

CURRICULUM VITAE
Timothy Robert Landry

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Departments of Anthropology & Religious
Studies
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EDUCATION

2013 Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2009 M.A. in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2005 M.A. in Anthropology, University of Houston
2001 B.S. in Anthropology, University of Houston

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021 - present Associate Professor of Anthropology and Religious Studies, Trinity College
2015-2021 Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Religious Studies, Trinity College
2014-2015 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and African Studies,
University of Arkansas
2013-2014 Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, North Dakota State University
2012-2013 Visiting Lecturer of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign
2004-2005 Instructor of Anthropology, University of Houston

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020-2021 Chair, Clifford Geertz Prize Committee. Society for the Anthropology of
Religion.
2016-2020 Secretary, Society for the Anthropology of Religion

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2019 *Vodún: Secrecy and the Search for Divine Power*. Philadelphia: University of
Pennsylvania Press.

Book Manuscripts In Production

2022 *Global Vodún and Vodou: Serving the Spirits in a Modern World*. Under Review.
Under Advance Contract, Indiana University Press.

Book Manuscripts In Progress

- 2025 (est.) *Willful Things: Sorcery and Encountering the Ontologically Alive in West Africa*. In progress.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2020 Vodún, Spirited Forests, and the African Atlantic Forest Complex *Journal of Africana Religion* 8(2): 173-201.
- 2016 Incarnating Spirits, Composing Shrines, and Cooking Divine Power in Vodún. *Material Religion* 12 (1): 50-73.
- 2015 ‘Never Wholly Respectable’: Divination, Death, and Humanism in Contemporary Anthropology. *Anthropology and Humanism*. 40 (2): 177-81.
- 2015 Vodún, Globalization, and the Creative Layering of Belief in Southern Bénin. *Journal of Religion in Africa* 45 (2): 170-99.
- 2008 Moving to Learn: Performance and Learning in Haitian Vodou. *Anthropology and Humanism*. 33 (1/2):53-65.

Book Chapters

- 2011 “Touring the Slave Route: Inaccurate Authenticities in Bénin, West Africa.” *Contested Cultural Heritage: Religion and Nationalism in a Globalized World*. Helaine Silverman, ed. New York: Springer. Pp. 205-31.

Book & Film Reviews

- 2018 Review of *An Ethnography of a Vodou Shrine in Southern Togo: Of Spirit, Slave and Sea*. Eric Montgomery and Christian Vannier. Leiden: Brill (2017). *Journal of Religion in Africa* 48: 1-3.
- 2016 Review of *Holy Hustlers (2009), Counterpoint One (2011), and Counterpoint Botswana (2011)*. Richard A. Werbner. Manchester: United Kingdom. Blurring Boundaries: Notes on Ethnography and the Holy Hustlers of Botswana. *Journal of Africana Religion*. 59(3):311-15.
- 2010 Review of *Missing Bodies: The Politics of Visibility*. Monica Casper and Lisa Jean Moore. New York: New York University Press (2009). *Anthropological Quarterly* 83 (2): 455-58.
- 2010 Review of *Diasporic Conversions: Black Carib Religion and the Recovery of Africa*. Paul Christopher Johnson. Berkley: University of California Press (2010). *Ethos* 38 (1): online.

Journal Articles Under Review

- 2019 “Divination, Wellbeing, and Coolness in the West African Forest.” Submitted to *Journal of Religion in Africa*.

Journal Articles In Progress

- 2020 “Too Poor to Believe”: Cowries, Cash, and Gifts, an Examination of “Voodoo Economics” in Bénin. Expected to be submitted to *Ethnography* by spring 2021.

AWARDS

- 2019 Clifford Geertz Award for the Best Book in the Anthropology of Religion. *Vodún: Secrecy and the Search for Divine Power*, University of Pennsylvania Press. 2019.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019-20 Fulbright Scholar. Africa Regional Research Program. \$69,750.00
2019-20 Trinity College, Faculty Research Grant. \$4,000.00
2018 Trinity College, Manuscript Completion Grant. \$1,500.00
2010-11 Fulbright Institute of International Education. Bénin. \$23,250.
2010-11 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. Bénin. \$14,979.
2010-11 Nelle M. Singor Graduate Scholarship in International Relations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Bénin. \$2,000.
2010-11 Fulbright-Hays, Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, Bénin. \$23,306 [Declined due to alternative funding].
2008 West African Research Association. Bénin. \$6,500.
2008 Pre-dissertation research grant. Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Bénin. \$750.
2007-08 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship. U.S. Department of Education/Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. To study Portuguese. \$15,000 plus tuition and fee waiver.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2020 Ethnographic Research, the Republic of Bénin (West Africa). September 2019 – July 2020.
2017-18 Exploratory Research, the Republic of Bénin (West Africa). Conducted interviews and collected oral histories in Ouidah and Abomey on sorcery and the use of animal remains.
2010-11 Dissertation Research, the Republic of Bénin (West Africa). Conducted interviews, surveys, and collected oral histories in Abomey, Cotonou, and (especially) Ouidah. Examined the interactions between local Vodún practitioners and international tourists regarding questions of secrecy, politics, and power. January 2010 – June 2011.

- 2008 Pre-dissertation Research, the Republic of Bénin (West Africa). Traveled throughout Bénin (with a focus on Ouidah), meeting with and interviewing Vodún priests, priestesses, other practitioners, and international tourists, to develop further my dissertation project. June 2008 – August 2008.
- 2006-07 Exploratory Research, the Republic Bénin (West Africa). Traveled through Bénin meeting with Vodun practitioners to develop a dissertation research project. December 2006 – January 2007.
- 2003-05 M.A. thesis research, the Republic of Haiti (Caribbean). Conducted interviews, surveys, and collected oral histories in Jacmel and Port-au-Prince to examine spirit possession in Haiti as a sensory and embodied cultural experience that facilitates processes of socialization of children. May-August 2003, January 2004, May-August 2004, January 2005.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers Presented

- 2018 Vodún and the West African Forest Complex. Satterthwaite Colloquium on African Ritual, Grasmere (United Kingdom).
- 2018 Willful Things: Encountering Sorcery and the Ontological Alive in Bénin, West Africa. Museum of Witchcraft and Ritual Magic, Boscastle (United Kingdom),
- 2017 Fá Divination, Wellbeing, and Coolness in Bénin, West Africa. 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 2017 Fá Divination, Wellbeing, and Coolness in Bénin, West Africa. Satterthwaite Colloquium on African Ritual, Grasmere (United Kingdom).
- 2016 Into the Sacred Forest: Ritual and Vodún’s Global Expansion. Satterthwaite Colloquium on African Ritual, Grasmere (United Kingdom).
- 2016 At the Intersection of Meaning and Ritual Accident in Both Beninese Vodún and Anthropology. 115th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis.
- 2015 “The Strange Ghosts Who Dance and the Familiar Stories They Tell in Bénin, West Africa.” 114th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Denver.
- 2014 “Incarnating Spirits, Composing Shrines, and Cooking Divine Power in Vodún.” 113th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 “Never Wholly Respectable’: Divination and Humanism in Contemporary Anthropology.” 112th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Chicago.
- 2012 “Trans-Atlantic Borders: Expanding Identities through Tourism and Vodún in Bénin, West Africa.” 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. San Francisco.

- 2011 “Touring the Forbidden: The Occult Politics of Travel of Bénin, West Africa.” 110th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Montréal.
- 2008 “Local Production and Global Imaginings of Vodún in Bénin.” 85th Annual Meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society. Indianapolis.
- 2007 “Spirit Possession, Haitian Vodou, and the Sacred Asson: It Is that which Is King, It Is that which Commands.” 84th Annual Meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society. Minneapolis.
- 2004 “Spirit Possession and the Construction of Identity Among Haitian Vodouisants.” 47th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. New Orleans.

Panels Organized

- 2017 Vodu(n) Matters, Part I. 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 2017 Vodou Matters, Part II. 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 2016 Ritual and the Evidentiary Wisdom of Accident. 115th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis.
- 2014 Producing Anthropology and Religion at the Crossroads of Materiality and Belief. Co-organized with Michele Hanks (Case Western Reserve University). 113th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.

Discussant

- 2013 “Experts, Expertise, and the Public.” 112th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Chicago.

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 Magic and Witchcraft in West Africa. Centre of Pagan Studies. Presented via Zoom.
- 2019 Willful Things: Encountering Sorcery and the Ontological Alive in Bénin, West Africa. Treadwell’s Books, London (United Kingdom).
- 2019 “Magic and Healing in Vodún.” Presented at Bridgewater State University, Distinguished Lecture on African Healing Systems.
- 2016 “Into the Sacred Forest: Ritual and Vodún’s Global Expansion.” Presented at Bridgewater State University, Distinguished Lecture in African Studies.
- 2016 “Into the Sacred Forest: Ritual and Vodún’s Global Expansion” Presented at Boston University, West African Research Association.

- 2014 “Seeking Divine Power: Globalization, Spiritual Tourism, and Diaspora in Global West Africa.” Presented at the University of Arkansas, Religious Studies Program.
- 2014 “Composing Shrines and Constructing Diasporas.” Presented at the University of California, Berkeley, Department of African American Studies and African Diaspora Studies.
- 2014 “Incarnating Spirits, Composing Shrines, and Cooking Divine Power in Vodún.” Presented at the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Religious Studies and Department of Africana Studies.
- 2012 “Voodoo an the Politics of Speech: ‘Hex. Lies, and Videotape.’” Presented at Eastern Oregon University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
- 2012 “Into the Sacred Forest: Apprenticeship, Ethnography, and Vodún in Bénin, West Africa.” Presented at Eastern Illinois University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
- 2009 “The Slave Route: Touring the Inaccurate and Experiencing the Authentic in Bénin, West Africa.” Spring conference on Pseudo-Science, Erasure, and Exclusion. Urbana, Illinois.

LOCAL CAMPUS TALKS

- 2021 “Too Poor to Believe”: ‘Voodoo Economics’ and the Apotheosis of Wealth in Southern Bénin. Presented to the Leonard B. Greenburg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life.
- 2018 Ritual, Divination, and Phantasm. Presented at Trinity College, Trinity Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies.
- 2014 Apprenticeship and the Politics of Religious Appropriation. Presented at the University of Arkansas, Program in African and African American Studies Brown Bag.
- 2012 “Into the Sacred Forest: Apprenticeship, Ethnography, and Vodún in Bénin, West Africa. Presented at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Center for African Studies.
- 2004 “A Rite of Fire: Haitian Vodou and Initiation.” Presented at University of Houston, Department of Anthropology.

MEDIA AND DOCUMENTARY APPEARANCES

- 2014 National Public Radio Interview. “Voodoo in Bénin and Haiti.” Fayetteville, Arkansas. KUF – Ozark at Large with Kyle Kellams.
- 2013 *Sur la Piste du Vaudou* [On the Trail of Voodoo]. BIX Films, Le Château d’Eau: Musée Vodou, France Télévisions. Strasbourg, France. 52 minutes. Interviewed about Yorùbá ancestor cults.

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

- 2015 Curator. African Art Collection, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.
- 2012 Guest Curator. *Egúngún! Power Concealed*. Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (see, <http://timlandry.net/exhibitions>).
- 2012 Gallery talk. *Egúngún! Power Concealed*. Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2012 Curatorial Assistant. Re-installation of the African Art Gallery, Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Trinity College

Lectures:

Anthropology of Religion
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Introduction to Religious Studies
Voodoo, Zombies, and the Conjured Dead

Seminars:

Religions of the Black Atlantic
Religions of Africa
Anthropology of Magic, Sorcery, and Witchcraft
Material Religion
Religion in the City

Study Away:

West Africa Abroad (Bénin)

STUDY ABROAD / FIELD SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

- 2017-18 West Africa Abroad, Trinity College. Accompanied 13 Trinity College Students to Bénin, West Africa for 5-week January term field school.
- 2010 Assisted Prof. Douglas J. Falen (Agnes Scott College) with a group of ten university students who traveled to southern Bénin for a 6-week ethnographic field school in West Africa. Served as guest lecturer and trip assistant.
- 2007 Art and Life in Bénin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Accompanied 18 University of Illinois students to Bénin, West Africa. Served as co-instructor, designer, and organizer for the 5-week field school in Bénin, West Africa.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- Ongoing Article Reviewer for Peer-Reviewed Journals. *African Studies Review*, *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Ethos*, *Journal of Religion in Africa*, *Material Religion*.
- 2019 Advisory Committee member. Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Washington D.C.
- 2013 Interviewed as an “expert in the field” by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada concerning a Béninois asylum case involving Vodún.
- 2012 Fulbright IIE Advisor for Bénin Grantees.
- 2009-10 Fulbright IIE Screening Committee member. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Vetted undergraduate students wishing to conduct research in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2008-12 Managing Editor, *Ethos* – Journal for the Society of Psychological Anthropology.

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

- 2021-present Co-Director of the Trinity College LGBTQ+ Affinity Group
- 2021 Search Committee Member, Director for the Queer Resource Center. Trinity College.
- 2021-present Member of Internal Review Board, Trinity College.
- 2020-2021 Curriculum Committee, Trinity College.
- 2020-2021 Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, Trinity College.
- 2018-present Coordinator for African Studies concentration, Trinity College Program in International Studies.
- 2018-present Coordinator for African Studies Minor, Trinity College
- 2017-present Faculty Advisor, Trinidad Study Away Program
- 2017-2019 Curatorial Committee, Trinity College
- 2016-2019 Jury Pool for Academic Honesty, Trinity College.
- 2016 – 2018 Bantam Nest Faculty Mentor, Trinity College
- 2015-16 Search Committee, Trinity College – Department of Religious Studies. Conducted search for Islam scholar.
- 2017-18 Search Committee, Trinity College – Department of Religious Studies. Conducted Search for Bible scholar.

LANGUAGES

- French: speaking – advanced; reading – advanced
- Fongbe: speaking – conversational
- Haitian Creole: speaking – conversational
- Portuguese: speaking – basic; reading – good

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association

American Academy of Religion

Society for Cultural Anthropology

Society for Humanistic Anthropology

Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Society for Psychological Anthropology

African Studies Association

Haitian Studies Association