

CARWIL ROBERT BJORK-JAMES

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EDUCATION

- 2006–2013 Ph.D. (M.Phil. in 2010), Cultural Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY
- 1996–1998 M.P.P., Environmental and Human Rights Policy, Harris Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 1992–1996 B.A. with Highest Distinction, Mathematics and Physics, College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2013–Present Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2012 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, NY
- 2011 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Anthropology, Baruch College, City University of New York, New York, NY
- 2005–2006 Instructor, Department of Activism & Social Change, New College of California, San Francisco, CA
- 2002–2007 Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics Tutor, Bay Area Tutoring Centers, Berkeley and San Ramon, CA
- 1999–2001 Oil Campaign Coordinator, Project Underground, Berkeley, CA
An advocacy organization supporting oil-affected indigenous communities in Nigeria and Colombia.
- 1998–1999 Climate Campaigner, Greenpeace USA, Washington, DC

BOOK

The Sovereign Street: Making Revolution in Urban Bolivia.
Under revision for publication, University of Arizona Press.

ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

- 2018 Bjork-James, Carwil. Binding leaders to the community: The ethics of Bolivia's organic grassroots. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 23, no. 2 (July): 363–82.
- 2015 Bjork-James, Carwil. Hunting Indians: Globally circulating ideas and frontier practices in the Colombian Llanos. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 57, no. 1 (January): 98–129.
- 2011 Edelman, Marc, and Carwil James. Peasants' rights and the UN System: Quixotic struggle? Or emancipatory idea whose time has come? *Journal of Peasant Studies* 38, no. 1 (January): 81–108.

CHAPTERS IN REFEREED BOOKS

When “Plurinational” States Undermine Indigenous Territories: TIPNIS in Bolivia. Accepted for publication in peer-reviewed edited volume *Landscapes of Inequity: The Quest for Environmental Justice in the Andes/Amazon Region*, under contract with University of Nebraska Press.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2016 Bjork-James, Carwil. New Release Book Review of *Earth Beings: Ecologies of Practice Across Andean Worlds* by Marisol de la Cadena (*invited essay*). *Anthropological Quarterly* 89, no. 1 (winter): 261–272.
- 2015 Bjork-James, Carwil. Review of *Remapping Bolivia: Resources, Territory, and Indigeneity in a Plurinational State*, edited by Nicole Fabricant and Bret Gustafson. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 20, no. 1 (March): 185–87.
- 2014 Bjork-James, Carwil. Review of *Mobilizing Bolivia's Displaced: Indigenous Politics and the Struggle over Land* by Nicole Fabricant. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 19, no. 2 (July): 359–61.
- 2011 Bjork-James, Carwil. Patterns of organization and upheaval: Recent works on Bolivia (*review essay*). *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 16, no. 2 (November): 501–12.
- 2010 James, Carwil. Review of *Indians and Leftists in the Making of Ecuador's Modern Indigenous Movements*, by Marc Becker. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 15, no. 2 (November): 537–39.

WORKING PAPERS

UNDER REVIEW

Left populism in the heart of South America: From plurinational promise to a renewed extractive nationalism. Submitted February 2018. Chapter currently under review for *Beyond Populism: Angry Politics and the Twilight of Neoliberalism*, volume under contract with West Virginia University Press for publication in 2019.

How Unarmed Militancy Works: Disruptive Protest, Unity, and Moral Legitimacy in Bolivia. Under revision for *American Anthropologist*.

Respect and Invasion: The Body, the City and Racism in Contemporary Bolivian Political Conflict.

IN PREPARATION

Concession Blocks, Spiraling Open Pits, and Wily Start-ups: Spatialities of Andean extractivism. (in preparation for *Economic Anthropology*)

Homogenous Space or Culturally Textured Landscapes? Clashing Perspectives on Indigenous Territory in Plurinational Bolivia. (in preparation for *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*)

Indigenous Concepts as Hard and Soft Law: The Divergent Paths of *Vivir Bien* and Prior Consultation. (in preparation for *Human Rights Quarterly*)

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS RECEIVED

- 2016 Wenner-Gren Foundation Engaged Anthropology Grant, \$5,000
2012–2013 American Anthropological Association Minority Dissertation Fellowship, \$10,000
2010–2011 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, \$13,955
2010–2011 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, \$19,022
2010 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council
(*declined*)

INTERNAL GRANTS RECEIVED

- 2018–2019 Mellon Digital Humanities Faculty Fellow, \$10,000
2017–2018 Vanderbilt University Research Scholar Grant, \$27,778
2016–2017 Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellow, Vanderbilt University, \$4,000
2013 Vanderbilt University Start-Up Package, \$50,000
2012–2013 MAGNET Dissertation Completion Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center, \$22,000
2006–2012 President's MAGNET Five-Year Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center
2008 Summer Reconnaissance Grant, Anthropology Department, CUNY Graduate Center

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2011–2012 Transformational Politics and Culture Fellow, Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center, \$10,000
2011–2012 Writer in Residence, Wertheim Study, New York Public Library
2009 Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Quechua), University of Pittsburgh, \$5,000
1996–1998 Irving B. Harris Fellowship, Harris Graduate School of Public Policy
1996 Lincoln Laureate (outstanding graduate, academic and extracurricular)
1996 Outstanding Senior in Mathematics at Northwestern University
1994–1996 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar
1994–1996 National Society of Black Physicists Scholarship
1994–1995 American Physical Society Scholarship
1992–1994 National Achievement Scholarship
1992 Ebony Magazine's "50 Most Promising" young African-Americans

Undergraduate honorary societies

- Phi Beta Kappa
Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics)
Gamma Theta Upsilon (Geography)

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 "Left Populism in the Heart of South America," Community Change in Global Perspective seminar, CUNY Graduate Center (New York, October).

- 2016 “La Calle Soberana: La ciudad como terreno de protesta,” Centro de Estudios Superiores Universitarios, Universidad Mayor San Simón (Cochabamba, Bolivia, November).
- 2016 “Wounded Bodies, Heroic Deaths, and the Reimagined Community of Plurinational Bolivia,” Department of Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center (New York, October).
- 2016 “Unarmed Militants and Irrepressible Uprisings: Beyond Violence and Nonviolence in Bolivia,” Department of Anthropology and Social Change, California Institute of Integral Studies (San Francisco, September).
- 2015 “Dense and Nimble Activisms in Bolivian Radical Politics,” Department of Anthropology, Queens College (New York, October).
- 2014 “On Unarmed Militancy,” Towson University (Red Emma’s Bookstore, Baltimore, December).
- 2013 “A New Urgency? Urban Imaginaries in the Era of Climate Crisis,” The New School Graduate Program in Design and Urban Ecologies (New York, April).
- 2013 “Claiming the Power of the Plaza: Race, Power, and Urban Space in Contemporary Bolivian Protest,” Department of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University (Nashville, January).
- 2012 “Still Mobilized: Water Warriors, Indigenous Movements and other Principled Dissenters in Bolivia’s ‘Process of Change,’” Department of Latin American and Latino/a Studies, Towson University (Baltimore, March).
- 2010 “Whose City? Studying Protest, Power and Urban Space through Oral Narratives,” Oral History Research Office Summer Institute (Columbia University, New York City, June).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “The Sudden Rise and Bloody Fall of Neoliberal Authoritarianism in Bolivia: Movement Tactics and State Violence,” AAA Annual Meeting (San José, November).
- 2018 “Strategies to Counter Systemic Bias: Writing Campaigns, New Maps, and Informed Review,” WikiConference North America (Columbus, October).
- 2018 “Ultimate Consequences: A Detailed Database of Deaths in Bolivian Political Conflict during the Democratic Era,” LASA Congress (Barcelona, May).
- 2018 “Homogenous Space or Culturally Textured Landscapes? Clashing Perspectives on Indigenous Territory in Plurinational Bolivia,” AAG Annual Meeting (New Orleans, April).
- 2017 “Concession Blocks, Spiraling Open-pits, and Wily Start-ups: Spatialities of Andean neo-extractivism,” AAA Annual Meeting (Washington, DC, November).
- 2017 “Conflicting Conceptions of Territory in Bolivia’s TIPNIS Conflict,” LASA Congress (Lima, Peru, May).
- 2016 “Bringing a Critical Antiracist Lens to the Plurinational State of Bolivia,” AAA Annual Meeting (Minneapolis, November).

- 2016 "Indigenous Concepts as Hard and Soft Law: The Divergent Paths of Vivir Bien and Prior Consultation," LASA Congress (New York, May).
- 2015 "Binding Leaders to the Community: The Ethics of Bolivia's Organic Grassroots," AAA Annual Meeting (Denver, November).
- 2015 "Respect and Invasion: The Body, the City, and Racism in Contemporary Bolivian Political Conflict," LASA Congress (San Juan, Puerto Rico, May).
- 2015 "The Emergence of Unarmed Militancy: Tactics and Subjectivity in Recent Disruptive Protest," SLACA Conference (Oaxaca de Juarez, Mexico, March).
- 2014 "The Sovereign Street: Events, Imagined Communities, Revolution" (poster), AAA Annual Meeting (Washington, December).
- 2012 "The Dance of Repression, Space-Claiming, and Irrepressibility in Bolivia's TIPNIS Conflict," Conference on Critical Geography (Chapel Hill, November).
- 2012 "Summits and Strike Waves: Grassroots Democracy in Plurinational Bolivia's Political Culture," AAA Annual Meeting (San Francisco, November).
- 2012 "Encountering, Participating in, and Supporting Bolivia's Organic Social Movements as a Network-Style Activist Ethnographer," SfAA Annual Meeting (Baltimore, March).
- 2011 "'There were neither Moors nor Christians': Feelings of Radical Inclusion in Recent Bolivian Mass Mobilizations," AAA Annual Meeting (Montreal, November).
- 2011 "Roadblocks versus Concession Blocks: Spatialities in Conflict in Andean Socio-environmental Conflicts," Critical Geography Conference (Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, November).
- 2010 "Frontier Violence and Indigenous Survival: Knowledge and Strategies on Colombia's Llanos Frontier," Latin American History Graduate Student Conference at Columbia University (New York, March).
- 2010 "Whose Cities? Claims over Urban Space in Recent Bolivian Political Conflict," Mini-Conference on Critical Geography (Athens, Georgia, October).
- 2009 "The Power of Interruption: The Rise and Urbanization of Road Blockades in Late 20th Century Bolivia," New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS) Annual Meeting (Schenectady, New York, October 2009) and the Works in Progress in Latin American Studies of Society and History (WiPLASH; New York University, September).
- 2009 "Direct Action Syndicalism and the Right to Strike," Annual Graduate Student Conference, Union of Political Science Students, New School for Social Research (New York, May).
- 2007 "Force, Knowledge, and Strategies for Indigenous Survival on the Llanos Frontier," AAA Annual Meeting (Washington, November).
- 2007 "The Zapatistas and the World," Fernand Braudel Center, SUNY Binghamton (October).
- 2005 "Subjectivities of Resistance," Anarchism Now Conference, Center for Cultural Studies, UC Santa Cruz (May).

Discussant for National Conference Sessions

- 2017 “Fighting Essentialist Ideas about Poverty, Race, and Intelligence in the Trump Era,” AAA Annual Meeting (Washington, DC, December).

CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED

- 2017 “New Landscapes of Extractivism in the Andean Region,” panel co-organizer, AAA Annual Meeting, November.
- 2016 “Teaching Anthropology through Student Writing Projects on Wikipedia,” workshop organizer, AAA Annual Meeting, November.
- 2014 “A New Anthropology of Revolution,” poster session organizer, AAA Annual Meeting, November.
- 2011 “Urban Spaces, National Revolts,” panel organizer and chair, AAA Annual Meeting, November.

CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 “The Posthumous Military Career of a Mestiza Soldier, the Ribald Masculinity of a Bachelor President, and the Compensatory Gender Progressivism of the Plurinational State,” Paper presented at Gender and Sexualities Seminar, Robert Penn Warren Center (April).
- 2017 “The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights: A reportback on indigenous rights and US accountability,” Presentation, Department of Anthropology (April).
- 2016 “Dense and Nimble Activisms: Organization and Ethics in Bolivian Grassroots Politics,” Department of Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University (February).
- 2014 Discussant on “Lowland Mestizaje, Highland Indigeneity: Performance, Regionalism and Constructions of Indian Identity in Bolivia,” Vanderbilt History Seminar (November).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2013, 2015– Fieldwork, Space and Territory in Socio-Environmental Conflicts
Observed and interviewed participants in Amazon Basin Indigenous Coordination (COICA), Villavicencio, Colombia. Led a team including three graduate student researchers to observe the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City. Three weeks of fieldwork including interviews and observation of movement events in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Camiri, Bolivia. Coordinated interviews and other fieldwork by graduate students.
- 2015– Data Collection and Analysis, Ultimate Consequences: A Database of Deaths in Political Conflict in Bolivia 1982–present
- 2013 Follow-up Fieldwork in La Paz and Cochabamba, Bolivia
- 2010–2011 Dissertation Fieldwork in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Sucre, Bolivia

Conducted participant observation of urban social movements in Cochabamba and Sucre, and collected interviews, oral histories, and documentary research on those movements' claiming and use of public space since 2000.

- 2009–2010 Research Assistant, Peasants' Rights Project, Hunter College
2009 Intermediate Quechua Instruction, Centro Tinku, Cuzco, Peru
2009 Fellow, 2009 Summer Institute on "Narrating the Body: Oral History, Narrative and Embodied Practice," Oral History Research Office, Columbia University
2008 Exploratory fieldwork on social movements in Bolivia and Ecuador
1993–1994 Research Intern, Research Careers for Minority Scholars, National Physics Education Program Collaboration

TEACHING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

New Courses Introduced (Vanderbilt University)

- 2016 Political Anthropology: States and their Secrets (Anth 3343/6343)
2015 Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Anth 227)
2014 Race as a Cultural and Legal Construct (Anth 333)

Courses Taught (Vanderbilt University)

- 2016 Political Anthropology: States and their Secrets (Anth 3343/6343)
2016, 2018 Biology and Culture of Race (Anth 3133/6133)
2015 History and Culture of the Andes (Anth 8010)
2014, 2015, 2018 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Anth 101, 1101)
2015, 2017 Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Anth 227)
2015, 2017, 2019 History of Anthropological Theory II (Anth 315)
2014 Race as a Cultural and Legal Construct (Anth 333)
2013 Andean Culture and Society (Anth 246)

Courses Taught at Other Institutions

- 2012 Social Movements: Theory, Practice, Ethnography (Hunter College)
2012 Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Hunter College)
2011 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Baruch College)
2006 Working for Change [social movement strategies and tactics] (New College of California)
2005–2006 History of Social Movements (New College of California)

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

Dissertation Advisor:

Kellie Cavagnaro, "*The Voices in the Radio: Gauging the Effects of Global and Local Media Activism on Gendered Political Participation in Andean Indigenous Communities*" (Ph.D. candidate, Anthropology, started 2014, advanced to candidacy January 2019)

Graduate Advisor:

Nathan Frisch (Ph.D. student, Anthropology, started 2016)

Graduate Committee Member:

Keitlyn Alcantara (Ph.D. student, Anthropology)

Emma Banks (Ph.D. student, Anthropology)

Chelsey Dyer (Ph.D. student, Anthropology)

Phyllis Johnson (Ph.D. student, Anthropology)

Gloria Perez (Ph.D. student, Anthropology)

Bradley Wright (Ph.D. student, History)

Tara Kingsley (M.A., Latin American Studies)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

Principal Advisor for Honors Thesis:

Anna Gardner, "Multicultural Nationalism: The Depoliticized Construction of Mapuche People in Chilean National Imaginings." (B.A., 2018)

Megan Patton, "The Origin and Nature of Violence in Guatemala Twenty Years After the Peace Accords." (B.A., 2017)

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

2018–present Chair, Speakers Committee

2016 Graduate Admissions Committee

2015–2016 Biological Anthropologist Search Committee, Department of Anthropology

2014, 2016 Presented professionalization workshops for graduate students

2015–2017 Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Anthropology

2013–2017 Library Liaison, Department of Anthropology.

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

2018 Host teacher for the Center for Teaching's "Open Classroom" and participant in a panel discussion on "Teaching Inclusively."

2017 Advisor, Technology-Mediated Civil and Consequential Discourse TIPs proposal

2016 Panelist, "Conversations on Digital Pedagogy: Wikipedia in the Classroom," Center for Teaching

2016 Respondent, "On Care for Our Common Home: Philosophical, Practical and Theological Perspectives on Pope Francis' Eco-Encyclical" symposium at Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

2015-2016 Co-organizer of "Seeking New Metaphors: Mobilizing Culture to Confront Environmental Crises," a speaker and film series sponsored by the EOS Project

2015 Selection Committee, McGill Awards, McGill Project

2015 Talk on "Beyond Violence and Nonviolence: The Role of Unarmed Militancy in Successful Mass Protests," at the McGill Project.

2015 Guest speaker in LAS 201 with Prof. Helena Simonett on "Social Movements in Bolivia"

2014 Selection Committee, Provost's Graduate Fellowships

2014 Discussant, Vanderbilt History Seminar

2014 Guest speaker in HOD 2410 with Prof. Todd Lawrence on "Indigenous Rights in the United Nations and the Inter-American System"

2013 Judge, Latin American Images Photo Competition, Center for Latin American Studies

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Peer reviewer for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Critique of Anthropology*, *American Ethnologist*, *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, *Journal of Latin American Geography*

2017 Panelist, "Anthropology Matters: Fighting essentialist ideas about poverty, race, and intelligence in the Trump Era," AAA Annual Meeting.

2015 Writer for *Allegra Lab: Anthropology, Law, Art & World*, a legal anthropology blog

2014 Panelist, "Minority Practitioners Produce Anthropology," Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology, AAA Annual Meeting.

2009–2012 Findings column collective, *Anthropology Now*

1997–1998 Production Manager, *Chicago Policy Review*

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

2019 "New Maps for an Inclusive Wikipedia: Plotting Strategies to Counter Systemic Bias," featured speaker, Wikipedia Day NYC

2017–2018 Expert witness for *Mamani et al. v. Sánchez de Lozada et al.* human rights case in United States Federal Court

2017 Press briefing work on the TIPNIS conflict to multiple media outlets, including *The Guardian*, Slovenian television

2016 Panelist, "Politics and Possibilities: Reinventing America?," Thinking Outside the Lunch Box series, organized by Vanderbilt University Department of Philosophy at Nashville Public Library.

2016 Organizer and Lead Presenter, "Activismos densos y ágiles: Organización y Ética en los Movimientos Bolivianos de Base." Presentation and community discussion at Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia, Cochabamba.

Provided expert background information to *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, Deutsche Welle, Victoria and Albert Museum.

Mentor, Grace Paley Organizing Fellowship, 2012–2013

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association

Latin American Studies Association

American Association of Geographers

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology