

Ilana Miriam Gershon

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Published articles available here: <https://indiana.academia.edu/IlanaGershon>

2023- Professor of Anthropology, Rice University

2018- Ruth N. Halls Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington
Adjunct Faculty, American Studies Program; School of Informatics, Computing and
Engineering

2018-2022 Visiting Professor of Anthropology at University of Helsinki

Education

2001 Ph.D. University of Chicago, Cultural Anthropology

1994 M.Phil. Cambridge University, Social Anthropology

1993 B. A. with honors, Stanford University, History & Philosophy of the Social Sciences

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

Honors

2021 *Reflective Conversation: Revisiting and Revitalizing Ethnographies of Legislatures.*

Edited by Neil Kaplan-Kelly. *PoLAR* digital conversation of my 2011 *PoLAR* article,
“Studying Cultural Pluralism in Courts versus Legislatures.”

External Research Awards

2021 Wenner Gren Foundation Postdoctoral Research Grant

2019 General Anthropology Division’s New Directions Individual Award

2015-16 Notre Dame’s Institute for Advanced Study fellow

2015-17 NSF Eager Grant, co-PI with Raquel Hill (Computer Science, IU) -\$289,310

2013-14 Stanford’s Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences fellow

2010 Mellon Sawyer Seminar, co-organizer with Tom Gieryn, Rebecca Lave, Eden
Medina, Jutta Schickore, and Kalpana Shankar

2008-09 NZ Society Fellow in New Zealand Studies, Centre for New Zealand Studies,
Birkbeck, University of London

Blogs, Podcasts, Reading Groups

Convener: CaMP virtual reading group is a monthly discussion with authors of recently published books in linguistic and media anthropology. Participants visit from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Israel, Mexico, Russia, and the United States, over 200 members total.

Convener -APLA virtual reading group is a monthly discussion with authors of recently published books in political and legal anthropology. Organized for Association of Political and Legal Anthropology

Communication, Media, Performance Anthropology Blog:
co-founder and editor, 2016-
www.campanthropology.org

Academic Hiring Rituals: the International Version – APLA podcast on how hiring is organized in different countries
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/academic-hiring-rituals/id1634497430>

List of Publications

Collections of Ethnographic Fiction
Reflections on Academic Practices
Research on Indigenous Politicians
Research on Neoliberalism, Hiring, and Workplaces
Research on New Media
Research on the Pandemic Workplace
Research on Samoan Migrants
Theoretical Overviews

Collections of Ethnographic Fiction

In press *Living with Monsters*. Co-edited with Yasmine Musharabash. Punctum Press.

2018 *Living with Animals: Bonds across Species*. Co-edited with Natalie Porter. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

2015 *A World of Work: Imagined Manuals for Real Jobs*. Edited volume. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Honorable Mention, Society of Anthropology of Work book prize.

Reflections on Academic Practices

2022 “The Worst of Anthro Job Ads for 2021.” Co-authored with Dannah Dennis, Dada Docot, and Danielle Gendron. *American Anthropologist* 124 (4): 900-905.

2021 “Planning Your Research.” Co-authored with Deborah Jones. *Research Methods in Linguistic Anthropology*. Edited by Sonya Pritzker and Sabina Perrino. London: Bloomsbury: 73-96.

Online Posts and Short Articles

- 2021 “Hello to Tristes Tropes.” with Dafna Rachok. *Anthropology News* <https://www.anthropology-news.org/articles/hello-to-tristes-tropes/>
- 2019 “Being an Ethnographer about the Tenure Process.” *Anthropology News* <http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2019/11/12/being-an-ethnographer-about-the-tenure-process/>
- 2018 “Pyramid Scheme.” *Allegra* <http://allegralaboratory.net/pyramid-scheme-hautalk/>
- 2018 “Should I Stay or Should I Go?” *Cultural Anthropology* <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1317-should-i-stay-or-should-i-go>
- 2017 “Studying Humanities Teaches You How to Get a Job” co-authored with Noah Berlatsky. *Pacific Standard*. <https://psmag.com/education/studying-humanities-teaches-you-how-to-get-a-job>
- 2022 “Mentoring Graduate Students with ADHD.” *Anthropology News* March 7th, 2022.
- 2021 Ask a Journal Author column, *Anthropology News*
- 2019 Ask an Editor column, *Anthropology News*
- 2012 “Publishing in an Internet World.” Co-authored with Paul Manning. *Anthropology News*. March 2012.

Research on Neoliberalism, Hiring and Workplaces

Book:

2017 *Down and Out in the New Economy: How People Find (or Don't Find) Work Today*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Reviewed in: *American Ethnologist*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *ILR Review*, *Times Higher Education*.

Special Issues:

2022 “Genre Work in the New Economy” (co-edited with Michael Prentice) *Journal of Cultural Economy* 6.

2019 “Instruction and Improvisation under Neoliberalism” (co-edited with Chaise LaDousa). Special issue of *Culture, Theory and Critique* in honor of Bonnie Urciuoli, 60(1).

2011 “The Ethics of Disconnection in a Neoliberal Age” (co-edited with Allison Alexy) special issue of *Anthropological Quarterly* 84(4).

Articles:

Under Review “Hiring: A Neoliberal Ritual.” *The Handbook of Unemployment*. Edited by Ofer Sharone.

2022 “Genres are the drive belts of the job market.” *Journal of Cultural Economy* 6.

2022 “New Media and Labor.” Co-authored with Judit Kroo. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology*.

2021 “Genres in the New Economies of Language.” Co-authored with Michael Prentice. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 267-268: 117-124.

2021 “You Have a Hole in Your Belly and a Phone in Your Hand.” Co-authored with Amy Gonzales. *New Media and Society*, special issue: Storing and Sharing, edited by Heather Horst, Larissa Hjorth, and Jolynna Sinanan. 23(4): 853-871.

2021 “Digital Economy and Labor”. Co-authored with Iris Bull. *Digital Anthropology*. Second edition. Edited by Haidy Geismar and Hannah Knox. London: Routledge.

2021 “Click for Work: The Social Role of Work in Online Work Distribution Platforms.” Co-authored with Melissa Cefkin. *Ephemera* 20(4):

<http://www.ephemerajournal.org/contribution/click-work-rethinking-work-through-online-work-distribution-platforms>

Reprinted: *Work, Society and Self*. Edited by Chris Hann. New York: Berghahn Books.

2019 “Undercover Boss’s Travels: Comparing the US and UK Reality Shows.” *Visual Anthropology Review* 35(2): 176-186.

2019 “A Business of One or Nurturing the Craft: Who are You?” co-authored with Mark Deuze. In *Making Media: Production, Practices, and Professions*. Amsterdam University Press.

2019 “Hailing the U.S. Job-Seeker: Origins and Neoliberal Uses of Job Applications.” *Culture, Theory, and Critique* 60(1): 84-97.

2018 “Undercover Boss Blues.” *Anthropology Today* 34 (5): 20-21.

2018 “Employing the CEO of Me, Inc.: U.S. Corporate Hiring in a Neoliberal Age” *American Ethnologist* 45(2): 173-185.

2016 “‘I’m Not a Businessman, I’m a Business, Man’: Typing the Neoliberal Self into a Branded Existence.” *HAU* 6 (3): 223-246.

2014 “Selling Your Self in the United States.” Invited for special issue “Corporate Personhood”, guest editors Pete Benson and Stuart Kirsch. *PoLAR* 37(2): 281-295.

2011 “Neoliberal Agency” *Current Anthropology* 52(4): 537-555.

Online Posts and Short Articles

2022 “Imam Wanted.” Co-authored with Ahmed Elbasyouney. *American Religion*.
<https://www.american-religion.org/fields-essays/imam-wanted>

2022 “The Supreme Court is a Workplace.” Co-authored with Anna Eisenstein. *Exertions: Society of the Anthropology of Work Blog*.
<https://saw.americananthro.org/pub/5oc9j0gw/release/2?readingCollection=1da60164>

2018 “Just Like a Woman: Employment under Neoliberal Conditions.” With Amy Cohen. *OECD* <https://www.oecd-forum.org/users/90271-ilana-gershon-and-amy-cohen/posts/31345-just-like-a-woman-employment-under-neoliberal-conditions>

2017 “The Quitting Economy.” *AEON*
<https://aeon.co/essays/how-work-changed-to-make-us-all-passionate-quitters>

2017 “‘A Friend of a Friend’ is No Longer the Best Way to Find a Job.” *Harvard Business Review* <https://hbr.org/2017/06/a-friend-of-a-friend-is-no-longer-the-best-way-to-find-a-job>

2017 “Job Search 101: Debunking 5 Popular Myths that No Longer Apply.” *Parade Magazine*. <https://parade.com/566775/parade/job-search-101-debunking-5-popular-myths-that-no-longer-apply/>

2017 “An Anthropologist’s Peek behind the Scene of Hiring.” *Phase2careers* blog,
<http://www.phase2careers.org/blog/2017/4/An-Anthropologist-s-Peek-into-Behind-the-Scene-of-Hiring>

2014 “Don’t Post So Close to Me.” *The Hooded Utilitarian: A Pundit in Every Panopticon*.
<http://www.hoodedutilitarian.com/2014/01/dont-post-so-close-to-me/>

2014 “A Rare Opportunity Never Knocks.” *Anthropology News*. May 2014.

Research on Indigenous Politicians and Legislatures

Articles:

2012 “Legislative Authenticity and the Politics of Recognition: How to be a Maori Member of Parliament” for *Anthropology of Government*. Edited by Kendra Coulter and William Schumann. New York: Palgrave. Pp. 111-135.

2011 “Studying Cultural Pluralism in Courts versus Legislatures” *Polar: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 34(1): 155-174.

2008 “Being Explicit about Culture: Māori, Neoliberalism and the New Zealand Parliament” *American Anthropologist* 110 (4): 422-431.

Research on New Media with a focus on Mediated Breakups

Book:

2010 *The Break-Up 2.0: Disconnecting Over New Media*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Reviewed in: *London Review of Books*, *Bitch Magazine*, *The Journal of Popular Culture*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, *Language in Society*, *The Information Society*, *Library Journal*, *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*.

Special Issues:

2013 “The Newness of New Media” (co-edited with Joshua Bell). Special issue of *Culture, Theory and Critique* 54(3).

2010 “Media Ideologies” *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, 20(2).

Articles

In press. “The Animated Turn: On Literature and Capital.” Co-authored with John McGlothlin. *Semiotic Review*.

1) 2021 “Media as Channel.” Co-authored with Owen Kohl. Invited for *The International Encyclopedia of Linguistic Anthropology*.

2020 “The Breakup 2.1: The Ten Year Update.” *Information Society* 36(5): 279-289 (not peer reviewed)

2018 “Every Click You Make, I’ll Be Watching You: Facebook Stalking and Neoliberal Information.” In *A Networked Self: Birth, Life and Death*. Edited by Zizi Papacharissi. New York: Routledge: 104-120.

2018 “Calling the Irrational Unmanageable Neoliberal Self.” In *A Networked Self and Love*. Edited by Zizi Papacharissi. New York: Routledge, pp. 12-31.

2017 "Keepin' It Real: Facebook's Honesty Box and Ethnic Verbal Genres." " In *Race and Ethnicity in the Virtual World: How the Digital Age is Changing Our Impressions and Expressions*. edited by Anthony Bak Buccitelli. New York: Praeger, pp. 55-68.

2017 "Language and the Newness of Media." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 46: 15-31.

2015 "What We Talk about When We Talk about Animation." *Social Media and Society* 1(1). (not peer reviewed)

2014 "Language and Media/Technology." Co-authored with Paul Manning. In *The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology*. Edited by Jack Sidnell, Paul Kockelman and Nick Enfield. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 559-576.

2014 "Publish and Be Damned: The Neoliberal Risks of the Public Sphere." Invited for special issue, "Media Ethnography and The Public Sphere" guest editors Debra Spitulnik Vidali and Thomas Tufte. *Ethnography* 15 (1): 70-87.

2013 "Animating Interaction." Co-written with Paul Manning. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 3(3): 107-137.

2013 "Every Time We Type Good-Bye: Heartbreak American Style." *Anthropology Now* 5(1): 93-101.

Reprinted 2016. In *Reflecting on America: Anthropological Views of U.S. Culture*, edited by Clare Boulanger. New York: Routledge.

2012 "And Then She Texted: Entextualization and the End of Relationships." In *A Cultural Approach to Interpersonal Communication: Essential Readings*. Edited by Leila Monaghan Jane E. Goodman, and Jennifer Meta Robinson. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. Pp. 110-119.

2011 "Documentary Studies and Linguistic Anthropology" co-authored with Joshua Malitsky. *Culture, Theory and Critique* 52(1): 45-63.

2011 "Un-Friend My Heart: Facebook, Promiscuity, and Heartbreak in a Neoliberal Age" *Anthropological Quarterly* 84(4): 867-896.

2011 "On the Internet, Everyone Knows You're a Dog." Review essay, *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 53(4): 997-1007.

2010 "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: Media Ideologies and Media Switching" *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 20(2): 389-405.

2010 "Actor-Network Theory and Documentary Studies" co-authored with Joshua Malitsky *Studies in Documentary Film*. 4(1): 65-78.

2008 “Email My Heart: Remediation and Romantic Break-Ups” *Anthropology Today* 24(6): 13-15.

Online and Short Articles

2013 “Why your heart is broken twice in the age of being dumped on Facebook?” *The Guardian* November 9, 2013.

2008 “Don’t Push Send: Breaking Up via New Media” *Anthropology News* 49 (9): 58.

Research on the Pandemic Workplace

Book

Under review *The Pandemic Workplace*. book manuscript.

Articles

2022 “Plague Jobs: US Schismogenetic Approaches to Social Contracts.” *Anthropological Notebooks*, special issue in honor of David Graeber. Edited by Žiga Vodovnik & Andrej Grubacic.

2021 “Trump’s Appeal: Choosing the Autocrat Over the Committee.” *General Anthropology* 28(2): 3-5.

Online and Short Articles

2021 “Zoom is the least of our problems.” *In Media Res*.

<http://mediacommons.org/imr/content/zoom-least-our-problems>

2021 “Trump Gives Fascism a Bad Name.” *Cultural Anthropology*

<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/trump-gives-fascism-a-bad-name>

Research on Samoan Migrants

Book

2012 *No Family is an Island: Cultural Expertise among Samoans in Diaspora*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Reviewed in: *Journal of Pacific History*, *Oceania*, *Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *American Ethnologist*, *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*, *Journal of Polynesian Society*.

Special Issues:

2008 *Culture in the Spaces of No-Culture*, Guest Editor (co-edited with Janelle Taylor) for In Focus section of *American Anthropologist* 110(4).

2006 “Reflexivity in Others’ Contexts” special issue of *Ethnos* 71(4).

2000 “The Symbolic Capital of Ignorance” special issue of *Social Analysis* 44(2).

Articles:

2015 “When a State See Like a Family: Cultural Pluralism and the Family Group Conference in New Zealand.” Co-authored with Amy Cohen. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 38(1): 9-29.

2009 “Living Theory” *Critique of Anthropology* 29: 397-422.

2007 “Indigeneity for Life! Bro`town and its Stereotypes.” *FLOWTV* 5(12).
<http://flowtv.org/?p=377> [not peer reviewed]

2007 “Outraged Indigenes and Nostalgic Migrants: Māori and Samoan Educating Performances in an Aotearoa New Zealand Cultural Festival” with Solonaima Collins. *Teachers College Record* 109 (7): 1797-1820.

Reprinted in: *Alternative Anthropological Perspectives on Education*. Edited by Herve Varenne. Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2008.

2007 “Viewing Diaspora From the Pacific: What Pacific Ethnographies Offer Pacific Diaspora Studies” *The Contemporary Pacific* 19(2): 474-502.

2007 “Compelling Culture: The Rhetoric of Assimilation among Samoan Migrants in the United States.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 30 (5): 787-816.

2006 “When Culture Is Not A System: Why Samoan Cultural Brokers Can Not Do Their Job” *Ethnos* 71(4): 533-558.

2006 “Converting Meanings and the Conversion of Meaning in Samoan Moral Economies” *The Limits of Meaning*. Edited by Matt Tomlinson and Matthew Engelke. Berghahn Press. Pp. 147-164.

2001 “Becoming Minor Minorities in the United States and New Zealand: Samoan Migrant Experiences with Government Funding,” in *Selected Papers on Refugees and Immigrants* (9), edited by MaryCarol Hopkins and Nancy Wellmeier. American Anthropological Association.

2001 “Going Nuclear: New Zealand Bureacratic Fantasies of Samoan Extended Families” in *New Directions in Anthropological Kinship*, edited by Linda Stone. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. Pp. 303-321.

2000 “How to Know When Not to Know: Strategic Ignorance When Eliciting for Samoan Migrant Exchanges.” *Social Analysis* 44(2): 84-105.

Online Articles

2013 “The Samoan Roots of the Manti Te’o Hoax” *The Atlantic* January 24, 2013.

Theoretical Overviews

Articles

Special Issues:

2020 “Festschrift for Carol Greenhouse” (co-edited with Jennifer Curtis). *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review Online* <https://polarjournal.org/2020/07/07/festschrift-for-carol-greenhouse/>

Articles:

Under review “Glissant and the Politics of Acknowledgment.” *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy*.

2020: “Seeing like an Author: Early Bakhtin for Anthropologists.” *Suomen Antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society*, 45(1), 49-61.

2019 “Porous Social Orders.” *American Ethnologist* 46(4): 404-416.

2011 “Neoliberal Agency” *Current Anthropology* 52(4): 537-555.

2010 “Bruno Latour” for *Agamben to Zizek: Contemporary Critical Theorists*. Edited by Jon Simons. Edinburgh University Press, pp. 161-176.

2005 “Seeing Like A System: Luhmann for anthropologists” *Anthropological Theory* 5(2): 99-116.

Translated into Italian. published in Lares. Rivista quadrimestrale di studi demo-etno-antropologici. December 2007.