

# VICKI LAINE BRENNAN

## Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor, Department of Religion  
Director, Global & Regional Studies Program  
Director, African Studies Program  
University of Vermont  
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## 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: Media, Celebrity, and Everyday Pentecostalism in Contemporary Nigeria*. Manuscript in Preparation.

2018 Brennan, Vicki L. *Singing Yoruba Christianity: Music, Media, and Morality*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

- Finalist, 2020 Isaac Oluwole Delano Book Prize for Yoruba Studies

### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

2023 **Brennan, Vicki L.**, Harrison Adeniyi, & Titilayo Tajudeen. "Listening for Religion in Lagos: Preliminary Reflections." *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 35:4, 373-391.

2020 Peterson, Marina and **Vicki L. Brennan**, "Sonic Ethnography: Listening to and with Climate Change." *Resonance: The Journal of Sound and Culture*.

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 Chapters**

- 2022 “Seeing and Unseeing the Dark Goddess: Shanta Lee Gander’s Oppositional Gaze.” *In Dark Goddess: An Exploration of the Sacred Feminine* (exhibition catalogue), Shanta Lee Gander, Fleming Museum of Art.
- 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.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2024 Brennan, Vicki L. "Performing Power in Nigeria: Identity, Politics, and Pentecostalism & Powerful Devices: Prayer and the Political Praxis of Spiritual Warfare, written by Adelakun, Abimbola A.", *Journal of Religion in Africa* (published online ahead of print), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15700666-12340311>
- 2023 Vicki L. Brennan. Review of *Women in Yoruba Religions*, by Oyèronké Oládémò, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- 2021 Vicki L. Brennan. Review of Perman, Tony, *Signs of the Spirit: Music and the Experience of Meaning in Ndau Ceremonial Life*. H-Africa, H-Net Reviews. May.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

- ongoing [\*Sounds of Religion\*](#). Co-curated with Amy DeRogatis, Isaac Weiner, Ely Lyonblum, Lauren Pond, & Alison Furlong for Smithsonian SITES. Poster exhibit distributed in 2023.
- 2024 *UVM Sacred Sounds*. Co-curated with students from “Sacred Sounds” course taught in Fall 2023. Billings Library Apse, University of Vermont. Poster & Sound exhibit installed September – December.
- 2022 *Religious Soundscapes*. Co-curated with Alison Furlong, Ely Lyonblum, & Lauren Pond for Urban Arts Space, Columbus, OH. Immersive exhibition, installed May-July.
- 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-December 15.
- 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.

### **PUBLIC & DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP**

- 2022 [Singing Yoruba Christianity](#), New Books in African Studies, Podcast Appearance, 8 March.

- 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

- 2024 *Fellow*, Public Humanities Fellowship, UVM Humanities Center (with Dr. Thomas Borchert).
- 2022 *Principal Investigator*, UVM REACH Grant, Office of the Vice President of Research, University of Vermont.
- 2022 *Alternate Candidate*, Africa Regional Research Program, Fulbright Scholar Program.
- 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*

- 2024 Panel Presentation, "Listening and Ordinary Ethics in the Streets of Lagos." Annual Meeting of the Lagos Studies Association, 25-29 June.
- 2024 *Discussant*, Author-Meets-Readers: *Crossing Religious Boundaries: Islam, Christianity, and 'Yoruba Religion' in Lagos, Nigeria*, by Marloes Janson, 25-29 June.
- 2023 *Discussant*, Author-Meets-Readers: *Engaging Pastoral Power, Clerical State: Pentecostalism, Gender, and Sexuality in Nigeria* by Ebenezer Obadare. University of Notre Dame Press, 20-24 June.
- 2023 *Discussant*, Author-Meets-Readers Panel: *Engaging Digital Spiritualities: Social Media and Nigerian Pentecostal Churches in Switzerland* by Peter Ayoola Oderinde. Lit Verlag, Annual Meeting of the Lagos Studies Association, 20-24 June.
- 2023 *Panelist*, Professional Literacy and Academic Citizenship Roundtable Discussion, Organized by the LSA Mentoring Program for Women Graduate Students in Nigeria, 19 June.
- 2022 *Panel Presentation*, "Tope Alabi and the 'Oniduro' Controversy: Celebrity, Entertainment, and Piety in Yoruba Gospel Music." Annual Meeting of the Lagos Studies Association, 24 June.
- 2021 *Panel Presentation*, "Sound, Urban Space, and Religious Publics in Lagos, Nigeria." Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Virtual Conference, 20 November.
- 2021 *Panel Presentation*, "Gospel Music, Celebrity, and Christian Publics in Emma OMG's 'Yoruba Hymn Series.'" Annual Meeting of the Lagos Studies Association, Lagos, 21 June.
- 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***

- 2024 Invited Lecture, Yoruba Gospel Music: Media, Celebrity, & Everyday Pentecostalism in Contemporary Nigeria. Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 3 July.
- 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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; Interpretation of Religion; Ethnographies of Religion; Drugs, Demons, & Dancing; Senior Seminar in Religion; Women and Religion in Africa; Sound/Space/Religion; African Gods/Western Museums; Religion, Gender, and Sexuality; Ethnographies of Religion.

### 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

Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Modern African Studies* (2023-2026)

Conference Organizer, [Repatriation/Restitution/Reparation: Rethinking African Art at The Fleming Museum](#), University of Vermont, November 2021.

Co-chair, Community Outreach Committee, American Religious Sounds Project, Ohio State U and Michigan State U (2018-2022)

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

Member, Advisory Board, American Religious Sounds Project, <https://religioussounds.osu.edu/about-team> (2017-2022)

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 (ongoing), *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*, *Journal of Religion in Africa*.

### University of Vermont

Director, Global & Regional Studies, (2024-current)

Director, African Studies, (2015-current)

Member, Research, Scholarship, and Creative Arts Committee, Faculty Senate, (2019-current)  
At-Large Member, Research Advisory Committee, Office of the Vice President of Research, (2020-2023)  
Member, Global Citizenship General Education Committee (2020)  
Member, President's Committee on Curricular Innovation in the Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences (2019)  
Member, Humanities Center Advisory Board (2018-present)  
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)  
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