

KRISTIN SKRABUT

Assistant Professor
Urban Policy and Anthropology
Tufts University

kristin.skrabut@tufts.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban anthropology; political and legal anthropology; Latin American studies; statecraft and transnationalism; poverty, inequality, and marginalized communities; anthropology of policy; science and technology studies; gender; anthropology of population (e.g., kinship, life-course, migration, and the politics of numbers); anthropology of food; multispecies and more-than-human frameworks; anthropological theory; ethnographic methods and writing

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2018– **Tufts University.** Assistant Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy. Secondary Appointment, Department of Anthropology. Faculty Affiliate of Latin American Studies.
- 2015–18 **Harvard University.** Lecturer of Social Studies, Member of Board of Advisors for The Committee on Degrees in Social Studies
- 2014 **London School of Economics and Political Science.** Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Geography: Cities & Development Research Cluster

EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. in Anthropology, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2008 M.A. in Anthropology & Population Studies, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2005 B.A. in Anthropology & Latin American Studies, New York University, New York, NY

BOOKS

- 2024 *Unruly Domestications: The Politics of Poverty and Family in Lima.* Under contract at University of Texas Press.

PEER-REVIEWED ESSAYS

- 2021 Use, Exchange, and Speculation: The Politics of Inhabitation and the Right to the City in Urban Peru.” *City and Society*. Vol 33. No 1. pp. 118–146. DOI:10.1111/ciso.12392
- 2019 “Documents, Law & the State in the Andes.” *The Andean World*. Linda Seligmann & Kathleen Fine-Dare, editors. Routledge. Pg 524-538.

- 2018 “Residency Counts and Housing Rights: Conflicting Enactments of Property in Lima’s Central Margins.” *Current Anthropology*. Vol. 59. No.6. Pg 691-715. DOI: 10.1086/700758
- 2018 “Housing the Contingent Life Course: Aspiration and Extreme Poverty in Peru’s Urban Periphery.” *City and Society*. Vol. 30. No. 2. Pg 263-288. DOI:10.1111/ciso.12145.
- 2014 “Recognizing (Dis)Order: Topographies of Power and Property in Lima’s Periphery.” Chapter in *The Housing Question: Tensions, Continuities and Contingencies in the Modern City*. Edward Murphy and Najib Hourani, editors. Ashgate. Pg 183-198.
- 2010 “Recount! The Social Life of the Peruvian Census.” *Anthropology News*. Vol 51: 5.13-15

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

“How to Keep Your Milk Money: Emergency & Moral Precarity in Peru’s War on Poverty.” In preparation for *Cultural Anthropology*.

“WhatsApp with the State: From E-Governance to E-Clientelism in Urban Peru.” In Preparation for *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2022 “Heirs to the Movement: Next Generation Housing Activism in Neoliberal Chile.” Invited thematic essay on *The right to dignity: Housing struggles, city making and citizenship in urban Chile*. 2022. by Miguel Perez. *International Journal of Housing Policy*. 4 July. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19491247.2022.2084223>
- 2018 Review of *No One Will Let Her Live: Women’s Struggle for Well-Being in a Delhi Slum*. 2015. by Claire Snell-Rood. *Association for Feminist Anthropology*. 4 April 2018. <http://afa.americananthro.org/book-review/no-one-will-let-her-live-womens-struggle-for-well-being-in-a-delhi-slum/>
- 2018 Review of *Violence and Resilience in Latin American Cities*. 2015. edited by Kees Koonings and Dirk Kruijt. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*. Vol. 23, Issue 1, Pages: 223–225
- 2016 Review of *Mobile Selves: Race, Migration, and Belonging in Peru and the U.S.* 2015. by Ulla Berg. *International Migration Review*. Vol. 50, Issue 2, Summer 2016. e25–26
- 2015 Review of *Cities From Scratch: Poverty and Informality in Urban Latin America*. 2014. Eds. Brodwyn Fischer, Bryan McCann and Javier Auyero. *Social Anthropology*. Vol. 23:1, February 2015, Pages: 97–98

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Rethinking Poverty Landscapes: Housing the Contingent Life Course in Lima's Periphery.” Presented at the Population Studies and Training Center Colloquia Series. Brown University.

- 2022 “EnGendering the State: Female Street Bureaucrats and the Unsettling Mediations of Politics and Kinship in Urban Peru.” Presented as part of a panel on *Unsettling Bureaucracy* at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Seattle, Washington.
- 2022 “Uncommon Pots: Dormant Solidarity and Food Assistance in Times of Covid.” Presented at Annual Meeting of New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS). Central Connecticut State University.
- 2018 “Mediating Bureaucracy and Digital Gatekeepers in Peru.” Presented as part of panel on *Digital Infrastructures: Poetics, Politics and Personhood*. American Anthropological Association Meeting. San Jose, CA. Sponsored by the Association for the Anthropology of Policy and the Central States Anthropological Society.
- 2017 “Anticipating E-Governance: On Timeliness and Timelessness in Shifting Anthropological Fields”. Presented as part of panel on *Anthropologists On The Move: Celebrating Kay Warren’s Research, Teaching, & Advocacy*. American Anthropological Assoc. Meeting. Washington, D.C.
- 2017 “*No Hacer Vivencia: Conflicts Over Residency & Rights to the City in Lima’s Shantytowns.*” Presented as part of *The Right to the City in Latin America* panel for the Latin American Studies Association Meeting, Lima, Peru.
- 2017 “Papering the Margins: The Formalities of Poverty and Citizenship in Urban Peru.” Paper presented at the Contemporary Latin American Anthropology Working Group Series, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA
- 2016 “Poverty Monitoring and Moral Precarity in ‘Post-Neoliberal’ Peru.” Presented as part of panel on, *Precarity and the State in Latin America*, organized by Susan Bibler Coutin for Latin American Studies Association Meeting, New York, NY
- 2014 “Making Marginal Families in Peru’s ‘Right to Identity’ Campaign.” Presented at American Anthropological Assoc. Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2014 “Multi-House Homes: Aspiration, Abandonment, and Contingent Time in Peru’s Urban Periphery.” Presented at Cities, Space and Development Seminar Series, LSE
- 2013 “Producing Poverty: Measurement, Mediation & Mistrust in Urban Peru.” Paper presented at Working Group in the Anthropology of Population (WGAP) Colloquium, Brown University
- 2012 “Producing Poverty: Measurement, Mediation and Mistrust in Urban Peru.” Presented at American Anthropological Association Meeting, San Francisco
- 2011 “Flexible Families: Pushing the Limits of Progressive Housing in Peru.” Paper presented at Global Relations: Kinship and Transnationalism Workshop, Brown University
- 2010 “Alternative Social, Political and Economic Practice.” Discussant at Politics, Culture & Society Workshop, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Brown University
- 2010 “Recognizing Rights and (Dis)Order in Lima’s Central Margins.” Paper presented at Infrastructures of Home and City Conference, Michigan State University
- 2008 “Legibility and Landtrafficking: How to ‘Do Living’ in Lima’s Central Margins.” Presented for invited session, *Ethnographies of the Record*, at American Anthropology Meeting, San Francisco.

WORKSHOPS

- 2021 Organizer for Virtual Book Workshop for manuscript: *Extreme Lives: Poverty & Intimacy in Urban Peru*. Sponsored by Center for the Humanities at Tufts. Participants: Daniella Gandolfo (Wesleyan), Clara Han (Johns Hopkins), Krista Van Vleet (Bowdoin), Susan Ellison (Wellesley). March 19, 2021.
- 2019-21 Working Group Member in Mellon Sawyer Seminar, *Defamiliarizing the Family: Genealogy and Kinship as Critical Method*. Tufts University.
- 2018-21 Participating member of the Contemporary Latin American Anthropology Workshop (CLAAW) at David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University.
- 2011 Co-Organizer, NSF-ADVANCE workshop: “*Linguagenesis: A Forum on Creativity in Language*” Brown University, May 19-20.
- 2011 Co-Organizer, NSF-ADVANCE workshop: “*Global Relations: Kinship and Transnationalism*” Brown University, March 18-19.

FUNDED RESEARCH AND AWARDS

- 2023 Tufts University, Grants-in-Aid Award for Research Dissemination. "Unruly Domestications: The Politics of Poverty and Family in Lima."
- 2021 Center for Humanities at Tufts (CHAT), Faculty Book Workshop Grant. “Extreme Lives: Poverty and Intimacy in Urban Peru.”
- 2019 Tufts University, Faculty Research Award. “Biometric Technologies and Criminal Justice in Urban Peru.”
- 2010 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
- 2009-10 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 2008 SUNTA Student Panel Prize and Travel Award, to present at annual American Anthropological Association meeting, San Francisco
- 2007-09 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Fellowship for Graduate Studies
- 2008, 07 Population Studies & Training Center Research Travel Grant
- 2006-07 Brown University Fellowship for Graduate Studies
- 2002-05 NYU Presidential Scholarship Award; National Merit Scholarship Award

FIELD RESEARCH

“Practices & Politics of Milk Production and Consumption in Peru.” May-August 2022. Protocol submitted to Tufts University IRB for ethnographic field research and interviews to investigate the politics, infrastructures, economies, and ideologies that govern the production, distribution and consumption of milk products in Peru.

“Biometric Technologies and Criminal Justice in Urban Peru.” June-August 2019. Funded by Tufts University Faculty Research Award. Institutional ethnography and interviews with public prosecutors, forensic scientists, judges and video surveillance technicians in Callao, Peru, to investigate how biometric, surveillance, and communication technologies are implicated in efforts to modernize Peru’s criminal justice system.

“Biometrics, Digital Modernity and the Margins of the State in Peru.” Summers 2016 - 2018. Supported by the Harvard Social Studies Teaching and Research Fund. Ethnographic field research and interviews to investigate digital ID and video surveillance infrastructure in Callao and Puno, Peru.

“Only the ‘Truly Needy’ Need Apply: Exploring Formal/Focal Intersections in Peru’s Fight Against Poverty.” 2008-2011. Funded by the National Science Foundation and the Wenner-Gren Foundation. Ethnographic field research in Lima, Callao and Pisco, Peru to investigate the design, implementation, and effects of poverty reduction strategies in officially designated “extreme poverty zones.”

“Boxes and Bridges: Reformulating Identities in Peruvian Migrant Communities.” Summer 2007. Funded by the Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University. Ethnographic field research in Callao, Peru exploring the connections between census politics and housing rights.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, **“Transnational Adoptees and Migrants: From Peru to Spain.”** 2011-2013. Funded by the National Science Foundation. Qualitative analysis of adoption related websites, migrant newspapers, and international law to investigate the discursive environment surrounding the adoption and integration of Peruvian children in Spain.

Immigrant Rights and Language Access Intern, **Vera Institute of Justice**, New York, NY. 2006. Investigated the relationship between language barriers and violations of immigrant rights and composed advisory documents on how to promote language access within the U.S. justice system.

Research Assistant, **Columbia University Center for Bioethics/HIV Center**, New York, NY. 2005-2006. Conducted qualitative analysis of interviews on experiences of genetic testing, the ethics of international drug trials, and the privacy of medical information. Additional activities: demographic and statistical analysis of research participants, assisting in grant application submission, and copyediting.

Law & Policy Intern, **New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs**, New York, NY. 2006. Investigated concerns of New York immigrant communities and composed analytical and advisory office memoranda. Additional activities: reporting on press conferences, evaluating census data, advising callers on immigrant rights issues.

Archaeological Field School, **University of Missouri at Buena Vista, Peru**. Summer 2003. Excavated and analyzed ceramic and skeletal material from pre-ceramic & formative sites.

TEACHING

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Revisioning Cities: Ethnography for Policy and Planning, *ongoing*

Global Urban Developments (Fall 2023)

Global Slums: Perspectives on Urbanism from the Margins, (Spring 2020, 2021)

Foundations of Policy and Planning, Faculty Mentor (Fall 2020, 2021)

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Global Slums (Spring 2016 - 2018)

Medicine and Society (Fall 2017)

Poverty and Development in Latin America (Fall 2015)

Boston University, Boston, MA

Cultures of Latin America (Fall 2013)

Brown University, Providence, RI

Medicine and Society, Pre-college short course (Summer 2009-2012)

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2012)

Global Development, Teaching Assistant (Summer 2009)

International Health: Anthropological Perspectives, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2009).

Violence and the Media, Teaching Assistant (2008)

GUEST LECTURES

“Housing the Contingent Life Course: Rethinking the Aesthetics of Poverty in Peruvian Shantytowns.” *Global Cities*. Tufts University. Spring 2020.

“A Cultural Lens for Policy and Planning: The Case of Land Trafficking.” *Foundations of Public Policy and Planning*. Tufts University. Fall 2019.

“Latin America and the Rise of Informal Urban Neighborhoods.” *Cities in Space, Place and Time*. Tufts University. Fall 2018.

“From the Field: Peru’s War on Poverty in Urban Space.” *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. Boston University. Fall 2013.

“Cultivating Interests in Anthropology and Everyday Problems.” *Student Anthropology Collective*. Tufts University. Spring 2013.

“Watching the English: From the What to the How of Culture.” *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. Brown University. Spring 2012.

STUDENT RESEARCH SUPERVISING

ADVISOR

- 2021-23 MA Thesis: “Understanding Urban Informality in Karachi: The Case of Orangi Town.” By Rismah Amjad.
- 2021-22 MA Thesis: “Making Sense of Place: An Ethnography of Embodied Toxic Exposure in Pleasantdale.” By Lucy Perkins.
- 2021-22 MA Thesis: “Comparative Case Study of Community Participation and Mobilization Around Transportation Projects in Mattapan and West Roxbury.” By Louisa Gag.
- 2021-22 MA Thesis: “Building Power: Tenant Organizing, Community Land Trusts, and the Right to the City.” By Josh McLinden.
- 2021-22 MA Thesis: “Creating Value in Used Clothing: Circular Economy and Secondhand Businesses.” By Joann Lai.
- 2021-22 MA Thesis: “Food Justice in City, State, and Regional Food Plans.” By Anna Bury.
- 2020-22 MA Thesis: “Exploring the Role of Land Tenure in Climate Adaptation Ability on the Caribbean Island of Barbuda.” By Danielle Jameson.
- 2020-21 MA Thesis: “A Gendered Analysis of Climate Action Plans in Boston and Seattle.” By Meghan Tenhoff. *Winner UEP Outstanding Thesis Award 2021*.
- 2020-21 MA Thesis: “From the Green Revolution and Low Carbon Transitions: Implications for Inequality in India.” By Anisha Nazareth
- 2019-22 MA Thesis: “Housing Discourse on Twitter: The YIMBY Movement’s Exercise of Power and Implications for the Housing Debate.” By Connor Ring.
- 2019-21 MA Thesis: “Cada no Pa’ Su Casa: An Analysis of Home as Context.” By Guadalupe Garcia.
- 2019-20 C.A.G.S. Research: “Health and Wellbeing in Massachusetts Corrections Institutions.” By Alex Reddy.
- 2019-20 MA Thesis: “Just Energy: Generating Community Power in Holyoke, MA.” By Cyatharine Alias.
- 2019-20 MA Thesis: “Illuminations of Safety: Negotiating Security and Conviviality in Daneyh Park.” By Rachel Dowley. *Winner UEP Outstanding Thesis Award 2020*.
- 2018-19 MA Thesis: “Cultivating Nature and Civic Ecology: A Boston Case Study.” By Alexis Washburn
- 2017-18 Senior Thesis: “Volunteer Tourism in Development Discourse.” By Phoebe Mesard. Harvard University.
- 2017-18 Senior Thesis: “Drawing Boundaries, Bridging Divides: Subjective Definitions of Neighborhood and Cross-SES Interactions in South Boston.” By Maxine Patwardhan. Harvard University.

2016-17 Senior Thesis: “Removing the Olympic Make-Up: Race, Urban Space, and Fear of Violence in Rio de Janeiro.” Winner of Kenneth Maxwell Thesis Prize in Brazilian Studies. By Ashley Collins. Harvard University

READER

2021-22 MA Thesis: “Increasing Inclusion in Participatory Planning—A Case Study of the Union Square Community Design Team.” By Gloria Huangpu

2021-22 MA Thesis: “Priorities in Climate Change Adaptation: An Analysis of Four Tribal and Non-Tribal Plans.” By Alex Duprey

2019-21 MA Thesis: “Participatory Budgeting in Cambridge, MA.” By Lev McCarthy.

2019-21 MA Thesis: “Participatory Democracy for Community Control: The Uphams Corner Process.” By Luisa Santos.

2019-20 MA Thesis: “Intersections of Race, Space & Place in Boston’s Franklin Park.” By Elisabeth Kellam.

2019-20 MA Thesis: “Framing Boston’s Green New Deal.” By Julia Masters.

2018-19 MA Thesis: “Multispecies Planning: Locating Nonhuman Entanglements in Oyster Restoration Policy on the Massachusetts Coast.” By David Morgan. *Winner UEP Outstanding Thesis Award 2019.*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT MENTORSHIP

2023 Louisa Winchell. UEP- MA Student. "Bilingual Academic Editing and Digital Design."

2022 Morgane Dackiw. Undergraduate Senior in Biology, Anthropology & GIS. "Mapping Informal Settlements in Peru."

2022 Brittany Fulgione. UEP-MA Student. “The Politics of Food Assistance in Peru.”

2021 Diana Figueroa. UEP-MA Student. “Social Media & Peruvian Political Engagement.”

2019-20 Brigid Bell. Undergraduate Senior in Anthropology and Political Science. “Biometric Technologies and Governance in Latin America.”

2019-20 Danielle Jameson. UEP-Fletcher Joint Degree Student. “Historical Transformations in Peruvian Land Law 1961-Present.”

TUFTS UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Faculty Board Member, Latin American Studies Program

- Ongoing* Academic Advisor, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy
- Ongoing* UEP Graduate Admissions: Application Review & Recruitment
- 2023 UEP Transnational Urban Studies Curriculum Coordinator
- 2021 Tufts International Travel Review Committee (ITRC)
- 2021 Qualitative Methods Consulting for Tufts Diversity and Inclusion Leadership MA students
- 2018-20 UEP Thesis & Student Research Support Initiatives
- 2018-19 UEP Foundations & Cities Core Course Review

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

- Ongoing* Manuscript reviewer for *American Ethnologist*, *City and Society*, *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, *Meridians*, *Open Anthropology Review*, *Anthropology & Humanism*, *Planning Perspectives*, *Environment and Society: Advances in Research*.
- 2019 Outside Reviewer for MA Theses, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
- 2017 Contributor to *Methods Handbook for Social Studies Junior Tutorials*, Harvard College, 2017 edition
- 2016-18 Undergraduate Thesis Supervisor, Reader & Examiner, Committee for Degrees in Social Studies, Harvard University
- 2015-18 Board of Academic Advisors, Committee for Degrees in Social Studies, Harvard University
- 2008-11 Employee Relations and Spanish Translation Consultant, *Downtown DC Business Improvement District*. Washington, D.C.
- 2009 Copy editor, Japanese Foreign Aid and the Construction of Global Development: Inescapable Solutions. Eds. David Leheny & Kay Warren. London: Routledge, 2010.
- 2007-09 Co-Organizer, Interdisciplinary Engagement & Professionalization in Population Studies, Graduate Student Workshop Series, Population Studies & Training Center, Brown University
- 2007- 08 Graduate Student Coordinator, Working Group in Anthropology & Population (WGAP), Brown University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association (AAA), Critical Urban Anthropology Association (CUAA), Association for the Anthropology of Policy (ASAP), Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA), American Ethnological Society (AES), Association for Feminist Anthropology (AFA), Latin American Studies Association (LASA), FUTURE-ID International Working Group (Bhalisa), International Association of Peruvianists