

## **ALEXANDER W.M. JOHNSTON**

Assistant Professor of Film  
Seattle University  
901 12th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98122  
johnstonalex@seattleu.edu  
aljiers.net

### **EDUCATION**

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- December 2017      **Ph.D.** University of California, Santa Cruz  
Film and Digital Media Department  
Dissertation: "From Prison Yard to Field of Play: Documentary Histories of Race and Movement in Film, Television, and New Media"  
Committee: Jonathan Kahana (Chair), Irene Lusztig, David Brundage, Irene Gustafson, Lawrence Andrews
- June 2010            **M.A.** University of California, Santa Cruz  
Social Documentation  
Thesis Film: *Way Down in the Hole*  
Committee: B. Ruby Rich, Renée Tajima-Peña, David Brundage
- February 2003      **B.A.** Pitzer College  
Department of Film and Electronic Arts  
Self-designed major: *Cultural Resistance: Creative Traditions of the African Diaspora*

### **GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS/FESTIVAL AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

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- 2020                  **Jury Prize Finalist - Best Documentary**, Mimesis Documentary Festival  
2020                  **Jury Prize Finalist - Best Experimental Film**, Dublin Independent Film Festival  
2019                  **Jury Prize - Best Documentary**, London Short Film Festival  
2019                  **Jury Prize - Best Documentary**, Tolpuddle Radical Film Festival  
2016, 2015, 2012    **Florence French Scholarship**, UC Santa Cruz  
2015                  **Graduate Grant Arts Project Recipient**, UC Institute for Research in the Arts  
2015                  **Arts Division Dissertation Fellowship**, UC Santa Cruz  
2015                  **Doctoral Student Sabbatical Fellowship Recipient**, UC Santa Cruz  
2010                  **Chancellor's Fellowship Recipient**, UC Santa Cruz  
2009                  **Jack Henning Graduate Fellowship**, Fund for Labor Culture and History  
2009                  **Graduate Student Travel Grant**, UC Humanities Research Institute  
2008                  **Regent's Fellowship**, UC Santa Cruz

### **VIDEO & MEDIA**

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- 2021    *Dark Cell Harlem Farm*, 26 minutes (video) (**upcoming**)  
          *We Cannot Love What We Do Not Know*, 4 minutes (video)
- 2020    *Say His Name!* (Zoom "Protest Backgrounds")  
          *Pinecone Owl*, 17 minutes (video)
- 2018    *Evidence of the Evidence*, 21 minutes (video)
- 2016    *Strange and Curious* (GIF series)

- Ra\*ist President* (GIF series)
- 2015 *A Costly Lesson*, 10 minutes (video)
- 2014 *NOW! AGAIN!*, 5 minutes (video)  
*Mugshots*, 1.5 minutes (video)
- 2013 *Radio Liberty*, 6 minutes (video)  
*A New Way in Knocking Them Out*, 3.5 minutes (video)
- 2012 *You My Opposer*, 3.5 minutes (interactive multimedia installation and video)  
*Mabel in Motion*, 3 minutes (video)
- 2011 *Always on Defense (or, Bill Russell Moves)*, 3 minutes (video)  
*A Petition in Boots*, 10 minutes (video)
- 2010 *Way Down in the Hole*, 40 minutes, (video)
- 2008 *Learning to Bend Steel*, 10 minutes (video)

## SCREENINGS

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- 2021 Tacoma Film Festival, Tacoma, WA  
Abolition NOW!, Maysles Documentary Center, Harlem, NY  
Show Me Justice Film Festival - 10-year retrospective, Warrensburg, MO
- 2020 Mimesis Documentary Festival, Boulder, CO **\*Jury Prize Finalist\***  
Dublin Independent Film Festival, Dublin, Ireland **\*Jury Prize Finalist - Best Experimental\***  
Indy Film Awards, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2019 London Short Film Festival, London, England **\*Jury Prize - Best Documentary\***  
Tolpuddle Radical Film Festival, Tolpuddle, UK **\*Jury Prize - Best Documentary\***  
Northwest Film Forum, Seattle, WA  
Doc/Player program, Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival, UK  
Being Human Festival, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK  
ConverSalon, Toronto, Canada  
Drunken Film Fest, Bradford, UK  
IDEAL Artspace, Leipzig, Germany  
SU English Department Research Seminar Series, Seattle, WA
- 2018 Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), Berlin, Germany  
Camden International Film Festival, Camden, ME  
American Film Institute (AFI), Los Angeles, CA  
Message to Man International Film Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia  
Tacoma Film Festival, Tacoma, WA  
Cachoeira Doc Festival, Cachoeira, Brazil  
Anti Matter Media Festival, Vancouver, BC  
MDocs Storyteller's Institute, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Iowa City Documentary Film Festival, Iowa City, IA  
Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN  
Lisbon International Independent Film Festival (IndieLisboa), Lisbon, Portugal  
Big Muddy Film Festival, Carbondale, IL

- Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA  
 ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany  
 Museum of Human Achievement, Austin, TX
- 2017 Alternativa Film/Video Festival, Belgrade, Serbia  
 Pluralities, Documentary Film Institute, San Francisco, CA  
 Collective Misnomer, Dikeou Collection, Denver, CO  
 Cachoeira Doc Festival, Cachoeira, Brazil  
 Dulces Trópicos Festival, Lima, Peru  
 YES - Ypsi Experimental Space, Ypsilanti, MI  
 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA  
 Experimental Response Cinema, Austin, TX
- 2016 Interference Archive, Brooklyn, NY  
 The Broad Theater, New Orleans, LA  
 Screening Scholarship Media Festival, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
 Mechanical Eye Microcinema, Asheville, NC  
 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 New Orleans Film Festival, New Orleans, LA  
 Iowa City Documentary Film Festival, **Honorable Mention**, Iowa City, IA  
 Thin Line Film Festival, Denton, TX  
 Saint Louis International Film Festival, Saint Louis, MO  
 Interference Archive, Brooklyn, NY  
 “Documented Italians” Film and Video Series, Queens College, CUNY, Manhattan, NY  
 Cinema Contra, Denver, CO  
 Show Me Justice Film Festival, Warrensburg, MO  
 BloomScreen and DC Moving Pictures, Washington, D.C.  
 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA  
 Revisiting Ludlow: It's Enduring Legacy, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA  
 Bread and Roses Workers Cultural Center, Denver, CO
- 2013 On the Clock: A Playful Guide to Working Life, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA  
 Colorado Mountain College, Common Reader Events, Screenings at 5 campuses, Colorado, CO
- 2011 Not Fiction! A Screening of Experimental Documentaries, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 University of Colorado Denver, CO  
 Ludlow Memorial Labor Festival, Colorado State University at Pueblo, CO  
 Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA  
 San Francisco Labor Fest, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 Library of Congress, Remembering Archie Green, Washington, D.C.  
 Reel Works Labor Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA  
 San Francisco Labor Fest, San Francisco, CA  
 Labor and Working Class History Association National Conference, Chicago, IL

## **VIDEO & MEDIA CRITICAL IMPACT**

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### **Published Scholarship About Creative Work**

- 2019 “Contemporary Newsreel and New Everybody Figures as Mediators in Late Democracies” by Andrej Šprah, in *Popularization and Populism in the Visual Arts: Attraction Images*, ed. Anna Schober. Routledge (September 2019) (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429467882>)
- 2018 “Social Media and the New Newsreel” by Erica Levin, in *Media-N - Journal of the New Media Caucus* (February 2018) (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.median.v13i1.1>)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- “Making Space: A Discussion about Racism and Anti-Racist Pedagogy in Arts Education”** in *Rehearsing Racial Equity: A Critical Anthology on Anti-Racism and Repair in the Arts*, ed. Jasmine Mahmoud and Roxy Hornbeck. (Chapter accepted for publication)
- “Fraught Narratives, Archival Traces: Documentary Experiments in Carceral History”** in *Constructions of the Real: Intersections of Practice and Theory in Documentary-Based Filmmaking*, ed. Kim Munro, Catherine Gough-Brady, Christine Rogers, Liz Burke and Liz Baulch. (Chapter accepted for publication)
- “Telling Something Else: Documentary Beyond (Hi)story”** in *World Records*, ed. Alexandra Juhasz, Alisa Lebow and Jason Fox. (In Press)
- “Pugilism and Performance: William Greaves, Muhammad Ali, and the Making of *The Fight*.”** in *William Greaves: An American Filmmaker’s Odyssey*, ed. Scott MacDonald and Jacqueline Stewart. Columbia University Press. (May 2021)
- “On Homburgs and Radical Curiosity”** in *INCITE: Journal of Experimental Media*, ed. Brett Kashmere and Steve Polta. (February 2021)
- “What You Want Me to Be’: Documentary Representations of Muhammad Ali from the 1970s to the Present,”** in *Journal of Sport and Social Issues: Special Issue on the Sport Documentary*, ed. Travis Vogan and C.L. Cole. (February 2019)
- “Strange and Curious’: An Uncanny Hagiography of Muhammad Ali,”** in *INCITE: Journal of Experimental Media*, ed. Brett Kashmere and Astria Suparak (April 2018)
- “What Hurts’: The Persistence of History in Ava Duvernay’s *13th*,”** in *Docalogue*, ed. Jaimie Baron and Kristen Fuhs (February 2017)

## **CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, INVITED PANELS & TALKS**

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### **Panels & Screenings Organized/Programmed/Moderated**

- 2021 “Abolition in Action: A conversation with the George Jackson Brigade about Attica”  
Panel Discussion, Abolition NOW! 50 Years of the Attica Prison Uprising, Maysles Documentary Center, Harlem, NY
- 2019 “Experiments in Resistance: Experimental Media in the Age of Mass Incarceration”  
Screening and Artist’s panel, Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference  
Seattle, WA
- 2018 “Reframing Sports Media”  
Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference  
Toronto, Canada

## **Papers, Presentations, Talks, & Roundtable Discussions**

### **Conferences & Festivals**

- 2021 “Attica on Film”  
Panel Discussion, Abolition NOW! 50 Years of the Attica Prison Uprising, Maysles  
Documentary Center, Harlem, NY
- 2020 “Challenging History”  
Panel Discussion, Mimesis Documentary Festival  
Boulder, CO
- 2019 “‘The Scene of No Crime’ (history beyond [Hi]Story)”  
Poetics and Politics Documentary Research Symposium  
Santa Cruz, CA
- 2018 “Salesman and Saint: The Television Commercials of Muhammad Ali”  
Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference  
Toronto, Canada
- 2017 “In Resistance with Filmmaker Scholars” and “Innovation & Scholarship in Nonfiction Media  
Journals”  
Pluralities Conference  
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
- “And Again, and Again, and Again’: Rhythm, Repetition, Tempo, and the GIF as Indexical  
Document,”  
Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference  
Chicago, IL
- 2016 “Spectacle and Process: The Document, the Documentary, and the Sports GIF”  
Visible Evidence XXIII  
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
- “The Haptic Archive: Jack Johnson, Muhammad Ali and Embodied Historical  
Encounters”  
Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
Atlanta, GA
- 2015 “The Radical Archive: Attica Distorted, Attica Revealed”  
Visible Evidence XXII  
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- “What Now!?: Radical Politics and Radical Media in the Digital Landscape”  
Poetics and Politics: A Documentary Research Symposium  
UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

### **Invited Artist Talks in University Courses**

- 2020 “Documenting Praxis”  
Artist Talk, Graduate Seminar, Documentary Research Methods  
New School for Social Research  
New York, NY

- 2020 “Screening Attica”  
 Artist Talk, Undergraduate Course, “Philosophy of Oppression and Resistance”  
 Seattle University  
 Seattle, WA
- 2019 “Carceral Images”  
 Artist Talk, Undergraduate Course, “Visual Cultures of Surveillance”  
 University of Idaho  
 Moscow, ID
- 2018 “Images of Resistance”  
 Artist Talk, Graduate Seminar, “Visions of Dissent”  
 Maine College of Art  
 Portland, ME

### **Conferences Attended**

- 2017 Radical Film Network NYC: A Global Gathering  
 Murphy Institute, CUNY, New York, New York

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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#### **Assistant Professor**, Seattle University, WA

- 2021 Visual Storytelling: Documentary  
 Filmmaking 2
- 2020 Social Justice Cinema  
 Experimental Film and Media  
 Remix Media  
 Filmmaking 1  
 Filmmaking 2  
 Filmmaking 3
- 2019 Visual Storytelling: Media Activism  
 Visual Storytelling: Documentary  
 Found Footage  
 Filmmaking 1  
 Filmmaking 2  
 Filmmaking 3
- 2018 Filmmaking 1

#### **Instructor**, UC Santa Cruz, CA

- 2018 Experimental Film and Video
- 2017 Introduction to Film Studies
- 2016 Introduction to Production Technique
- 2015 Film Authors: Werner Herzog
- 2015, 2013 Found Footage
- 2014 Film Directing
- 2013 The Fire Last Time: Social Movements and the Documentary

**Instructor**, Digital Media Academy, Los Gatos, CA  
2013, 2012 Introduction to Filmmaking

**Post Baccalaureate Urban Fellow**, Pitzer College, Claremont, CA  
2004-05 Teaching in Prisons  
Media Studies  
Urban Horticulture

## **SERVICE WORK**

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### **Film Studies Program**

2018-Present Production Equipment Manager - responsible for managing, maintaining, and purchasing media production equipment for program  
Curriculum Committee  
Assessment Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan Committee  
Tenure and Promotion Guidelines Committee  
Equipment Committee  
Professional Pathways Committee  
Recruitment Committee

### **English Department**

2019-Present Student Outreach Committee

### **College of Arts and Sciences**

2020 Strategic Plan Implementation Committee

### **University Core**

2019 Participated in Core Community Pilot Program, intended to foster community among 1st and 2nd year students.

### **University Service**

2019 Member of interdisciplinary panel for post-screening discussion of documentary film, *Medicating Normal*, an event co-sponsored by Film Studies and the School of Nursing

### **Service to Field**

2020-Present Visible Evidence Conference Steering Committee - 2020 conference rescheduled for December 2021 in Frankfurt, Germany

2020-Present Board Member - National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY)

2019 Conducted review of essay and accompanying film project submission for Media-N, Journal of the New Media Caucus

## **RESEARCH, CURATORIAL & EDITORIAL WORK**

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2020 *Tolpuddle Radical Film Festival*, Tolpuddle, UK  
Juror  
Served as a juror in Documentary Film category for Tolpuddle Radical Film Festival

- 2019 *National Film Festival for Talented Youth*, Seattle, WA  
Juror  
Served as a juror in Experimental Film category for National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY)
- 2019 *Echo Park Film Center*, Marvelous Movie Mondays, Los Angeles, CA  
Guest curator  
Served as a guest curator of themed monthly screening series, Marvelous Movie Mondays; curated media program entitled “‘Says Who?’: Media and Authority”
- 2014-present *NOW! A Journal of Urgent Praxis*  
Managing Editor (2014-2019), Editor, Contributor  
Assisted in founding of online media journal, ([Now-Journal.com](http://Now-Journal.com)) served as managing editor from 2014-2019, and as editor and contributor from 2019-present; as managing editor, designed, implemented and serve as webmaster for journal website
- 2017-present *Pluralities: Non-Fiction Film Journal*, San Francisco, CA  
Editorial Board Member  
Editorial board member for non-fiction film journal, published by the Documentary Film Institute at San Francisco State University
- 2015-2018 *Peabody Awards*, Athens, GA  
Nominating Committee Member  
Reviewed and nominated documentary media submissions for Peabody Awards
- 2017 *Joris Ivens Archive*, Politics and Poetics Series, Nijmegen, Netherlands  
Guest Curator  
Served as a guest curator of the Politics and Poetics film series, hosted by the Joris Ivens Archive
- “Other” Cinema Society, Santa Cruz, CA  
Co-curator  
Curated weekly screening series showcasing the work of Bay Area filmmaker Craig Baldwin and affiliated filmmakers whose work has been featured by Baldwin’s Other Cinema

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## **FREELANCE & COMMISSIONED MEDIA WORK**

- 2017 *Community Studies: We Are Everywhere*  
Producer, Director, Director of Photography, Editor  
Documentary about Community Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz, a 45-year-old program with a mission to train students to become community activists
- 2013 *Inside the Distance* (<http://insidethedistance.net/>)  
Production Manager, Assistant Director of Photography, Assistant Editor  
Online new media documentary project about restorative justice programs in Belgium, produced by artist Sharon Daniel

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## **SOFTWARE SKILLS**

Literate in Adobe Creative Suite, Final Cut Pro Studio, Max MSP, Pro Tools, Audacity, Squarespace, Wordpress



**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

*Visible Evidence*

*Radical Film Network*

*Print Organize Protest Collective*