

## K. Eliza Williamson, Ph.D.

Lecturer & Portuguese Program Coordinator  
Latin American Studies  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-present    Lecturer  
Latin American Studies Program and Department of Romance Languages & Literatures  
(joint appointment)  
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. *Care After Zika: Parenting Disabled Children in the Wake of an Epidemic in Brazil* (in progress)

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

#### Refereed Journal Articles

Williamson, K. Eliza, Helena Fietz, and Cíntia Engel. 2023. “Dis/abled care: Caregivers, debility, and constrained spaces during the Covid-19 pandemic in Brazil.” *Space & Culture* 26(3): 468–482.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/12063312231181534>

Williamson, K. Eliza. 2021. “The iatrogenesis of obstetric racism in Brazil: Beyond the body, beyond the clinic.” *Anthropology & Medicine* 28 (2): 172-187. <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. "Habilitating Bodyminds, Caring for Potential: Disability Therapeutics After Zika in Bahia, Brazil." *Cultural Anthropology* (accepted)

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

### Book Chapters

Williamson, K. Eliza. 2023. "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. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

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.

Williamson, K. Eliza. "Embodying Disability in the Aftermath of Zika: Mothers, Children, and Debilitating Care Work in Brazil." In *New Histories of Disability in Latin America*. Dillon Vrana and David Carey, Jr., eds. (Under review with Johns Hopkins University 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.

### Public Scholarship

Williamson, Eliza, Brenna McCaffrey, Ashish Premkumar, Joanna Mishtal, Megan Cogburn, Becca Howes-Mischel, and Lucy Lowe. "CAR Statement on the Reversal of Roe v. Wade." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (Rapid Response: Reproductive Justice in the US), Aug. 28, 2022.  
<https://medanthroquarterly.org/rapid-response/2022/08/car-statement-on-the-reversal-of-roe-v-wade/>

Williamson, Eliza. "Afterlives of Zika." *Environmental History Now* blog (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)<br>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

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2022      | Wenner-Gren Post-PhD Fieldwork Grant; \$20,000  |
| 2022      | Washington University in St. Louis Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Equity Small Grant; \$1,000                                |
| 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**

- 2023 “‘The Brain is a Box of Surprises’: Habilitating Bodyminds, Caring for Potential after Zika in Bahia, Brazil”; Department of Sociology and Anthropology, St. Louis University; Feb. 10.
- 2023 “‘The Brain is a Box of Surprises’: Habilitating Bodyminds, Caring for Potential after Zika in Bahia, Brazil”; Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis; Jan. 24.
- 2021 “Crippling Pandemic Time: Chronicities of Living and Horizons of Potential After Zika”; Pandemic Temporalities Seminar; University of Oslo; Oct. 13
- 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 Embodying “Development”: Growing Bodies in the Global South (Co-organizer with Luisa Madrigal Marroquín, Chair); Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Nov. 17; Baltimore, Maryland/virtual
- 2021 Anthropologies of Care and Politics of Knowledge: Situating Care (Co-organizer with Helena Fietz and Cíntia Engel); International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences conference; Nov. 10; Yucatán, Mexico/virtual
- 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
- 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

**Participation as Discussant**

- 2021 Anthropologies of Care and Politics of Knowledge: Situating Care; International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences conference; Nov. 10; Yucatán, Mexico/virtual
- 2021 Diálogos Possíveis sobre Parto e Nascimento, ou Como Ficar com o Problema (GT 4); IV Reunião de Antropologia da Saúde; Sept. 23; virtual

### Papers Presented (Selected)

- 2021 “Habilitating Potential After Zika: Developmental Delays and Rehabilitative Practices for Children with Congenital Zika Syndrome in Brazil”; Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association; Nov. 17; Baltimore, MD/virtual
- 2021 “After Zika: Habilitative Caring towards a New Normal”; Society for the Social Study of Science (4S) Annual Meeting; Oct. 8; Toronto/virtual
- 2021 “Birthing While Black in Brazil”; National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference; Sept. 17; virtual
- 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; virtual
- 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”; 117<sup>th</sup> 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”; 18<sup>th</sup> 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”; 116<sup>th</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## **Washington University in St. Louis**

### Latin American Studies Program

- Cultures of Health in Latin America
- The Body in Brazil: Race, Representation, Ontologies
- Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Brazil (writing intensive)
- Humans and Others in Latin America: Natures, Cultures, Environments
- Hello, Hello Brazil! Popular Culture and the Making of a Nation
- Survey of Brazilian Cultures: Race, Nation and Society
- Latin America: Race, Ethnicity, and Social Conflict (with Dr. Ignacio Sánchez Prado)

### Romance Languages & Literatures

- Portuguese for Romance Language Speakers II
- Portuguese Reading and Conversation I

## **Federal University of Bahia (Anthropology Department)**

- Introduction to Queer Theory (intensive course on queer theory in anthropology; with Dr. Moisés Lino e Silva)

## **Rice University (Center for the Americas)**

- Contemporary Social Movements (instructor of record, co-taught with graduate student collective; Center for the Americas)
- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (teaching assistant to Dr. Cymene Howe; Department of Anthropology)

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING**

### **PhD Dissertation Committee Member**

- Aisha Schut, “Redefinindo o parto domiciliar: Uma etnografia de confiança em Caetê-Açú, Bahia”; Federal University of Bahia, Department of Anthropology. Director: Cecilia Anne McCallum. Defended May 2021.

### **MA Thesis Committee Member**

- Julia Garcia, “‘A pandemia não parou só o mundo, ela parou a vida da minha filha’: etnografando as consequências da pandemia de Covid-19 no cotidiano de famílias atravessadas pelo Vírus Zika em Pernambuco”; University of Brasília, Department of Anthropology. Director: Soraya Fleischer. Defended April 2022.

### **Second-Year Paper Committee Member**

- Bea Addis; Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Anthropology. Director: Bret Gustafson. Defended May 2022.

## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING**

### **Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor**

- Christine Hutchinson, “An Analysis of Health Challenges and Recommendations for the Reduction of Health Disparities Among Vulnerable Populations in Rural Colombia”; Washington University in St. Louis, Global Studies Program. Defended April 2023.

### **Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member**

- Carmen Vescia, “Comida Casera: Mexican and Central American Restaurant Owners (Re)Imagining Culinary Authenticity”; Washington University in St. Louis, Latin American Studies Program. Director: Ignacio Sánchez Prado. Defended April 2021.

#### **Undergraduate Capstone Project Advisor**

- Rafael Rodríguez, “A Fair-Weathered Friend: Friendship Park, A Microcosm of United States-Mexico Relations” Washington University in St. Louis, Latin American Studies Program. December 2022.

#### **PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING**

- Maximizing Student Engagement in Large Classrooms Workshop; Washington University in St. Louis; Aug. 18, 2022.
- Community Engaged Teaching Faculty Workshop; Washington University in St. Louis; Nov. 5, 2021.
- Professional Development in Teaching Program; Associate Level; Center for Teaching and Learning; Washington University in St. Louis.

#### **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

- Senior Book Reviews Editor, *American Ethnologist*, 2022-present
- Editorial Board, *American Ethnologist*, 2022-present
- Society for Disability Studies; proposal reviewer for SDS@OSU annual conference; 2022.
- “In the Journals” series contributor; Somatosphere; 2020-2022.
- Advocacy committee; Council on the Anthropology of Reproduction; American Anthropological Association; 2021-present.
- 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**

- *Physis: Revista de Saúde Coletiva*, 2023
- *Cultural Anthropology*, 2022
- *Feminist Anthropology*, 2022
- *Horizontes Antropológicos*, 2022
- *Medicine Anthropology Theory*, 2022
- *Centaurus*, 2021
- *Virtual Brazilian Anthropology (Vibrant)*, 2021
- *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**

- Disability and Embodied Difference Reading Group; Washington University in St. Louis; lead coordinator; 2022-present.
- Fulbright Committee; Washington University in St. Louis; 2022-2023.

- Center for Teaching and Learning, Washington University in St. Louis; invited panelist for “bell hooks and the Power of Teaching” virtual discussion; Jan. 12, 2022.
- 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**

- ArchCity Defenders (holistic legal advocacy organization); St. Louis, Missouri; volunteer food delivery to families; 2022-present.
- Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion; choir section leader; St. Louis, Missouri; 2022-present.
- Saint Louis Chamber Chorus; choir member; St. Louis, Missouri; 2021-2022.
- Trinity Episcopal Church; food ministry volunteer; St. Louis, Missouri; 2022-present.
- SoQuiet Misophonia Advocacy; St. Louis, Missouri; volunteer; 2022-present.
- 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; coordinator; 2018-2021.
- Associação Abraço a Microcefalia (association of parents raising children with Congenital Zika Syndrome); Salvador, Bahia, Brazil; volunteer; 2016-present.