

Sarah Franzen – Curriculum Vitae**Academic Positions**

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Anthropology, 2020-present

Affiliate Faculty in African and African American Studies, 2020-present

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Postdoctoral Fellow in the Wolf Humanities Center, 2019-2020

Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA

Part-time Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, 2018

Spelman College, Atlanta, GA

Part-time Faculty in the Sociology and Anthropology Department, 2017-2018

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Research Advisor in the Masters in Development Practice, 2016-2017

Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, GA

Instructor in the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program, 2015

Education

PhD **Emory University**, Atlanta, GA

Institute of the Liberal Arts Department, Graduated 2016

Dissertation: *Visualizing Possibilities: Rural Development Strategies Among African American Farmers in the Southeastern US*

MA **University of Manchester**, Manchester U.K.

Department of Anthropology, Visual Anthropology Program, Graduated 2006

Thesis: *Imagining Rye Farm: Filming Farmers in Northern England*

Film: *Searching for the Rural*

Graduated with Merit

BA **Colorado State University**, Fort Collins, CO

Interdisciplinary Major in Cultural Studies and Visual Arts; Minor in Religious Studies,
Graduated 2002

University Honors Program, Graduated Cum Laude

Grants and Fellowships (Selected)

Institute for Energy Innovation (LSU)

Co-PI for *Community Benefits Planning for Just Energy Transition: Historical Contexts, Emerging Best Practices and Lessons Learned*. 2025-2026. \$154,464

Institute for Energy Innovation (LSU)

Co-PI for *Ground Truthing Biofuel Potential in Louisiana*. 2025-2027. \$249,797

Board of Regents State of Louisiana Awards to LA Artists and Scholars.

Fellowship for one-year teaching release to work on book manuscript, *A Quiet Movement*. 2024-2025

Provost's Fund for Innovation in Research – Arts/Humanities Project Support Fund

Proposal (LSU)

Funding to support design consultation for interactive film project, *A Quiet Movement*, \$3000, 2023

Wenner-Gren Fejos Fellowship

One year support for ethnographic film project, 2022-2023

Climate Adaptation Science Center

PI for *Assessing the Needs and Adaptation Practices of Small-Holding and Minority Farmers Facing Extreme Weather Events in Louisiana*, \$273,699, 2023-2026

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Co-PI for *Managing Markets: Assessing the Relationship Between Farmers Market Management and Farmers' Economic Viability and Quality of Life*, \$66,183, 2022-2025

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Postdoctoral Fellow in the Wolf Humanities Center, 2019-2020

Awards and Training Fellowships (selected)

LSU Robert Udick Distinguished Teaching Award, 2026

Service-Learning Faculty Scholars Program

Faculty fellowship at LSU for developing Service-Learning courses, 2023

Nominated for **LSU Alumni Association Rising Faculty Research Award, 2023**

LaDIA Faculty Fellowship

Louisiana Sea Grant Fellowship to support leadership in coastal research, 2022

Nominated for **LSU George H. Deere Distinguished Teaching Award, 2021**

Communication-Intensive Teaching Lab, LSU

Training for incorporating communication intensive strategies into teaching, 2021

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Farming with Care: Considering Black farmer practices, agroecology, and Black ecologies." *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* (2026)

"Plurality in Black Rural Development" *Sustainability Science*. 17: 1247-1261 (2022).

"Holding Land, Claiming Kin: The Relation between Race, Land and Kinship in the Southern US and Barbados." *Antipode* (2021)

"The Value of Farming: Multi-faceted Wealth Generation through Cooperative Development." *Economic Anthropology*. 7(2): 279-292. (2020)

"Digital Transformations: Integrating Ethnographic Video into a Multimodal Platform." In R. Freeman and J. Crowder (Eds). *Anthropological Data in the Digital Age: New Possibilities – New Challenges*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (2019)

"Framing Nature: Visual Representations of Ecological Paradigms." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*. 1-3 (2017)

"Reality Education: Agricultural Knowledge Exchange in the US South." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*. 7(2): 69-83. (2017)

"Introduction: Participatory Research and Visual Methods." *Visual Methodologies*. 4(1): 1-9. (2016)
(Editor) Participatory Research [Special Issue]. *Visual Methodologies*. 4(1). (2016)

"Engaging a Specific, Not General, Public: The use of ethnographic film in public scholarship." *Qualitative Research*. 13(4): 414-427. (2013).

Media Outreach

Parts of lecture and interview used in "Le Bleu Perdu" by Jordan Lahaye Fontenot in *Country Roads*, February 25, 2025

Invited Lectures (selected)

Guest Lecturer: LSU Geography and Anthropology – GEOG 7902 Introduction to Research Methods in Geography (Nov. 2025)

Guest lecturer: Tulane University for Gulf Coast Seminar taught by Ehab Meselhe. Lecture: How to be an effective interviewer. (Oct. 2024).

“Tangled up in Blue: The complex socio-cultural dimensions of indigo” at Bleu Perdu Symposium, hosted by Atelier de la Nature (March 2024).

“Building a Black Homeland: Land rights and spatial claims among Black farmers in the US South” Invited speaker for African Studies Colloquium at Indiana University, February 2023.

Invited Panelist – Caribbean Futures Symposium. Louisiana State University, February 2023.

“Embodying Environments” keynote speaker for Mardi Gras Graduate Conference at Louisiana State University, 2022.

“Equity and Access to Financial Resources” panel presentation for National Heirs Property Conference hosted by the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, 2020.

“Rooting Rural Prosperity” lecture for Georgia Organics’ Annual Conference, 2017

“Materiality and Race” invited participant in online –empire- series curated by Alessandra Raengo, 2016

Film Festivals

“In the Time of COVID”

Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival, UK 2021

“Attala County: An Interactive Documentary”

Featured Screening at Alternate Roots Arts Week, 2018

“Portrait of a Cooperative”

Screened at Ethnofest: Athens Ethnographic Film Festival, Athens Greece, 2016

Screened Art and Anthropology Symposium, Atlanta, GA, 2016

Screened at Oakland International Film Festival, Oakland, CA, 2016

Conferences (selected)

Paper Presentation: “(Re)creating Louisiana Farm Traditions on Haunted Lands”

Panel Organizer: “Agrarian Hauntings: The Ghosts of Agricultures Past and Agricultures Yet to Come”

Roundtable Presenter: “Ghosts: Hauntings, Trauma, and the Anthropological Encounter”

American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2025

Paper Presentation: “Building Montage out of Observational Footage: Moving from embodied scenes to distributed consciousness”

Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival, UK 2023

Panel Presentation: “Partnership Engagement”

South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center – Annual Conference, 2023

Roundtable Presenter: “Unsettling Dispossession: Towards Abolitionist & Reparative Ecologies”

Podcast Presenter: “Landscapes of Invisible Environmental Labor”

American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2022

Paper Presentation: “Farming With Care: Agroecology, Black Ecology, and Black Farm Practices”

Association of American Geographers – Annual Conference, 2022

Roundtable Presenter: “Reclaiming Invisible Environmental Labor”

Roundtable Presenter: “Constituting Risk and Enacting Responsibility in Agrarian Environments”

American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2021

“Visual Scholarship Initiative”

Panel Presentation for **Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival, UK 2021**

“Embodied Landscapes: Race, Place and Land Rights in the US South”

Presented at **Society for Economic Anthropology – Annual Conference, 2021**

Organized Roundtable: “Corporate Farmland Investment and African American Land Injustice”
American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2020

“Embodied Resistance: Farm Work as a Revolutionary Act”

Presented at **Plantations and Their Afterlives– Symposium hosted by Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa, 2020**

“Perceiving Agricultural Impact: A comparison of practices”

Presented at **American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2019**

“The Value of Farming: Multi-faceted Wealth Generation through Cooperative Development”

Presented at **Society for Economic Anthropology – Annual Conference, 2019**

“The Sense of Farming: Filmmaking as a Tool for Sensory Ethnography”

Presented at **American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2018**

“Imagining a Future for Farming in the US South”

Presented at **National Women’s Studies Association – Annual Conference, 2018**

“Claiming Place: Race, Land, and Spatial Justice”

Presented at **International Sociological Association – World Congress, 2018**

“The Sustainability of Goat Farming”

Presented at **Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society – Annual Conference, 2018**

“Growing Black Farmers: The role of education in rural communities”

Presented at **Association for the Study of African American Life and History – Annual Conference, 2017**

“Framing Nature: Visual Representations of Ecological Paradigms”

Presented at **Society for Applied Anthropology – Annual Conference, 2017**

“Rethinking Digital Ethnographies”

Presented at **Visual Research Conference – Annual Conference, 2016**

“Reality Education: Agricultural Knowledge Exchange in the US South”

Presented at **American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2016**

Presented paper: “Rights and Resistance: Identity Politics and the Black Farmer”

Organized Panel: “Negotiating Citizenship: Ethnography, Race, and Contested Politics”

Discussant on Round Table: “Conceptualizing a Rural Anthropology”

American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2015

“Wealth, Not Capital: Rural Development Strategies Farmers Cooperatives”

Presented at **Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society – Annual Conference, 2015**

“The Aesthetics of the Ethnographic”

Presented at **Poetics and Politics, Documentary Research Symposium, 2015**

“Visually Speaking: Meaning Making within Ethnographic Film”

Presented at **American Anthropological Association – Annual Conference, 2014**

Session Organizer: “Using Visual Material for Knowledge Creation”

International Sociological Association – World Congress, 2014

Presented Film: “Mississippi Reality Tour”

Organized Panel: “Show Me Yours: Participatory Visual Methods”

Society for Visual Anthropology/American Ethnological Society– Annual Meeting, 2014

“Developing New Possibilities Among African American Farmers”

Presented at **Association of Humanist Sociology – Annual Meeting, 2013**

“Embodied Development: The Role of Affect in Rural Community-Based Development in the US South”
Presented at **Southern Sociological Society – Annual Conference, 2013**

“Material, Ideological, and Aesthetic Aspects of Development Strategies”
Presented at **The Collegium for African American Research – Annual Conference, 2013**

“Visualizing Culture and Power: The Aesthetics of Farming”
Presented at **International Sociological Association – World Forum, 2012**

Coming to the Table Conference

Designed and organized two-day multi-disciplinary conference surrounding issues of food, health, justice, and sustainability, 2010

Teaching Experiences (selected)

Qualitative Methods for Social Change (Service-Learning Course)

Anthropology Department – Louisiana State University, Fall 2025

Research Design (graduate level)

Anthropology Department – Louisiana State University, Spring 2022

Experimental Ethnography (graduate level)

Anthropology Department – Louisiana State University, Fall 2021, Spring 2024

Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology

Anthropology Department – Louisiana State University, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Black Geographies and the Meaning of Land Rights (upper level)

Taught as a Service-Learning course involving community-based engagement

Geography and Anthropology Department – Louisiana State University, Spring 2021, Fall 2023

Africana Department – University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2020

Introduction to Anthropology

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice – Clark Atlanta University, Fall 2018

From King Cotton to Queen Sugar: The history of African American farmers (upper level)

Department of Sociology and Anthropology – Spelman College, Spring 2018

Between Art and Anthropology (upper level)

Department of Sociology and Anthropology – Spelman College, Spring 2018

Independent Study – Visual Studies of Maori Dance Aesthetics

Department of Sociology and Anthropology – Spelman College, Fall 2017

Visual Research Methods (upper level)

Department of Sociology and Anthropology – Spelman College, Fall 2017

Documentary and Difference

Department of Film Studies – Agnes Scott College, Spring 2017

Environmental Justice and Sustainable Dilemmas (upper level)

Sustainability Studies Program – Emory University, Spring 2016

Foundations of Sustainable Development (graduate level)

Masters in Development Practice – Emory University, Fall 2015

Systems and Food Production

Sustainability Studies Program – Agnes Scott College, Spring 2015

Development and Social Change in the US South (graduate level)

Masters in Development Practice – Emory University, Summer 2014, Summer 2015

Visual Methods for Social Change***Taught as a Service-Learning course involving community-based engagement***

Institute for the Liberal Arts – Emory University, Spring 2015

Visual Culture: An Introduction to the Use and Meaning of Visual Media

Institute for the Liberal Arts – Emory University, Fall 2014

Development Studies Capstone Seminar

Development Studies Program – Emory University, Spring 2014, Spring 2015

Development Theory and Community Practicum I and II (graduate level)***Taught as a Service-Learning course involving community-based engagement***

Masters in Development Practice – Emory University, Fall 2013, Spring 2014

Food Sovereignty: A Critical Look at the Current Global Agricultural System and Food Movements

Institute for the Liberal Arts – Emory University, Fall 2011

Visual Culture: Representations of Self and Other within Visual Anthropology

Institute for the Liberal Arts – Emory University, Spring 2011

Academic Service

Louisiana State University

- Department of Geography and Anthropology Curriculum Committee (2023-present)
- Department of Geography and Anthropology Policy Committee (2024)
- Department of Geography and Anthropology DEI Committee (2021-2025)
- Department of Geography and Anthropology Speakers Committee (2020-2022)
- Department of Geography and Anthropology Cultural Anthropology Hiring Committee (2023)
- Department of Africana and African American Studies Awards Committee (2022-2024)
- Department of Africana and African American Studies Curriculum Committee (2023-present)
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences Humanities Center Organizing Committee (2023-present)
- Geography and Anthropology Student Society Faculty Advisor (2023-present)
- Comparative Literature Graduate Association Faculty Advisor (2023-2024)

Critical Ecologies Research Group Co-Organizer (2022-present)

Secretary for Society for Visual Anthropology, a section of the American Anthropological Association 2018-2023

- Initiated and managed SVA Paper/Project Exchange, 2021-2025

Initiated and managed Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist Film and Media Grant, 2022-2025

Web Fellow for Culture and Agriculture, a section of the American Anthropological Association 2019-2022

- Started podcast series, AgriChats, 2020-2022

Redesigned website

- Peer Reviewer for Economic Anthropology, 2022
- Peer Reviewer for Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies, 2021
- Peer Reviewer for Agriculture and Human Values, 2020

Peer Reviewer for Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems, 2019

Peer Reviewer for Visual Methodologies, 2017

Pre-Screener for Society for Visual Anthropology Film Festival, 2013

Juror for “Making Development Work” at Emory University, 2011

Institute for the Liberal Arts Committee Graduate Committee, 2011

Coming to the Table Conference

Designed and organized two-day multi-disciplinary conference surrounding issues of food, health, justice, and sustainability, 2010

President and Founder, Visual Scholarship Initiative, Emory University, 2009-2016

Graduate Student Representative Development Studies Committee, Emory University, 2009-2015

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Independent Film Productions (selected)

“A Home Movie”

Short film as part of a collaborative project, “In the Time of COVID” <https://kwamephillips.com/in-the-time-of-covid>

“Attala County: An Interactive Documentary”

Interactive documentary that presents stories from members of the Attala Cooperative, 2018

“Dog Days”

This short vignette showcases how environmental knowledge emerges as a negotiated process. Included as part of publication, “Framing Nature” (2017)

“Portrait of a Cooperative”

This film examines the practices that make up Indian Springs Farmers Association. Premiered at Art and Anthropology Symposium, 2016

“Mississippi Reality Tour”

Documents a farmer-to-farmer training program among small-holding African American farmers in Mississippi. Premiered at Society of Visual Anthropology Conference, 2014

“Doppelgänger”

Co-produced with Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi. The film explores the dark surrealism that haunts the process of transition by exploring an individual’s “Present” and his alter ego “Past.” Premiered at Arts Africa, Dakar, Senegal, 2010

“Searching for the Rural”

Final thesis film for MA degree at University of Manchester. Searching for the Rural explores the tension between conceptions of the rural idyll and actual struggles of modern farmers in Yorkshire, England. Premiered at Visual Anthropology Student Screening, 2006

Additional Work Experience (selected)

Emory College Language Center (ECLC). Atlanta, GA, 2011

Position: Videographer and Editor

Responsibilities: Film and Edit interviews for ECLC website

Southern Spaces: Poets in Place, Atlanta, GA, 2008-2009

Position: Videographer and Editor

Responsibilities: Film and Edit for Poets in Place series as part of online journal, *Southern Spaces*.

US Social Forum, Atlanta, GA, 2008

Position: Tech Manager

Responsibilities: Update website, graphics, manage database <http://www.ussf2007.org/>

SankofaSpirit: Passport to Adventure, Atlanta, GA, 2007-2008

Position: Documentary Coordinator/ Film Teacher

Responsibilities: Coordinate and produce participatory documentary with students taking part in Passport to Adventure program. www.sankofaspirit.com

Emory University Law School, Atlanta, GA, 2007-2008*Position:* Website Consultant*Responsibilities:* Copyedit, format, and design manuscript into an interactive website.
<http://sharia.law.emory.edu>**Free Speech TV (FSTV)**, Boulder, CO, 2003-2004*Position:* Camera Person and Editor (2004)*Responsibilities:* Film and edit issue-based and journalistic films and TV series*Position:* Programming Intern (2003)*Responsibilities:* Find, attain, organize, and schedule airing of documentaries.**Graduate Student Committees**

Natalie King – MA Anthropology, graduated 2021

Madeline Fussell – MA Anthropology, graduated 2021

Juliana Delgado – MA Geography, graduated 2021

Tagimamao Melanie Puka – PhD Geography, graduated 2023

Antonia Ingram – PhD Anthropology, graduated 2023

Anfernee Murray (chair) – MA Anthropology, graduated 2023

Madeline Blanchard – MA Archeology, graduated 2023

Kenny Sutherland – PhD Archeology, estimated graduation 2024

Victoria Payne – MA Anthropology, estimated graduation 2024

Reilly Corkran – MA Geography, estimated graduation 2025

Charlotte Jones (chair) – PhD Anthropology, graduated 2026

Skylar Yakes – MA Anthropology, graduated 2024

Kashif Rustamani (chair) – PhD Anthropology, estimated graduation 2026

Alyssa Anders – PhD English, estimated graduation 2027

Maryam Mehrabadi (chair) – PhD Anthropology, estimated graduation 2029

Nolonda Jones (chair) – PhD Anthropology, estimated graduation 2028

Haivyn LaSalle (chair) – MA Anthropology, estimated graduation 2027