

Laurian R. Bowles, PhD

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024-	Vann Professor of Racial Justice Associate Professor of Anthropology Chair, Department of Anthropology Director, Davidson in Ghana Program Davidson College, Davidson, NC
2018-2024	Associate Professor of Anthropology Chair, Department of Anthropology Faculty, Department of Africana Studies Affiliate Faculty, Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies Director, Davidson in Ghana Program Davidson College, Davidson, NC
2013-2018	Assistant Professor of Anthropology Faculty, Department of Africana Studies Affiliate Faculty, Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies Davidson College, Davidson, NC
2010-2013	Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African American Studies Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL
2005-2009	Instructor of Anthropology Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2021-	1Ethnographer, LLC, Founder Offers community-based participatory research consulting, advising and ethnography. Conducts programmatic evaluations of private-public collaborations and external reviews of academic departments and programs.
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EDUCATION

2011	Ph.D. Anthropology, Temple University Sub-fields: Cultural and Visual Anthropology Research Interests & Areas: Gender, labor, race and migration, feminist anthropology, African urban ethnography, photo-ethnography and sensory methods.
2008	M.A. Anthropology, Temple University
2001	M.A. Anthropology of Media, SOAS: University of London, London, UK.

- Thesis: Third Cinema & Contemporary Black Film: Race and Resistance in the African Diaspora
- 1999 B.A. African and African American Studies, The Pennsylvania State University.
B.A. Journalism, The Pennsylvania State University. University Park, PA
- 1998 University of Ghana, Legon

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2025 *Headstrong: Women Porters, Blackness and Modernity in Accra*. University of Pennsylvania Press. <https://www.pennpress.org/9781512824650/headstrong/>

Peer Reviewed Articles & Chapters

- 2021 "Black Feminist Ethnography and the Racial Politics of Porter Labor in Ghana." *Feminist Anthropology* 2 (1): 65-77. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fea2.12035>
- 2021 Uzwiak, Beth A. and Laurian R. Bowles. "Introduction to Paul Stoller's Sensory Poetics." *The Senses and Society* 16 (2): 127-131. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17458927.2021.1876368>
- 2021 Uzwiak, Beth A. and Laurian R. Bowles. "Epistolary Storytelling: A Feminist Sensory Orientation to Ethnography." *The Senses and Society* 16 (2): 203-222. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17458927.2020.1858656>
- 2017 "Doing the Snap: Storytelling and Participatory Photography with Women Porters in Ghana." *Visual Anthropology Review* 33: 107-118. <https://doi.org/10.1111/var.12129>
- 2017 "Moral Capitalism." *Kalfou: A Journal of Comparative and Relational Ethnic Studies* 4 (2): 118-123.
- 2016 "Dress Politics and Framing Self in Ghana: The Studio Photographs of Felicia Abban." *African Arts* 49 (4): 48-57. https://doi.org/10.1162/AFAR_a_00313
- 2013 "Transnational Mobility, Social Capital and Cosmopolitan Women Traders in Ghana." *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* 6 (2): 208-217. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781315727318-7/transnational-mobility-social-capital-cosmopolitan-women-traders-ghana-laurian-bowles>
- 2009 "Imaging Migrant Women and the Embodied Market: Accra, Ghana." In *Expressions of the Body: Representations in African Text and Images*, edited by Charlotte Baker. Peter Lang. <https://eprints.lancs.ac.uk/id/eprint/27059/>

Reviews

- 2022 "The Way She Looks: A History of Female Gazes in African Portraiture—Photographs from the Walther Collection." *African Arts*. 55(1): 88-90. Photo Exhibition. https://doi.org/10.1162/afar_r_00643
- 2020 Female Highlife Performers in Ghana: Expression, Resistance, and Advocacy by Nana Abena Amoah-Ramey. 2018. New York: Rowman & Littlefield. *Journal of African History*. 62(1): 25-27. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021853720000742>

Public Essays and Commentaries

- 2021 "Anthropology by Accident and a Fecund Future." *Anthropology News*. November 21.
<https://www.anthropology-news.org/articles/anthropology-by-accident-and-a-fecund-future/>
- 2020 "Racism and Academic Institutions. A Conversation with Drs. Bowles & Cho." Davidson Microaggression Podcast May 29.
<http://davidsonmicroaggressionsproject.org/dmp-podcast-episode-1-a-conversation-about-racism-with-drs-bowles-cho/>
- 2019 "Felicia Abban: Behind the Scenes." Interview. *C& Magazine*. April 17.
<https://www.contemporaryand.com/magazines/felicia-abban-behind-the-scenes/>
- 2019 "Equity, Intimacy, and Relationships" Room Service Talk Show. Y107.9 FM. Accra, Ghana. Guest. July 10.
- 2017 "Choose Your Own Adventure: Laurian Bowles Wrote Her Own Story". Interview. *Lake Norman Currents*. June. 10(6): 20.
- 2012 "Introducing ENVISION: Highlights on the Intersections Between Open Access and Feminist Anthropology" *Anthropology News* 1(2): 30-31.
- 2012 "Ordinary Anthropologists Doing Extraordinary Things" American Anthropological Association Podcast guest.
<http://blog.aaanet.org/2012/02/17/new-podcast-series-ordinary-anthropologists-doing-extraordinary-things/>

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

NATIONAL

- 2016 Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty
- 2016 Leeway Foundation Art and Change Grant

INSTITUTIONAL AWARDS

Davidson College

- 2024 Vann Professor of Racial Justice, Endowed Professorship
- 2022 Boswell Family Faculty Fellowship
- 2020 Matthews Travel Award
- 2020 Faculty Study Research Grant, Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2020 Stories Yet to Be Told, Mellon Foundation Justice, Equality and Community Grant
- 2019 Community Based Learning Grant, African Feminisms, Center for Civic Engagement
- 2019 Faculty, Study, and Research Grant, Center for Teaching, Learning and Research
- 2018 Practitioner-in-Residence Grant, Mellon Foundation Justice, Equality and Community Grant
- 2017 Faculty, Study, and Research Grant, Center for Teaching, Learning and Research
- 2016 Open Education Resources Grant, EH Little Library/Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2015 Transracial Struggle: From the South-to-South Africa, Presidential Innovation Grant
- 2015 Group Investigations Research Grant for Major Thinkers in Africana Studies
- 2015 College Nominee, National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend
- 2015 Faculty, Study, and Research Grant, Center for Teaching, Learning and Research
- 2014 Faculty, Study, and Research Grant, Center for Teaching, Learning and Research

Western Illinois University

- 2011 University Research Council Grant, Western Illinois University
- 2009 Minority Dissertation Fellowship, Western Illinois University

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- 2023 "Photovoice, Care and Practicing Anthropologists: Advice for Early Career Methods" Rhode Island College. April 21.
- 2021 "Situating Niara Sudarkasa: Storytelling and African Markets." Invited lecture. From Gloria Marshall to Yeye Olokun-Igbadero: Niara Sudarkasa—Activism, Anthropology, Africa, and its Diaspora. University of Michigan (virtual symposium). October 8.
- 2021 "Somatic Ethnography and Black Feminist Praxis." Invited Lecture (virtual), University of California Santa Cruz, FMS18: Black Feminist Ethnography, May 13.
- 2020 "Tap In: Activism After the Election" Workshop Facilitator. Davidson College, November 11.
- 2020 Public Conversation with Patrisse Khan-Cullors, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Movement. Davidson College, Tuesday, November 10.
- 2015 "Transnational Racial Struggles: From South Africa to the US South" Roundtable. Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Atlanta, GA September 26.
- 2014 "Post-Racial? Not Yet: The Information Democracy and the Significance of Black History Month." Invited lecture. Ingersoll-Rand, Davidson, NC. February 7.
- 2013 "Unearthing Structural Violence: Photographic Collaborations with African Migrant Women". Bryn Mawr College. April 17.
- 2013 "Bodily Ways of Knowing: Photography, the Senses, and African Market Women". Western Illinois Museum. February 28.
- 2013 "Market Women in Accra and the Informal Economy: Collaborative Fieldwork with Migrants". Kennesaw State University: Year of Ghana Keynote Lecture. February 21.
- 2008 "Conducting Research Abroad for Foreign Students. Studying Abroad in Ghana: Opportunities and Challenges." The Aya Institution for Intercultural Awareness and Development. Accra, Ghana. April 17-20.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

- 2024 "Photovoice Collage, Care and Affective Method in Ghana". Paper. African Studies Association, annual conference, Chicago, IL. December 13.
- 2024 "Haint Epistemologies: Outline of a Hurstonian Theory of Praxis". Paper. American Anthropological Association annual conference, Tampa, FL. November 20.
- 2023 *Amphibious Subjects: Sasso and the Contested Politics of Queer Self-Making in Neoliberal Ghana*. Author Meets Critic Roundtable. African Studies Association conference, San Francisco, December 2.
- 2023 *Vodou en Vogue: Fashioning Black Divinities in Haiti and the United States*. Author Meets Critic, Organizer and Chair. American Anthropological Association annual conference, Toronto, ON. November 16.
- 2022 "The Kitchen Table Politics of Photovoice with Kayayei". Paper Presentation. Ghana Studies Association Triennial, Tamale, Ghana. July 19.
- 2021 "Embodied Praxis: Everyday Work Towards Liberatory Anthropology". Roundtable. American Anthropological Association, Baltimore MD. November 20.
- 2021 "Centering Blackness in the Anthropology of Africa". American Anthropological Association, Baltimore MD. November 20.
- 2021 "Feminist Sensory Orientations of Epistolary Storytelling". Paper presentation with Beth Uzwiak. Uncommon Senses III Virtual Conference, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. May 8.

- 2021 "Retrospective Sensibilities and Future Orientations to Paul Stoller's Sensuous Scholarship", Panel Organizer. Uncommon Senses III Virtual Conference, Concordia University, Montreal Canada. May 6.
- 2019 "Anthropologists of Color and Theory Beyond Whiteness". Discussant. American Anthropological Association, Vancouver. November 22.
- 2019 "Precarity as Possibility and the Refusals of Women Porters in Accra". Paper. Ghana Studies Association, 3rd Triennial. Accra, Ghana. July 13.
- 2016 Sensuous Scholarship: Twenty Years Later. Panel Organizer, American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 18.
- 2016 "Between Humility and Hubris: Sensory Reflections on Feminist Fieldwork". Paper. American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN November 18.
- 2015 "Small Money, Big Loads: Participatory Photography with Migrant Women at Makola". Paper. American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, November 22.
- 2015 Transnational Racial Struggles in South Africa and North America. Roundtable. Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Atlanta, Ga, September 26.
- 2014 "Picturing Invisible Violence: The Use of Photography as an Archive of Resistance with Women Head Porters in Ghana". Paper. African Studies Association, Indianapolis, IN, November 21.
- 2011 "The Value of the Visual: Collaborative Fieldwork and Feminist Ethnography with African Market Women". Paper. LOVA: Netherlands Association for Gender Studies and Feminist Anthropology. Amsterdam, the Netherlands. July 5-8.
- 2009 "A Phenomenological Approach to African Market Women and Visual Narratives with Migrant Laborers". Paper. Michigan State University Graduate Student Research Conference. Lansing, Michigan, October 10.
- 2006 "Urban Griottes and the Politics of Place: Hip Hop in Accra, Ghana". Paper. Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Association meeting. Albuquerque, NM. February 25.
- 2005 Unbound Identities, Imagined Possibilities, and the Global Realities of Hip Hop. Panel Organizer. American Anthropological Association meeting. Washington, DC. Nov 19.
- 2005 "Oh Chale, Listen: Do Y'all Like It? The Phenomenological Futures of Ghanaian Hip Hop". Paper. American Anthropological Association. Washington, DC. Nov. 19.

TAUGHT COURSES

- 2013- Davidson College
 - African Feminisms
 - African Roots, American Soils
 - Decolonizing Anthropology Theory
 - Ethnographic Research and Writing
 - Feminist Anthropology
 - Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
 - Major Thinkers in Africana Studies: Zora Neale Hurston
 - Racial Justice
 - Urban Africa and Popular Culture
 - Visual Anthropology
- 2008-2012 Western Illinois University
 - African American Communities

Anthropology Theory
 Anthropology of Globalization
 Introductions to Cultural Anthropology
 Social Issues in African American Communities
 World Culture Regions: Africa

2005-2008 Ursinus College
 Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
 Medical Anthropology
 Peoples of Africa

SERVICE

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

2024- *American Anthropologist*, Associate Editor, Cultural
 2023-2024 *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, Board Member
 2022-2024 Association for Africanist Anthropology, President
 2021-2022 Association for Africanist Anthropology, President-elect
 2021 *Feminist Anthropology*, *Journal of African History*, *Transforming Anthropology*,
Visual Anthropology Review, *American Anthropologist*, Reviewer
 2021 Department of Anthropology Consultant, Bates College.
 2021-2022 Advanced Placement (AP), African American Studies Curriculum Consultant
 2019-2025 *American Ethnologist*, Board Member
 2019-2022 Association of Black Anthropologists, Vice President of Communications
 2018-2020 Louis Marie Academy, Trustee, Kumasi, Ghana
 2017-2021 American Council on Education, Program Evaluator
 2017-2021 Ethnologica.org, Consultant
 2013- Ancestors Unknown, Board Member

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

2021-2025 Public Lectures Committee member
 2021-2022 Faculty Stress/COVID-19 Taskforce
 2020-2021 COVID-19 Taskforce
 2020-2021 International Education Committee, co-chair
 2019-2021 International Education Committee, member
 2018-2020 Commission on Race and Slavery, member
 2018-2023 Faculty of Color Caucus, co-chair
 2016- Council for Study Abroad Directors
 2013-2022 Davidson African Students Association, Faculty Advisor
 2013-2020 Sexual Misconduct Board

FIELD EXPERIENCES

2013 NSF Short Course-Behavioral Observation, Beaufort, NC (June)
 2007-2008 Accra and Tamale, Ghana
 2003- Accra, Cape Coast, Kumasi, Ghana (May-July)
 2005-2009 Philadelphia, PA
 2000-2001 London, UK