

**Che Applewhaite**[c.r.applewhaite@gmail.com](mailto:c.r.applewhaite@gmail.com)

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago; Lives and works in London, UK and Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.

**EDUCATION**

2017 – 2021 B.A. (Hons), *Anthropology, and History & Literature*, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA, USA

**STUDY**

2021 *The Claudia Jones Project*, convened by Farrah Rahaman, Philadelphia, PA, USA: virtual  
*The William and Louise Greaves Filmmaker Seminar*, BlackStar Film Festival, Philadelphia, PA, USA: virtual  
*Seminar Fellow*, 67<sup>th</sup> Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, Oberhausen, DE: virtual

**AWARDS, NOMINATIONS, FELLOWSHIPS & SOCIETIES**

2024 - 2025 *Somerset House Studios Jerwood Residency Award*, Somerset House, London, UK  
 2023 *Abandon Normal Devices New Cinema Days Creative Development Lab*, selected artist, Manchester, UK  
 2022 *Flaherty Professional Development Fellowship*, 67<sup>th</sup> Flaherty Film Seminar, Colgate University, NY, USA  
 2021 – 22 *Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship*, Harvard College Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships  
 2021 *Best Emerging Artist Jury Award*, Mimesis Documentary Festival at CU Boulder  
*Thomas T. Hoopes Senior Thesis Prize*, Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
*David McCord Prize for the Arts*, Dudley Community at Harvard University  
*Nominated for: Wiley-Blackwell Student Prize*, Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival  
 2020 – 21 *Berta Greenwald Leddecky Undergraduate Writers Fellowship*, Harvard Magazine  
 2020 *Harvard College-Mindich Independent Research & Community Engagement (RCE) Award*  
 2019 – 21 *Harvard College Undergraduate Research Fellow*, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF)  
 2020 – 21 *The Signet Society of Arts & Letters*, Cambridge, MA, USA  
 2019 – 21 *The Harvard Advocate*, Cambridge, MA, USA

**DISTRIBUTION**

2021 – Canyon Cinema (USA)  
 2022 – 2025 The Criterion Channel, *A New England Document* (USA/Canada)

**FILM FESTIVAL SELECTIONS**

2023 Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival, London, UK  
 Aesthetica Short Film Festival, York, UK  
 Center for Afrofuturist Studies Ordinary Survival Film Festival, Iowa City, IA, USA  
 2022 Society for Visual Anthropology Film and Media Festival, Seattle, WA, USA  
 Mimesis Documentary Festival at CU Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA  
 2021 New York African Film Festival, New York City, NY, USA  
 Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival, London, UK  
 Screening Scholarship Media Festival, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
 Third Horizon Film Festival, Miami, FL, USA  
 Prismatic Ground Experimental Documentary Festival, New York City, NY, USA  
 Mimesis Documentary Festival at CU Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA  
 New Renaissance Film Festival, London, UK  
 2020 International Documentary Festival Sheffield, 'Sheffield Doc/Fest', UK

**SOLO PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS**

2023 *how extremely lazy of me*, performance, transmediale, Berlin, DE  
 2021 *Harvard College Premiere of "A New England Document"*, Philips Brooks Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship, in conversation with Ernst Karel and Dr. Veronika Kusumaryati, USA: virtual  
*OMNIBUS: A New England Document*, Sentient.Art.Film, USA: virtual

**GROUP PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS**

2024 – 2025 *Jerwood Survey III*, national touring exhibition, UK  
 Southwark Park Galleries, London, England;  
 g39, Cardiff, Wales;  
 Site Gallery, Sheffield, England;  
 Collective, Edinburgh, Scotland  
 2023 *things we do in the dark*, curated by Farrah Rahaman, Express Newark, Rutgers University, NJ, USA

- 2022 Contact Film Series, programmed by Renée Green, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, OH, USA  
 Among Black Atlantic Cinemas, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, USA  
 REEL: AXIS, NOT POLES, curated by Languid Hands, Cubitt Gallery, London, UK  
 OMNIBUS “YOU.US.THEM”, curated by Sentient.Art.Film, Anthology Film Archives, New York City, NY, USA  
 This is Not Anarchy, This Is Chaos, transmediale, Berlin, DE
- 2021 Unexpected Lessons: Decolonizing Knowledge and Memory, conference by Talking Objects Lab,  
 Akademie der Kunst, Berlin, DE  
 Regarding Museums Short Film Weekend, Cultural Workers Against Humboldt Forum, Berlin, DE  
 A Moment In Between: A Virtual Celebration of Octavia Butler, curated by Sentient.Art.Film, currents.fm,  
 New York City, NY, USA: virtual  
 Dislocated.Blackness, curated by Nan Collymore, 2727 California Street, Berkeley, CA, USA: virtual

## ACADEMIC SCREENINGS

- 2023 Dissenting Knowledges, Oxford – UdK Berlin Partnership Initiative in the Arts and Humanities, UdK Berlin, DE  
 Art of the Real, Prof. J.P. Sniadecki, Northwestern University, IL, USA
- 2022 Black Cinemas, Dr. Keisha Knight, Bennington College, VT, USA
- 2021 Microcultural Incidents, Prof. Michael Gitlin, Integrated Media Arts MFA, Hunter College, New York, USA  
 Readymades, Repatriation, Readymades, Prof. David Joselit, Art, Film and Visual Studies, Harvard University,  
 Cambridge, MA, USA

## SELECTED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Panel: *The Afterlives of Words: Unsettling Language, De-settling the Senses*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: “Unsettling Landscapes”, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2021 Panel: *Center for Media at Risk Roundtable: Che Applewhaite, Ra Malika Imhotep, Farrah Rahaman*, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
 Group Artist Q&A: *Screening Scholarship Media Festival*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
 Group Artist Q&A: *Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival*, London, UK
- 2020 Industry Q&A: *Decolonizing Documentary*, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Sheffield, UK

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021 Guest Lecturer: *Black Arts Movements*, Prof. Stefano Harney, Academy of Media Arts Cologne, Cologne, DE  
 Guest Lecturer: *Free the Land!*, Prof. Robin McDowell, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, USA  
 Facilitator: *Narrative Collaboration Workshop*, Just Inquiry Initiative, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
- 2020 Guest Lecturer: *St Louis from Louis & Clark to Michael Brown*, Prof. Walter Johnson, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

## SELECTED PRESS

- 2023 Tariro, Mzezewa, “In Newark, an Exhibition of Films Calls for Kinship.” *The Cut*, April 20, 2023.  
 Taniadoes, [Che Applewhaite | The Most Interesting People On My Timeline | Episode 5](#), 2023.  
 Inney Prakash, “[The best video essays of 2022.](#)” *Sight and Sound Magazine*, January 13, 2023. .
- 2022 Bianca Vivion, “[Extended Cut: Writing Home | Generational Anxiety.](#)” *PBS ALL ARTS*, 2022.  
 Jordan Cronk, “Documentary’s Newest Forms: A Conversation with Inney Prakash,” *The Criterion Collection*, April 25, 2022.
- 2020 Manisha Aggarwal-Schifellite, “Harvard Senior Uses Peabody Archives to Create Documentary,” *Harvard Gazette*, September 9, 2020

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Press Release: Sky Hopinka “Sunflower Siege Engine” at Tanya Leighton, Berlin, 25 January 2023
- 2021 Personal Essay: “Documenting New England’s Unseen,” *Harvard Magazine*, September – October 2021  
 Personal Essay: “Between Harvard and St. Louis,” *Harvard Magazine*, May – June 2021
- 2020 Review: “An Itinerant Becoming: *Mother I Am Suffocating, This Is My Last Film About You* by Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, *Documentary Fortnight*, The Museum of Modern Art, NYC, February 2020,” *Millennium Film Journal*, Fall 2020  
 Interview: “Focus: Listening Against a Colonial Present, an Interview with *Expedition Content*’s Ernst Karel and Veronika Kusumaryati,” *Open City Documentary Festival*, September 15, 2020, online  
 Criticism: “Downtown, A North Star: Part II/II,” *The Harvard Advocate*, Spring 2020  
 Criticism: “Downtown, A North Star: Part I/II,” *The Harvard Advocate*, Winter 2020
- 2019 Journalism: “Harvard faces lawsuit alleging it unlawfully possesses and profits from first photos of slaves.” Applewhaite, Che R., and Molly C. McCafferty. *Harvard Crimson*, March 21, 2019
- 2018 Speech: *The Reality of Terrorism*, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Tawakkol Karman, [University of Oxford](#).

## PROJECTS

2022 – TBD

### **Drone Life AKA “R.P.J.”**

Research | Writing | Installation | Primary & Secondary Photography | Film Direction | Production

*Drone Life AKA “R.P.J.” is an interactive video installation that questions how both director and audience want their intimate histories of displacement remembered.*

*Drone Life AKA “R.P.J.” has received support from Somerset House (UK), transmediale (DE,) and Abandon Normal Devices (UK).*

2022 – TBD

### **We Are People**

Research | Film Direction | Edit | Unit Photography | Co-Production | Co-Writing

*We Are People memorializes the black lives lost to unlawful police murder in East Port of Spain and documents the ongoing effects on community members, lawyers, and activists who rose together in Summer 2020 to hold the Trinidad and Tobago state accountable to its citizens.*

*We Are People has received support from the United Nations’ Antiracism Coalition and the Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship Memorial Fund (USA).*

2020 – 2022

### **Scenes of Category Destruction**

Research | Film Direction | Edit | Script | Production | Secondary Cinematography | Sound Mix | Voiceover

*Scenes of Category Destruction approaches the recorded social life of ballroom as filmic evidence of ritualized modes of worldly being. It explores how participant image-makers manifest afro-fabulative practices with, for and against the camera.*

Research: “Vision and Power” Seminar, “Scenes of (Black) Feminine Destruction”

Moving Image Art: *I AM THE WORLD*, 2022, 9”

*Scenes of Category Destruction has received support from Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (DE) and the Department of Art, Film, and Visual Studies, Harvard University (USA).*

2019 – 2021

### **A New England Document**

Research | Writing | Film Direction | Edit | Script | Cinematography | Production | Secondary Photography | Sound Mix | Voiceover

*A New England Document reconstructs the genocidal impulses of two Harvard ethnographers’ photographic encounters in the Kalahari Desert, Namibia, from the perspective of an Indigenous boy named /Gaishay: what would he have said about the Marshalls if he studied them too?*

Research: *Harvard College Senior Thesis - “A New England Document: Proto-Cinematic Practice Against Genocidal Acceptability”, summa cum laude*

Narrative Documentary Film: *A New England Document*, 2020, 16”

Writing: *Harvard Magazine*

Workshop: *Found Images*

*A New England Document received support from Harvard University’s Department of Art, Film, and Visual Studies, Department of Anthropology, Sensory Ethnography Lab, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.*

2019 – 2021

### **IN LOVING MEMORY**

Research | Writing | Film Direction | Cinematography | Co-Production | Edit | Primary & Secondary Photography | Sound Recording | Sound Design

*IN LOVING MEMORY narrates the experiential archives of a Black mother whose father and son breathe once more through the young athletes she coaches at Normandy High School in St. Louis, Missouri*

Research + Rough Cuts: *Experimental: 4” – let me breathe / Direct Cinema: 16” – IN LOVING MEMORY*

Writing: *Harvard Magazine*

Workshop: *Place-Based Narrative Collaboration*

*IN LOVING MEMORY received support from Pinwheel Productions, Harvard University’s Mindich Program for Engaged Scholarship and The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History*

## CURATORIAL

- 2019 – 20 **Curator, #InTheCity Visual Arts Fellowship, The Commonwealth Project, The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Cambridge, MA, USA + The Griot Museum, St. Louis, MO, USA**  
A photography-focused collaborative fellowship commissioning six St. Louis, Missouri-based black artists to respond to the question: “What is St. Louis to you?”, later exhibiting their work in 2021 at The Griot Museum.
- 2018 – 20 **Student Guide & Member, Student Board, Harvard Art Museums; Cambridge, MA, USA**  
Curated visitor tours, advised museum leadership and organized receptions including a conversation on race and sexuality in the photography’s visual archive with professors and Museum curators.
- 2018 – 19 **Screening Committee Member, 26th New York African Film Festival; New York City, NY, USA**

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 **Application Reviewer, Enterprise Documentary Fund, International Documentary Association, Los Angeles, CA, USA**  
Evaluated submissions to a documentary non-profit fund that makes awards of maximum \$100,000 USD for feature-length filmmakers with projects exhibiting core commitments to journalistic practice
- 2020 – 21 **Artist Assistant to Christopher Harris R.I. ‘21, Harvard-Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study**  
2018 – 19 **Artist Assistant to Ja’Tovia Gary R.I. ‘19, Harvard-Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study**
- 2020 – 21 **Co-Founder, Just Inquiry Initiative**  
*Harvard-Mindich Program for Engaged Scholarship (MPES); Cambridge, MA, USA*  
The Just Inquiry Initiative is a funding initiative that supports undergraduate and graduate student projects with grants of maximum \$10,000 USD that, through long-term inquiry-based action and reflection, align learning with confronting social issues.
- 2019 **Program in Community Engaged Research Intern, The Commonwealth Project**  
*The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History; Cambridge, MA, USA + St. Louis, MO, USA*  
Participated in justice initiatives against segregation and environmental racism through on-site archival, oral history, and scientific research with community members and various project partners active in law, arts, and music spheres in the greater St. Louis region.
- 2018 **Summer Intern, Yes Akademia (YAKA); Paris, FR + Soussane, SN**  
Wrote applications for grants of ~10,000 euros for Paris-based social enterprise. Stewarded Senegalese and French young adults on a 5-week intercultural exchange program in a rural Senegalese village.
- 2018 **Research Intern, Office of Gordon and Sarah Brown; London, UK**

## SKILLS

**Languages:** English – Fluent Proficiency, French – Fluent Proficiency, German – Beginner Proficiency

**Technical:** Video & Film: Avid Media Composer, Adobe Creative Cloud, Final Cut Pro, | Coding Languages: HTML, CSS, C, Python | Platforms: Slack, Asana, WordPress, Squarespace, Format | Social Media Marketing: Twitter, Facebook, Mailchimp