

Ruth Goldstein

Assistant Professor, Gender and Women's Studies
University of Wisconsin, Madison
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2020 – present Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Department of Gender and Women's Studies
- 2018 – 2020 Assistant Professor, University of California, Irvine
Department of Global and International Studies, with an Association in
Anthropology and the Latin American Studies Center (LASC)
- 2017 - 18 Head Tutor and Lecturer, Harvard University
Folklore and Mythology with an affiliation in Anthropology and the
David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS)
- 2016 - 17 College Fellow, Harvard University
Folklore and Mythology with an affiliation in Anthropology and the
David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS)
- 2016 Lecturer, Stanford University
Department of Anthropology
- 2015-16 Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley
Department of Anthropology
- 2015 English Instructor, Prison University Project at San Quentin

EDUCATION

- PhD **University of California, Berkeley & University of California, San Francisco**
Joint Program in Medical Anthropology, May 2015
- MA **University of California, Berkeley**
Folklore, 2009
- BA **Wesleyan University**
Honors in French Studies and the College of Letters, 2001

PUBLICATIONS - PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- In Preparation *Life in Traffic: Women, Plants, and Gold Along the Interoceanic Highway*
University of California Press (Nature, Science, Politics Series)
- In Preparation “Mercury Rising: Toxic Assets and Planetary Health,” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*

- Under Review “Life in Traffic: Riddling Notes on the Political Economy of Sex and Nature
Cultural Anthropology
- Under Review “Etnobotánicas da recusa Metodologias de engajamento com a resistência humana-
Implantada.” *Vibrant: Virtual Brazilian Anthropology*
- 2020 “Mercury’s Toxic Touch.” *Anthropology News* (forthcoming)
- 2020 “Ayahuasca and Arabidopsis: The Philosopher Plant and the Scientist’s Specimen.”
Ethnos DOI: [10.1080/00141844.2019.1631872](https://doi.org/10.1080/00141844.2019.1631872)
- 2020 “Digamos Adiós al Mercurio”: Activos Tóxicos y Extracción Neocolonial.”
Toxic News [https://toxicnews.org/2020/02/28/making-mercury-history-toxic-
assets-and-neocolonial-extraction/](https://toxicnews.org/2020/02/28/making-mercury-history-toxic-assets-and-neocolonial-extraction/)
- 2020 “Making Mercury History: Toxic Assets and Neocolonial Extraction.” *Toxic News*
[https://toxicnews.org/2020/02/28/making-mercury-history-toxic-assets-and-
neocolonial-extraction/](https://toxicnews.org/2020/02/28/making-mercury-history-toxic-assets-and-neocolonial-extraction/)
- 2019 “Ethnobotanics of Refusal: Methodologies in Respecting Plant(ed)-Human
Resistance.” Special Issue on Plant Ethnography, *Anthropology Today* 35(2): 18-22.
- 2015 “What’s in a name?” *Somatosphere*
<http://somatosphere.net/2015/08/whats-in-a-name.html>
- 2015 “Semiophors and Sexual Systems: The Circulation of Words and Women.”
Pragmatics and Society 6(2): 217-239.
- 2014 “Consent and Its Discontents: On the Traffic in Words and Women.”
Latin American Policy 5(2): 236-250.
- 2010 “Talking Drums and Ethical Conundrums” *Anthropology Matters* 12(1): 1-28.

PUBLICATIONS - REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2018 “Consentimiento y Sus Discontentos: Género, Indigeneidad, y Extractivismo en
Madre de Dios, Perú.” In *Género, sexualidades y mercados sexuales en sitios
extractivistas de América Latina*. Edited by Susanne Hofmann and Melisa Cabrapan
Duarte. Mexico City: Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios de Género de la
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) Press, pp: 237-266.
ISBN: 9786073017893.
<https://doi.org/10.22201/cieg.9786073017893p.2019>
- 2017 “From the side of the road to the borders of the page: Mapping the legibility of
people and words at the margins.” In *Language and Violence: Pragmatic
Perspectives*. Edited by Daniel Silva. John Benjamins Press, pp: 79-104.
ISBN: 9789027256843

<https://doi.org/10.1075/pbns.279>

2017 “What’s in a Name” in *The Ethnographic Case*. Manchester, UK: Mattering Press.

INVITED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

2017 “Collaborations: Envisioning an Engaged Future for Anthropology” with Patricia Alvarez and Ugo Edu. *History of Anthropology Newsletter*

2015 Raffles, Hugh, Shani, Liron, Goldstein, Ruth and Wentworth, Kara. “Writing/Power/Story: Why and How to do Ethnography of Non-Human Beings and Things.” *Cultural Anthropology* <http://culanth.org/fieldsights/642-writing-power-story-why-and-how-to-do-ethnography-of-non-human-beings-and-things>

ACADEMIC EDITING

2009 Ocampo, Rafael Sánchez and Michael Balick. *Plants of Semillas Sagradas: An Ethnomedicinal Garden in Costa Rica*. Ed. Ruth Goldstein and Katherine Herrera. San Isidro: Luna Nueva Extractos, Costa Rica, SA.

PODCASTS AND OTHER MEDIA

2018-2019 “Mercury Rising: Tracing Quicksilver and (its) Toxic Assets in a Rapidly Heating Planet.” Year-long Collaborative Multimodal Ethnography project run through the Center for Ethnography at the University of California, Irvine <http://centerforethnography.org/content/mercury-rising-tracing-quicksilver-and-its-toxic-assets-rapidly-heating-planet>.

2017 “Of Gold Mines, Plants, and Women.” Springer Nature Storytellers Podcast <http://www.beforetheabstract.com/about/>

RESEARCH GRANTS

2019-2022 National Science Foundation
Mercury Pollution and Human-Technical-Environmental Interactions in Artisanal Mining (CNH2-S Dynamics of Integrated Socio Environmental System Program (Co-PI with Noelle E. Selin (MIT), Steven R. Barrett (MIT) & Henrik Selin (Boston University). Total: \$748,435, 36 months, UCI portion: \$211,403

2019 Northern Contaminants Program
“The influences of environmental changes on levels and trends of methylmercury in Beaufort beluga food web” (Project Team Member Collaborators: Amanda Giang (UBC), and Miling Li (UBC), \$15,000

2012 Soroptimist Region Founder Dissertation Writing Fellowship
“Plants, Prostitutes, and Pharmaceuticals Along the Interoceanic Road”

- 2011 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
“Plants, Prostitutes, and Pharmaceuticals Along the Interoceanic Road”
- 2010 National Science Foundation Grant for Quantitative Field Methods, Bolivia
“Plants, Prostitutes, and Pharmaceuticals Along the Interoceanic Road”
- 2006 New Chapter Research Fellow in Neo-tropical Ethnobotany, Costa Rica
“Women’s Reproductive Health and Community Organizing”
- 2001 Thomas J. Watson Fellow, Mali, South Africa, Uganda, and Morocco
“Women’s Reproductive Health and Human Rights Reform”

TEACHING GRANTS

- 2018 Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities of Harvard University
“Toxic Tales and Climatic Conundrums” Symposium and Course Enrichment
- 2014 Teagle Foundation Research Fellow
“How Students Learn”: UC Berkeley Teaching and Resource Center

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award: Global Environmental Issues (Winter Quarter)
- 2019 Outstanding Teaching Award: Global Health Cases (Fall Quarter)
- 2019 Outstanding Teaching Award: Global Environmental Issues (Fall Quarter)
- 2019 Outstanding Teaching Award: Global Environmental Issues (Spring Quarter)
- 2019 Outstanding Teaching Award: Global Health Cases (Winter Quarter)
- 2018 Outstanding Teaching Award: Global Environmental Issues (Fall Quarter)
- 2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award
- 2013 Société Internationale D’Ethnologie et Folklore Young Scholar Prize
- 2013 Society for Applied Anthropology’s Human Rights Defender Student Award
- 2013 Jeanne P. Steager Prize in Folklore, University of California, Berkeley
- 2012 Rappaport Panel Prize Finalist in Environmental Anthropology
- 2012 John L. Simpson Memorial Research Award in International Studies
- 2010 Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship

- 2008-10 Robert H. Lowie and Ronald L. Olson Grants
- 2007-12 University of California, Berkeley Regents Intern Fellow for Graduate Study

PEER-REVIEWS FOR JOURNALS

PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review
Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience
Journal for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology

TEACHING

- 2019-20 Assistant Professor, University of California, Irvine
Global Studies: Enduring Politics of Environmental Racism (Fall)
Global Studies: Global and Planetary Health Cases (Fall)
Global Studies: Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advising (Year)
Global Studies: Independent Study (Year – 4 undergraduate students)
Global Studies: Enduring Politics of Environmental Racism (Winter)
Global Studies: Engaging Global Theory (Spring, graduate student course)
Anthropology: Graduate Student Independent Study (Winter and Spring)
- 2018-19 Assistant Professor, University of California, Irvine
Global Studies: Enduring Politics of Environmental Racism (Spring)
Global Studies: Global and Planetary Health Cases (Winter)
Global Studies: Enduring Politics of Environmental Racism (Fall)
Global Studies: Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advising (year)
Global Studies: Independent Study (Spring)
Anthropology: Graduate Student Independent Study (Winter and Spring)
- 2017-18 Head Tutor and Lecturer, Harvard University
Folklore and Mythology; History and Literature: Toxic Tales and Climatic Conundrums
Folklore and Mythology: Decolonizing Methodologies in Ethnography
Ethnicity Rights and Migration: Sedentary Histories and Migratory Politics
- 2016 -17 College Fellow, Harvard University
Folklore and Mythology, Gender and Sexuality Studies: The Eco-feminist and the Folk
Folklore and Mythology: Ethnobotany and Biopiracy
Folklore and Mythology; Ethnicity Rights and Migration: The Folklorist and the Highway
- 2016 Lecturer, Stanford University
Anthropology: Multispecies Ethnography (January – March)
Anthropology: Eco-Feminism (March – June)
- 2015-16 Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley
Anthropology and Folklore: Posthuman Ontologies and Folk Epistemologies

Anthropology: Graduate Seminar Posthuman Ontologies and Political Ecologies

2015 Instructor, Prison University Project at San Quentin
English 99A: Critical Reading and Writing (September – December)

GRADUATE STUDENTS ADVISED

2019 Doctoral Advancement Committee: Anna Kamanzi (Anthropology)
Outside Member
2019 Doctoral Advancement Committee: Emily Matteson (Anthropology)
Outside Member
2019 Doctoral Advancement Committee: James Adams (Anthropology)
Outside Member

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ADVISED

2019 – 20 Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
Fellow, Eva Rivera, “The Legacies of Mexican Repatriation of the 1930’s:
Continuing Challenges to Latinx Access to Healthcare”
2018 - 19 Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
Fellow, Order of Merit Scholar: Elianet Romero, “Investigating Borderlands/La
Frontera: Internalized Colonialism in Latino/a/x Communities in the United States
and Anti-Immigration Rhetoric in Italy”
2019 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Fellow: Danushi Vijay DaSilva, “Face to
Face Communication: Sri Lankan traditional ritual masks”
2019 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Luis Casanova, Spanish-language transcriptions
of interviews.

DIVERSITY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TEACHING

2019 Attended DREAM ally training and created a DREAM fellowship for
undergraduate student.
2019-2020 Advisor to DREAM fellowship awardee in Global Studies

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2020 Panel reviewer for National Science Foundation’s CNH2: Dynamics of Integrated
Socio-Environmental Systems

PAID PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2007-2008 Consultant for Semillas Sagradas Sanctuary at Luna Nueva Farm
San Isidro de las Peñas Blancas, Costa Rica.

2006-2007 Global Routes Program Developer and Leader
Guadeloupe, Ecuador, Thailand, Costa Rica

PRO-BONO PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION

2008 Expert Observer for the Civil Society Coalition at the World Intellectual
Property Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

2018 Translator for la Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes (FENAMAD)
during Pope Francis' visit, Madre de Dios, Peru.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

2019 Transdisciplinary Research on the Changing Arctic and Global Impacts: Convergence
Science, co-organizer, University of California, Irvine, October 31- November 1

2019 Global and International Studies Inaugural Conference, co-organizer
Annual Conference, University of California, Irvine, February 8-9

2018 Toxic Tales and Climatic Conundrums, Annual Symposium
Harvard University Program in Folklore & Mythology, March 30

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2019 Multivalent Mercury: The Biopolitics of Quicksilver's Half-Lives and Half-Truths in
Amazonian Gold Mines, September 27 (via Skype)

2019 When Mines are Like Women and Men Are Like Mercury: Riddling Human
Environmental Relations, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, September 23

2019 Mercurial Matters: Chemical Configurations and Toxic Subjects "Remapping
Environmental Toxicity, Promoting Planetary Health", Boston College, June 8-9

2019 Mercury Rising: Human and Environmental Health" Global Health Journal Club,
Guest Speaker, UC Irvine, April 11, 2019

2018 Mother of God, Child of Jupiter: Mercury Rising, International Studies Public Forum
University of California, Irvine, November 8, 2018.

2018 When Mines are Like Women and Men Are Like Mercury: Riddling Human
Environmental Relations, Wesleyan University, February 6

2018 When Mines are Like Women and Men Are Like Mercury: Riddling Human-
Environmental Relations, University of California, Irvine, January 9

2017 When Mines are Like Women and Men Are Like Mercury: Riddling Human-

- Environmental Relations, Clarkson University, New York, November 21
- 2017 Mercury's Toxic Effects from Mother-to-Child in Peru's Amazon
"Reproducing the Environment," University of Cambridge, UK, June 29-30
- 2016 From Ayahuasca to Arabidopsis thaliana
"Plant Sociality," Rutgers University, New Jersey, February 24
- 2016 Mercurial Afterlives and Negative Ecologies
"Production/Destruction", University of California, Santa Barbara, April 8
- 2016 The Traffic in Women, Plants, and Gold in Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia
Harvard University, February 4
- 2016 The Traffic in Women, Plants, and Gold, in Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia
Humboldt State University, April 1
- 2015 Traffic on the Interoceanic Road: From the Andes to the Amazon
University of California, Davis, September 30
- 2015 When Mines are Like Women and Other Sets of Riddled Relations
University of Texas, Austin, March 13
- 2013 Talking Drums and Ethical Conundrums
La Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et Folklore, Tartu, Estonia, July 2

PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Mother of God, Child of Jupiter: Mercury's Kinship Relations in
Amazonian Gold Mines, Toxic Tales Symposium, Harvard University, March 30
- 2017 Mercury's Kinship Relations and Care in Amazonian Gold Mines
American Anthropology Association, Washington, DC, December 1
- 2017 Mercury's Kinship Relations and Care in Amazonian Gold Mines
Harvard University, Folklore and Mythology 50th anniversary, March 3
- 2017 Quicksilver's Child: Mother-to-Infant Transmission of Mercury Toxicity
Society for Social Studies of Science, Boston, MA, September 2
- 2016 The (Al)Chemist, the "Condinado/Contaminado" and the Gold Mine
American Anthropology Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 17
- 2015 Mercurial Soils: Shifting Ground and Toil in Peruvian Gold Mines
Society for Social Studies of Science, Denver, CO, November 12
- 2015 Mother to Child: Mercury's Negative Ecologies in Madre de Dios, Perú
American Anthropology Association, Denver, CO, November 20

- 2015 Organizer: Migrations: Border Control and Social Practices.
La Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et Folklore, Zagreb, Croatia, June 21-25
- 2015 Chasing "El Dorado": Isolated Tribes and Triple Frontiers in the Amazon
La Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et Folklore, Zagreb, Croatia, June 22
- 2014 Organizer: Possible Futures and Persistent Afterlives Panel
American Anthropology Association, Washington, DC, December 4
- 2014 Mercurial Politics and Persistent Afterlives
American Anthropology Association, Washington, DC, December 4
- 2014 Organizer: Diseased Bodies as Sites of Violence and Memory Panel
Latin American Studies Association, Chicago, IL, May 22
- 2014 The Vital(ist) Politics of Mother Earth
Latin American Studies Association, Chicago, IL, May 22
- 2013 Mercurial Migrations and Neoliberal Dreams
American Anthropology Association, Chicago, IL, November 23
- 2013 No Woman's Land: Mujeres en las Fronteras en la Amazonía Occidental
Latin American Studies Association, Washington, DC, May 30
- 2013 Mercurial Migrations and Neoliberal Dreams
Society for Applied Anthropology, Denver, Colorado, March 21
- 2012 An Ecology of the Self and Other Wild Thoughts: When Nature Goes Public
American Anthropology Association, San Francisco, November 16
- 2011 Plants, Prostitutes, and Pharmaceuticals along the Inter-Oceanic Road
American Anthropology Association, Montreal, November 18
- 2011 Plants, Prostitutes, and Pharmaceuticals: Along the Inter-Oceanic Road
Society for Social Studies of Science, Cleveland, OH, November 4
- 2009 Conserving the Right to (Re)Produce: Natural Viagras® and Gene Banks
Society for Social Studies of Science, Washington, DC, October 29
- 2008 Talking Drums and Ethical Conundrums
Exploring the Boundaries of Research Methods, London, October 31

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2015 - Present Anthropology and the Environment
2013 - Present Association of Queer Anthropology
2013 - Present Society for Medical Anthropology
2012 - Present Society for Cultural Anthropology

2012 - Present Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology
2012 - Present American Ethnological Society
2011 - Present Association of Feminist Anthropology
2011 - Present Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
2010 - Present American Association of Anthropology
2009 - Present Society for the Social Studies of Science
2018 - Present Society for the Anthropology of North America
2012 - Present Latin American Studies Association
2010 - 2015 International Pragmatics Association
2011 - 2015 Society for Applied Anthropology

LANGUAGES

French, Spanish, and Portuguese (Fluent). Thai and Bambara (Conversational)
Shipibo, Quechua, KiSwahili, KiLuya, Tsimane, Lao, and IsiXhosa (Basic)