights)
B.A.E. in Secondary Education (concentration in History)
B.A. in History

EXTERNAL GRANTS AND AWARDS

2022-2023 Peace Scholar Fellowship (United States Institute of Peace)
2018-2019 International Dissertation Research Fellowship (Social Science Research Council)
Dissertation Research Grant (Wenner-Gren Foundation)
Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (National Science Foundation)
2016 Royal Air Maroc-ASA Student Travel Award (ASA)
2013-2014 Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (Department of Education)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

Under review "Playing the Rebel: Humanitarian Simulations and the Threat of Humanity." Submitted to *American Anthropologist*.
"Not Like Tshisekedi': Performing Democracy After the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Rigged 2018 Elections." Resubmitted to *Africa*.
2024 "Infrastructure Fieldnotes: Engaging the City through Reading, Research, and Representation." *Teaching and Learning Anthropology* 7 (1): 83-100. Special issue, *Teaching the City*, edited by Claire Panetta, Lucero Radonic, Suzanne Scheld, and Angela D. Storey. <https://doi.org/10.5070/T37161875> (Co-authored with A. Francis, D. Graham, A. Groth, S. Shah, and A. Sterner [former students]).

- 2023 "Remoteness and Connection on a Congolese Humanitarian Radio Network." *Anthropological Quarterly* 96 (4): 711-737. Special issue, *Ethnographies of Infopolitics in Africa*, edited by Victoria Bernal and Katrien Pype. <https://doi.org/10.1353/anq.2023.a915261>
- 2019 "Being Real on Fake Instagram: Likes, Images, and Media Ideologies of Value." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 29 (3): 359-374. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jola.12224>
- 2016 "Encouraging Rebel Demobilization by Radio in Uganda and the D.R. Congo: The Case of 'Come Home' Messaging." *African Studies Review* 59 (1): 33-55. <https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2016.8>

Edited Collections

- 2023 "Being @CulAnth: Social Media as Academic Practice." Member Voices, *Fieldsights*. December 12. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/series/being-culanth-social-media>. (Co-edited with B. Escamilla, A. Fleischmann, K. Gupta, H. Quinn, and L. Summers)

Book Reviews, Review Essays, and Comments

- Forthcoming Invited Comment on "Toward a Value Theory of Displacement: From 'Refugee Crisis' to Crisis of Extractivist Capitalism" by Georgina Ramsay and Ali Bitenga Alexandre. *Current Anthropology*. Submitted.
- 2025 *An Archive of Possibilities: Healing and Repair in Democratic Republic of Congo* by Rachel Marie Niehuus. *Anthropological Quarterly* 98 (2): 405-408.
- 2018 *After Rape: Violence, Justice, and Social Harmony in Uganda* by Holly Porter. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 56 (2): 365-6.
- "Violence, Intervention, and the State in Central Africa." *Anthropological Quarterly* 91 (1): 401-7. (Review of *Living by the Gun in Chad: Combatants, Impunity, and State Formation* by Marielle Debos and *State of Rebellion: Violence and Intervention in the Central African Republic* by Louisa Lombard.)

Public Scholarship, Journalism, Commentary, and Other Publications

- 2025 "Listening through Noise in Central Africa." *Anthropology News*. June 1. <https://www.anthropology-news.org/articles/listening-through-noise-in-central-africa/>
- "Inside and Outside of the University." *Home/Field*. May 13. <https://www.homefieldanthro.org/inside-and-outside-of-the-university/>
- "WashU Leadership: Protect Our International Students, Faculty, and Staff." *Student Life* (WashU), March 25. <https://www.studlife.com/forum/2025/03/25/washu-leadership-protect-our-international-students-faculty-and-staff> (with M. Bailey, S. Dahlheimer, A. Miller, A. Neiman, S. Shady, J.F. Trani)
- 2024 "A Letter from Suspended Faculty Against Genocide." *Student Life* (WashU), August 28. <https://www.studlife.com/forum/2024/08/28/opinion-submission-a-letter-from-suspended-faculty-against-genocide> (with M. Allen, M. Green, B. Gustafson, A. Miller, A. Neiman)
- 2023 "Being @CulAnth: Social Media as Academic Practice." Member Voices, *Fieldsights*. December 12. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/series/being-culanth-social-media>. (Includes seven essays, all co-authored with B. Escamilla, A. Fleischmann, K. Gupta, H. Quinn, and L. Summers)

- 2022 "The Ties (and Screens) That Bind Us: Anthropocinema and Convivial Digital Spaces." In "Virtual Connections, Digital Contentions: Small Academic Meetings during the Covid-19 Pandemic" series, Janita Van Dyk, Meredith Evans, and Danny Cardoza, eds. Member Voices, *Fieldsights*. June 7. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/the-ties-and-screens-that-bind-us-anthropocinema-and-convivial-digital-spaces> (co-authored with S.L. Richardson and R. Hildebrandt)
- 2020 "Against Class-As-Usual." In "Pandemic Diaries" series, Gabriela Manley, Bryan M. Dougan, and Carole McGranahan, eds. *American Ethnologist* website. May 16. <https://americanethnologist.org/features/pandemic-diaries/teaching-right-now/against-class-as-usual>
- "Teaching Ethnography in the Heart of Government." Teaching Tools, *Fieldsights*. January 15. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/series/teaching-ethnography-in-the-heart-of-government>
- 2019 "The Anthropologist as Con Artist: An Interview with Sasha Newell." Supplementals, *Fieldsights*. December 19. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/the-anthropologist-as-con-artist-an-interview-with-sasha-newell>
- "Belgium and Northeastern Congo." In "Research Postcards" series, *Contingent Magazine*. August 15. <https://contingentmagazine.org/2019/08/15/a-postcard-from-belgium-and-northeastern-congo/>
- "Making Violence Visible: An Interview with Samuel Mark Anderson." Supplementals, *Fieldsights*. August 13. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/making-violence-visible-an-interview-with-samuel-mark-anderson>
- 2018 "Being Infrastructural: An Interview with Michael Degani." Supplementals, *Fieldsights*. October 25. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/becoming-infrastructural-an-interview-with-michael-degani>
- 2017 "Southwest Archaeology and 'The Time of Vietnam.'" *Smithsonian Collections* (blog). Part one: November 29. <http://si-siris.blogspot.com/2017/11/southwest-archaeology-and-time-of.html> and part two: December 1. <http://si-siris.blogspot.com/2017/12/southwest-archaeology-and-time-of.html>
- "Writing and Research in a Conflict Zone." In "Ethnographer as Activist" series, edited by Haley Bryant and Emily Cain. *Anthropology News*. February 17. <https://doi.org/10.1111/AN.327>
- "ICC Justice and the Trial Narrative." *Warscapes*. January 17. <http://www.warscapes.com/opinion/icc-justice-and-trial-narrative>
- 2016 "Dominic Ongwen and the Search for Justice." *Warscapes*. March 2. <http://www.warscapes.com/opinion/dominic-ongwen-and-search-justice>
- 2013 "Looking for Africa." *Yale Daily News Magazine*. December 1. <http://yaledailynews.com/magazine/2013/12/01/looking-for-africa/>
- "Can Radios Stop the Lord's Resistance Army in Congo?" *African Arguments* (blog). October 10. <http://africanarguments.org/2013/10/10/can-radios-stop-the-lords-resistance-army-in-congo-by-scott-ross/>
- "A Rebel's Escape – An LRA Commander Tells His Story." *Justice in Conflict* (blog). July 31. <http://justiceinconflict.org/2013/07/31/a-rebels-escape-an-lra-commander-tells-his-story/>
- "Kony 2013." *Guernica*. March 4. <http://www.guernicamag.com/daily/scott-ross-kony2013/>

WORKING PAPERS

"Locating Radio through Signal and Noise." Drafting for submission to *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Workshops

- 2023 "Playing the Rebel: Humanitarian Simulations and the Threat of Inhumanity." Ethnographic Theory Workshop, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
- 2022 "Talking on the Boulevard: Interference and Liaisons on the Radiophonie." African Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- 2019 "The Morning Round: Connectivity, Protection, and Breakdown in a Congolese Radio Network." Communicative (Dis)Orders workshop. KU Leuven, Belgium

Conference Papers and Roundtables

- Forthcoming "Protection and Intervention in Congolese Radio Geographies." African Studies Association annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- "The Past and Future of Autodefense: Zande Mobilizations in Congo's Uélé Region." African Studies Association annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- "The Two-Way Radio: Religious Communications Technology as Humanitarian Early Warning in Central Africa." American Anthropological Association annual meeting, St. Louis, MO.
- "The Post-Global City." Roundtable. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, St. Louis, MO.
- 2026 "Religious Infrastructure and Conflict Intervention: Radio Early Warning as an Experiment in Humanitarian Innovation." American Ethnological Society annual meeting, Victoria, BC.
- 2025 "Locating Radio through Signal and Noise in Central Africa." 4S annual conference, Seattle, WA.
- "Imagining an Electric Talking Drum? Talk, Static, and Place on Congolese Two-Way Radio." Society for Linguistic Anthropology annual meeting, Chicago, IL.
- "Nodes and Flows: Connecting Congolese Villages by Radio." American Ethnological Society annual meeting, Cambridge, MA.
- 2024 "The Impossibility of Cohabitation? Congolese Refusals amid Mbororo Settlement." African Studies Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 "From Missionary Radio to Humanitarian Alerts: Iterative Infrastructure in Northeastern DR Congo." African Studies Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA
- "Not Like Tshisekedi': Participating in NGO Democracy after the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Rigged Elections." American Anthropological Association and Canadian Anthropological Society annual meeting, Toronto, ON
- "The 'X' Factor: #AnthroTwitter, Academic Labour, and Anthropological Community in a Time of Technological Transition." Roundtable. American Anthropological Association and Canadian Anthropological Society annual meeting, Toronto, ON
- "Playing the Rebel: Identifying Threats and Simulating Responses." George Washington University Anthropology Symposium, Washington, DC
- 2022 "Listening through Static: Talk, Place, and Relation on Congolese Two-Way Radio." American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Seattle, WA

- “Not Like Tshisekedi’: Performing NGO Democracy amid the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s Rigged Elections.” George Washington University Anthropology Symposium, Washington, DC
- “Infrastructure Fieldnotes.” Teaching the City online workshop, Critical Urban Anthropology Association
- 2021 “Static and Interference on the Congolese Radiophonie: Managing Speech and Connection on Suspended Infrastructure.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Baltimore, MD
- “Access, Ownership, and Politics on a Humanitarian Two-Way Radio Network in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” Broadening Humanitarianism: Shifting Perspectives, Realities, and Theorizations online conference, Anthropology of Humanitarianism Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists
- 2018 “The Promise of Early Warning: Radio, Protection, and Political Demands in Northeastern Congo.” American Ethnological Society annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, and George Washington University Anthropology Symposium, Washington, DC
- 2017 “‘Come Home Messaging’ in a Counterinsurgency: Demobilization and Militarization in and around Northern Uganda.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington, DC
- “The Early Warning Radio Network: Securitization in Central Africa.” African Studies Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL
- “Anthropology at the Barricades.” Public Anthropology Conference, American University
- “The Militarization of Demobilization: Coming Home in a Central African Counterinsurgency.” George Washington University Anthropology Symposium
- 2016 “Negotiating the Radio: Sensitization, Militarization, and Media Interventions in the D.R. Congo.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN
- “Demobilization as Defection in Interventions against the Lord’s Resistance Army.” African Studies Association annual meeting, Washington, DC
- “Ethnography and Advocacy across Categories.” Roundtable. Public Anthropology Conference, American University
- “Between Justice and Forgiveness: Accountability across Borders in the LRA Conflict.” George Washington University Anthropology Symposium, Washington, DC, and American Ethnological Society annual meeting, Washington, DC.
- 2015 “Encouraging Rebel Demobilization in Uganda and the D.R. Congo: The Case of Come Home Messaging.” African Studies Association annual meeting, San Diego, CA
- 2014 “Invisible Children and Acholi Notions of Reconciliation in the DRC.” African Studies Association annual meeting, Indianapolis, IN
- 2013 “The ICC and Amnesty in Uganda.” African Studies Association annual meeting, Baltimore, MD
- “Amnesty versus Prosecutions in Uganda.” Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Panels Organized

Forthcoming “Humanitarian Technologies and Infrastructures.” Panel. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, St. Louis, MO.

- 2023 "Participating in NGO and Development Encounters." Two-part panel. American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society annual meeting, Toronto, ON. Co-organized with Sarah O'Sullivan
- 2022 "Infrastructural Intimacies." Three-part panel. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Seattle, WA. Co-organized with Görkem Aydemir
- 2017 "Direct Action Gets The Goods: Protest, Theory, Practice." Public Anthropology Conference, American University

Other Conference Participation

- 2023 Discussant. "Mining Policy." Congo Research Network PhD Days, remote remarks.
- 2017 Chair and discussant. "Sex and War." American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington, DC
- Monitor (Rapporteur). Wenner-Gren Foundation Symposium on "Cultures of Militarism," Sintra, Portugal
- 2015 Chair. "Accounting for Violence." African Studies Association annual meeting, San Diego, CA
- 2014 Moderator. "Defining African Governance: Leadership, Civil Society, and Ongoing Challenges." Sankofa54 African Youth Empowerment Conference, Yale Association for African Peace & Development, Yale University

INTERNAL GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2025 Small Grant, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity (WU)
- 2022 Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship (GWU)
- Dean's Graduate Instructorship Award (GWU)
- 2020, 2021 Lewis N. Cotlow Research Fund (GWU)
- 2020-2021 Diversity Graduate Assistantship (GWU)
- 2015-2021 University Fellowship (GWU) *[declined 2018-2019]*
- 2015-2020 Provost's Graduate Assistantship (GWU) *[declined 2018-2019]*
- 2016, 2017 Lewis N. Cotlow Research Fund (GWU)
- 2013 Lindsay Fellowship for Research in Africa (Yale)
- Coca-Cola World Fund Fellowship (Yale)
- 2010 Hardt Scholarship in Religion, Conflict, and Peace Studies (ASU)
- 2009 Hardt Undergraduate Fellowship in Religion and Conflict (ASU)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2023– Washington University, St. Louis, MO
- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2023-26), Anthropology of Infrastructure (Fall 2023-26), Language in Society (Spring 2024-26), Africa: People and Cultures (Spring 2024-25), Humanitarian Interventions (Spring 2024-26), Visual and Sensory Anthropology (Spring 2026)
- 2015-2022 The George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Instructor of Record: Anthropology of Africa (Spring 2020), Politics of Infrastructure (Spring 2022)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology (Fall 2015, Richard Grinker; Spring 2016, Hugh Gusterson); Anthropology of Development (Fall 2016, Robert Shepherd); Language in Culture and Society (Spring 2017, Alex Dent); Foundations in Anthropology (Fall 2017, Syed Mohammad Ali)

Grader: Anthropology of Development (Spring 2018, Steve Lubkemann),
Anthropology of Africa (Fall 2020, Steve Lubkemann)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019 Archival research assistance for a linguistic anthropologist studying kinesics, archival collection at the National Museum of Natural History's Human Studies Film Archives and the University of Maryland's Special Collections in Performing Arts
- 2017-2019 Conducted over eleven months of ethnographic field research, archival research, and eighty interviews and focus groups in Haut Uele, DR Congo for a dissertation project on humanitarian technology and early warning in conflict
- 2019 Conducted two months of archival research in Belgium at the Archives Africaines in Brussels, the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale in Tervuren, and the KADOC Documentation and Research Center on Religion, Culture, and Society in Leuven on colonial and missionary presence in northeastern Congo.
- 2016-2017 Completed a research project on social media use among college students in Washington, DC, involving over a dozen interviews and resulting in a peer-reviewed article
- 2013-2017 Conducted seven months of qualitative research (initially for an MA thesis, continued into doctoral study) in northern Uganda and northeastern DR Congo on the role of FM radio in peacebuilding and counterinsurgency

SERVICE

Department

- 2025– Board Member, Experiential Ethnography Studio (WashU)
- 2020-2022 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force, GWU Anthropology Department
- 2016-2020 Co-organizer, GWU Anthropology Department "Anthropocinema" Visual Anthropology Series [on leave 2019]
- 2017-2018 Co-organizer, GWU Anthropology Department Reading Group
- 2017, 2018 Co-organizer, GWU Anthropology Department Annual Symposium
- 2016 Co-organizer, GWU Anthropology Department Colloquium
- Discussant, "Hunting Game: Politics in the Central African Interior," GWU Anthropology workshop of book manuscript by Louisa Lombard
- 2013 Co-organizer, "Popular Protest in Africa," Yale University Council for African Studies workshop of book manuscript by Adam Branch and Zachariah Mampilly

University

- 2024– Member, WUSTL Study Abroad Advisory Board
- 2022-2023 Member, GWU Graduate Workers United organizing committee
- 2017-2018 Founding Member, GWU Graduate Students United organizing committee
- 2016 Mentor, Elliott School Undergraduate Scholar program

Discipline

- Reviewed for: *Critical Times*, *Journal for Linguistic Anthropology*, *Ethnography*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Journal of Material Culture*
- 2026 Local Organizing Committee, American Anthropological Association annual meeting

2020-2026	Section Editor, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Social Media Section
2017-2019	Contributing Editor, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Social Media Section
2016-2017	Social Media Editor, <i>Anthropological Quarterly</i>
2016	Local Arrangements Committee, African Studies Association annual meeting
2012-2014	Managing Editor, <i>Yale Journal of International Affairs</i> , online edition