

SIMENEH GEBREMARIAM
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EDUCATION

- 2026 **Ph.D. (expected Spring, 2026), Sociocultural Anthropology**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Dissertation: *Kinät: Ethiopian Music, Revolution, and (Post)socialism* **Chair:** Professor Kelly Askew
- 2022 **M.A., Sociocultural Anthropology**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2022 **Graduate Certificate, African Studies**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2013 **Graduate Certificate, Museum Studies**, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
- 2009 **M.A., Cultural Studies, Addis Ababa University**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 2005 **B.A., Music, Addis Ababa University**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2016-2025 **GSI/GSRA, Department of Anthropology, Department of Afroamerican & African Studies, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**
Taught multiple semesters of *Anthrcul 101: Introduction to Anthropology*, *AAS 111: Introduction to African & Afroamerican Studies*, and *Psych 111: Introduction to Psychology* incorporating hands-on learning through collaborations with the Art Museum, Library Services, and the Spectrum Center.
- 2022 **Instructor, Anthrcul 298: Anthropology of Hip Hop, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**
Developed and taught an independent course, *The Anthropology of Hip Hop: A Transnational Perspective*, during the Spring semester.
- 2018-2019 **Instructor, College of Visual & Performing Arts, Graduate School, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**
Co-taught *ETMU6011: Research Methods in Music and Culture* and *FiAr5221: Advanced Research Methods and Project Development*.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024-2025 **Guest Curator, University of Memphis Art Museum, Memphis, TN**
Developed and designed the newly expanded African Gallery, *Windows on Africa: Visual Arts of the Continent*, at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis.
- 2024-2025 **Curatorial and Programs Assistant, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana**
As an NEH Humanities Fellow, I supported a \$1.2 million traveling exhibition and publication project, *New African Masquerades: Artistic Innovations and Collaboration*.
- 2023-2024 **Curatorial Assistant, Mott-Warsh Collection (MWC), Flint MI**
Assisted the development, implementation, and installation of MWC and 8 community venue exhibitions, drafting didactic materials, and managing website content.
- 2022 **Doctoral Intern Fellow, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**
As an academic term intern, I was engaged in a comprehensive introduction to the museum's operations, deepening my understanding of museum pedagogy, exhibition planning, and interdepartmental collaboration.
- 2021 **Graduate Student Intern, University of Michigan Museum of Art (Spring/Summer), Ann Arbor, MI**
Conducted in-depth research on 18th/19th century African art collections, and contributed to drafting the museum's strategic plan, mission, vision, and DEI statements.
- 2012-2013 **Graduate Assistant, University of Memphis Art Museum, Memphis, TN**
My responsibilities included conducting collection research and management, contributing to African art exhibition development, and digitization initiatives at the University.
- 2009-2012 **Deputy Director, Museum of Modern Art, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa**
Led the planning and execution of exhibitions and educational initiatives that cultivated meaningful dialogue and collaboration between established and emerging artists.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 “The Azmari Tradition in Addis Ababa: Change and Continuity,” *Northeast African Studies*, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Vol. 18, Nos. 1–2, pp. 25–51.
- 2018 “Ayalew Mesfin—Hasabe (My Worries),” CD liner notes, Now-Again Records, Hollywood, CA.
- 2016 *Short Biography of Dejazmach Gebremariam Gari Godana (1866–1929)*, Master Printing Press, Addis Ababa.
- 2010 “Scholarship on Ethiopian Music: Past, Present and Future Prospects,” *African Study Monographs*, Supplement 41, pp. 19–34, Kyoto, Japan, March 2010.
- 2009 “Tilahun Gessese, King of Ethiopian Pop,” in *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, Vol. 4, Siegbert Uhlig (ed.), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.

ACADEMIC & PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Introduction to Ethiopian Art: Tradition & Modernity,” Ringling College of Art & Design, Sarasota, Florida, 04 December 2024.
- 2021 “Music and Politics in East-Africa,” *Truth and Responsibility*, American Anthropological Association (AAA) Baltimore, Maryland, 16–18 November 2021.
- 2019 “Azmari in Danger,” *International Academic Workshop: Music and Media in Occupied Ethiopia, 1935–1941*, organized by the University of Bayreuth, Department of Ethnology, in collaboration with the Istituto Centrale per i Beni Sonori ed Audiovisivi (ICBSA), Rome, 25–27 June 2019.
- 2019 “Documentary of Negadras Tesema Eshete (1876–1964): Who’s Who in Ethiopian Modern History?” *Ethiopian Broadcasting Service (EBS) TV*, Addis Ababa, 4 February 2019.
- 2018 “Bond without Blood’: Ethiojazz and Afro-Latino Musical Traditions,” *The 2018 U-M–UPR Symposium, Political Tensions and Identity in a Globalized World*, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, San Juan, 3–4 May 2018.
- 2018 “State and Stage: Music and Politics from the 1974 Ethiopian Revolution to the (Post)Socialist Present,” *New Stages? Postsocialisms, Postliberalisms & Performances*, Annual Symposium of the Soyuz Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2–3 March 2018.
- 2018 “A Thing or Two about Mental Health at U-M,” *International Center*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 20 July 2018.
- 2017 “The New African Diasporas and the Old American Dream,” *Imagining America, 17th Annual National Conference*, Davis, CA, 12–14 October 2017.
- 2017 “Music and Revolution in Ethiopia,” *Reyot Radio*, Washington, D.C., 10 December 2017.
- 2017 “Introduction to Doing Ethnography,” *Interdisciplinary Seminar, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 14 February 2017.
- 2013 “Text and Context of Pre-19th Century Ethiopian Manuscripts,” *Returning Home: Voices on Repatriation—Ethical, Emotional, and Legal Issues of Returning Cultural Material*, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, 11 November 2013.
- 2012 “The Azmari Tradition in Addis Ababa: Change and Continuity,” *Current Trends in Ethnomusicological Research Center for World Music*, Stiftung Universität, Hildesheim, 27–30 June 2012.
- 2012 “Performing the Revolution: Music and Politics in Ethiopia (1974–1991),” *Brown International Advanced Research Institute (BLARI), Theatre and Civil Society*, Providence, RI, 9–23 June 2012.
- 2012 “Mulatu Astatke: The Father of Ethio-Jazz,” *Ethiopian National Cultural Center*, on the occasion of the Honorary Doctorate awarded to the artist by Berklee College of Music, Addis Ababa, 11 May 2012.
- 2011 “Ethiopian Music and Society,” *Shager Radio*, Addis Ababa, 13 August 2011.
- 2009 “A Century of Ethiopian Modern Music: Roots, Encounters, and Development,” *The 17th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies (ICES)*, Addis Ababa, 2–5 November 2009.
- 2009 “Preserving and Making Accessible Cultural Sound Archives of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies,” *Roundtable on Communities & Cultural Heritage Centers in East Africa*, Addis Ababa, 6 November 2009.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 *Audio-visual Africa*, Humanity Collaboratory, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2014 Intellectual Properties Researcher, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2009–2010 Preserving and Making Accessible Cultural Sound Archives of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa
- 2008–2009 Independent Researcher, Culture and Art Society of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa
- 2006–2009 Ethnomusicologist and Consultant, UNESCO/Norway Funds-in-Trust Cooperation Project, *Ethiopia: Traditional Music, Dance and Instruments*, Addis Ababa

PROJECT PARTICIPATIONS

- 2019 *Ethiopian Dance Art Association*, UNESCO/International Fund for Cultural Diversity, Diversity of Cultural Expressions Section, Addis Ababa
- 2018 “Indigenous Peoples’ Collective Rights to Lands, Territories and Resources,” 17th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), United Nations Headquarters, New York
- 2011 *Conversation on Humanities*, four-session lecture series organized by Brown International Advanced Research Institute (BIARI) Alumni at Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
- 2011 Coordinator, organized and accompanied 16 Ethiopian musicians and performers for a concert series dedicated to Ethiopia, Cité de la Musique, French Ministry of Culture, Paris
- 2010 Coordinator, official launching of the College of Visual & Performing Arts, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
- 2010 Coordinated the Organization of Callaloo Conference: “(Black) Movements: Poetics and Praxis,” Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
- 2010 Coordinated African Express Music Trip to Ethiopia, Musicians Incorporated, Addis Ababa
- 2009–2010 Co-organizer, 8th and 9th Ethiopian Music Festivals, Alliance Ethio Française, Addis Ababa
- 2009 Co-organizer, University of Pennsylvania African Studies Center Fulbright project, “Teaching the Human Experience: Lessons from Ethiopia,” Addis Ababa
- 2009 Co-organizer, 17th (50th Year Jubilee) International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa
- 2008–2009 Coordinator, *Zoro Gettem – Reunion* CD fundraising project, which raised over \$10,000 in support of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa
- 2008 Coordinator, Musical Ethnography (48 hours) & Introduction to Ethnomusicology (12 hours) Graduate Seminars authored by Professor Kay Kaufman Shelemay (Harvard University), Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa

GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2021 South African Initiatives Office Student Research Grant, Department of Afroamerican & African Studies, University of Michigan
- 2019 Centre Français Des Études Éthiopiennes Grant, French National Center for Scientific Research
- 2018 Publicly Active Graduate Education, Imagining America
- 2016 International Institute Individual Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2016 Center for World Performance Studies Research Grant, University of Michigan
- 2015 Arts of Citizenship, Institute for Social Change, University of Michigan
- 2012 Summer Fellow, Brown Institute of Advanced Research Institute, Brown University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- 2026 Leader, Sweetland Dissertation Writing Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2009–2022 Peer Reviewer, Encyclopaedia Aethiopica (Hamburg); Northeastern Africa Journal (Lansing); Journal of African Cultural Studies (London); Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa (Cape Town)
- 2013–2022 Reader, Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (IREX), Washington, D.C.
- 2017 Member, Graduate/Professional Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Board to the President, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2017 Volunteer, Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs (MESA), Support for Incoming Black Students, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2016 Member, Student Advisory Board, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2015 Representative, Graduate Student Central Government, (*Received ~1,400 votes on the “Defend Affirmative Action” platform*) University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- Art Counsel of African Studies Association (ACASA)
- Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM)
- American Alliance of Museums (AAM)
- Michigan Museums Association (MMA)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.