

Brianna A. Simmons

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

- Antiracism, Blackness, Valuation, Theories of the Human, the Social & Death
- (Black) Health and Wellbeing, Reproduction, Gender, and Mothering
- Black Geographies and the Black Diaspora
- Political Theory and Black Invention
- Health Archivism, Black Feminisms/Ecocriticism, Planetary Health, and Herbalism
- Human Rights and Global Health Technologies
- Ethnographic and Research ethics, community-based problem solving, Geographical Information Systems, Digital Humanities, and Participatory Action Research

EDUCATION

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| 2024 | Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Anthropology – University of California, Riverside |
| 2019 | Masters of Arts in Anthropology – University of California, Riverside |
| 2017 | Bachelor of Arts in Sociology - University of California, Riverside |

RESEARCH POSITIONS

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| 2023 | <p>Research Assistant and Data Analyst, <i>Opioid Substance Use and Imaginative Counter-Geographies in the Inland Empire</i></p> <p>Contributed a framework of geography based in Black ways of knowing. Conducted data analysis on quantitative R-coded surveys, and qualitative interviews to unveil the antiblack unthought of public policy.</p> |
| 2020-2022 | <p>Research Consultant and Data Analyst, <i>The Antiracism of Hydrologic Systems in Black Cemeteries in Durham, North Carolina</i>. Department of Environmental Science, Duke University</p> <p>Designed a research study that bridged intergenerational oral histories of Black community members in Durham with a toxicological study of the molecular contamination of water systems underneath racially segregated cemeteries and neighborhoods in Durham, North Carolina.</p> <p>Research Assistant and Data Analyst, <i>Police Brutality Against Female Sex Workers in Kisumu, Kenya</i> (NIH Funded)</p> <p>Conducted extensive qualitative and quantitative analysis. (Winter'20)</p> <p>Work led to a published manuscript in Social Science and Medicine, and transnational dissemination events.</p> |
| 2019 | <p>Research Assistant, <i>Social Networks Study and Qualitative Data Analysis Training, Kisumu and Eldoret, Kenya</i> (NIH Funded)</p> |

Conducted extensive data collection, qualitative and quantitative analysis to inform scientific publications, and research workshops with collaborators throughout East Africa.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2024 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Black Studies, San Diego City College
Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside

2022 – 2023 **Communications Coordinator**, The Collaboratory for Black Feminist Health
2019 –2023 **Instructor, Research Consultant and Data Analyst** Department of Anthropology,
University of California, Riverside

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, OTHER FUNDING

2024 **Finalist**, University of California Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship

2023 Center for Ideas and Society, Graduate Research Grant, \$1275

2023 Sylvia Broadbent Memorial Fellowship, \$750

2020 Henry and Willie Lee Moses Engaged Anthropology Grant, \$1000
Center for Ideas and Society, \$800

2019 Center for Ideas and Society Academic Book Club Grant, \$300

2018 Dean's Distinguished Fellowship, \$10,000

AWARDS

2024 **Health, Humanities and Disability Justice**, \$1000 – to support dissertation research about global antiblackness, black maternal-fetal healthcare financing, and disability justice

2023 **Rudolf Virchow Award**, Professional Category for *Learning from women who trade sex in Kenya about the antiblackness of Global Health*, Society for Medical Anthropology – Critical Anthropology for Global Health Interest Group at the American Anthropological Association

SERVICE & VOLUNTEERING

2025 **District Liaison for Black Student Success, San Diego Community College District**

2024 **Mentor**, Black Studies Honors Students, San Diego City College
Ethnic Studies Consortium and Learning Committee, San Diego City College

2024-2023 **Peer Research Mentor**, Lumiere Education and Research

2022-2020 **Supporting Performer, *Menino 111 a lecture performance about antiblackness organized by Aline Serzedello Vilaca*** Sponsored by the Center for Ideas and Society, Decolonizing Humanism (?), Asian Pacific Student Programs, Chicano Student Programs, Department of Black Study, and Latino and Latin American Research Center (Oct '22)

Founder, Editor and Author of *(Never) Meant to Survive, an Independent Newsletter*
Co-Organizer and Discussant, Teach-In Webinar by Blackness Unbound (Nov '20)

Panelist, Abolitionist Organizing and the University by MALIKAH (Nov '20)

Co-Organizer and Discussant, Antiracism, the University and Policing: A Cops Off Campus Teach-In (Oct '20)

Co-Organizer, Volunteer Political Education and Mutual Aid Coordinator, Rethink Public Safety Coalition (RTPS) (June '20- August '22)

2019 **Panelist**, African Student Programs, Black Student Union Welcome Week (Sept '19)

2015- 2016 **Research and Campaign Coordinator for Hunger and Homelessness among UC Riverside students**, California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)

MEMBERSHIPS (*forthcoming)

2023- present **Black Feminist Healing Arts Lab**
American Anthropological Association
Association of Black Anthropologists

2021-present **Black Women's Studies Association**

2019-2022 **Society for Applied Anthropology**

2019-2021 **National Women's Studies Association**
American Anthropological Association

PUBLICATIONS (* forthcoming)

2025 **Form(s), Failure, Feeling and Feminisms in the Principality of the Human*, Duke University, Black Feminist Theory Edited Volume
**Antipolitical Principle Or, a General Thesis of Failure*, The Black Scholar

2024 **No Humans Involved Research or, notes on Methodological Violence and Anti-ethnographic Principle*, Transforming Anthropology -in process

2023 *Fieldworking While Black: On the Plantocratic nature of Anthropology*, Thinking Gender
UCLA e-scholarship repository

Mburia-Mwalili A, Wagner KD, Kwobah EK, Atwoli L, Aluda M, et al. (2023) *Social support and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic among a cohort of people living with HIV (PLWH) in Western Kenya*. PLOS Global Public Health 3(2): e0000778.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0000778>

2022 Brianna Simmons, Jennifer L. Syvertsen, *Learning from women who trade sex in Kenya about the antiracism of global health*, Social Science & Medicine, 2022, 115246, ISSN 0277-9536, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115246>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (*forthcoming)

- 2025 Installation, *Geometries of Becoming // The Crossing*, Black Feminist Healing Arts Lab, Oakland, California
- *Paper, *Geometries of Becoming*, Collaboratory for Black Feminist Health and Healing
- *Workshop, *Co-building a Physiopolitical Compass contend with Antiracism*, Collaboratory for Black Feminist Health and Healing
- *Panel, *Challenging Antiracism in Anthropology: Experimenting with Antiracisms for Alternative Futures*, Association for Black Anthropologists
- 2024 Paper, *Black Invention and the Onto-politics of Mothering while Black*, Co-Panelist on *Motherhood Connection, Black Diasporic Approaches to Freedom and Community Health*, National Conference of Black Political Scientists
- 2023 Paper, *Scales of Betrayal, Protection, and Rebellion in contending with Antiracism*, Strategies of Critique 2023: Care and Cure, York University (May 2023)
- Paper, *Fieldworking While Black: On the Plantocratic nature of Anthropology*, Thinking Gender UCLA 2023
- 2021 Paper, *Care, Death and Detention in the Wake of the Medical Insurance Complex in Kisumu, Kenya* Faculty Commons Graduate Student Conference, Center for Ideas and Society
- Paper, *Refashioning Practices of Care Among Suppressed and Marginalized Women: A Qualitative Transnational Engagement/Review*, Care, Mutual Aid and Reproductive Labor in a time of crisis, Thinking Gender UCLA 2021
- Disrupting Anthropology: Ethical Methodology and The Case for Letting the Human Burn*, Society for Applied Anthropology
- 2020 Paper, *Engagements in Citizenship and Healthcare Practices in Eldoret, Kenya*. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Albuquerque, NM - (*accepted but conference cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- 2019 Paper, *Aesthetics of Solidarity, and the Possibility of Black Resistance*. American Indian and Indigenous Collective, at University of California, Santa Barbara, Body as Archive Conference, Santa Barbara, CA

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- 2023 *On the Anniversary of the Assassinations of MLK AND Lil'Bobby Hutton – A Discussion on Captive Maternal and War Resistance*, with Joy James and Kalonji Changa, Center for Ideas and Society, UC Riverside
- 2020 *Disrupting Medical Anthropology*, Society for Applied Anthropology
- Black Study and Liberatory Futures, *Blackness Unbound*

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 **Lecture & Workshop, PRIME Program – Rooting out Antiracism in Medical Standards**
– University of California Riverside, School of Medicine
- 2024 C-BLAAC Conference, *Being Black in Anthropology*

Duke University, *On Body Detention and the Anti-Ethnographic*, Black Feminist Theory
Summer Institute
- Lecture, PRIME Program – Considerations for a Physio-political compass of Collective
Wellbeing**, University of California Riverside, School of Medicine
- S(CRIP)TS: Disability Justice and Antiracism
- Sex Work, Reproductive Justice and the Politics of Care*, Women's Studies Center,
University of California, Riverside
- 2023 **Lecture & Workshop, PRIME Program – Learning how to work with African, Black
and Caribbean Communities in the Inland Empire**, University of California,
Riverside School of Medicine
- Paper**, *Scales of Betrayal, Protection and Rebellion in Contending with Antiracism*,
Reproduction of Possibility Colloquium, Columbia University, May 2023
- 2022 **Guest Lecturer**, Freedom Movements, Black Feminisms, and Black Radical Traditions
ANTH 127 Political Anthropology, University of California Riverside

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- 2024 Department of Black Studies, San Diego City College – six courses / semester
- Reproduction: Politics, Practices, and Policies**, Department of Anthropology,
University of California, Riverside
- 2023 **University Writing Program**, Department of English, UC Riverside
- ANTH 002 Introduction to Biological Anthropology** Department of Anthropology,
UC-Riverside
- 2022 **ANTH 001 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology** Department of Anthropology, UC-
Riverside

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES

French – fluent | **Swahili** – proficient | **ASL** – classroom study