

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**Sophie Bjork-James**

Vanderbilt University  
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**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Race and racism, evangelicalism, reproductive politics, white nationalism, hate crimes

**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) *The Divine Institution: The Racial Politics of White Evangelicalism's Theology of the Family*

**Edited Volumes**

(Under contract) *Beyond Populism: Angry Politics and the Twilight of Neoliberalism*, edited with Jeff Maskovsky, West Virginia University Press.

**Peer Reviewed Publications**

2019, "Gender and Religion." In *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*. Ed. John Jackson. New York: Oxford University Press,

<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/abstract/document/obo-9780199766567/obo-9780199766567-0202.xml?rskey=hq39HH&result=3&q=bjork-james#firstMatch>.

- 2018 "Training the Porous Body: Evangelicals and the Ex-Gay Movement," *American Anthropologist*, 120 (4).
- 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

### **Other Publications**

- "Many hate crimes never make it into the FBI's database," *The Conversation*, January 4, 2019.
- "The 'Pro-Family' Movement Has Little to Say About Family Separation," *Religion Dispatches*, July 12, 2018.
- "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**

2018-2019 Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship, Vanderbilt

2018-2019 Mellon Digital Humanities Faculty Fellow, Vanderbilt  
 2018 Vanderbilt Research Scholar Grant, Summer Salary  
 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 “Where do we go from here? Racism, Populism, Fascism and the Future of the Hard Right,” Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, City University of New York  
 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(Iy) 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

- 2019 “Collaborations for Teaching Digital Literacies,” panel at Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University
- 2018 “LGBT Bias, Evangelicalism, and the limits of hate as an analytic tool,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
- 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**

- 2018 “Studying the Right,” Warren Center American Studies Seminar, Vanderbilt University
- 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:
- Culture and Climate Change
  - Race in the Americas
  - Race and the Media
  - The Politics of Reproductive Health
  - Sociocultural Research Methods
  - Public Scholarship
  - Community Health Research
  - Gender and Cultural Politics
  - 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, University of Nebraska Press, Rowman & Littlefield, Journal of Homosexuality, Journal for the Cognitive Study of Religion, Ethnos*
- 2018-2019 Research Scholars Grant Reviewer Committee, Vanderbilt University
- 2019 First-Year Undergraduate Writing Competition Reviewer Committee, Vanderbilt University
- 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**

- 2018 Interviewed for stories in the *New York Times, The Hill, Refinery29, and ABC News*
- 2017 Interviewed for stories in the *Christian Science Monitor, BBC Mundo (Spanish), and NBC News* online
- 2017 Radio interviews with *All Things Considered, NPR, Busan Radio (Korea), and KPFK's Middle East In Focus (Los Angeles)*
- 2017 Television interviews with *NBC Nightly News* and the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Planet America*
- 2016 Interviewed for stories in the *Associated Press, ABC News, PBS, Washington Post, USA Today*
- 2016 Radio interviews with *All Things Considered, NPR, BBC5 and BBC4*
- 2015 Television interviews with *Inside Edition* and MediaLine Interview (Nashville call-in TV news show with 500,000 viewership)
- 2015 Radio interview with *NPR-Colorado Springs*