

ELANA FAYE RESNICK

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RESEARCH: Racialization, white supremacy, environmental justice, labor, waste, liberalism, race in Europe, materiality

CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

- 2017 - Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2018- Director, [Infrastructural Inequalities Research Group](#), University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2018- Faculty Affiliate, Interdepartmental PhD Emphasis in Environment and Society (focus on intersectional environmental justice)

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2016-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow, Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies and Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Global and Intercultural Studies, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
- 2015 Global Europe Resident Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C. (June-September)
- 2014-2015 Weatherhead Resident Scholar, School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico

EDUCATION

- 2007-2016 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Department of Anthropology
- Ph.D. 2016, M.A. 2011
- 2001-2005 Haverford College, Honors in Anthropology
- B.A., Double Major in Anthropology and English

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 "Materiality." *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*. New York: Oxford University Press. [forthcoming]
- 2021 "[The Limits of Resilience: Managing Waste in the Racialized Anthropocene](#)," *American Anthropologist*. 123 (2): 222-236.

- 2020 ["There is Nothing Revelatory About It: Racialized Labor in the Age of COVID-19,"](#) *Society for the Anthropology of Work: Exertions*
- 2018 "Durable Remains: Glass of the Past and a Precarious European Future," *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*. 5(1): 103-115.
- 2017 "Protest and the Practice of Normal Life in Bulgaria," *Lietuvos Etnologija: Socialinės Anthropologijos ir Etnologijos Studijos (Lithuanian Ethnology: Studies in Social Anthropology and Ethnology)*. 17(26): 193-214.
- 2015 "Discarded Europe: Money, Trash, and the Possibilities of a New Temporality," *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*. 24(1): 123-131.
- 2010 "The Unintentional Activist: Questions of Action, Activism, and Accountability," *Collaborative Anthropologies*. 3(1): 102-109.
- 2009 "Transnational Affiliations, Local Articulations: Consumption and Romani Publics in Bulgaria," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*. 27(2):101-116.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

- 2020 "Beyond the Object: Afterlives of Loss and the Materiality of What Remains," Invited by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for edited volume *Material Culture of Difficult Histories* [Invited, Cornell University Press]
- 2020 "The Determined Indeterminacy of White Supremacy"

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Refusing Sustainability: Life Beyond Waste at the Edges of Europe [book manuscript]

"Race, Gender, and Environmental Justice: Intersectionality and Racial Capitalism in the 'New Europe,'" to be submitted to *Signs*

"Running Water in the Land of Spitting Dragons: Racializing Infrastructure and Imaginative Recuperation" to be submitted to *Cultural Anthropology*

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2018 *The Social Life of Materials: Studies in Material and Society*, Ed. Adam Drazin and Susanne Küchler, 2015, London: Bloomsbury. *American Ethnologist*. 45(1): 151-152. (Winter 2018)

MEDIA COVERAGE/INTERVIEWS/POPULAR PRESS PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 [Capitalist Discard, Durability, and Romani Racialized Labor in the Anthropocene.](#) Mergers and Acquisitions Podcast, Society for Economic Anthropology.

- 2021 [Trash in \(post\)-Communist Eastern Europe](#). SRB Podcast, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2020 Quoted in “Europe's Marginalised Roma People Hit Hard by Coronavirus” in [The Guardian](#) (May 11)
- 2020 [Elana Resnick’s Path from Waste Worker to University of California Professor](#), The American Dream Podcast, Bulgarian National Television
- 2018 "[Episode #8: Elana Resnick and Chloe Ahmann](#)" *Conversations in Anthropology Podcast*
- 2013 Letter to the Editor, “The Rancor Against Roma in Europe” in *The New York Times* (October 24: A26).
- 2011 “Using Ethnic Tensions for Political Gains (and Games): Anti-Roma Protests in Bulgaria” in *Truth-out.org* (October 8)
- 2011 “Symptom or Disease? Anti-Roma Sentiment in Bulgaria” in the online magazine *Kulturrisse.at* (translated into German)

MULTI-MODAL INITIATIVES

- 2018- *Plums for Trash [Slivi Za Smet]* 2.0, with artist Christina Freeman. A performance art installation about and using barter exchange in Sofia’s public spaces, now moving across the United States.
- 2013-2016 *Waste and Life*, a film by Elana Resnick and Bojina Panayotova about racialized labor in urban space, Sofia, Bulgaria.
- 2012-2014 “*Dirty*” and “*Clean*” Places: *Research in the Social Restructuring of Urban Space*. A project supported by the National Program for Science and Education in Bulgaria. (In collaboration with Velislava Petrova, Veronika Dimitrova, Slavka Karakusheva, Sofia University)
- 2011-2012 *Plums for Trash [Slivi Za Smet]* with artist Christina Freeman. A performance art installation about and using barter exchange in Sofia’s public spaces.

EXTERNAL GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

- Under Review National Science Foundation Grant, Build and Broaden 2.0, for "*Racialized Power: An Ethnographic Study of Nuclear Energy and Intersectional Inequality in Bulgaria.*"
- 2020-2021 University of California Humanities Research Institute [Junior Faculty Manuscript Workshop Grant](#) (\$5,000)
- 2019-2021 University of California Hellman Fellowship for "[Racialized Power: Nuclear Energy and Infrastructural Inequality in Bulgaria](#)" (\$36, 262)

- 2019 SOYUZ/AAA Annual Article Paper Prize, Honorable Mention for “Durable Remains: Glass of the Past and a Precarious European Future,” *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*.
- 2017 American Councils Title VIII Combined Research and Language Training Program Advanced Research Fellowship, U.S. Department of State, for research in Bulgaria (May-August)
- 2016 Wenner-Gren Foundation. Engaged Anthropology Grant, Bulgaria (June-August)
- 2013-2014 Andrew Mellon/Council for European Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship, for dissertation writing in Sofia, Bulgaria
- 2013 ARCS Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, American Research Center in Sofia, Bulgaria (January-June)
- 2013 American Anthropological Association’s Society for the Anthropology of Europe, Annual Graduate Student Paper Prize Winner
- 2011-2012 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, for research in Sofia, Bulgaria (November 2011-October 2012)
- 2011 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Fieldwork Grant for Research on Waste Management in Sofia, Bulgaria (January-June)
- 2008 American Council of Learned Societies (awarded, declined) for Bulgarian language summer study

INTERNAL GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2021-2023 Pearl Chase Research Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara (\$6000)
- 2021-2022 Intersectional Justice Faculty Research Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara (\$2000)
- 2021-2022 Research Assistance Program Award, University of California, Santa Barbara (\$8000)
- 2021-2022 Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, Faculty Fellowship Award, University of California, Santa Barbara (\$5,000)
- 2020-2021 Instructional Improvement Program Mini-grant, University of California, Santa Barbara (\$1000)
- 2020-2021 Faculty Career Development Award, University of California, Santa Barbara (\$7500)
- 2018-2019 ISBER Social Science Research Grants Program (SSRGP), University of California, Santa Barbara, for “The Lives and Afterlives of Nuclear Infrastructure in Bulgaria” (\$8,000)

- 2018-2019 Academic Senate Faculty Research Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara, for "Legacies of Soviet Energy and the Everyday Politics of Nuclear Infrastructure in Bulgaria" (\$16,750)
- 2018-2019 Carsey-Wolf Center Faculty Research Support Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara, for "Ethnography in the Time of Facebook: Romani Voices and Social Media" (\$2,500)
- 2014 Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia (WCEE) Summer Fellowship, University of Michigan, for research on evangelical church movements in Bulgaria (June-August)
- 2012-2013 Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, University of Michigan, for research and writing in Bulgaria
- 2010 Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan International Institute fellowship for Bulgarian language training and preliminary research in Sofia, Bulgaria (October-December)
- 2009 Stanley Frankel Summer Fellowship for Research and Study, University of Michigan, for summer research on Roma and Jewish community issues in Bulgaria (May-August)
- 2009 Anthropology Department Summer Research Grant, University of Michigan, for summer research in Bulgaria (May-August)
- 2009 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), University of Michigan (summer) for study of Bulgarian language in Sofia, Bulgaria
- 2008-2009 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, University of Michigan (academic year) for study of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- 2008 Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies Research, Internship, and Fellowship (CRIF) Grant, University of Michigan, summer research in Bulgaria (May-August)
- 2008 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), University of Pittsburgh, for the study of Bulgarian language
- 2007-2008 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, University of Michigan (academic year) for study of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian

ORGANIZED/CHAIRING PANELS

- 2021 "The Politics of Joy," Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Virtual Meeting. May 14-16.
- 2018 "With Kith and Kin: Generating Modernity," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose. November 14-18.

- 2016 “The Work of Racialization and the Racialization of Work.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis. November 16-20.
- 2015 “Anthropology of Humor, Humor in Ethnography.” *Executive Session*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver. November 18-22.
- 2014 “Incongruous Continuities: ‘History’ as Critical Practice.” Council for European Studies Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. March 14-16.
- 2013 “Ethnographies of Things: Time, Materiality, and Change.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago. November 20-24.
- 2013 “Ruin by Design? The Aesthetics of Creativity in European Material Cultures.” 20th International Conference of Europeanists, Council for European Studies, Amsterdam. June 25-27.

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 "For the Love of the Danube: Nuclear Residues and Residual Affection," Fallout: Chernobyl and the Ecology of Disaster Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, April 29-30.
- 2018 "Racialized Power: Nuclear Energy and Infrastructural Inequality." Sawyer Seminar: Energy Justice in Global Perspective, University of California, Santa Barbara, November 9.
- 2018 "Beyond the Object: Afterlives of Loss and the Materiality of What Remains." United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Material Culture and the Holocaust workshop and symposium, October 1-4.
- 2018 “Running Water in the Land of Spitting Dragons: Waste, Race, and Environmental Justice in Bulgaria.” University of North Texas, Department of Anthropology. February 16.
- 2017 “Running Water in the Land of Spitting Dragons: The Moral Logics of Urban Infrastructure in Bulgaria.” Oberlin College. November 27.
- 2017 “Infrastructure, EU Accession, and Romani Politics in Bulgaria.” Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar, Bulgaria in the Context of Migration and Challenges to European Cohesion. Sofia, Bulgaria. August 2.
- 2017 “Running Water in the Land of Spitting Dragons: Romani Labor and the Animation of Urban Infrastructure in Bulgaria.” University of Michigan, Center for Russian and East European Studies. March 15.
- 2016 “Nothing Ever Perishes: Waste, Race, and Transformation in Bulgaria.” Midwaste: Midwestern Wasteways and Global Futures Symposium. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. May 5-6.

- 2016 “Can We Stop Talking about Birth Control Yet? ‘Gypsy’ Bodies as European Problems.” Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut. April 12.
- 2016 “Dismantling the Promise of Progress: Waste Management, Racialized Labor, and Transformation in Bulgaria.” Franz Boas Seminar, Columbia University. March 4.
- 2016 “Scavenging Votes and Scrap Metal: The Politics of Romani Labor and Poverty in Bulgaria.” Anthropology Colloquium, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. February 1.
- 2014 “From ‘Gypsy Work’ to E.U. Recycling: Waste, Race, and Environment in Bulgaria.” School for Advanced Research Colloquium, Santa Fe, New Mexico. November 12.
- 2011 “Material Waste, Social Trash and Stigmatization.” The Red House Centre for Culture and Debate, Sofia, Bulgaria. June 7.
- 2011 “Waste, Work, and Racialization.” American Research Center, Sofia, Bulgaria. April 27.
- 2011 “Using, Keeping, Recycling: A History of Social Change vis-à-vis [Recycled] Objects in Bulgaria.” New Bulgarian University, Anthropology Department Winter Symposium, Sofia, Bulgaria. November 17.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS (REFEREED ABSTRACTS)

- 2021 “For the Love of the Danube: Nuclear Residues and Residua Affection,” Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S), October 6-9.
- 2021 “To Love a Toxic River: Imagining the Future of Nuclear Power in Bulgaria,” Council for European Studies Annual Meeting, June 21-25.
- 2021 “Jesus Is Always Welcome At My Party: Holy Laughter and Spiritual Joy in Bulgaria,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Virtual Meeting. May 14-16.
- 2019 "When Jesus's Love Makes Electricity Unnecessary: Evangelical Christianity and Material-Affective Substitution in Bulgaria," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, November 20-24.
- 2018 "Assessing Toxicity and Imagining the Future of Nuclear Infrastructure in Bulgaria." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose. November 14-18.
- 2017 “Running Water in the Land of Spitting Dragons: The Moral Logics of Urban Infrastructure in Bulgaria.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis. November 19-December 3.

- 2017 “The Russian Revolution, Industry, and U.S. Race Relations.” Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, International Young Researchers Conference, Cuma, Italy. June 13-17.
- 2017 “Jesus is Always Welcome at My Party: Holy Laughter and Experiences of Joy in Bulgaria.” Soyuz Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies, Indiana University, March 3-4.
- 2016 “Waste Labor, Roma Bodies, and the Politics of Movement in Europe.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis. November 16-20.
- 2016 “The Daily Hazards of Cleaning Sofia.” University of Regensburg, Germany. October 6-8.
- 2015 “The Hilarity of Alterity: Romani Waste Workers and Other People’s Trash.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver. November 18-22.
- 2014 “A Mediated Ethnographic Presence: Three Minutes of Fame on Bulgarian Television.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. December 3-7.
- 2014 “I Owe You One: Informal Loans, International Debt, and Roma Workers in Bulgaria.” Council for European Studies Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. March 14-16.
- 2014 “Access to Heaven and Hot Water: Evangelical Churches, Public Utilities, and Attempts at Moral Transformation in Bulgaria.” Council for European Studies Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., March 14-16.
- 2013 “Discarded Europe: Money, Trash, and the Possibility of a New Temporality.” *Invited Session*. Society for the Anthropology of Europe Graduate Student Prize Panel. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago. November 20-24.
- 2011 “From Waste Objects, Recycled Time.” Romanian Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Bucharest, Romania. September 22-25.
- 2009 “Transnational Affiliations, Local Articulations: Moralities of Consumption and Romani Affiliations in Bulgaria.” SOYUZ annual conference, Yale University. April 24-26.
- 2008 “Transnational Affiliations; Local Articulations: Reconfiguring ‘Blackness’ in Bulgaria.” American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco. November 14-18.
- 2008 “Transnational Affiliations, Local Articulations: Romani Configurations of Indianness in Bulgaria.” Michigaoan Linguistic Anthropology conference, University of Chicago. May 2-4.

TEACHING

- Spring 2021 *Introduction to Anthropology* (ANTH 2), general education lecture course, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology (540 students)
- Winter 2021 *Contemporary Ethnographic Theory* (ANTH 235B), core PhD seminar, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology (3 students)
- Spring 2020 *Introduction to Anthropology* (ANTH 2), general education lecture course, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology (510 students)
- Winter 2019 *Contemporary Ethnographic Theory* (ANTH 235B), core PhD seminar, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology (10 students)
- Spring 2018 *Introduction to Anthropology* (ANTH 2), general education lecture course, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology (250 students)
- Winter 2018 *Development and Decay: Urban Infrastructure and the Politics of Inequality* (AN 197ER), upper-level anthropology course on infrastructural inequalities, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology (40 students)
- Spring 2017 *Politics of Power in Europe*, upper-level seminar on energy and environmental politics, Miami University, Department of Global and Intercultural Studies (16 students)
Introduction to International Studies, introductory-level lecture course, Miami University, Department of Global and Intercultural Studies (40 students)
- Fall 2016 *Issues in Post-Soviet Eurasia*, Writing-intensive seminar, Miami University, Department of Global and Intercultural Studies (10 students)

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2018 Jack and Anita Hess Seminar for Faculty, *Silenced Voices and Marginalized Histories: Roma and Sinti in the Holocaust*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C. January 8-12.
- 2013 Junior Scholars' Training Seminar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, Aspen Wye River, Maryland. August 16-19.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association (AAA)
Anthropology and Environmental Society
Association for Feminist Anthropology (AFA)
Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA)
Society for the Anthropology of Europe (SAE)
American Ethnological Society (AES)
Association for the Advancement of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
Council for European Studies (CES)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2020-2021 Undergraduate Committee, Cultural Anthropology Wing representative, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology
2019- College of Creative Studies, Social Sciences Development Committee
2019-2020 Search Committee Member, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology
2018-2019 Colloquium Committee, Cultural Anthropology Wing representative, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology
2017-2018 Undergraduate Committee, Cultural Anthropology Wing representative, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Anthropology
2017-2019 General Education Assessment Contact for the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara

REVIEWER

National Science Foundation
SOYUZ Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies (Prize Panel)
Society for the Anthropology of Europe (Prize Panel)
Journal of Material Culture
Journal of Linguistic Anthropology
East European Politics and Societies
International Labor and Working-Class History
Geoforum

LANGUAGES

Fluency in Bulgarian, Passive understanding of Romani, Basic understanding Serbian/Bosnian/Croatian

FIELDWORK

Bulgaria: October-November 2019
Bulgaria: August-September 2018
Bulgaria: May-August 2017
Bulgaria: June-August 2016, July 2014, August 2010- December 2013, June-August 2009, July-August 2008, April 2006, June-August 2003
Poland: June-August 2004
United Kingdom (w/ Romani asylum seekers): January-May 2004

Revised: August 2021