

Sophie 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
- 2003-2004 M.Ed. Sociology and Equity Studies in Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto
- 1997-2000 B.A., Race, Class, and Environmental Politics, Fairhaven College, Western Washington University

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2021- Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University,
- 2017-2021 Assistant Professor of the Practice in Anthropology, Vanderbilt University,
- 2014-2016 Postdoctoral Fellow, Anthropology Department, Vanderbilt University
- 2011 Lecturer, Women's and Ethnic Studies Dept., University of Colorado- Colorado Springs
- 2009-2012 Lecturer, Online BA Program, CUNY
- 2006-2009 Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Baruch College, CUNY

REFEREED BOOK

- 2021 *The Divine Institution: White Evangelicalism's Politics of the Family*. Rutgers University Press.

REFEREED EDITED BOOK

- 2020 *Beyond Populism: Angry Politics and the Twilight of Neoliberalism*, edited with Jeff Maskovsky, West Virginia University Press.

ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

- (Published online 2020) "Lifeboat Theology: White evangelicalism, apocalyptic chronotopes, and environmental politics" *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*.
- 2020 "Racializing misogyny: Sexuality and gender in the new online white nationalism," *Feminist Anthropology* 1.2: 176-183.
- 2020 "Christian nationalism and LGBTQ Structural Violence in the United States," *Journal of Religion and Violence*, 7.3: 278-302.
- 2020 "White Sexual Politics: The Patriarchal Family in White Nationalism and the Religious Right," *Transforming Anthropology*, 28.1: 58-73.
- 2020 "Whither Whiteness and Religion: Implications for theology and the study of religion," co-authored with Rachel Schneider, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 88.1: 175–199.
- 2018 "Training the Porous Body: Evangelicals and the Ex-Gay Movement," *American Anthropologist*, 120.4: 647-658.

- 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.

CHAPTERS IN REFEREED BOOKS

- 2021, “Reporting on organized racism/white supremacy movements: challenges of amplification, legitimization and mainstreaming for political journalism,” with Tina Askanius, *Routledge Companion to Political Journalism*.
- 2020 “Americanism, Trump, and Uniting the White Right,” in *Beyond Populism: Angry Politics and the Twilight of Neoliberalism*, eds. Jeff Maskovsky and Sophie Bjork-James, West Virginia University Press, 42-60.
- 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*, eds. Donna King And Carrie Lee Smith. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 98-107.
- 2008* “Cybersupremacy: The new face and form of white supremacist activism,” in *Tactics in Hard Times: Practices and Spaces of New Media*, ed. Megan Boler. 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, 21-29.
- * Published under the name R. Sophie Statzel

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2020 Invited Review of “This is Our Message: Women’s Leadership in the New Christian Right. By Emily S. Johnson and The Preacher’s Wife: The Precarious Power of Evangelical Women Celebrities. By Kate Bowler,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Volume 88, Issue 2, Pages 594–599.
- 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.

WORKING PAPERS

Under review

“Authoritarianism and the Anthropocene: Far-right extremism, anti-feminism, and anti-environmentalism,” Special Issue for *Journal of Australian Feminist Studies*.

In preparation

“Rotting from the inside out?: The fracturing of an imperial order on the White right,” *American Quarterly*.

“Anti-Racism and Religion,” to be submitted to the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 “The FBI’s 2020 Hate Crime Report Shows 12-Year High, But Spotlights Underreporting,” *Rant Media*.

- 2021 “Rick Santorum breezes past the genocidal foundation of white Christian Nationalism,” *Religion Dispatches*.
- 2021 “QAnon hasn’t gone away – it’s alive and kicking in states across the country,” *The Conversation*.
- 2020 “The biggest threats to American democracy? White nationalists and politicians who embrace them,” *LA Times*.
- 2020 “Nearly two centuries ago, a QAnon-like conspiracy theory propelled candidates to Congress,” *The Conversation*.
- 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>.
- 2019 “Many hate crimes never make it into the FBI’s database,” *The Conversation*.
- 2018 “The ‘Pro-Family’ Movement Has Little to Say About Family Separation,” *Religion Dispatches*.
- 2017 “What the latest FBI data do and do not tell us about hate crimes in the US, *The Conversation*.
- 2017 “When White Nationalism Became Popular,” *Anthropology News*, co-written with Jeff Maskovsky.

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2019-2021 Post-PhD Fellowship, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
Project: *When the Nazis move next door: Forty years of fighting organized racism in the Pacific Northwest*
- 2020 Individual Research Grant, American Academy of Religion
Project: *Religion and Opposition to Organized Racism in the Northwestern United States*
- 2019 Coolidge Fellow, Crosscurrents Research Colloquium, Auburn Seminary, New York
Project: *Waiting: The Contested Meaning of Abortion Waiting Periods*
- 2017-2018 Workshop Grant, National Science Foundation
Project: *Community Change in Global Perspective*
- 2017- 2018 Conference Support Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
Project: *Community Change in Global Perspective*
- 2015-2017 Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Project: *In Service To The Father: The Ethics Of Authority And Submission In US Evangelicalism*
- 2010 Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
Project: *The Political Ethics of Intimacy in Contemporary American Evangelicalism*

INTERNAL GRANTS RECEIVED

- 2020-2021 Vanderbilt Strong Grant, Vanderbilt University
Project: *When the Nazis move next door: Twenty years of fighting organized racism in the Pacific Northwest*
- 2018 Research Scholar Grant, Vanderbilt University
Project: *Confronting the Racist Right*
- 2017-2018 Small Grant, LGBT Policy Lab, Vanderbilt University
Project: *The “Nashville Statement” and Changing Evangelical Perspectives on LGBT Policy*

- 2017-2018 Macro-Grant, Institute for Digital Learning, Vanderbilt University
 2015-2016 EOS Environmental Fellow, Vanderbilt University
 Project: *Seeking New Metaphors: Mobilizing Culture to Confront Environmental Crises*
 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
 Project: *The Political Ethics of Intimacy in Contemporary American Evangelicalism*
 2011-2012 Dissertation Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center
 Project: *The Political Ethics of Intimacy in Contemporary American Evangelicalism*
 2010 Doctoral Research Grant, CUNY
 Project: *The Political Ethics of Intimacy in Contemporary American Evangelicalism*
 2007-2009 Graduate Teaching Fellowship, CUNY
 2008 Doctoral Research Grant, CUNY

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021-present Fellow, Center for the Analysis of the Radical Right
 2020-present Fellow, Center for Research on Male Supremacism
 2018-2019 Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship, Vanderbilt University; \$2,000 for teaching stipend
 2018-2019 Mellon Digital Humanities Faculty Fellow, Vanderbilt University: \$10,000 research
 stipend plus \$10,000 for a course buy-out

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 "Author meets critic, Sophie Bjork James' *The Divine Institution*," American Academy of
 Religion Annual Meeting.
 2021 "Author meets critic, Sophie Bjork James' *The Divine Institution*," Society for the
 Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting.
 2021 "Roundtable on Religion and Anti-Racism," Invited Panel, Society for the Anthropology of
 Religion.
 2021 "Biden's First Hundred Days," Scholar's Strategy Network, Tennessee (virtual)
 2021 "Keynote, Race and Family Values in the US.," Famille sans frontières/Family Without
 Borders, MSH Val de Loire and Université de Tours (online)
 2021 "Religion and White Supremacy," The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
 at the University of Pennsylvania (online).
 2021 "White Sexual Politics," Davidson College (online), 2020.
 2020 "Be like Sweden!: The US Far-Right and the Swedish Response," REDEM Seminar –
 Extremist responses to Covid19 - Mobilizations in and around Sweden, Rethinking
 Democracy, Malmö University and The Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm
 University (Online).
 2020 "White Nationalism in the Era of Angry Politics," Age of Rages Conference, Rajaratnam
 School of International Studies, Singapore (postponed due to COVID-19)
 2019 "The Alt-Right in US History," Fairhaven College, Bellingham, Washington.
 2019 "Racialized homophobia: Sexuality and gender in the online white nationalist movement,"
 Critical Understanding of Racialization in the Era of Global Populism, Aalborg University,
 Copenhagen.

- 2019 “Race, Gender, and Evangelical Theology,” Fordham University, New York.
- 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.
- 2015 International Women’s Day Discussion, Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville.
- 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, New York, NY.
- 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, New York, NY.

SLECTED CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 “White Genocide’: Digital Cultures and the shape of White Nationalist Fear,” The Conference on Right-Wing Studies/Conference for Research on Male Supremacism, Berkeley.
- 2019 “White Genocide’: Digital Cultures, Ethnography, and the shape of White Nationalist Fear,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2019 “White Sexual Politics: The Gendered Politics of White Nationalism,” NORA Conference on Border Regimes, Territorial Discourses, and Feminist Politics, the University of Iceland, Reykjavik.
- 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,” presented at:
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.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED

- 2019 “Thirty Years after Contested Lives: Abortion Politics on the World Stage,” American Anthropological Association.
- 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.

CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 “White Sexual Politics,” Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, Vanderbilt University.
- 2021 “Young Evangelicals and the Future of the Religious Right,” Human and Organizational Development Colloquium, Vanderbilt University.
- 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.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Peer 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*, *Cultural Studies*, *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, *Journal of Rural Studies*, *Transforming Anthropology*, *Religions*, *American Anthropologist*, *Open Anthropological Research*, *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, *Courtland Press*, *Anthropology Today*, *Men and Masculinities*

- 2018, 2021 Served as an expert witness in a criminal trial in Massachusetts regarding a potential white Supremacist.
- 2020, 2021 Funding reviewer for Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers (Germany)
- 2020 Funding reviewer for South Africa’s National Research Foundation
- 2012-2013 New York Academy of Sciences Anthropology Division Board member.
- 2010-2012 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.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Public interviews

- Sept. 2021 Video interview with Voice of America, Russia, on the FBI hate crimes report
- Sept. 2021 Radio/video Interview with Mary Jacobsen for “The Morning Show,” Boston region community radio program, on white nationalism
- Sept. 2021 Interview with Jean Guerro, *LA Times*, on QAnon conspiracies
- Sept. 2021 Radio/video interview with Tom Hartmann, Sirius Radio (estimate audience seven million), on my book *the Divine Institution*
- Sept. 2021 Radio interview with Yeah Nah Pasaran!, Australian Community Radio, on evangelical politics
- March 2021 Interview with Kari Paul, *The Guardian* (UK), on Covid skepticism on social media
- Jan. 2021 Television interview with Riori Johnston, *Openline News Channel 5*, on white nationalism in politics
- Jan. 2021 Interview with José Díaz Briseño, *Reforma* (Mexico), on white nationalism
- Jan. 2021 Interview with Holly Meyer, *The Tennessean*, on white nationalism in Tennessee
- Jan. 2021 Interview with Tyler Adkisson, *Newsy*, on social media policy
- Dec. 2020 Radio interview with Bradley Onishi, *Straight White American Jesus podcast*, on my book *The Divine Institution*
- Nov. 2020 Interview with Elliott Wallace, *CGNT* (China), on white nationalism and the election
- Oct. 2020 Interview with Amanda Seitz, *Associated Press*, on social media and conspiracy theories about children

Oct. 2020 Television interview with Ayan Sheikh, *al-Arabiya* (Arabic language), on the US election and hate movements

Oct. 2020 Interview, *Associated Press*, on conspiracy theories and social media

Oct. 2020 Interview with Amanda Seitz and Barbara Ortutay, *Associated Press*, on social media and conspiracy theories

Sept. 2020 Interview with Jacob Jarvis, *Newsweek*, on conspiracy theories

August 2020 Video interview with Tyler Adkisson, *Nesny*, on conspiracy theories

June 2020 Interview with Barbara Ortutay, *Associated Press*βπ, on social media and hate speech

August 2019 Interview with Will Cathcart, *Foreign Policy*, on white nationalism and national security

March 2019 Television interview with Anwar Ashraf, *Deutsche Welle* (Germany), on white nationalism

March 2019 Interview with Paul Handley, *The Times of Israel*, on global white nationalism

Nov. 2018 Interview with Kevin Roose, *The New York Times*, on far-right movements online

August 2018 Interview with Mike Lillis, *The Hill*, on white nationalism

June 2018 Interview with Samuel Argyle, *The Outline*, on white nationalism

April 2018 Interview with Stephanie Russell-Kraft, *The New Republic*, on male supremacist movements

March 2018 Interview with Eleanor Beevor, *Albawaba (Middle East)*, on global far-right movements

January 2018 Interview with Andrea González-Ramírez, *Refinery29*, on racial comments in politics

Dec. 2017 Interview with *BBC Mundo (Spanish)*, on white nationalist social movements

Dec. 2017 Interview with Patrik Jonsson, *The Christian Science Monitor*, on journalistic coverage of white nationalism

Dec. 2017 Radio interview for *Busan Radio* (Korea), on hate crimes data

Dec. 2017 Radio interview with KPFK's *Middle East In Focus* (Los Angeles), on hate crimes data

Oct. 2017 Interview with John Schuppe, *NBC News*, on white nationalism

August 2017 Interview with Betsy Russell, *Idaho State Journal*, on white nationalism

August 2017 Interview with Bob Brigham, *Raw Story*, on white nationalism

August 2017 Television interview with John Barron, *Australian Broadcasting Network*, on white nationalism

August 2017 Television interview with Lester Holt, *NBC Nightly News*, on white nationalism

Dec. 2016 Interview with Sara Lazare, *Salon*, on white nationalism and social media

Dec. 2016 Interview with Jay Reeves, *Associated Press*, white nationalism

Dec. 2016 Interview with Jenée Desmond-Harris, *Vox*, on journalistic coverage of white nationalism

Nov. 2016 Radio interview with BBC Radio 4 (domestic UK audience of seven million), on white nationalism

Oct. 2016 Interview with Jessica Guynn, *USA Today*, on social media and hate speech

August 2016 Interview with *The Root*, on white nationalism

August 2016 Interview with *PBS News Hour*, on white supremacist movements

July 2016 Radio interviews with NPR's *All Things Considered*, on white nationalism

July 2015 Television interview with *Inside Edition*, on white nationalism

July 2015 Television interview with *MediaLine* (Nashville call-in TV news show with 500,000 viewership), on white nationalism

May 2015 Radio interview with *NPR-Colorado Springs*, on evangelicalism.

