

CURRICULUM VITAE

Suzanne Preston Blier

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Faculty Member: History of Art and Architecture Department

Faculty Member: Department of African and African American Studies

Faculty Associate: Center for Geographic Analysis; Institute for Quantitative Social Science

Faculty Associate: Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative

Chair of [Africamap](#) an interactive GIS enhanced database, expanded to [Worldmap](#) and relaunched in 2021 as a project within [ArcGIS Online](#).

Faculty Advisor, Men's Volleyball Team, Harvard Dems

EDUCATION

1973-81

Columbia University, Dept of Art History & Archaeology

Master of Arts (January 1976)

Master of Philosophy (May 1976)

Doctor of Philosophy (May 1981)

1967-69 and 1971-73

University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.

Bachelor of Arts (May 1973)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1993- Harvard University, Professor

1983-93 Columbia University, Assistant, Associate and Full Professor

1981-83 Northwestern University, Mellon Assistant Professor

1979-81 Vassar College, Lecturer

1969-71 Instructor with the Bureau Technique d'Etudes et Documentation, Republic of Benin; Peace Corps.

LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL OFFICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2021-2024 CAA Delegate, American Academy of Learned Societies, and Representative to the Executive Committee

2021 Member, Research and Scholarship Committee (CAA)
 2021 Chair, Cambridge, Ma. Ward 8 Dems (Executive Committee, Cambridge Dems)
 2020- Clerk, National Committee for the History of Art
 2020 Chair, Research and Scholarship Committee (CAA)
 2019- President, Cambridge Citizens Coalition
 2018- Member, National Committee for the History of Art
 2017- President, Harvard Square Neighborhood Association
 2016-2018 President, College Art Association (CAA)
 2012-2018 Board of Directors, College Art Association (CAA)
 2015-2017 CAA Vice President for the Annual Conference
 2016 Chair, Annual Conference, CAA; Chair, Taskforce on the Annual Conference; Member Task Force on Fair Use for the Visual Arts; Member, Task Force to Develop Guidelines for Evaluating Digital Art and Architectural History for Promotion and Tenure
 2013-2015 CAA Vice President for Publications
 2008-2011 Board of Directors, Society for Architectural Historian

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS

2021 Visiting Professor, I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance, Florence, Italy
 2021 *The Image of the Black in African and Asian Art* (edited also with David Bindman and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. listed as one of five “Best Books on Race Before the Modern Era,” by Geraldine Heng in her series *Random Book Lists*.
 2021 Harn Eminent Scholar Chair in Art History lecture, University of Florida.
 2021 Harvard Square Business Association, Women's History Month honoree.
 2020 Robert Motherwell Book Award from the Dedalus Foundation for *Picasso's Demoiselles: The Untold Origins of a Modern Masterpiece* (Duke University Press)
 2020 Finalist, [PROSE Prize](#) granted annually in recognition for the very best in professional and scholarly publishing: field of Art History and Criticism, for *Picasso's Demoiselles: the Untold Origins of a Modern Masterpiece*. Duke University Press.
 2020 Member, the [Dan David Prize](#), Selection Committee, for Cultural Preservation and Revival
 2020 Keynote Speaker. National Collegiate Research Conference
 2019 Honorary Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, the University of Vermont.
 2019 Frank Davis Memorial Lecture. Courtauld Institute of Art, London.
 2019 J. Bernard Schultz Endowed Lecture. University of West Virginia
 2019 Harvard University. Graduate Student Alumni Lecture
 2018 Article “The African urban past: Historical Perspectives on the Metropolis,” in David Adjaye’s *African Metropolitan Architecture* (2011 and 2018 Rizzoli) selected for inclusion in the Getty Conservation Institute’s publication: *Historic Cities: Issues in Urban Conservation (Spring 2019)*, a volume of “classic” texts that have been influential in the history of thinking and practice in the field of urban conservation.
 2018 Chafin Lecture. Vassar College
 2017 Chieftaincy title, Otun Yeye Obalufon (“First/Right Mother of Obalufon”) bestowed by Oba Aderemi Adedapo, Secretary General of the Yoruba Council of Yoruba Obas (Nigeria), for work on Ife art and history.
 2017-18 Fellow, Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History
 2017 Heuser Lecture. Wheaton College.
 2017 *The Art of Jazz: Form, Performance, Notes*: selected 10 best Art Books in 2017. *Crave*.

2017 Winner of the Choice Outstanding Publication Award for *Art and Risk in Ancient Ife*.

2016 Winner of the [PROSE Award](#) granted annually in recognition for the very best in professional and scholarly publishing: field of Art History and Criticism, for *Art and Risk in Ancient Yoruba: Ife History, Politics, and Identity c.1300*. Cambridge University Press.

2016 Cabot Fellow, Harvard University

2016 Inaugural Faculty Forum Lecture, Princeton University

2016 Mary C. Stoddard Lecture. University of California Berkeley.

2016 Keynote Speaker. Conference “*The Savage hits back? Art and Global Contemporaneity in the Colonial Encounter.*” Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum Cologne. Germany.

2015 *Homme Blanc/Homme Noir: Impressions d’Afrique* receives the [Prix International du Livre d’Art Tribal](#) which includes my essay: “L’Afrique et l’Occident: une introduction.”

2015 Wampler Professorship. James Madison University.

2015 Plenary Lecture 10th Annual History of Art and Architecture Student Symposium May 7-8, DePaul University.”

2015 Provostial Fund for Arts and Humanities for the “Black History/Art History Lecture and Performance Series.”

2015 Invited Scholar. “African Art in Paris: Collections, Objects and Aesthetic Practices, from the Traditional to the Contemporary” Paris. Forum Transregionale Studien. Art Histories and Aesthetic Practices. 13-16 January. 2015.

2015. Paris. Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte: “Picasso’s Demoiselles: Africa, Sex and Evolution.”

2015. Paris. Institut national d’histoire de l’art (INHA): “Ife-Art and Diplomacy c. 1300”

2014 Recipient: Anne and Jim Rothenberg Fund for Humanities Research, Harvard University (for *Picasso’s Demoiselles: Pornography, Primitivism, and Darwin*).

2014 Fifth Annual Distinguished Lecture in Art History, Yale University. “By Sea, Sand, and River: Medieval and Early Modern Cross Currencies in Africa and Europe.”

2014 Keynote Speaker [Documents of Culture/Documents of Barbarism](#). 39th Annual History of Art & Architecture Graduate Student Symposium. University of California, Santa Barbara. “Sex, Race, and Subjectivity: *Picasso’s Demoiselles* Re-Examined.”

2013-2016 Recipient (with Peter Bol) National Endowment for the Humanities *Digital Humanities Implementation Grant* for *WorldMap*.

2014 Senior Scholar. Getty Research Institute, Santa Monica, Ca.

2013 Beinecke Fellow. Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Ma.

2012 Harvard University. President’s January Innovation Fund for Faculty: “Cast in Bronze” workshop.

2012 Harvard University. Recipient Hauser Grant, Initiative for Learning and Teaching.

2011 *Las artes de los reinos de África* recommended in holiday books article in <http://www.canarias7.es/articulo.cfm?Id=243072>

2011 Two articles cited among the 38 Centennial "greatest hits" published in the [Art Bulletin](#) since 1913, the year of the journal's founding: [Centennial Anthology of the Art Bulletin](#).

2011-13 Member, Collège de France International Scientific and Strategic Committee. ([COSS](#)). Paris: Selection: Assembly of Professors.

2010-2013 Selection Committee, National Gallery of Art, A. W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellows.

2010-2013 Advisory Committee, Institute of Fine Arts/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Project.

2009-2010: Paul Mellon Senior Fellow. The National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

2009-12 Charles Rufus Morey Book Prize Committee, CAA

2009 Aga Khan Architectural Prize Nominating Committee
 2007 NEH exhibition grant (awarded the Museum for African Art, New York) for Ife exhibition.
 2004 CAA's Distinguished Lifetime Achievement for Writing on Art Award, Committee Member
 2005-6 Evelyn Green Davis Fellow, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University
 2005- Chair, Editorial Board, Art Bulletin
 2005 Ad. E. Jensen Memorial Lectures, Frobenius-Institut, University of Frankfurt
 2005 Charles W. Wampler Jr .Lectures, James Madison University
 2004 Eminent Scholar Lecture, Dartmouth College
 2004 Daniel H. Silberberg Lecture, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
 2004 Presidential Instructional Technology Fellowship
 2004 CAA's Distinguished Lifetime Achievement for Writing on Art Award, Committee Member
 2001-04 Getty Center for the History of Art and Architecture, Collaborative Research Grant (Bamum Art Worlds). Team Leader.
 2000-01 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship (Imaging Amazons)
 1999-2002 Herskovits Award, Book Selection Committee (2001-Chair)
 1999 Choice Award, Book Selection - for *African Royal Art, The Majesty of Form*
 1998 Finalist, Melville Herskovits Award for African Vodun.
 1998 Finalist, Arnold Rubin Award for African Vodun
 1997 Charles Rufus Morey Award from the College Art Association, for African Vodun as the distinguished book in Art History published in 1996
 1993-98 Seaver Foundation, Grant for the "Social Roots of Creativity" project.
 1990-91 Getty Scholar, Getty Center for the History of Art and Humanities
 1989 Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Award (for *The Anatomy of Architecture*). Selected as the outstanding book of the last three years on the subject of African art
 1989-94 Board of Directors, College Art Association
 1988 Finalist, Herskovits Award (for *The Anatomy of Architecture*)
 1988-89 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship
 1988-89 Member, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
 1988 Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (declined)
 1987 Millard Meiss Award, College Art Association (Publication Subvention for *The Anatomy of Architecture*)
 1987 Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University, Associate Fellow
 1985-86 Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship
 1985-86 Social Science Research Council Fellowship
 1984, 1985, 1988 Council for Research in the Humanities Grant (Columbia)
 1983 84 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship
 1981 Richard Lounsbery Fellowship, American Museum of Natural History
 1979-81 Metropolitan Museum of Art, Curatorial Assistant
 1976-77 Fulbright Hays Research Abroad Fellowship
 1976 Columbia University, Ph.D. Orals Examination-passed with Distinction
 1975-76 George W. Ellis Fellowship, Columbia University

PUBLICATIONS

Exhibitions, Web Projects

2019 *Early Christian Africa: Arts of Transformation*. Harvard Art Museum
 2019 Participated in Harvard EX Digital Humanities online project.
 2018 *Asen: Mémoires forgés à fer. Art vodun du Danhomè*. Barbier-Mueller Museum, Geneva.

2018 *Clay: African Art of Design*. Harvard Art Museum. 2018 (co-curated with Jessica Martinez)
 2014 *Worlds Fairs*. Exhibition: Harvard Art Museums.
 Co-chair: [AfricaMap](#);
 Chair: Steering Committee [WorldMap](#)

Books, Catalogues

[2022 - forthcoming] 1325: How Medieval Africa Made the Modern World (Yale University Press)
 2021 The Harvard Worldmap project (created in 2008) through the Center for Geographic Analysis has been relaunched with ArcGIS on line (ESRI).
 2019 *Picasso's Demoiselles: The Untold Origins of a Modern Masterpiece*. Duke University Press. Finalist Prose Prize in Art History and Criticism; Selected Holiday Book Choice, Wall Street Journal.
 2018 *Asen: Mémoires forgés à fer. Art vodun du Danhomè (Asen: Forged Memories of Iron in Dahomey Vodun Art)*. Geneva: Musée Barbier-Mueller. Reviews in [Tribune de Geneve](#) and [Bilan](#).
 2017 *The Image of the Black in African and Asian Art*, Editor with David Bindman and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Harvard University Press.
 2017 *The Art of Jazz: Form Performance, Notes*. Edited with David Bindman and Vera Grant. Cambridge, Ma. Harvard University Press. Selected 10 Best Art Books of 2017 by *Crave*.
 2016 *The Sensual Forest: Art, Community and Sustainability*. Exhibition. Mather House Gallery, Harvard University. Curated with Christie McDonald and Kevin Tervalá.
 2016 *The Art of Jazz*, Exhibition with David Bindman and Vera Grant at the Harvard Art Museum and Cooper Gallery.
 2016 Reissue of "The African urban past: Historical Perspectives on the Metropolis," in architect Adjaye's *African Metropolitan Architecture*. London: Thames and Hudson
 2015 *Art and Risk in Ancient Yoruba: Ife History, Power, and Identity c.1300*. Cambridge University Press.
 2012 Reissue of *The Royal Arts of Africa: the Majesty of Form*.
 2011 Spanish translation of *The Royal Arts of Africa* as *Las artes de los reinos de África* Akal Publisher.
 2005 Italian translation of *Butabu: Adobe Architecture in West Africa (2004)*
 2005 Chinese translation of *African Royal Art: The Majesty of Form (1998)*
 2004 Korean translation of *African Royal Art: The Majesty of Form (1998)*
 2004 *Art of the Senses: Masterpieces from the William and Bertha Teel Collection* (Editor). Boston Museum of Fine Arts.
 2003 *Butabu: Adobe Architecture in West Africa* (photographs by James Morris). Princeton Architectural Press. New York Times Book Review, Holiday Selection 2004; also honored among "Best of Year" The Washington Post: [Afritecture site](#)
 2000 *A History of Art in Africa* (Introduction), Monica Visona, Robin Poyner, Herbert Cole, Michael Harris, Rowland Abiodun. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
 1998 *African Royal Art: The Majesty of Form*. London: Calmann and King; New York: Abrams/Prentice Hall. Choice Award, Book Selection.
 1998 *L'Art Royal Africain*. Paris: Flammarion (translation of above)
 1996 *The Art of Identity: African Art in the Teel Collection*, exhibition flier with Aimee and Mark Bessire, Fogg Museum, Harvard University.

1995 *African Vodun: Art, Psychology, and Power*. (University of Chicago Press). Charles Rufus Morey Award from the College Art Association, the distinguished book in Art History published in 1996. Finalist, Melville Herskovits Award; Finalist, Arnold Rubin Award for African Vodun.

1987 *The Anatomy of Architecture: Ontology and Metaphor in Batammaliba Architectural Expression*, Cambridge University Press, New York. Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Award. Selected as the outstanding book of the last three years on the subject of African art. Millard Meiss Award, College Art Association (Publication Subvention); Finalist: Melville Herskovits Award.

1982 *Gestures in African Art* (L. Kahan, New York).

1980 *Africa's Cross River: Art of the Nigerian Cameroon Border Redefined* (L. Kahan, New York).

1980 *African Art as Theatre: The Mount Collection* (Vassar College).

1976 *Beauty and the Beast, A Study in Contrasts* (Tribal Arts, New York).

Articles

2018 "What's in a Name: Redefining 'Historical' African Art," Interview of Suzanne Blier by Adenike Cosgrove. [ÌMÒ DÁRA](#). June 19.

2018 "Forging Memory in Iron: Asen Arts of Dahomey," *Tribal Arts*, XIII, 1: 106-113.

2018 "Action in Form: African Art as Voiced Engagements," *Agents of Faith: Material, Faith, Memory*. Ed. Ittai Weinryb. New Haven: Yale University Press.

2018 "African Design," in *Critical Terms for the Study of Africa*. Ed. Gaurav Desai, Adeline Masquelier, and V. Y. Mudimbe. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

2017 "The Long Arm of the Lens: Photography, Colonialism, and African Sculpture," in *Sculpture and Photography: The Art Object in Reproduction*. Ed. Megan Luke and Sarah Hamill. Getty Museum. Pp. 102-137.

2017 "Matisse Portraits," in *Matisse in the Studio*. Exhibition Catalogue. Edited by Ellen McBreen and Ann Dumas. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

2017 "Viktor Schreckengost's Jazz Series Punch Bowl," "Beauford Delaney," and "Three Jazz Posters," in *The Art of Jazz*, ed. Suzanne Preston Blier and David Bindman. Exhibition Catalogue. Harvard Art Museum and Cooper Gallery.

2017 "Image of the Black in African Art: A History" in *Image of the Black in African and Asian Art*, Harvard University Press. Ed. Suzanne Preston Blier and David Bindman.

[2017] "Introduction" with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and David Bindman in *Image of the Black in African and Asian Art*, Harvard University Press.

2016 "Dahomey Bas Reliefs" in *A la découverte des bas-reliefs*. In *10 ans de la Fondation Zinsou* Cotonou, Benin: La Fondation Zinsou.

2016 re-edition of "The African Urban Past: Historical Perspectives on the Metropolis" in *African Metropolitan Architecture*, ed. David Adjaye. Thames and Hudson, London (2012).

2015 "Art Journal Open Bookshelf." *Art Journal*. September.

2015 "Abomey." in *Design for the Future: 80 Practical Ideas for a Sustainable World*. Editor Jared Green. Princeton Architectural Press.

2015 "L'Afrique et l'Occident : une introduction." *Homme Blanc/Homme Noir: Impressions d'Afrique*. Fondation Pierre Arnaud. Lens. Switzerland.

- 2014 "Art Matters" Opinion Piece. *The Crimson*. Dec. 5.
<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2014/12/5/harvard-african-art-matters/>
- 2014 Exploring the City of the Mind Through African Art. A Review. *The Root*. December
http://www.theroot.com/articles/culture/2014/12/_exploring_luminos_city_ordinary_joy_at_coo_per_gallery_a_review.html
- 2014 *Photographs of Africa from the Late 1800s*. with Francis Terpak. IRIS, Online Magazine of the Getty. <http://blogs.getty.edu/iris/photographs-of-africa-from-the-late-1800s/>
- 2014 « Mort et créativité dans la tradition des amazones du Dahomey » in *Ethnocentrism et Création* Ed. Annie Dupuis. Edition de la Maison des Science de l'homme. Paris. Pp. 67-80.
- 2013 "Imaging others in Ivory: African Portrayals of the Portuguese Circa 1492," reprint with commentary and new electronic features in *The Art Bulletin and the History of Art: Past, Present, and Future Engagements* New York: College Art Association.
- 2013 "Picasso and Africa" *The Image of the Black in Western Art, Twentieth Century*. Ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and David Bindman. Harvard University Press.
- 2013 "Art, Mimesis, and Tigrityde" *The Art Bulletin*. 95, 2: Pp. 193-195.
- 2013 "[Facing African Art](#)" an overview of Suzanne Blier's work by Siddhartha Mitter, *Colloquy*. Harvard University Graduate School.
- 2012a Cosmic References in Ancient Ife," in *African Cosmology*, ed. Christine Mullen Kreamer. Washington: National Museum of African Art.
- 2012b "Religion and Art in Ile-Ife" *A Companion to African Religion*, ed. Elias Bongbma. Wiley-Blackwell. pp. 400-416
- 2012c Translation of "The Amazons: A Western Myth?" into German in *MenschenZoos*.
- 2012d "Vodun Art, Social History and the Slave Trade" (reprint) in *The Visual Culture Reader 3*, ed. Nicholas Mirzoeff, Routledge (reprint from African Vodun and earlier issue) pp. 323-330.
- 2012e "The African Urban Past: Historical Perspectives on the Metropolis" in *African Metropolitan Architecture*, ed. David Adjaye. Thames and Hudson, London.
- 2012f "Art and History in Ancient Ife, Birthplace of the Yoruba," *African Arts*.
- 2011 "The Amazons: A Western Myth?" (« Les Amazones à la rencontre de l'occident, ») in *Exhibitions: L'Invention du Sauvage*. ed. Pascal Blanchard, Nannette Snoep, and Gilles Boetsch Paris: Musée Quai-Branly.
- 2011 "Vaudou: une exposition à la croisée des regards," Interview of SPB and Gabin Djimassé by Bérénice Geoffroy-Schneiter, *Tribal Arts Magazine*, May.
- 2011 "The Art of Voodoo," *Apollo Magazine* (May).
- 2011 Two articles selected for inclusion in the [Centennial Anthology of the Art Bulletin](#): "Kings, Crowns and Rights of Succession: Obalufon Arts in Ife and Other Yoruba Centers"...*Art Bulletin* 67, no. 3 1985: 383–401 and "Imaging Otherness in Ivory: African Portrayals of the Portuguese ca. 1492"....*Art Bulletin* 75, no 3 (September 1993):375-96.
- 2011 "Des pots et des chevaux: Arts anciens du convoi au Nigeria/ Of Horses and Pots: Early Nigerian Arts of Conveyance," *Arts et Cultures*. Geneva: Musée Barbier-Mueller. 112-129.
- 2011 " Art brutal: La puissance esthétique du bocio dans l'art vaudou des côtes du Bénin et du Togo in *Vaudou: Collection Anne & Jacques Kerchache*. Paris: Fondation Cartier.
- 2010 "Imaginarium: African masks and Western Mindscapes," in *L'Africa delle meraviglie. Arti africane nelle collezioni italiane* (The Wonders of Africa: African Art in Italian Collections, ed. by Ivan Bargna and Giovanna Parodi da Passano, in collaboration with Marc Augé. Genoa: Palazzo Ducale and Castello d'Albertis. Pp. 98 – 109.

- 2010 "The Necessity of Ugliness" 100,000 Years of Beauty. Ed. Elizabeth Azouley. Paris: Gallimard/Babylon (in French, English, Spanish, Chinese). Pp.132-133.
- 2010 "Animalia: the Natural World, Art, and Theory," On the Human. National Humanities Center (Feb. 1). <http://onthehuman.org/2010/02/animalia-the-natural-world-art-and-theory/>
- 2010 "African Amazons: A German Poster" in Center 30: Records and Activity Reports. Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art.
- 2009 "Capricious Arts: Idols in Renaissance era Africa and Europe (The Case of Sapi and Kongo)" in Idols in the Age of Art editor: Michael Cole and Rebecca Zorach, Publisher: Ashgate
- 2008 "Meeting the Amazons," in Human Zoos: Science and Spectacle in the Age of Colonial Empires. Ed.Pascal Blanchard. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press.
- 2008 "Europa: Nineteenth Century Dahomey Portrayals of the West" in Europe Observed, edited by Kumkum Chatterjee and Clement Hawes Bucknell University Press. Lewisburg, Pa.
- 2006 "Vernacular Architecture" in Handbook of Material Culture, ed. by Webb Keane et. al London: Sage Publications.
- 2005 "Razing the Roof: The Architecture of Destruction in Dahomey" in Structure and Meaning in Human Settlements, ed. by Tony Atkin (University of Pennsylvania)
- 2005 "Mapping the Ituri: Mbuti Barkcloth Paintings and the Canvases of Anne Eisner," in Imaging the Congo: The Paintings of Anne Eisner, edited by Christie McDonald (Five Continents).
- 2005 "Fon Monkey Figure," "Fon Asen Memorial" in Masterpieces of African Art in the New Orleans of Fine Arts, Museum for African Art, New York.
- 2005 Review Essay, on three recent catalogues on African art (Pamela McClusky, Martha Anderson and Philip M. Peek, Frederick Lanp) in the Art Bulletin.
- 2004 "Conversation" in Musings on Barbarous Beauty: A Conversation Series on Art and the Sacred. Ed. by Ronnie Hartfield. Cambridge, Ma. Center for the Study of World Religions. Harvard University.
- 2004 "Trading and Transcending Places: A Hybrid, Multiplex Approach to Visual Culture" in Mariet Westermann ed. Anthropologies of Art. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- 2004 "Butabu: The Surreal Adobe Architecture of West Africa" in ICON: World Monuments. http://www.wmf.org/sites/default/files/wmf_article/pg_36-39_butabu.pdf
- 2004 "African Creation Myths as Political Strategy" in African Arts vol 37, no. 1, pp. 39–45, 94.
- 2004 "Ways of Experiencing African Art: The Role of Patina" in Art of the Senses: Masterpieces from the William and Bertha Teel Collection (Suzanne Preston Blier, Editor). Boston Museum of Fine Arts.
- 2004 "Catalogue Entries" (with William Teel) in Art of the Senses: Masterpieces from the William and Bertha Teel Collection (Suzanne Preston Blier, Editor). Boston Museum of Fine Arts.
- 2003 "Trone royal *jandeme* de style akan;" "Tabouret *katake* a trois pieds;" "Tabouret typique" in Sieges d'Afrique Noire du musee Barbier-Mueller ed. By P. B Johannot and J. P. Barbier-Mueller. 5 Continents. pp 138-144.
- 2003 "Assemblage: Dahomey Art and the Politics of Dynasty" Res: Anthropology and Art. Vol. 45. pp.186 ff.
- 2003 "Fertility: Representing Regeneration in Art," Arts & Cultures, Geneva, no. 4. pp.182-209.
- 2002 "Vodun Art, Social History and the Slave Trade" in The Visual Culture Reader, ed. Nicholas Mirzoeff, Routledge (reprint from African Vodun and earlier issue) pp. 323-330.
- 2002 "Nine Contradictions in the New Golden Age of African Art," African Arts. vol.35.

- 2002 "Les Amazones a la rencontre de l'Occident," in *Memoire Colonial: Zoos Humaines*. Editions la Decouverte, Paris.
- 2001 "Autobiography and Art History," *Res: Anthropology and Art*. Vol. 29. pp. 24-40.
- 2000 "The Woman, the Snake and the Ocean: A Masterpiece of Vodun Sculpture from Southern Benin," *Arts et Cultures*, Geneva, no. 1.
- 1999 "African Art and Architecture;" "Dogon Art and Architecture;" "Benin, Art of the Early Kingdom;" and "Ife, Art of the Early Kingdom," in *Encyclopedia Africana*, ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Kwame Anthony Appiah. Perseus Books. New York.
- 1999 "Vodun Art, Social History and the Slave Trade," in *Visual Culture Reader*, ed. Nicholas Mirzoeff, Routledge (reprint from African Vodun).
- 1998 Review of Jean-Paul Bourdier and Trinh T. Minh-Ha, *Drawn from African Dwellings* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press) in *Common Knowledge*.
- 1998 "Batammaliba Architecture," in *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture*, ed. Paul Oliver. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- 1998 "Fon Architecture," in *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture*, ed. New York Paul Oliver. Cambridge University Press.
- 1997 "Gesture and Art in Africa," in *The Dictionary of Art*, ed. Jane Turner. New York. Oxford University Press.
- 1997 "Fon Art," *The Dictionary of Art*, ed. Jane Turner. New York. Oxford University Press.
- 1996 "Le Roi Glele du Dahomey" in *Magie*, published by the Musée Dapper, Paris.
- 1996 "Enduring Myths of African Art," in *Africa: The Art of a Continent: 100 Works of Beauty and Power*. New York: Guggenheim Museum. pp. 26-32
- 1996 "Ritual" in *Critical Terms in Art History*, ed. Robert Nelson and Richard Schiff. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 187-96.
- 1995 "Benin: The Place Where Vodun Was Born," *Natural History* (October) 40-47.
- 1995 "The Path of the Leopard: Majesty and Motherhood in Danhomé Dynastic Discourse," *Journal of African History*.
- 1995 "The African Roots of Vodou," in *The Sacred Arts of Vodou*, ed. Donald Cosentino, University of California Press.
- 1993 "Imaging Otherness in Ivory: African Images of the Portuguese Circa 1492," *The Art Bulletin*.
- 1993 "Truth and Falsehood: Fetish, Magic, and Custom in European and African Art," in *Africa and the Disciplines*, eds. Robert H. Bates, Valentin Mudimbe, and Jean O'Barr. U. of Chicago Press, pp. 139-166.
- 1993 "Art and Secret Agency: Concealment and Revelation in Artistic Expression" in *African Arts of Secrecy*, ed. Mary Nooter, New York: The Museum for African Art.
- 1993 "Melville J. Herskovits and the Arts of Ancient Dahomey," reprint of 1988 Res article in *Art in Small-Scale Societies: A Contemporary Reader*, Richard Anderson, ed., Prentice Hall.
- 1992 "Shadow Plays: Reading between the Lines in Postmodern Criticism," *African Arts* XXV, No. 3., pp. 26-30.
- 1992 "First Word," *African Arts*, XXV, no.3: 1, 8-10.
- 1991 "Faces of Iron: Media, Meaning, and Masking in Danhomé," *Bulletin du Musée Barbier-Mueller*, Geneva, pp. 19-41.
- 1991 "Le Musée Histoire D'Abomey: Colonial and Princely Prerogatives in the Establishment of an African Museum, Quaderini Poro, Milan, Italy," *Arte in Africa* 2:140-158.
- 1991 "Comment" on W.E.A. van Beek's "Dogon restudied," *Current Anthropology*.

- 1991 "King Glele of Danhomé: Dynasty and Destiny (Part II)," *African Art* 24.1: 44-55, 101-103.
- 1990 "King Glele of Danhomé: Divination Portraits of a Lion King and Man of Iron (Part I)," *African Arts* 23.4: 42-53, 93-94.
- 1990 "African Art at the Crossroads: An American Perspective," in *African Art Studies: The State of the Discipline Smithsonian Institution*, pp. 91-107.
- 1989 "Moral Architecture: Beauty and Ethics in Batammaliba Building Design," in *Dwellings, Settlements and Tradition: Cross-Cultural Perspectives*, ed. J P.Bourdier and N. Al Sayyad, University Press of America, pp. 335-355.
- 1989 "Field Days: Melville J. Herskovits in Dahomey," *History in Africa* (16:1-22).
- 1988-89 "Art Systems and Semiotics: The Question of Art, Craft, and Colonial Taxonomies in Africa," *American Journal of Semiotics* (6.1: 7-18).
- 1988 "Melville J. Herskovits and the Arts of Ancient Dahomey," *Res: Anthropology and Art* (16:124-42).
- 1988 "Solar Plexis/Spatial Nexus: Architectural Dimensions of the Soul," in *Daidalos: Architektur, Kunst, Kultur*. vol.28.
- 1988 "Words about Words about Icons: Iconology and the Study of African Art," *College Art Journal* 47:75-87.
- 1987 "Imagines Mundi: Narrative, Ritual, and Architectural Exemplars of Batammaliba Cosmogony," *Archaeoastronomy* 10:36-53, reprint of Chapter 1 of *The Anatomy of Architecture*.
- 1985 "Kings, Crowns, and Rights of Succession: Obalufon Arts at Ife and Other Yoruba Centers," *The Art Bulletin*, vol. LXVII no. 3: 383-401.
- 1984 "Antelopes and Anvils: Artistic Sources and Imagery in Tamberma Works of Iron," *African Arts* 17.3: 58-63.
- 1984 "Towards a History of Tamberma Two Story Architecture: Origins, Impetus, and Factors of Change," *Iowa Studies in African Art* vol. I: 115-134.
- 1983 "Houses are Human: Architectural Self Images of Africa's Tamberma," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 42. 4: 371 -382.
- 1982 "African Art and Architecture," in *Funk and Wagnalls Encyclopedia*, I, pp. 215-221.
- 1982 "Masks," in *Encyclopedia Americana* 18: 423-426.
- 1982 "African Cosmogony," a review essay in *Archaeoastronomy* 5.4: 45.
- 1981 "The Dance of Death: Notes on the Architecture and Staging of Tamberma Funeral Performances," *Res: Anthropology and Art*, 2, Harvard University, pp.107-143.
- 1974 "Creative/Destructive," in *African Art as Philosophy*, ed. Douglas Fraser. Interbook: New York, pp. 95-98.
- 1974 "Beauty and the Beast," in *African Art as Philosophy*, ed. Douglas Fraser, New York, pp. 107-113.

Films and Electronic Media Projects

- 2008-Co-chair, Africamap. Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University
- 1993-2003 Editor-in-Chief, *Baobab: Roots of Creativity in African Material Culture*. Electronic Media Database. Harvard University.
- 1981 *Art of Cameroon*, text written for film Video Disk, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Michael C. Rockefeller Collection.
- 1974 Editorial Assistant for the film, *Out of Fire Comes Strength, The Somba of Dahomey*, prod. by D. Fraser

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

2019- Chair, "Committee on Research and Scholarship," CAA
 2018- Member, National Committee for the History of Art
 2016-2018 President, College Art Association
 2012-2015 Board of Directors, College Art Association
 2013-2015 Vice President for Publications
 2013- International Advisory Board, Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World
 2011-Advisory Board, Art History: Oxford Bibliographies Online
 2011- Editorial Board, [Art Historiography](#)
 2009-2012 Board of Directors, *Society of Architectural Historians*
 2009- Advisory Board *Journal of Material Religions*
 2009- Aga Khan architectural Award, Nomination Committee Member.
 2009-2012. Editorial Board, *Harvard Magazine*.
 2009-2012 Jury Member. *Charles Rufus Morey Book Award*. College Art Association.
 2008 –Executive Advisory Board *Critical Interventions*
 2008- Center for Geographic Analysis, Steering Committee, Harvard University.
 2009- Advisory Board, *Journal Material Religion*.
 2006- 2009 Selection Committee, Council of Independent Colleges
 2004-2008 Distinguished Scholar Selection Committee, College Art Association
 2004 Program Chair, 13th Triennial Meeting of ACASA, the Arts Council of the African Studies Association.
 2004 Distinguished Scholar Selection Committee, College Art Association
 2004 Program Chair, 13th Triennial Meeting of ACASA, the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, March 31-April 3, Harvard University
 2003-7. Editorial Board, *Art Bulletin*, College Art Association
 2006-7 Chair, Editorial Board, Art Bulletin, College Art Association
 2003-7 Editorial Board, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*
 2003-2007 Advisory Editorial Board, *Journal of African History*
 2000-2002 Herskovits Prize Committee, Chair 2001
 2001 Outside Review Committee, University of California, Santa Cruz, Art History Department
 1997 Outside Review Committee, University of Michigan Art History Department
 1989-94 Board of Directors, College Art Association
 1986- Editorial Board, *African Arts Magazine*
 1986-91 Member of the Permanent Working Group on African Humanities, ACLS SSRC Joint Sponsored Committee
 1987-89 President Pro Tem. Arts Council of the African Studies Association (professional Association of African Art Scholars)
 1986-89 Board of Directors, Arts Council of the African Studies Association
 1983-93 Co Chairman, Columbia University Seminar in the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas

Films and Electronic Media Projects

2007- Co-Chair *Africa Map Geographic Information System Web Project* (with Peter Bol)
 Interactive data base and website [Africamap](#). Currently expanding to [Worldmap](#).
 1994- Editor-in-Chief. *Baobab: Visual Sources in African Visual Culture*. Interactive Data Base of 7000 + images on African art and material culture.

1981 *Art of Cameroon*, text written for film *Video Disk*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Michael C. Rockefeller Collection.

1974 Editorial Assistant for the film, *Out of Fire Comes Strength, The Somba of Dahomey*, prod. by D. Fraser

M.A. and Ph.D. Theses

1981 “Architecture of the Tamberma (Togo),” Ph.D. Thesis, Columbia University (Ann Arbor, University Microfilms, 1983).

1976 “Masking Traditions of Southeastern Nigeria,” M.A. Thesis, Columbia University.

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

2011- Consultant, Minneapolis Museum of Art

1986-87 Consultant, National Museums, Republic of Benin.

1984 Consultant, Museum of Art, Duke University. (Evaluation of the African Collection).

1979-81 Metropolitan Museum of Art, Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial Collection. (Curatorial research in preparation for exhibit opening).

1980-81 American Museum of Natural History, Collection of Artifacts, Dept. of Anthropology, Consultant.

1973-75 Columbia University, Slide Curator, Primitive Art Collection.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION

2019 Curator, *Early Christian Africa: Arts of Transformation*. Harvard Art Museum

2017 Co-Curator, *Clay: Modeling African Design*. Harvard Art Museum

2014 Curator, World’s Fairs. Harvard Art Museum.

2006-08 Curator, International Exhibition on Ife Art.

1995 Co-Curator, “African Art and Identity: The Teel Collection,”(Harvard University)

1982 *Gestures in African Art*, New York (Organizer).

1982 *Architecture and Life in Mali and Ghana*, photographic exhibition, Northwestern University Library -Organizer

1980 *African Art as Theatre*, Vassar College (Organizer).

1976 *Beauty and the Beast*, Tribal Arts Gallery, New York (Organizer).

1976 *African Art as Philosophy*, photographic exhibit, Columbia University (Assistant).

1972 *Yoruba and Fon Art*, Fleming Museum (Organizer).

1972 *Art is Life in Africa*, Fleming Museum (Assistant).

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Harvard University

2021- Faculty Advisor, Harvard Dems

2019-20 Director, Undergraduate Studies, Department of African and African American Studies.

2013- Executive Committee, Center for African Studies

2011 Chair, Senior Honor Ranking Committee, African and African American Studies

2011- Fellow, The Weatherhead Center

2010- Faculty Advisor, Men’s Volleyball Team

2010 –Executive Committee, Center for Geographic Analysis

2010- Chair, Faculty Advisory Committee, Worldmap

2010- Member, Standing Committee on Archaeology

2010- Co-Chair Dissertation Seminar, Committee of African Studies
 2009- Executive Committee, Committee on African Studies
 2010- Selection Committee, Graduate students, African and African American Studies
 2010- Application reader, Radcliffe Fellowship Program
 2008- Faculty Advisor, Harvard Alliance for Africa
 2007- Digital Humanities Committee
 2007- IQSS Faculty Associate
 2007- CGA Faculty Associate
 2005- Expanded Traditions Committee, Member - Harvard Art Museums
 2003- Convener, African Initiative - African Thought, Memory and Contestation
 2003-08 Admissions committee, Dept of African and African American Studies
 2003-08 Selection Committee, Du Bois Fellows, Dept. of African and African American Studies
 2003-2008 Advisor, African Student Journal
 2003-co-Chair African Dissertation Seminar
 2003- 09 W.E. B. Du Bois Board of Directors
 2002 Interim Head Tutor, Afro-American Studies Department
 2002 Chair, W. E. B. Du Bois Fellowship Selection Committee
 1995-1998 Director of Graduate Students, History of Art and Architecture
 1993- Member, Committee on Africa
 1993- Member, Faculty-Student Committee, History of Art

Columbia University

1992-93 Director of Graduate Studies
 1991- Administration Committee, Dept. of Art History
 1991- Member, Visual Resources Committee
 1989-91 Member, University Senate
 1990-91 Member, Security Committee
 1989- Member, Faculty Planning Committee
 1989-90 Committee Member, Columbia University in the 1990's
 1989- Departmental Graduate Curriculum Committee
 1989-90 Junior Faculty Review Committee
 1989-90 Wallach Art Gallery Committee
 1989- Departmental Representative, General Studies
 1989-90 Co-Chairman, Modern Art Search Committee
 1987-88 Search Committee, General Western Position
 1987-88 Committee Member, Departmental Curriculum Committee
 1987 Committee Member, Departmental planning for the 1990s
 1987 Search Committee, Contemporary Art
 1986 Committee to Reevaluate Art History Major Requirements
 1986 General Studies Representative, Dept. of Art History
 1984 Dept. Representative, Fulbright Selection Committee
 1983-85 Chairman, Frick Talk Selection Committee
 1983-85 Co Chairman, The University Seminar on Primitive and Pre Columbian Art

Northwestern University

1982-83 Co Chairman with Mary Douglas, Art and Anthropology Club

1982-83 Standing Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, on Study Abroad
 1981-83 Faculty Associate, Humanities College
 1981-83 Member, Executive Committee, Program of African Studies
 1981-83 Departmental Advisor, Undergraduate Majors

GRADUATE STUDENT DISSERTATION SUPERVISING

Harvard University - Ph.D.

Jody Benjamin
 Aimee Bessire
 Randall Bird
 Sarah Byala
 Kyrah Daniels
 Mark Delancey
 Mark Duerksen
 Lauri Firstenberg
 Cecile Fromont
 Janet Hess
 Genieve Hyacinthe
 Christina Knight
 Jessica Levin
 Leora Maltz
 Erin Moseley
 Prita Meier
 Steven Nelson
 Imani Roach
 Gemma Rodrigues
 Linda Rodriguez
 Ana Pulido Rull
 Dalila Scruggs
 Ruth Kerkham Simbao
 Teresa Sims
 Kevin Tervala
 Mercedes Trelles
 Cameron Van Patterson
 Grete Viddal
 Kristina Van Dyke
 Jessica Williams

Columbia University - Ph.D.

Shaalini Ranasinghe
 John Peffer
 Virginia Lee Webb
 Lynn Spriggs
 Gary Van Wyk
 Anne d'Alleva

Alisa Lagamma
 Anne Allen
 Florina Capistrano
 Dominique Malaquais
 Sarah Travis
 Mary Nooter Roberts

Northwestern University Ph.D.

Kate Ezra

LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISM (CAMBRIDGE, Ma.)

2020- Member, Cambridge Club, established in 1879 and committed to the well-being of Cambridge.

2020 Wrote a 10-person Landmark Petition for the Middle East music emporium in Central Square (not submitted). See write up in [Cambridge Day](#).

2019 Helped to organize and write a zoning petition for Harvard Square (as lead petitioner) aimed at fostering local business and promoting a more vibrant commercial setting. This effort entailed a collaboration between the Harvard Square Neighborhood Association, the Harvard Square Business Association, Harvard University and other property owners in the Square, working collaboratively along with zoning attorney and developer, Patrick Barrett. This petition was approved by the Planning Board, and has undergone review by the City Council Ordinance Committee. It was recently passed by them for a full vote by City Council (on March 2). See articles in [The Crimson](#) and [The Chronicle](#).

2019 Helped to found the *Cambridge Citizens Coalition* dedicated to the promotion of transparency and good government in Cambridge. Created the CCC website and many of its blogs. This group was active in the 2019 election, in the course of which it added an affiliated Political Pac – the Cambridge Citizens Coalition Action Committee which hosted a candidate forum and supported a slate of eight candidates running for City Council. Drafted several letters to local newspapers on our candidates and goals. See articles in [The Chronicle](#) and [Cambridge Day](#).

2019 Helped to organize a citywide *Livable Cambridge* event, *How Big is Too Big*, featuring Jimmy Tingle as speaker and showcasing neighborhood leaders' views of core issues in each of their neighborhoods. See write up in [Cambridge Day](#).

2018 Wrote a 10-person Landmark petition for the EMF building in Central Square. The CHC voted in support of this petition and in 2019 this building received historic landmark status. See write up in [Cambridge Day](#).

2018 Helped to found *Livable Cambridge*, a city-wide group comprising the leaders of active neighborhood groups in Cambridge.

2017 Founded the Harvard Square Neighborhood Association (HSNA). to help in related efforts. Worked with Gladys Gifford and others to renew the then defunct Harvard Square Defense Fund into the HSNA, with 501c3 status. See write up in [Cambridge Day](#).

2017 Wrote a 10-person petition to rewrite the Harvard Square Conservation District Guidelines. This was approved the Cambridge Historical Commission. A working group was created by the City

of Cambridge under Charled Sullivan, Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission that met and deliberated regularly. The final 90-page report was completed in Fall 2019 and voted on favorably by the Planning Board and the Cambridge City Council in Fall 2019. See Preliminary Report [HERE](#).

2017 Worked with the city to create a Harvard Square and Plaza Working Group to determine the future function of the Harvard Square Kiosk. The group met regularly and a final report was completed in 2019. The city is in the process of preparing the RFI. See Article in [Masslive](#).

2016 Worked with Our Harvard Square to write and file a 10-person Landmark petition for the Abbot Building (home to Curious George). This petition failed to be enacted by the Cambridge Historical Commission. Helped build a case and file a lawsuit against the city for this decision; the case was dismissed in Superior Court. Worked with the CHC and new building owners to improve the adjacent building design (currently under construction). See write up in [The Crimson](#).

2016 Harvard Square Kiosk. Worked with the new local advocacy group, *Our Harvard Square* to write and file a 10 Person Landmark Petition for the Harvard Square Kiosk. Helped to mount a 2200 person. Online Change.org petition to landmark and preserve the Kiosk and engaged the Society for Architectural Historians and its local affiliates in this effort. The requisite study was approved and enacted by the Cambridge Historical Commission in 2017. See Article in [The Patch](#).