

CURRICULUM VITAE
Elan Abrell, J.D., Ph.D.
Tel: 510-717-3526
E-mail: elanabrell@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Cultural Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2016
Dissertation: "Saving Animals: Everyday Practices of Care and Rescue in the US Animal Sanctuary Movement"
Committee Members: Jeff Maskovsky (advisor), Katherine Verdery, Melissa Checker
- M.Phil. Cultural Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2012
With Distinction
- J.D. Berkeley School of Law, University of California, 2006
Admitted to State Bar of New York, 2009
- B.A. University of California at Santa Cruz, Literature (Creative Writing Concentration), 2001
College Honors and Honors in Major

POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS

- 2017-2018 Farmed Animal Law & Policy Postdoctoral Fellowship, Animal Law and Policy Program, Harvard Law School

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 May Ebihara Memorial Tuition Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2015 Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, The Woodrow Wilson Foundation
- 2014-2015 Graduate Center Dissertation Award, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2014 Human-Animal Studies Fellowship, Animals and Society Institute and Wesleyan Animal Studies
- 2013-2015 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant in Cultural Anthropology, National Science Foundation
- 2011 Graduate Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2009 Pre-dissertation Summer Research Grant, Department of Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center

- 2007, 2009, 2013 Sue Rosenberg Zalk Student Research and Travel Award, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2006-2011 Sponsored Chancellor's Fellowship / Graduate Teaching Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (2006 - 2011)
- 2004 Dean's Summer Fellowship for Public Interest, University of California, Berkeley School of Law

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

- 2020 *Saving Animals: Practices of Care and Rescue in the US Animal Sanctuary Movement*. (Under contract at University of Minnesota Press)

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 "Animal Sanctuaries," in *Routledge Handbook of Animal Ethics*. Ed. Bob Fischer. New York: Routledge. (in press)
- 2019 "The Mongoose Trap: Grief, Intervention, and the Impossibility of Professional Detachment," in *Grieving Witnesses: The Politics of Grief in the Field*. Eds. Kathryn Gillespie and Patricia Lopez. Berkeley: University of California Press. (in press)
- 2016 "Lively Sanctuaries: A Shabbat of Animal Sacer," in *Animals, Biopolitics, Law: Lively Legalities*. Ed. Irus Braverman. New York: Routledge.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2019 "Sanctuary-Making as Rural Political Action," *Journal for the Anthropology of North America* 22(2). (in press)
- 2017 "Interrogating Captive Freedom: The Possibilities and Limits of Animal Sanctuaries" (introduction to special theme issue). *Animal Studies Journal* 6(2): 1-8.
- 2011 "Fracturing Neoliberalism: Ethnographic Interventions" (introduction to special theme issue). With Kaja Tretjak. *New Proposals: Journal of Marxism and Interdisciplinary Inquiry* 4(2): 29-32.
- 2008 "Making Enemies: The Reinforcement of Essentialized Cultural Difference through 'Legalized' Torture." *Socialism and Democracy* 22(2): 207-224.

REPORTS

- 2009 "Biocultural Jurisprudence." With Kabir Bavikatte and Harry Jonas. *Bio-Cultural Community Protocols: A Community Approach to Ensuring the Integrity of Environmental Law and Policy*. United Nations Environmental Programme.
<http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/9819>

- 2009 *Imagining a Traditional Knowledge Commons: A Community Approach to Ensuring the Local Integrity of Environmental Law and Policy*. With Kabir Sanjay Bavikatte, Gino Cocchiaro, Harry Jonas, and Andrew Rens. Rome: International Development Law Organization. <http://www.idlo.org/publications/TraditionalKnowledge.pdf>

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2018 Review of *Understanding Conflicts about Wildlife: A Biosocial Approach* (Catherine M. Hill, Amanda D. Webber, and Nancy E.C. Priston, eds. 2017. New York: Berghahn Books). *American Ethnologist* 4(3): 438-9.
- 2017 “Human-Pigeon Co-Creation of Urban Social Spaces.” *Society & Animals* 25(4): 405-10. (Review of *The Global Pigeon*. Colin Jerolmack. 2013. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.)

OTHER

- 2009 “Beyond the ‘Academic/Applied’ Binary in the Ethics Debate.” With Kaja Tretjak. *Anthropology News*. April. (Guest editorial column)

JOURNAL EDITORSHIPS

- 2017- Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Journal for the Anthropology of North America* (formerly *North pres. American Dialogue*)
- 2017 Guest Editor, *Animal Studies Journal* 6(2), special theme issue: “Animal Sanctuaries.”
- 2011 Guest Editor, *New Proposals: Journal of Marxism and Interdisciplinary Inquiry* 4(2), special theme issue: “Fracturing Neoliberalism: Anthropological Contributions.” With Kaja Tretjak. February.
- 2005 Editorial Board, *Critical Sense: A Journal of Political and Cultural Theory* 13(1).
- 2004 Editorial Board, *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law and Justice* 19(1).

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT POSITIONS

- 2019 Adjunct Instructor, New York University
- Histories and Cultures of Animal Edibility (Fall 2019, Animal Studies M.A. Program)
 - The Social Life of Food (Fall 2019, Anthropology Department)
- 2019 Visiting Assistant Professor, Animal Studies Program, Wesleyan University
- Liminal Animals: Interspecies Relations in Human-Built Environments (Fall 2019)
 - Eating Others: Histories and Cultures of Animal Edibility (Spring 2019)
- 2019 Adjunct, Anthropology Department, Montclair State University
- Cultural Anthropology 100 (Summer 2019, online)

2018 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

- American Urban Experience (Fall 2018)

2016-2017 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Studies, Queens College, City University of New York

- Concrete Jungles: Cities, Animals, and Nature (Spring 2017)
- Contemporary Urban Theory (Fall 2016)
- Sex and the City (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)

2016 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Baruch College, City University of New York

- Living in the Anthropocene: Environmental and Climatic Change (Spring 2016)

2014-2015 Writing Fellow, Writing Across the Curriculum Program, Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York

2012-2016, 2018, 2019 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Studies, Queens College, City University of New York

- Sex and the City (Fall 2019°)
 - Dynamics of Housing and Homelessness (Summer 2018)
 - Poverty and Affluence (Fall 2014 online, Spring 2015°, Fall 2015°, Spring 2016°)
 - Urban Politics (Fall 2013*)
 - AIDS and Public Policy (Fall 2012, Fall 2013)
 - Research Writing (Spring 2012*, Fall 2012*)
 - Urban Diversity (Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014*, Fall 2015°, Spring 2016°)
- (*Included M.A. level sections, °Online sections)

2012-2013 Writing Fellow, Writing Across the Curriculum Program, Hostos Community College, City University of New York

2007-2010 Lecturer (Graduate Teaching Fellow), Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, City University of New York

- Human Rights Of Indigenous Peoples (Spring 2010)
- Introduction to Anthropology (Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009)
- Politics and Power: Anthropological Perspectives (Spring 2010)

INVITED TALKS

2018 Keynote: “Zoonotic Care: Helping Sanctuary Go Viral.” Animaladies II Conference, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia. December 12-14.

2018 “Making Sanctuary: Transforming Multispecies Relations in the Contemporary United States.” Anthropology Department, Montclair State University. Montclair, NJ. April 25.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- 2019 “‘An Almond Doesn’t Lactate’: The Overdetermination and Hyperfetishization of Milk in the U.S.” Session: Future Telling: Scenes and Sounds of What is to Come. Society for the Anthropology of North America and Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology Spring Conference. May 2-4.
- 2019 “Leveling the Playing Field for Innovative Milks and Meats.” Session: Traditional Meat and Dairy Foods and Innovative Substitutes: Key Regulatory and Enforcement Issues. Food and Drug Law Institute Food Enforcement and Compliance Conference. Washington, D.C. March 21.
- 2018 “Reinventing the Meal: Cellular Agriculture as For-Profit Animal Advocacy?” New Directions in Animal Advocacy Conference, University of Sydney. Sydney, Australia. December 10-11.
- 2018 “What’s the Beef?: Cellular Agriculture, Synthetic Value, and the New Animal Laborer.” Session: The Bogus and the Bona-Fide: Synthetic Natures, Authentic Materials, and the Blurred Boundaries of the Real. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Jose, CA. November 14-18.
- 2018 “From Livestock to Cell-stock: Existential Anxiety and the Politics of Gustatory Resemblance.” Session: Anxious States: Sensory and Other Politics in Authoritarian Times. American Ethnological Society and Society for Visual Anthropology Joint Spring Conference. Philadelphia, PA. March 22-24.
- 2018 “Cellular Agriculture: Future Potential and Pragmatic and Ethical Challenges.” Session: Animals and Food. Minding Animals Conference. Mexico City, Mexico. January 17-25.
- 2017 “Sanctuary as Resistance: Coalitional Possibilities for a Politics of ‘Abolitionist Ecology.’” Session: Animal Matters: Logics of Interspecies Care in the Anthropocene. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C., November 29-December 3.
- 2017 “Animal Ambassadors, Underpaid Labor, and Social Justice Coalitions: The Ethical and Political-Economic Challenges of Sanctuary Work” (invited presenter). Session: The Public Faces of Sanctuaries. Sanctuary: Reflecting on Refuge, a Conference about Care and Purpose at Farmed Animal Sanctuaries. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, September 29-October 1.
- 2017 “Animal Obsolescence and The Multispecies Ethics of Cellular Agriculture.” Session: Interspecies Sensibilities II. Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting. Boston, MA, August 30-September 2.

- 2016 “Sacrifice to Save: Multispecies Sacrificial Citizenship in US Animal Sanctuaries.” Session: Dilemmas Of Care And Conservation: More-Than-Human Relations And Environmental Degradation. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN, November 16-20.
- 2016 “Cutting Ties: The Challenges of Disentangling Captive Animals from Animal-Based Consumption Regimes.” Session: The Future of Captive Wildlife. Fellow Travelers Conference, sponsored by the Animals and Society Institute and Wesleyan Animal Studies. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, September 29-October 1.
- 2016 “Interspecies Ethical Praxis: The Possibilities and Limits of More-Than-Human Solidarity in US Animal Sanctuaries.” Session: More-Than-Human Solidarities: Conceptual Insights and Multispecies Political Possibilities. Canadian Anthropology Society and Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference: Solidarit(i)és. Halifax, Canada, May 11-15.
- 2015 ““They don’t know that you don’t understand!”: Interspecies Communication in US Animal Sanctuaries.” Session: Subjects of Equality and Deservingness. Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference. New York, NY, April 16-18.
- 2015 “Captive Freedom: Multispecies Ethics in US Animal Sanctuaries.” Session: Anthropomorphisms. Living with Animals Conference 2: Interconnections. Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY, March 19-22.
- 2014 “Improperly: New Visions of Human-Animal Publics.” Session: Improper Politics. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C., December 3-7.
- 2014 “Regulating Exotics: Administrative Law and the Political Lives of Captive Animals” (invited presenter). More-than-Human Legalities: Advocating an Animal Turn in Law. SUNY Buffalo Law School, Buffalo, NY, September 11-12.
- 2014 “Collaborative Rescue: Non-human Agency in Animal Sanctuaries.” International Workshop on Participatory Democracy's Non-Human and Non-Living “Others,” sponsored by The Authority Research Network, The Public Science Project, and The Arts and Humanities Research Council. New York, NY, May 2.
- 2013 “Thinking Animality: Practices of Care in U.S. Exotic Animal Sanctuaries.” Session: Transforming Species Futures: Multispecies Engagements in North America. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL, November 20-24.
- 2013 “Preservation through Consumption?: Animal Sanctuaries as Multispecies Hybrid Communities.” Session: Negotiating Nature: The Justification, Creation, and Practices of Parks. Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA, October 9-13.

- 2013 “‘The Possibility of Becoming a Dog’: Bringing Companion Animals from Zoë to Bios through Practices of Empathy in the No Kill Movement.” Session: Empathy and Association in a Multispecies World. Navigating a Multispecies World: A Graduate Student Conference on the Species Turn. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 25-26.
- 2013 “Making People: Anthropomorphism as a Tool of Human Exceptionalism.” Session: Anthropomorphisms. Living with Animals Conference. Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY, March 21-23.
- 2013 “Captivating Exotics: Multispecies Encounter Value and the Future of Wildlife Rescue?” Session: Vital Futures: Life, Value and Health in Uncertain Times. Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference. Durham, NC, March 15-16.
- 2013 “Keyword: Species” (invited presenter). Session: Keywords Workshop. Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference. Durham, NC, March 15-16.
- 2009 “Carrying the State’s Burden: Civil Society’s Role in South Africa’s Xenophobia Crisis.” Session: Anthropology of Democracy and Public Participation. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, December 2-6.
- 2008 “Contemporary Politics of HIV/AIDS: The Institutionalization of Traditional Medicine in South Africa” (co-presenter with Kaja Tretjak). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, November 19-23.
- 2008 “Making Enemies: The Reinforcement of Essentialized Cultural Difference through ‘Legalized’ Torture.” Constructing “Terrorism” and “War on Terror” Workshop. European Association of Social Anthropologists Annual Meeting. Ljubljana, Slovenia, August 27.

PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2018 The Bogus and the Bona-Fide: Synthetic Natures, Authentic Materials, and the Blurred Boundaries of the Real (co-organizer with David Kneas). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Jose, CA. November 14-18.
- 2017 Animal Matters: Logics of Interspecies Care in the Anthropocene (co-organizer with Amy Hanes). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C., November 29-December 3.
- 2016 The Future of Captive Wildlife. Fellow Travelers Conference, sponsored by the Animals and Society Institute and Wesleyan Animal Studies. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, September 29-October 1.
- 2013 Transforming Species Futures: Multispecies Engagements in North America. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL, November 20-24.

- 2013 Vital Futures: Life, Value and Health in Uncertain Times (co-organizer with Risa Cromer). Invited Session, Society for the Anthropology of North America Conference. Durham, NC, March 15-16.
- 2009 Ethnographic Means to Political Ends: Anthropological Contributions to Understanding the Interrelations Between Contemporary Conservative and Neoliberal Movements (co-organizer with Kaja Tretjak). Invited Session, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Sponsored by National Association of Student Anthropologists (NASA), co-sponsored by the Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA). Philadelphia, PA, December 2-6.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2010 Third Annual Conference on “Rightist” Movements: “The Green Scare: Targeting Environmental and Animal Rights Activism” (co-organizer). CUNY Graduate Center. New York, NY, April 16.
- 2009 Traditional Knowledge Commons Workshop (co-organizer). Hosted by Natural Justice, International Development Law Organization, and University of Cape Town Intellectual Property Law and Policy Research Unit. Cape Town, South Africa, December 14-15.

DISCUSSANT ROLES

- 2017 Session: Precarity, Power and Unrecognizable Lives in the Americas. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C., November 29-December 3.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Department of Urban Studies, Queens College CUNY, September 2016 to August 2017
 Curriculum Committee
 Faculty Advisor to the Urban Studies Club
 Moderator of department email circular
 Organizer for cover letter and resume writing seminar for graduating students

Peer-reviewer for article submissions
Animal Studies Journal, 2017-present
Society and Animals, 2016-present
HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory, 2014

RESEARCH

Principal Investigator, Ethnographic Research, 2016-Present
 “The Future of Food?: Cellular Agriculture and Animal Obsolescence”
 Designed and implemented all aspects of long-term, multi-sited ethnographic research project; Recruited and conducted qualitative interviews with 100 participants; Recorded and analyzed primary observation data collected over 33 months.

Principal Investigator, Doctoral Dissertation Research, 2012 – 2016
 CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Anthropology

“Saving Animals: Everyday Practices of Care and Rescue in the US Animal Sanctuary Movement”

Designed and implemented all aspects of long-term, multi-sited ethnographic research project; Drafted multiple successful funding grants; Recruited and conducted qualitative interviews with 300 participants; Recorded and analyzed primary observation data collected over 24 months.

Research Assistant, Dr. Fernando Coronil, 2008

CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Anthropology
Research assistance with *Crude Matters*.

Research Assistant, Dr. Ida Susser, 2007-2008

CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Anthropology
Research and editing assistance with *AIDS, Sex, and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in Southern Africa*.

As component of larger “South Africa’s Civil Society Organizations & AIDS Treatment Access” project, conducted three-month fieldwork project in Cape Town, South Africa, on AIDS treatment organizations and their response to a refugee crisis resulting from the South African xenophobic riots in May of 2008.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Regulatory Specialist, The Good Food Institute, Washington, DC, 2018-2019

Drafted formal comment to the USDA and FDA on proposed framework for regulation of cell-cultured meat. Contributed to legal research and strategy for opposition to legislation restricting the use of meat-related nomenclature on plant-based and cell-cultured products in twenty-six states.

Legal Associate, Natural Justice, Cape Town, South Africa, 2009-2010

Contributed to research on intellectual property, indigenous rights, and environmental law. Authored articles and feasibility reports on biodiversity conservation and indigenous property rights projects.

Legal Associate, AIDS Law Project, Cape Town, South Africa, 2008

Contributed to litigation and legal research on refugee rights cases involving the conditions in refugee camps established by the South African government following the displacement of thousands of immigrants by countrywide xenophobic riots in May 2009. Drafted a report on international norms and standards for refugee camps that was used to draft the official disaster management norms and standards for the City of Cape Town.

Legal Intern, Legal Aid Society of New York, New York, NY, 2004

Contributed to litigation and legal research in capital defense cases involving clients facing the death penalty. Drafted legal memos analyzing discovery procedures for pretrial preparation and performed extensive document review of evidence. Participated in crime witness interviews with staff investigators.

Educator, StreetLaw Project, Berkeley, CA, 2004

Educated incarcerated youth at Alameda County Juvenile Hall about their legal rights and relevant criminal procedure.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association

Society for the Anthropology of North America

Anthropology and Environment Society

Human Sexuality and Anthropology Interest Group

Digital Anthropologies Interest Group

Animals and Society Institute, Member of Board of Directors

Society for Social Studies of Science