

K. Eliza Williamson, Ph.D.

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Latin American Studies
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-present Lecturer
Latin American Studies Program and Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2019-2021 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow
Latin American Studies Program
Washington University in St. Louis

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology; Rice University, Houston, Texas; Dissertation title: “Birth in Crisis: Public Policy and the Humanization of Birth in Brazil”; Dissertation advisor: Eugenia Georges
- 2017 Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality; Rice University, Houston, Texas
- 2016 M.A. in Cultural Anthropology; Rice University, Houston, Texas
- 2009 B.A. in Women and Gender Studies (Magna Cum Laude); Honors thesis title: “*Parir es Cosa de Mujeres* [Birth is Women’s Thing]”: A Discourse Analysis of the Humanization of Birth Movement in Argentina”; Honors thesis advisor: Lorraine Bayard de Volo
- 2009 B.A. in Spanish and Portuguese Language and Culture; University of Colorado, Boulder

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscripts

Williamson, K. Eliza. *Birth in Crisis: Humanizing Childbirth in Brazil* (manuscript in progress)

Refereed Journal Articles

Williamson, K. Eliza. 2021. “The iatrogenesis of obstetric racism in Brazil: Beyond the body, beyond the clinic.” *Anthropology & Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13648470.2021.1932416>

Williamson, K. Eliza. 2021. “Interventive Care: Medical (Un)Certainties, Assisted Existence, and Proximal Agency in Brazil.” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 35 (2): 266-284. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/maq.12620>

Williamson, K. Eliza. 2018. “Care in the time of Zika: Notes on the ‘afterlife’ of the epidemic in Salvador (Bahia), Brazil.” *Interface - Comunicação, Saúde, Educação* 22(66): 685-696. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1807-57622017.0856>

Williamson, K. Eliza. "Waiting for Care: 'Good Practices,' Humanized Birth, and Political Subjectivity in Brazil." (Under revision)

Engel, Cíntia, Helena Fietz, and K. Eliza Williamson. "Dis/abled care: Caregivers, debility, and constrained spaces during the Covid-19 pandemic in Brazil." *Space and Culture* special issue: "Dis-abling Spaces and Cultures in Times of Crisis" (Michael Schillmeier, ed.) (In preparation)

Book Chapters

Williamson, K. Eliza. "After the Mosquito: Caring for Children with Congenital Zika Syndrome in Bahia, Brazil." In *Insights on Latin America and the Caribbean: An Ethnographic Reader*. Melanie A. Medeiros and Jennifer R. Guzmán, eds. (Invited contribution, in progress.)

Williamson, K. Eliza, and Etsuko Matsuoka. 2019. "Comparing Birth in Brazil and Japan: Social Hierarchies, Cultural Values, and the Meaning of Place." In *Birth in Eight Cultures: A Crosscultural Investigation*. Pp. 89-128. Robbie Davis-Floyd and Melissa Cheyney, eds. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Book Reviews

Williamson, K. Eliza. 2017. Review of *Plastic Bodies: Sex Hormones and Menstrual Suppression in Brazil*, by Emilia Sanabria. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 31(3). DOI: 10.1111/maq.12364.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Williamson, K. Eliza. "Caring for Disabled Futures after Zika: Technologies of Potentiality in Bahia, Brazil."

Public Scholarship

Williamson, Eliza. "Afterlives of Zika." *Environmental History Now* (Politics of Nature series), Jan. 26, 2021. <https://envhistnow.com/2021/01/26/politics-of-nature-afterlives-of-zika/>

Williamson, Eliza. "Waiting for Care in Bahia, Brazil." *Anthropology News* (invited contribution to the Association for the Anthropology of Policy column), Nov. 19, 2020. DOI: 10.14506/AN.1544. <https://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2020/11/19/good-practices-humanized-birth-and-waiting-for-care-in-brazil/>

Williamson, Eliza. "What Comes After COVID-19." *Somatosphere*, May 10, 2020. <http://somatosphere.net/forumpost/what-comes-after-covid-19/>

Williamson, Eliza. "Against Forgetting: Telling Stories After Zika." *Somatosphere*, Jan. 6, 2020. <http://somatosphere.net/2020/telling-stories-zika.html/>

Williamson, Eliza. 2017. "Whose Responsibility? Reproduction and Care in the Time of Zika." *Anthropology News* 57(5). DOI: 10.1111/j.1556-3502.2016.570508.x.

Williamson, Eliza. 2016. "Humanizing Birth in Bahia, Brazil." *Anthropology News* 57(3): 19-20. DOI: 10.1111/j.1556-3502.2016.570201.x.

Williamson, Eliza, and Mounia El Kotni. 2016. "Childbirth in the Americas: Introduction." *Anthropology News* 57(2) DOI: 10.1111/j.1556-3502.2016.570201.x.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2021 American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Fellowship (nominee)
Rice University nominee
(Ineligible to apply due to employment)
- 2019 Association for the Anthropology of Policy, Graduate Student Best Paper Prize
- 2018 Lodieska Stockbridge Vaughn Fellowship, Departmental nominee; Rice
University
- 2017 Association for Feminist Anthropology Dissertation Award
- 2014 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable
Mention
- 2013 Graduate Student Best Essay Prize; “‘This is a University Degree!’: Precarity,
Anxiety, and Affective Placelessness in Argentina’s Changing Field of Maternity
Care”; Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University
- 2009 Magna Cum Laude; Completion and defense of undergraduate honors thesis;
University of Colorado, Boulder

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: “The Making of Modern
Brazil” (organized by Erika Robb Larkins and Kathryn Sanchez)
- 2018 Visionary Partners’ Dissertation Fellowship; Center for the Study of Women,
Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University; \$7,500
- 2016-2017 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad; \$37,775 (\$22,596
accepted)
- 2015-2016 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant; \$19,075 (\$15,490
accepted)
- 2015 Dissertation Research Improvement Grant; Rice University Social Science
Research Institute; \$5,000
- 2013 Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship; Rice University Center for Civic
Engagement; \$3,000 (\$1,500 accepted)
- 2013 Brazil Initiation Scholarship; Brazilian Studies Association; \$1,500
- 2013 Pre-Dissertation Research Grant; Rice University Social Sciences Research
Institute; \$1,000
- 2011 IIE Fulbright Student Research Fellowship ;\$10,600
- 2007 Jean Dubofsky Scholarship; University of Colorado; \$1,000

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 “Emergent Afterlives: Zika, Covid-19, and Ethnography after the Outbreak.”
Department of Anthropology Lecture Series
Oregon State University; Nov. 6.
- 2020 “Habilitative Care: Disability and Therapeutic Technologies After Zika.” Department of
Anthropology Ethnographic Theory Workshop; Washington University in St. Louis; Mar.
23 (canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 “Caring for Disabled Futures After Zika: Technologies of Potentiality in Bahia,
Brazil.” Latin American Studies Colloquium, Washington University in St. Louis,
St. Louis, Missouri, Oct. 21.
- 2017 “Between Care and Violence: Women and Healthcare Professionals Reflect on
the Ethical in Childbirth.” MUSA Research Group on Gender, Sexuality and
Health at the Institute of Collective Health (ISC), Universidade Federal da Bahia;
Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, Oct. 6.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**Panels Organized**

- 2021 Public Policy and Disability in Brazil: Accessing Rights in a State of ‘Retrocessos’ (Co-organizer with Helena Fietz)
Society for Applied Anthropology and Society for Disability Studies joint conference, Mar. 22-27
Virtual due to Covid-19
- 2018 Intervention: Bodies, Ethics, and Imbrications of Violence and Care (Organizer and Chair)
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Nov. 14-18
San Jose, California
- 2017 “After” Zika: Making Anthropology Matter in Zika Management and Long-Term Response (Co-organizer with Lucia Guerra-Reyes)
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Nov. 28-Dec. 3
Washington, DC
- 2014 Producing Knowledge and Practice in Reproductive Medicine: Transnational Flows of Science, Activism, and Policy (Organizer and Chair)
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Dec. 3-7
Washington, DC
- 2014 Decentering Politics and Shifting Expertise: Reconstructing Reproductive Healthcare Praxis (Organizer and Chair)
Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Dec. 3-7
Washington, DC

Papers Presented (Selected)

- 2021 “Delay, Development, Becoming: (Re)Habilitating Bodies and Imagining the Future for Children with Congenital Zika Syndrome”; Latin American Studies Association Congress; May 26-29
- 2021 “Ascertaining Congenital Zika Syndrome and Securing Support in Bahia, Brazil”; Society for Applied Anthropology and Society for Disability Studies joint conference; Mar. 22-27
- 2019 “Caring for Disabled Futures After Zika: Technologies of Potentiality in Bahia, Brazil”; Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association; Nov. 20-24; Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 2019 “The Color of Care: Black Women and the Humanization of Birth in Bahia, Brazil”; National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference; Nov. 14-17; San Francisco, California
- 2018 “Cuidado intervencionista: Incerteza, intervenção e ‘agenciamento proximal’ no parto cesariana durante a epidemia de Zika”; 31ª Reunião Brasileira de Antropologia – Direitos Humanos e Antropologia em Ação; Dec. 9-12; Brasília, Brazil
- 2018 “Potentializing Bodies: The Social Efficacies of Interventive Care in Post-Zika Brazil”; 117th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association
Nov. 14-18; San José, California
- 2018 “Waiting for care: Humanized birth and the ethics of the state in Salvador, Bahia”; 18th International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Societies World Congress; Jul. 16-20; Florianópolis, Brazil

- 2017 “Making Zika Count: The Uncertainty of Numbers and the Demands of Care in an Emerging Epidemic”; 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association; Nov. 28-Dec. 3; Washington, DC
- 2017 “Care in the time of Zika: Notes on the ‘afterlife’ of the epidemic in Salvador, Bahia”; II Reunião de Antropologia da Saúde (2nd Meeting of Anthropology of Health); Nov. 8-10; Brasília, Brazil
- 2017 “Humanization in the Time of Zika: The Messy Politics of Care in Bahia, Brazil” XXXV Int’l Congress of the Latin American Studies Association; Apr. 29 – May 1; Lima, Peru
- 2016 “Transforming the Ethics of Birth Care: Ethnographies of Humanization” (with Eugenia Georges); IV International Conference on the Humanization of Childbirth; Nov. 26-30; Brasília, Brazil

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021 Instructor; Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Brazil (writing intensive); Latin American Studies Program; Washington University in St. Louis
- 2021 Instructor; Humans and Others in Latin America: Natures, Cultures, Environments; Latin American Studies Program; Washington University in St. Louis
- 2020 Instructor; Cultures of Health in Latin America; Latin American Studies Program; Washington University in St. Louis
- 2019/2020 Instructor; Survey of Brazilian Cultures: Race, Nation and Society; Latin American Studies Program; Washington University in St. Louis
- 2020 Instructor; The Body in Brazil: Race, Representation, Ontologies; Latin American Studies Program; Washington University in St. Louis
- 2020 Instructor; Hello, Hello Brazil! Popular Culture and the Making of a Nation; Latin American Studies Program; Washington University in St. Louis
- 2019 Instructor; Survey of Brazilian Cultures: Race, Nation, and Society; Latin American Studies Program; Washington University in St. Louis
- 2019 Co-instructor (with Ignacio Sánchez Prado); Latin America: Race, Ethnicity, and Social Conflict; Latin American Studies Program; Washington University in St. Louis
- 2019 Instructor, Introduction to Queer Theory; Intensive Course on Queer Theory in Anthropology; Dr. Moisés Lino e Silva; Postgraduate Program in Anthropology; Federal University of Bahia

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

Dissertation Committee Member

- Aischa Schut, “Redefinindo o parto domiciliar: Uma etnografia de confiança em Caetê-Açú, Bahia.” Director: Cecilia Anne McCallum. Defended May 2021.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

Thesis Committee Member

- Carmen Vescia, “Comida Casera: Mexican and Central American Restaurant Owners (Re)Imagining Culinary Authenticity.” Director: Ignácio Sanchez Prado. Defended April 2021.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- Book prize committee; Council on the Anthropology of Reproduction; American Anthropological Association; 2019-2021.

- Volunteer language interpreter; Women in Anthropology conference; Salvador da Bahia, Brazil; 2018.
- Newsletter co-editor; Council on the Anthropology of Reproduction; American Anthropological Association; 2015-2016.

Manuscript Review

- *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 2021
- *Avá: Revista de Antropología*, 2021
- *Cadernos de Saúde Pública*, 2020
- *Global Public Health*, 2020
- *ILHA Revista de Antropologia*, 2019
- *Medical Anthropology*, 2017-2018
- *Medical Humanities*, 2018
- *Annals of Human Biology*, 2018
- *Interface – Comunicação, Saúde, Educação*, 2018
- *Amazônica Revista de Antropologia*, 2018

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Gender Minority and Women Graduate Students; Washington University in St. Louis; postdoctoral facilitator for antiracism reading group; 2021.
- Social Science Graduate Student Association; Rice University; vice president; 2014-15.
- Anthropology Undergraduate Mentoring Program; Rice University; mentor; 2013-15.
- Department of Anthropology Colloquium Series; Rice University; co-organizer; 2013-14.
- Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Graduate Student Symposium; Rice University; co-organizer; 2012-14.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH

- Realidades de Deficiência no Brasil (Realities of Disability in Brazil) Working Group (interdisciplinary group of international scholars and graduate students working on disability in Brazil, funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation); member; 2019-present.
- After Zika collaborative blog project (www.AfterZika.org); coordinator; 2018-present.
- “I Embrace Microcephaly” Association (*Associação Abraço a Microcefalia*, for parents raising children with Congenital Zika Syndrome); Salvador, Bahia, Brazil; volunteer; 2016-2019.
- *Anthropology News*; co-organizer of thematic series “Childbirth in the Americas”; 2016.
- Council on the Anthropology of Reproduction section newsletter; co-editor; 2015-17.