

Curriculum Vitae
Sophie Bjork-James

Vanderbilt University
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37235
Email: sophie.bjork-james@vanderbilt.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race and racism, evangelicalism, whiteness, sexuality, reproductive health

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2013
M.Ed. Sociology and Equity Studies in Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, 2005
B.A. Race, Class, and Environmental Politics, Fairhaven College, Western Washington University, 2000

Dissertation: *The Political Ethics of Intimacy in US Evangelicalism*
Committee members: Leith Mullings (supervisor), Talal Asad, Jeff Maskovsky, Omri Elisha
Outside reader: Janet Jakobsen (Barnard College)

M.Ed. Thesis: *The Apartheid Conscience: What the white nationalist movement can teach us about the reproduction of white supremacy in America*
Committee members: Sherene Razack (supervisor), Megan Boler

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2017- Assistant Professor of the Practice in Anthropology, Vanderbilt University
2014-2016 Postdoctoral Fellow, Anthropology Department, Vanderbilt University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

(In development) *Honor and Obey: White Evangelicalism in America*

Edited Volumes

(In development) *Fed Up!: Angry Publics, New Politics*, edited with Jeff Maskovsky

Peer Reviewed Articles

2015 “Feminist Ethnography in Cyberspace: Imagining Families in the Cloud,” *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research*. 73(3): 113-124.
2006 * “The Apartheid Conscience: Gender, Race, and Re-imagining the White Nation in Cyberspace,” *Ethnic Studies Review*. 29 (2): 20-45.

Other articles and book chapters

- 2012 “Hacker Nation: Cyberspace and the Feminist Appropriation of Technology in Stieg Larsson’s *Millennium Trilogy*,” in *Men Who Hate Women and the Women Who Kick Their Asses!: Feminist Perspectives on Stieg Larsson’s Millennium Trilogy*. Donna King and Carrie Lee Smith, eds. Vanderbilt U Press, 98-107.
- 2010 Invited review of *Cyber Racism: White Supremacy Online and the New Attack on Civil Rights*, by Jessie Daniels. *Gender and Society*, 24: 408-409.
- 2008* “Cybersupremacy: The new face and form of white supremacist activism,” in *Tactics in Hard Times: Practices and Spaces of New Media*. Megan Boler, ed. Boston: MIT Press, 405-428.
- 2003* “Genocide, Liberation, Self-Determination and the Politics of Abortion: a Critique of Mainstream Feminism,” in *Voices of a New Generation: A Feminist Anthology*. Constance Faulkner and Sara Weir, eds. Boston: Allyn & Bacon/Longman, p. 21-29.

* Published under the name R. Sophie Statzel

Articles in Preparation

- “End of the World, or World Renewed? The Temporality of Evangelical Environmental Politics,” for submission to *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- “White Sexual Politics: The Patriarchal Family in White Nationalism and the Religious Right,” *Feminist Theory*

Other Publications

- “What the latest FBI data do and do not tell us about hate crimes in the US, *The Conversation*, Nov. 26, 2017.
- “When White Nationalism Became Popular,” *Anthropology News*, May 18, 2017, co-written with Jeff Maskovsky.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017-2018 Vanderbilt LGBT Policy Lab Small Grant
- 2017-2018 Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning Macro-Grant
- 2017-2018 Co-PI for NSF Workshop Grant to host two workshops on “Community Change in Global Perspective”
- 2017-2018 Co-PI for Wenner-Gren Conference Support Grant to host two workshops on “Community Change in Global Perspective”
- 2015-2016 EOS Environmental Fellow, Vanderbilt
- 2015-2017 Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- 2012-2013 Presidential Research Assistantship with Professor Leith Mullings, President of the American Anthropological Association

- 2012-2013 Mellon Fellowship, Committee for the Study of Religion, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2011-2012 Dissertation Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2010 Wenner-Gren Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Award
- 2010 Doctoral Research Grant, CUNY
- 2007-2009 Graduate Teaching Fellowship, CUNY
- 2008 Doctoral Research Grant, CUNY

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “The Alt-Right and the Legacy of Racism in the US,” Outside the Box Series, Nashville Public Library
- 2017 “Gender and nation in US Evangelicalism,” Religious Studies Colloquium, Middle Tennessee State University
- 2017 “Understanding the Alt-Right,” Government Accountability Office, Chicago
- 2017 “The Alt-Right in US History,” The Poynter Smart Conference at Vanderbilt, Poynter Institute
- 2016 “Respectability, Race, and Making Gender Sacred in US Evangelicalism,” Colorado College, Colorado
- 2015 “Doing gender/doing religion: Making family and making nation in US Evangelicalism,” Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto, Ontario
- 2014 “‘I felt His love wash over me’: Affective Truth in Evangelical Christianity,” University of California at San Diego Anthropology Colloquium, University of California, San Diego
- 2014 “Reading the Bible with James Dobson: The Truth Project®, Race, and the Construction of a ‘Biblical Worldview,’” The Bible in American Life conference, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
- 2013 “The ‘Problem’ with Fundamentalism and Other Liberal Myths About Religion,” New York Academy of Sciences Panel
- 2011 “From ‘rules’ to a ‘relationship’: The spiritual faith and political passions of American Evangelicals,” SSRC sponsored conference on Spirituality, Political Engagement, and Public Life, Columbia University

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2017 “How Anthropology Matters in the Anthropocene: Understanding the Cultures and Politics of Climate Change Denial,” Executive Panel, American Anthropological Association
- 2015 “Sacralizing Gender: familiar patterns and divergent directions in global evangelicalism,” American Anthropological Association Meetings
- 2015 “Engaging Secular and Religious Affect,” Affect Theory Conference
- 2015 “The (Re)production of Misery among the Religious(ly) Right(eous): Coercion, Conformity, and Resistance to Hetero/Homonormative Patriarchy in Four Case Studies,” American Studies Association meetings

- 2014 “Uncanny Crossovers: Secular and Protestant Hauntings in Psycho-Medical Knowledge,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
- 2014 “Affective Economies and Religious Worlds,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference
- 2008 “The Politics of Kinship and the Family in Crisis,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
- 2006 “Toward A Comparative Discussion on Rightist Movements,” Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference

Papers Presented

- 2017 “The Future in the Age of Biocide: The Temporality of Evangelical Ethics and Politics,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
- 2017 “Exposing ‘Family Values’ in post-liberal times,” American Ethnological Society Meeting
- 2016 “The Interior Public: cultivating internal capacities and public imaginaries in US Evangelicalism,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
- 2015 “Doing gender/doing religion: US Evangelicalism, the family, and the art of submission”
Society for the Anthropology of Religion Bi-Annual Meeting
American Studies Association
American Anthropological Association
- 2015 “Epistemologies of Affect and Discourses of the Self: Learning to Feel God in US Evangelicalism,” Affect Theory Conference
- 2014 “Constructing Sacred Sexuality: Psychological Discourse in the Ex-gay Movement,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
- 2014 “‘I felt His love wash over me’: Affective Truth in Evangelical Christianity,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
- 2013 “The Meaning of ‘Life’ in the Age of Biocide: The Temporality of Evangelical Ethics and Politics,” Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference
- 2012 “Morality,” part of a Keywords Panel on Austerity and Authority: Governing the Social in Crisis, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
- 2011 “Longing for Heterosexual Belonging in Evangelical America,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Bi-Annual Meeting
- 2008 “‘Family Values’: mediating the family and the politics of exclusion,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting
- 2007 “Cybersupremacy and the new face and form of white supremacist activism,” American Ethnological Society Meeting
- 2006 “White Nationalism as Imperial Backlash,” Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference
- 2006 “Gender, Race, and Re-imagining the White Nation in Cyberspace,” National Association for Ethnic Studies Annual Conference
- 2004 “Ignorance and Bliss: White Femininity, Sexual Violence, and the Potential for Anti-racist Alliances,” Rock Ethics Institute’s Epistemologies of Ignorance Conference

Campus/Departmental Talks

- 2015 “Doing gender/doing religion: Making family and making nation in US Evangelicalism,” Anthropology Department Colloquium, Vanderbilt University
- 2015 “Constructing Sacred Sexuality: Psychological Discourse in the Ex-gay Movement,” Medicine Health and Society Colloquium, Vanderbilt University
- 2014 “Desiring Communities and Incommensurate Identities: Evangelical Christianity, homosexuality, and the ethics of desire,” Overlook Seminar, Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University

TEACHING POSITIONS

Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University
 Lecturer, Women’s and Ethnic Studies Dept., University of Colorado- Colorado Springs
 Lecturer, Online BA Program, CUNY
 Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Baruch College, CUNY

Courses Taught: Race in the Americas
 Race and the Media
 The Politics of Reproductive Health
 Sociocultural Research Methods
 Community Health Research
 Gender and Cultural Politics
 Introduction to Sociology
 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
 American Society
 Urban Anthropology (focus on race and religion in the US)
 Online Course: Gender, Sexuality, and Culture
 Independent Senior Project Supervision including coaching students through the IRB process and completing independent ethnographic research

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Reviewer for: *Gender and Society*, *City and Society*, *Peasant Studies*, *American Ethnologist*, *Sex Roles*, *Material Religion*

2012-2013 New York Academy of Sciences Anthropology Division Board member

2012 Co-organizer of the interdisciplinary conference, “Reclaiming ‘America’: The Tea Party in Ethnographic, Historical and Comparative Perspective,” a one day workshop at the CUNY Graduate Center

2010-2012 Elected Student Representative, Executive Board of the Association for Feminist Anthropology, American Anthropological Association

2009-2011 Graduate Student Editorial Collective Member, “Findings” Column, for *AnthroNow Magazine*. Responsible for quarterly contributions to column featuring recent anthropological work and editorial duties

2009 Conference Co-organizer and co-chair: The Right in these Times: Understanding and Combating Contemporary Shifts to the Right. Second Annual Conference On “Rightist Movements.” CUNY Graduate Center

2008 Conference Co-organizer and co-chair: Toward A Comparative Discussion on Rightist Movements. Two-day conference with twenty-five presentations and two keynote addresses. CUNY Graduate Center

MEDIA COVERAGE

2017 Interviews with *Refinery29*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *BBC Mundo* (Spanish), *Busan Radio* (Korea), KPFK's *Middle East In Focus* (Los Angeles), *NBC News* online

2017 *All Things Considered* Interview, NPR

2017 *NBC Nightly News* Interview

2017 Australian Broadcasting Corporation's *Planet America* Interview

2016 BBC5 and BBC4 *Today* Interviews

2016 Interviewed for stories in the *Associated Press*, *ABC News*, *PBS*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*

2016 *All Things Considered* Interview, NPR

2015 *Inside Edition* Interview

2015 MediaLine Interview (Nashville call-in TV news show with 500,000 viewership)

2015 NPR-Colorado Springs Interview