

RUSSELL LEIGH SHARMAN, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

Oxford University - Oxford, England
PH.D. Social/Visual Anthropology, July 1999

Northeastern University - Boston, MA
M.A. Sociology/Anthropology, June 1996

University of Texas - Austin, TX
B.S. Radio/Television/Film, May 1994

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Towson University, Department of Electronic Media and Film, Fall 2022-Present. Responsible for teaching City Cinema and Concept and Story as asynchronous online courses, as well as Broadcast/Film Writing and Film History (Spring 2024) in-person.

Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University, Film and Media Studies, Spring 2023-Present. Responsible for teaching Introduction to Screenwriting, an undergraduate screenwriting course and mentoring a weekly TV Writers Room.

Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University, MA in Film and Media, Spring 2023-Present. Responsible for teaching Screenwriting I and Screenwriting II (Spring 2024), both graduate-level screenwriting courses, and Social Impact Documentary Filmmaking, a graduate-level documentary production course.

Curriculum Consultant, Johns Hopkins University, MA in Film and Media, Fall 2022-Spring 2023. Responsible for defining Program Learning Objectives in collaboration with the program Director, defining course learning outcomes for each course, mapping the graduate-level film and media curriculum, and developing a multi-year outcomes assessment plan for the program.

Assistant Professor of Practice, University of Arkansas, Department of Communication, 2019–2021. Responsible for teaching core media studies and production courses, including courses in screenwriting, cinema studies, film history and film production, developing and implementing new curricula, advising graduate and undergraduate thesis work, developing and implementing outcomes assessment tools for the department, developing a new multi-disciplinary film minor, and advising the film club.

Instructor, Arkansas Arts Council, 2019-2020. Responsible for teaching a series of one-day, intensive screenwriting workshops throughout Arkansas.

Instructor, University of Arkansas, Department of Communication, 2014–2019. Responsible for teaching core media studies and production courses, including Introduction to Screenwriting, Introduction to Cinema Studies, The Studio System, and Introduction to Filmmaking.

Professor, Brooklyn College, CUNY, Department of Anthropology, 2013.

Associate Professor, Brooklyn College, CUNY, Department of Anthropology, 2007-2013.

Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College, CUNY, Department of Anthropology, 2002-2007.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Thesis Advisor, MA in Film and Media, Johns Hopkins University. 2023.
Film Minor Planning Committee, University of Arkansas. 2019-2021.
Thesis Advisor, Dept of Communication, University of Arkansas. 2019-2020
Thesis Committee, Dept of Communication, University of Arkansas. 2019.
Faculty Advisor, UARK Film Club, University of Arkansas. 2019-2021.
Director of the Macaulay Honors College, Brooklyn College. 2012-2013.
Director of the Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, Brooklyn College. 2008.
Associate, Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, Brooklyn College. 2006-2011.
Divisional Representative, Faculty Council, Brooklyn College. 2003-2013.
Oversight for Outcomes Assessment, Department of Anthropology, Brooklyn College. 2006-2013.
Chair of the Social Science Tenure Committee, Brooklyn College. 2007-2009.
Curriculum Committee, Department of Anthropology, Brooklyn College. 2001-2013.

CREATIVE WORK

FILM

Carving. Director/Producer/Sound Designer. Short narrative film, New Harvest Creative Production. 16 min. In Post-Production.

Angle of Attack. Director/Producer/Sound Designer. Short narrative film, New Harvest Creative Production. 12 min. World Premiere Oxford Film Fest, Oxford, MS, 2023.

Animal. Writer/Director/Producer/Editor/Sound Designer. Short narrative film, Rockhill Studios Production. 15 min. World Premiere Oxford Film Fest, Oxford, MS, 2020.

Day 177. Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Short narrative film. 13 min. World Premiere Festival Angaelica, Big Bear, CA, 2017.

Sustainable Barbuda. Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Documentary series on sustainability in Barbuda for the Barbuda Research Complex, funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). World Premiere Matsalu Nature Film Festival, Estonia, 2016.

All Dogs Must Have People. Writer/Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Short narrative film. 9 min. World Premiere Louisville International Festival of Film, Louisville, KY, 2014.

Neighbors. Writer/Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Short narrative film. 10 min. World Premiere Off Shoot Film Festival, AR, 2013.

Apartment 4E. Writer/Director/Producer. Narrative feature film on mental health, gender, race and power in Queens, NY. 87 min. World Premiere Urban World Film Festival, New York, NY, 2012. Released 2013 by Image Entertainment.

CURRENT SCRIPT AND SERIES DEVELOPMENT

Sins of the Father, feature, Fasten Films and Grand Pictures (Jorge Dorado, director).

Bobbie Sue, feature, DeLine Pictures/Warner Bros. (Charles Stone, director).

Special Agents, series, A Very Good Production.

Treadwater, feature, Rockhill Studios.

Silencio, feature, Rockhill Studios.

PAST SCRIPT AND SERIES DEVELOPMENT

City of Grace, pilot and pitch, Revelations (Trey Callaway, Showrunner/Steven Pearl, producer).

The Order, feature treatment, eOne Entertainment (Josh Phillips, producer).

The Quarter, pilot, Mythology (Tracey Nyberg, producer).

Long Shots, feature treatment, Montecito Pictures (Alex Plapinger, producer).

O.M.G., feature script, Strange Weather/Darkhorse (Jeff Fierson & Keith Goldberg, producers).

Free Birds, feature script, Real FX/Strange Weather (Aron Warner & Jeff Fierson, producers).

Lonely Dog, feature treatment and pitch, A Very Good Production (Jeff Kleeman, producer).

The Art of Cheating, pilot and pitch, Original Media (Jessica Matthews, producer).

Wedding Day, feature script, CJ Entertainment (Bill Teitler, producer).

Bigfeet, feature treatment and pitch, Illumination Entertainment/21 Laps (Shawn Levy, producer).

Happy Little Family, feature script, Disney (Miles Millar & Al Gough, producers).

Minimum Wage, feature script, Participant Media (Pete Abrams, producer).

Wake Up Call, feature script, Fox (Debbie Liebling, producer).

Henchmen, feature script, 21 Laps, MRC/Fox (Shawn Levy, producer).

THEATER

The Interrogator. Full length play. O'Neill Playwrighting Conference Semi-Finalist. Austin Film Fest Playwrighting Semi-Finalist. Staged readings at Theatre Squared, Fayetteville, AR, 2020 and Baltimore Playwrights, 2023.

Among the Western Dinka. Full length play. Staged readings at Sea Dog Theatre, New York, NY, 2018 and Theatre Squared, Fayetteville, AR, 2018.

All Dogs Must Have People. One act play. World Premiere Diez Minutos Play Festival, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, 2018.

Art/Work. One act play. Commissioned by Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, Bentonville, AR, 2014.

Small of Her Back. Full length play. Produced by Jaradoa Theater Company, New York, NY, 2008.

BOOKS

Moving Pictures: An Introduction to Cinema, Open Education Resource, 2020.

Nightshift NYC, The University of California Press, 2008.

The Tenants of East Harlem, The University of California Press, 2006.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

“Written with Lightning: Filming Barbuda before the storm,” in *Barbuda: Changing Times, Changing Tides*, Sophia Perdikaris and Rebecca Boger eds., Routledge Press, 2022.

“Saints and Outcasts: La Negrita and the Accidental Catholic,” in *Being There: Learning to Live Cross Culturally*, Sarah Davis and Melvin Konner eds., Harvard University Press, 2011.

“Gauguin, Negrín and the Art of Anthropology,” in *Exploring World Art*, Venbrux, Rosi, and Welsch, eds. Waveland Press. 2006.

SELECTED ARTICLES

“Written with Lightning: Filming Barbuda before the storm,” in TRANSLOCAL. Culturas Contemporâneas Locais e Urbanas, n.º5 - Espaços (Des)Habitados | (Un)Inhabited Spaces, Funchal. 2020.

Editor of Special Issue: “The Art of Ethnography: Narrative Style as a Research Method,” *Anthropology and Humanism*, v.32, n.2, 2007.

“Re/Making La Negrita: Aesthetics and the Cultural Production of Religion, Race and Nationalism,” *American Anthropologist*, v.108, n.4, 2006, pp. 842-853.

“Communist Literature and Black Migrant Labor in Costa Rica,” *Afro-Hispanic Review*, v.24, n.2, 2005.

“Creating a Cultural Elite in a Marginal Community,” *Journal of Visual Anthropology*, v.17, n.3-4, 2004.

“Duke vs. Tito: Aesthetic Conflict in East Harlem,” *Visual Anthropology Review*, v. 18, n.1-2, 2002.

“Gauguin, Negrín and the Art of Anthropology,” *Visual Anthropology Review*, v.17, n.1, 2001.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Pitch Workshop Master Class,” The Saul Zaentz High School Film Festival, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2022.

“Freelancing and Entrepreneurship” invited panelist, Beyond Academia Conference, University of California, Berkeley, 2022.

“Sins of the Father” Script Presentation, University Film and Video Association Conference, 2021.

Featured Panelist, Austin Film Festival, 2016, 2017, and 2018

Screenwriting Mentor, SXSW Film Festival, 2010

“New York City Ethnography: Contemporary Public Anthropology” invited lecture at the New York Academy of Sciences, 2009.

“The Generic Fallacy and Other Half Truths,” presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2007.

“Re/Making La Negrita,” invited lecture at The University of Virginia, 2006.

“X-Harlem: Native-born and Immigrant Relations in the New East Harlem,” presented at the Translocality conference of SANA/CASCA/UADY, Merida, Mexico, 2005.

“Pintando Fuera de los Límites: Arte, Artesanía y Puerto Limón,” presented at the Universidad de Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica, 2003.

“Duke vs. Tito: Conflicting Aesthetics in East Harlem, NY,” presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. 2002.

“The State of the (Anthropology of) Art,” Session Organizer, Society for Visual Anthropology, for the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 2000.

**FELLOWSHIPS,
GRANTS AND
AWARDS**

Baker Artist Awards, Film/Video, Finalist. 2023.

Chancellor’s Grant, Humanities and Performing Arts, University of Arkansas. 2020.

Center for Communication Research Grant, University of Arkansas. 2020.

Open Education Resource Grant, Library Services, University of Arkansas. 2019.

Arkansas Arts Council, Cinematic Arts/Film Directing Fellowship. 2017.

Whiting Foundation Fellowship. 2005.

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. 2004.

**MEMBERSHIPS &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

Writer’s Guild of America, Member. 2008-Present.

Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective, Member. 2010-Present.

Dramatist Guild of America, Member. 2017-Present.

Micheaux Award and Film Lab, Board Member. 2021-2023.

Fayetteville Film Fest, Executive Director. 2019-2022.

Fayetteville Film Fest, Board Member. 2017-2022.

Arkansas Arts Council Screenwriting Fellowship Committee Chair. 2015.