

VICKI LAINE BRENNAN

Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor, Department of Religion
Director, African Studies Program
University of Vermont
481 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05405

1 (802) 363-2996 (cell)
vicki.brennan@uvm.edu
<https://vickibrennan.net>
Twitter: [@vickibrennan](https://twitter.com/vickibrennan)

EDUCATION

- 2007 Ph.D. Anthropology. University of Chicago.
1997 M.A. Music (Ethnomusicology). University of Washington
1994 B.A. Music, cum laude, with honors. Syracuse University

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2013-present Associate Professor, Department of Religion, University of Vermont
2007-2013 Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, University of Vermont
2006-2007 Lecturer in Studies in Women & Gender and African and African-American Studies, University of Virginia.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- ND Brennan, Vicki L. *Yoruba Gospel Music: Religion, Technology, and Celebrity in Contemporary Nigeria*. Manuscript in Preparation.
2018 Brennan, Vicki L. *Singing Yoruba Christianity: Music, Media, and Morality*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Journal Articles

- ND Peterson, Marina and **Vicki L. Brennan**, "Sonic Ethnography: Listening to and with Climate Change." *Resonance: The Journal of Sound and Culture*. Accepted & forthcoming.
2013 Brennan, Vicki L. "Up Above the River Jordan": Hymns and Historical Consciousness in the Cherubim and Seraphim Churches of Nigeria. *Studies in World Christianity* 19 (1): 31-49.
2012 Brennan, Vicki L. Take Control: The Labor of Immediacy in Yoruba Christian Music. *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 24 (4): 411-429.
2012 Brennan, Vicki L. "Truly we have a good heritage": Musical Mediations in a Yoruba Christian Diaspora. *Journal of Religion in Africa* 42 (1): 3-25.
2010 Brennan, Vicki L. Mediating "The Voice of the Spirit": Musical and Religious Transformations in Nigeria's Oil Boom. *American Ethnologist* 37 (2): 354-370.
1999 Brennan, Vicki L. "Chamber Music in the Barn: Tourism, Nostalgia and the Reproduction of Social Class" in *The World of Music* 41(3): 11-29.

Book Chapter

- 2014 Brennan, Vicki L. Senwele Jesu: Gospel Music and Religious Publics in Nigeria. *New Media and Religious Transformations in Africa*, Rosalind Hackett and Benjamin Soares, eds., Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 227-244.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Intervention: Toward an Anti-Racist, Anti-Imperialist, Anti-Colonialist Gallery of African & Ancient Egyptian Art*. Co-organized with Andrea Rosen (curator) and Alice Boone (curator). Fleming Museum, University of Vermont. October 1-ongoing.
- 2017 *Spirited Things: Sacred Arts of the Black Atlantic*. Co-organized with J. Lorand Matory and Andrea Rosen (curator). Fleming Museum, University of Vermont. September 26 – December 15, 2017.
- ND *The Sounds of Religion in America*. Co-curated with Amy DeRogatis, Ely Lyonblum, Lauren Pond, & Isaac Weiner for Smithsonian SITES. Poster exhibit to be circulated in 2021.
- ND *The American Religious Sounds Project*. Co-curated with Amy DeRogatis, Ely Lyonblum, Lauren Pond, & Isaac Weiner for Urban Arts Space, Columbus, OH. Immersive exhibition to be installed in Spring 2021.

PUBLIC & DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

- 2020 [Religion & Sound with Dr. Vicki Brennan](#), Keeping it 101, Podcast Appearance, 8 July.
- 2020 [EP 161 Yoruba Christianity & Music with Dr. Vicki Brennan](#), Classical Ideas, Podcast Appearance, 27 May.
- 2015 [Rev. J.J. Ransome-Kuti and the History of Yoruba Gospel Music](#). Series on [Religion@UVM](#): Conversations, Ideas, and Impact at the University of Vermont and Beyond.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 *Organizing Fellow*, Humanities Center Coor Collaborative Fellowship, “Materiality & Performance: Reimagining African Art at UVM’s Fleming Museum” Humanities Center, University of Vermont.
- 2019-2020 *Humanities Fellow*, Humanities Center, University of Vermont.
- 2019 *Fellow*, Public Scholarship Training, Sacred Writes, Northeastern University.
- 2019 *Principal Investigator*, Project Launch Grant, Global Religion Research Initiative, University of Notre Dame.
- 2018 *Dean’s Lecture Award*, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Vermont.
- 2018 *Principal Investigator*, Humanities Center Summer Research Award, for “Joyful Noise: The Politics and Poetics of Yoruba Gospel Music,” University of Vermont.
- 2015 *Fellow*, Humanities Center Coor Collaborative Fellowship, for “Visualizing Ideas in the Digital Humanities,” University of Vermont.
- 2014 *Principal Investigator*, UVM REACH Grant, The Graduate College, University of Vermont.
- 2010 *Principal Investigator*, Faculty Research Support Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont

- 2008 *Principal Investigator*, International Travel Funds, Dean's Fund for Faculty Development, University of Vermont.
- 2004-2006 *Fellow*, Predoctoral Residential Research Fellowship, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia.
- 2004-2006 *Major Grant Scholarship for Dissertation Write-Up*, Division of Social Science, University of Chicago.
- 2003-2004 *Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant*, US Department of Education.
- 2002-2004 *Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant*, National Science Foundation.
- 2002-2003 *Dissertation Field Work Grant*, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2020 *Panel Presentation*, "The American Religious Sounds Project." Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting, virtual conference, 2 October.
- 2020 *Panel Organizer & Conference Paper*, "Listening and Community Engagement in the American Religious Sounds Project." Society for Cultural Anthropology, Distribute 2020, virtual conference, 7-9 May.
- 2017 *Panel Presentation*, "There Should be Sound: African Gods in the Western Museum." Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, 3 December.
- 2017 *Panel Presentation*, "Emma OMG's Sincere Parody." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, 20 November.
- 2015 *Conference Paper*, Yoruba Acoustemologies. The Humanities and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Africa and the Diaspora, Lagos State University, Lagos, July 20-23.
- 2013 *Conference Paper*, Sounding Surrender: Registers of Weakness and Strength in Nigerian Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Society, Chicago, 21 November.
- 2012 *Conference Paper*, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord": Pentecostal Soundscapes and Public Christianity in Lagos, Nigeria. Pentecostal Politics of Space and Power: A global perspective. Padova, Italy, 7-9 June.
- 2012 *Conference Paper*, Take Control: The Labor of Immediacy in Yoruba Christian Music, American Ethnological Society, New York, New York, 19-21 April.
- 2010 *Panel Organizer & Introductory Comments*, "The Aesthetics of Civil Society," Panel: Unequal Circulations: Art & Civil Society. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Society, New Orleans, 19 November.
- 2010 *Conference Paper*, "To God be the Glory": Gospel Music and Public Christianity in Lagos. Cadbury Conference 'Tuning in to African Cities Popular Culture and Urban Experience in sub-Saharan Africa' Centre of West African Studies, Birmingham, UK. 6-8 May.
- 2008 *Conference Paper*, "Straight to Heaven": Music, Ritual and Performance in Yoruba Churches. Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, 25 Oct.

- 2008 *Conference Paper*, Mediating the “Voice of the Spirit”: Gospel Music and the Reproduction of Yoruba Christian Modernities. *New Media and Religious Transformation in Africa*, Abuja, Nigeria, 10-12 July.
- 2008 *Conference Paper and Panel Organizer*, Paper: Gospel Music, Corruption and the Crisis of Christianity in Nigeria. Panel: Perilous Positions: Performing Critical Perspectives on Late Capital. Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics. Society for Cultural Anthropology Biannual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, 10 May.

Invited Lectures & Workshops

- 2020 *Panelist*, The Dayo Project: Life as a Work of Art. Humanities Fellows Research Salon. University of Vermont, 13 February.
- 2019 *Invited Lecture*, Singing Yoruba Christianity: Music, Media, Morality. Dean’s Lecture Series, Faculty of Arts, Lagos State University, July 2.
- 2019 *Invited Lecture*, Emma Ohmagod’s Sincere Parody of Yoruba Hymn-Singing. Symposium on Religion and Public Life in Africa and the Americas. Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, April 18.
- 2019 *Public Lecture*, Exhibiting the Sacred: An Ethnography of Spirited Things. College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Lecture, University of Vermont, January 30.
- 2018 *Roundtable Discussion*, Author Meets Critics: Vicki Brennan’s *Singing Yoruba Christianity*. Annual Meeting of the Lagos Studies Association, Lagos, 22 June.
- 2015 *Keynote Address*, Living in the Spirit: Singing as a Bodily Discipline in the Cherubim and Seraphim Church. Christian Congregational Music: Local and Global Perspectives Conference, Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, August 4-7.
- 2015 *Invited Lecture*, Listening to Lagos/Sonic Ethnography. Women’s Studies in Religion Program, Harvard Divinity School, March 9.
- 2012 *Invited Lecture*, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord”: Christian Songs, Religious Publics, and Urban Space in Lagos, Nigeria. Transnational Studies Institute, Weatherhead Institute for International Affairs, Harvard University, 26 November.
- 2012 *Invited Lecture*, Sensing the Spirit: Pentecostal Aesthetic Formations and the Distribution of the Senses in Lagos, Nigeria. African Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, 29 May.
- 2012 *Invited Lecture*, “Truly we have a good heritage”: Musical Mediations in a Yoruba Christian Diaspora. Wednesday Seminar in African Studies, Indiana University Bloomington, 1 February.
- 2011 *Invited Lecture*, The Politics of ‘Praise and Worship’ in Contemporary Nigeria. Walter Rodney Seminar Series, African Studies Center, Boston University, 24 October.
- 2011 *Invited Lecture*, The Politics of ‘Praise and Worship’ in Contemporary Nigeria, Carter G. Woodson Institute’s 30th Annual Symposium, University of Virginia, 8 April.
- 2008 *Public Lecture*, Mediating the “Voice of the Spirit”: Gospel Music, Fast Capital and the (Re)production of Yoruba Christian Modernities. Area and International Studies Program, University of Vermont, 15 October.

TEACHING

2007-present University of Vermont

Courses Taught: Religions in Africa; Honors College Freshman Seminar: The Pursuit of Knowledge; Acoustemologies: Sound/Audition/Knowledge; What is Sound?; Sacred Sounds; Exhibiting the Sacred; Mysticism, Shamanism, Possession; Afro-Atlantic Sacred

Arts; Religion, Health & Healing; Religion and Media; Senior Seminar in Religion; Women and Religion in Africa; Sound/Space/Religion; African Gods/Western Museums.

2006-2007 University of Virginia

Courses Taught: Gender and Sexuality in Popular Culture; Women and Religion in Africa; Music, Performance and the Politics of Gender; Religion, Politics and the State in Africa; Weddings, Marriage and Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective.

SERVICE

Professional

Co-chair, Community Outreach Committee, American Religious Sounds Project, Ohio State U and Michigan State U (2018-present)

Member, Editorial Committee, *Yale Journal of Music & Religion* (2020-present)

Member, Advisory Board, American Religious Sounds Project,
<https://religioussounds.osu.edu/about-team> (2017-present)

Symposium Organizer, [Black Sacred Space: Materiality & Representation](#), University of Vermont, April 20, 2018.

Lecture Series Organizer, [Religious Objects & Embodied Practices in the Black Atlantic](#), University of Vermont, Fall 2017.

Co-chair, Ethnographic Studies Subsection, XXth Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (2009-2010).

Council Member, Society for Ethnomusicology (2006-2009).

Program Committee, Midwest Chapter Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology. (2005-2006)

Manuscript Referee, *Africa Today*, *American Ethnologist*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Anthropology and Humanism*, *Critical Study of Religion*, *Culture and Religion*, *Ethnomusicology Forum*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, *Material Religion*, *Numen* (ongoing).

University of Vermont

Director, African Studies, (2015-current)

Member, Research, Scholarship, and Creative Arts Committee, Faculty Senate, (2019-current)

Member, Global Citizenship General Education Committee (2020)

Member, President's Committee on Curricular Innovation in the Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences (2019)

Member, Search for Dean of Libraries (2018-2019)

Member, Diversity Curriculum Review Committee (2018-current)

Member, Library Advisory Committee (2016-current)

Member, Academic Studies Committee (2015-2018)

Member, Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate (2013-2014)

Representative, Faculty Senate (2009-2014)

Member, CAS Admissions Committee (2011)

Member, Search for TT faculty in Islam (2011)

Member, Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee (2009-2011)

Member, Religion Department Chair Review (2010)

Curriculum Vitae: Brennan, Vicki L.
September 2020

Member, Search for TT faculty in Islam (2008)

Wrote and designed Religion Department newsletter (2007-2014)

Professional Memberships

African Studies Association, American Academy of Religion, American Anthropological Association, American Ethnological Society, Lagos Studies Association, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Society for Ethnomusicology, Society for the Anthropology of Religion