

ALEXANDER W.M. JOHNSTON

Assistant Professor of Film

Seattle University

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EDUCATION

- December 2017 **Ph.D.** University of California, Santa Cruz
Film and Digital Media Department
Dissertation: "From Prison Yard to Field of Play: Documentary Histories of Race and Movement in Film, Television, and New Media"
Committee: Jonathan Kahana (Chair), Irene Lusztig, David Brundage, Irene Gustafson, Lawrence Andrews
- June 2010 **M.A.** University of California, Santa Cruz
Social Documentation
Thesis Film: *Way Down in the Hole*
Committee: B. Ruby Rich, Renée Tajima -Peña, David Brundage
- February 2003 **B.A.** Pitzer College
Department of Film and Electronic Arts
Self-designed major: *Cultural Resistance: Creative Traditions of the African Diaspora*

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

- 2016, 2015, 2012 **Florence French Scholarship**, UC Santa Cruz
- 2015 **Graduate Grant Arts Project Recipient**, UC Institute for Research in the Arts
- 2015 **Arts Division Dissertation Fellowship**, UC Santa Cruz
- 2015 **Doctoral Student Sabbatical Fellowship Recipient**, UC Santa Cruz
- 2010 **Chancellor's Fellowship Recipient**, UC Santa Cruz
- 2009 **Jack Henning Graduate Fellowship**, Fund for Labor Culture and History
- 2009 **Graduate Student Travel Grant**, UC Humanities Research Institute
- 2008 **Regent's Fellowship**, UC Santa Cruz

VIDEO & MEDIA

2017 *Evidence of the Evidence*, 21 minutes (video)

2016 *Strange and Curious* (GIF series)

Racist President (GIF series)

2015 *A Costly Lesson*, 10 minutes (video)

2014 *NOW! AGAIN!*, 5 minutes (video)

Mugshots, 1.5 minutes (video)

- 2013 *Radio Liberty*, 6 minutes (video)
A New Way in Knocking Them Out, 3.5 minutes (video)
- 2012 *You My Opposer*, 3.5 minutes (interactive multimedia installation and video)
Mabel in Motion, 3 minutes (video)
- 2011 *Always on Defenŝe (or, Bill Russell Moves)*, 3 minutes (video)
A Petition in Boots, 10 minutes (video)
- 2010 *Way Down in the Hole*, 40 minutes, (video)
- 2008 *Learning to Bend Steel*, 10 minutes (video)

SCREENINGS

- 2018 Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), Berlin, Germany
Camden International Film Festival, Camden, ME
American Film Institute (AFI), Los Angeles, CA
Tacoma Film Festival, Tacoma, WA
Cachoeira Doc Festival, Cachoeira, Brazil
Anti Matter Media Festival, Vancouver, BC
MDocs Storyteller's Insitute, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Iowa City Documentary Film Festival, Iowa City, IA
Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN
Lisbon International Independent Film Festival (IndieLisboa), Lisbon, Portugal
Big Muddy Film Festival, Carbondale, IL
Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany
Museum of Human Achievement, Austin, TX
- 2017 Alternativa Film/Video Festival, Belgrade, Serbia
Pluralities, Documentary Film Institute, San Francisco, CA
Collective Misnomer, Dikeou Collection, Denver, CO
Cachoeira Doc Festival, Cachoeira, Brazil
Dulces Trópicos Festival, Lima, Peru
YES - Ypsi Experimental Space, Ypsilanti, MI
Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
Experimental Response Cinema, Austin, TX
- 2016 Interference Archive, Brooklyn, NY
The Broad Theater, New Orleans, LA
Screening Scholarship Media Festival, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Mechanical Eye Microcinema, Asheville, NC
Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 New Orleans Film Festival, New Orleans, LA
Iowa City Documentary Film Festival, **Honorable Mention**, Iowa City, IA
Thin Line Film Festival, Denton, TX
Saint Louis International Film Festival, Saint Louis, MO
Interference Archive, Brooklyn, NY

“Documented Italians” Film and Video Series, Queens College, CUNY, Manhattan, NY
Cinema Contra, Denver, CO
Show Me Justice Film Festival, Warrensburg, MO
BloomScreen and DC Moving Pictures, Washington, D.C.
Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA

2014 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA

Revisiting Ludlow: It's Enduring Legacy, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
Bread and Roses Workers Cultural Center, Denver, CO

2013 On the Clock: A Playful Guide to Working Life, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA

2012 Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA

Colorado Mountain College, Common Reader Events, Screenings at 5 campuses, Colorado, CO

2011 Not Fiction! A Screening of Experimental Documentaries, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

University of Colorado Denver, CO

Ludlow Memorial Labor Festival, Colorado State University at Pueblo, CO

Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA

San Francisco Labor Fest, San Francisco, CA

2009 Library of Congress, Remembering Archie Green, Washington, D.C.

Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA

San Francisco Labor Fest, San Francisco, CA

Labor and Working Class History Association National Conference, Chicago, IL

PUBLICATIONS

“What You Want Me to Be”: Documentary Representations of Muhammad Ali from the 1970s to the Present,” in *Journal of Sport and Social Issues: Special Issue on the Sport Documentary*, ed. Travis Vogan and C.L. Cole (*in press*)

“Strange and Curious’: An Uncanny Hagiography of Muhammad Ali,” in *INCITE: Journal of Experimental Media*, ed. Brett Kashmere and Astria Suparak (April 2018)

“What Hurts’: The Persistence of History in Ava Duvernay’s *13th*,” in *Docalogue*, ed. Jaimie Baron and Kristen Fuhs (February 2017)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Panels Organized

2018 “Reframing Sports Media”

Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference

Toronto, Canada

Papers and Presentations

2018 “Salesman and Saint: The Television Commercials of Muhammad Ali” (*upcoming*)

Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference

Toronto, Canada

2017 “In Resistance with Filmmaker Scholars” and “Innovation & Scholarship in Nonfiction Media Journals”

Pluralities Conference
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

“And Again, and Again, and Again’: Rhythm, Repetition, Tempo, and the GIF as Indexical Document,”

Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference
Chicago, IL

“The Final Stretch”

Visiting artist in Thesis Production course
Vassar College, Film Department, Poughkeepsie, NY

2016 “Spectacle and Process: The Document, the Documentary, and the Sports GIF”

Visible Evidence XXIII
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

“The Haptic Archive: Jack Johnson, Muhammad Ali and Embodied Historical Encounters”

Society for Cinema and Media Studies
Atlanta, GA

2015 “The Radical Archive: Attica Distorted, Attica Revealed”

Visible Evidence XXII
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

“What Now!?: Radical Politics and Radical Media in the Digital Landscape”

Poetics and Politics: A Documentary Research Symposium
UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

2014 “The Counter-Archive and the Question of Dust”

Radical Historiographies Graduate Student Symposium
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

2012 “Outside Attica: Solidarity, Temporality and the Moving Image”

Solidarity, Memory and Identity Conference
University of Gdansk, Gdansk, Poland

2010 “The Lessons of Ludlow: Inter-ethnic Solidarity During the Great Colorado Coalfield War”

Southwest Labor Studies Association Annual Conference
UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

2009 “Learning to Bend Steel: The Political Formation of Laborlорist Archie Green”

Southwest Labor Studies Association Annual Conference
California State Hayward, Hayward, CA

Conferences Attended

2017 Radical Film Network NYC: A Global Gathering

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, UC Santa Cruz, CA

2018	Experimental Film and Video
2017	Introduction to Film Studies
2016	Introduction to Production Technique
2015	Film Authors: Werner Herzog
2015, 2013	Found Footage
2014	Film Directing
2013	The Fire Last Time: Social Movements and the Documentary

Teaching Assistant, UC Santa Cruz, CA

2017	Experimental Film and Video
2016	Writing for Artists
2014, 2011	American Film: 1960 to Present
2013	Photography Now
2013, 2011	Introduction to Television Studies
2012	Documentary Film and Media Gender and Global Cinema Silent Cinema
2011	Film Genres: Film Noir
2010	Film Authors: Mike Leigh
2010, 2009	Introduction to Community Activism
2009	Introduction to Social Documentation
2008	Introduction to American Studies

Instructor, Digital Media Academy, Los Gatos, CA

2013, 2012	Introduction to Filmmaking
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Post Baccalaureate Urban Fellow, Pitzer College, Claremont, CA

2004-05	Teaching in Prisons Media Studies Urban Horticulture
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RESEARCH, CURATORIAL, EDITORIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

2014-present	<i>NOW! A Journal of Urgent Praxis</i> Managing Editor, contributor Assisted in founding of online media journal (Now-Journal.com) and serve as a managing editor and contributor; designed, implemented and serve as webmaster for journal website
2017-present	<i>Pluralities: Non-Fiction Film Journal</i> , San Francisco, CA Editorial Board Member Editorial board member for non-fiction film journal, published by the Documentary Film Institute at San Francisco State University

- 2015-present *Peabody Awards*, Athens, GA
Nominating Committee Member
Reviewed and nominated documentary media submissions for Peabody Awards
- 2017 *Joris Ivens Archive*, Politics and Poetics Series, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Guest curator
Served as a guest curator of the Politics and Poetics film series, hosted by the Joris Ivens Archive
- “Other” Cinema Society, Santa Cruz, CA
Co-curator
Curated weekly screening series showcasing the work of Bay Area filmmaker Craig Baldwin and affiliated filmmakers whose work has been featured by Baldwin’s Other Cinema
- 2014 *¡Film Club!*, Santa Cruz, CA
Curator, Supervisor
Supervised and assisted in curating undergraduate screening series
- 2013-15 *Center for Documentary Arts and Research (CDAR)*, Santa Cruz, CA
Graduate Coordinator
Programmed, organized, publicized and documented screenings, lectures and other events, maintained the CDAR website, wrote grants and assisted in fundraising efforts
- 2013-14 *UC Santa Cruz*, Santa Cruz, CA
Graduate Student Researcher
Conducted research, compiled database and created data visualizations for book projects by UCSC faculty members Jennifer Horne and Jonathan Kahana
- 2006-08 *Prison Law Office*, San Francisco, CA
Legal Assistant
Worked for public interest law firm advocating for the rights of prisoners and parolees in the California Department of Corrections (CDCR). Monitored conditions for California prisoners with disabilities and medical concerns through face-to-face interviews and mail correspondence with prisoners, and through regular tours of CDCR facilities
- 2005-06 *ATTAP*, New York, NY
Independent Consultant/Reviewer for Riffs
Graduate Student Researcher
Served as an alpha user for a social networking website focusing on film, television, book and music reviews. Authored reviews for the website, and acted as a consultant regarding user interface and content

FREELANCE & COMMISSIONED MEDIA WORK

- 2017 *Community Studies: We Are Everywhere*
Producer, Director, Director of Photography, Editor
Documentary about Community Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz, a 45-year-old program with a mission to train students to become community activists
- 2013 *Inside the Distance* (<http://insidethedistance.net/>)

Production Manager, Assistant Director of Photography, Assistant Editor
Online new media documentary project about restorative justice programs in Belgium, produced
by artist Sharon Daniel

2011 *Little John*

Producer, Editor
Production Manager, Assistant Director of Photography, Assistant Editor
Official music video for Professor Burns and the Lilac Field

2006 *Idiot Box Productions*, New York, NY

Production Assistant, Office Manager
Show development for a small television production company focusing on current events
programming

2005 *Democracy's Ghosts*, Off-Ramp Films, New York, NY

Assistant Editor, Production and Research Assistant
Documentary commissioned by the ACLU about voter disfranchisement of former felons

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Literate in Adobe Creative Suite, Final Cut Pro Studio, Max MSP, Pro Tools, Audacity, Squarespace,
Wordpress, Drupal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Visible Evidence

Radical Film Network

Print Organize Protest Collective