

# ROMI RON MORRISON

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Los Angeles, CA  
they:them

## EDUCATION

**University of Southern California (USC)**, Class of 2024

School of Cinematic Arts

PhD Media Arts + Practice

**Parsons School of Design The New School**, Class of 2015

(MS) Design and Urban Ecologies

**Università IUAV di Venezia**, Summer 2014

Urbanisms of Inclusion Fellow

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Class of 2009

(BS) Psychology, (BS) Gender Studies

**University of Ghana-Legon**, Fall 2008

Survey of Africana Feminism and International Development

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Assistant Professor, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)**

Design Media Arts

July 2023- Present

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Southern California (USC)**,

Media Arts + Practice

Aug 2018-May 2021

**Adjunct Lecturer, Parsons School of Design**,

Strategic Design

Aug 2016-May 2018

## AWARDS + FELLOWSHIPS

**University of Southern California** PhD Achievement Award 2024

**University of Southern California** Graduate School Travel Grant 2022

**Freie Universität Berlin** Mercator Fellow 2022

**Center for Advanced Internet Studies** Working Group Fellowship 2022

**Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth** Arts Integration Fellowship 2021-2022

**AI NOW Institute** Arts Based Research Fellow 2021-2022

**Ford Foundation** Predoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention 2021

**University of Southern California**, Endowed Fellowship 2021-2022

**HASTAC Scholar** 2019-2021

**Data and Society** AI Assembly Invited Artist 2019

**Northwestern University** Performance Studies Summer Institute Scholar 2019

**University of Southern California** Annenberg PhD Fellow 2018

**Urban Design Forum** Forefront Fellow 2017

**The Laundromat Project** Create Change Artist Fellow 2017

**New INC : New Museum** Art + Tech Member 2016

**Rauschenberg Award** Artist as Activist Fellow with People's Climate Arts 2016

**D-Prize** Winner 2016

**Parsons E-Lab** Winner 2016

**Center for Social Innovation** Incubation Fellow 2014

**Parsons School of Design** Dean Merit Scholar 2014

**Atlantis: Urbanisms of Inclusion** Fellow 2014

**American Institute of Architects NY** Design for Free Speech Winner 2014

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

### *Forthcoming*

**At the Locks of the Void: Towards the Generative Potential of Chaos, SAVVY Contemporary: The Laboratory of Form-Ideas**, Berlin, DE (Fall 2024)  
**Pacific Standard Time 2024, Human Resources**, Los Angeles, CA (Fall 2024)

### *Performance*

**Songbook The Quotient of Desire, The Kitchen** Fall 2023, New York, NY  
**A Full Room, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)**, Summer 2023, Los Angeles, CA  
**Quiet (as) Intervention, SAVVY Contemporary: The Laboratory of Form-Ideas**, Winter 2022, Berlin, DE.

### *Group*

**We Are Here: An Exhibition of Where We Are, A+D Museum**, Los Angeles, CA (Winter 2024)  
**EXTRACTION: Art on the Edge of the Abyss, Torrance Art Museum**, Spring 2022, Los Angeles  
**What Stays: Archiving Care, Akademie der Künste**, Summer 2021, Berlin  
**Transmediale**, Spring 2021, Berlin  
**Feminist Data Visualization, Atlanta Contemporary**, Fall 2020, Atlanta (cancelled due to COVID 19)  
**Bin Ends, Gray Area Festival**, Summer 2020, San Francisco, CA  
**Patterns in Resistance, ALT\_CPH, Copenhagen Biennial**, Summer 2020, Copenhagen  
**Flesh Spaces, Header/Footer Gallery, New Media Caucus**, Summer 2020, online  
**Sonsbeek, Kunsthalle Amsterdam**, Summer 2020, Amsterdam  
**iMAPPENING, USC School of Cinematic Arts**, Spring 2019, Los Angeles  
**Performative Computation Symposium, Navel Gallery**, Spring 2019, Los Angeles  
**Primal Machines, Aronson Gallery**, 2018, New York  
**Refiguring the Future, Museum of Contemporary Art**, 2018, Chicago  
**Forgotten Futures, Recess Assembly Gallery**, 2017, Brooklyn  
**(under)PRESENT(ed), Aronson Gallery** 2017, New York  
**Moogfest** 2017, Durham, NC  
**Tribeca Film Festival: Storyscapes** 2016, New York  
**Project Row Houses** 2016, Houston  
**To Scale, Eyebeam Studios** 2016, Brooklyn  
**U.N. World Urban Forum** 2014, Medellin, Colombia  
**Post No Bills, Southern Graphics Conference** 2012, New Orleans

## RESIDENCIES

**Electronic Textile Camp** Artist in Residence 2023  
**Montalvo Arts Center** AI Assembly Artist in Residence 2023  
**The Kitchen NYC x Simons Foundation x School For Poetic Computation** L.A.B. Research Resident 2022-2023  
**CultureHub** Artist in Residence 2021-2022  
**Transmediale, Junge Akademie der Künste, Goethe-Institut** Artist in Residence 2021  
**FemTechNet** Artist in Residence 2020  
**Joan Mitchell Foundation** Artist in Residence 2018  
**Interactive Telecommunications Program (NYU)** Resident 2017

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

**The Extrapolation Factory** Artist in Residence 2017

**Blights Out** Artist in Residence 2017

**Eyebeam** Artist in Residence 2015

### *Forthcoming*

**Morrison, Romi Ron “The Right to Buoyancy”, Rest Within the Wake.** Double LP release and catalog for artist James Allister Sprang

**Morrison, Romi Ron and Layla Zami. “Listening to Black Feminism: A Mixtape”** Minor Constellations. University of Potsdam

### *Past*

**Morrison, Romi Ron *Songbook: The Quotient of Desire*,** Artist book supported by The Kitchen NYC, School for Poetic Computation, + Simons Foundation. Fall 2023

**Morrison, Romi Ron “Endured instances of relation: an exchange with Romi R. Morrison”,** VOLUMETRIC REGIMES: MATERIAL CULTURES OF QUANTIFIED PRESENCE, DATA browser 09. Edited by Possible Bodies (Jara Rocha and Femke Snelting). Open Humanities Press. Fall 2022

**Morrison, Romi Ron “Voluptuous Disintegration: A Future History of Black Computational Thought”,** Digital Humanities Quarterly. Vol 16. Number 3, Summer 2022

**Morrison, Romi Ron and Onuoha, Mimi. “In Conversation: Mimi Onuoha and Romi Morrison”** The Black Experience in Design: Identity, Expression, and Reflection, Allworth Press, Winter 2021

**Morrison, Romi Ron and Loren Britton, Helen Pritchard, Eric Snodgrass. “Stochastic Enumeration: We don’t want methods but we do want to practice.”** Nocturne. Winter 2021

**Morrison, Romi Ron and Loren Britton. 2021. “How can you spell care with only 1s and 0s?”** Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience 7 (2): 1–14.

**Morrison, Romi Ron “You Can’t Count Your Way Out of This: Fugitive Computing and Practices of Care”,** “Commons”, Logic Magazine, Issue 12, Winter 2021

**Morrison, Romi Ron “Flesh”,** Uncertain Archives: Critical Keywords for Big Data, MIT Press, Winter 2021

**Morrison, Romi Ron “Gaps Between the Digits: On the Fleishy Unknowns of The HUMAN”,** Information Visualization, Information Design Journal (25:1). Fall 2019

**Morrison, Ron “Sedimentary Exits”,** Queer. Archive. Work, Summer 2019

**Morrison, Ron, “Research Notes from a Black Urbanist”**, pARTicipatory Urbanisms 2016. University of California Press

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

**The Power of Absence: Thinking with Archival Theory in Algorithmic Design, w/ Daniela Rosner, Lauren Klein, and Jihan Sherman.** University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (Winter 2024)

**“Instruments of the Black Goopy Universe”, Software 4 Artist Day,** Pioneer Works, New York, NY. Fall 2023. [Invited Panel Talk](#)

**“With and Against: Conversation between Michelle Murphy + Romi Morrison”, Reality Was Whatever Happened Symposium,** Centre for Culture and Technology, University of Toronto, Fall 2023. Toronto, CA [Invited Conversation](#)

**“The Urban Technical and the Politics of Inhabitation: Conversation with Luciana Parisi, Orit Halpern + Romi Morrison,”** Urban Institute, Fall 2023, University of Sheffield, UK. [Invited Panel Talk](#)

**Spilling The Tea/Stilling the Ocean: Black Studies Meets Computation, Penn State University,** Spring 2023, University Park, PA. [Invited Speaker](#)

**“Uncertain Geographies: Black Computational Thinking in the Shell”** University of Michigan Taubman School of Architecture, Spring 2023, Ann Arbor, MI

**“Black Computational Thought”** University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Design Media Arts, Spring 2023, Los Angeles, CA

**“Offbeat Patterns: Uncertainty and Antifragile Technologies”,** Poetics of Activism, Freie Universität, Winter 2023. Berlin, DE

**“Common Study: Making Public Humanities,”** MLA Annual Conference 2023, Winter 2023, San Francisco, CA. [Invited Panel Talk](#)

**“Quiet (as) Intervention,”** SAVVY Contemporary: The Laboratory of Form-Ideas, Winter 2022, Berlin, DE. [Invited Artist Talk + Performance](#)

**“Endured Listening: Pattern Making and Shared Risk Taking”,** Decolonial Working Group, Freie Universität, Fall 2022. Berlin, DE

**“Listening for Black Feminism: Conversation as Mixtape w/ Layla Zami”,** Minor Cosmopolitanisms Assembly, University of Potsdam, Silent Green. Fall 2022. Berlin, DE. [Public Conversation](#)

**“Predictive Anxieties: Stitching Space and Memory”. Summit for Future Sensitivity,** Honor Frasier Gallery, Fall 2022. Los Angeles, CA. [Invited Panel Talk](#)

**“Digital Humanities Caucus Panel: On Unmeasurability and Vitality: Disrupting Spatial Order with Digital Practice,”** American Studies Association Annual Conference 2022, Fall 2022. New Orleans, LA. [Invited Panel Talk](#)

**“Endured Listening: Memory Making and Shared Risk Taking”** Stamps School of Art, University of Michigan, Fall 2022, online. [Guest Lecture](#)

**“Blackness, African Indigeneity and Computation” Future of Code Politics @ Kampnagel**, Summer 2022, Hamburg, DE. [Invited Panel Talk](#)

**“Textiles as Archives + Afterlives”, Culture Mapping: Archives and Afterlives**, w/ Jacqueline Wernimont. Winter 2022. New York University (NYU). [Invited Keynote](#)

**“On Black Spatial Liberation: The Art of Torkwase Dyson”, American Association of Geographers Annual Conference 2022**, Winter 2022, online. [Invited Panel Presentation](#)

**Spatial Realities Art Series, Queer East Portland Arts and Literary Fest**, Fall 2021, online. [Invited Artist Talk](#)

**“Uncertain Threads : Black Quilt Making and Shared Risk Taking,” IEEE VIS4DH**, Fall 2021, online. [Invited Keynote Talk](#)

**Uncertain Archives: Book Launch**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Fall 2021. [Invited Panel Presenter](#)

**Revisions: Decoding Technological Bias, Gray Area Foundation**, w/ Jer Thorp. Summer 2021, [Public Conversation](#)

**“Concretizing Connections: Making Tangibilities,” Rupert Art Center**, w/ Britton, L. Fall 2020, Vilnius, LT. [Invited Workshop Presenter](#)

**“Crafting Critical Methodologies in Computing,” EASST/4S (European Association for the Study of Science and Technology and 4S - Society for Social Studies of Science) ,** Summer 2020, Prague, CZ. [Paper Presentation](#)

**“Future(s) Otherwise: Dreaming with Oracles Practices,” ALT\_CPH 2020-Copenhagen Biennial, Patterns in Resistance**, with Pritchard, H, Britton, L. & Snodgrass, E. Summer 2020 Copenhagen, DK. [Invited Workshop Presenter](#)

**“Future(s) Otherwise: Dreaming with Oracle Practices,” Caring, New Alphabet School - Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt (HKW)**, with Pritchard H. Britton. L., & Snodgrass E. Summer 2020, Berlin, DE. [Invited Workshop Presenter](#)

**“Weaving Ancestral Technologies,” Black Haptics Lab**, Summer 2020, Weeksville Heritage Center, Brooklyn, NY, [Invited Workshop Presenter \(cancelled due to COVID 19\)](#)

**“Fugitive Computing”**, Spring 2020, Clark University, Worcester, MA. [Invited Guest Lecturer \(cancelled due to COVID 19\)](#)

**“Humane Infrastructures: Experimental Humanities Workshop,”** Spring 2020, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. [Invited Presenter](#)

**“Embodying the Algorithm,” Encoding Ourselves, Feminist AI**, Winter 2020, Los Angeles, CA. [Workshop Presenter](#)

**“Burn, dream and reboot!: Speculating Backwards for the Missing Archive on Non-Coercive Computing,”** ACM FAT\*, with Pritchard H. Britton. L., & Snodgrass E. Winter 2020, Barcelona, SP. [Workshop Presenter + Paper Presentation](#)

**Alliance for the Arts in Research Institutes Conference, Spencer Museum of Art,** 2019, KU, Lawrence, KA. [Invited Lecture + Panel](#)

**“Residual Black Data,” Eyeo Festival,** Walker Museum of Art, 2019, Minneapolis, MN. [Invited Lecture](#)

**“The Resistance of Everyday Objects: Encoding Black Ritual Practice as Social Technology,”** Processing Community Day, UCLA, 2019, Los Angeles, CA. [Invited Presenter](#)

**“Living Material in Excess of Data”,** Tokyo University of the Arts, 2018, Tokyo, JP. [Presenter](#)

**“Black Data: Adaptive Infrastructures”,** Convening the Commons, 2018, Queens Museum, Queens, NY. [Invited Presenter+Panel](#)

**“Decoding Possibilities: Liquid Infrastructures”,** Information Plus Conference, 2018, Potsdam, DE. [Invited Keynote Talk](#)

**“F(r)ictional interfaces: Black Geographies + The Politics of Data”,** Refiguring the Future, Museum of Contemporary Art, 2018, Chicago, IL. [Artist Talk +Exhibition](#)

**“Blackness as Archipelago”,** Black Portraits IV, Harvard, 2018, Cambridge, MA. [Paper Presentation+Panel](#)

**“Politics and Policies: Race+Space”,** Afrotectopia, New York University, 2018, New York, NY. [Artist Talk+Panel](#)

**“Nomadcity + Self Emancipation Through Architecture and Design”,** Wynter-Wells Drawing School, The Drawing Center, 2018, New York, NY. [Artist Talk+Panel](#)

**“Design Activism, Black Geographies and Critical Packet Sniffing”,** Radical Networks 2017, New York, NY. [Presentation +Panel](#)

**Black Geographies: Spatial Poetics, and the Politics of Blackness,** 2017, Berkeley, CA. [Paper Presentation+Panel](#)

**“Building Tech to Hold Police Accountable”,** Allied Media Conference 2017, Detroit, MI. [Workshop](#)

**Refest 2.0, Interactive Telecommunications Program (NYU)** 2017, New York, NY. [Artist Talk](#)

**“Counter Mapping”,** Allied Media Conference 2015, Detroit, MI. [Workshop](#)

## PRESS

**Abdurahman, J. Khadijah.** "Thinking Bout a Black Sense of Place (w/ Treva Ellison and Romi Morrison)". We Be Imagining Podcast. August 4, 2020

**Davis, Genie.** "Extracting the Global and Offering the Intimate at TAM". Art and Cake. 2022

**Denecke, Mathias.** "Shiny new archives? On the politics history, and ethics of archives under the condition of big data". ephemera: theory and politics in organization. 2021

**D'Ignazio, Catherine + Klein, Lauren.** Data Feminism. MIT Press 2020.

**D'Ignazio, Catherine.** "What Role Does Emotion Play in Data Visualization?". Immerse: Open MIT DocLab. 2020

**Ellison, Treva.** "Vantapower: An Imaginative Concept Whose Time Has Come". Art Practical. 2020

**Heartney, Eleanor.** "Refiguring the Future". The Brooklyn Rail. 2018

**Kaasa, Adam.** "Unequal Ideas: Reflections on Designing Politics, an Urban Ideas Competition in Rio de Janeiro". DesignIssues: Volume 35, Number 4 Autumn 2019. MIT Press

**Meixner, Christiane.** "Transmediale 2021 startet Jetzt alle mal schön langsam". Tagesspiegel. 2021

**McCarthy, Lauren Lee.** "You See LA: November 2020". UCLA School of Arts and Architecture. 2020

**Oros, Alitzah.** "Review: Extraction: Earth, Ashes, Dust at Torrance Art Museum". Contemporary Art Review LA. Issue 29. August 2022

**Pallas, Li + Eteson, Larissa + Jumaniyasova, Gakku.** "For The Gap: Architectural Pathologies". Future Architectures. 2020. Documentary

**Pangburn, DJ.** "Futuristic Body Armor for Police Violence Activists". Vice News. 2016

**Parnow, Jonas + Heinicker Paul.** Stones that Calculate: Digital Archive Collection. 2020

**Seattle Nonfiction Librarians.** "Wa Na Wari's Black Atlas: Artist Art E/art/h". Seattle Public Library Digital Collection.

**Society for News Design España (SNDE).** Malofiej 27 Book: International Infographics Awards. 2020

**Stinton, Liz.** "Four Black Creatives on the Importance of Building and Cultivating Community". AIGA Eye on Design. 2017

## SERVICE

**UCLA DMA** Search Committee Member, Winter 2023  
**UCLA DMA** Chair of Faculty Thesis Committee, Fall 2023- present  
**UCLA DMA** Media Arts Research Space Director, Fall 2023- present

**Logic(s) Magazine**, Guest Editor for Forthcoming Issue 21  
**Just Tech Fellowship**, Jury Member  
**Transmediale 2023**, Panel Moderator  
**Eyebeam Alumni Network**, Member  
**FemTechNet**, Situated Critical Race + Media (SCRAM) Member  
**FLAT Journal (UCLA)**, Editorial Board  
**Information Plus 2021**, Diversity Chair  
**International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS)**, Executive Member, Jury Member for Web Awards  
**Logic Magazine**, Editor for Beyond Dark Matter, "Beacons", Issue 15  
**Oracles Speculative Computation Collaborative**, Co-Founder  
**Tokyo-Geidai University of the Arts**, Film + New Media MFA Show Critic  
**USC Critical Code Studies Working Group 2020**, Participant  
**USC Black Digital Studies Lab**, Co-Founder  
**USC Media Arts + Practice**, Undergraduate Thesis Reviewer

## TEACHING

**University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)**  
**Assistant Professor**

### **DESMA 289: Race in the Machine**

This course will explore the history, theory, and politics of race within digital technologies. Together we will build a shared understanding for the ways that racial logics (intersecting with gender, sexuality, disability, and class) have shaped the design of technology and how race has been created as a tool for subjugation. Throughout the term we will discuss topics such as indigenous circuits, ancestral intelligence (AI), and Black technopoetics through the works of contemporary scholars, poets, and artists of color. The course will function as a hybrid seminar-studio shifting focus between reading, group discussion, critique, and arts practice.

### **DESMA 159: Senior Capstone**

Undergraduate studio course preparing students for their senior exhibition. Each project will employ a process of research, conceptual development, prototype development, refinement, and production. Students engage in critical analyses by reviewing and critiquing each others' works.

### **DESMA 171: Incomputable Aesthetics Studio**

This course will survey a variety of different theories and practices that explore the aesthetics of indeterminacy and incompleteness within computation. This course centers decolonial ways of knowing within Black studies, queer theory, and women of color feminism to reconsider the contingent nature of computing as a relational device for deepening social technologies asking, "How do we hold each other in order to weather uncertain futures together?"



**DESMA 403: MFA Graduate Crit Studio**

Graduate studio class for MFA candidates to share works in progress and receive feedback from peers and instructors.

**University of Southern California (USC)****Teaching Assistant****IML 320: Designing and Writing for Transmedia Narrative**

This course explores the possibilities of transmedia, or cross-platform storytelling in a variety of genres, from digital storytelling and indie media, to documentary and social change campaigns. We offer an expansive look at transmedia and encourage students to imagine the ways in which fiction and non-fiction storytelling might be transformed.

**IML 346: Methods in Digital Research**

Methods in Digital Research prepares students for planning and carrying out thesis projects in the MA+P major and the Honors program. Emphasizing rigorous multimedia research and authorship strategies, this course prepares students to undertake large-scale digital projects.

**IML 454: Advanced Techniques of Spatial Representation**

Advances in computer graphics and digital techniques have allowed incredible new possibilities for visualization and imagery, while making such potential more accessible to a wider population. This course looks further into the uses and foundations of 3-D digital imagery, combining project-based learning with historical and cultural context.

**IML 535: Tactical Media**

Tactical Media centers on the use of media forms and platforms for social change and activism, using emergent hardware and software, in addition to more conventional tools. In a media conglomerated and media inundated society, how do we navigate the possibilities for individual and collective action?

**IML 501: Seminar in Contemporary Digital Media**

Developments in contemporary media technologies have fundamentally transformed the ways we perceive, think and communicate. IML 501: Seminar in Contemporary Digital Media combines hands-on media authoring, readings and discussions dedicated to investigating the close interrelationships among technology, culture and communication in order to form a solid foundation for scholarly multimedia authoring.

**Co-teacher w/ Artist Suzanne Lacy****ART 517: Social Practice on the Ground**

Social Practice is a relatively new name applied to visual arts formerly considered public, political or community-based art. As a transitional platform for intersectional themes—between visual art, media culture, political advocacy, policy making, and public space—this term as a question is the context of our inquiry.

## **Parsons School of Design | The New School**

### **Adjunct Faculty**

#### **PDUM 1100: Design Strategies in Everyday Experience**

Engage students in reading and discussion to exercise focus on analyzing how design shapes - and is shaped by - everyday experience. Primary emphasis is placed on introducing skills in strategic or motivated observation in urban space. Students are encouraged to develop strength in close reading and analysis, critical thinking and academic writing.

#### **PDUM 2100: Research and Development Methods**

An investigation into the nature of design research, where students gain practical experience in the various research and design methodologies. Students work in teams to apply the different techniques, through a series of mini-projects and applications, conducting research outside the classroom and engaging users and experts to share their perspectives on research and design. Students also learn how to map out their research findings and to envision and articulate design driven interventions.

#### **PUFY 1270: Intro to Service Design**

This is a hands-on design studio carried out with a focus on an external organization (Perhaps a Museum or Art Center), and will focus on services and experiences. Working through collaborative design frameworks and methods, students in this course will research, conceptualize, and develop engaging projects that include and are not limited to mapping journeys, understanding front-office and back office services, and doing "fly on the wall" shadowing or ethnographic research. Students will explore new service opportunities through specific service design methods and tools, such as direct field research and co-design practices. They will develop and utilize knowledge of the contexts and socio-political dynamics to develop new services for users ranging from the young to the elderly. This course is an excellent opportunity for students to build their portfolios and gain an engaging as well as introductory experience in the field of Service Design.

#### **PSDS 4700: Critical Empathy + Complexity**

This course examines methods for practicing deep self reflection. Combining lecture, seminar, and workshops, students will develop critical practices of empathy addressing topics such as race, class, gender, participation, and subjectivity through texts on design and social justice, and detailed case studies found in arts based social practice, popular education, and interactive media.

**Tara Mcpherson**, [tmcphers@usc.edu](mailto:tmcphers@usc.edu), Professor of Cinema + Media Studies, USC  
**Kara Keeling**, [kkeeling@cinema.usc.edu](mailto:kkeeling@cinema.usc.edu), Professor of Cinema + Media Studies, USC,  
**Suzanne Lacy**, [lacys@usc.edu](mailto:lacys@usc.edu), Professor of Art, USC

**REFERENCES  
UPON REQUEST**