

VENOLIA RABODIBA

PhD Anthropology, Stanford University
venolrab@stanford.edu

EDUCATION

- 2019-2026 **Stanford University**, United States
Ph.D. Anthropology
- 2021-2022 **Stanford University**, United States
M.A. Anthropology. Stanford University
Paper: "Locations of Not Working, Or Geographies of Social Membership and Personhood"
- 2015-2018 **University of the Witwatersrand**, South Africa
B.A. Honours (*with distinction*) Geography
Thesis: "Memory and Post-Apartheid Black Geographies: Interrogating the paradox of Monumentalizing South Africa's Freedom Charter in a Kliptown 'Slum'"

DISSERTATION

"Assembling a Regional Community: Infrastructuralization, Regional Integration, and Triumphalism in Southern Africa"

Doctoral Committee: Prof. James Ferguson (Primary Advisor -2025), Assoc. Prof. Antina von Schnitzler (Co-Chair), Assoc. Prof. Miyako Inoue (Co-Chair). Assoc. Prof. Kabir Tambar, Prof. Andrew Bauer

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2025-2026 Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS) Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford University. *Awarded to students across Stanford's social science departments whose research crosses disciplinary boundaries.*
- 2025-2026 King Center on Global Development Graduate Student Fellowship, Stanford University
- 2024-2025 Susan Ford Dorsey Innovation Africa Fellowship, Center for African Studies Stanford University. *Awarded to Humanities and Sciences doctoral candidates whose innovative research challenges traditional boundaries, shows originality, and has the potential transform understandings of the African continent.*
- 2024 Graduate Research and Fellowship Grant, Center for African Studies, Stanford University
- 2023 Social Science Research Council Mellon Mays Graduate Initiative Programs, Graduate Student Enhancement Grant
- 2023 Institute for Citizens and Scholars (Formerly, Woodrow Wilson Foundation), MMUF Travel and Research Grant
- 2022 *Finalist, Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2022 The Anthropology Prize for Service to the Department, Stanford University

2021	Social Science Research Council Mellon Mays Graduate Initiative Programs Graduate Studied Enhancement Grant
2020-2021	McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society Graduate Research Fellowship, Stanford University
2019	Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Fellowship, Stanford University
2019	Doctoral Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
2018	Stanley P. Jackson Medal, School of Geography, Archaeology, and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. <i>Awarded to the Top graduating student in the Honours program in Geography in the Faculty of Humanities or the Faculty of Sciences</i>
2018	National Research Foundation and Department of Science and Technology (South Africa) Honours Innovation Research Grant.
2018	Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate Merit Award, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
2017-2018	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025-2026 Spring	Instructor, Introduction to Graduate Studies, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
2025-2026 Winter	Instructor, The Anthropology of Global Trade, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
2025-2026 Spring	Guest Lecturer, African Civilizations III (with Dr. Kathryn Takabvirwa), Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago
2023-2024 Spring	Guest Lecturer, AFRICAAM 267: Africa & China Past and Present (with Dr. Jodie Yuzhou Sun), Stanford University
2023-2024 Winter	Teaching Assistant, ANTHRO 91 Evidence and Method (with Dr. Duana Fullwiley), Department of Anthropology, Stanford University.
2020-2021 Winter	Course Development Assistant, AFRICAAM 62Q: A Comparative Exploration of Higher Education in Jamaica and South Africa (with Dr. Chad Coates), Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Stanford University
2020-2021 Spring	Teaching Assistant, ANTHRO1/ANTHRO201: Introduction to Cultural and Social Anthropology (with Dr. James Ferguson), Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
2018	Tutor, Physical and Human Geography, Department of Geography, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

RESEARCH & TEACHING

INTERESTS	Global Trade & Governance; Transnational Connectivity; African Futures and Global Science & Technology Studies; Political and Economic Anthropology; Economic Geography, International Political Economy and Geographies of Development; Class, Masculinity, and Work.
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UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2024-2026	Center for Global Ethnography at the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRISS) Stanford University, Graduate Student Coordinator Bay Area Interdisciplinary Writer's workshop series. <i>Brought together an interdisciplinary group of dissertation writers from five major universities in the San Francisco Bay Area for a monthly writing workshop series.</i>
2021-2022	Science and Technology Studies Graduate Workshop Co-Coordinator, Student Projects for Intellectual Community Enhancement, Stanford University. <i>Invited speakers from across the globe to share ongoing work with graduate students</i>
2021-2022	Graduate Student Organization Representative, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
2021-2022	Mentor, CSRE 200X Senior Seminar, Centre for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University
2020-2021	Ethics Committee Graduate Student Assistant, Department of Anthropology
2017	Student-Staff Committee, Department of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
2016-2017	Wits Disability Awareness Movement, Treasurer General, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
2015-2016	Student-Staff Committee, School of Geography, Archaeology, and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
2015-2016	Wits Debating Union, Vice-Chairperson, University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

2025-2026(Summer)	Research Assistant, Dr. Angela Garcia, Professor of Anthropology, Stanford University
2023-2024(Sum/Fal)	Graduate Residential Associate, Sophomore College, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Stanford University
2020-2021(Summer)	Research Assistant, Dr. James Ferguson, Professor of Anthropology and Susan S. and William H. Hindle Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University
2018-2019	Research Intern, Center for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa (CAHF)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

Accepted/Under Review Rabodiba V.M. "Infrastructuralization, decolonization, and development in Southern Africa: Engineering a politics machine." *Anthropology Southern Africa*, "Special Issue Honoring the Legacy of Dr James Ferguson"

In Preparation Rabodiba V.M. "Sovereign Optics: Time-Capsules of Circulation Control in Customs" for *American Ethnologist*

Other Publications with Alison Tshangana and Walter Fieuw (2019) "Literature Survey on Urban Land Issues: South Africa" For the South African National Treasury's Cities Support Programme

2018. "Introduction of a new Microfinance Act in Tanzania: What impact will it have on the housing sector?" For Center for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa

<https://housingfinanceafrica.org/documents/introduction-of-a-new-microfinance-act-in-tanzania-what-impact-will-it-have-on-the-housing-sector/>

2018. "Africa in the World 2018: Reflections from Johannesburg." For African Studies Association available [online](#)

CONFERENCES/ PRESENTATIONS

Papers

"Assembling Connectivity: Regional Integration and Infrastructured Lives in southern Africa." American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual meeting November 2024, Tampa, FL

Panels Organized

Co-organized with Shantanu Nevrekar. "Scales of Technical Expertise: Big Economic Policies and Quotidian Life". American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual meeting in November 2024, Tampa, FL.

Roundtables/Discussant Roles

Discussant, "Nature, Power, And Race: A Book Discussion with Jacob Dlamini on his book Safari Nation (2020)". Centre for African Studies Africa Table Series, Stanford University.

2019 Stakeholder Participant: "Roundtable on Urban Land and Human Settlements, Spatial Strategies, Property Markets, Land Governance, Development and Administration", Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform. South Africa

MAJOR FIELD WORK

2022-2023, Zambia, Botswana (Kazungula One -Stop Border Post).

PAST AFFILIATIONS

University of Zambia, Department of History and Archaeological Sciences, 2022-2023

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2016

Head Coach/Provincial Tutor, South African Model United Nations. Team placed 2nd at the International Conference in South Africa

2013

Academic Facilitator, Whispering Pines Educational Center (Accredited Home-School), South Africa

LANGUAGES

English, Afrikaans, Sepedi (Northern Sotho), Setswana, French (basic reading) Lozi (basic oral), Nyanja (basic oral)

REFERENCES

James Ferguson, Susan S. and William H. Hindle Professor in the School of Humanities & Sciences and Professor of Anthropology. Primary Advisor and Chair 2019-2025

Antina von Schnitzler, Associate Professor, Julien J. Studley School of International Affairs, New School, New York, United States. Doctoral Dissertation Committee Co-Chair. vonschna@newschool.edu

Kabir Tambar, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University ktambar@stanford.edu Doctoral Dissertation Committee Reader