

CURRICULUM VITAE
Rebecca Kathleen Gearhart
Associate Professor of Anthropology
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Illinois Wesleyan University

EDUCATION

1998: Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Dissertation / CD ROM: *Ngoma memories: A history of competitive music and dance performance on the Kenya coast.*

1993/94: University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

1993: M.A. African History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Thesis: *John Streeter and the runaway slaves: a history of the Kenya coast in the 1870s and '80s.*

1993: Certificate in African Studies, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

1989: B.A. (cum laude with honor) History & African Studies, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts.

EMPLOYMENT

Fall, 1999 - Present: Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois.

Tenured, Associate Professor of Anthropology.

Fall 2006 – Spring 2007: Acting Chair of the Department.

Fall 2008 - Present: Chair of the Department.

Courses taught at Illinois Wesleyan: *Gateway 100: Colonialism & Resistance in Africa; Gateway 100: The Enigma of the Gift; Anth 171: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology; Anth 250: World Music; Anth/Enst 274: Peoples and Cultures of East Africa; ; Anth 275: Anthropology of Theatre, Performance & Spectacle; Anth 295: Meeting the Swahili of Kenya (Travel Course); Anth 350: Healing, Birthing & Dying; Anth 352: Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective; Anth 355: African Expressive Arts; Anth 380: Visual & Ethnographic Methods; Anth 397: Internship, Anth 450: Independent Study.*

Spring, 1999: Adjunct Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida. *Introduction to Anthropology; Language & Culture.*

Spring, 1999: Adjunct Professor, St. Vincent's Medical School, Jacksonville, Florida. *Introduction to Anthropology.*

Fall, 1998: Instructor, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida. *Visual Anthropology.*

Summer, 1998: Instructor, Center for African Studies, University of Florida. *The African Experience.*

TEACHING / RESEARCH GRANTS

2008: IWU, Artistic & Scholarly Development Grant to begin production of the CD accompaniment to *The Swahili Art of Life: A Visual Ethnography from the Kenya Coast*, \$3,500.

2007: IWU, Faculty Sabbatical for Fall semester. Paid semester leave.

Gearhart C.V. 2

2004: IWU, Humanity Series Grant to sponsor the visit of two Sudanese "Lost Boys," African Culture Week, Nov. 1 - 7, 2004, \$484.80.

2004: IWU Curriculum Development Grant to develop courses in Physical Anthropology, with Charles Springwood, \$6,997.

2003: IWU, Humanities Series Grant to bring *The Orchid Ensemble* to campus for a 3-day artist in residency over the Chinese New Year, January 20-22, 2004, \$9,250.

2003: IWU, Faculty Junior Leave for Fall semester. Paid semester leave.

2002: IWU, Heritage / Arthur Vining Davis Collection Development Grant to enhance the Africana collection, \$5,000.

2000: IWU Curriculum Development Grant to develop a May term travel course to Kenya, \$2,000.

1999: IWU Curriculum Development Grant to develop and revise courses in visual anthropology and sociology, and establish a film editing lab, with Georganne Rundblad, Charles Springwood, and Christopher Prendergast, \$8,000.

1998: University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences dissertation write-up fellowship, \$2,000.

1995/96: University of Florida, Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Kenya for a Doctoral Dissertation in Anthropology, \$15,000.

1993: University of Florida, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Travel Fellowship for summer research in Kenya, \$2,000.

1990 - 1991: University of Florida, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Tuition Fellowship for Graduate studies in African History, \$20,000.

SCHOLARSHIP

Published Articles and Book Chapters:

2005, December: Ngoma Memories: How Ritual Music and Dance Shaped the Northern Kenya Coast. *African Studies Review*. 48 (3) 21 - 47.

2005, Spring: Taking American Race Relations on the Road...to Africa. *African Studies Quarterly*. 8 (2). URL: <http://web.africa.ufl.edu/asq/v8/v8i2a4.htm>

2003: Co-authored with Steve Witt. Ethnography and Information Literacy: An Assessment Project. *Assessing Student Learning Outcomes for Information Literacy Instruction in Academic Libraries*. Elizabeth Fuseler Avery (Eds.). Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries.

2000: Rama Maulidi: A Competitive Ritual Ngoma in Lamu. *Mashindano! Competitive Music Performance in East Africa*. Gregory Barz and Frank Gunderson (Eds.). pp. 347-365. Mkuki na Nyota Press, Dar es Salaam / Michigan State University Press. Also distributed by African Books Collective.

1998: Contemporary African Film at the 13th Annual Carter Lectures on Africa: Interviews with Filmmaker Salem Mekuria and Film Critic Sheila Petty. *African Studies Quarterly*. 2 (1). URL: <http://web.africa.ufl.edu/asq/v2/v2i1.htm>

1998: September: Four Days for the Prophet. *The World & I*. 13 (9).

Media Exhibitions

November, 2007. *Swahili Expressive Arts* a digital media archive featuring images and meta data on research conducted on the Swahili coast.

URL: http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm4/index_iwu_swahili.php?CISOROOT=/iwu_swahili

June – November, 1996. *Swahili Praises to the Prophet*, original color photographs and video presentation of the 1995 Maulidi Festival in Lamu, Kenya. Lamu Fort Museum.

Book Reviews

2005: **Playing with Identities in Contemporary Music in Africa**. Edited by Mai Palmberg and Annemette Kirkegaard. (Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, 2002). *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. 25 (2).

2005, Winter. **Dan Ge Performance: Masks and Music in Contemporary Cote D'Ivoire** by Daniel Reed (Bloomington University Press, 2003). *Africa Today*. 52 (2).

Work in Progress

The Swahili Art of Life: A Visual Ethnography from the Kenya Coast. A book-length manuscript and accompanying DVD. Under Contract with Indiana University Press.

Contesting Identities: The Role of the Mijikenda & their Neighbors in Re-centering Kenya Coastal History & Society. A volume co-edited with Linda Giles focused on revising the dominant historical narrative of the Kenya coast. Under review with Ohio University Press.

Purity, Balance and Wellness Among the Swahili of Lamu, Kenya. In **Managing Stress and Wellbeing in Cross-Cultural Perspective**. Co-authored with Munib Abdulrehman. Edited by Christopher Rybak. Under review.

Skype, Facebook and Chatrooms: New Modes of Expression and Changing Gender Relations among Swahili Youth at Home & Abroad. In **Swahili Trans-local Connections within and between Boundaries**. Edited by Francesca Declich, Under review with Brill press.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2010, November 20: "Circulating Paths to Wellness Among the Swahili of Lamu, Kenya," poster presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, New Orleans, LA.

2010, September 15: "Changing Notions of Swahili Childhood," paper presented at the Childhood & Globalization conference held jointly at Illinois Wesleyan University and Illinois State University.

2009, November 20: "Skype, Facebook and Chatrooms: New Modes of Expression and Changing Gender Relations in the Swahili Diaspora," paper presented at the African Studies Association Meetings, New Orleans, LA.

2008, November 19: "Revolving Doors: The Circulation of Swahili Woodwork Design," paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, San Francisco, CA.

2008, November 14: "Swahili Woodwork Design: Shared, Borrowed, Bought, or Embezzled?" paper presented at the African Studies Association Meetings, Chicago, IL.

- 2007, October 18: "Breaking into the "Global Village:" Arts and Crafts in Coastal Kenya," paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, New York City, NY.
- 2006, November 18: "Critical Constructions of a Shared Past: Further Expanding the View on Kenyan Coastal History, Culture, and Identity" roundtable discussion at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2005, November 18: "Non-Swahili Laborers in Lamu, Kenya: Coastal History from the Kitchen Floor" paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
- 2004, November 11: "The Ritual Requisites of Work among the Bajuni of Kenya" paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2004, February 13: "Visualizing Performance: Innovative Ethnographic Research Methods in Visual Anthropology," paper and film presentation, 2004 Congress on Research in Dance, Carter Lectures in African Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- 2002, November 20: "Mediating Culture: Swahili Tutors, "Host Families" & Educational Tour Guides on the Kenya coast," paper and visual presentation, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2001, November 30: "Playing Narrator: The Visual Autobiographies of Two Girls from Two Worlds (Lamu, Kenya & St. Paul, Minnesota)" paper and film presentation, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2000, November 19: "Representing Bajuni Landlessness in Kenya: When Ethnographic Praxis is Politics" paper and film presentation, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2000, April 21: "Containers & Connectors," Central States Anthropological Society Annual Meeting, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- 1999, November 20: "Timing is Everything: Performance Rituals and Slash and Burn Agriculture among the Bajuni of Kenya" paper and film presentation, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.
- 1999, November 12: "Expressing the Unspeakable in Mijikenda Music and Dance Performance" paper and film presentation, African Studies Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.
- 1998, October 29: "Competition and Ownership on the Kenya coast: The Struggle for Wealth in People" paper presentation, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 1998, March 28: "The Visual Anthropologist's Narrative" paper and film presentation, Florida Academy of Sciences, Orlando, FL.
- 1998, March 5: "Female Ngoma Leaders on the Kenya coast: A Story of Competition over Social Capital" paper and film presentation, Women's Studies Conference, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA.

Gearhart C.V. 5

1997, November 15: "Imagining and Imaging the Past through Multiple Narratives: the use of Video in the Documentation of Historical Pluralism" paper and film presentation, African Studies Association Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH.

1996, November 24: "Ethics in the Field" paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

COMMITTEE WORK & SERVICE ACTIVITIES, IWU

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, *Acting Chair*, Fall 2006 – Spring 2007; Fall 2008 - present.

African Studies Team, *coordinator*, Fall 2000 - present.

International Studies Steering Committee, member, Spring 2001 - present.

Phi Beta Kappa, Lambda Chapter, *president*, Fall 2007 – present.

Promotion & Tenure Committee, member, Fall 2010 – present.

Environmental Studies Faculty Committee, member, Fall 2002 - present.

Development Studies Team, member, Fall 2000 – present.

Nominating Committee, member, Fall 2008 – Spring 2010.

Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee, member, Spring 2006 – Spring 2009.

Identity Work Group, Strategic Planning Sub-Committee, member, Fall 2005 – Spring 2007.

Academic Appeals Board, member, Fall 2002 – Spring 2003; Fall 2004 – Spring 2006.

Fulbright Advisory Committee, member, Fall 2004 – Spring 2007.

Evelyn Chapel Advisory Board, member, Fall 2000 – Spring 2006.

Diversity Committee, member, Fall 2005 - Spring 2006.

Committee for a Sustainable Campus, member, Fall 2004 - Spring 2005.

Humanities Series Grant Committee, member, Fall 2001 – Spring 2003; Fall 2004.

International Film Series, *coordinator*, Fall 2001 – Spring 2003.

Green Task Force, Dining Committee, *chair*, Fall 2000 - Spring 2002.

Faculty Advisor to Registered Student Organizations

Muslim Students Association, Fall 2000 – present.

African Students Association, Fall 1999 – present.

Anthropology Club, (with Charles Springwood), Fall 1999 – present.

Global Medical Brigade, Fall 2008 – present.

FaceAIDS, , Fall 2008 – present.

Capoeira Club, Fall 2008 – present.

Lamu Center of Preventative Health, Spring 2009 – present.

International Justice Mission, Fall 2009 – present.

RECENT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

2010, April 8: “Dangerous Movements: A History of Capoeira,” a pre-performance talk prior to the DanceBrazil concert, Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.

2008, October 25: “African Drumming Workshop,” 20th Anniversary Celebration, Crossroads Global Handcrafts, Bloomington, IL.

2007, February 15: "The Social History of Isicathamiya: The "Tip Toe" Performance Tradition of Ladysmith Black Mambazo," a pre-performance talk, Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.

2006, October 7: "Thunder in the Valley: Cross-Cultural Drumming Festival," Seven Circles Heritage Center, Edwards, IL.

2006, June 3: "Women's Drumming in Cross-Cultural Perspective," Unitarian Universalist Women's Conference, King's House, Peoria, IL.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

African Studies Association

American Anthropological Association

Central States Anthropological Society

Association for Africanist Anthropology

Society for Visual Anthropology

Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Kappa Phi

Lambda Alpha (Anthropology Honor Society)

Phi Beta Delta (International Studies Honor Society)

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

Bloomington-Normal Citizens for Peace and Justice, *Past Chair*, Board of Directors

Seven Circles Native American Heritage Center, *Secretary*, Board of Directors

Seven Circles Academic Outreach, *Coordinator*

Lamu Center of Preventative Health, *Secretary*, Board of Directors