

CURRICULUM VITAE
VERONIKA KUSUMARYATI
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Updated on September 26, 2023

I am a social anthropologist and artist with over 10 years of experience working in West Papua (Papua and West Papua provinces of Indonesia). I obtained my Ph.D. in anthropology and film/visual studies from Harvard University in 2018 with a dissertation on politics of identity and political movements in the region. My scholarship engages with the issues of Indigenous politics, colonialism, conflict and violence, race/racism, and digital media. I have carried out policy, archival and ethnographic research in Indonesia, the United States, and the Netherlands. Currently, I am an assistant professor of anthropology and international studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Academic Appointments

January 2023-present	Assistant Professor of anthropology and international studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
September - December 2022	Associated Researcher, ACMCU, Georgetown University
September 2020-May 2022	Ethnicity, Religion, and Conflict Resolution Postdoctoral Fellow the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University
July 2018-June 2020	Harvard College Fellow, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University
Summer 2017	Researcher at Loeb Design Library Harvard Graduate School of Design
May 2015-August 2016	Visiting Researcher, Cenderawasih University, West Papua

Education

May 2018	Harvard University (Cambridge, MA) PhD in Anthropology with a secondary field in Film and Visual Studies
May 2013	Harvard University (Cambridge, MA) Master of Arts in Anthropology
January 2010	Jakarta Arts Institute (Jakarta, Indonesia) B.A (Hon). Film and Media Studies

Publications

Journal Articles

- “Pig Feast Democracy: Electoral Politics and Transformation of Melanesian Pig Feasts in West Papua.”Forthcoming. *American Ethnologist*.
- “Expedition Content and the Harvard Peabody Expedition to Netherlands New Guinea, 1961.” With Ernst Karel. *MAST: The Journal of Media Art Study and Theory* 2(2): 15-25.
- “Freeport and the States: Politics of Corporation and Contemporary Colonialism in West Papua.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 63(4), 881-910. doi:10.1017/S0010417521000281.
- “#Papuanlivesmatter: Black Consciousness and Political Movements in West Papua.” *Critical Asian Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/14672715.2021.1963794](https://doi.org/10.1080/14672715.2021.1963794)
- Kusumaryati, V. 2020. “Adat Institutionalization, the State, and the Quest for Self-Determination in West Papua” in "Changing Indigeneity Politics in Indonesia: From Revival to Projects", ed. Jacqueline Vel, Kathryn Robinson, Willem van der Muur, and Micah Fisher, special double issue, *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 21(1): 1-16. DOI: 10.1080/14442213.2019.1670238
- Kusumaryati, V. 2017. “Great Colonial Roads,” *Landscape Architecture Frontiers Journal* 5 (2):137-145. 2017. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15302/J-LAF-20170211>

In preparation

- “Papuan Lives Matter: Papuans and the Making of Racial Subjects in Indonesia.” Book manuscript.
- “Blackout: Internet Control and Social Exclusion in West Papua, Indonesia.” Journal article. To be submitted to *Cultural Anthropology* journal.
- “The Queen of Tidore: Emiria Sunassa, Primitivism, and the Politics of Representation,” with Riksa Afiaty. A chapter in an edited volume, *Painting at Night: A Reader on Emiria Sunassa (Artist, Princess, and Revolutionary in 1940s-60s Indonesia)*, will be published by Leiden University Press.

Book Chapter

- Kusumaryati, V. 2019. “A Dangerous Encounter: Lab Laba-Laba and the New Order’s Archive of Authoritarianism” in Scott MacKenzie and Janine Marchessault (eds.). *Process Cinema: Handmade Film in the Digital Age*, pp. 250-270. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press.

Shorter Articles, Commentaries and Others

- Kusumaryati, V. 2021. “West Papuan Nationalism and #Papuanlivesmatter: An Interview with Veronika Kusumaryati.” *Georgetown Journal of Asian Affairs* 7:100-107.
- Kusumaryati, V. 2020. “Indonesian Nationalism.” Special Issue in the Honor of Mary Margaret Steedly. *Indonesia* 109:71-76.
- Kusumaryati, V. 2020. “Australia’s Blind Spot.” *Sidney Review of Books*, September 1.
- Kusumaryati, V. 2018. “The History of Land Grabbing in West Papua.” *Tabloid Jubi* (online).
- Kusumaryati, V. 2016. “The Feminine Grotesque in Indonesian Horror Films.” *Cinema Poetica* (online).
- Kusumaryati, V. and C. Dale. 2016. “Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), African, Caribbean and Pacific Group 2016 of States and the (almost) Forgotten Case of West Papuan Independence,” *Asia Pacific Report* (online).

Book Review

- Kusumaryati, V. 2020. “Karen Strassler’s Demanding Images: Image-Event in Indonesia. Durham: Duke University Press, 2020.” *Trans-Asia Photography Review*. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.7977573.0010.219>
- Kusumaryati, V. 2019. “Danilyn Rutherford’s Living in the Stone Age: Reflections on the Origins of a Colonial Fantasy. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018.” *Indonesia* 108, 133-136. doi:10.5728/indonesia.108.0133
- Kusumaryati, V. 2018. “Jenny Munro’s Dreams Made Small: The Education of Papuan Highlanders in Indonesia.” *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*. DOI: [10.1080/14442213.2018.1547289](https://doi.org/10.1080/14442213.2018.1547289)

Fellowships and Awards

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| 2022 | <i>Expedition Content</i> (a film that I made with Ernst Karel) was selected as one of the 10 best films of 2022 by the New York Times. |
| Spring 2020 | <i>Expedition Content</i> received Cinéma du Réel’s special mention for Loridan Ivens/CNAP Award). |
| Fall 2021 | Facebook’s Foundational Integrity Research on Misinformation and Polarization (\$50,000) |
| Summer 2021 | Collaborative Research Project at Kampung Sereh, Jayapura, West Papua with the University of Cenderawasih, STT Walter Post, and the Southeast Asia |

	Neighborhoods Network (SEANNET), funded by Henry Luce Foundation \$17,000)
Spring 2019	Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard College
Fall 2018	Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard College
Summer 2017	Pforzheimer Fellowship, The Harvard Library (\$3,500)
Summer 2017	The Cora Du Bois Fellowship for Anthropological Research (\$5,000)
2017-2018	The Film Study Center-Harvard Fellowship, Harvard University (\$2,000)
Summer 2016	Summer Fellowship at the Global Humanities Campus, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany
Summer 2016	The William Braden Fund, the Asia Center, Harvard University (\$3,500)
2015-2016	Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship (\$26,000)
2015-2016	The Film Study Center-Harvard Fellowship, Harvard University (\$3,500)
Spring 2015	Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard College
Summer 2014	The Richard M. Cashin Fund, the Asia Center, Harvard University (\$1,500)
Winter 2014	Teschmacher Fund, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University (\$3,000)
Summer 2013	The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation The Harvard Kennedy School (\$3,500)
Summer 2012	William E. Braden 1941 Travel Fund, Harvard University (\$3,500)
2009-2010	The International Residency Program for Film and Video Curatorship Asian Cultural Council, New York (\$20,000).

Teaching

Fall 2023	Instructor, Capitalisms in the 21st Century, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Fall 2023	Instructor, Global Identity in the Age of Tiktok, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring 2023	Instructor, Global Identity in the Age of Tiktok, University of Wisconsin-Madison Instructor, Film/Anthropology/Culture, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring 2022	Instructor, Ethnicity, Religion, and Conflict in Southeast Asia, Georgetown
Spring 2020	Instructor, Anthropological Research Methods (graduate/PhD seminar), Harvard
Fall 2019	Instructor, Anthropology of Media, a Critical Survey (graduate seminar), Harvard
Fall 2019	Instructor, Exploring Culture through Film (undergraduate), Harvard
Spring 2019	Instructor, Colonialism and Postcoloniality (graduate/undergraduate), Harvard
Spring 2019	Instructor, Introduction to Internet Cultures (undergraduate), Harvard
Fall 2018	Instructor, Anthropology of Media, a Critical Survey (graduate seminar), Harvard
Spring 2017	Teaching Fellow, Senior Thesis Tutorial in Social Anthropology (undergraduate), Harvard
Spring 2017	Instructor, Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Social Anthropology (undergraduate), Harvard
Fall 2016	Teaching Fellow, Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Social Anthropology (undergraduate), Harvard
Fall 2016	Teaching Fellow, Policing and Militarization Today (undergraduate), Harvard
Spring 2015	Instructor, Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Social Anthropology (undergraduate), Harvard
Winter 2015	Instructor, What is the social in social media? (public)

- Spring 2014 Teaching Fellow, Media and Popular Culture (undergraduate), Harvard
 Spring 2014 Instructor, Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Social Anthropology (undergraduate), Harvard
 Fall 2013-Spring 2017 Instructor, Indonesian Language and Cultures (undergraduate), Harvard
 Fall 2013 Teaching Fellow, The Ethnographic Encounter: An Introduction to Social Anthropology (undergraduate), Harvard

Selected Presentations and Invited Talks

- Spring 2024 [scheduled] The Will to Govern: Territorial Redivision and the Politics of Sovereignty in West Papua, Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, 2024
 Spring 2024 [scheduled] The Will to Govern: Territorial Redivision and the Politics of Sovereignty in West Papua, Cornell University's Ronald and Janette Gatty Lecture Series.
 Spring 2024 [scheduled] Expedition Content, Boston University's Center for the Humanities' Seeing and Not Seeing Seminar Series.
 Fall 2023 Arts and Crisis among the Asmat of Papua, the American Museum of Asmat Art/University of St. Thomas, St. Paul
 Fall 2023 The Making of Expedition Content, Visible Evidence XXIX Conference, Italy.
 Fall 2023 Sensory Ethnography and Experimental Documentary, Indonesian Documentary Lab (IDOCLAB)
 Summer 2023 Blackout: Race and Racialization in Indonesia's social media, The AIFIS-MSU Conference on Indonesian Studies.
 Spring 2023 Expedition Content, The University of Philippines Center for Ethnomusicology.
 Spring 2023 Pig Feasts Democracy: Direct Local Elections and the Making of a Plural Political Order in West Papua, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
 Fall 2022 #Papuanlivesmatter: Race and Youth Politics in West Papua (Indonesia), Northern Illinois University.
 Fall 2022 Expedition Content, Sugar Nutmeg Podcast, New York
 Spring 2022 Expedition Content, Harvard Film Archive
 Spring 2022 Expedition Content, MassArt
 Spring 2022 Expedition Content, Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (The Smithsonian)
 Fall 2021 Expedition Content and the State of a Colonial Present in West Papua, Anthropology Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin (November 22)
 Fall 2021 *Expedition Content* and the Harvard Peabody Expedition to Netherlands New Guinea, 1961 (with Ernst Karel), Anthropology Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, University of Southern California (November 3).
 Fall 2021 Unsettling the Urban: Migration, Indigeneity, and Urban Formation in Jayapura, West Papua (with Esther Haluk), the 2021 Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies (CCSEAS) Conference
 Fall 2021 Guest Speaker for the class "Listening to Listening, Listening with Images: Anthropologies of and in Sound (Professor Daniel Fisher), UC Berkeley.

- Spring 2021 AAS Plenary Panel on Race and Racisms in Asia/Asian Studies
- Winter 2021 Expedition Content (with Ernst Karel), Anthropology Speakers' Series, Department of Anthropology, McGill University
- Fall 2020 #Papuanlivesmatter: Race and Youth Politics in West Papua (Indonesia), University of Puget Sound
- Fall 2020 Sonic Cinema and "Expedition Content," the Centre for Screen Cultures, University of St. Andrews, Scotland
- Fall 2020 Colonial Archives and the Making of Expedition Content at KITLV (the Netherlands, December 2020)
- Fall 2020 #Papuanlivesmatter: Race and Youth Politics in West Papua (Indonesia), The Walsh School of Foreign Service's Asian Studies Program (November 2020)
- Fall 2020 Citizenship and Indigenous People: The Case of Indigenous Papuans in Indonesia at Eutenika Seminar series, Malang, Indonesia
- Fall 2020 The Harvard Peabody Expedition to Netherlands New Guinea 1961 (with Ernst Karel), Center for Experimental Ethnography, University of Pennsylvania.
- May 2019 Decolonizing the Present, Van Abbe Museum, the Netherlands
- March 2019 A Dangerous Encounter: the Harvard Peabody Expedition to Netherlands New Guinea 1961 and the Making of American Anthropology, Department of Music, Brown University
- August 2018 Land, Customary (Adat) Communities and Modernization Projects in West Papua, The Second Papuan Film Festival, West Papua
- Spring 2017 The Death of Musa Mako Tabuni and Other Stories: Violence and Colonialism in West Papua, Friday Morning Seminar, Department of Global Health and Medicine, Harvard Medical School
- Fall 2017 Who are We, Comrade? AAA Film Pitch Workshop, the Society of Visual Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, Washington DC
- Fall 2017 Adat Institutionalization and the Quest for Independence in West Papua, Conference on "Adat law 100 years on: towards a new interpretation?" Leiden Law School, the Netherlands.
- Fall 2016 Alerts and Transmissions: Political Technologies and Mobilization in Contemporary West Papua, The American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- Fall 2015 Preliminary Research on the History of School Systems in the Central Highlands of West Papua, International Conference on Social Science and Biodiversity of Papua and Papua New Guinea, University of Cenderawasih, West Papua.
- Spring 2014 The Media of the Earth: The Politics of Digital in West Papua, the Harvard Graduate Student Conference's *States, Publics, and Politics*, The Political Anthropology Working Group, Harvard University.
- Spring 2013 Experimental Filmmaking in the New Order Indonesia, Critical Histories of Activism: Indonesia's New Order and its Legacies (conference), the University of California, Los Angeles.
- Spring 2012 Return with A Vengeance: The Feminine Grotesque in Indonesian Horror Films, the 7th Cornell-Yale Northeastern Conference on Indonesia.

Filmography

- 2020 *Expedition Content* (with Ernst Karel), the 2020 Berlinale Forum Expanded, Cinéma du Réel 2020 (international competition, special mention Loridan Ivens/ CNAP Award), the Open City Documentary London, the Lincoln Center's Art of the Real, Camden international Film Festival. The film was selected as one of the 10 best films of 2022 by the New York Times.
- 2016-present *West Papua Updates* (a cofounder), a video journalism platform
- 2015 Jury, Papuan Film Festival
- 2016-present *sastrapapua.com* (editor), an online journal for Papuan literature
- 2013 *Iqra* (sonic work, author), presented at The New York Megapolis Audio Festival
- 2013 *Ode to Cities: On Anthropology and Urban Space* (author)
- 2006 *Death in Jakarta* (producer & cowriter), screened at the Jakarta International Film Festival 2006 (premiere, best script for short documentary), the Tampere Film Festival, Finland, and the Oberhausen Film Festival, Germany.

Service

Reviewer for *Critical Asian Studies*, *American Ethnologist*, *Southeast Asia of Now*, *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*.

Member of the Editorial Board of *American Ethnologist*

Committee of Lectures & Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, UW Madison

Committee of Events, Department of Anthropology, UW Madison

The review committee for the IRIS Area and International Studies Awards, UW Madison

Service: Dissertation and MA Committee

Mollie Gosage (PhD in Anthropology, Spring 2023)

Hakan Sirin (MA in Southeast Asian Studies, Summer 2023)

Zhe Yu Lee (PhD in geography, current)

Languages

Javanese (native), Indonesian (native), Papuan Malay (proficient), French (advanced), Dutch (reading competence), Mee of West Papua (elementary)

Consulting/Policy Experience

- Spring 2021 Advisor and Board Member, Engagemedia's "Tech Tales: Films about Digital Rights in the Asia-Pacific"
- Summer 2021 Advisor for training design, Evidence-based Security and Human Rights Reporting Training, Alliance of Independent Journalists of Indonesia and Internews
- Summer 2020 Gender Equality and Social Analysis Specialist for Social Impact Inc. and United States Agency of International Development (USAID/Indonesia Papua Collaborative Governance Initiative (PCGI))

Professional Membership

- 2021-present The Association of Asian Studies
- 2020-present Eutenika Research Center, Malang, Indonesia
- 2015-present The American Anthropological Association (including the Society of Visual Anthropology and Association for Political and Legal Anthropology)
- 2013-2020 The Political Anthropology Working Group at the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University
- 2013-2020 The Sensory Ethnography Lab, Harvard University

References

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