

Hannah Appel

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2014 - **Associate Professor**
UCLA Department of Anthropology & Global Studies
- 2019 - **Associate Faculty Director**
Institute on Inequality and Democracy, UCLA Luskin School of Public Policy
- 2012 - 2014 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Ciriacy-Wantrup Fellowship in Natural Resource Economics || University of California, Berkeley
- 2011-2012 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Committee on Global Thought || Columbia University, New York NY

EDUCATION

- 2006 – 2011 **PhD** Anthropology, Stanford University, Stanford CA
- 2004 – 2006 **MA** Anthropology, Stanford University, Stanford CA
- 2000 – 2002 **Fulbright/MPhil** Caribbean Cultural Studies, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica
- 1996 – 2000 **BA** Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, CT

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

- 2020 National Science Foundation Cultural Anthropology Program Research Award
- 2019 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award: Africa Regional Research Program
- 2018 Cultural Horizons Prize, Society for Cultural Anthropology
- 2017 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship
- 2017 Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2017 Burkle Center Faculty Research Grant (UCLA)
- 2016 Hellman Fellowship (University of California)
- 2016 Institute of Inequality and Democracy Faculty Seed Grant (UCLA)
- 2015 University of California Humanities Research Institute Junior Faculty Manuscript Workshop Award
- 2014 School for Advanced Research Advanced Seminar Awardee, with Akhil Gupta & Nikhil Anand
- 2010 Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2007 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRF)
- 2007 Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)
- 2007 Stanford Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stanford University
- 2006 Fulbright-Hays Program Doctoral Dissertation Research Award
- 2000 Fulbright Scholar Award, Institute of International Education (2000-2002)

PUBLICATIONS

- Under Review* “National Economies in a Transnational World.” Co-authored with Ann Kingsolver, Anapurna Pandey, Gustavo Onto, and Chris Olesen. Under Review with *Anthropological Quarterly*
- 2020 *Can't Pay, Won't Pay: The Case for Economic Disobedience and Debt Abolition.* (Co-author.) Chicago: Haymarket Press.
- “Reparative Public Goods and the Future of Finance: A Fantasy in Three Parts.” In “Post-Covid Fantasies,” Catherine Besteman, Heath Cabot, and Barak Kalir, editors, *American Ethnologist* website, 25 August 2020, [<https://americanethnologist.org/features/pandemic-diaries/post-covid-fantasies/reparative-public-goods-and-the-future-of-finance-a-fantasy-in-three-parts>]
- “Debtors of the World, Unite!” Boston Review Online. <http://bostonreview.net/class-inequality/hannah-appel-debtors-world-unite>
- 2019 *The Licit Life of Capitalism: US Oil in Equatorial Guinea.* Duke University Press.
- “There is Power in a Debtors’ Union”. *Dissent*. July 2019. https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/there-is-power-in-a-debtors-union
- “Sustainable Development Goal #17: Partnerships for the Goals” in De-provincializing Development: American Anthropologist online series. May 2019. <http://www.americananthropologist.org/de-provincializing-development-series/>
- “To Critique or not to Critique? That is (perhaps not) the Question...” *Journal of Business Anthropology* 8(1): 29-34.
- “Energy Ethics and Ethical Worlds.” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute.* (25)S1, 177-190. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9655.13021>
- “The Power of Debt: Identity and Collective Action in the Age of Finance.” with Sa Whitley and Caitlin Kline. (White Paper). <https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2019/03/Appel-Hannah-THE-POWER-OF-DEBT.pdf>
- 2018 *Race Makes Markets: Subcontracting in the Transnational Oil Industry.* SSRC *Items* Online Publication. <https://items.ssrc.org/race-capitalism/>.
- The Promise of Infrastructure.* Co-edited volume with Akhil Gupta and Nikhil Anand. Duke University Press.
- 2017 Toward an Ethnography of the National Economy. *Cultural Anthropology* 32, no. 2: 294–322. <https://doi.org/10.14506/ca32.2.09>
- with Rahman, Tariq. "National Economies, Performativity, and Failure: An Interview with Hannah Appel." Dialogues, *Cultural Anthropology* website, September 19, 2017. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1196-national-economies-performativity-and-failure-an-interview-with-hannah-appel>
- "Cheryl Harris and Robin D. G. Kelley ." Dialogues, *Cultural Anthropology* website, January 27, 2017. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1050-cheryl-harris-and-robin-d-g-kelley>
- 2016 *Speculative Markets: Drug Circuits and Derivative Life in Nigeria. A Review and Conversation with Kristin Peterson.* *Journal of Cultural Economy.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17530350.2016.1142888>

- 2015 *Subterranean Estates: lifeworlds of oil and gas*. Co-edited with Michael Watts and Arthur Mason. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Possible Futures: Finance Capitalism and the Potential of Debtors' Unions. Co-author. *ROAR Magazine* November 2015
- The New Realism. Book Symposium on Nigel Dodd's *The Social Life of Money*. *Hau Journal of Ethnographic Theory*. September 2015
- Infrastructure Toolbox. Co-edited with Nikhil Anand and Akhil Gupta. *Theorizing the Contemporary*. *Cultural Anthropology* Online. September 2015. <http://culanth.org/fieldsights/714-introduction-the-infrastructure-toolbox>
- Finance: Infrastructure Toolbox. Co-authored with Mukul Kumar. *Theorizing the Contemporary*. *Cultural Anthropology* Online. September 2015
- Generating Capitalism. *Theorizing the Contemporary*. *Cultural Anthropology* Online. Karen Ho, Sylvia Yanagisako, Laura Bear, editors. March 2015
- 2014 Occupy Wall Street and the Economic Imagination. *Cultural Anthropology*. 29:4
- Finance, Figuration, and the Alternative Banking Group of Occupy Wall Street. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. 40:1
- Walls and White Elephants: Oil, Infrastructure, and the Materiality of Citizenship in Equatorial Guinea. *The Arts of Citizenship in African Cities: Infrastructures and Spaces of Belonging*. Mamadou Diouf & Rosalind Fredericks, eds. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Finance is just another word for other people's debts: an interview with David Graeber. *Radical History Review*. Winter 2014 (118).
- 2013 Book Review: *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India*. (Gupta, Akhil 2012). *Social Anthropology* 21:3.
- Book Review: *Crude Domination: an anthropology of oil*. (ed. Behrends, Reyna, Schlee 2012). *Social Anthropology* 21:2.
- 2012 Offshore Work: Oil, Modularity, and the How of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. *American Ethnologist*. 39 (4).
- Walls and White Elephants: Oil Extraction, Responsibility, and Infrastructural Violence in Equatorial Guinea. *Ethnography* 13 (4).
- The Bureaucracies of Anarchy & The People's Microphone. In *Dreaming in Public: Building the Occupy Movement*. Amy Schrager Lang, Daniel Lang/Levitsky eds. Oxford: New Internationalist Publications Ltd.
- Dispatches from an Occupation: Ethnographic Notes from Occupied Wall Street. *Social Text* Online Journal. <http://www.socialtextjournal.org/blog/topics/dispatches-from-an-occupation/>
- 2010 Book Review: *Curse of the Black Gold: 50 Years of Oil in the Niger Delta*. (ed. Watts 2008). *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 28:3

- 2006 The Anthropology of Global Productions: producing and critiquing the global. *Anthropology News*, with N.Anand, E.Babul, R.Samet, and R.Sweis 47:16
- 2003 Editor. The Jamaica Reader: economic globalization, society and culture. For Global Exchange
- 2002 Dancehall, Hip Hop, and Musical Cross-Currents. *Glendora Review: An African Quarterly on the Arts*. 3:3, 71-79.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2020 Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. UC Berkeley African Studies Seminar. May 4.
- Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. Harvard African Studies Seminar. April 20.
- Anthropological Praxis. Invited Lecture and Workshop. Yale University. February 28.
- Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. UC San Diego Conference on Fossil Fuel Authoritarianism. January 30.
- 2019 Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. UC Riverside African Studies Seminar. March 5.
- Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. Northwestern University Science in Human Culture Program. February 2019.
- 2018 Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. Mellon Sawyer Seminar, University of California, Santa Barbara. November 30
- Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Colloquium Lecture. Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania. September 10
- Oil and the Licit life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Colloquium Lecture. African Studies Lecture Series. University of Oregon. May 31.
- Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Keynote Lecture. Precarity and Promise Conference. Stanford University. April 28
- New Ethnographies of Interconnection in Africa. Invited Workshop Facilitation and Lecture. Cornell University. April 19-21
- Debtors Prisons and Debtors Unions. Invited Lecture. Pitzer College. March 27
- 2017 Debt and the Radical Imagination. Invited Lecture. The Debt Economy Workshop. Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. March 10
- Oil and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. Ecology and Culture University Seminar. Columbia University. February 2017
- 2016 Toward an Ethnography of “the Economy”. Invited Lecture. Historicizing the Economy Workshop. Harvard University. September 2016
- “The Economy” as Ethnographic Object. Plenary talk UCLA Center for Language, Interaction and Culture conference. April 2016

“The Resource Curse and Economic Theory in the Wild.” Invited Lecture. Mobilizing Nature. University of Chicago Monday Seminar Series. April 2016

“The Economy” as Ethnographic Object. Invited Lecture. Development and Governance Seminar at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. February 2016

Direct Action in Finance Capitalism: Debtors Prisons and Debtors Unions. Keynote address to UCLA’s Institute of Inequality and Democracy Launch Event. February 2016

2015 Expatriate Wives and Production Sharing Contracts: Whiteness As Property in Equatorial Guinea. Panel on Racial Fraternity and Exclusions in Markets. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Denver. 19 November

“The Economy” as Ethnographic Object. Invited Lecture. Department of Anthropology Colloquium Series. UC Irvine. October 2015

The Contract Form: Ownership and Legal Liberalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. Conference: Who owns the oil: Corporations, the state, Heritage and the politics of claims-making in Africa. University of Michigan. 3 April

Oil Contracts and the Licit Life of Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. Approaches to Capitalism Workshop. Stanford University. 19 February

2014 What is a national economy? Oil, Amnesia, Epistemology in Equatorial Guinea. Panel on Rethinking Political Economy in Africa: Anthropological Directions. African Studies Association Annual Meeting. Indianapolis. 21 November

The Promise of Infrastructure. Invited lecture co-presented with Akhil Gupta and Nikhil Anand. School for Advanced Research. Santa Fe, New Mexico. 5 November.

2013 Off Equatorial Guinea’s Shores: Infrastructure and the Performations of Capitalism. Panel on The Anthropology of Infrastructure. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Chicago. 23 November

Contracting the Resource Curse: Offshore Oil and the Contract Form in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. Yale University Department of Anthropology. 23 March.

Body Shops: Offshore labor in Equatorial Guinea’s Hydrocarbon Industry. Invited lecture. Worlds of Work: Revisiting Questions of Labor in Africa Series. Columbia University, Institute of African Studies. 15 February.

The Incitements of Infrastructure. Invited Lecture with Nikhil Anand. University of Minnesota, Institute for Advanced Study. 7 February.

Body Shops in Contract Land: Oil, Work, and the Corporate Form in Equatorial Guinea. Invited Lecture. Princeton University Department of Anthropology. 11 January.

2012 Occupy Wall Street and the Economic Imagination. Panel on Uncivil Disobedience: Geographies of Insurrection. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) San Francisco, 17 November.

The Everyday Life of Capitalism: the contract form in Equatorial Guinea's hydrocarbon industry. Invited lecture. Social Dimensions of Environmental Policy Initiative : Occupy Nature Speakers Series. University of Illinois. 21 September

Occupy Wall Street and the Economic Imagination. Invited Lecture. Institute for Advanced Study, Occupy Wall Street event. University of Minnesota. 26 April.

Offshore Work: Oil and the Making of Modularity in Equatorial Guinea. Panel on Oil Infrastructures. Oil Talk Workshop, Columbia University, NY. 13 April.

Occupy Wall Street and the Economic Imagination. Panel on Occupy Philosophy: Capital, Critique, Imagination. Left Forum, Pace University, New York City. 16 March

The Corporate Form Offshore: Industrial and Financial Futures in Equatorial Guinea. Invited lecture. Gallatin School of Individualized Study. 21 February

Offshore Work: Oil and the Making of Modularity in Equatorial Guinea. Invited lecture. UCLA Department of Anthropology. 25 January.

2011 The Corporate Effect: Production Sharing Contracts and Hydrocarbon Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Panel on Becoming Corporate. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) Montreal, 19 November.

Development Futures in Equatorial Guinea. Panel on Equatorial Guinea Today: Black Gold, White Elephants, Invisible People. Africa and Peoples of African Descent Conference. Howard University. 15 September.

For the Infrastructure Yet to Come. Panel on The Politics of Infrastructure: Producing Cities. The Art of Citizenship in African Cities Conference, Columbia University, Committee on Global Thought. 6 May.

2010 Circulating Futures: Oil and the Making of Modularity in Equatorial Guinea. Panel on Resource Flows in Circulation: Ethnography of Transnational Extractive Industries. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) New Orleans, 19 November.

Discussant. Infrastructures of Circulation panel. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) New Orleans, 19 November.

Discussant. Environmental Politics of Health panel. Health and Governance in Africa Conference, Stanford Student Forum for African Studies. Stanford University. 29 October.

2009 Off Responsibility's Shores: Equatorial Guinea, Offshore Oil, and Petro-Citizenship. Panel on Social Suffering and the City: Locating Sites of Responsibility. Annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA). Philadelphia, 2 December.

"There's Nobody Out There": Capital, Labor and the Industrial Offshore in Equatorial Guinea. Brown bag lunch-time talk, Department of Anthropology. Stanford University. 27 April.

Thinking Beyond the Resource Curse in Equatorial Guinea: the Offshore, State and Corporate Sovereignty, and the Contract. Panel on The Politics of Oil and Gas Production in West Africa. Conference: Between Three Continents: Rethinking Equatorial Guinea. Hofstra University NY. 2 April.

On Modularity: Theories of Oil and Capitalism in Equatorial Guinea. Presented at Social Science Research Council Fellows Conference. New Orleans, LA. 14 March.

- 2008 Definiciones de la sociedad civil en África. Presented at the inaugural meeting of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Bata, Equatorial Guinea. 9 February.
- 2007 Crude Fictions: Regulation in the Shadow of Inaccessibility. Presented at panel on the Re-Regulation of Access in Extractive Industries. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). 21 April.
- 2006 From the Exception to the Rule: Redefining Corruption and Ethnography. Panel on Time, Risk, and Global Finance. Conference: The Anthropology of Global Productions. Stanford University, 8 April

COURSES

- Reimagining the Global Economy. Senior Seminar in Global Studies. UCLA
- Other Worlds are Possible: Abolition Anthropology. Anthropology. UCLA
- Cultures of Capitalism. Seminar in Global Studies. UCLA
- Culture and Globalization. Required Lecture Course. Global Studies. UCLA
- Global Africa. Senior Seminar in Global Studies UCLA
- The Global Corporation. Senior Seminar in Global Studies. UCLA
- Proposal Writing for Graduate Students. Anthropology. UCLA

WORKSHOPS, PANELS, CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2021 Co-Organizer. Racial Capitalism and the Future of Finance. Institute on Inequality and Democracy in partnership with University of Chicago Race & Capitalism. UCLA. Fall 2021 (planning phase)
- 2020 Organizer. Financial Futures and Reparative Public Goods. Institute on Inequality and Democracy. UCLA. February 7. <https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/financial-futures-higher-education-and-reparative-public-goods/>
- 2017 Co-Organizer. Race and Capitalism: Global Territories, Transnational Histories. Institute on Inequality and Democracy. UCLA. October 20. <https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/race-and-capitalism/#about>
- 2016 Co-Organizer. Racialized State Violence in Global Perspective. UCLA Division of Social Sciences. May 23
- Co-Organizer. Alt_/_Finance conference. University of California, Irvine. January 2016
- 2015 Co-Organizer. Generating Capitalism. Triple Panel on (1) Race; (2) Gender; (3) Entrepreneurship. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Denver. November 19 - 22
- 2014 Co-Organizer. The Promise of Infrastructure. Advanced Seminar. School for Advanced Research. Santa Fe, New Mexico. 1-6 November.

- 2013 Co-Organizer. Panel on The Anthropology of Infrastructure. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Chicago. 23 November
- 2012 Co-Organizer. Speaker series on Worlds of Work in Africa, Institute of African Studies at mbia University. Academic year 2012-2013
- Co-Organizer. Panel on Uncivil Disobedience: Geographies of Insurrection. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) San Francisco, 19 November.
- Organizer. Oil Talk Workshop, Columbia University, NY. 13-15 April.
- 2009-2011 Co-Organizer. Mellon Research Workshop on Capitalism's Crises. Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford, CA
- 2006 Co-Organizer. Second Annual Stanford Graduate Student Conference in Cultural and Social Anthropology: The Anthropology of Global Productions. Stanford, CA

SERVICE

- 2020 – Present UCLA Center for the Study of Women. Executive Committee Member
- 2019 – Present UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality & Democracy. Associate Director
- 2019 – Present Progressive International. Debt Justice Working Group.
- 2017 – Present Race & Capitalism National Steering Committee
- 2015 – Present UCLA Institute for Inequality and Democracy. Faculty Advisory Committee
- 2015 – Present UCLA African Studies. Faculty Advisory Committee
- 2015 – 2016 UCLA Mellon Mays Advisor
- 2014 – Present Co-Organizer. [The Debt Collective](#).
- 2008-2010 Researcher. Collaborative Equatoguinean Budget Project. Research Team: Columbia University Human Rights Law Clinic, EG Justice, Open Society Justice Initiative.
- 2007-2008 Assistant to the National Director. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Equatorial Guinea.

LANGUAGES

English	Native
Spanish	Advanced [field language]
Fang	Conversational
Jamaican Creole	Advanced

REFERENCES

James Ferguson

Susan S. and William H. Hindle Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences
Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
jgfergus@stanford.edu

Karen Ho

Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota
karenho@umn.edu

Ananya Roy

Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography
The Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Inequality and Democracy
University of California, Los Angeles
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