

# CHARLES A. McDONALD

Clinical Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology | Pace University  
1 Pace Plaza | New York, NY 10038  
[cmcdonald3@pace.edu](mailto:cmcdonald3@pace.edu)

## EDUCATION

2019 Ph.D., Anthropology and Historical Studies, New School for Social Research (NSSR)  
2012 M.A., Anthropology, New School for Social Research (NSSR)  
2008 M.A., Liberal Studies (American Studies), City University of New York (CUNY)  
2005 B.A., Cultural Studies, *cum laude*, CUNY Baccalaureate for Interdisciplinary Studies

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023- Assistant Professor of Anthropology (clinical track), Pace University  
2023 Visiting Assistant Professor, Spanish and Portuguese, New York University  
2020-22 Sava Ranisavljevic Postdoctoral Fellow, Northwestern University  
2019-20 Samuel W. and Goldye Marian Spain Postdoctoral Fellow, Rice University  
2015-present Managing Director, [Institute for Critical Social Inquiry \(ICSI\)](#), New School

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

2022-23 Scholar-in-Residence, King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, New York University  
2016 Visiting Researcher, Anthropology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid  
2016 Visiting Researcher, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)  
2015 Visiting Researcher, Anthropology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

## BOOKS

In Progress *Return to Sepharad: Citizenship, Conversion, and the Politics of Repair*

## REFEREED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

In Progress “Other Gravities, Other Claims: Citizenship and Reparations.”

In Progress “Blood and Choice: Becoming Jewish (Again) in Spain.”

2023 “‘La Nostalgia de Sefarad Tira Mucho, Pero No Tanto’: Attachment, Sentiment, and the Ethics of Refusal,” In [Reparative Citizenship for Sephardi Descendants: Returning to the Jewish Past in Spain and Portugal](#), Dalia Kandiyoti and Rina Benmayor, eds. (New York: Berghahn Books).

2021 “Rancor: Sephardic Jews, Spanish Citizenship, and the Politics of Sentiment,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 63, no. 3 (2021): 722-751.

2019 “Return,” *Cultural Anthropology*, Theorizing the Contemporary, December 2019.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- 2020 “Marking Time and Being Remade,” In “Pandemic Diaries,” Gabriela Manley, Bryan M. Dougan, and Carole McGranahan, eds., *American Ethnologist*, May 16, 2020, invited submission.
- 2016 “Refusal as Ethnographic Concept: An Interview with Carole McGranahan, Elisa Sobo, and Erica Weiss,” Dialogues, *Cultural Anthropology*, August 2016.
- 2014 “Interview with Noah Tamarkin on ‘Genetic Diaspora: Producing Knowledge of Genes and Jews in Rural South Africa,’” *Cultural Anthropology*, August 2014.
- 2013 “Interview with Michal Osterweil on ‘Rethinking Public Anthropology Through Epistemic Politics and Theoretical Practice,’” *Cultural Anthropology*, October 2013.

## **EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

- 2017-19 Posen Society of Fellows, Dissertation Fellowship (\$40,000)
- 2017 Council for European Studies, Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined)
- 2017 American Academy for Jewish Research, Travel Grant (\$4,000)
- 2015-16 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$20,000)
- 2015-16 Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$18,150)
- 2015 Center for Jewish History, Lapidus Summer Fellowship (\$6,000)
- 2007-8 Spanish Ministry of Education, Language and Culture Teaching Fellowship

## **INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

### **Northwestern**

- 2022 The Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Faculty Reading Group (\$7,500)
- 2021 The Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Faculty Research Grant (\$9,860)

### **New School**

- 2019 Stanley Diamond Memorial Award for Best Dissertation in the Social Sciences
- 2017-18 Heckscher Fellowship
- 2017-18 Teaching Fellowship, Anthropology
- 2016-17 Holocaust Memorial Dissertation Fellowship
- 2013-15 Teaching Fellowship, First Year Writing Program
- 2012-15 Melamid/Donnelley Prize Fellowship

## **UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT**

Global Im/Mobilities: Borders, Migration, and Citizenship  
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
Reading and Writing the City: Urban Ethnography  
Global Cultures and Local Identities  
Jews and Muslims in Contemporary Spain  
Europe and Its Others: Race, Religion, and Multiculturalism  
What Was Europe? Ethnography, History, and the Unsettled Present  
Subject to Change: Varieties of Self-Transformation

### **GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT**

Queer Nightlife Ecologies

### **GRADUATE COURSES ASSISTED**

Critical Foundations of Anthropology  
Anthropology, Photography, Visuality  
Diasporic Longings & Belongings in the Indian Ocean

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2022 “The Politics of Refusal: Spain and the ‘Gift’ of Sephardic Citizenship,” Crown Center for Jewish Studies, Northwestern University, April 27.
- 2022 “Sepharad’s Returns: Historical Sensibilities and the Politics of Inclusion,” King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, NYU, February 11.
- 2021 “Refusing the Gift of Citizenship,” Levy Center, UCLA, October 25.
- 2021 “Refusing Return: Spain’s 2015 Sephardic Citizenship Law and the Promise of Reparations,” the Center for Jewish Studies, CUNY Graduate Center, November 12.
- 2021 “What Does It Take to Return? Citizenship, Conversion, and Modern Jewish Spain,” Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Northwestern University, February 19.
- 2019 “Scenes of Exposure: Personhood, Place, and Conversion in Jewish Spain,” Department of Anthropology, Rice University, November 6.
- 2019 “Blood and Sentiment: Anthropology, Race, and Spain’s Sephardic Citizenship Law,” Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Houston, October 23.
- 2019 “The ‘Return’ That Wasn’t: Reason, Sentiment, and Spain’s 2015 Sephardic Citizenship Law,” Department of Anthropology, UT-Austin, October 7.
- 2019 “The ‘Return’ That Wasn’t: Spain’s 2015 Sephardic Citizenship Law,” Houston Jewish Community Center, October 2.
- 2016 “When Is Return? Conversion, Citizenship, and the Pragmatics of Jewish Inclusion in Contemporary Spain,” Boston University, November 14.
- 2016 “Conversión judía y subjetividad en la España contemporánea,” Anthropology Department, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, April 25.

### **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

- 2014 *Political Concepts: A Lexicon in Formation* (with Ann Stoler, Jay Bernstein, and Todd Kesselman), New School for Social Research, April 18-19.

2012 *Rethinking Inheritance*, Department of Anthropology, New School for Social Research, April 27-28.

### **PANELS ORGANIZED**

- 2021 “Rendering Im/Mobilities: Ethnographic Experiments,” (with Carla Hung, UNC-Asheville), Panel at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Baltimore, MD, November 18.
- 2020 “Legal Matters: Unexpected Affordances of Law, Citizenship, and Im/Mobility” (with Valentina Ramia, Stanford, and Christopher Krupa, University of Toronto), Panel at *American Ethnological Society Conference: Bridges/Borders*, Austin, TX, March 26-28. (Conference canceled due to COVID-19 Pandemic).
- 2019 “The Return to Sepharad and the Politics of Memorial Identity,” (with Joëlle Bahloul, Indiana University), Panel at *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, San Diego, CA, December 15-17.
- 2019 “Race and Anthropology: Ethnographic Responses to Changing Political Climates” (with Sultan Doughan, University of Boston), Panel at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Vancouver, Canada, November 22.
- 2018 “Pragmatics of Inclusion: Ethnographies in an Authoritarian Age” (with Sharika Thiranagama, Stanford; and Valentina Ramia, Stanford), Panel at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, San José, CA, November 14-18.
- 2017 “The Long Exposure: Latency, Visibility, and Method” (with Katheryn Detwiler, NSSR; and Joshua Z. Weiss, UC-Davis), Panel at *American Ethnological Society Meeting*, Stanford University, April 1.
- 2016 “Toward an Anthropology of Return” (with Mikaela Rogozen-Soltar, University of Nevada-Reno), Panel at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, November 17.
- 2014 “Troubling Resurrections: The Politics of Time and Materiality in Spain,” Panel at the Council for European Studies Annual Conference, *Resurrections*, March 14-16.
- 2012 “Heritage and the Imperial Imagination,” Panel at *Rethinking Inheritance*, Department of Anthropology Annual Conference, New School for Social Research. April 28.

### **PAPERS PRESENTED**

- 2023 “Queer Returns: Conversion and Kinship In Jewish Spain,” To be presented on panel, “Temporalities of Conversion,” *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Toronto, November 16.
- 2021 “Pandemic Im/Mobilities: Queer Arts of the Underground in the Era of COVID,” Presented on panel, “Rendering Im/Mobilities: Ethnographic Experiments,”

*American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Baltimore, MD, November 18.

- 2021 “Disjunctive Sepharad: Time, Space, and the Ethnography of Gaps,” To be presented on panel, “European Futures and the Use-Value of the Jewish Past,” *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, Chicago, IL. (Talk canceled due to COVID).
- 2020 “Exodus and Return: Populism, Migration, and Europe's Jewish Citizenship Laws,” Paper to be presented on panel, ““Legal Matters: Unexpected Affordances of Law, Citizenship, and Im/Mobility,” *American Ethnological Society Conference: Bridges/Borders*, Austin, TX, March 26-28. (Conference canceled due to COVID).
- 2019 Roundtable Panelist, “Undisciplined Jews: From Jews in Anthropology to Anthropology in Jewish Studies,” *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, San Diego, CA, December 15.
- 2019 “Attachments: Reason, Sentiment, and Spain’s 2015 Sephardic Citizenship Law,” Paper presented on panel, “The Return to Sepharad and the Politics of Memorial Identity,” at *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, San Diego, CA, December 16. Discussant: Julia Phillips Cohen (Vanderbilt University).
- 2019 “The Road to Modernity: Anthropology, Sephardic Jews, and Racial Regeneration in Spain,” Paper presented on panel, “Race and Anthropology: Ethnographic Responses to Changing Political Climates,” at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Vancouver, Canada, November 22. Discussant: Michael Ralph (NYU).
- 2018 “Affective Ecologies: Hatred, Fear, and Europe’s Moral Order,” Paper presented on panel, “Politics of Hate? Crafting European Belonging through anti-Jewish Hatreds Old and New,” at *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, Boston, MA, December 16-28. Discussant: Paul Silverstein (Reed).
- 2018 “Pragmatic Returns: Claiming and Disavowing the “Gift” of Citizenship in a Time of Hardening Borders,” Paper presented on panel, “Pragmatics of Inclusion: Ethnographies in an Authoritarian Age,” at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, San José, CA, November 14-18. Discussant: Thomas Blom Hansen (Stanford).
- 2018 “Criteria of Inclusion: Citizenship, Sentiment, Deliberation,” Paper presented at *Posen Society of Fellows Workshop*, Berkeley, CA, August 16. Discussants: David Biale (UC-Davis); Nathaniel Deutsch (UC- Santa Cruz).
- 2017 “Rancor and Nostalgia: An Affective History of the Return to Sepharad,” Paper presented on panel, “Spain’s Recent Law of Sephardic Return: Refractions of Memory in Modernity” at *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, Washington, DC, December 17-19. Discussant: Julia Phillips Cohen (Vanderbilt University).
- 2017 “Generation and Obligation: Spain, the Sephardic Diaspora, and the Making of

- 1992,” Paper presented at *Posen Society of Fellows Workshop*, Berkeley, CA, August 17. Discussants: David Biale (UC-Davis); Naomi Seidman (Graduate Theological Union).
- 2017 “Jewish Revivalism in Contemporary Spain,” Paper presented at *SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship Workshop*, Philadelphia, PA, June 10. Discussants: Courtney Handman (UT-Austin); Christopher Tozzi (Howard).
- 2017 “Queer Scenes of Exposure in Jewish Spain,” Paper presented on panel, “The Long Exposure: Latency, Visibility, and Method” at *American Ethnological Society Meeting*, Stanford University, April 1. Discussant: Carole McGranahan (University of Colorado-Boulder).
- 2017 “Race and Kinship in Modern Jewish Spain,” Paper presented on panel, “Diversity and its Discontents: Historical Others, Their Past and Future in Contemporary Iberia” at *Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Meeting*, New York, NY, March 17. Discussant: Joshua Goode (Claremont Graduate University).
- 2017 “Jewish Relations: Race, Kinship, and the Return to Sepharad,” Paper presented on panel, “Troubling the Kin: Race, Kinship and Affect in Psychological Anthropology” at *Society for Psychological Anthropology Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, March 9. Discussant: Jennifer Cole (Chicago).
- 2016 “Return as Ethnographic Object: Notes from the Ends of Europe,” Paper presented on panel, “Toward an Anthropology of Return” at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, November 17. Discussant: Jonathan Shannon (CUNY Graduate Center).
- 2015 “Return to Sefarad: Towards a History of the Jewish Present in Spain,” Paper presented at *Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Meeting*, Johns Hopkins University, March 22. Discussant: Joshua Goode (Claremont Graduate University).
- 2014 “Spain as Crisis: Periodization and Failure from the Black Legend to the Global Recession,” Paper presented at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Washington, D.C., December 4. Discussants: Susana Narotzky (U Barcelona), Neni Panourgia (New School).
- 2014 “No Longer Nostalgia: Jewish Spain and The Future of the Inheritable Past in Europe,” Paper presented at the Council for European Studies Annual Conference, *Resurrections*, March 14-16. Discussant: Melissa Caldwell (UC-Santa Cruz).
- 2014 “When Is Conversion Return? Making a Time and Place for Jewish Spain,” Paper presented at the Council for European Studies Annual Conference, *Resurrections*, March 14-16. Discussant: Avi Astor (U Autònoma Barcelona).

- 2013 “The Other Within: Jews, Spain, and the Future of the Inheritable Past in Europe,” Paper presented at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Chicago, November 21. Discussant: Jaime Palomera (U Barcelona).
- 2013 “When did Jewish History Become Spanish National Heritage? Forging Personhood, Patrimony, and Place in Córdoba’s Jewish Quarter,” Paper presented at *The Past for Sale? New Perspectives on the Economic Entanglements of Cultural Heritage*, University of Massachusetts-Amherst Center for Heritage and Society, May 15-17.
- 2013 “What Does it Take to Become Jewish? Conversion and the Inheritable Past in Contemporary Spain,” Paper presented at *The Kronstadt Moment—The Road to Damascus: an Interdisciplinary Conference on Conversion and Disenchantment*, Department of Liberal Studies, New School for Social Research, April 26-27.
- 2012 “Recuperating Sefarad?: Conversion, Heritage, and History in Contemporary Spain,” Paper presented at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, San Francisco, November 14.

#### **PANEL CHAIR OR DISCUSSANT**

- 2021 Discussant, “Nostalgia: On the Longing for an Imagined Past,” *Working Memory: The Present Day Uses of the Jewish Past*, Crown Center for Jewish Studies, Northwestern University, January 21, 2021.
- 2016 Chair, “Toward an Anthropology of Return,” *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, November 17.
- 2014 Chair, “Troubling Resurrections: The Politics of Time and Materiality in Spain,” Council for European Studies Annual Conference, *Resurrections*, March 14-16.
- 2012 Chair, “Heritage and the Imperial Imagination,” *Rethinking Inheritance*, Department of Anthropology Annual Conference, New School for Social Research. April 28.

#### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

##### **To the Profession**

- 2021 Juror, Clifford Geertz Prize, Society for the Anthropology of Religion
- 2017 Juror, Cultural Horizons Prize, Society for Cultural Anthropology
- 2013-18 Contributing Editor, *Cultural Anthropology*
- 2013-14 Editorial Assistant, *Political Concepts*

##### **Manuscript Review**

*JRAI: Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Transforming Anthropology*

##### **At Rice University**

- 2020 Curriculum Committee, Program in Jewish Studies

2019-20 Faculty Sponsor, Jewish Studies Student Association

**At New School for Social Research**

2013 Representative, Anthropology Faculty Hiring Committee  
2013-14 Representative, Dean's Leadership Council  
2013-14 Representative, Dean's Advisory Council  
2013-14 Representative, Graduate Faculty Student Senate

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Anthropological Association  
Society for Cultural Anthropology  
American Ethnological Society  
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology  
Society for the Anthropology of Europe  
Association for Queer Anthropology  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion  
Association for Jewish Studies

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (fluent), French (beginner reading)