

## **Dr. Zoé Samudzi**

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### **Education**

*September 2016 – June 2021:* University of California, San Francisco

PhD in Medical Sociology (Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences)

**Dissertation title:** “Capturing German South West Africa: Racial Production, Land Claims, and Belonging in the Afterlife of the Herero and Nama Genocide”

*October 2013 – September 2014:* The London School of Economics and Political Science

MSc in Health, Community and Development (Department of Social Psychology), Distinction

*August 2010 – December 2012:* University of Pittsburgh

B.A. in Political Science, Cum Laude

### **Teaching**

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

### **Courses Taught**

Clark University (2023-present), Visiting Assistant Professor

Africa, War, and Genocide: From Kingdoms to Now (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)

Horror, Monstrosity, and Western Cultural Anxiety (Spring 2024)

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)

Yale University (2023-present)

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

Rhode Island School of Design (2022-23), Research and Teaching Fellow for Social Equity and Inclusion

Meaning in the Medium (Spring 2025) – Painting

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

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

### **Advising**

Amarchi Iheke (PhD Candidate War Studies, King’s College London, external 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 Lopolis (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)

## **Research Affiliations**

**May 2024-Present:** Affiliated Scholar and lead of the Anti-Black Racism Project for the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention

**August 2021-Present:** Research Associate at the Center for the Study of Race, Gender, and Class, University of Johannesburg (Johannesburg, South Africa)

**July 2022-June 2023:** Research and Teaching Fellow with the Center for Social and Equity and Inclusion at the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, Rhode Island)

**July 2021-June 2022:** Postdoctoral Fellow, ACTIONS Program (School of Nursing), University of California-San Francisco

**February 2021-February 2022:** Research Fellow with the Secrecy, Power, and Ignorance research Network

**February 2020-August 2021:** Research Fellow at Political Research Associates (Boston, Massachusetts)

## **Artistic Fellowships & Residencies**

**July-August 2024:** Denniston Hill (New York)

**June 2023-June 2024:** Curatorial Research Fellowship with the Cross-Collections Research Department at the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections) (Dresden, Germany)  
In correspondence with the Research Department of the Dresden State Art Collections, and in the context of the research project "Decolonizing Socialism. Entangled Internationalism," I conducted research on the solidarity relations between the SWAPO Party of Namibia and the GDR in preparation for a research- and archival material-based exhibition entitled *The Year 1983* in the Albertinum

**January 2023-Present:** Pressing Matter consortium Artist-in-Residency Program (Amsterdam, Netherlands)  
Collaborating with South African social practice artist and researcher Zara Julius, we will be creating a twinned sonic project and publication that, per the mission on the residency's website, "investigates the potentialities of 'colonial objects' to support societal attempts to deal with the colonial past and its afterlives, and with conflicting claims by different stakeholders for these objects within museums."

**June 2023-August 2023:** Guest residency with the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

**September 2019-December 2019:** Columnist-in-residence at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's Open Space

**March 2018-December 2018:** Artist-in-residence at the Ashara Ekundayo Gallery (Oakland, CA)

**June 2017-July 2018:** Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) Fellow, Public Imagination Cohort (San Francisco, CA)

### **Curatorial Work**

**April 2025:** “To Be In and Out of the World” at EXPOSED: Torino Foto Festival—New Landscapes (Turin, Italy)

**June 2024:** “The Year 1983” in the series *Sequence 2: Entangled Internationalism*, Albertinum (Dresden, Germany – exhibition withdrawn (statement of withdrawal [here](#)))

**May 2024:** “What Lovers Do: Keeping and Being Kept,” RISD MFA Painting Thesis Exhibition, FLAG Art Foundation (New York City, NY)

### **Faculty Award**

**June-July 2024:** Palestinian American Research Center Faculty/Media Development Seminar<sup>1</sup>

### **Service to the University**

**August 2022-May 2023:** Member of the steering committee for the Center for Social Equity and Inclusion at the Rhode Island School of Design

**August 2022-May 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)

**April 2021-July 2022:** Faculty lead for the Curriculum Working Group of the [REPAIR Project](#) at the University of California, San Francisco

**August 2021-July 2022:** Member of the Steering Committee of the REPAIR Project

**February 2020-November 2020:** Member of the Institute for Human Genetics Committee on Genetics and Society at the University of California, San Francisco

### **Service to the Profession**

**April 2024-Present:** Member of the Political Theology Network

**February 2024-Present:** Member of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)

**June 2023-Present:** Member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars

**March 2023-Present:** Member of the Photography Network

**January 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)

**August 2021-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)

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<sup>1</sup> This usually occurs in the West Bank, but owed to the current security situation in both Gaza and the occupied West Bank, the program will be conducted virtually this summer.

## **Editorial Board Membership**

**July 2024-Present:** Editorial board member of the Institute for Anarchist Studies

**August 2021-Present:** Editorial board member of the *Ellipses [...] Journal for Creative Research*

## **Conferences**

May 2023: “[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

## **Peer Reviewed Publications**

Forthcoming in 2026: “Colonial Genocide and the Settler International” in *The Cambridge History of Colonialism and Decolonization*

Forthcoming in 2026: “Permanent Security” in *Routledge Handbook of Genocide Studies*

Forthcoming in 2025: “Indigeneity and Biologized Citizenship: Genomic Sovereignty, the Postcolonial African State, and the San” in *Journal of Southern African Studies*

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

### **Non-Peer Reviewed Academic Work**

Emanuel Admassu and Zoé Samudzi (2023): “Aesthetics and Monumentality” in the Canadian Centre for Architecture’s “Figuring Territoriality” issue

### **Public Scholarship**

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

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

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

(2022) “Journey from ‘the Center of the World’: On U.S. Exceptionalism and Disgust” (*The Funambulist Magazine* Issue 41, “Decentering the U.S.”)

(2021) Guest editor of Issue 37 of *The Funambulist Magazine*, “Against Genocide”  
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) German translation: “Schwarzsein. Über die Abwesenheit der Black Studies in der Erinnerungsdebatte” (*Geschichte der Gegenwart*, [June 9](#))

(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 Amer 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](#))

### **Books**

*1000 Words | Writer Conversations*, edited by Lucy Soutter and Duncan Wooldridge (2023)

“Reparative Futurities: Postcolonial Materialities and the Ovaherero and Nama Genocide” in *For Antifascist Futures: Against the Violence of Imperial Crisis*, edited by Alyosha Goldstein and Simón Ventura Trujillo (Common Notions, 2022)

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

### **Editorial Work**

**March 2022-Present: Associate Editor with *Parapraxis Magazine***

### **Select Writings**

*Architectural Review*

- Private Property: The Right to Our Own Bodies ([February 2022](#))

*SSENSE*

- Did You Get the Shot? ([April 2021](#))

*March: a journal of art & strategy*

- Against the Limits of the Archive: A Cultural History of Arshile Gorky (October 2020)

*Art in America*

- Rethinking Reparations, a profile of Cameron Rowland (August 2023, print)
- Restitution's First Wave: Bénédicte Savoy's *Africa's Struggle for Its Art* ([April 7, 2022](#))
- The ICE Man Painteth ([April 6, 2021](#))
- Paradox of Plenty ([February 16, 2021](#))
- The Sculptural Politics of Cacao ([September 15, 2020](#))

*Artnet*

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

*BOMB Magazine*

- Interview with Meleko Mokgosi ([Winter 2022](#))

*The New Republic*

- White Witness and the Contemporary Lynching ([May 16, 2020](#))

*Jewish Currents*

- Under the Hood (on the Philip Guston retrospective) ([November 16, 2022](#))
  - **Winner of the 2023 American Jewish Press Association Rockower Award for “Excellence in Arts — Review/Criticism”**
- An Object Not Meant to Object: On *The Wayland Rudd Collection* ([June 6, 2022](#))
- “Visions in Penal Time,” a conversation with Nicole Fleetwood ([January 4, 2021](#))
- A Journey into the Heart of Whiteness ([July 22, 2020](#))

*Parapraxis Magazine*

- “We Are Not All Like That”: On David Goldblatt’s distant photographs of white Afrikaners ([November 2022](#))
- “Held Hostage: Carceral Curation at the Humboldt Forum” ([Summer 2023](#))

### **Selected Talks, Presentations, and Panels**

*May 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)

*March 2024*: Reading Group: Zoé Samudzi on Ernest Cole at the Museum of Modern Art (New York City, NY)

*February 2024*: Testimonies of Genocide: Legal Recognition and Decolonial Politics panel for the Collective for Radical Death Studies

*February 2024:* “Postcolonial Horror, Haunted States,” as a part of the *Traces of Ecstasy Symposium* at the Lagos Biennial (Lagos, Nigeria)

*October 2023:* “Decolonial Geo-Imaginations,” as a part of the *These Seasons* series at the Swiss Institute (New York City, NY)

*June 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)

*February 2023:* “Extraction: Spectral Memory and Space-Time,” as part of the opening programming for the spring exhibition FLIGHT at Malmö Konsthall (Malmö, Sweden)

*February 2023:* Transmediale—a model, a map, a fiction (Berlin, Germany)

“How Images Matter,” with Anthony Downey, Alaa Mansour, and Lesia Kulchynska (moderator)

“Witnessing Beyond Imagining,” with Anna Engelhardt, Francesco Sebregondi, and Stefanos Levidis (moderator)

“Unscalable,” with Amer Kanngieser, Brett Story, Cassandra Troyan, Vienne Chan, and Mindy Seu (participant)

*December 2022:* “Media Practice in an Emergent World Order” symposium at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)

*November 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)

*November 2022:* “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)

*October 2022:* “Sounding and Sculpting: Transnational Bodies in Hans Lichtenecker’s Archive” for Illuminations: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium for the Dark Room Race and Visual Studies Seminar at Dartmouth University (Hanover, NH)

*September 2022:* “Racial Capitalism and the Pandemicene” 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)

*December 2021:* “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)

*October 2021:* “Fall Honors Lecture: Black Struggles and Abolition” (with Rinaldo Walcott) for Emerson College

*October 2021:* “A German History of Namibia or a Namibian History of Germany?” for the Einstein Forum’s *Historiker Streiten* symposium (Potsdam, Germany)

*October 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

*November 2020:* “*Fraught Desert Memorials*” for Cornell University’s College of Architecture, Art and Planning’s *Into the Desert: Questions of Coloniality and Toxicity* series

*September 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 *Global Uprising* series

*August 2020:* “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House: Abolitionist Feminist Futures” (with Gail Lewis, Miss Major, and Hortense Spillers) for the *Revolution is not a one-time event* program organized by Che Gossett, Lola Olufemi, and Sarah Shin

*February 2020:* “Public Art and Ethics Today” panel with Dewey Crumpler and Cristóbal Martínez at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Arts (San Francisco, CA)

*April 2019:* “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)

*April 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)