

Sabine Jell-Bahlsen

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Academic Degrees

- 1980 Ph.D. in Anthropology, *New School for Social Research*, New York, NY.
1974 M.A. in Ethnology, *Freie Universität*, West Berlin/ Germany.

Publishing Activities

- 2008 - present Editorial Board Member, *Mbari: The International Journal of Igbo Studies*.
2003-2008 Editor-in-Chief, *Dialectical Anthropology*. Springer Publishers, New York.
1996-2003 Executive Board Member, *Dialectical Anthropology*, New York.
1993-present Special Correspondent, *African Profiles International*, New York.
1985-1987 Assistant to New York Correspondent of *Ringier Publishers*, New York.
1980-1981 Editorial Assistant, *Dialectical Anthropology*, New York.

Teaching

- Current Tutor, www.Wyzant.com
1998-1999 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Modern Languages, Ball State Univ., Muncie, IN
1996-1997 Visiting Lecturer, Dept. of Language and Communication Studies, *The Papua New Guinea University of Technology*, Lae, Papua New Guinea.
1990-1996 Adjunct Professor, Liberal Arts, *Rhode Island School of Design*, Providence, RI.
1987-1988 German Language Instructor, *Inlingua School of Languages*, New York, NY.
1984 Visiting Lecturer, *University of Bayreuth*, Germany.

Awards:

- 2011 The Flora Nwapa Society Highest Award for Outstanding Contributions the International Community for Book and Film Production.
2008 Honoree, Elliott P. Skinner Book Award of the Association for Africanize Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association.

Grants received

- 1996 Travel & research grant from the University of Technology in Lae/ Papua New Guinea, for research on images of the architectural heritage of Papua New Guinea in German museums.
1991 Post-production grant from the Institute for Scientific Film at Göttingen/Germany towards film production of *Owu: Chidi Joins the Okoroshi Secret Society* in Nigeria.
1990 Cultural aid program grant from the German foreign office for film production of *Owu: Chidi Joins the Okoroshi Secret Society* in Nigeria.
1988 Cultural aid program grant from the German foreign office for film production of *Mammy Water: In Search for the Water Spirits in Nigeria*.
1988 Grant from the Nigerian Department of Culture for film production of *Mammy Water: In Search for the Water Spirits in Nigeria*.
1987 "Seed money" from the Center for New Television in Chicago towards film production of *Mammy Water: In Search for the Water Spirits in Nigeria*.
1979 Travel and research grant from the New School for Social Research for research on Igbo colonial history in British archives.

Books authored and edited volumes:

- 2008 *The Water Goddess in Igbo Cosmology. Ogbuide of Oguta Lake*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press. (Reviewed in *African Studies Review* 51 (3): 172-173 and [www.kwenu.com/publications/iroegbu/2009/feminism_culture ... July 29](http://www.kwenu.com/publications/iroegbu/2009/feminism_culture..._July_29), 2009)
2007 Special Triple Issue in Honor of Six Prominent Igbo Scholars. Co-edited with P. Chudi Uwazurike, *Dialectical Anthropology* Vol.31, 1-4

- 2003 *Krokodil und Vogel. Kunst- und Alltagsgegenstände aus Papua Neu Guinea* (Crocodile and Bird; Folk Art from Papua New Guinea). Exhibition Catalogue; With Georg Jell. Göttingen, Germany: Stadt Museum (Museum of the City of Göttingen).

Articles authored in anthologies:

- (In press) "Slaughter of the Gods—Who will remember the Igbo story? Looking at the *Owu* masquerade as an important repository of Indigenous Knowledge, Culture, and History." *Africa after Fifty Years: Retrospection*. Edited by Toyin Falola and Maurice Amutabi. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.
- 2011 "Ideological Impositions and Cultural Deterioration in Select Novels from Nigeria." *Marginalized Identity. An Engagement with Art, Literature, Language and Ethnicity*. Edited by M.C. Behera. London: Campus Books/ Commonwealth Books.
- 2011 "Ideological Impositions and Cultural Deterioration in Select Novels from Nigeria." *Marginalised Identity. An Engagement with Art, Literature, Language and Ethnicity*. Edited by MC Behera. London: Campusbooks/ Commonwealthbooks.
- 2011 "Nneka ? – Is Mother Still Supreme in Igboland? Reflections on the Biography of the Late Eze Mmiri, Madame Martha Mberekpe of Orsu-Obodo, Oguta LGA, 1934-2007." *Against all Odds. The Igbo Experience in Post-Colonial Nigeria*. Edited by Apollos Nwauwa and Chima Korieh. Glassboro, NJ: Goldline & Jacobs Publishing.
- 2010 "The Igbo Lake Goddess Ogbuide." *Goddesses in World Culture. Vol. I* : 249-262. Edited by Patricia Monaghan. New York: ABC-Clio/Praeger.
- 2008 "Dada-Dreadlocks-Hair: The Hidden Messages of Mammy Water in West Africa." *Sacred Waters*. Edited by Henry Drewal. Bloomington/IN: Indiana University Press.
- 2006 "Owu, Agugu, and Omerife: The sacred art and ritual of balancing people, nature, and water spirits." *Education, Culture and Development*. Edited by Y.James Emejulu and Michael C. Mbabu. White Plains, NY: Jimacs-Hillman Publishers.
- 2006a) "Divine Waters of the Oru-Igbo in Southeastern Nigeria." *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*. Edited by Bron Taylor and Jeffrey Kaplan. NYC: Continuum International.
- 2006b) "Mammy Water." *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*. Edited by Bron Taylor and Jeffrey Kaplan. NYC: Continuum International.
- 2003a) "Funding Ethnographic Film and Video Productions in America." *Principles of Visual Anthropology*. Edited by Paul Hockings (new and revised 2nd edition). Hawthorne, NY: Walter DeGruyter: 413-439.
- 2000a) "The Lake Goddess, *Uhammiri/ Ogbuide, Eze Nwanyi*: A Case Study of the Female Side of the Universe in Igbo Cosmology." *African Spirituality. Forms, Meanings and Expressions*. Edited by Jacob K. Olupona and Charles H. Long. New York: Crossroad Press: 38-53.
- 1998a) "Female Power: Water Priestessess of the Oru-Igbo." *Sisterhood, Feminisms, and Power. From Africa to the Diaspora*. Edited by Obioma Nnaemeka. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press: 101-131.
- 1998b) "Flora Nwapa and *Uhammiri/ Ogbuide Eze Nwanyi*, the Lake Goddess; an Evolving Relationship." *Emerging Perspectives on Flora Nwapa. Critical and Theoretical Essays*. Edited by Marie Umeh. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press: 77-110.
- 1998c) "An Interview with Flora Nwapa." *Emerging Perspectives on Flora Nwapa. Critical and Theoretical Essays*. Edited by Marie Umeh. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press: 633-645.
- 1997 "Eze Mmiri di Egwu -- The Water Monarch is Awesome: Reconsidering the Mammy Water Myths." *Queens, Queen Mother, Priestesses and Power: Case Studies in African Gender*. Edited by Flora Kaplan. New York: New York Academy of Sciences Vol.810: 103-134.
- 1996a) "Mammy Water: Weltbild, Ritual und Heilung: Beobachtungen bei den Oru-Igbo in Südost Nigeria 1978-1992." (Mammy Water: Cosmolgy, Ritual and Healing: a Case Study of the Oru-Igbo in Southeastern Nigeria,1978-1992). *Jahrbuch für transkulturelle Medizin und Psychotherapie 1993* (Yearbook of Cross-Cultural Medicine and Psychotherapy 1993). Edited by Walter Andritzky. Berlin/ Germany: Armand Aglaster Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung.
- 1988a) "On the Making of 'Eze Nwata: the Small King'." *Anthropological Filmmaking*. Edited by J. Rollwagen. New York: Harwood Academic Publishers: 197-221.

Articles authored in academic journals:

- 2010 “Falling Spirits, Crumbling Culture, and the Dismantling of Human Rights: Instances of deteriorating ethics and codes of conduct in select novels by Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda Adichie, and Flora Nwapa.” *Mbari: The International Journal of Igbo Studies* 1 (2) 2008.
- 2007 “Book Review: ‘Black and White in Colour: African History on Screen.’ Edited by Vivian Bickford-Smith and Richard Mendelsohn.” *The International Journal of African Historical Studies* 40, 3: 539-40.
- 2007a) “Flora Nwapa and Oguta’s Lake Goddess: Artistic Liberty and Ethnography.” *Dialectical Anthropology. Special Triple Issue in Honor of Six Prominent Igbo Scholars*. Vol. 31, 1-3: 253-262.
- 2007b) “Editorial,” with P. Chudi Uwazurike. *Dialectical Anthropology. Special Triple Issue in Honor of Six Prominent Igbo Scholars*. Vol. 31, 1-3: 7-9.
- 2005 “From ‘Haus Tambaran’ to Church: Continuity and Change in Contemporary Papua New Guinean Design.” With George Jell. *Visual Anthropology*, Vol. 18 (5).
- 2005a) “Editorial: Continuing the Quest of *Dialectical Anthropology* in the 21st Century: Reflections on the Igbo of Nigeria.” *Dialectical Anthropology* 28, 1: 71-90.
- 2003b) “Losing Ground: Place-Making, Alienation, and (Sub)-Urbanization in Rural Bavaria.” (With George Jell). *Dialectical Anthropology* 27: 69-87.
- 2001 “Book Review: ‘Tödliche Rituale: Die indische Witwenverbrennung und andere Formen der Totenfolge.’ By Jörg Fisch. (Deadly Rituals: The Burning of Widows in India and Other Forms of Funerary Rites Involving Followers in Death).” *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*.36: 9-11.
- 2000b) “Civilization, Wilderness, and Secrecy: Making two Nigerian Films.” *Visual Anthropology* 13 (4) Special Issue on Africa: 363-393.
- 1999a) “Book Review: ‘Michael C. Mbabuike, *Poems of Memory Trips*.”” *AfrLitCine@h-net.msu.edu*.
- 1999b) “Book Review: ‘African Experiences of Cinema’ edited by I.Bakari and M. Cham.” *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 34: 7-9.
- 1999c) “Book Review: ‘Nigerian Video Films’ edited by Jonathan Haynes.” *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 34: 15-17.
- 1998d) “Book Review: Paula Girshick Ben-Amos ‘The Art of Benin’ and ‘African Masterworks in the Detroit Institute of Arts’. Essays by Michael Kan and Roy Sieber, text by David W. Penney, Mary Nooter and Helen M.Shannon.” *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*. Vol. 34 (1): 622-626.
- 1998e) “Book Review: Virginia Castleman, ‘Mommi Watta, Spirit of the River’” for *H-AfrLitCine*.
- 1998f) “Payback, One-Talk, and Compensations. A Letter from Papua New Guinea.” *Dialectical Anthropology*.
- 1996b) “Book Review: Ingeborg Maria Grau. ‘Die Igbo sprechenden Völker Südost Nigerias: Fragmentation und fundamentale Einheit in ihrer Geschichte.’ (PhD diss., University of Vienna.). In: *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 29 (3): 591-593.
- 1995 “The Concept of Mammywater in Flora Nwapa's Novels.” *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 26 (2): 30-41.
- 1994 “This Native Something: Understanding, Acknowledging, and Teaching the African Experience.” *Dialectical Anthropology*, vol.19, double issue # 2 & 3: 373-386.
- 1991 “Who is it for? -- Pictures are special and so are the people in them: about filming ‘Mammy Water: In Search of the Water Spirits in Nigeria.’” *Commission on Visual Anthropology Review*, Spring: 24-27.
- 1990 “Film review essay on: ‘Naked Spaces: Living is Round’, by Trinh-T. Minh-ha and Jean Paul Bourdier.” *Commission on Visual Anthropology Review*. Fall: 45-7.
- 1989 “Names and Naming: Instances from the Oru-Igbo.” *Dialectical Anthropology* 13: 199-207.
- 1988b) “Funding Anthropological Film and Video Productions: Practical Points, Funding Politics, Ethnocentrism and the Direction of Visual Communication: Where does Visual Anthropology Fit into Existing Funding Structures?” *Dialectical Anthropology* 13: 283-289. Also in: *Commission for Visual Anthropology Review*, Fall Issue.
- 1988c) “A Murder Case: Igbo Conflict Settlement.” *Dialectical Anthropology* 12: 359-366.

- 1985a) "Ethnology and Fascism in Germany." *Dialectical Anthropology* 9: 313-335.
 1985b) "From Divine Earth to Mami Wata." *Anthropologia Visualis*. Edited by Asen Balikci, Montreal, Canada. Vol.1, no.1: 53-59.

Fieldwork

- 1993 On the transformation of rural landscapes, sustainability and identity in Southern Germany.
 1996-1997 On art and architecture in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea.
 1994 On adobe architecture in Northern Nigeria.
 1978-1994, 2009 On social integration, gender and spirituality in Southeastern Nigeria.

Public Lectures

- 2011 *Ogbuide*, A Water Goddess of the Igbo People of South Eastern Nigeria. Columbia University, Studies in Religion Seminar.
 2008 Mother Water: An Igbo Goddess of Nigeria. From *Ogbuide* to *Mammy Water*. FITA, Venezuela.
 2007a) *Mammy Water* across the Waters: An Avatar of African Religious Beliefs." At "Madre Africa" (Mother Africa Exhibition). Curator Rey Kerr at Museo del Hombre Dominicano, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
 2007b) The Sign of the Python: From *Nsibidi* to *Mammy Water*. Tri-annual Meeting of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association at the University of Florida at Gainesville, FL.
 2006a) The *Agugu* Festival: Integrating Oru-Igbo Society, Religion and Nature. International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture conference at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
 2002a) From "Haus Tambaran" to Church: Continuity and Change in Contemporary Papua New Guinean Design. IASTE (International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments) meeting at Hong Kong, 2002 Berkeley, CA (with George Jell)
 2002b) Ecology and the Oscillation between Melanesian Culture and Contemporary Architecture in Papua New Guinea. Visual Research Conference of the American Anthropological Association Meeting (with Georg Jell).
 2002c) Introduction to "Crocodile and Bird." Exhibition at the Stadt Museum (Municipal Museum) in Göttingen/ Germany.
 1999 Männerhäuser am Sepik (Sepik Spirit Houses) at Städtische Gallerie (Municipal Art Gallery) Traunstein, Germany.
 1998 Using Audio-Visual Aids for Teaching about Africa" at a Teacher Training Workshop organized by the *Columbia University African Studies Institute*, at the American Museum of Natural History, New York.
 1997 Oru-Igbo Ritual Spaces, at the IASTE (International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments) meeting at Berkeley, CA.
 1995 Traditionale Heilkunst und Prävention bei den Oru-Igbo in Südost Nigeria". (The Traditional Art of Healing and Prevention Among the Oru Igbo of Southeastern Nigeria) at Institut für Medizinische Psychologie, *Heinrich Heine Universität*, at Düsseldorf, Germany.
 1994a) Africa on Film, Video and TV in the West, at a *Teacher Training Conference*, sponsored by the American - South African Friendship Organization at *SUNY Albany*.
 1994b) Okoroshi and Owu among the Oru Igbo, at the *University of Göttingen*, Germany.
 1993 Mammy Water: The Icon, the Goddess, and her Priestess, at the *University of Arizona* in Tucson, AZ
 1992 Women and Water Spirits in Africa, at *Queens College*, New York.

Panels organized and chaired

- 1997 Flora Nwapa: The Novelist's Contribution towards Understanding Africa, at the *New York African Studies Association Meeting* at Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY.
 1996 Workshop: Africa on Film, at the *New York African Studies Association Meeting* at Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY.
 1995 African Art. Lived, Performed, and Audio-Visually Represented, at the *New York African Studies Association Meeting*, at Hostos Community College, Bronx, NY.

1994 Africa and the Western Media, at the *New York African Studies Association Meeting*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Other papers presented

Presented papers at scholarly meetings and conventions worldwide, including: *American Anthropological Association Meeting* (1984, 1990, 2002, 2003, 2009 and 2011); *African Studies Association Meeting* (2006, 1995, 1994, and 1993); *African Literature Association Meeting* (1998); *IASTE* (International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments) 1996 and 2002; *New York African Studies Association Meetings* (1997, 1996, 1995, 1994, and 1993); *Association for the Study of Women in Mythology Conference* (2011); *Central New York Conference on Languages and Literature* (1993); *Socialist Scholars' Conference* (1993); *University of Amsterdam Conference on Visual Sociology and Anthropology* (1991 and 1993); *Northeastern Anthropological Association* (1985); *Igbo Studies Association meeting* (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011); *Negotiating Interventions in Southeast Asia* (University of Arunchal Pradesh Seminar at Itanagar, India, 2010); *Madre Africa* exhibit and conference at Santo Domingo, DR (2007); *FITA, Festival International de Tradiciones Afro Americanas*, Maracay, Venezuela (2008); *International Conference on Igbo Civilization, Owerri*, Nigeria 2009; *Igbo Women's World Conference*, Aba, Nigeria (2009); *WAAD (Women in Africa and the African Diaspora) Conferences* (Indiana University 1998 and Nsukka/ Nigeria 1992; Abuja, Nigeria 2009); *Yari Yari: Black Women Writers and the Future, International Conference on Literature by Women of African Decent*, at NYU, New York (1997).

Ethnographic films/ videos authored:

- 1999 *Skull Art in Papua New Guinea*. (30 min.) www.der.org
 1994 *Tubali: Hausa Architecture of Northern Nigeria*. (45 min.) www.der.org
 1992 *Owu: Chidi Joins the Okoroshi Secret Society* (60 min.) www.der.org
 1991 *Mammy Water: In Search of the Water Spirits in Nigeria* (60 min.)
www.der.org
 1983 *Eze Nwata -The Small King* (with Georg Jell. 27 min. col. 16mm film & video). Ogbuide Films, NY, sabinejb@aol.com
 1982 *Divine Earth - Divine Water* (A film-trilogy, 82 min., 16mm). Ogbuide Films, NY.

Film screenings with public discussions

Presented and discussed my films, *Mammy Water: In Search of the Water Spirits in Nigeria*; *Owu: Chidi Joins the Okoroshi Secret Society*; *Tubali: Hausa Architecture of Northern Nigeria*; *Skull Art*, and *Eze Nwata - The Small King* at various national and international festivals, conventions, professional meetings and institutions, including: *Festival Internacional de Tradiciones Afroamericanas*, FITA, Maracay, Venezuela (2008); *Museo del Hombre Dominicano*, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (2007); *The Seattle Art Museum* (2006). *University of Texas at San Antonio* (2000); *American Anthropological Association Meetings* (2000, 1995, 1994, 1992, 1989, 1984); *Moscow/ Russia Ethnographic Film Festival* (2004), *Salekhard/Russia* (2000); *Nuoro Ethnographic Film Festival*, Sardinia/ Italy (1998 & 1994); "Yari Yari: Black Women Writers and the Future: an International Conference on Literature by Women of African Decent", *New York University*, New York (1997); *Linden Museum*, Stuttgart/ Germany (1997); *The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain*, *Ethnographic Film Festival in Kent* (1996 & 1994); *Tri-ennial Symposium of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association* (1997 & 1992); *New York African Studies Assoc. Meeting* (1995); "Wohnräume" an *Architectural Digest* on German TV, *WDR III and 3SAT* (1995); *The Margaret Mead Film Festival* at the *American Museum of Natural History* in New York (1994, 1989, 1983); *Afrikanistentag* (German African Studies Association Meeting) *University of Cologne/ Germany* (1994); *Landesmuseum Hannover/ Germany* (1994). *Symposion' 94: Psychiatrie im Kulturvergleich* (Symposium on trans-cultural psychiatry and psychotherapy) *Psychiatrisches Landeskrankenhaus Reichenau/ Germany* (1994); *Rhode Island School of Design* (1992); *Bilan du Film Ethnographique* at the *Musee de l'Homme*, Paris (1991); *African Studies Association* (1991), *Queens, Queen Mothers, Priestesses and Power*, a conference at the *Schomburg Center for Black Culture* and at *NYU* in New York (1991); *Blacklight Festival for International Black Cinema*, Chicago (1990); *Queens Village OPD, Creedmoore Psychic Center*, New York (1990); *The Northeastern Anthropological Association* (1990); *German TV, WDR III, Cologne/*

Germany (1990); The 2nd International Congress of Traditional and Folk Medicine at the University of Morelos, Cuernavaca/ Mexico (1984); The Sixth Annual Festival of Anthropology on Film, at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago (1983). The XI International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, in Vancouver/ Canada (1983); "Berlin am Montag", SFB, Berlin TV/ Germany (1982); Arsenal Theatre, Berlin/ Germany (1982).

My Exhibitions

Krokodil und Vogel; Kunst und Alltagsgegenstände aus Papua Neu Guinea.
(Crocodile and Bird; Art and Artifacts from Papua New Guinea).

- Städtisches Museum Göttingen (Municipal Museum of the City of Göttingen, Germany), 25 May – 13 July 2003.
- Städtische Galerie Traunstein (Municipal Art gallery of the City of Traunstein, Germany), 3 July 1999 – 25 July 1999.

M.A. and Ph.D. theses

- 1980 Social Integration in the Absence of the State: A Case Study of the Igbo Speaking Peoples of South Eastern Nigeria. *Ph.D. dissertation*. The New School for Social Research, New York. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms.
- 1974 The Dynamics of Change among the Yoruba Speaking Peoples of South Western Nigeria. *Unpublished M.A. Thesis*. Freie Universität, W.Berlin, Germany.

Professional Training/ Continuing Education:

Film production: Parsons School of Design/The New School, New York, 1985-1987.
Adobe Photoshop: Pratt Institute, New York, 1998.

Language Skills:

Fluent in German and English; working knowledge of French and Spanish; some Igbo.

Affiliations:

American Anthropological Association, member; <http://aaanet.org>
Association of Africanist Anthropology, member; <http://www.aaanet.org/sections/afaa/index.html>
African Studies Association, member; <http://www.africanstudies.org/>
Igbo Studies Association, advisory board member 2011-2013; <http://igbostudiesassociation.org>
Association for the Study of Women in Mythology, member; <http://womenandmyth.org>
New York African Studies Association, secretary 1995-1999; <http://www.africanstudies.org>
Society for Visual Anthropology, member; <http://societyforvisualanthropology.org/>
The Flora Nwapa Society, founding member, treasurer 1996-2008;
The Architectural Heritage Center at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Research Affiliate 1996-1997.

References Available Upon Request.

Sabine Jell-Bahlsen, 12/10/2011