

# LAURENCE RALPH

Curriculum Vitae

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENTS OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES  
AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2011– Present Harvard University, Assistant Professor  
Departments of African and African American Studies and Anthropology
- 2010–2011 University of Michigan, Visiting Faculty and Mandela-Rodney-Dubois  
Postdoctoral fellow, The Center for African and Afro American Studies

## EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D., Anthropology  
The University of Chicago  
Dissertation Title: “You Never Hear About the Wheelchair”: Violence  
and Mobility in a Westside Chicago Gang
- 2006 Master of Arts, Anthropology  
The University of Chicago  
MA Thesis: Revaluating the Drug Dealer: Rap Artists’ Amendments of a  
Congressional Construction
- 2004 Bachelor of Science, History, Technology, and Society, Highest  
Honors  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
BS Thesis: Black Bonds: Ties and Tokenism of African-American Students

## BOOKS

- 2014 *Renegade Dreams: Living Through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. Chicago:  
University of Chicago Press.

## PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2014 Legacies of Fear: From Rodney King to Trayvon Martin [co-authored].  
*Transition*, 113.

- 2013 The Qualia of Pain: Police Torture, Gang Life, and Communal Stories of Violence. [Special issue]. *Anthropological Theory*, 13 (1/2), 104–118.
- 2012 What Wounds Enable: The Politics of Disability and Violence in Chicago. *Disability Studies Quarterly*, 32, 3.
- 2012 Love, Peace, and Soul. *Transition*, 108, June.
- 2011 The Memory of Gold: Happy Slaves and the Problem of Security. *Transition*, 105, July.
- 2010 “As Soon as I Get Out Ima Cop Dem Jordans”: The Afterlife of the Corporate Gang. [Special issue: “Criminalities, Cultures, and Policing in the Global Era.”] *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, 16, 6. December.
- 2009 With Cathy Cohen et al. The Attitudes and Behavior of African American Youth: Research Summary. Chicago: University of Chicago, Center for Race, Politics, and Culture.
- 2006 The Semiotics of Straight Thuggin’. *The Anthropology Exchange*. Chicago: University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND HONORS

- 2012–2013 Institute for Advanced Study  
Member, Princeton, NJ
- 2012–2013 National Research Council of the National Academies  
Ford Foundation Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2012–2013 School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
(Declined) Resident Scholar Program
- 2012–2013 Wellesley College, Newhouse Humanities Center  
(Declined) Newhouse External Fellowship
- 2012–2013 Harvard University, Provost’s Fund for Interfaculty Collaboration
- 2010–2011 University of Michigan, Center for African and Afro-American Studies  
Du Bois-Mandela-Rodney Post-Doctoral fellowship
- 2010–2012 University of Virginia, the Carter G. Woodson Residential Research and  
(Declined) Teaching Fellowship at the University of Virginia’s Carter G. Woodson  
Institute

2009–2010	University of Notre Dame, Erskine Peters Dissertation Year Fellowship
2009–2010 (Honorary)	University of Chicago, Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship
2009–2010 (Declined)	University of Rochester, Frederick Douglass Institute Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
2007–2008	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant in Cultural Anthropology
2007–2008	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant in Law and Social Science
2005–2007	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Award
2004–2005	Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies
2004–2009 (Declined)	University of Chicago, Trustees Fellowship
2004–2005	Ford Foundation, Ford Pre-doctoral Fellowship for Minorities Honorable Mention
2004–2005	Georgia Institute of Technology, Toward Award–GPA 3.5 or better
2003–2004	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Moore Research Apprentice Program (Research Fellowship)
2003–2004	Georgia Institute of Technology’s Office of Graduate Studies and Research Undergraduate Research Fellowship

#### SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Oct. 2014	“Aesthetics of Martyrdom” Russell Sage Foundation Conference: “Deprivation in America” *Invited Lecture, New York, NY
Sept. 2014	“Urban Violence as a Matter of Educational Inequity” Ford Fellows Annual Conference, Irvine, CA
May 2014	“The Politics of Mass Incarceration” For conference entitled: “Learning from Detroit” *Invited Lecture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- April 2014 “Gentrifying Chicago: The Politics of Redevelopment in the Inner City”  
\*Invited Lecture, Bennington College, Bennington, VT
- April 2014 “Contemporary Circuits of Violence”  
For a conference entitled: “Diasporic Circuits Reconsidered: Bringing Together the Post-Colonial ‘New World’ and Post-Apartheid South Africa”  
\*Invited Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- April 2014 “Re-framing Gang Violence”  
American Ethnological Society Conference, Boston, MA
- April 2014 Discussant: “Thresholds of Recognition”  
American Ethnological Society Conference, Boston, MA
- March 2014 “Making Room for Madness in the City of Scars”  
\*Invited Lecture, Princeton University, Department of Anthropology  
Princeton, NJ
- Feb. 2014 “Embodied Violence, Life Stories, Dreams: The Narrative Challenge”  
For a conference entitled “Health and the City: Difference, Rights, Belonging”  
\*Invited Lecture, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- Feb. 2014 “The Underside of Injury: How to Dream like a Renegade”  
\*Invited Lecture, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
- April 2013 “Injury and Resilience in Chicago”  
\*Invited Lecture, University of Pennsylvania Anthropology Colloquium  
Philadelphia, PA
- Nov. 2013 Organizer and Presenter: “Revisiting the Chicago School”  
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference  
\*Invited Session, Chicago, IL
- Nov. 2012 “Technologies of Representation: A Brief Reflection On Gang Violence”  
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference  
San Francisco, CA
- Nov. 2012 Chair: “Politics of the ‘Precariat’”  
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference  
San Francisco, CA
- Nov. 2012 “The Injury of Nostalgia”  
\*Invited Lecture, Institute for Advanced Study Seminar Series  
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

- Oct. 2012 “Sources of Injury, Pleas for Protection, and the Black Urban Poor”  
\*Invited Lecture, New Faculty Lunch at the Mahindra Humanities Center  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- Sept. 2012 “The Will Power of Addiction”  
\*Invited Participant, The Will: A SSHRC Workshop  
The University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- July 2012 “The Grind: Black Bodies and Inverted Perceptions of Fear”  
54 International Congress of Americanists 2012, Vienna, Austria
- April 2012 “Intimate Struggle and the Injury of Development”  
American Ethnological Society (AES) Spring Conference  
New York, New York
- March 2012 “Foot Soldiers of the Gang:  
Ethnographic Knowledge Production and Urban Dislocation”  
\*Invited Lecture by Qualitative Social Science @ Harvard Conference  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- March 2012 “New Problems in Urban Housing”  
\*Invited Lecture by The Culture Workshop  
Department of Sociology, Harvard University, Cambridge MA
- Nov. 2011 “Jon Burge’s Ghost”  
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference  
Montreal, Quebec
- Nov. 2011 “Wheelchair Politics: African Americans in the Disability Rights  
Community”  
\*Invited Lecture by the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies  
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- May 2011 “In Debt: Forms of Reciprocity in a Chicago Street Gang”  
DEBT: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Debt  
Center for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities  
University of Cambridge, London, UK
- April 2011 “The Everyday Politics of Dislocation”  
\*Invited Lecture by The Center for African and African American Studies  
Faculty Brown Bag  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Sept. 2011 “Disabling Violence as Debt”  
\*Invited Lecture for “Anthropology Day,”  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

- Nov. 2010 “‘He Owes Me and Now I’m Cashin’ In’: Disability, Violence, and Retribution in a Chicago Street Gang”  
\*Invited Lecture for the Disability Studies Forum  
The University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN
- May 2010 “Violence, Debt, the Transformative Potential of Qualia”  
\*Invited Lecture for conference, entitled, *Qualia: Anthropological Explorations in the Experience of Quality*  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- April 2010 “Financial Crises and Gang Mobility: Dealing with Gentrification on Chicago’s Westside”  
\*Invited Keynote for American Studies Day  
American University, Washington D.C.
- April 2010 “Footwork, Foot Soldiers, and Protest Footage: Dilapidated Housing and the Rhythm of Dislocation”  
\*Invited Lecture, the Department of African and African American Studies and the Department of Anthropology Lecture Series  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- March 2010 “Reconstructing the Image of Michael Jackson: Explorations of Body, Spirit, and Society”  
\*Invited Lecture, the Department of Africana Studies  
Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN
- March 2010 “The Crisis of Dislocation”  
Semiotics Workshop  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Dec. 2009 “You Never Ever Hear about the Wheelchair: Violence, Debt, and Disability in a Chicago Street Gang”  
\*Invited Presidential Session, “MAKING DAILY LIFE DEADLY: The Militarization of Everyday Life, North and South”  
American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA
- Nov. 2009 “‘As Soon as I Get Out Ima Cop Dem Jordans’: The Politics of Juvenile Shoe-Talk”  
\*Invited Lecture, Williams College, Department of Africana Studies  
Williamstown, MA
- Oct. 2009 “Queer Performances in Hip Hop”  
Queer Studies Conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
- May 2009 “‘My President’s Black, My Lambo’s Blue’: Black Youth and Post-Civil Rights Sentiment”  
\*Invited Paper, The New Frontiers of Race Conference

Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture and the Journal  
*Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

- April 2009 “Challenges in Mentoring Minority Graduate Students”  
\*Invited paper, National Meeting for Social, Behavioral and  
Economic Sciences (SBE) Alliance, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
- March 2009 “Gang Violence and the Cosmology of Debt on the Westside of Chicago”  
\*Invited Paper, Peters Research Symposium,  
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

#### TEACHING INTERESTS

Anthropology of Race  
Urban Anthropology  
Medical Anthropology  
Disability Studies  
Gangs  
Masculinity and Race  
Theories of Violence  
Hip-Hop  
Popular Culture