

Dr. Zoé Samudzi

Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of African-American and Africana Studies at The Ohio State University

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Education

University of California, San Francisco, PhD Medical Sociology **2016-2021**

Dissertation title: “Capturing German South West Africa: Racial Production, Land Claims, and Belonging in the Afterlife of the Herero and Nama Genocide”
Dissertation committee: Howard Pinderhughes, Ian Whitmarsh, Tiffany Florvil

London School of Economics, MSc Health, Community and Development **2013-2014**

University of Pittsburgh, BA Political Science **2010-2012**

Major: Political Science (Concentration: International Relations) | Certificates: Global Studies (African Studies), Global Health

Academic Employment

August 2025: Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of African-American and Africana Studies at The Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio)

August 2023-June 2025: Charles E. Scheidt Visiting Assistant Professor of Genocide Studies and Genocide Prevention at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University (Worcester, MA)

July 2022-June 2023: Assistant Professor in Photography at the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI)

Research Affiliations

Global Blackness Fellow at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Johannesburg (Johannesburg, South Africa) 10/2024-Present

Fellow with African Museums and Heritage Restitution (AFRIMUHERE) 10/2024-Present

Research Associate at the Center for the Study of Race, Gender, and Class, University of Johannesburg (Johannesburg, South Africa) 8/2021-10/2024

Research and Teaching Fellow with the Center for Social and Equity and Inclusion at the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, Rhode Island) 7/2022-6/2023

Postdoctoral Fellow, ACTIONS Program (School of Nursing), University of California-San Francisco (San Francisco, CA) 7/2021-6/2022

Research Fellow with the Secrecy, Power, and Ignorance research Network 2/2021-2/2022

Research Fellow at Political Research Associates (Boston, MA) 2/2020-8/2021

Guest Lectureships

Regents' Lecturer in the Department of Art within the School of the Arts and Architecture at the University of California, Los Angeles March 2025

Books

As Black as Resistance: Finding the Conditions for Liberation, co-authored with William C. Anderson (AK Press, 2018)

(Manuscript in-progress) *Capturing South West Africa*

Peer Reviewed Publications

Forthcoming: "There and Back: Ovaherero and Nama Genocides and Choreographies of Restitution" in *Colonial Visual Worlds and Decolonial Arts: Contributions to a Postcolonial Art Studies*

Forthcoming: "Socialist Statecraft and 'Decolonizing' Genocide Denial" in *The Cambridge History of Colonialism and Decolonization*

Forthcoming: "Permanent Security" in *Routledge Handbook of Genocide Studies*

James Smith, Duha Shellah, and Zoé Samudzi (2025): "On the quantification of military violence in Gaza" in *The Lancet* 405(10477): 440-442.

Zoé Samudzi (2024): "'We are Fighting Nazis': Genocidal Fashionings of Gaza(ns) After 7 October" in *Journal of Genocide Research*, Forum: Israel-Palestine: Atrocity Crimes and the Crisis of Holocaust and Genocide Studies (<https://doi.org/10.1080/14623528.2024.2305524>)

Zoé Samudzi (2023): "Haunted by Denial," in *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 53(1): 94-96 (<https://doi.org/10.1525/hsns.2023.53.1.94>)

Zoé Samudzi (2021): "Looting the Archive: German Genocide & Incarcerated Skulls" in *Social and Health Sciences* 19(2); "Necrocapitalism and Psychic Violence" special issue, guest edited by Lara Sheehi (<https://doi.org/10.25159/2957-3645/10490>).

Zoé Samudzi (2021): "Paradox of Recognition: Genocide and Colonialism" in *Postmodern Culture* 31(1); "Troubling the Grounds" special issue, guest edited by SA Smythe (<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/800019>).

Zoé Samudzi and Jenevieve Mannell (2015). Cisgender male and transgender female sex workers in South Africa: Gender variant identities and narratives of exclusion. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*. DOI: 10.1080/13691058.2015.1062558

Public Scholarship

(2025) "Deferred Land Reform vs. Settler Capital in Post-Apartheid South Africa" (*The Funambulist* Issue 59, "Black Indigeneities," print)

(2025) "To Resist Annihilation: Paternity, Inheritance, and Love against Surveillance Medicine" (*Logics Magazine* Issue 22, print)

(2023) "Genocide: When Does State Violence Pass the Threshold?" (*The Funambulist* Issue 50, "Redefining Our Terms," print)

(2023) "A Reparative Futurity Beyond Legality: The Case of Renty and Delia Taylor" (*Errant Journal*, Fall issue, print)

(2023) "On Solidarity's Blindspots: Thinking with Bla(c)k Oceanian Indigeneity," a dialogue with Anaïs Duong-Pedica (*The Funambulist* Issue 46, "Questioning Our Solidarities," print)

(2023) "The Bishop at Peace" (*Protean Magazine* Issue IV, print)

(2023): "Aesthetics and Monumentality" (with Emanuel Admassu) in the Canadian Centre for Architecture's "Figuring Territoriality" issue

(2022) "Journey from 'the Center of the World': On U.S. Exceptionalism and Disgust" (*The Funambulist Magazine* Issue 41, "Decentering the U.S.," print)

(2021) Guest editor of Issue 37 of *The Funambulist Magazine*, "Against Genocide," print
Contributor of the editor's note, "Against Genocide: Introduction"

(2021) "Looking After: On Museums and Human Remains" (*Artforum*, July 7)

(2021) "In Absentia of Black Study" (*New Fascism Syllabus*, May 31)

(2021) "Thank You for Your Sacrifice: How the Rush for Hydroxychloroquine Exemplifies the Need for Anti-Racism and Disability Justice in the Valuation of Pandemic Life," co-authored with AM Kanngieser (*Society and Space*, April 19)

(2020) "Reparative Futurities: Thinking from the Ovaherero and Nama Colonial Genocide" (*The Funambulist Magazine* Issue 30, "Reparations,")

(2019) "Policing the Borders of Suffering" (*Jewish Currents*, June 21)

(2019) "The Science and Spectacle of the Swarm" (*The New Inquiry*, March 26)

(2018) "Racial Terror by the Rules" (*Verso*, February 5)

Selected Academic Talks, Presentations, and Panels

"Foundational Problems in Holocaust and Genocide Studies" at the Gaza and Genocide Studies Conference at the City College of New York (New York City, New York)	5/2025
"Re-triangulating the Moral Triangle: Germany, Namibia, and Palestine" at the Rethinking Anti-antisemitism and Philosemitism Conference at Rice University's Program in Jewish Studies (Houston, Texas)	1/2025
"The Photo Albums of Generalmajor Georg Maercker: Documenting the Genocidal Processes of Imperial Fascism," a part of the Namibian and Southern African Studies Research Colloquium at the University of Basel (Basel, Switzerland)	10/2024
"Wynter, 'Judeo-Christianity,' and the Epoch of Supersessionism," for the book launch and symposium for Ariella Aïsha Azoulay's <i>Jewelers of Ummah: A Potential History of the Jewish Muslim World</i> at Brown University (Providence, RI)	9/2024
"Testimonies of Genocide: Legal Recognition and Decolonial Politics" panel for the Collective for Radical Death Studies	2/2024
"Media Practice in an Emergent World Order" symposium at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)	12/2022
Closing plenary panel for the Holocaust Educational Foundation's "Lessons and Legacies XVI: The Holocaust: Rethinking Paradigms in Research and Representation" (featuring Rob Innes, Alex Hinton, Amos Goldberg, and moderated by Dagmar Herzog) (Ottawa, Canada)	11/2022

"Sounding and Sculpting: Transnational Bodies in Hans Lichtenecker's Archive" for Illuminations: 10 th Anniversary Symposium for the Dark Room Race and Visual Studies Seminar at Dartmouth University (Hanover, NH)	10/2022
"Racial Capitalism and the Pandemicine" for the panel "Conversations on Spatial Collapse: The Straw, The Camel" for the Center for Complexity's Fourth Annual Symposium at the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI)	9/2022
"The Sculptural Image: Imperial German Racecraft Across Visual Mediums" for the panel "Rethinking Art in German Colonialism" for Symposium on Race, Inequality, and Visual Culture: New Questions, New Voices at Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)	12/2021
"Fall Honors Lecture: Black Struggles and Abolition" (with Rinaldo Walcott) for Emerson College (Boston, MA)	10/2021
"A German History of Namibia or a Namibian History of Germany?" for the Einstein Forum's <i>Historiker Streiten</i> symposium (Potsdam, Germany)	10/2021
"'Bastard Study' and the Transnationality of German Anti-Blackness" for the "German Colonialism and its Afterlives (sponsored by the Black Diaspora Studies Network)" panel at 45th Annual German Studies Association Conference	9/2021
<i>Fraught Desert Memorials</i> for Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art and Planning's <i>Into the Desert: Questions of Coloniality and Toxicity</i> series	11/2020
"Racism, Racialization, and Anti-Blackness" (with Sophia Azeb, Eve M. Troutt Powell, and discussant Fred Moten) for New York University's Hagop Kevorkian Center for the Near Eastern Studies <i>Global Uprising</i> series	9/2020
Nazism and Colonialism: Holocaust Exceptionalism to the Exclusion of German South West Africa is Genocide Denialism." Presented at the UNC Charlotte Center of Holocaust Genocide and Human Rights Studies International Conference on Genocide Denial (Charlotte, NC)	4/2019
Joint keynote with William C. Anderson entitled "Black Anarchy: Abolishing Today in Search of Tomorrow," for the Annual Americas Forum at Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT)	4/2019

Conferences

"Civilization Breaks: Colonialism, Slavery, and the Holocaust" conference co-organized with Michael Rothberg and Ben Ratskoff through the Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles	5/2023
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Faculty Award

Palestinian American Research Center Faculty/Media Development Fellowship	6/2024-Present
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Courses Taught

Clark University (2023-2025)

Africa, War, and Genocide: From Kingdoms to Now (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)
 Horror, Monstrosity, and Western Cultural Anxiety (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
 Anti-Black Violence and Sociologies of the Body (Politic) (Spring 2024)
 Illness and Imperialism: A Global Survey (Fall 2024)
 Imperial Fascisms (graduate directed study) (Fall 2024)
 Looking at Violence: Epistemes of Atrocity (Fall 2023, Spring 2025)

Yale University (2023, 2024)

Art 544 Individual Criticism: Three-time/Core Critic (Fall 2023, Fall 2024) – Painting and Printmaking

Rhode Island School of Design (2022-23, 2025)

Meaning in the Medium (Spring 2025) – Painting Department

Special Topics: The Image & Difference (Spring 2023) – Photography Department

Looking at Violence: Epistemes of Atrocity (Fall 2022) – Photography Department

Advising

MK Speth (PhD Genocide Studies, Clark University, non-committee advisor)

Sydney Howard (MFA Photography 2024, Rhode Island School of Design, thesis committee member)

Clara Delgado (MFA Photography 2024, Rhode Island School of Design, thesis committee member)

Elena Bulet I Lopis (MFA Photography 2024, Rhode Island School of Design, thesis committee member)

Sarah Meftah (MFA Photography 2024, Rhode Island School of Design, thesis committee member)

Kerr Cirilo (MFA Photography 2023, Rhode Island School of Design, thesis committee member)

Anique Jordan (MFA Photography 2023, Rhode Island School of Design, thesis committee chair)

Kai Wasikowski (MFA Photography 2023, Rhode Island School of Design, thesis committee chair)

University Service

Member of the steering committee for the Center for Social Equity and Inclusion at the Rhode Island School of Design 8/2022-5/2023

Member of the Race, Medicine, and Social Justice research cluster (part of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice at Brown University) 8/2022-5/2023

Faculty lead for the Curriculum Working Group of the REPAIR Project at the University of California, San Francisco 4/2021-7/2022

Member of the Steering Committee of the REPAIR Project 8/2021-7/2022

Member of the Institute for Human Genetics Committee on Genetics and Society at the University of California, San Francisco 2/2020-11/2020

Professional Memberships & Service

Member of the Political Theology Network 4/2024-Present

Member of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) 2/2024-Present

Member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars 6/2023-Present

Member of the Photography Network 3/2023-Present

Member of “Memory in Motion,” a transnational working network organizing around a site of learning and memory of colonialism in Germany (funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Hamburg Ministry of Culture and Media) 1/2023-Present

Advisory board member for the Center for Medicine, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies in the History of Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Hospital (Los Angeles, California) 8/2021-Present

Editorial Board Membership

Editorial board member for the Institute for Anarchist Studies 9/2024-Present

Artistic Work

Curatorial Work

"Following the Trace," Rutgers MFA Thesis Exhibition, Westbeth Gallery (New York City, NY)	6/2025
"Sibathontisele" featuring Owen Maseko, Project Arts Center (Dublin, Ireland)	6/2025
"To Be In and Out of the World" featuring Tiffany Sia and Ahlam Shibli, EXPOSED: Torino Foto Festival—New Landscapes (Turin, Italy)	4/2025
"The Year 1983" in the series <i>Sequence 2: Entangled Internationalism</i> featuring Tuli Mekondjo and Forensic Architecture, Albertinum (Dresden, Germany – exhibition withdrawn (statement of withdrawal here))	6/2024
"What Lovers Do: Keeping and Being Kept," RISD MFA Painting Thesis Exhibition, FLAG Art Foundation (New York City, NY)	5/2024

Artistic Fellowships & Residencies

Denniston Hill Residency (New York)	7/2024- 8/2024
Curatorial Research Fellowship with the Cross-Collections Research Department at the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections) (Dresden, Germany)	6/2023- 6/2024
<u>Pressing Matter</u> consortium Artist-in-Residency Program (Amsterdam, Netherlands)	1/2023- Present
Guest residency with the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten (Amsterdam, Netherlands)	6/2023- 8/2023
Columnist-in-residence at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's Open Space	9/2019- 12/2019
Artist-in-residence at the Ashara Ekundayo Gallery (Oakland, CA)	3/2018- 12/2018
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) Fellow, Public Imagination Cohort (San Francisco, CA)	6/2017- 7/2018

Awards and Prizes

Black Reconstruction Collective Artist Prize	2024
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Catalogues

(2025): "Exquisite Body, Exquisite Land: Reflections on a Conversation" in *Dennis: Ecliptics* (Nolan Oswald Dennis)

(2025): *The Distance Within* by Nicola Brandt

(2024) "The Sovereignty and Poetry of African Photography" in *The African Gaze: Photography, Cinema, and Power* by Amy Sall

(2024) “Nazi Genocide: History and How Not to Look” in *The Power of Resilience and Hope: Photography and the Holocaust: Then & Now* by Robert Hirsch

(2023) “Hands and Feet” in *An Alterable Terrain* by Rhea Dillon

(2022) “The Promises of Native Art” in *I did not leave a sign?* (catalogue for the Zimbabwean national pavilion for the 59th Venice Biennale)

(2021) “Liberté, Égalité, Opacité” in *Didier William* by James Fuentes Press

Art Criticism

(2024) Review of Max Pinckers’ *State of Emergency* (*Artreview*, [24 October](#))

(2023) Rethinking Reparations, a profile of Cameron Rowland (*Art in America*, August, print)

(2023) “Held Hostage: Carceral Curation at the Humboldt Forum” (*Parapraxis Magazine*, [Issue 2](#))

(2022) Museums Can, and Do, Talk about Race, Just Not Whiteness (part of the responses to the Burns Halperin Report) (*Artnet*, [27 December](#))

(2022) Under the Hood (on the Philip Guston retrospective) (*Jewish Currents*, [November](#))

Winner of the 2023 American Jewish Press Association Rockower Award for “Excellence in Arts — Review/Criticism”

(2022) “We Are Not All Like That”: On David Goldblatt’s distant photographs of white Afrikaners ([November](#))

(2022) Interview with Meleko Mokgosi (*BOMB Magazine*, [Winter issue](#), print)

(2022) An Object Not Meant to Object: On *The Wayland Rudd Collection* (*Jewish Currents*, [June](#))

(2022) North Korea’s Monumental Gifts to Africa-- a review of *International Friendship: Gifts from Africa* by Che Onejoon (*Artforum*, [May](#))

(2022) Restitution’s First Wave: Bénédicte Savoy’s *Africa’s Struggle for Its Art* (*Art in America*, [April](#))

(2022) Private Property: The Right to Our Own Bodies (*Architectural Review*, [February](#), print)

(2021) Looking After: On Museums and Human Remains (*Artforum*, [July](#))

(2021) Did You Get the Shot? (*SSENSE*, [April](#))

(2021) The ICE Man Painteth (*Art in America*, April)

(2021) Paradox of Plenty (*Art in America*, February, print)

(2021) “Visions in Penal Time,” a conversation with Nicole Fleetwood ([January](#), print)

(2020) Against the Limits of the Archive: A Cultural History of Arshile Gorky (*March*, October, print)

(2020) The Sculptural Politics of Cacao (*Art in America*, [September](#), print)

(2020) “A Journey into the Heart of Whiteness,” a review of Rosalind Fox Solomon ([July 2020](#))

(2020) White Witness and the Contemporary Lynching (*The New Republic*, [May](#))

Editorial Work

Associate Editor, Parapraxis Magazine

3/2022-
Present

Selected Talks, Presentations, and Panels (Artistic work)

"Amathambo ayakhuluma / Bones Speak / Labhartar cnáimhe" at Project Arts Center (Dublin, Ireland)	4/2025
Black Earth Study Club: Land as a Verb (with Kyle Mays, Quito Swan, Saba Innab, and Andros Zins-Browne) at the Swiss Institute (New York City, NY)	4/2025
Panelist for the Vera List Center Forum 2024: Correct History* at the Vera List Center for Arts and Politics (New York City, NY)	10/2024
Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought and Amistad Research Center Present: A Conversation with Imani Jacqueline Brown and Zoé Samudzi, Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art and Thought (New Orleans, LA)	10/2024
"Politics of Representation: New Ontologies and Critical Discourses in Visual Narratives" panel (with Azu Nwagbogu and Marcus Tebogo Desando), as a part of EXPOSED: Torino Foto Festival—New Landscapes (Turin, Italy)	5/2024
Reading Group: Zoé Samudzi on Ernest Cole at the Museum of Modern Art (New York City, NY)	3/2024
"On Suffering & Security" for the Psychosocial Foundation's Seminar 4	3/2024
"Postcolonial Horror, Haunted States," as a part of the <i>Traces of Ecstasy Symposium</i> at the Lagos Biennial (Lagos, Nigeria)	2/2024
"Decolonial Geo-Imaginations," as a part of the <i>These Seasons</i> series at the Swiss Institute (New York City, NY)	8/2023
"Amt 45 i: Talks," a symposium featuring Alexander G. Weheliye, Denise Ferreira da Silva, Saidiya Hartman, and myself in conversation about the work of Cameron Rowland at the Städelschule (Frankfurt, Germany)	6/2023
Extraction: Spectral Memory and Space-Time," as part of the opening programming for the spring exhibition FLIGHT at Malmö Konsthall (Malmö, Sweden)	2/2023
Transmediale—a model, a map, a fiction (Berlin, Germany)	2/2023
"How Images Matter," with Anthony Downey, Alaa Mansour, and Lesia Kulchynska (moderator)	
"Witnessing Beyond Imagining," with Anna Engelhardt, Francesco Sebreghondi, and Stefanos Levidis (moderator)	
"Unscalable," with AM Kanngieser, Brett Story, Cassandra Troyan, Vienne Chan, and Mindy Seu (participant)	
"Pan-Africanism, Communism, Anti-Fascism: A Radical Provocation" (featuring Charisse Burden Stelly, Doreen Mende, Charlotte Misselwitz and moderated by Avery F. Gordon) at Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin, Germany)	11/2022
The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House: Abolitionist Feminist Futures" (with Gail Lewis, Miss Major, and Hortense Spillers) for the <i>Revolution is not a one-time event</i> program organized by Che Gossett, Lola Olufemi, and Sarah Shin	8/2020
Public Art and Ethics Today" panel with Dewey Crumpler and Cristóbal Martinez at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Arts (San Francisco, CA)	2/2020