

Curriculum Vitae

Ph.D., anthropology, University of California (Berkeley).
Thesis on the oral literature of central Africa.
Filmmaker.

Teaching

The University of California (Berkeley), City College(s) of New York (Lehman College, Hunter College, the Graduate Center), Brown University (RI), The School for Visual Arts (NY); currently faculty, The Rhode Island School of Design.

Courses taught (last 10 years): "Introduction to Folklore & Narrative Traditions", "Arts & Cultures the Americas and the Pacific", "African Traditional Art & Architecture", "Ethnographic Film", "Visual Anthropology", "Community-based Arts: Providence, the Global Village", "Myth-Making/Image-Making", "The Ethnographic Museum".

Travel courses to Brittany (History and Traditions of Brittany), Mexico (The Traditional Arts as Inspiration for Mexican Muralists, and The Ethnographic Museum); and Cuba (The African Roots of Cuban Shrines and Altars).

Translator: English to French/French to English (conferences, international meetings), Spanish to English (academic courses and film festivals).

Professional Activities

Founder & Director (1982 - 2008) of The Folk/ Traditional & Community Arts Program at the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, continuous with the exception of three leaves of absence: 1986 (film in Tanzania), 1989-90 (curate the bicentennial of the French Revolution and the Declaration of Human Rights at The Festival of American Folklife, Smithsonian Institution, 1992 (film in Armenia).

Curator/coordinator, Smithsonian Folklife Festival in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the French Revolution and the Declaration of Human Rights. Invited artists from the francophone world, including France, Haiti, francophone Africa, Louisiana and New England. Responsible for international relations, logistics, fundraising, planning, artistic selection, staff coordination and assessment.

Manager and curator: "Envoye à Maison", a two year cultural exchange project between New England and Québec on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Québec City (2008) to promote the shared traditions on both sides of the common border; exchange of performers and craftspeople at several venues throughout the New York and New England.

Curator or co-curator for number of exhibitions on traditional arts and/or crafts (RI, NH), including "Hand to Hand, Heart to Heart" (with M. Bell) and "Sur Bois".

Consultant/ Public relations: arts policy, media production, indigenous intellectual property, indigenous media, residential arts communities, international relations and cultural exchanges, grant-writing/fundraising, institutional infrastructure, assessment and board development.

Planning and implementation of **cultural exchanges** with Mexico, Cuba, France and Quebec.

Consultant and co-founding member (with two Bolivians, 1992; first festival 1993) of the Providence Latin-American Film Festival (RI); served as international advisor, production committee member, public relations officer and international liaison and, until 2006, as advisor.

Cultural assessment including in France, Louisiana, Rhode Island, New England, New York, and California.

Research and fieldwork: on-going including on immigration, cultural retention, community-building, indigenous intellectual property rights and traditional life.

On-going research for documentary film projects, college-level courses, and museum exhibitions.

Board or advisory member including: The Anthony Quinn Foundation (RI/international), Oasis International (RI), The International Gallery for Heritage and Culture (RI), The Jazz Gallery and Museum (NY), The Institute for Cultural Ecology (CA), The Providence Latin-American Film Festival, The Lowell Folk Festival (MA), The American Folk Festival (Bangor, ME), The Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology (RI), RI Latino Arts, and several community-based institutions.

Speaker: cultural plurality, the role of media in community building and sustainability, intellectual property rights, including at Brown University's Multi-Cultural Center, The American for The Arts annual conference, the American Folklore Society, UNESCO meetings (Québec).

Served on **review panels** including at the National Endowment for the Arts, The New England Foundation for the Arts, the Oklahoma Council for the Arts, the Rhode Island Foundation, the New York State Council for the Arts, The Maine Arts Commission, The Connecticut Commission on Culture, Tourism and the Arts, The Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Institute for Community Research, and several museums. Served on the selection/programming panel/jury for a number of film and music festivals.

Productions: director, **producer**, co-producer and/or editor on several independent documentary films, including "The Tree of Iron" (Tanzania, 1986), "Saudade" (New Bedford, MA, 1990), "The Yellin Legacy" (Philadelphia, PA, 1992), "A Cambodian Wedding" (RI, 1994), "Ginga Brasileira" (1997), "The Oba's Palace" (RI, 2000), "The Cuetos: four generations of puppeteers" (Mexico City, 2006), "Baking Bread!" (New York, 2010), "Puppetry & Politics in 1939: The Vagabond Puppeteers" (NY, 2014)

Recent **film and photography exhibitions:** The Jazz Gallery and Museum (NY), Salve Regina Gallery, The Faculty Biennial at The RI School of Design Museum, Center City Contemporary Arts, Tufts University.

Performances: Artistic director and/or performer: US, Québec, France, UK, Morocco (listing provided on request).

Fundraising and other professional/artistic activities

Organizational **fundraising** including for the Rhode Island Arts Council, the Smithsonian Institution, The Providence Latin American Film Festival, Country Roads Inc., Oasis International, and individual artists.

Grant writing: consultant on grants for local, regional and national institutions. Received grants from The National Endowment for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Humanities, The New England Foundation for the Arts, The RI Foundation, RISD Faculty Research Grants, The International Grants for Artists Abroad, The California State Council on the Arts, The Mid-Atlantic Foundation, and several international governmental grants (France, Mexico, Peru).

Collaborations with several artists, producing multi-media performances.

Publications

Regular contributor of articles and book and film reviews on anthropology, art and artists' issues, and documentary films to several publications, including Parabola (contributing editor since its first issue), The Journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Journal of African Literature, Library Journal, Western Folklore and The Journal of American Folklore.

"French Traditions" originally published in the catalogue of the 1989 Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife, has been reprinted and quoted a number of times.

"Envoyé à Maison", an introduction to - and summary of - the history of Quebec and its traditional music written

for a cultural exchange project between NY, New England and Quebec for the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec City (2008)

Membership and Awards.

Member, The American Folklore Society.

Individual recognition Award, from The International Gallery for Heritage and Culture.

Community Service Award, from Oasis International.

Film awards for documentary productions.

Folklorists in New England, (Chair, 2009 – 2010)

Languages.: French (native speaker), Spanish and Dutch; some German and Swahili.