

Roberto Castillo (Ph.D., Lingnan; MCS, Usyd)

Curriculum Vitae

August 2018

My academic training is in Cultural Studies, International Relations, History and Journalism. I hold a PhD from the Department of Cultural Studies at Lingnan University, Hong Kong. I am currently an Assistant Professor in that department. I have lectured at the African Studies Programme at the University of Hong Kong; the Humanities and Creative Writing Department of HKBU; and the Applied Social Sciences Department of Hong Kong's PolyU. Previously, I completed a Masters in Cultural Studies at The University of Sydney, and lived and worked in Beijing and Hong Kong for 12 years. My research/teaching interests are: transnationality; migration and mobility; the critique of nationalism and globalisation; China's changing ethnoscapas with a focus on foreign presence in the country; Africa-China relations; (cultural) research methodologies; globalisation of social movements; digital cultures; digital humanities; ethnography; the politics of knowledge production; the cultural politics of media representations of race/ethnicity; critical theory; Inter-Asia cultural studies; and Chinese social development. I administer the website: www.africansinchina.net.

Contact:

Email: castillo.roberto@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Doctor of Philosophy – Cultural Studies (Lingnan University, Hong Kong) | 2015 |
| Award: Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme, Research Grants Council, HKSAR government
Supervisor: Prof. John Erni | |
| Master of Cultural Studies (University of Sydney, Australia) | 2010 |
| Award: International Postgraduate Coursework Scholarship | |
| Bachelor of International Relations with Honours (University of the Americas, Mexico) | 2000 – 2006 |
| Award: Scholarship for Academic Excellence | |

TEACHING

LECTURER

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|---|----------------|
| ▪ Culture and the Modern World I
(Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University) | 2017-18 |
| ▪ Cultural Policy and Community
(Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University) | 2017-18 |
| ▪ Thinking Like an Anthropologist
(Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University) | 2017-18 |

- Cross-Cultural Interchange and Urban Life **2017-18**
(Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University)
- Basic Issues in Intercultural Studies II **2017-**
(Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- Africa China Relations **2016–17**
(*African Studies Programme, The University of Hong Kong*)
- Foundations in African Studies **2016–17**
(*African Studies Programme, The University of Hong Kong*)
- Social Policy and Social Development in China **2016-17**
(*Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University*)
- Special Topic in Theory and Culture: Urban Cultures: Reading, Feeling & Claiming the City **2015–16**
(*Department of Humanities & Creative Writing, Hong Kong Baptist University*)
- Africa China Relations **2015–16**
(*African Studies Programme, The University of Hong Kong*)
- Foundations in African Studies **2015–16**
(*African Studies Programme, The University of Hong Kong*)
- Media Representations of Ethnicity **2015–16**
(*Department of Humanities & Creative Writing, Hong Kong Baptist University*)
- Africa China Relations **2014–15**
(*African Studies Programme, The University of Hong Kong*)
- Foundations in African Studies **2014–15**
(*African Studies Programme, The University of Hong Kong*)
- Special Topic in Theory and Culture: Urban Cultures: Reading, Feeling & Claiming the City **2014–15**
(*Department of Humanities & Creative Writing, Hong Kong Baptist University*)

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

- CUS 115 Methodologies in Cultural Research **2012 – 2013**
(*Cultural Studies Department, Lingnan University*)
- CUS 112 Literature and Cultural Studies **2012 – 2013**
(*Cultural Studies Department, Lingnan University*)
- CUS 115 Methodologies in Cultural Research **2011 – 2012**
(*Cultural Studies Department, Lingnan University*)
- CUS 314 Hong Kong Popular Culture **2011 – 2012**
(*Cultural Studies Department, Lingnan University*)

GUEST LECTURES

- *Alternative forms of citizenship in contemporary China (The Education University of Hong Kong)* **March 2018**
Course: Liberal Studies and Education
- *Representations of Chinese in African Film (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)* **November 2017**
Course: Interdisciplinary and Inter-Faculty Undergraduate Seminar: African Arts and Culture
- *Africa China Relations (The University of Hong Kong)* **November 2017**
Course: Foundations in African Studies
- *China and the World: China in Africa (The University of Hong Kong)* **November 2015**
Course: African Experiences
- *Africa and the World: a Long History – from Functioning Civilisations to the Dark Continent and Beyond (The University of Hong Kong)* **November 2014**
Course: Foundations in African Studies, African Studies Program
- *Ethnography as a Method in Cultural Research (Lingnan University)* **March 2013**
Course: Methodologies in Cultural Research, Cultural Studies Program
- *Literature and Social Movements in Latin America (Lingnan University)* **October 2012**
Course: Literature and Cultural Studies, Cultural Studies Program
- *Netnography: How to Conduct Research in Online Communities (Lingnan University)* **March 2012**
Course: Methodologies in Cultural Research, Cultural Studies Program

RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS

- Castillo Roberto. 2019. 'Red Money: Nigerian money spraying, music and aspirations in China'. *Under review*.
- Castillo, Roberto. 2016. "'Homing" Guangzhou: emplacement, belonging and precarity amongst Africans in China,' *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 19(3): 287-306.
- Castillo, Roberto. 2015. 'Landscapes of aspiration in Guangzhou's African music scene: beyond the trading narrative,' *The Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, 44(4).
- Castillo, Roberto. 2014. 'Feeling at home in the "Chocolate City": an exploration of place-making practices and structures of belonging amongst Africans in Guangzhou,' *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 15 (2): 235-257.

GRANTS

- *Made-in-China Nollywood: New Geographies of African Diasporic Imagination*. Early Career Scheme (ECS) 2018/19. Research Grant Council (RGC). Project Fund: HK\$ 504,000.
- *Made-in-China Nollywood: New Geographies of African Diasporic Imagination*. Faculty Research Grant from the Research & Postgraduate Studies Committee of Lingnan University: HK\$ 49,350
- Africans in Guangzhou: a cultural analysis of transnationality amongst Africans on the move. Full time doctoral research funded by the UGC: HK\$ 720,000.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 'Africans in China and Chinese in Africa: why is everyone talking about China Africa relations now?' A public lecture organised by the Chi Sun College of the **University of Hong Kong, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong, 3 April 2018**.
- 'Africans in Southern China: Myths and Realities'. Public Lecture for the launching of the 'Vibrant Africa Festival' organised by the **Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Tsim Tsa Tsui, Hong Kong, 18 September 2017**.
- 'African artists and mobilities in China'. A talk given at Anthropology and Development Studies Department of the **University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, 4 August 2017**.
- 'Chinese Soft Power and African Cosmopolitan Futures'. A talk given at the 'Africa-China : Mapping an Emergent Axis' seminar series organised by the Architecture Department of the **University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China, 27 April 2017**.
- 'Routes, Roots, and Rhythms: Research on Ethnicity and Migration in the Southern China Region'. A panel organised by the Centre for Cultural Studies of **The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China, 21 April 2017**.
- 'Encountering Racism'. A talk given at the Inter-Asia Summer School 2016. **Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China, June 2016**.
- 'One Belt One Road: What's in it for Africa?'. A talk given at the 'One Belt One Road: Possible Impacts on the Regional and Global Relations' seminar organised by the General Education Unit of the **University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China, 17 March 2016**.
- 'African musicians in search of the "Chinese Dream": beyond the narratives of trade and "immigration"'. A talk given at the Asia Art Archive as part of the Mapping Asia Project. **Hong Kong, China, July 2014**.
- 'Feeling at home in the "Chocolate City": an exploration of African migration to Guangzhou in the context of diasporic globalization.' A talk given at the Trans-Asia Screen Culture Monthly Forum, organised by the Trans-Asia Screen Culture Institute of **Korea National University of Arts, Seoul, Korea, 26 April 2013**.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES (selected)

- 'Out of place in a Chinese village: urban transformation and precarity'. Paper delivered for the Inter-Asia Summer School at **Jadavpur University, Kolkatta, India, 19 June 2018**.

- 'Red Money: Nigerian money spraying, music and aspirations in China'. Paper delivered at the *Transpacific Cultural Studies of Gender, Migration and Rights Symposium*, organised by the Humanities and Creative Writing Department of **Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, 24 April 2018**.
- 'Knowledge production and research methodologies'. Workshop conducted for the 'Research Postgraduate Workshop Series' at the Department of Cultural Studies, **Lingnan University, Hong Kong, 24 November 2017**.
- 'What is ethnography'. Workshop conducted for the 'Humanities Sessions for Research Postgraduate Students' at **Lingnan University, Hong Kong, 9 November 2017**.
- 'Made-in-China' Nollywood: the new geographies of African diasporic imagination'. Paper delivered at: *Worlding InterAsia*, organised by the Inter Asia Cultural Studies Society at **SungKongHoe University, Seoul, Republic of Korea, July 29 2017**.
- 'Writing Research Proposals Successfully: Best Practices'. Workshop conducted for the Centre for Cultural Studies at the **Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 17 March 2017**.
- 'Red Money: Nigerian "money spraying", music and aspirations in China'. Paper delivered at: *Colloque ANR Espaces de la culture chinoise en Afrique*, organised by Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'homme at **Inalco, Paris, France, 9-11 September 2015**.
- 'Spraying Renminbi: Nigerian money throwing, music and aspirations in China'. Paper delivered at: *Undercurrents: Unearthing hidden social and discursive practices*, organised by Inter Asia Cultural Studies Society at **Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia, 7-10 August 2015**.
- 'African "self-entrepreneurs" in Guangzhou: musicians, traders or family men?.' Paper delivered at: *The 3rd International Conference on Chinese in Africa/Africans in China*, organised by the Chinese in Africa – Africans in China Research Network at **Jinan University, Guangzhou, China PRC, 12-14 December 2014**.
- 'Un-dreaming the 'Chinese Dream': precarity, solidarity and organisation amongst Africans in Guangzhou.' Paper delivered at: *Producing Anthropology*, the 113th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. **Washington, DC, 3-7, 2014**.
- 'African aspirations in the Chinese 'Mega-City': recent transformations in Guangzhou's urban ethnoscapes.' Paper delivered at: *Urban Aspirations Asia – A Graduate Urban Studies Workshop*, organised as part of the project 'Aspirations, Urban Governance, and the Remaking of Asian Cities' by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the **National University of Singapore, Singapore, 14-15 August 2014**.
- "'Homing" Guangzhou: emplacement, belonging and (alternative) citizenship amongst Africans in China.' Paper delivered at: *Situations: Cultural Studies in the Asian Context. Annual International Conference*, co-organised by the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing in Hong Kong Baptist University and the Department of English Language and Literature in Yonsei University. **Hong Kong, 23-24 January 2014**.
- 'From Africa to China: an exploration of placemaking practices and structures of belonging amongst Africans in Guangzhou.' Paper delivered at: *Cultural Studies Transcending Borders: Shifting Perspectives in Asia*, organised by the Inter Asia Cultural Studies Society, Asia Research Institute & Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, **National University of Singapore, Singapore, 1-2 July 2013**.

- 'Feeling at home in the "Chocolate City": an exploration of African migration to Guangzhou in the context of diasporic cultural globalisation.' Submitted for discussion at the *Where is Home?: Place, Belonging, and Citizenship in the Asian Century* workshop, Hong Kong Baptist University. Selected as one of 12 papers from 230 applications worldwide. **Hong Kong, 22-23 March 2013.**
- 'The materialities of transnational movement in an "African" neighbourhood in Guangzhou, China.' Paper delivered at: *Materialities: Economies, Empiricism & Things*, organised by the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia at the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, **The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, 4-6 December 2012.**

MEDIA APPEARANCES & COLLABORATIONS (selected)

- [Television] Guest on *Al-Jazeera's 'The Stream'* T2018, E:79 – 'What's it like being Black in China?'. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQkiil3kXt4>
- [Podcast] Guest. Olander, Eric (Interviewer). 'Black Panther sparks debate over anti-black racism in China'. Podcast for *The China Africa Project*. Available at: <http://www.chinaafricaproject.com/podcast-black-panther-racism-china/>
- [Written Collaboration] Castillo, Roberto. (2018) 'Chinese media is obsessed with portraying China as Africa's saviour'. Analysis piece for *Quartz Media*. Available at: <https://qz.com/1226125/chinas-racist-blackface-and-savior-complex-for-africa-in-chinese-media/>
- [Written Collaboration] Castillo, Roberto. (2018) 'What "blackface" tells us about China's patronising attitude towards Africa'. Analysis piece for *The Conversation – Africa*. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/what-blackface-tells-us-about-chinas-patronising-attitude-towards-africa-92449>
- [Written Collaboration] Castillo, Roberto. (2016) 'Of Washing powder, Afrophobia and racism in China'. Analysis piece for *The Conversation – Africa*. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/of-washing-powder-afrophobia-and-racism-in-china-60274>
- [Report] Interview. Marsh, Jenni. 'The African migrants giving up on the Chinese dream.' *CNN*, June 2016. Available at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/26/asia/africans-leaving-guangzhou-china/index.html>
- [Report] Interview. Burks, Emeri. 'The Chinese Dream. Changing aspirations of Africans in Canton.' *That's PRD*, October 2014. Available at: <http://online.thatsmags.com/pdf/40/download>
- [Report] Interview. Marsh, Jenni. 'Afro-Chinese marriages boom in Guangzhou: but will it be "till death do us apart"?' *South China Morning Post*, 1 June 2014. Available at: <http://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/article/1521076/afro-chinese-marriages-boom-guangzhou-will-it-be-til-death>
- [Radio] Interview. Shryock, Ricci. 'Interview with Nigeria's Dibaocha Sky in Guangzhou,' *Africa Today, Voice of America*. Available at: <http://www.voafanti.com/gate/gb/m.voanews.com/s/387305.html#http://www.voafanti.com/gate/gb/realaudio.rferl.org/voa/ENGL/2014/03/17/c3f1d93b-1d85-4a69-bfed-b02573b4784e.mp3>

- [Report] Interviewee. Grangereau, Philippe. 'En Chine, Noirs Desespoirs,' *Liberation*, 27 October 2013. Available at: http://www.liberation.fr/monde/2013/10/27/chinenoirs-desespoirs_942712
- [Report] Interview. Piranty, Sam. 'Economic nomads in a city of flows,' *Think Africa Press*, 22 October 2013. Available at: <http://thinkafricapress.com/economy/nomads-city-flows-china-africa-guangzhou>
- [Blog] Informant. Lagarde, Stéphane. 'Canton L'Africaine: des footballeurs devenus hommes d'affaires,' 6 October 2013. *Radio France International*. Available at: <http://chine.blogs.rfi.fr/article/2013/10/06/canton-l-africaine-1-des-footballeurs-devenus-hommes-d-affaires>
- [Radio] Commentator. Lagarde, Stéphane. 'La Petite Afrique de Canton,' *Radio France International*, October 2013. Available at: <https://soundcloud.com/st-phane-lagarde/la-petite-afrique-de-canton>
- [Report] Interview. Tejpe, Rhia. 'The Africans making it big in China,' *Agence France Press AFP*, 19 September 2013. Available at: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/19/africans-making-it-big-in-china/>
- [Podcast] Guest. Olander, Eric (Interviewer). 'How many Africans are there in China?' *The China Africa Project*. Available at: <https://soundcloud.com/chinatalkingpoints/how-many-africans-are-there-in>
- [Podcast] Guest. Olander, Eric (Interviewer). 'Afro-Chinese culture in popular media,' *The China Africa Project*. Available at: <https://soundcloud.com/chinatalkingpoints/afro-chinese-culture-in>
- [Podcast] Guest. Olander, Eric (Interviewer). 'Daily life for Africans in China,' *The China Africa Project*. Available at: <https://soundcloud.com/chinatalkingpoints/africans-in-china-guangzhou>
- [Documentary] Informant. Lo, KM. 'The Chocolate City' (forthcoming). Available at: <http://youtu.be/2KCBcjFJ9M>
- [Radio] Interview. Shryock, Ricci. 'Africans in Guangzhou,' *Africa Today, Voice of America*. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXJvni6aTEM>

CONSULTANCY & COLLABORATION

- Advisor and collaborator for: '小北路 — Little Road North', a photographic essay by Daniel Traub.
- Advisor for: 'Guangzhou Dream Factory,' a documentary examining the African community taking root in Guangzhou, China, and the resulting tensions and cross-cultural exchange. Produced by Ryamar Educational Films, Inc. Directed by Erica Marcus and Christiane Badgley. Sponsored by the US National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Advisor and participant for: 'Drifting City,' a documentary series exploring the lives of diasporic subjects in Asia. Directed by Kim Soyoung and Kang Jinseok. Funded by the Busan International Film Festival and the Korean Film Commission.
- Advisor for: 'China Remix,' a documentary by Melissa Lefkowitz and Dorian Carli-Jones.

BLOG

- Administrator of www.africansinchina.net a website devoted to cultural research related to Africans living in China. The website gets an average of 5,000 views per month and is listed as a teaching research resource on the 'China Africa Knowledge Project' website, part of the US-based Social Science Research Council (SSRC).

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (MEDIA)

EDITOR: *China Internet Information Centre, China* 2008 – 2009

CIIC (中国互联网新闻中心) is a government news portal published by the State Council Information Office and the China International Publishing Group. It is available at: www.china.org.cn

- Monitored, selected and edited daily news stories
- Researched and wrote features for special editions
- Translated articles in English and Chinese to Spanish
- Co-created an online TV channel interviewing political personalities

COPYEDITOR: *Puebla Sin Fronteras, Mexico* 2005 – 2006

Puebla Sin Fronteras is a daily newspaper featuring both local and national news stories.

- Selected and edited content on a daily basis
- Assisted in the design of the newspaper
- Managed the culture and opinion sections

CHIEF EDITOR: *La Catarina, University of the Americas, Mexico* 2002 – 2004

La Catarina was a well-known university newspaper in Mexico. Under my editorship, The Harvard Crimson (Harvard's student newspaper) and other American university media analysts described it as the best student newspaper in Latin America.

- Managed the publication process from research, planning and editing to printing and distribution
- Oversaw a team of 55 reporters, photographers, designers and columnists
- Created and maintained the first online version of the newspaper
- Authored over 300 articles including the weekly column *Noveno Colectivo*

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (OTHER)

LIBRARIAN: *Cultural Section, Mexican Embassy, China* 2007

I proposed building the largest Spanish-language library in Asia on the embassy's premises in Beijing – an invaluable resource for Chinese students wishing to access Hispanic culture.

- Managed the logistics of the project
- Organized and classified a collection of more than 10,000 volumes

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER: *New World English Centre, China* 2007 – 2008

New World English is a private language-training centre offering courses in English.

- Taught an average of 8 classes per week for primary and secondary-level students
- Planned classes, wrote reports, and conducted placement tests for new students

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & SKILLS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Photographer for an Aboriginal rock art survey project in Western Australia funded by the University of Melbourne, 2010.

- Photographer at Beijing Writers' Festival, 2008.
- Member of the Human Rights Non-Governmental Organisation 'Cualli-Nemilistli', a network organisation that deals with human rights infringements in indigenous communities in Puebla, Mexico, 2006.
- Organiser of 'First Encounter Tlamachiliztli: the Indigenous Cultures in Contemporary Mexico', in 2002.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (native speaker)
- English and French (fluent)
- Mandarin (advanced conversational)