



DR. NADIA NAOMI

ANTHROPOLOGIST · ARTIST · WELLNESS CONSULTANT

Nadia Naomi Mbonde

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A passionate anthropologist, artist, and wellness consultant, Nadia bridges research, creativity, and care to foster thriving individuals and communities. Her work explores the intersections of mental health, reproductive justice, Black feminist theory, and embodied storytelling.

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology**

New York University, New York, NY | 2019–Present

Dissertation: Black U.S. Reproductive Mental Health from Menarche to Menopause

Employing ethnographic methods to investigate mental health-related complications contributing to Black maternal mortality and morbidity across the lifespan

- **B.A., Africana Studies (Minor: Dance)**

Barnard College of Columbia University, New York, NY | 2013–2017

CERTIFICATES

- Culture and Media | NYU, 2023
- Feminist Research Methodologies & Digital Feminist Research | The New School, 2022

TRAINING

- Full Spectrum Doula Training | Ancient Song Doula Services, 2023
- Perinatal Mood & Anxiety Disorders | PSI, 2021
- Birth & Disability | BADT, 2021
- Peer Support Specialist | NY Academy of Peer Services, 2020
- Doula Mentorship | Birdsong Brooklyn, 2019
- Birth & Postpartum Doula | Carriage House Birth, 2018

AWARDS & HONORS

- Dissertation Fieldwork Grant | Wenner-Gren Foundation, 2024
- Predoctoral Research Development Grant | SSRC-Mellon Mays, 2023
- Artist Advocates in Residency | New Yorkers for Culture & Arts, 2022
- SVA-Lemelson Fellowship | Society for Visual Anthropology, 2022
- Graduate Research Fellowship | National Science Foundation, 2019
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship | Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2015
- Summa Cum Laude & Phi Beta Kappa | Barnard College, 2017

PUBLICATIONS

2026 (Forthcoming) "Wading in Digital Waters: Black Mad/Cripistemologies of Motherhood and "Mental Illness," Disability Studies Quarterly

2025 "Mental Health and Black Futurity," in How To Be Disabled in a Pandemic (NYU Press)

2023 "Media, Mediumship & the Supernatural," American Anthropologist

2023 "Mad/Cripistemologies of Pandemic Parenting," Mad in America

2021 "Visions of Black Futurity Amidst the Double Pandemic," Somatosphere

SELECTED PROJECTS

- **The Disability Covid Chronicles** (2020–2023)

Created a public archive of pandemic experiences for people with disabilities, including interviews, stories, and art, now housed at NYU Tamiment Library.

- **Postpartum Is Forever** (2023)

Short experimental film exploring the impact of police brutality on reproductive mental health.

- **An Astrological Diagnosis** (2022)

Autoethnographic film on mental health and motherhood, screened at national conferences and universities.

- **Embodying Ancestry** (2017–2018)

Ethnographic portrait series empowering young women of color to explore ancestry through oral history and embodied practice.

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2025 Panelist | Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
2025 Panelist | University of Arizona Disability Studies Conference
2024 Panelist | Hyp+Access Organization: "Building Our Own Systems"
2023 Presenter | AAA Annual Meeting, Toronto: "Forty Years of Feminist Anthropology"
2023 Guest Lecturer | NYU, Intro to Medical Anthropology
2022 Panelist | Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
2022 Presenter | AAA Annual Meeting, Seattle
2022 Guest Speaker | Rice University, Department of Anthropology
2022 Guest Speaker & Panelist | Birth Advocacy Doula Trainings (BADT)
2021 Panelist | Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA)
2021 Panelist | University of Cambridge, CRASSH

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

- Teaching Assistant | NYU College of Arts & Sciences (2025)
- Tutor | Lumiere Education (2024–present)
- Mentor | Mellon Mays Undergraduate Summer Colloquium, Barnard College (2023–present)
- Course Assistant | NYU College of Arts & Sciences (2024, 2022)
- Teaching Assistant | NYU College of Arts & Sciences (2023)
- Co-Teacher | BADT & Project LETS (2021)
- Teaching Assistant | Barnard Africana Studies (2018)
- Public Speaking Tutor & Head Fellow | Barnard Writing & Speaking Center (2015–2017)

LANGUAGES

English (native) · Spanish (conversational) · French (conversational)

