

CURRICULUM VITAE

M. AMAH EDOH

DEPARTMENT: Anthropology

DATE: July 2021

CITIZENSHIP: United States, Togo

EDUCATION

DATE	DEGREE	INSTITUTION
2016	Ph.D., History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society	MIT
2008	M.Sc., Population and International Health,	Harvard School of Public Health
2003	S.B., Political Science, minor in African Studies	MIT

TITLE OF BOOK MANUSCRIPT: Our Grandmothers' Cloth: Materiality, Class, and Global Membership in the Age of "The New Africa"

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

2020	Homer E. Burnell Career Development Chair
2020	Everett Moore Baker Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (MIT-wide)
2019	African Culture Fund Performing and Visual Arts Grant
2019	Levitan Teaching Award (MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences)
2018	MISTI-Africa Seed Grant Fund Grant
2015	Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2011-2015	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2011	Palitz Fellowship for the Study of Dutch Art and Culture
2011	MIT Center for International Studies Summer Study Grant
2009-2013	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
2009	MIT Keenan Sahin Presidential Scholarship
2006-2008	Harvard University Presidential Scholarship
2004	United States Fulbright Award to Zambia

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2019-	Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African Studies, Anthropology, MIT
2017-2019	Assistant Professor of African Studies, Global Studies and Languages, MIT
2016-2017	Postdoctoral Research Associate in Francophone African Studies, Global Studies and Languages, MIT
2015	Lecturer, Sciences Po-Paris, Paris School of International Affairs, Paris, France (spring)

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2013	Teaching Fellow, History of Science, Harvard (spring)
2012	Teaching Assistant, Anthropology, MIT (fall)
2011	Teaching Assistant, Science and Technology Studies, MIT (spring)
2010-2011	Research Assistant, Black Experience at MIT Project, MIT
2009-2010	Teaching Assistant, Harvard Medical School (January 2009, January 2010)

2008-2009 Program Coordinator, Health Literacy Studies, Harvard School of Public Health
 2006-2009 Research Assistant II, Center for the Study of Peer Education, Harvard School of Public Health
 2005-2006 Program Manager, Power of Love Foundation, Lusaka, Zambia
 2003 Project Manager, Center for Reflective Community Practice (CRCP), MIT

SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA, CONFERENCES

April 2021 “Africa’s expertise,” invited lecture, MIT x True Africa University, MIT (virtual)

March 2021 “Justice Now? Tackling the legacies of colonialism in the wake of Black Lives Matter,” weeklong international symposium convener, virtual.

February 2021 “Belgium to Congo: Colonialism reparation and truth and reconciliation commission,” invited panelist, Institute for European Studies Migration Series on “Repairs and Reparations,” Cornell University (virtual)

October 2019 “Qualitative research methods,” invited presentation, Knowledge Week, Avocats Sans Frontières, Brussels, Belgium

November 2018 “From the Venice Biennale to Wakanda: Cultural Production and Reconfigurations of Africa,” panel convener and discussant, African Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA

October 2018 “From African Print to Global Design: Reinventing Dutch Wax cloth in the age of The New Africa,” invited paper, African Studies Workshop, Harvard University

September 2018 “Tailor-made, tailor-making: Expertise and the negotiation of social status in contemporary West Africa,” paper presentation, Global Studies and Languages Colloquium, MIT

June 2018 “Fashion-ing wax cloth: Vlisco and the aesthetic negotiation of African globality, Royal Anthropological Institute - School for Oriental and African Studies - British Museum Biannual Meetings, London, England

May 2018 “‘Wax is the new black’: Cloth, skin, and digital reworkings of African visibility,” Digital Imaginaries Workshop-Afropixel Festival, Dakar, Senegal

April 2018 “‘Wax is the new black’: Cloth, skin, and African visibility in the global,” invited talk, Sonic/Scenes Symposium, MIT

March 2018 “Our grandmothers’ cloth: Learning, forgetting, and remembering in a material archive,” keynote presentation, 26th Annual Graduate Conference African Studies Conference, Boston University

March 2018 “Design’s new objects: Branding and the renegotiation of ‘Africa-in-the-world,’” invited presentation, American Ethnological Society-Society for Visual Anthropology Joint Spring Conference, Philadelphia, PA

November 2017 “‘Wax is the new black’: Creative practice, global inclusion, and Africa Rising,” keynote presentation, MIT-Africa Interest Group meeting, MIT

November 2017 “On negotiating global belonging and exclusion: Shopping for Dutch Wax cloth in Lomé, Togo,” roundtable presentation, Association for the Study of Worldwide African Diasporas (ASWAD), Sevilla, Spain

October 2017 “Designing Dutch Wax cloth, Imagining African futures,” invited presentation, Walter Rodney Seminar Series, African Studies Center, Boston University

- April 2017 “‘Africa’ as object of inquiry: Practice, politics, possibilities,” invited guest, Rethinking Africana Studies Faculty Seminar, Williams College
- November 2016 “Appropriating luxury: Dutch Wax cloth, desire, and access,” invited presentation, Luxury Aesthetics in Africa workshop, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- October 2015 “Enacting African-ness: Dutch Wax Cloth, ‘Africa,’ and ‘the Global,’” invited presentation, Global Borders Research Collaboration and Global Studies and Languages, MIT
- July 2015 “Picturing luxury: Vlisco advertising campaigns and the fashioning of social differentiation for African publics,” 6th European Conference on African Studies, Paris, France
- December 2014 “From fabric to fashion: Picturing luxury for Africa,” Symposium on Conspicuous Consumption in Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
- June 2014 “Black skin, white hands, and the cloth of many colors: Designing textiles in Holland for West Africa,” Global Borders Research Collaboration Meetings, Paris, France
- May 2014 “Love at work: Dutch designers, Togolese consumers, and the cloth they love,” 17th Society for Cultural Anthropology Meetings, Detroit, MI
- November 2011 “Things as agents: Film as inquiry into the powers of cloth,” American Anthropological Association 110th Annual Meeting, Montréal, Canada
- July 2004 “Re-conceptualizing home-based care: A study of home-based care practice as a crucial element in community-based response to HIV/AIDS,” 15th International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, Thailand

GALLERY TALKS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- June 2021 Co-curator, “Travail de mémoire,” Group exhibition, Lomé, Togo
- April 2020 Invited participant, “The multiple lives of African print cloths: Capulana and Tsigan,” MassArt Art Museum, Boston, MA [postponed due to COVID-19 lockdown]
- April 2019 Invited discussant, “Three films by Yinka Shonibare, MBE,” Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
- April 2018 “Black Panther and African-Afro-diasporic dialogues at MIT,” presentation for MIT Day of Action panel “Black Panther: Call for liberation or repressive desublimation?,” MIT
- November 2017 “The banality of the will to leave,” presentation for MIT Reads panel on Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s novel Americanah, MIT
- May 2017 Invited participant, “‘Lime’: The Fine Arts Edition,” roundtable discussion on the Black Atlantic, arts activism, and decolonization, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- April 2017 “Tracing Africa-in-the-world through Dutch Wax cloth,” invited lecture, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Fibers program, Boston, MA
- February 2017 “‘Black art is, Black art ain’t’: Creative practice in a time of social emergency,” invited talk, Design Studio for Social Intervention, Roxbury, MA

- April 2016 “Notes on African globality,” invited gallery talk on I must first apologize...., exhibit of works by Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, List Visual Arts Center, MIT
- May 2015 “African and Black cultural production: Interrogating authenticity, heritage, and appropriation,” invited talk, Belgian Renaissance, Brussels, Belgium
- February 2012 “Wax print cloth and the politics of authenticity,” invited talk, Design Studio for Social Intervention, Roxbury, MA

ART WORKS

- 2021 “En mémoire de notre chère et regrettée, I,” multimedia work (video, photography, texts, drawing), shown at Travail de mémoire group art exhibition, Lomé, Togo, June-July 2021.
- 2011-2012 “A Piece of Home,” documentary screened at Women, Action and the Media (WAM!) Film Festival Cambridge, MA, March 2012; and at MIT Museum, Making Movies, Making Science, Cambridge, MA, February 2011.

FIELDS OF INTEREST

African studies
 Material culture
 Politics of knowledge production
 Race
 Francophone Africa

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE

African Studies Association
 American Anthropological Association
 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora

MIT ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES

Departmental and School Activities and Committees

- Fall 2020- OpenCourseWare Faculty Advisory Board
- Fall 2020- MIT-Africa Seminar Series Steering Committee
- Spring 2019 Chair, De Courtivron Writing Prize Committee, GSL
- 2018-2019 Concentration Advisor, Studies in International Literatures and Culture, GSL
- 2018-2019 Coordinator, Studies in International Literatures and Culture, GSL
- 2018 Member, Lecturer II Reappointment Committee (AC Kemp), GSL
- 2017-2020 MIT-Africa Executive Working Group
- 2015-present Organizing Committee Member, My Sister’s Keeper, Black women’s collaborative
- 2011 Admissions Committee, Program in History, Anthropology, and STS
- 2009-2011 Graduate Assistant, Black Undergraduate Student Organizations

PUBLISHED MATERIALS

Articles in Refereed Journals

- 2016 “Redrawing Power? Dutch Wax Cloth and the Politics of ‘Good Design,’” Journal of Design History, 29 (3): 258-272.

Chapters in Books

- 2019 “From African cloth to global luxury: Consumers in the rebranding of Dutch Wax cloth,” in Mehita Iqani and Simidele Dosekun, Eds., Luxury in Africa: Aesthetics and Politics (Bristol: Intellect Books)
- 2019 “Crafting material, being material,” in Marie-Pier Boucher, Stefan Helmreich, Leila Kinney, Skylar Tibbits, Rebecca Uchill and Evan Ziporyn, Eds., BEING MATERIAL (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press)
- 2017 “Design at Vlisco,” in Suzanne Gott, Loughran, and Betsy Quick, Eds., African-Print Cloth Now: A Story of Taste, Globalization, and Style (Los Angeles: Fowler Museum, UCLA): 62-65.

Films

- 2011 “A Piece of Home” (Documentary, 12 mins). Director, photography, and producer.

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

Works in Progress

Our Grandmothers’ Cloth: Materiality, Class, and Global Membership in the Age of “The New Africa.” Book manuscript.

Where the Lake Meets the Sea: A Meditation on Return, Memory, and Home. Book manuscript.

“Design’s new objects: Branding and the renegotiation of Africa-in-the-world.” Manuscript for submission to Cultural Anthropology, AFRICA, or African Studies Review.

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Supervision

- 2020 Chibuzor Eduzor, “Wax print cloth and machine learning”
- 2020 Stacy Godfreey-Igwe, “Gender in pre-colonial Igboland”
- 2019 Nwamaka Amobi, “Integration of approaches to mental health care in Ghana and Togo”
- 2018-2019 Christabel Jemutai Sitienei, “Driving financial inclusion in East Africa through AI”

LIST OF THESES SUPERVISED

B.S. or B.A.

- 2019 Sefa Yakpo, “Kinks & Identity: Unravelling Francophone African Women’s Attitudes to and Perspectives on their Hair,” Global Studies and Languages – Advisor