

# Dr. Nadia Naomi Mbonde

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D., Anthropology** | New York University | 2026

*Dissertation: Black Reproductive Mental Health in the Afterlife of the Plantocracy*

Committee: Faye Ginsburg, Rayna Rapp, Sean Brotherton, Dána-Ain Davis, Helena Hansen

**Certificate in Culture and Media** | NYU Anthropology & Cinema Studies | 2024

**B.A., Africana Studies & Dance** | Barnard College of Columbia University | 2017

Summa Cum Laude · Phi Beta Kappa · Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Peer-Reviewed Articles*

**2025** "Wading in Digital Waters: Black Mad/Cripistemologies of Motherhood and 'Mental Illness' in Online Support Groups Amid the Double Pandemic." *Disability Studies Quarterly*. Eds. Efrat Gold and Michael Rembis.

### *Book Chapters*

**2025** "Mental Health and Black Futurity: Life, Birth, and Caregiving in Double Pandemics." *How To Be Disabled in a Pandemic*. Eds. Faye Ginsburg, Rayna Rapp, and Mara Mills. New York: NYU Press.

### *Essays*

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

**2023** "Mad/Cripistemologies of Pandemic Parenting: Insights for Our 'Post-COVID-19' Present." *Mad in America*.

**2021** "Visions of Black Futurity Amidst the Double Pandemic of COVID-19 and Police Brutality." *Somatosphere*.

## AWARDS & HONORS

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**2024** Dissertation Fieldwork Grant | Wenner-Gren Foundation

**2023** Predoctoral Research Development Grant | Social Science Research Council–Mellon Mays Program

**2022** SVA-Lemelson Fellowship | Society for Visual Anthropology

**2021–22** Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant | SSRC–Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program

**2019–25** MacCracken Fellowship | New York University

**2019** Graduate Research Fellowship | National Science Foundation

**2018** Seed Grant | The Collaborative to Advance Equity through Research (CAETR), Columbia University

**2015** Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship | Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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**2026** Panel Chair & Presenter | Mad Studies Conference, University of Victoria. Chaired "The Poetics of Psychosis." Presented *An Astrological Diagnosis* in "I AM MOTHER NATURE: A Mad Archive."

**2025** Panelist | Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Seattle. Roundtable: "How To Be Disabled in a Pandemic."

**2025** Panelist | University of Arizona. Biomedical datafication and Black feminist epistemologies.

**2024** Panelist | Hyp+Access Organization, New York. "Building Our Own Systems — Healthcare × Disability × Class."

**2023** Presenter | American Anthropological Association (AAA), Toronto. "Forty Years of Feminist Anthropology on Reproductive Politics."

**2022** Guest Speaker | Rice University, Department of Anthropology. Invited lecture in Culture, Psychiatry, and Mental Illness.

**2022** Panelist | Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Cholula. "Pandemic Parenting and Psychiatric Disability."

**2022** Presenter | American Anthropological Association (AAA), Seattle. Film screening: *An Astrological Diagnosis*.

**2021** Panelist | Institute for the Development of Human Arts (IDHA). "Decarcerating Care."

**2021** Panelist | CRASSH, University of Cambridge. "Visions of Black Futurity: The Double Pandemic of COVID-19 and Police Brutality."

## **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & CREATIVE WORK**

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**Anthropologist-in-Residence** | The Anthropologists Theatre Company, New York | 2024–present

Collaborates on performance ethnography examining race, gender, and embodiment. Co-developed *axes, herbs & satchels*, a play on reproductive care, ritual, and resistance through Black feminist and decolonial frameworks.

***Postpartum Is Forever*** (2023)

Experimental film on reproductive mental health and diasporic grief among Black mothers whose children were killed by police violence. Screened in academic and community forums.

***An Astrological Diagnosis*** (2022)

Autoethnographic film on mental health and motherhood. Screened at AAA, University of Florida, and other venues. SVA-Lemelson Fellowship.

***Disability COVID Chronicles*** (2020–2023)

Pandemic disability archive. Housed at NYU Tamiment Library. Research contributed to *How to Be Disabled in a Pandemic* (NYU Press, 2025).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**New York University — Department of Anthropology**

Teaching Assistant | Medical Anthropology

Spring 2025: 2 sections (17, 14 students) · Spring 2023: 2 sections (19, 20) · Spring 2022: 1 section (120, online)

Teaching Assistant | Global Biocultures

Fall 2025: 2 sections (20, 17) · Fall 2022: 1 section (120, Zoom)

Teaching Assistant | Disability Worlds

Spring 2024: 1 section (30 students)

**Barnard College — Department of Africana Studies**

Teaching Assistant | The Worlds of Ntozake Shange and Digital Storytelling | Fall 2018

**Public and Independent Teaching**

Co-Teacher | "Crisis Response for Birth Workers" | Birthing Advocacy Doula Trainings & Project LETS | 2021

Co-Teacher | "The History of Hysteria: Unpacking Sanist Legacies of Sexism & Racism" | Project LETS | 2021

Panelist & Facilitator | Anti-Carceral Approaches to Psychosis Workshops | Project LETS | 2023

### **Writing & Speaking Pedagogy**

Public Speaking Tutor & Head Fellow | Barnard College Writing & Speaking Center | 2015–2017

### **CONSULTING**

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**Freelance Grant Writer** | Hyp+Access Organization, New York | 2026

Wrote and restructured Letter of Intent for a major foundation grant cycle. Developed the funding argument around a NYSDOH regulatory gap delaying Medicaid contracting for a state-licensed outpatient clinic serving patients with hypermobility and related chronic conditions.

**Research & Development Consultant** | New Yorkers for Culture & Arts (NY4CA), New York | 2025–present

Built a 65+ entry development list for the NY4CA Awards Gala 2026, organized by sector and verified against primary sources. Drafted strategic communications for the Executive Director, including a stakeholder memo on mayoral administration relationships. Built a City Council outreach tracker mapping 22 Budget Negotiating Team members to districts, constituent cultural organizations, and direct staff contacts. Co-facilitated the annual Cultural Convening (January 2026) with artists, arts organizations, and elected officials.

### **TRAINING**

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Full Spectrum Doula | Ancient Song Doula Services | 2023

Feminist Research Methodologies & Digital Feminist Research | The New School | 2022

Perinatal Mood & Anxiety Disorders | Postpartum Support International | 2021

Birth & Disability | Birthing Advocacy Doula Trainings | 2021

Peer Support Specialist | NY Academy of Peer Services | 2020

Birth & Postpartum Doula | Carriage House Birth | 2018

### **MENTORSHIP & ACADEMIC ADVISING**

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Mentor | Mellon Mays Undergraduate Summer Colloquium, Barnard College | 2023–present

Reviewer | Oxford Journal of Student Scholarship | 2025–present

Tutor | Lumiere Education | 2024–present

### **SERVICE**

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Conference and Communications Assistant | Society for Medical Anthropology | 2023

Perinatal Support Group Co-Facilitator | Postpartum Support International (PSI) | 2022

### **LANGUAGES**

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