

Dr. Annie Simpson (b.1997, Charlotte, NC) is an experimental geographer, design researcher, filmmaker, and amateur shipwright. She is an **Emerging Designer** Nominee for the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum's **2026 National Design Awards** as an individual for excellence. For the 2024-2025 academic year, she is a **Harvard-Mellon Urban Initiative Fellow**. She is the co-director of **Port Futures + Social Logistics**.

Education

- 2025 Doctor of Design, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
Criticism and Contemporary Spatial Practice Track
Dissertation: *The View from Nowhere: Travels Through the Peripheries of Pine Biomass*
Advisor: Mohsen Mostafavi, Alexander and Victoria Wiley Professor of Design
Research Areas: critical urban studies + energy studies, environmental geography + history, media studies
- 2022 MFA Studio Art, Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia
With Distinction
- 2019 BFA Studio Art, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Highest Honors with Distinction
Minor in African American and Diaspora Studies

Previous Academic Positions

Master of Design Studies Head Tutor, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design 2024-present
Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, 2022-present
Doctoral Fellow, Harvard University, Harvard-Mellon Urban Initiative, 2024-2025
DDes Class Representative, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design 2023-2025

Teaching

- 2025 Teaching Fellow, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Advanced Studies Program
DES 9691: Doctoral Discourse and Research Methodologies
- 2024 Teaching Fellow, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Dept. of Landscape Architecture
DES 3241: Theories of Landscape as Urbanism
Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, Dept. of Urban Planning; Dept. of Romance Literature
ROM-STD 135: Writing and Urban Life
Teaching Fellow, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Dept. of Architecture
VIS 2229: Digital Media: Not Magic
Seminar Faculty, Harvard University Graduate School of Design
English for Design
- 2023 Teaching Fellow, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Dept. of Landscape Architecture
DES 3241: Theories of Landscape as Urbanism
- 2022 Teaching Assistant, Harvard University Graduate School of Design
HIS 4455: Cotton Kingdom, Now
Instructor, University of Georgia
ARTS 1060: Color and Composition
- 2021 Instructor, University of Georgia
ARTS 1060: Color and Composition

Awards, Grants, Fellowships

- 2025 Emerging Designer Nominee – 2026 National Design Award
- 2025 Doctoral Fellowship – Harvard-Mellon Urban Initiative
- 2024 Doctoral Fellowship – Harvard-Mellon Urban Initiative
Doctor of Design Research Grant – Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
Urban Research Grant – Harvard-Mellon Urban Initiative
- 2023 Dean's Merit Award – Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
- 2022 Dean's Merit Award – Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
- 2021 Campus Sustainability Grant – University of Georgia, Office of Sustainability

- Willson Center Graduate Research Award – University of Georgia
Graduate Teaching Assistantship - University of Georgia
Graduate School Travel Grant – University of Georgia
2020 Broun Fund Award – University of Georgia
2019 Graduate Assistantship in Interdisciplinary Arts Research - University of Georgia
Monument Lab National Fellowship (as part of Take Action Chapel Hill collective)
Center for the Study of the American South (as part of TACH collective) – UNC CH
2018 Kachergis Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship – UNC CH
Anderson Undergraduate Art Award – UNC CH
Gump Family Research Award for Undergraduate Theses – UNC CH
John Hope Franklin Documentary Fellowship – Duke University
James Boyd Gadson Fund for Summer Fellowships in Studio Art - UNC CH
2017 Anderson Undergraduate Art Award - UNC CH

Public Practice

Social Logistics and Port Futures www.social-logistics.org

Collaborative fieldwork and film exhibition series dedicated to materials research, planetary environmental histories, ports, and infrastructure. Launched with support from The Willson Center in conjunction with UGA's Lamar Dodd School of Art and College of Environment + Design. Co-director with James Enos.

*Publications as Author (*peer-reviewed)*

*Simpson, Annie. "Tunnel Vision: Notes from 'Generic' Atlanta." *Urban Geography*, (2025):

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2025.2540803>

*Simpson, Annie. "Void Almanac: A Political-Geologic Rubbing of Nuclear Testing in Mississippi." *GeoHumanities*, (2024):

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/2373566X.2024.2409692>

Enos, James. and Simpson, A. "Social Logistics From the Heart of A Shipwreck," in *Post-Rational Visuality*. Eds. Hiebert, T. and MacKenzie, D. Toronto (CA): Noxious Sector Press, 2024.

Simpson, Annie. "136 GSD Students write to the GSD Students, Faculty, and Administration." *Open Letters* 96 (2024). <https://openletters-online.com/Issue-96-136-Students-write-to-the-GSD-Students-Faculty-and>

"Take Action Chapel Hill," in *Shaping the Past*. Berlin: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, 2024.

*Simpson, Annie. "Monuments for the Interim Twenty-Four Thousand Years." *Southern Cultures* 27, no. 2 (2021): 28-45. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/scu.2021.0025>.

Talks, Conferences, Panels

Sea Inside, CAA Chicago, February 2025

Cutting Short the Swell, Harvard GSD DES3241, October 2024

Expanded Site / Material Fracture, SECAC Atlanta, October 2024

RealTimeNature, Harvard GSD DDes Conference, Convener and Moderator, September 2024

Post-Rational Visuality (with James Enos), CAA Chicago, February 2024

Void Almanac: Nuclear Testing in Mississippi, Harvard GSD DES3241, October 2023

Temporal Cultures, SECAC Richmond, October 2023

Visual Practices and Experimental Geographies, University of Kentucky, March 2023

Post-Space / New-Space, SECAC Baltimore, October 2022

Fredrick Law Olmsted Bicentennial, Moderator, Harvard GSD, October 2022

Port Futures + Social Logistics #01 Summit, April 2022

Nuclear Landscapes of the American South, Yonder Lands Seminar at the University of Pennsylvania, March 2022

Monuments for the Interim 24,000 Years, Spotlight on the Arts, UGA, November 2020

Disarticulate Ground Gallery Talk, Lamar Dodd School of Art, October 2020

Unsettling "Monument", Idea Lab Conversation, Lamar Dodd School of Art (rescheduled due to COVID-19), March 2020

Monument Lab Town Hall, Process & Power panelist, June 2019

Studios as Invited Reviewer

Re-Imagining the Archive, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design 2025 (Invited by Eric Rodenbeck, Stamen Design, SF)
The Line Between the Seas: Challenging the Legacy of the Panama Canal, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design 2025 (Invited by Anita Berrizbeitia and Ignacio F. Bunster-Ossa)
MLA Thesis Reviews, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design 2024, 2025 (Invited by Charles Waldheim)
Climate Futures for Greenland, University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design, Fall 2023 (Invited by Billy Fleming)
Extractive Archipelago: Granite Haven, Boston Architectural College, Spring 2023 (Invited by Joe Kennedy and Sonny Xu)
Designing a Green New Deal: The Spatial Politics of Our Response to Climate Change, Yale School of Architecture, Fall 2022 (Invited by Billy Fleming)

Exhibition + Film Screening Record

- 2025 Screenings of “WetLands” (film), Zou-no-hana Terrace, Yokohama, Japan; Veddel Space, Hamburg, Germany, Bierumer School, Bierum, Netherlands; Pier2 Artcenter, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (*forthcoming*)
2023 Operational Doubles, Kirkland Gallery, Cambridge, MA (Two Person)
2022 Screenings of “Madison” (film), Zou-no-hana Terrace, Yokohama, Japan; Bierumer School, Bierum, Netherlands; Pier2 Artcenter, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Downstream, Athenaeum, Athens, GA (Group)
2021 Shaping the Past, Goeth-Institut North America, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Montreal, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto, and Washington, DC (Group)
Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More, Corridor Gallery, Athens, GA (two-person with Vijay Rajkumar)
2020 Disarticulate Ground, Suite Gallery, Athens, GA (Solo)
Bend the Column, University of Georgia (Group) [re-scheduled from Deli Gallery, Brooklyn due to COVID-19. Curated by Ali Rosas Salas]
2019 Into the Archives, Patti and Rusty Rueff Galleries, Purdue University (Group)
Eulogies in Law and Soil, The Alcott Gallery, UNC CH (Solo)
A Watched Pot Never Boils, Gallery ~the hole~, Athens, GA (Group)
Look Back, Bridge Gallery, UGA (Group)
Screenings, Lamar Dodd School of Art, UGA (Curatorial)
I DON'T GET IT?, Hanes Art Center, UNC CH (Group)
2018 Monumenta, John & June Alcott Undergraduate Gallery, UNC CH (Group)
Anti-Nostalgia, The Carrack, Durham NC (Group)
Occluded Front, John and June Alcott Undergraduate Gallery, UNC Chapel Hill (Group)
people / place / perception, Student Union Gallery, UNC Chapel Hill (Group)
2017 Cameras are Clocks for Seeing, John & June Alcott Gallery, UNC CH (Group)
Graphien, Frank Gallery, Chapel Hill (Group)
Looking Glass, John & June Alcott Undergraduate Gallery, UNC CH (Group)
Footnotes (revisions), The Alcott Gallery, UNC Chapel Hill (Collaborative)
Past.Protest.Future, Hanes Art Center, UNC Chapel Hill (Group)
2016 Abstract Invitational, Shain Gallery, Charlotte NC (Group)
2015 Charlotte Latin Arts Showcase, The Mint Museum, Charlotte NC (Group)

Bibliography + Press Record

Summer, 2024: [Shaping the Past, book through Monument Lab](#)
May 2, 2019: [The Modern Art Notes Podcast: No. 391 Monuments & Memorials](#)
February 23, 2019: [Chapel Hill removes monuments honoring Confederacy, black history](#)
March 1, 2019: [UNC Student Alleges Administrators Censored her Race Relations Website](#)
August 28, 2018: [Women in Science Wednesday: Annie Simpson](#)

Collections

The North Carolina Photographic Collection, Wilson Library Archives, UNC-CH

Criticism and Exhibition Reviews as Author

“How I Made This: Katz Tepper’s Hysteric Signs and Roasted Cockroach for Scale,” r for ARTnews, 2021.

“Victoria Dugger’s Alternative Cosmologies,” review for ARTnews, 2021.

“Erin Jane Nelson’s “One Entanglement, Under Clouds,” review for ARTnews, 2021.

“An Interior for Blueland by LikeMindedObjects,” review for ARTnews, 2021.

“Memor Makes Homewares for Holding Memories,” review for ARTnews, 2020.