

## LAURA COPPENS

\*23.12.1980 in Berlin (Germany)

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### CURRENT POSITIONS

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08/2014 - Research Assistant and Lecturer in Social Anthropology with a focus in Media Anthropology, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

### PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

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08/2008-09/2009 Research Assistant, Lecturer and Study Program Coordinator for the *MA Media and Visual Anthropology* at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)

### EDUCATION

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09/2014 Dissertation submitted, Social Anthropology, University of Zurich (Switzerland)  
*summa cum laude* (highest distinction)

10/2012-11/2013 Research Fellow, Center for Media, Culture and History at New York University (USA), invited by Prof. Dr. Faye Ginsburg

09/2009-8/2012 PhD candidate at the University Research Priority Program "Asia and Europe," University of Zurich (Switzerland)

01/2008 Magistra Artium (MPhil), Social Anthropology, Latin American Studies, Sociology at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), Grade 1,1 (equivalent to 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

07/-12/2004 Study Abroad Program (DAAD), University of Melbourne (Australia)

### LANGUAGES

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German (native); English (fluent); Spanish (very good); French (intermediate); Portuguese (intermediate); Indonesian (basic)

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Audio-visual and media anthropology; indigenous media; film festival studies; Southeast Asian cinema; documentary storytelling; sensory ethnography; existential anthropology; labor and work; urban studies; social movements; utopia and hope; gender and queer theory; feminist theory and research; Australia; Indonesia; USA; Cuba; France and the Mediterranean

### PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

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11/2012 - Film Review Editor, *Visual Anthropology Review*

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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2012 - 2013	Dissertation Finishing Grant from the Foundation Stiefel-Zangger and the Swiss National Science Foundation
2013	SAGW Traveling Grant for the 17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Manchester (UK)
2013	Jury Award “Best Documentary” for <i>Children of Srikandi</i> at Identities Queer Film Festival (Austria)
2013	Diversity and Human Rights Award for <i>Children of Srikandi</i> at Zinegoak: International GLT Film and Performing Arts Festival (Spain)
2012	Nomination of <i>Children of Srikandi</i> for the Teddy Award and the Amnesty International Human Rights Award at the Berlin International Film Festival (Germany)
2012	SAGW Traveling Grant for the 111th American Anthropology Association Conference in San Francisco (USA)
2012	Grant for a “Short Term Mentorship Abroad” at Harvard University as part of the federal programme of gender equity, University of Zurich
2011	Traveling Grant from the University of Zurich for the 110th American Anthropology Association Conference in Montreal (Canada)
2010	Traveling Grant from the University of Zurich for the 109th American Anthropology Association Conference in New Orleans (USA)
2010	Traveling Grant from the University of Zurich for the Conference “Transcultural Bodies-Transboundary Biographies” in New Delhi (India)
2009	Traveling Grant of the University of Zurich for the First International Graduate Conference in Yogyakarta (Indonesia)
2009-2012	3-year PhD Scholarship, University Priority Research Program “Asia and Europe,” University of Zurich (Switzerland)
2009	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) grant for participation in the 16th IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) World Congress in Kunming (China)
2004	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Study Abroad Grant for studying at the University of Melbourne (Australia)
2003	Grant for a filmmaking workshop with Judith and David MacDougall at the Centre for Cross Cultural Research (CCR), Australian National University (Australia)

## WORK EXPERIENCE (Academic and Non-Academic)

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05/2015 -	Jury member 10 <sup>th</sup> Xposed Queer Experimental Film Festival, Berlin
03/2015 -	Co-organizer and programmer for the Queersicht LGBT Film Festival, Bern

- 06/2013 - Program Consultant for the PBS Documentary Program “POV: Documentaries with a Point of View, [www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov), New York
- 02/2013 - Assistant Producer to Gabriel Baur and Line Producer in the Film Production Company *Onix Films*, [www.onixfilms.com](http://www.onixfilms.com), Zurich
- 04-05/2013 Expert, Ponce Law Firm, Austin (USA)  
Wrote an expert report about the situation of homosexuals in Indonesia for an Indonesian asylum seeker
- 01/2011 Jury member 8<sup>th</sup> Zinegoak Bilbao International GLT Film Festival
- 02/2010 Jury member Teddy Award, 60<sup>th</sup> Berlin International Film Festival
- 09/2009 Jury member 11<sup>th</sup> Jakarta International Film Festival
- 10/2005-02/2009 Student Assistant at the Institute of Education and Psychology, Freie Universität Berlin (Prof. Dr. Christoph Wulf); Researched literature and images, copyedited and translated texts (from Spanish to German)
- 2008-2012 Director and co-organizer of the independent film festival *Asian Hot Shots Berlin*
- 12/2007-02/2008 Contract for Services, Development of Online Teaching Course “Indigenous Media” at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin (Dr. Undine Frömming)
- 08/2007 Jury member 9<sup>th</sup> Cinemanila International Film Festival
- 10/2005-04/2007 Student Assistant, e-Tutor at at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin (Prof. Dr. Ute Luig); co-designed and co-developed the blended learning *MA in Visual and Media Anthropology* (with Dr. Undine Frömming)
- 07-10/2003 Internship Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra (Australia); researched literature, assisted in the in the archival of audiovisual documents
- 02-06/2003 Internship Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin (Australia)  
Assisted in the online archiving of Aboriginal art, concept development of an exhibition and brochure design
- 2003-2006 Co-organizer and program coordinator of the Berlin-Asia Pacific Film Festival, Dreamtime Art & Music Festival, Ethnofilmfest Berlin (Germany)
- 10/2000-04/2001 Volunteer in non-profit ecological and educational project in the botanical garden in Pinar del Río (Cuba), organized by the Freundschaftsgesellschaft Berlin-Kuba e.V.; worked in ecological and agricultural projects, seeking botanical and Spanish classes
- 07-09/2000 Internship at the local newspaper Berliner Morgenpost with a focus in photojournalism; researched and wrote articles, conducted interviews, did portraiture photography and photo editing

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#### **WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE ORGANISATION**

- 11/2015 Conference Panel Co-Convenor (with Michaela Schäuble and Claire Vionnet), “Mediating Precariousness: Creative Ethnographic Practices in an Era of Crisis,” Annual Conference of the Swiss Ethnological Society, 12-14 November 2015, University of Bern

- 11/2015 Conference Co-Organizer (with Michaela Schäuble and Tobias Haller), “Global Capitalism and the Challenge of Well-Being in the World”, Annual Conference of the Swiss Ethnological Society, 12-14 November 2015, University of Bern
- 10/2015 Workshop Co-Convenor (with Michaela Schäuble, Martha Dietrich, Balz Alter) “Montage as Artistic, Cultural and Scientific Practice,” Workshop of the Swiss Commission for Audiovisual Media, 15-23 October 2015, University of Zurich
- 06/2015 Summer School Organizer “Single Shot Cinema” with the Dutch filmmaker Leonard Retel Helmrich (with Michaela Schäuble), 8-12 June 2015, University of Bern and HKB,
- 03/2013 Workshop Co-Convenor (with Bettina Dennerlein) “Intersectionality Revisited,” 5 May 2013, University of Zurich
- 08/2013 Conference Panel Co-Convenor (with Joceny Pinheiro and Metje Postma), “Ethnographic Films made by women about women: Is there a feminist visual Anthropology?,” 17th IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) World Congress, 5-10 August 2013, University of Manchester
- 03/2012 Workshop Co-Convenor (with Justyna Jaguscia and Jessica Imbach) “Asian Postmodernities and their Legacies,” 30-31 March 2012, University of Zurich

#### **INVITED PAPERS AND FILM SCREENINGS**

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“The Subversive Potential of Drag: Performing Disidentification in the films *Anak-Anak Srikandi* and *Madame X*,” Workshop on Indonesian Cinema, SOAS, University of London, 3-4 October 2015

“Precarious Interactions: The challenges of collaboration in the anthropological film *Anak-Anak Srikandi* (Children of Srikandi),” Symposium “The Limits of Collaboration: Assessing Collaborative Research in Anthropology,” University of St. Andrews, 9-12 September, 2015

Film Screening “Children of Srikandi” and lecture on LGBT rights in Indonesia at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University, New York, 20 October 2013

“Fighting ‘Moral Terrorism’: The Islam Defenders Front vs. the Q! Film Festival,” Religion in the Digital Age: Mediating “the Human” in a Globalizing Asia, Center for Religion and Media in collaboration with the Center for Media, Culture and History, New York University, 27-28 September 2013

“Cultural Subversion: Film, Activism, and Lesbian Subjectivity in Indonesia,” Workshop “Intersectionality Revisited,” University of Zurich, 5 May 2013

“Non-Hierarchical Pulling Together Beyond All Difficulties: Ethical Dilemmas in the Production of the Collaborative Film Project Children of Srikandi” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco (USA), 14-18 November 2012

Film Screening “Children of Srikandi” at the Gender & Sexuality Film Festival, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UC Berkeley, 25-27 November 2012

“Doc 2.0: Audiovisual Anthropology goes Transmedia – Die Zukunft des ethnologischen Dokumentarfilms im digitalen Zeitalter” in the session “Forschung mit der Kamera 2.0,” Jahrestagung der Schweizerischen Ethnologischen Gesellschaft, University of Zurich, 25-26 November 2011

“Doc 2.0: Social Change through Film? The Potential of Documentary Film and New Media in Empowering LGTB Activism in Indonesia” in the panel “Documentary Futures” organized by the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montréal (Canada), 16-20 November 2011

“Revenge of the Virgin - Female Ghosts in Indonesian Horror Films” at the International Workshop Ghosts in Asian Cinemas, University of Zurich, 4-6 November 2011

Workshop „Indonesian Minorities – Rights, Plights and Positions“, Third Annual PhD Workshop organized by the Nordic Indonesia Studies Network, University of Copenhagen, 22-24 September 2011

“Social Change Through Film? The Potential of Documentary in Empowering LGBT Activism in Indonesia” at the workshop “Media and Politics in Asia and Europe,” Institute for Mass Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich, 19 April 2011

“Representing the Queer Other in Ethnographic Film: An experimental approach to queer women’s emotional and sensory experiences in Indonesia” in the panel “Perception, Production and Circulation: Sensory Ethnography through Media” organized by the Sensory Ethnography Lab, Harvard University at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 17-21 November 2010

“Representing the ‘Queer Other’ in Ethnographic Film: An Experimental Approach to Intersectionality and Identity Politics of LBT women in Jakarta” at the 6<sup>th</sup> Schweizerische Nachwuchstagung der Asienwissenschaften, Monte Vérita, 2-5 May 2010

“Lesbians in Jakarta: The Production and Representation of Queer Subjectivities within Transnational Circuits of Queer Knowledge” at the International Symposium “Transcultural Bodies – Transboundary Biographies,” Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts, New Delhi (India), 21-24 February 2010

“Being Chinese Indonesian - Feeling out of Place in One’s Own Country. Ethnizität, Identität und Gender in Edwin’s Film ‘Blind Pig Who Wants to Fly’” at the Symposium “Identitäten in Bewegung – Migration im Film, University of Zurich, 8-9 January 2010

„Films of Desire: Queer(ing) Indonesian Films: The portrayal of queer characters in Indonesian films and perspectives after the implementation of the anti-pornography law” at the First International Graduate Students Conference on Indonesia “(Re)Considering Contemporary Indonesia: Striving for Democracy, Sustainability, and Prosperity, A Multidisciplinary Perspective”, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, 1-4 December 2009

“Beyond the Audiovisual: Representing (Other) Sensory Experiences in Ethnographic Film” in the panel “Towards an Epistemology of Media in Ethnographic Film and Multimedia Productions” at the 16<sup>th</sup> IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) World Congress, Kunming (China), 27-31 June 2009

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Undergraduate in German)**

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FS 2015	Anthropologische Perspektiven zu Sexualität, Körper und Geschlecht, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern (Switzerland)
HS 2014	Indigene Medien: Selbstrepräsentation und kultureller Aktivismus, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern (Switzerland)
HS 2011	Indonesisches Kino, Braunschweig University of Arts (Germany)
FS 2011	Student Excursion to Indonesia, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zurich (Switzerland)
FS 2011	Queer Anthropology: Geschlecht und Sexualität am Beispiel Indonesien, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zurich (Switzerland)

- FS 2010            Film als Ethnographie – Neues unabhängiges Kino in Indonesien, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zurich (Switzerland)
- SS 2010            Visual and Media Anthropology: DocMatrix, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)
- WS 08/09         Online Course “Indigenous Media,” Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)
- SS 2008            Neues unabhängiges Kino aus Südostasien - Cinema at the borders, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

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EASA - European Association of Social Anthropologists

Visual Anthropology Network of EASA

SEG - Swiss Ethnological Society

SEG Commission for Audiovisual Media