

CURRICULUM VITAE
VERONIKA KUSUMARYATI
5442 Sewell Social Science Building
1180 Observatory Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Education

- May 2018 Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)
PhD in Anthropology with a secondary field in Film and Visual Studies
Dissertation/Thesis: “Ethnography of a Colonial Present: History, Experience, and Political Consciousness in West Papua”
- 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

Academic Appointments

- January 2023-present Assistant Professor of anthropology and international studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- September - December 2022 Associated Researcher, ACMCU, Georgetown University
- August 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

Honors and Awards

- 2024 University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Library Collections Enhancement Initiative (\$21,328).
- 2022 *Expedition Content* (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 *Expedition Content* received Cinéma du Réel’s special mention for Loridan Ivens/CNAP Award).
- Spring 2019 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard College
- Fall 2018 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard College
Summer Fellowship at the Global Humanities Campus, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany

Spring 2015

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard College

2009-2010

The International Residency Program for Film and Video Curatorship
Asian Cultural Council, New York (\$20,000).

Research and Publications

Journal Articles

1. *Kusumaryati, V. 2024. "Pig Feast Democracy: Electoral Politics and Transformation of Melanesian Pig Feasts in West Papua." *American Ethnologist* 24(2): 1-14.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/amet.13267>
2. *Kusumaryati, V. 2021. "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.
3. *Kusumaryati, V. 2021. "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.
4. *Kusumaryati, V. 2021. "#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)
5. *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
6. Kusumaryati, V. 2017. "Great Colonial Roads," *Landscape Architecture Frontiers Journal* 5 (2):137-145. 2017. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15302/J-LAF-20170211>

Book Chapter

7. *Kusumaryati, Veronika. Forthcoming (2025). "The Queen of Tidore: Emiria Sunassa, Primitivism, and the Politics of Representation." A chapter in an edited volume, *Painting at Night: A Reader on Emiria Sunassa (Artist, Princess, and Revolutionary in 1940s-60s Indonesia)*. Leiden: Leiden University Press.
8. 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

9. Kusumaryati, V. 2021. "West Papuan Nationalism and #Papuanlivesmatter: An Interview with Veronika Kusumaryati." *Georgetown Journal of Asian Affairs* 7:100-107.
10. *Kusumaryati, V. 2020. "Indonesian Nationalism." Special Issue in the Honor of Mary Margaret Steedly. *Indonesia* 109:71-76.
11. Kusumaryati, V. 2020. "Australia's Blind Spot." *Sidney Review of Books*, September 1.
12. Kusumaryati, V. 2018. "The History of Land Grabbing in West Papua." *Tabloid Jubi* (online).
13. Kusumaryati, V. 2016. "The Feminine Grotesque in Indonesian Horror Films." *Cinema Poetica* (online).
14. 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

15. 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>
16. 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
17. 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)

Translation

Kusumaryati, V (co-translator with Ligia Giay and Pipit Maizier). 2022. Benny Giay's *Zakheus Package and his communities: Indigenous religious discourse, socio-political resistance, and ethnohistory of the Me of Irian Jaya*. English to Indonesian. Jakarta: Marjinkiri.

Research and Publications in Progress

“Indonesia and the Reinvention of Colonialism.” Book manuscript.

In collaboration with Cyprianus Jehan Paju Dale, “Blackout: Internet Control and Social Exclusion in West Papua, Indonesia.” Journal article. To be submitted to *Cultural Anthropology* journal.

“The Possibility of Restitution and the Indigenous People’s Right to Self-determination: the Case of “Expedition Content”.” Journal article. Submitted to the *Journal of Visual Culture*.

“Peripheral Assembly: Film/Video Activism in Indonesia”. A chapter submitted to the Routledge Handbook of SEA Cinemas (Alicia Izharuddin and Patrick Campos, eds.).

Filmography

- 2020 *Expedition Content* (with Ernst Karel), the 2020 Berlinale Forum Expanded (premiere) Cinéma du Réel 2020 (special mention Loridan Ivens/CNAP Award)
One of the 10 best films of 2022 by the New York Times.
List of film screenings and reviews: <https://ek.klingt.org/expeditioncontent.html>
- 2016-present *West Papua Updates* (a cofounder), a video journalism platform
- 2016-present *sastrapapua.com* (editor), an online journal for Papuan literature
- 2013 *Igra* (sonic work, author), presented at The New York Megapolis Audio Festival
- 2006 *Death in Jakarta* (producer & cowriter), the Jakarta International Film Festival 2006 (premiere, best script for short documentary), the Tampere Film Festival, Finland, and the Oberhausen Film Festival, Germany.

Research Awards

- Fall 2021 Facebook’s Foundational Integrity Research on Misinformation and Polarization (\$50,000)
- Summer 2021 Collaborative Research Project with the University of Cenderawasih, STT Walter Post, and the Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network (SEANNET), funded by Henry Luce Foundation \$17,000 from a total of \$800,000 for the network)
- Summer 2017 The Cora Du Bois Fellowship for Anthropological Research (\$5,000)
- Summer 2017 Pforzheimer Fellowship, The Harvard Library (\$3,500)
- 2017-2018 The Film Study Center-Harvard Fellowship, Harvard University (\$2,000)
- 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)
- 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)

Invited Talks

- Summer 2024 “Research Design for Research on Blue and Green Economy,” Papua Democratic Institute, West Papua.
- Summer 2024 “Visual Anthropology,” Museum Loka Budaya, University of Cenderawasih, West Papua
- Summer 2024 “Multisensory Aesthetics,” “Arkipel Jakarta International Documental and Experimental Film Festival.
- Spring 2024 “Sound Archives and the Making of Expedition Content,” The Department of Media Studies, University of Amsterdam
- Spring 2024 “The Symposium on Indonesian Contemporary Sound Politics,” University of Pittsburgh.
- Spring 2024 “Seeing and Not Seeing” symposium, Boston University’s Center for the Humanities.
- Spring 2024 “Sound Archives and the Making of Expedition Content,” Taiwan international Film Festival.
- Spring 2024 Roundtable on Indonesian Elections, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Southeast Asian studies.
- Winter 2023 Queen’s Mary University Postcolonial Seminar, England
- Fall 2023 Arts and Crisis among the Asmat of Papua, the American Museum of Asmat Art/University of St. Thomas, St. Paul.
- Spring 2023 Expedition Content, The University of Philippines Center for Ethnomusicology.
- 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).
- 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 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

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.

Conference and Other Presentations

- Summer 2024 Latent Histories and the New Politics of Historiographies in West Papua, AAS-in-Asia, Indonesia (organizer)
- Spring 2024 “The Will to Govern: Territorial Redivision and the Politics of Sovereignty in West Papua,” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle.
Roundtable on Indonesian Elections, Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, 2024
- 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 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 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
- 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
- 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 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.

Popular Media Appearance

Bentala Rakyat. 2024. Public lecture on Racial Capitalism in Papua.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8ukXR_lHb4.

International Documentary Association. 2022. Panel: Issues in Archival Documentary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDriTGe75ZA>

Slant Magazine. 2022. Review: Expedition Content Fascinatingly Deconstruct Anthropological Lens.

<https://www.slantmagazine.com/film/expedition-content-review/>

New Yor Times. 2022. Expedition Content Review: Anthropological Maneuvers in the Dark.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/05/movies/expedition-content-review.html>.

Teaching

Principal Areas: Media anthropology, political economy/capitalism, colonialism, identities and nationalism

University of Wisconsin-Madison (2023-present)

Fall 2024 Research leave

Spring 2024 Anthropology 104: Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity

Fall 2023 Capitalisms in the 21st Century
Global Identity in the Age of Tiktok

Spring 2023 Global Identity in the Age of Tiktok
Film/Anthropology/Culture

Georgetown University (2020-2022)

Spring 2022 Ethnicity, Religion, and Conflict in Southeast Asia

Harvard University (2013-2020)

Spring 2020 Anthropological Research Methods (PhD seminar)

Fall 2019 Anthropology of Media, a Critical Survey
Exploring Culture through Film

Spring 2019 Colonialism and Postcoloniality
Introduction to Internet Cultures

Fall 2018 Anthropology of Media, a Critical Survey
Spring 2017 Senior Thesis Tutorial in Social Anthropology (teaching assistant)
Spring 2017 Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Social Anthropology
Fall 2016 Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Social Anthropology
Fall 2016 Policing and Militarization Today (teaching assistant)
Spring 2015 Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Social Anthropology
Winter 2015 What is the social in social media?
Spring 2014 Media and Popular Culture (teaching assistant)
Spring 2014 Junior Tutorial for Thesis Writers in Social Anthropology
Fall 2013-Spring 2017 Indonesian Language and Cultures
Fall 2013 The Ethnographic Encounter: An Introduction to Social Anthropology (teaching assistant)

Service: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Committee:

Serving on Committee of Lectures & Colloquium, Department of Anthropology (2023-present)
Serving on the Library Committee and member of the Steering Committee at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (2023-present)
Serving on the review committee for the IRIS Area and International Studies Awards (2023-present)
Served on Committee of Events, Department of Anthropology, UW Madison (Spring 2024)

Dissertation and MA Committee:

Chloe Damon (PhD in anthropology, current, primary advisor)
Stephen Zau Zin Myat (PhD in anthropology, current, primary advisor)
Zhe Yu Lee (PhD in geography, current)
Inigo Acosta (PhD in anthropology, current)
Po-Tao Chang (PhD in geography, current)
Goeun Kim (PhD in anthropology, current)
Hakan Sirin (MA in Southeast Asian Studies, current)
Albert Rumbekwan (PhD in history, Diponegoro University/Indonesia, current)
Raiden Li Montero (MA in the Asian Language and Culture, completed in Spring 2024)
Galen Stolee (PhD in anthropology, Harvard University, completed in Summer 2024)
Hannah-Abigail Mosier (MA in Southeast Asian Studies, completed in Spring 2024)
Mollie Gosage (PhD in Anthropology, completed Spring 2023)

Quals Paper Reviewers (Department of Anthropology):

Magna Mohapatra
Nalin Sindhuprama
Marianna Krumrine

Undergraduate Advising:

Lalitha Viswanathan
Yixuan Dong (sociology, co-advising)

Public talks organized:

Farabi Fakhri (CSEAS Friday Forum), September 20, 2024

Heba Gowayed (the department of anthropology's colloquium), September 30, 2024

For each of the public talks, with my collaborator I applied for grants and prepared for the event.

Service to Profession

Reviewer for *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Critical Asian Studies*, *American Ethnologist*, *Southeast Asia of Now*, *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Oceania*, *Antropologi Indonesia*, and *the Open Encyclopedia of Anthropology*

Member of the Editorial Board of *American Ethnologist* (2023-present)

Discussant for the panel 2024 Association of Asian Studies' conference panel "Place-Making in City Neighborhoods of Southeast Asia (Part 2)," March 14-17.

Public Service

Current	Research Mentor/Expert, Papua Democratic Institute, Green and Blue Economy for West Papua
2023-present	Advisor, Walter Post School of Theology's Center for Pastoral and Human Rights Studies, West Papua
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 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))