

## Brianna A. Simmons

### 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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- 2025- present    **Researcher**, Abolition Medicine – UC Irvine, Developed two modules for University of California Abolition Medicine Initiative and UC undergraduate and medical education curriculums which teach students, practitioners, and faculty ‘*What Is Antiblackness?*’
- 2023            **Research Assistant and Data Analyst**, *Opioid Substance Use and Imaginative Counter-Geographies in the Inland Empire*  
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.
- 2020-2022        **Research Consultant and Data Analyst**, *The Antiblackness of Hydrologic Systems in Black Cemeteries in Durham, North Carolina*. Department of Environmental Science, Duke University  
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.
- Research Assistant and Data Analyst**, *Police Brutality Against Female Sex Workers in Kisumu, Kenya* (NIH Funded)  
Conducted extensive qualitative and quantitative analysis. Work led to a published manuscript in Social Science and Medicine, and transnational dissemination events.
- 2019            **Research Assistant**, *Social Networks Study and Qualitative Data Analysis Training, Kisumu and Eldoret, Kenya* (NIH Funded)  
Conducted extensive data collection, qualitative and quantitative analysis to inform scientific publications, and research workshops with collaborators throughout East Africa.

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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- 2025 - present **Lecturer**, Department of Africana Studies, San Diego State University
- 2024 - present **Assistant Professor**, Department of Black Studies, San Diego City College  
**Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside
- 2019 – present **Instructor and Teaching Assistant**, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside
- 2019 – 2023 **Research Consultant, Assistant and Data Analyst**  
**Instructor**, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside
- 2022 – 2023 **Communications Coordinator**, The Collaboratory for Black Feminist Health  
**Instructor**, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, OTHER FUNDING

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- 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
- 2020 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

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- 2023 **Health, Humanities and Disability Justice**, \$1000 – to support dissertation research about global antiblackness, black maternal-fetal healthcare financing, and disability justice
- 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

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- 2025- present **Mentor**, Black Studies Honors Students, San Diego City College  
**Committee Member**, California State University Long Beach  
**Faculty Advisor**, Black Student Union  
**Senator**, Academic Senate at San Diego City College
- 2024 **Mentor**, Black Studies Honors Students, 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
- Founder, Editor and Author of *(Never) Meant to Survive, an Independent Newsletter***
- Co-Organizer and Discussant, Teach-In Webinar by Blackness Unbound**
- Panelist, Abolitionist Organizing and the University by MALIKAH**
- Co-Organizer and Discussant, Antiblackness, the University and Policing: A Cops Off Campus Teach-In**
- Co-Organizer, Volunteer Political Education and Mutual Aid Coordinator, Rethink Public Safety Coalition (RTPS)**
- Panelist, African Student Programs, Black Student Union Welcome Week**
- 2015- 2016 **Research and Campaign Coordinator for Hunger and Homelessness among UC Riverside students, California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- 2024 *Mothering Against Detention: Antiblackness, Capture and Black Invention in Mathare Constituency, Nairobi, Kenya.* University of California; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&1
- Mothering Against Detention* An ArcGIS StoryMap
- 2023 *Fieldworking While Black: On the Plantocratic nature of Anthropology,* Thinking Gender UCLA e-scholarship repository 2023
- 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 antiblackness of global health,* Social Science & Medicine, 2022, 115246, ISSN 0277-9536, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115246>

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2026 *Ethical Failures or, the Latency of the n'est pas*, University of Witswatersrand
- 2025 Panel, *Challenging Antirblackness in Anthropology: Experimenting with Antianthropologies for Alternative Futures*, Association for Black Anthropologists
- 2024 Paper, *Black Invention and the Onto-politics of Mothering while Black*, Co-Panelist on *Mothership 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 Antirblackness, 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

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- 2023 *On the Anniversary of the Assassinations of MLK AND Lil'Bobby Hutton—A Discussion on Captive Maternals 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

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- 2026 **Lecture, *What is Antiblackness?*** Abolition Medicine and Disability Justice, University of California, Irvine
- Lecture, *Identity and Intersectionality in Medicine*, PRIME Program, University of California, Riverside, School of Medicine
- 2024 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 Antiblackness
- Politics of Care and Reproductive Justice*, 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 Antiblackness***, Reproduction of Possibility Colloquium, Columbia University, May 2023
- Spring 2022 **Guest Lecturer, Freedom Movements, Black Feminisms, and Black Radical Traditions** ANTH 127 Political Anthropology, University of California Riverside

## MEMBERSHIPS

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- 2026 **American Studies Association**
- 2024-present **Black Feminist Healing Arts Lab**
- 2023-present **American Anthropological Association**
- Association of Black Anthropologists**
- 2021-2023 **Black Women’s Studies Association**
- 2019-2022 **Society for Applied Anthropology**
- 2019-2021 **National Women’s Studies Association**
- American Anthropological Association**

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

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