

RUSSELL LEIGH SHARMAN, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

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

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

University of Texas - Austin, TX
B.S. Communication, May 1994

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University, MA in Film and Media, Spring 2023-Present. Designed and taught Screenwriting I, Screenwriting II, and Script to Screen, all graduate-level screenwriting courses, and Social Impact Documentary Filmmaking, a graduate-level documentary production course.

Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University, Film and Media Studies, Spring 2023-Present. Taught the foundational undergraduate course, Introduction to Screenwriting, and mentored a weekly TV Writers Room for advanced undergraduate writers.

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

Instructor, Towson University, Department of Electronic Media and Film, Fall 2022-2024. Developed and implemented asynchronous online courses in City Cinema and Concept and Story; re-designed and taught in-person courses in Broadcast/Film Writing and Film History for undergraduates.

Assistant Professor of Practice, University of Arkansas, Department of Communication, 2019–2021. Developed and taught core media studies courses; advised graduate and undergraduate thesis work; created and implemented outcomes assessment tools for the department; initiated and advanced a new multi-disciplinary film minor; and mentored the film club.

Instructor, University of Arkansas, Department of Communication, 2014–2019. Designed and implemented new curricula, including The Studio System and the first screenwriting and film production courses in the department; taught core media studies courses both in-person and online.

Professor, Brooklyn College, CUNY, Department of Anthropology, 2001-2013. Created and taught core courses in visual culture, comparative cultures, urban studies, social theory and ethnographic methods; re-designed and implemented the cultural studies curriculum for the department; advised and mentored undergraduates; developed and implemented departmental and college-wide outcomes assessment tools; chaired faculty search, tenure, and promotion committees; represented the department on Faculty Council; oversaw the Wolfe Institute for the Humanities; and directed the Macaulay Honors College.

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.
Outcomes Assessment Committee, Brooklyn College. 2006-2013.
Chair of the Social Science Tenure Committee, Brooklyn College. 2007-2009.
Curriculum Committee, Dept of Anthropology, Brooklyn College. 2001-2013.

CREATIVE WORK

FILM

NARRATIVE

Carving. Director/Producer/Sound Designer. Short narrative film, New Harvest Creative Production. 16 min. World Premiere Minnesota Film Festival, Duluth, MN, 2024. Winner, Best Short Film, Phoenixville Film Festival, 2024.

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. Winner, Best Narrative Short, Angaelica Film Festival, 2020.

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

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. Feature narrative film. 87 min. World Premiere Urbanworld Film Festival, New York, NY, 2012. Released 2013 by Image Entertainment.

NON-FICTION

Jubilee: St. James at 200. Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Documentary the 200th anniversary of St. James Church in west Baltimore, the oldest African-American Episcopal Church in the southern United States. Maryland Center for History and Culture, 2025.

Casa de las Bugambilias. Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Short documentary on Day of the Dead. Oaxaca, Mexico, 2024.

Colin Jones: The P.O.W.E.R. House. Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Short documentary on a solar-powered, community-based resiliency hub. Baltimore, Maryland, 2022.

Northwest Arkansas Workers Justice Center Poultry Report. Director/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Digital media series for poultry workers' labor rights organization. Springdale, Arkansas, 2016.

Sustainable Barbuda. Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor/Sound Designer. Documentary series 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. Winner, Best Documentary, Fayetteville Film Fest, 2016.

SCREENWRITING

CURRENT SCRIPT AND SERIES DEVELOPMENT

Sins of the Father, feature, The MediaPro Studio (Jorge Dorado, director).

The Hooded Men, limited series, The MediaPro Studio (Jorge Dorado, director).

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

Treadwater, feature, Rockhill Studios. (Tony Hale, co-writer/producer).

PAST SCRIPT AND SERIES DEVELOPMENT

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

Special Agents, series, A Very Good Production. (Jeff Kleeman, producer).

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 script, Montecito Pictures (Alex Plapinger, producer).

O.M.G., feature script, Strange Weather/Darkhorse (Keith Goldberg, producer).

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, Illumination/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).

PODCASTS

The Horror. Writer/Producer/Editor/Host. 16-episode series featuring horror film analysis and criticism. Co-Host, Owen Egerton. 2018-2020.

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, 2024.

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.

SCHOLARSHIP

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.95 - 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

“Personal Stories, Universal Impact: The Power of Investigative Filmmaking” invited moderator, Double Exposure Film Symposium, Washington D.C., 2024.

“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.