

cgastro@ncsu.edu

EMPLOYMENT

- August 2023 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Carolina State University.
- April 2020 – July 2023 Senior Lecturer (South African equivalent to advanced Assistant Professor, with tenure), Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, University of Johannesburg.
- June 2016 – March 2020 Lecturer (South African equivalent to Assistant Professor), Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, University of Johannesburg
- July 2014 – June 2016 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand.

EDUCATION

- 2014 **PhD.** Anthropology, University of Chicago.
- 2007 **M.A.** African Studies, University of Basel.
Concentrations in Anthropology and History (*summa cum laude*).
- 2006 **B.A.** (Honors) History, University of Cape Town.
First class pass.
- 2004 **B.Soc.Sci.** History and Politics, University of Cape Town.
Degree with Distinction.

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscript

The Aesthetics of Belonging: Indigenous urbanism and city-building in oil-boom Luanda
(Under contract with University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming 2024)

Published Journal Articles

- 2022 “If Angola were Libya”: Protest and politics in Angola. *Transformation; Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa*. 108. 11-34.
- 2020 Housing Middle Classness: Formality and distinction in Luanda, Angola. *Africa*. 90(3):

- 509-28.
- 2020 DIY Verticality: The politics of materiality in Luanda. *City and Society*. 32(1): 93-117.
- 2020 Urban States: The Presidency and planning in Luanda, Angola. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 44(2): 366-383.
- 2017 Cement Citizens: Housing, demolition and political belonging in Luanda, Angola. *Citizenship Studies*. 21(2): 224 – 239.
- 2017 Aesthetic Dissent: Urban redevelopment and political belonging in Luanda, Angola. *Antipode*. 49 (2): 377 – 396 (2018 Central African Studies Association Award for best paper published internationally on Central Africa by an early career scholar)
- 2015 Thinking futures through the slum. *The Avery Review*. September. Issue 9. <http://www.averyreview.com/issues/9/thinking-futures>
- 2014 “Vamos Construir!”: Revendications foncières et géographie du pouvoir à Luanda, Angola” *Politique Africaine*. No 132: 49 – 72.
- 2011 Contested Aesthetics: Urban redevelopment and citizenship in Luanda, Angola. *Mulemba – Revista Angolana de Ciências Sociais*. 1(1): 93-106.
- 2005 Struggling for Freedom: The divestment movement at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1977 – 1987” *Safundi*, 6 (4): 1 – 26.

Special Issues:

2019. Special issue co-editor with Jeremy Ball (Dickenson College, USA). *Kronos*: ‘Angola: Nationalist narratives and alternative histories’

Book Chapters

- 2021 Capturing *Poder Popular*: Governance and control in early socialist Angola. In François Blum (ed) *Socialismes en Afrique/Socialisms in Africa*. Paris: Maison des Sciences de l’Homme.
- 2019 The Politics of Repair: Talatona and luxury urbanism in Luanda, Angola. In Simidele Dosekun and Mehita Iqani (eds.) *African Luxury: Aesthetics and Politics*. Chicago: Intellect Press.
- 2019 Recycling Consumption: Political power and elite wealth in Angola. In Deborah Posel and Ilana van Wyk (eds.) *Conspicuous Consumption in Africa*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press.

Media and Public Engagement:

- 2022 Aesthetics and the Making of Urban Futures in Angola. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. <https://www.ijurr.org/spotlight-on/african-futures/aesthetics-and-the-making-of-urban-futures-in-luanda-angola/>
- (with Gilson Lázaro) Angola's Eduardo dos Santos: a divisive figure in life – and death. *The Conversation*. 22 July. <https://theconversation.com/angolas-eduardo-dos-santos-a-divisive-figure-in-life-and-in-death-187462>
- 2020 New leader is changing Angola, but the end destination is not clear. *The Conversation*. 6 February <https://theconversation.com/new-leader-is-changing-angola-but-the-end-destination-isnt-clear-131063>
- Laundering Isabel Dos Santos. *Africa is a Country*. 20 January <https://africasacountry.com/2020/01/laundering-isabel-dos-santos>
- 2019 Scenes from a dry city. *Africa is a Country*. 9 June. <https://africasacountry.com/2019/06/scenes-from-a-dry-city>
- 2018 Cape Town's water woes are the norm for the city's black residents. *Africa is a Country*. 28 February. <https://africasacountry.com/2018/02/cape-towns-water-woes-are-the-norm-for-the-citys-black-residents>
- 2017 Urban. *Somatosphere*. 6 November. <http://somatosphere.net/2017/11/urban.html>
- Angola's ruling party regains power but faces legitimacy question. *The Conversation*. 14 September. <https://theconversation.com/angolas-ruling-party-regains-power-but-faces-legitimacy-questions-83983>
- No Change on the horizon for Angola. *Cape Times*. 22 February.
- 2016 Design and Temporality: Integration. *Cultural Anthropology*. Conversations online: <http://culanth.org/fieldsights/909-design-and-temporality-integration> 27 June.
- Dos Santos maintains the status quo while suggesting change in Angola. *The Conversation*. 29 March. <https://theconversation.com/dos-santos-maintains-the-status-quo-while-suggesting-change-in-angola-56883>
- 2015 Why the residents of Luanda are asking: Where did all the riches go? *The Conversation*. 29 October. <https://theconversation.com/why-luandas-residents-are-asking-where-did-all-the-oil-riches-go-49772>
2013. The increasingly shaky edifice of Luanda. 8 November. *Africa Is a Country*. <http://africasacountry.com/author/claudia-gastrow/>

Angolan Elections 2012: Beer and circuses no longer enough. 30 August. *African Arguments*. <http://africanarguments.org/2012/08/30/angolan-elections-2012-beer-and-circuses-no-longer-enough-by-claudia-gastrow/>

Zango: Plans unravel. *Urban Africa*. 11 January
<https://www.urbanafrica.net/news/zango-plans-unravel/>

Concrete politics. *Urban Africa*. 2 January
<https://www.urbanafrica.net/news/concrete-politics/>

2012. African Architectures: Cazenga and urban redevelopment. 16 November.
<https://www.urbanafrica.net/news/african-architectures-cazenga-and-urban-redevelopment/>

China and the expansion of Luanda. 27 September.
<https://www.urbanafrica.net/news/china-and-expansion-luanda/>

Book Reviews

2022 Review of Paula Christina Roque. *Governing in the Shadows: Angola's securitised state*. In *Transformation: Critical Perspectives in Southern Africa*. 110: 132-134.

2021 Review of Birmingham, David. *A Short History of Modern Angola*. In *Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa*. 106: 115-118.

Review of Maria do Carmo Piçarra and Teresa Castro (eds.) 2017. *(Re)Imagining African Cinema: Film, Visual Arts and the Fall of the Portuguese Empire*. Oxford: Peter Lang. *Journal of African Cinema*. 12.

Review of Jess Auerbach. *From Water to Wine: Becoming Middle-Class in Angola*. May. H-Luso Africa, H-Net Reviews: <https://networks.h-net.org/node/7926/reviews/7735347/gastrow-auerbach-water-wine-becoming-middle-class-angola>

2017 The multiplicity and contradictions of modernization highlighted – *Modernization as Spectacle in Africa*, Peter J. Bloom, Stephan F. Miescher and Takyiwaa Manuh (eds). *Historia*. 62(1): 125-128.

2016 Oxford Street, Accra: City life and itineraries of transnationalism. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (22): 1020 – 1021.

Political Identity and Conflict in Central Angola, 1975-2002. *Anthropology Southern Africa*. 39 (2): 170-172.

The Unpredictable Past: A review of *In the Name of the People: Angola's Forgotten Massacre*. *The Salon*.
http://jwtc.org.za/volume_10/audia_gastrow.htm

- 2015 “Cubans in Angola: South-South Cooperation and Transfer of Knowledge, 1976 – 1991” *South African Historical Journal*. 67 (4): 475-478.
- Legacies and Losses: A review of *Claim no Easy Victories: The Legacy of Amilcar Cabral*. *Feminist Africa*. (20): 127-131
- 2013 From London to Luanda: A review of Daniel Metcalfe’s *Blue Dahlia, Black Gold*. <http://africanarguments.org/2013/10/29/from-london-to-luanda-review-of-daniel-metcalfes-blue-dahlia-black-gold-by-claudia-gastrow/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Johannesburg

Introduction to Anthropology: The course offers students a grounding in the field of anthropology through a focus on classical themes and their relation to contemporary debates. It begins with a discussion of the founding of the discipline in the late 19th century and then walks students through discussions about the concepts of culture and society, economy and politics, as well as the discipline’s relations to colonialism. It blends more conceptual texts with specific historical readings about anthropology’s emergence in southern Africa so as to cultivate a critical awareness of the discipline’s history in Africa.

Political Anthropology: This is a senior level course that introduces students to debates in political anthropology. It focuses on key themes including theorizations of power, the state, governmentality, sovereignty, nationalism, citizenship, colonialism and postcolonialism. Students read a range of texts from early twentieth century ethnographies to more recent scholarship to provide insight into how key debates have shifted overtime.

The Anthropology of Space and Place: This course provides an initial grounding in theorizations of space and place in anthropological literature, moving on then to focus specifically on urban Africa as a site for thinking through the politics of contemporary place-making. The topics covered in the course include colonial urbanism, informality, new city building, infrastructure, and segregation. Students are required to undertake small fieldwork assignments as a means of introducing them to the practice of ethnography.

Anthropological Theory: This course focuses on classical and contemporary anthropological theory. Students are required to read primary texts and write a long comparative essay at the end of the course. The readings begin with early debates that emerged out of British, French and American anthropology focused on questions of structure, society, culture and difference. It then moves students through discussions regarding representation, power, post-structuralism, gender and feminism, and postcolonialism in anthropology, ending with contemporary discussions of decoloniality, racial capitalism, and materiality.

Reading Anthropological Debates through Ethnography: This course introduces students to larger debates in anthropology and especially anthropology on the African continent, through a critical engagement with ethnographic texts. In doing this it seeks to provide students with an overview of the history of the discipline as well as cultivate critical reading abilities. It opens by drawing on historical and contemporary writings by African anthropologists to shed light on how the discipline’s history and internal debates have been viewed and engaged with from the

position of the African continent. It then focuses on key themes in contemporary ethnography to investigate how new research opens avenues for the novel reconceptualization of canonical themes. The ethnographic focus of the latter half of the class changes depending on what ethnographies have been recently published and current debates within anthropology.

University of Chicago

Urban Africa: Writing the World from an African Metropolis (Instructor). This is an interdisciplinary course focused on African urbanism. Students were required to read contemporary ethnographies to discuss the conceptualization and framing of urbanism in Africa.

African Civilizations II (Teaching Assistant): This was a survey course in African Studies. Topics covered included colonialism, urbanism, gender, generation, race, and memory practices.

Self-Determination: Theory and Reality (Teaching Assistant). The course focused on the theory and history of the concept of self-determination in the making of the contemporary world political order. Topics covered included the founding of the UN, decolonization, and contemporary conflicts over self-determination in South-East Asia. It could be adapted to a focus on Africa or other geographical areas.

Media Aesthetics. (Writing Instructor and Teaching Assistant). First year course. This was an introductory course for first years to introduce them to primary ideas in the humanities such representation and narrative, extending into contemporary debates about discourse analysis. Classes were accompanied by weekly writing workshops in which I taught students the basics of academic writing.

Post-graduate supervision

Masters

- Praveer Patel. *The digital driver: An ethnographic study of social media through car culture perspectives* (Graduated 2020. University of Johannesburg)
- Mercy Gitonga. *Mobile Citizenry: Transnational Socialities and Place-Making among Ethiopian Migrants along the Southern Route from Addis Ababa, through Nairobi to South Africa.* (Writing up phase)

PhD Students

- Praveer Patel. *An Ethnographic Study of Biomedical Knowledge Production in the South African COVID-19 Epidemic* (Writing up)
- Nina Barnett. *Water and politics in Johannesburg.* (Undertaking fieldwork)
- Maria Rodner. *Youth activism in Mozambique.* (Proposal phase)
- Heather van Niekerk. *Ways we make the city: Creative interventions and their role in disrupting and constructing everyday life in Johannesburg.* (Proposal phase)

SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 University of Johannesburg, Faculty of Humanities Emerging Researcher Award.
- 2021 Urban Studies Foundation International Fellowship. Book completion fellowship being hosted by the Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative at Harvard University (October 2021 – January 2022.)
- 2019 British Academy-Academy of Science of South Africa, participant in Early Career Workshop on Urban Lives.
- 2019-2023 Norwegian Research Council, ‘Urban Enclaving Futures’. Collaboration between academics in Mozambique, Ghana, South Africa and Norway studying enclaving practices in Johannesburg, Maputo and Accra. Johannesburg researcher (Research money NOK262 000 – approximately \$30,000.)
- 2019-2023 Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies, Iso Lomso Fellowship for Emerging African Scholars. Put on hold for 2020 due to Covid-19. Restarted mid-2021.
- 2018 Central African Studies Association Essay Award.
Best article published internationally on Central Africa by a junior academic in 2017 and 2018.
- 2018/2019 Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, Fellow in Summer Program in the Social Sciences. Two year fellowship program to advance collaborations between early career scholars from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.
- 2018 University of Birmingham, Cadbury Bursary to attend to ASUK Conference.
- 2016 Cambridge University, Junior African Scholar Travel Award, Cambridge Centre for African Studies.
- 2015 – 2016 American Council of Learned Societies, African Humanities Program Postdoctoral Fellow.
- 2013-14 University of Chicago, Pozen Human Rights Fellow.
- 2012 -13 University of Chicago, Residential Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture.
University of Chicago, Urban Network, Urban Doctoral Fellow.
- 2011-12 Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fund.
- 2010-11 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Wenner-Gren Osmundsen Initiative Grant
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 2009 University of Chicago, Human Rights Fellowship for summer internship and research.

- 2008 Middlebury College, Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace: Awarded to cover the total costs of attending the summer 2008 Portuguese Language School.
- 2007-2014 University of Chicago Graduate Aid Initiative Fellowship. Awarded to cover the costs of graduate level study (fees and stipend) at the University of Chicago.

INVITED TALKS

- 2022 Indigenous urbanism and city-building in Luanda, Angola. *African Urbanities Summer Institute*. Makerere University, Uganda, 19 October. (Keynote)
- 2019 The discomforts of home: Class, infrastructure and aesthetics in Luanda, Angola. Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies, 16 April.
- 2018 ‘Stealing taps is a crime against the people’: Civility and materiality in Luanda, Angola’ African Studies Workshop. Harvard University, 3 December.
- Mussequue city: Urban autochthony and material belonging. Colby College, 27 November.
- 2015 Thinking futures through the slum. *Housing the Majority*. Columbia University, 10 April.
- 2011 Antropologia urbana: O caso de Luanda. University of Agostinho Neto, Luanda, 21 September.

SELECTED CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences and Workshops Organized:

- 2019 Workshop organizer. ‘Angola: Nationalist Narratives and Alternative Histories’ University of Johannesburg, 14-15 January.
- 2015 Symposium organizer. *Pan-Africanism in the Age of Xenophobia*. University of the Witwatersrand. Johannesburg, 3 – 4 June.
- Workshop Coordinator. *Public Space, Infrastructure and Informality in the Splintering City*. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and University of the Witwatersrand collaboration. Johannesburg, 4- 11 May.
- 2014 Co-organizer. *Workshop on Angolan Urban Studies*. Luanda, Angola, 5 and 6 December.

Invited workshop participation:

- 2018 Suspicious constructions. *Suspicious Materialities* Workshop. Lusaka, 7-10 December.
- A descolonização da universidade em África do Sul: Poder, instituições e mobilização. *Humanidades públicas: Pensar a Liberdade na universidade africana*. Catholic University of Angola. Luanda, 21-25 September.
- Autochthonous urbanism. *African Metropolitan Futures Workshop*, Cape Town. 5 – 6 June.
- The object city: Musseque and cidade in Luanda. *Afrotopias Workshop*. Zanzibar, 12 -13 March.
- 2017 High-Rise Stories: Architectural politics in Luanda. *The Political Materiality of Cities*. University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, 28-29 September.
- 2016 Kilamba and continuities of class in Luanda’s new suburbs. *Workshop on Global Suburbanisms*. 17-19 October, Johannesburg.
- The discomforts of home. *Technology Studies in Africa*. Durban, 10 – 15 July.
- Toxic politics. *Interdisciplinary Workshop on Toxicities, Waste, Detritus*. Durban, 7-8 July.
- 2015 “I have the same qualities as them: Differentiated citizenship and the sensual politics of class in Luanda, Angola” *Differentiated Citizenship: A North/South Dialogue*. University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, 4-5 February.

Papers presented

- 2022 Nested Enclaves: De-Risking and making usable space in urban Africa. *African Studies Association AGM*, Philadelphia, 17-19 November
- 2021 Proliferating Enclaves: “De-risking” and the making of usable space in urban Africa. Harvard University, 9 December.
- Musseque City: Urban Autochthony in Fugitive Spaces. Johns Hopkins University, 12 November.
- 2019 Exploitative Infrastructures in Luanda. *African Studies Association of Africa Meeting*. Nairobi, Kenya, 24 October – 26 October.
- The Aesthetics of Care in Luanda. *African Studies Association Meeting*. Boston, USA, 22-23 November.

- 2018 Unmaking property: Demolition and displacement in Luanda, Angola. *African Studies Association Meeting UK*. Birmingham, UK, 11-13 September.
- 2017 Slum anxieties. *Urban Anxieties in the Global South*. University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, August 16 – 17.
- Angola and the unpredictable. *Locations of African and African Diaspora Critical Thought*. University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, August 12 – 15.
- The shadow city: The state and urban planning in Luanda Angola. *Urbanism in the Global South: Building New Geographies of Development*. Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, 26 June.
- “Middle class complicity in Angola”. *Workshop: The Middle Class and Activism in Africa*. STIAS, Stellenbosch, 17 – 21 March.
- 2016 “Demolition as care and dissent as war in Luanda, Angola”. *American Anthropological Association Annual General Meeting*. Minneapolis, USA, 16 – 20 November.
- The good city. *Workshop: The Dynamics of Dwelling in Africa*. Maputo, Mozambique, 24 – 27 October.
- Middle classness as state intervention?: Housing and distinction in Luanda, Angola. *African Studies Association UK Meeting*. Cambridge, UK, 7-9 September.
- Musseques Citizens: Urban space, materiality, and belonging in Luanda, Angola. *Northeastern Workshop on Southern Africa*. Burlington, Vermont, 15 – 17 April.
- Housing socialist citizens in Luanda. *Socialisme Africaine/Socialisme en Afrique*. Université Paris I. Paris, 6-9 April.
- 2015 Musseques como património. *Conferência Internacional “Estudos sobre Angola”*. Catholic University of Angola. Luanda, 7 and 8 December.
- The political aesthetics of infrastructure and rights. *European Conference on African Studies*. Paris, 8-10 July.
- Segregation in Luanda. *Forensic Infrastructure Conference*. University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 1 – 2 April.
- The sensual life of class in Luanda, Angola. *Infrastructural Life in Africa*. Columbia University, 6 March.
- 2014 “The Country has been sold”: Housing and the authority of aesthetics in Luanda. *UK African Studies Association Meeting*. University of Sussex, UK, September 2014.

“Governing through destruction: Understanding the politics of demolition in Luanda, Angola” *The Second International Conference on Angola: New Directions in Angolan Research*. Oxford University, UK, 17-18 March.

2013 “Failed architectures? Understanding the high-rise in Luanda, Angola” *American Anthropological Association Annual General Meeting*. Chicago, 20-24 March.

2012 ‘I have the same qualities as them’: Democracy, human rights, and housing in Luanda, Angola. *African Studies Association Annual General Meeting*. Philadelphia, 29 November – 1 December.

Designing the urban subject: Housing, architecture, and citizenship in Luanda, Angola. *American Anthropological Association Annual General Meeting*. San Francisco, 15 – 18 November.

2010 Homes, property, and reconstruction: Cold War legacies in Urban Angola. *Cold War Cultures: Transnational and Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. University of Austin, Texas, 30 September – 3 October.

2009 Contesting heritage in postcolonial Luanda. *American Anthropological Association Annual General Meeting*. Philadelphia, 3 December.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Journals

2022 – present *Anthropology Southern Africa*. Editorial board.

2020- present *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. Corresponding Editor

2018 – present *African Studies Review*. Associate Editor

2017 - 2022 *Journal of Southern African Studies*. Advisory Board/Editorial Board

2017 – 2022 *African Studies*. Co-editor

Peer-Reviewer:

Cultural Anthropology, Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, Social Dynamics, The Dubois Review, Social Analysis, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, African Studies, South Asia, Anthropology Southern Africa, Journal of Material Culture, Journal of African History, Urban Geography, Journal of Southern African Studies, Critical African Studies, American Anthropologist, Africa, American Ethnologist, Urban Studies, Political Geography

General Service

2023 – present Board of Directors, African Studies Association.

2023 Program Chair, African Studies Association AGM

2020 Curator. Anthropology stream. African Studies Association. Annual General Meeting.

2019 Mentor for early career scholars. *African Studies Review* Pipeline for Emerging Scholars Workshop. Nairobi, 23 October.

2018- 2020 Organizer and facilitator of annual PhD student journal article writing workshop. Funded by *African Studies*.

2018 Curator. Civil Society and Activism stream. African Studies Association. Annual General Meeting.

Mentor for early career scholars. *Journal for Southern African Studies*. Emerging Scholars and New Research in Southern Africa Writing Workshop. Centre for Social Research and Chancellor College, Malawi, 17 – 19 July.

Curator. Shifting Urban Landscapes stream for Africa in the World: Shifting Boundaries and Knowledge Production. African Studies Association and American Anthropology Association. Johannesburg, 25 – 28 May.

Mentor. *African Studies Review* Pipeline for Emerging African Scholars Workshop. Johannesburg, 24 May.

2017: Curator of stream “Anthropology”. African Studies Association. Annual General Meeting. Chicago, 16 – 18 November.

Mentor. *African Studies Review* Pipeline for Emerging African Scholars Workshop. Chicago, 15 November.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Johannesburg.

2021 – 2023: Faculty Higher Degrees Committee

2020 – 2022: Coordinator of Anthropology MA program

2020 – 2022: Co-coordinator of departmental graduate student research seminar

2017- 2019: Coordinator of Anthropology Honors Program

2017 and 2022: Co-coordinator of departmental seminar series.

LANGUAGES

English (First Language)

Portuguese (Fluent reading, speaking, and writing)

German (Fluent reading, conversational speaking)

Afrikaans (Fluent reading)
Spanish (Strong reading)