

Carmela Garritano

Associate Professor, Department of International Affairs
Affiliate Faculty, Africana Studies Program
Texas A & M University
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Education

Ph.D., English, with a certificate in African Studies, 1995-2001
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (Dissertation directed by Kenneth W. Harrow)

M.A., 1992-1994, English, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
B.A., *cum laude*, 1986-1990, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Current Employment

Associate Professor, Department of International Affairs
Affiliated faculty, Africana Studies program
Texas A & M University

Past positions

Associate Professor, Department of International Studies
Affiliated faculty, Africana Studies program
Texas A & M University, August 2018-Fall 2022

Associate Professor, Africana Studies program and Film Studies program
Texas A&M University, July 2014-August 2018

Associate Professor of English, University of St. Thomas, 2009-2014
Assistant Professor of English, University of St. Thomas, 2002-2009
Visiting Assistant Professor, Michigan State University, Department of English, 2001-2002

Books

African Energy Worlds: Film, Media, and Art for an African Anthropocene. Indiana University Press, under contract, expected in 2023.

A Companion to African Cinema, co-edited with Kenneth W. Harrow.
London and New York: Wiley-Blackwell, December 2019. 512 pages.

- Reviewed in *Journal of African Cinemas*, vol. 2, no. 1 (2020); *Nouvelles Études Francophones* vol. 34, no. 2 (2019).

African Video Movies and Global Desires: A Ghanaian History. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2013. 284 pages.

- Selected as a *Choice Outstanding Academic Title* of 2013
- Selected for The First Book Award of 2013, by the African Literature Association

- Reviewed in *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, 51, no. 2 (2013); *African Studies Review* 56, no. 03 (2013); *Journal of African Media Studies*, 5, no. 3 (2013); *African Studies Quarterly*, 14, no.03 (2014); *Cinema Journal*, 54, no. 2 (Winter 2015); *Black Camera* 6, no. 2 (Spring 2015); *African Arts*, 47, no. 3 (August 2014); *H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (June 2015). Notable Recent Book in *Film History* 29.4 (Winter 2017).

Special Issue

Editor, *Nollywood: A Worldly Creative Practice*, a special issue (close-up) of *Black Camera* 5.2 (2014)

Articles and Book Chapters

“Email Scams, Nollywood Movies, and the New African Literary Novel: Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani’s *I Do not Come to You by Chance*.” *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 51. no. 4, Winter 2021, 18-35.

“The Entrepreneurial Feminist Subject of New Screen Media from Ghana: Labor, Pleasure, and Power.” *South Central Review*, vol., 37, no. 2, 2020, 4-15.

“Waiting on the Past: Uranium Futures in *Arlit, Deuxième Paris*.” *Modern Fiction Studies*, vol. 66, no.1, Spring 2020, 122-142.

“Living Precariously in the African Postcolony: Debt and Labor Relations in the Films of Mahamat-Saleh Haroun.” *The Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 58.2 (Winter 2019): 23-45.

“Introduction: Critical Approaches to Africa’s Cinema, from the Age of Liberation and Struggle to the Global, Popular, and Curatorial.” Co-authored with Kenneth W. Harrow. *A Companion to African Cinema*. Eds. Kenneth W. Harrow and Carmela Garritano. Wiley-Blackwell, December 2018.

“Virtual Encounters in Postcolonial Spaces: Nollywood Movies about Mobile Telephony,” *The Postcolonial World*, eds. Jyotsna Singh and David Kim. New York: Routledge (2016): 260-273.

"The Materiality of Genre: Analog and Digital Ghosts in Video Movies from Ghana." *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 4.2 (April 2017): 191-206.

“Introduction: Nollywood: An Archive of African Worldliness” Special Issue on Nollywood *Black Camera* 5.2 (2014): 44-52.

“West African Video Films and Their Transnational Imaginaries.” *A Companion to Diaspora and Transnationalism*. Eds. Ato Quayson and Girish Daswani. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell: (2013): 249-262

“Blood Money, Big Men, and Zombies: Understanding Africa’s Occult Narratives in the Context of Neoliberal Capitalism.” *Many Cinemas* 3 (2012): 50-65.

“Contesting Authenticities: African Film Critics and the History of Early Video Production in Ghana.” *Critical Arts: A Journal of South-North Cultural and Media Studies* 20.1 (2008): 21-48.

“Amma Darko’s *The Housemaid* and the Gendering of Novel and Nation.” *Critical Perspectives on Amma Darko*. Ed. Vincent O. Odamtten. Cape Town: Ayebia Publishing Company, 2007.

“Restaging the Past: The Rewriting of the *Tale of the Beautiful Daughter* by Abrahams, Tutuola, Ogali, and Aidoo.” *African Images: Recent Studies in Text and Cinema. The Annual Selected Papers of the African Literature Association*. Eds. Maureen N. Eke, Kenneth W. Harrow, and Emmanuel Yewah. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2000.

“A Feminist Reading of Ellen Kuzwayo’s *Call Me Woman*.” *The Postcolonial Condition of African Literature. The Annual Selected Papers of the African Literature Association*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2000.

“Women, Melodrama, and Political Critique: A Feminist Reading of *Hostages, Dust to Dust*, and *True Confessions*.” *Nigerian Video Films*. Ed. Jonathon Haynes. Athens: U of Ohio Press, 1999.

"At an Intersection of Humanism and Postmodernism: A Feminist Reading of Ellen Kuzwayo's *Call Me Woman*." *Research in African Literatures* 28.2 (1997): 57-65.

Review articles (solicited)

“Fueling Automobility: Thoughts on Lindsey B. Green-Simms’ Postcolonial Automobility: Car Culture in West Africa.” *The Journal of African Cultural Studies* 30.4 (Oct 2018): 80-84.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13696815.2018.1535962>

“The Changing Landscape of Nollywood Studies.” *African Studies Review* 60.2 (September 2017): 221-26.

“Traveling by Lorry: King Ampaw’s *Kukurantumi the Road to Accra and No Time to Die*.” *African Studies Review* 24 2 (2012): 175-79.

“Troubled Men and the Women who Create Havoc: Four Recent Films by West African Filmmakers.” *Research in African Literatures* 34.3 (2003): 159-66.

Book and film reviews (solicited)

Rev. of *Two Faces of a Bamiléké Woman*, directed by Rosine Mbakam. *African Studies Review* (2019).

Rev. of *Affective Images: Post-apartheid Documentary Perspectives*, by Marietta Kesting. *Screen Bodies* 3.2 (2018).

Rev. of *Curating Africa in the Age of Film Festivals*, by Lindiwe Dovey. *Research in African Literatures* 47.3 (2016): 189-91.

Rev. of *The Conscript: A Novel of Libya’s Anticolonial War*, by Gebreyesus Hailu. *Northeast African Studies* 15.1 (2015): 202-205.

Rev. of *Hollywood's Africa*, edited by Mary Ellen Higgins. *JALA: The Journal of the African Literature Association*. Forthcoming (review solicited and submitted in 2014).

Rev. of *Global Nollywood: The Transnational Dimensions of an African Video Film Industry*, edited by Matthias Krings and Onookome Okome. *African Studies Review*, 57, no. 3 (2014) 234-238.

Rev. of *Focus on African Films*, edited by Françoise Pfaff. *African Studies Review* 48.2 (2005): 179-181.

Rev. of *African Cinemas: Decolonizing the Gaze*, by Olivier Barlet. *African Studies Review* 46.1 (2003): 215-216.

Encyclopedia Entries (solicited)

“West African Film in English.” *Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*, 2nd edition. Eds. Eugene Benson and Leonard Connolly. New York: Routledge, 2004.

“Video.” *Encyclopedia of African Literature*. Ed. Simon Gikandi. New York: Routledge, 2003.

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

2020 Arts and Humanities Research Fellow, Texas A&M
three-year award (internal, \$15,000)

2019 Arts Enhancement Grant (co-PI), Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, Texas A&M
Award to support an exhibit at the Brazos Valley African American Museum, Bryan, TX
(\$10,000)

2017 Internal Faculty Fellowship
Glasscock Humanities Center, Texas A&M

2017 Humanities Texas Mini-grant
Awarded for Black Art, a traveling exhibit and opening event at the Brazos Valley African American Museum, Bryan, TX

2016 Small Symposium Grant
Glasscock Humanities Center, Texas A&M
Award for a one-day conference on the subject in African cultural production

2013 Fulbright Scholar Award (external; declined)

2010 Research Grant, University of St. Thomas
Provided release time from teaching

2009 West African Research Association Post-doctoral Grant (external)
Awarded by WARA for summer research in Ghana

2007 Maxi Grant, University of St. Thomas
Provided release time from teaching

2001 Varg-Sullivan Award

Awarded to the outstanding graduate student in the College of Arts and Letters, MSU

Fulbright Research Award (external)

Awarded for dissertation research in Ghana, Oct 1999- Sept 2000

2000 College of Arts and Letters Dissertation Completion Award, MSU

1999 College of Arts and Letters Merit Fellowship, MSU

1998-1999 and 1997-98 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship

Awarded for the study of Yoruba at MSU

1998 Walker-Hill Pre-Dissertation Fellowship

Awarded for pre-dissertation research in Ghana, Summer 1998

1998 Global Young Scholar Award, MSU

Select Conference Presentations

The Persistence of Plastic: Ghanaian Waste Art. Modern Language Association Conference, On-line, 07 January 2021.

Energy, Electricity, and Special Effects in Dagbani-language Movies. Ghana Studies Association 2019 Conference. University of Ghana, July 10-13, 2019.

Energy Humanities and African Cultural Production. Convener and organizer. Panel at the Modern Language Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, January, 2019.

Light Bulbs, African Cinema, Energy. Presentation given at the African Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2018.

Electrifying Movies in Tamale, Ghana: Exhibition, Electrification, and the Temporal Time Lags of Modernity. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Conference, Washington, DC, June 2018.

The Institutional Formations of African Popular Culture. Chair and organizer. Panel at the African Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL., November 2017.

Accra Movie City: Globalization and New Media and Creative Labor Formations. Paper presented at the African Studies Association of Africa Conference, University of Ghana, Legon, October 2017.

The Challenges of Distribution in Ghana. Presentation at the Black Star International Film Festival, Accra, Ghana, August 2017.

Sound and Affect: Digital Sound Effects in Ghanaian Movies. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Conference, Yale, June 2017.

Book Review Panel on David Donkor's *Spiders of the Market*. Chair and presenter. The African Literature Association Conference, Yale, June 2017.

Narrating African Women's Pleasure as Power: The Entrepreneurial Feminist Subject of Sparrow Productions. Paper presented at the African Studies Association Conference, Washington, DC, December 2016.

Nollywood Texas: Informal Networks and Diasporic Feelings. University of Texas Annual Africa Conference, March 2016.

Feminism and Neoliberal Self-Fashioning in the Films of Shirley Frimpong Manso. Paper presented at the Modern Language Association Conference, Austin, Texas, January 2016.

Postrepresentation: Reading African Cinema through Affect. Paper presented at the African Studies Association, San Diego, CA, Nov. 21, 2015.

Living Precariously in the African Postcolony: Mahamet-Saleh Haroun's *Daratt* and *Un Homme Qui Crie*. Paper presented at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle Washington, March 22, 2014.

Blackberry Babes and GSM Wahala: Virtual Mobility and the Worldly Imaginary of Nollywood. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Conference, Charleston, South Carolina, March 21, 2013.

Bloody Billionaires and Screaming Men: Visualizing Human Life as Exchange Value in recent African Screen Media. Paper presented at the African Studies Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA., November 30, 2012.

The Extroverted African Novel and Its Local Engagements: Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani's *I Do not Come to You by Chance*. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, April 11-15, 2012.

Minor-to-Minor Competition and Collaboration: An Analysis of Nigeria/Ghana Co-productions. Paper presented at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Boston, MA, March 21-25, 2012.

New Forms of Transnational Practice in Ghana: The Films of Leila Djansi. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Annual Conference. Athens, Ohio, April 13-17, 2011.

Professional Movies and their Global Aspirations: The Second Wave of Video Production in Ghana, 1992-2000. Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, November 18-21, 2010.

Sakawa Movies from Ghana: Internet, Enchantment and Technological Spectacle. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Annual Conference. University of Arizona. March 10-14, 2010.

Nollywood in Ghana: Minor Transnationalisms and Pirate Media Flows. Paper presented at the African Studies Association Conference. New Orleans, LO, November 19-22, 2009.

Parallel Modernities and Underground Transnationalisms. Paper presented at the University of California/University of Ghana Reconsidering Modernization Conference. Legon, Ghana, July 2009.

The Gold Coast Film Unit's *The Boy Kumasenu* and the Mapping of Colonial Modernity. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Annual Conference. Burlington, VT, April 15-19, 2009.

Imagining Cosmopolitan Subjectivities in Transnational West African Popular Videos. Paper presented at the African Studies Association Conference. Chicago, IL, November 13-16, 2008.

Cosmopolitan Spectacle and Narratives of National Belonging in West African Videos. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Annual Conference, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL, April 22-27, 2008.

A New Critical Architecture for African Grassroots Cinemas: Nigerian Video in Ghana, Pirate Economies and Transnational Media Flows. Paper presented at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Philadelphia, PA March 6-9, 2007.

Ghanaian Video Goes Global. Paper presented at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference. Chicago, Illinois. March 8-11, 2006.

Politics and Early Video Production. Paper presented at the African Literature Association's Annual Conference. Madison, Wisconsin. April 14-18, 2004.

Arab Feminists and African Difference in Fatima Mernissi's *Dreams of Trespass*. Peer-reviewed paper presented at the Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association. New York, New York. December 2002.

Between Art and Ethnography: Looking for New Ways of Reading Popular Video. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. Washington, DC 2002.

Reconsidering the Third Cinema Question: Artists, Entrepreneurs, and Video Film. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. Houston, Texas. November 15-18, 2001.

The Video Revolution in Ghana. Annual Conference of the African Studies Association. Nashville, Tennessee. November 15-19, 2000.

Reinventing Women: A Reading of the Popular Films of Socrate Safo. African Literature Association's 24th Annual Conference. Austin, Texas. March 25-29, 1998.

Restaging the Past: The Rewriting of the Tale of the Beautiful Daughter by Abrahams, Tutuola, Ogali and Aidoo. African Literature Association's 23rd Annual Conference. Michigan State University. April 16-19, 1997.

The Difficulty with Autobiography: A Reading of Ellen Kuzwayo's Call Me Woman. African Literature Association's 21st Conference. The Ohio State University. March 15-19, 1995.

Invited presentations

Mobile Phones on Nollywood Screens: Vernacular Theorizing and the Corporatization of Local Movie Production in Ghana and Nigeria

Invited presentation given at Digital Media, New Cinemas and the Global South Conference, University Of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 5, 2014

African Screen Media and the Rationalities of Neoliberalism

Talk given at Michigan State University, East Lansing, March 16, 2012

Global Aspirations and Transnational Imaginaries: The "Professional" Video-movie from Ghana.

Invited presentation given at the Reading and Producing Nollywood: An International Symposium. Lagos, Nigeria. The University of Lagos. March 23-26, 2011

African Cinema and its Criticism: Popular Video as Unofficial Knowledge

Presentation given at the African Studies Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, Oct. 26, 2005

Selection of Courses Taught at Texas A & M

INTS 201: Introduction to Global Studies

INTS 211: Foundations of Cultural Studies

INTS 215: Global Cinema

AFST/ENGL 205: Intro to Africana Literature

AFST 326: African Popular Cinemas

AFST/FILM 389: African Cinemas

FILM 251: Intro to Film Analysis

FILM 299: History of Film)

FILM 489/AFST 481: New African Cinemas

INTS 409: Culture, Neoliberalism, and Globalization

INST 489: Energy, the Environment, and African Cultural Production

Selection of Courses Taught at University of St. Thomas

Core Courses

ENGL 121: Introduction to Critical Reading and Writing

ENGL 203: Animals and the Environment in Literature and Film

Film and Literature Courses

FILM 200: Introduction to Film Studies

ENGL 217: Intro to Literatures of Africa and the Diaspora

ENGL 337: Contemporary African Literature and Film

ENGL 337: African Film: Theory and Practice

ENGL 341: African Women's Literature and Film

ENGL 380: Issues in English Studies (Theory and Criticism)

ENGL 481: Faces of Islam in African Literature

ENGL 481: Third Cinema

Graduate Seminars: Film, Literature and Theory

GENG 513: Graduate seminar: Issues in Criticism and Theory

GENG 561: Graduate seminar: Postcolonial Literatures

GENG 558: Graduate Seminar: Anglophone World Literature

GENG 558: Graduate seminar: World (Bank) Lit and Cinema in English

GENG 668: Graduate seminar: Postcolonial Cinema

Graduate/dissertation Committee Activities

Texas A&M University

- Committee member, Edudzi Sallah, Department of English
- Committee member, Donnie Seacrest, Department of English
Dissertation: Reading between the Worms: The Literature of the Environmental Grotesque, ongoing
- Committee member, Amanda Ricco, Department of English
Dissertation: Black Feminist Futures in African and Caribbean SF.
(Su 2018)
- Committee member, Michela Russo, Hispanic Studies, ongoing

External Evaluator

Morountodun Joseph, PhD thesis: “Female Filmmakers: Towards Reconstructing Women’s Images in Nollywood Films,” (Spring 2018) Centre for Film and Media Studies, University of Cape Town

External committee member

Committee member, Connor Ryan, PhD dissertation: “The Politics and Aesthetics of the Popular in African Fiction, Film and Videos,” (Fall 2014) Michigan State University

At the University of St. Thomas

- Director, Brigitte Budahn, MA thesis: “Caryl Phillips’ Precarious Subjects: Reading *A Distant Shore*” (Spring 2014) University of St. Thomas
- Director, Jonalee Buckel, MA thesis: “Looking at Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* Through the Lens of Trauma Theory” (Spring 2009) University of St. Thomas
- Committee member, Vienna Folliard, MA thesis (Spring 2008) University of St. Thomas
- Director, Eleanor Hisaye Tanaguchi, MA thesis: “Jane Johnston Schoolcraft: Writing within the Middle Ground” (Fall 2007) University of St. Thomas
- Committee member, Lisa Hagel, MA thesis (Fall 2007) University of St. Thomas
- Committee member, Tim Haehn, MA thesis (Spring 2007) University of St. Thomas
- Committee member, Laura Hageman, MA Thesis (Spring 2007) University of St. Thomas
- Director, Megan Fee, MA thesis: “Representations of National Identity in *At Swim, Two Boys*” (Spring 2006) University of St. Thomas
- Committee member Melissa Flicek, MA Thesis (Spring 2005) University of St. Thomas
- Committee member, JoAnne Hawkins (Spring 2005) University of St. Thomas

- Director, Melissa Vanderpoel, MA thesis: “Failed Community and Loss of Hope in J.M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*” (Spring 2004) University of St. Thomas
- Committee member, Brain Greening, MA thesis (Fall 2003) University of St. Thomas

Summa Exam committees

Catherine Lundy, Fall 2003, University of St. Thomas

Michelle Treska, Spring 2008, University of St. Thomas

Faculty Advisor to student groups at UST

African Nations Students Association (ANSA), Spring 2011- present

Amnesty International UST Chapter, 2007-2009

Professional Activities

Elected and invited positions:

Elected, Executive Committee, LLC Africa since 1990, MLA 2017-present

Program Committee, the African Literature Association, 2018 Annual Conference

Program Committee (Chair of Popular Culture Subtheme), the African Studies Association, 2017 Annual Conference

First Book Award Committee, African Literature Association, 2015 and 2018

Program Committee (Chair of Media Subtheme), the African Studies Association, 2015 Annual Conference

Elected Member of the Executive Council, African Literature Association, 2010-2013

Member of the Teaching and Research Committee, African Literature Association, 2009-2013

Film Awards Judge

ASA Film Prize Award, African Studies Association, 2022 and ongoing

Black Star International Film Festival, Accra, Ghana, August 2018

Department, College, and University Service at Texas A&M

Organizer, Energy Humanities Working Group, Spring 2017 (convener); 2018-2019 (member)

Funded by a grant from the Glasscock Humanities Center

Organizer, Africana Studies Working Group, 2015-2017 (convener)

Funded by a grant from the Glasscock Humanities Center

Organizer, The Subject of African Cultural Production: Reflections on the Work of Kenneth W. Harrow, a one-day symposium, April 21, 2017

Organizer, An Evening with Shola Lynch, a film screening and discussion with documentary filmmaker Shola Lynch, April 2016

Chair, INTS Awards Committee, 2021-2022

Member, INTS Tenure and Promotion subcommittee, wrote service report, Fall 2019

Member, Francophone Assistant Prof Search Committee, Fall 2018
Member, INTS Tenure and Promotion subcommittee, wrote research report, Fall 2018
Member, INTS Diversity Committee, Fall 2018 and ongoing
Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, AFST, Fall 2014- Spring 2018
Member, Program Review Committee, AFST, Fall 2014-Spring 2018
Member, Program Review Committee, FILM, Fall 2015-Spring 2018
Member, Liberal Arts Advisory Council, Fall 2014-Spring 2018

Community Service related to Texas A&M

The Brazos Valley African American Museum, Bryan, Texas

- Board Member, 2015-2018
- Chair, Grants Committee

The Brazos Valley Arts Council, College Station, Texas

- Board Member, 2022-ongoing

Department, College, and University Service at UST

Film Studies Advisory Board, College of Arts and Sciences, 2009 - 2013

Department Steering Committee (elected position), Fall 2012-2013

Faculty Mentor, 2010-2013

Assessment Committee, English Department, 2009 - 2012

Affirmative Action Committee (elected position), University committee, 2007-2009

Core Curriculum Committee, English Department, 2007-2008

Major Curriculum Committee, English Department, 2007-2008

Curriculum Committee, English Department, 2006-2007

Common Text Committee, English Department, 2003 - 2007

Acting Chair of Common Text Committee, Spring 2004

Graduate Committee (elected position), English Department, 2003-2005

Handbook Committee (ad hoc), English Department, 2004

Summer Workshop (ad hoc), English Department, 2004

Manuscripts (articles and books) reviewed for

African Studies Review

Africa Today

Black Camera

Critical Interventions

Journal of African Cinemas (member of the editorial board)

Journal of African Cultural Studies (member of the editorial board)

Journal of the African Literature Association

The Journal of Cinema and Media Studies (formerly Cinema Journal)

Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies

Northeast African Studies

PMLA

Research in African Literatures

Screen Bodies: A new journal of screen and body studies (member of editorial board)

Indiana University Press

Michigan State University Press (**member of editorial board**)
Palgrave Macmillan
Routledge
University of Toronto Press