MELISSA K. WRAPP, PhD

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Curriculum vitae

EDUCATION

2021	PhD in Anthropology	University of California, Irvine
2015	MA in Anthropology	University of California, Irvine
2013	MPhil in Social Anthropology	University of Cambridge (UK)
2012	BA in Anthropology (honors), Peace Studies	University of Notre Dame

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2021–23	Postdoctoral Scholar, Anthropology	University of California, Irvine
	Project Manager, National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator	

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters
2022   Coben, Nate and **M.K. Wrapp**. "Distressed Publics: Circumventing the Mortgage from South Africa to Ireland." In D. Rodima-Taylor and P. Shipton (eds.) *Land and the Mortgage: History, Culture, Belonging*. Berghahn Books.

2019   "A House Divided: Movement and Race in Urban Ethnography." in J. Lenhard and F. Samanani (eds.) *Home: Ethnographic Encounters*. Bloomsbury. 189-202.

Online Publications
2018   "Together in Crisis: The Politics of Day Zero in Cape Town." *Platypus: The CASTAC Blog* website, academic blog post, February 20.

Public Research
2024   Maurer, Bill and **M.K. Wrapp**. "Tech and Trust: Building Credibility in Your Community." *Research Report (No. 599), Filene Research Institute*.

2023   Truitt, Bryan and **M.K. Wrapp**. "Photovoice: A Facilitator's Guide." *Research Report (No. 584), Filene Research Institute*.

2021   "The Next Generation CUSO: New CUSO Models for Growth and Innovation." *Research Report (No. 554), Filene Research Institute*.

2021   "Beyond Legacy Lending: Strategies for Loan Growth and Inclusion." *Research Report (No. 546), Filene Research Institute*.

2021   Mainwaring, Scott and **M.K. Wrapp**. "Opportunities and Risks of Conversational AI for Credit Unions: Empathy and Intimacy in Automated Financial Customer Service." *Research Report (No. 537), Filene Research Institute*.

2020   **Wrapp, M.K.** and Bill Maurer. "Fairness and Accountability for Algorithms in Financial Services: Addressing Bias and Discrimination to Prevent Digital Redlining." *Research Report (No. 493), Filene Research Institute*.

2019   Maurer, Bill, **M.K. Wrapp**, Chandra L. Middleton, Vivian Dzokoto, and Jenny Fan. "The Lessons of Fintech Apps: Design Matters for Personal Finance." *Research Report (No. 487), Filene Research Institute*.

MANUSCRIPTS

In Submission

—   Coben, N. and **M.K. Wrapp**. "Maintenance of Modernity: Magic and the Bureaucratic Practices of Land Registration." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (revise and resubmit).

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, & WORKSHOPS

Panels Organized

2022   "Settling for Unsettling Places: The Politics of Dwelling in Ambiguity (Parts 1 & 2)." Oral Presentation Session. Co-organized with Mariel Gruszko. AAA Annual Meeting, November 9–13.

2019   "Sustaining Socialism in Changing Climates (SOYUZ)." Oral Presentation Session. Co-organized with Ed Pulford. AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting, November 20–24.

Academic Conference Papers

2023   "The Curious Case of the Stolen Shack: Prototyping South African Public Housing." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 15–19.

2022   "In the Field Where We Hunted Snakes: Black Nostalgia and Living in Apartheid's Remnants." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 9–13.

2020   "Whiteness as Property, Expropriation as Murder." AES/APLA Joint Spring Conference, March 26-28. Panel Chair, "Populist, Nationalist, and Supremacist Rumblings: Global Views." *Conference cancelled due to COVID-19*.

2019   "'Internal Contradictions': Socialist Privatization in the Rainbow Nation." AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting, November 20–24.

2019   "Alternatives, Not by Design: 'Family Life' in South African Townships." Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 19–23.

2018   "'Incremental to Compliance': Deferment and Design in Cape Town." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14–18.

2018   "Arguing the Increment: The Politics of Compromise in South African Slum 'Regularization.'" Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California, Irvine, November 6.

2015   "'You Have Lost Nothing': Housing, Memory, and Debt in Post-Apartheid South Africa." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 18–22.

2015   "Private Utopias, Public Imaginaries: Transformation, Citizenship and Mega Housing Projects in Cape Town, South Africa." Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, May 28–31.

2014   "Disordered Infrastructures, or the Art of Illegibility in London Squats." Anthropology in Transit Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Irvine, April 25.

2013   "'Stuck in this box of matches': Ambiguity, Citizenship and Housing Development in Cape Town, South Africa." Newnham Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Cambridge, June 14.

2012   "Left Empty: Subjective Morality and Squatting in London." Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 27–31.

Invited Talks and Workshops

2023   "Compelling Collaboration: Friction in the World of Design Anthropology." Invited talk, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Long Beach, December 4.

2019   "Behind the Curtain of Title: Bureaucracy, Governance and Law." In conversation with Nathan Coben (co-author) and Dr. Daivi Rodima-Taylor (discussant). Working Title Workshop, University of California, Irvine, March 19.

2019   "Gender and Sexuality in the Field." Invited presentation with Nandita Badami, Lilith Mahmud, and Tom Boellstorff; DECADE (Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience) Roundtable Talk, University of California, Irvine, February 28.

2019   "The Politics of Adequacy: Racial Justice and Experimentation in South African Housing Design." Invited talk, Department of Anthropology and Justice & Peace Studies Program, Georgetown University, January 17.

2015   "Engaging Contradictions: Enacting Participation and Exclusion through Community-based Policymaking in Southern California." Invited discussant, Working Title Workshop, University of California, Irvine, February 24.

2014   "Archives of the Non-Racial: A Mobile Workshop." Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research) and Seminar

in Experimental Critical Theory (UC Humanities Research Institute), South Africa, June 29–July 11.

Public Research Presentations

2022   "Faking Photovoice: A Methodological Quandary of Compensation and Authenticity." Co-presenters Jenny Fan, Ellen G. Kladky, and Bryan Truitt. Photovoice method and application innovations track, 30 Years of Photovoice: Past, Present, Future. Virtual conference, October 20.

2019   "Trust, Economic Precarity, and Design in Financial Technology." Invited presentation with Bill Maurer, Center for Emerging Technology research event. Filene Research Institute. Seattle, WA, May 29.

2018   "Fintech and Payments Debrief 2018: Reading the Tea Leaves and Setting New Research Agendas for Money and Technology." Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion (IMTFI), University of California, Irvine, November 30.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2019   Conference Travel Grants. Associated Graduate Students (UC Irvine), awarded Spring and Fall 2015, Spring and Fall 2019. ($1,800).

2017   National Science Foundation. Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (Cultural Anthropology, Law & Social Sciences Programs), June 2017-May 2018. ($25,200; NSF Award 1729875)

2017   Graduate Student Small Research Grants. Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (UC Irvine), awarded 2014, 2015, and 2017. ($4,000).

2016   Summer Research Fellowships. Department of Anthropology (UC Irvine), awarded 2014, 2015, and 2016. ($8,275).

2014   Peterson Fellowship. Center for Law, Society and Culture (UC Irvine), 2014-2015. ($8,500).

2013   Graduate Dean's Recruitment Fellowship. School of Social Sciences (UC Irvine), 2013-2014. ($11,000).

2013   Newnham College Travel Grant. University of Cambridge. ($1,155).

AWARDS & HONORS

2021   First Place, Graduate Student Achievement Award, National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (*for publicly engaged scholarship*).

2013 Social Science Teaching Assistant Award. UC Irvine. 2013-2018 (*for graduate students who show exceptional academic promise*).

2012 Selected for induction into the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

2012 Yarrow Award in Peace Studies. Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame (*for academic excellence and a commitment to peace and justice*).

2012 Rev. Raymond W. Murray, CSC Award in Anthropology, University of Notre Dame (*for the top graduating senior with exemplary work in anthropology*).

2012 Senior Seminar Essay Award (First Place). Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame. For paper "Sensitizing the 'Senseless': Reconceptualizing the Riot as a Means of Strategic Peacebuilding."

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate – Instructor of Record
2019 Global Cultures and Society: Design in an Unequal World, Summer Session Online Course, UC Irvine, Departments of Anthropology and Global Studies, 4 Units.

Undergraduate – Research Mentor
2018 Blockchain, Smart Contracts and ICOs, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine, Summer Quarter. Co-taught computer science undergraduates in National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU) with Bill Maurer.

Undergraduate – Teaching Assistantship
2015 Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine, Spring Quarter. Teaching Assistant, Dr. Tom Douglas.

2015 Law and Modernity, Department of Anthropology and Criminology, Law and Society, UC Irvine, Winter Quarter. Teaching Assistant, Dr. Sheila O'Rourke.

2014 Law and Society (Upper-division Writing), Department of Political Science, UC Irvine, Fall Quarter. Teaching Assistant, Dr. S.K. Sellgren.

2014 Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine, Spring Quarter. Teaching Assistant, Dr. Victoria Bernal.

2014 Law and Modernity, Department of Anthropology and Criminology, Law and Society, UC Irvine, Winter Quarter. Teaching Assistant, Dr. Sheila O'Rourke.

2013 Africa and Afro-American Music, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine, Fall Quarter. Teaching Assistant, Dr. Robert Garfias.

PUBLIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018–21   Research Assistant, Center for Emerging Technology with Filene Fellow Bill Maurer, Filene Research Institute.

2015–7   Research Assistant, "Private Digital Currencies and Closed Payment Communities: Law, Regulation and Financial Exclusion After Bitcoin." PI Bill Maurer, National Science Foundation, Law & Social Sciences (NSF Award 1455859).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018   Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Cultural Economy*.

2016–7   Law and Society Association, Ethnography Law and Society CRN Publications Liaison.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

UC Irvine

2018   California-Shanghai Innovation Dialogues: From Fintech to Insurtech in China and the US, Conference Organizer, September 28-29.

2017–8   Department of Anthropology, Professional Development Peer Mentor.

2015–6   Department of Anthropology, Graduate Representative.

2014–5   Anthropology in Transit Graduate Student Conference, Steering Committee.

2014–5   Sub-Saharan Africa Interdisciplinary Reading Group, Facilitator.

2014   Department of Anthropology, Undergraduate Committee, Curriculum Analyst.

University of Cambridge

2012–13   Division of Social Anthropology, Elected Student Representative.

2012–13   Newnham College, Elected MCR Committee Member, South African Bursary Scheme Committee Representative.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Law and Society Association
American Anthropological Association
Society for Applied Anthropology

AFFILIATIONS

Center for Law, Society, and Culture (UC Irvine)
Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (UC Irvine)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training

2022   Certificate in Editing, University of Chicago.

2022   Photovoice for Research, five-month research-action training provided by Dr. Laura Lorenz, Photovoice Worldwide.

2019   Inclusive Teaching & Course Policies Workshop, UC Irvine Teaching Together Learning Community.

2018   Certificate in Student-Centered Course Design, UC Irvine Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation.

2013   Teaching Assistant Professional Development Program, UC Irvine Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation.

REFERENCES

Bill Maurer   *Postdoctoral Faculty Mentor*
Professor of Anthropology, Law, and Criminology, Law and Society
University of California, Irvine
wmmaurer@uci.edu

Keith M. Murphy   *Dissertation Committee Chair*
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
University of California, Irvine
kmmurphy@uci.edu

David Theo Goldberg   *Dissertation Committee Member*
Distinguished Professor, Departments of Comparative Literature and Anthropology
University of California, Irvine
Director Emeritus, University of California Humanities Research Institute
goldberg@uci.edu

Sylvia Nam   *Dissertation Committee Member*
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
University of California, Irvine
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