

SAMUEL ELLIOTT NOVACICH
CURRICULUM VITAE
2026

Department of Anthropology
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Anthropology, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2024
M.Phil Anthropology, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2019
BA Brown University, 2008

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2023 – Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
2015 – 23 Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, NY, NY
2018 – 19 Visiting Researcher, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Antropologia Social
(PPGAS), Museu Nacional, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

2021 “‘Masking’ Makeup: Cosmetics and Constructions of Race in Rio de Janeiro.”
Cultural Anthropology, 36(4): 681 – 707.

Book Chapters

2022 “Makeup and Marquinha: Aesthetics of the Bodily Surface in Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil” in *Embodying the Periphery*, University of California eScholarship and
University of Florence Press.

Photographic Essays

2023 “Images of Beauty: Making Up and Making Over in Brazil.” *Current
Anthropology*, 64(5): 615 – 619.

Reviews

2016 “Bruno: Conversations with a Brazilian Drug Dealer by Robert Gay.” *Journal of
Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, 21(1): 206 – 208.

- 2016 “Slow Death: Anti-Black State Violence in Brazil and the United States,” a Review of Christen A. Smith’s “*Facing the Dragon: Black Mothering, Sequelae, and Gendered Necropolitics in the Americas*,” *Anthropology Now*.

Forthcoming Publications

- 2026 “Standing Out, Blending In: Contrast, Uniformity, and Competing Visions of Modernity” (under review with the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*)
- 2026 “Skin or Soul, Which One Am I? Insights on Constructivism from a Brazilian Makeup Studio”

Other Publications

- 2017 “The Politics of Belonging and Exclusion,” *Anthropology Now*
- 2017 “Law and Order”: Scrutinizing the Campaign Promise, *Anthropology Now*
- 2017 “Studying Up” and Contemporary Cases of Institutional Knowledge Production, *Anthropology Now*
- 2016 “Spatial Scales and Social Control,” *Anthropology Now*.
- 2016 “Bodies and Violence,” *Anthropology Now*.
- 2011 “Latin America’s Security Dilemma,” *International Security Network (ISN)*.

Research & Translation Credits

- 2013 Blasberg, Marian. “Friede den Hütten” in *Die Zeit*, March 21, 2013 [research assistant and Portuguese translator, 2011 – 2012].

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Designed and Taught

Dartmouth College

Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026, forthcoming)

Filmmaking and Visual Culture (cross listed w/ African and African American Studies Dept. Spring 2024, Spring 2025)

The Face (Winter 2026)

Hunter College-CUNY

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Fall 2021, Fall 2022)

History of Anthropological Theory (Spring 2016, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)

Brazil: Race, Class and Gender (Spring 2018)

Additional Courses Prepared

Dartmouth College

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
Cultural Diversity in the United States (Winter 2024, Winter 2025, Winter 2026)

Queens College-CUNY

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2020)

Hunter College-CUNY

Cultural Diversity in the United States: Historical and Ethnographic Perspectives (Spring 2016;
Fall 2022)

Pedagogical Training

Writing Across the Curriculum

Expanding Your Pedagogical Toolkit

AANAPISI (Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander) Faculty Seminar Series,

Mental Health and Student Life: Incorporating Student Experiences in the Classroom

Open Knowledge Fellowship on Open Educational Resources (OER)

Student Mentorship

Faculty Advisor, Dartmouth Anthropology Undergraduate Journal

Undergraduate Advising Lunches

Application support for minority and/or first-generation college applicants

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2023	Open Knowledge Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center
2022-2023	Louise Lennihan Arts and Science Grant, CUNY Graduate Center
2021-2022	David Garth Dissertation Award, CUNY Graduate Center
2021-2022	Catalyst Grant Early Research Initiative, CUNY Graduate Center
2020-2021	Urban Studies Dissertation Award, CUNY Graduate Center
2018-2019	Fulbright-Hays DDRA
2018	Summer Travel Fellowship, Doctoral Student Research Grant Program, CUNY Graduate Center
2017-2019	Archival Research in African American and African Diaspora Studies Early Research Initiative, CUNY Graduate Center
2016	Summer Travel Fellowship, Doctoral Student Research Grant Program, CUNY Graduate Center
2015	Summer Travel Fellowship, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, CUNY Graduate Center
2008-2009	Fulbright IIE Research Grant
2007-2008	Scarritt Fund for International Research

AWARDS & HONORS

2018	Second Exam, Distinction
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2008 Thomas E. Skidmore Award for Best Honors Thesis, Brown University

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

2016 “Signs of Race in Latin America and the Caribbean,” American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 17.

Papers and Virtual Presentations

2025 “When Makeup Lingers Long After the Party: Late Nights and Becoming a Zombie in Mangueira.” AAA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, Nov. 19 – 23.

2024 “Color as an Ambiguous Metonymy, Metaphor, and Intensive Property.” AAA Annual Meeting, Tampa, Florida, Nov. 20 – 23.

2024 “Sensibilidade estética de quem? Contraste, uniformidade e visões concorrentes de beleza no Rio de Janeiro.” 2024 Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (Virtual), Bogotá, Colombia, June 12–15.

2023 “Chromagraphy: Toward an Anthropological Theory of Color.” AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, Nov. 15 – 19.

2021 “‘Masking’ Makeup: Cosmetics and Constructions of Race in Rio de Janeiro.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, Nov. 17 – 21.

2017 “Beauty and Danger in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil” University of Colorado Boulder, Anthropology Department Conference, “Borders,” Sept. 29 – 30.

2017 “The Semiotics of Public Security in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil” Early Research Initiative Student Research Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, Sept. 1.

2016 “Painted Buildings, Painted Faces.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 17.

2014 “Uncertain Futures: Strategic Prudence and Local Understandings of Public Security Policy in Mangueira.” Brazil: From Dictatorship to Democracy, Conference, Providence, RI, April 9 -12.

Invited Lectures

2024 “Thinking About Race, Gender, and Makeup in Brazil.” Penn State, Oct. 22, 2024

ACADEMIC & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE, MEMBERSHIPS

Hiring, service, and collaborative work

Student interviews of prospective Graduate Center-CUNY hires
Findings-Anthropology Now, CUNY Graduate School Student Writing Collective
Semiotics, Race, and the Body Working Group
Writing Fellow at Large, Writing Across the Curriculum Program, City Tech

Active memberships

American Anthropological Association
Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA)
Latin American Studies Association

LANGUAGES

English native
Portuguese fluent

Spanish advanced
French advanced

REFERENCES

Available upon request.