

ERIN MCELROY - CURRICULUM VITAE

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Erin McElroy is a cultural anthropologist engaged in emancipatory scholarship and advocacy-based research, affiliated as an independent scholar though the Center for Subaltern Justice. McElroy's work focuses upon genealogical excavations of formations of state racisms and violences in European peripheral spaces, particularly as it targets Roma communities in Romania and in the diapsora. Through critical frameworks and commitments towards justice, McElroy's scholarship draws upon poststructural, postcolonial, feminist, and Marxist critique, and employs participatory research methodologies that seek to take positions of advocacy. McElroy has a M.A. in Social and Cultural Anthropology with an emphasis on Gender, Ecology, and Society from the California Institute of Integral Studies, and B.A. in Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies from Hampshire College as well as in Studio Art from New York University.

EDUCATION

M.A. in Social and Cultural Anthropology with an emphasis on Gender, Society, and Ecology

California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA, 2011

Emphasis: Postcolonial, poststructural, feminist, Marxist scholarship and critical theory
Participatory, advocacy-based ethnographic research methodology conducted with Roma and dissident communities in Northern Ireland

Advisor: Angana Chatterji

B.A. in Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, 2004

Emphasis: Studies in Visuality

Thesis: "Where the Grid Meets the Grain: Photo-transfer Hybridization in a Shifting Political Landscape."

Advisor: Mariangeles Soto-Diaz

Committee Members: Mario D'Amato, Stewart Kane, Mariangeles Soto-Diaz

B. A. Studio Art, New York University, NY, 2002

Emphasis: The Politics of Representation: Disappearance and Autobiography

Advisor: Beth Coleman

LANGUAGES

English: Fluent, Scholarly writing

Spanish: Conversational, Reading and writing

Romanian: Basic - currently studying

AWARDS AND HONORS

2012: Opportunity Scholarship: California Institute of Integral Studies, CA

2011: Social Justice and Research Grant: California Institute of Integral Studies, CA

2011: Opportunity Scholarship: California Institute of Integral Studies, CA

2010: Opportunity Scholarship: California Institute of Integral Studies, CA

2010: Social Justice and Research Grant: California Institute of Integral Studies, CA

2009: Opportunity Scholarship: California Institute of Integral Studies, CA

2008: Artist-in-Residence Fellowship: Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA

2008: Alternative Exposure Grant: Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA

2007: Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant, Northampton, MA

SELECTED COURSES

Theoretical: The Art of Disappearance: Identity, Autobiography, and Technology - NYU
Critical Histories of the Human Sciences - CIIS
Cross-Cultural Issues - CIIS
Diaspora and Globalization - CIIS
Engendering and Reframing Development - CIIS
Global Politics at the Border - CIIS
Islam as Enemy or Other: Methods of Racisms of States - CIIS
Marx, Foucault, and Deconstruction - CIIS
Nietzsche-Foucault - CIIS
Postcolonial Spaces - CIIS
Postcolonial Studies - CIIS
Secular/Postsecular?: Emancipatory Jewish Thought - CIIS

Advocacy/Research: Agriculture, Ecology, and Society - Hampshire College
Anthropological Research Methods - CIIS
Applied Advocacy Research - CIIS
Frontiers of Conflict - CIIS
Building Alliances Across Differences - CIIS
International Human Rights Treaties - CIIS
Reading and Writing Culture - CIIS
Spanish I and II - CCSF
Welfare and Social Policy - NYU

Creative: Art in New York City Seminar - NYU
Color Practice and Concepts - Hampshire College
Contemporary Art History - NYU
Creative Writing - NYU
Digital Non-silver Printing - Hampshire College
Fiction Writing Workshop - Hampshire College
Love and Death in Ancient Literature - Hampshire College
Painting - Hampshire College and NYU
Photography - Hampshire College and NYU
Regenerative Design - Merritt College
Sculpture - NYU
Seminar on Virginia Woolf - Hampshire College
Studio Art Division II Workshop - Hampshire College

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

“A Genealogy of Xenophobia in the North of Ireland.” Applied Advocacy Research Project, California Institute of Integral Studies, 2010-2011

- Conducted an online quantitative survey to members of different communities in Derry and Belfast about issues of race, racism, antiziganism, sectarianism, and police biases
- Interviewed multiple community members around experiences witnessing intersections of sectarianism and racism in Northern Ireland
- Conducted extensive archival research around histories of racism and sectarianism in the North
- Created an archaeology of Roma subjugation in the North, contextualized by wider continental anti-Roma sentiments and violences

“Shadow Report to CERD Regarding Human Right Violations in Sri Lanka.” Human Rights Treaties

Class, California Institute of Integral Studies, 2010

- Collaboratively created a mock Shadow Report to the Sri Lankan Government to appeal to the Committee for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to address the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan Government against the Tamils, submitted on 20 Nov 2000, under Article 9 of the Convention
- Articulated current human rights violations in Sri Lanka, as well as the current legal framework with which the government upholds
- Highlighted articles under CERD that the Sri Lankan Government is in direct violation of.
- Elaborated upon case studies that highlight the impunity with which the government maintains racist policy

“Silence and Story: The (In)stability of Identity in Contexts of Assimilation, Normalization, and Resistance.” Anthropological Research Methods, California Institute of Integral Studies, 2010

- Conducted a collaborative research project aimed to highlight complex relations of assimilation, forgetting, survival, and storytelling, as related to variegated legacies and structural dynamics
- Sampled students’ relations to gender and racial identity, trajectories of class mobility, ascribed and practiced religious beliefs, legacy and immigration, and practices of social justice work.
- Chose five students to survey, based upon information gathered in the sampling, and based upon the pretext of our investigation
- Directed an ethnographic interview within contexts of participatory research
- Wrote about substantive themes and issues that emerged from our research, as well as about the boundaries and relevance of the discipline and methodological themes in emancipatory anthropology

INTERNSHIPS

International People’s Tribunal in India-Administered Kashmir, 2010-2011

- Assisted Angana Chatterji, co-convenor of the human rights based people’s tribunal in strategic thinking and planning
- Traveled to the II Congreso de Exhumaciones in Bogota, Colombia with Angana Chatterji to assist the tribunal in international alliance building
- Traveled to Kashmir, Nepal, and India to assist the tribunal in alliance-building, writing workshops, meetings with co-convenors, political leaders, and journalists

Republican Network for Unity, Derry, Northern Ireland, 2010

- Worked with a socialist organization against British-backed policing in the North of Ireland
- Worked with ex-POWs around prisoner rights and empowerment
- Assisted the organization in graphic design and political poster making
- Wrote press releases and statements around the brutal conditions for POWs without status in Maghaberry Gaol

Garden for the Environment, 2008-2009

- Participated in weekly classes and workshops on facets of urban gardening, bioremediation, and techniques of regenerative design
- Co-taught classes and workshops, at GFE and in other community spaces
- Initiated the creation of a food garden at El Dorado Elementary School and worked with the president of the school, the nutrition coordinator, and other teachers to incorporate the garden into classroom curriculum
- Facilitated conversations about environmental racism in San Francisco and the Bay Area

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant: Building Alliances Across Differences, CIIS, CA, 2010

- Facilitated weekly ‘sharing groups’, in which students discussed issues of difference and diversity, personally and culturally
- Participated in weekly classes in ways to facilitate students’ thinking and capacity-building
- Participated in weekly TA meeting with faculty member to reflect upon the past week’s experiences and to help plan the current week

Teaching Assistant: Engendering and Reframing Development, CIIS, CA, 2010

- Graded and made suggestions on students’ papers
- Discussed with students their respective strengths and weaknesses around engaging in critical and theoretical frames
- Helped students think about writing and grammar

Teaching Assistant: Religion and Film, Smith College, Northampton, MA, 2004

- Participated in weekly classes in ways to facilitate students’ thinking and capacity-building
- Screened weekly films for students and facilitated follow-up discussions about religious themes imbued in ‘secular’ films
- Graded and corrected students papers; helped students with their writing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Web and Graphic Designer: www.erinmcelroy.net, San Francisco, CA, 2008 – 2012.

- Worked for various non-profits and small businesses to create, maintain, and update websites, including: RADAR Productions/Sister SPIT, Ilaria Wines, Jenrin Discoveries, The Spare Room Project, The Conscious Canopy, Meryl Brownstein Counseling, and Bradley Olman Photography
- Designed logos and labels, took original photographs for different sites

Disability and Caretaker Advocate: Individuals and United Healthcare Workers, Northampton, MA and San Francisco, CA, 2004 – 2012.

- Worked with several disabled adults, particularly adults with severe chemical sensitivities and/or developmental disabilities, around issues of visibility and rights.
- Organized with UHW for caretaker wage stability and health benefits.

Union Organizer: Industrial Workers of the World, Northampton, MA, 2005-2006.

- Organized to unionize a local cafe and health food store with IWW, for worker rights and livable wages
- Held elections and organized to empower different workers

Manager: Mixed Nuts Food Co-op, Amherst, MA, 2002-2004

- Managed the Produce and Bulks section of a local food cooperative
- Worked with buyers and customers to ensure quality service and locally grown produce
- Conducted inventories, managed books, and reported on finances at board meetings

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Legal Observer: The National Lawyers Guild/Occupy Legal; San Francisco, CA, 2011 – 2012

- Attended numerous Occupy protests in the San Francisco Bay Area as a legal observer to record and report upon police misconduct
- Operated 24 hour hotline daily to assist protesters in understanding their rights, and to coordinate legal observers on the ground.

Organizer: The Roma Activist Support Group; Budapest, Hungary 2011

- Helped develop frameworks to facilitate the empowerment of resistance through education in several villages in north east Hungary
- Curriculum development in conjunction with ongoing projects in the village of Sojakaza, Hungary

Project Space Co-Director: The Spare Room Project; San Francisco, CA, Fall 2007 – 2011.

- Developed, organized, promoted, and managed a small independent project space that holds art events geared towards showing underrepresented artists
- Collaborated with numerous artists, curators, community members, and arts organizations in decision-making processes

Organizer: San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, San Francisco, CA, 2008-2009

- Facilitated Bike To Work stations
- Conducted surveys and did outreach to improve bicycle lanes in Bay View and south Mission
- Ran bicycle valet services at festivals and events

Community Gardener/Organizer: El Dorado Elementary School, Girls 2000 Project; San Francisco, CA, 2007 – 2009.

- Worked with elementary school youth and high school adolescents in Visitacion Valley and Hunters Point in their respective school and community gardens
- Helped design ways for schools to independently manage their gardens, and to sell excess produce in local farmers markets
- Facilitated dialogue with school administration and nutrition coordinators in incorporating food-production into curriculums
- Organized neighbors to maintain school gardens over holidays
- Organized trainings and workshops on composting, seeding, and used-material construction

Sound Board Manager, Graphic and Web Designer: The Performance Project, Northampton, MA 2006

- Volunteered with a non-profit performance group that produced and developed plays around issues of race, class, and drug addiction

Organizer: Racial Fairness Project, Cleveland, OH, 2004.

- Registered inmates in several state and county prisons to vote in the 2004 presidential election.
- Led workshops on prisoner rights in state and county prisons

Organizer: Common Vision, Santa Cruz, CA, 2002.

- Led workshops in various food cooperatives across the country in the production of biodiesel from waste vegetable oil
- Worked with multiple co-ops in the establishment of community-managed biodiesel production.

Organizer: Earthfirst!, Arcata, CA, 2001

- Organized direct actions to prevent the destruction of several timber harvest plans in the Mattole Forest.
- Worked with the community to create awareness of patriarchal and racist dynamics within in the organization

Organizer: Ralph Nader for President Campaign, New York City, NY, 2000

- Worked with different community groups and the Green Party to advocate for the Nader Campaign
- Organized canvassing efforts and managed a phone bank for advocacy work
- Attended meetings and conferences in Washington D.C. around election and pre-election efforts

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Student Representative on the Board of Trustees, California Institute of Integral Studies, SF, CA, 2009-2011

- Campaigned for and was elected to the one elected student position on campus
- Organized for more administrative transparency and accountability
- Initiated monthly “Breakfasts with the President” to facilitate better communication with the President
- Attended and participated in tri-annual Board Meetings
- Member of the Student Life, Academic Affairs, and Finance Subcommittees of the Board

- Organized multiple Town Hall meetings to report back to the student body and to strategize with students around student needs and issues of diversity
- Designed and implemented an online Wiki to facilitate organization of different student movements and to maintain transparency

Student Alliance, California Institute of Integral Studies, 2009-2011

- Active member of the student governing body of CIIS
- Initiated a the “Subcommittee on Bylaws” through Student Alliance to write school bylaws
- Made multiple presentations at Student Alliance meetings around issues of transparency, accountability, and issues of difference and diversity on campus

Queer@CIIS, California Institute of Integral Studies, 2009-2011

- Active member of the queer student group on campus
- Co-initiated the Multi-gender Bathroom Campaign on campus to implement the installation of two multi-gender bathrooms
- Facilitated a Town Hall Meeting and Breakfast with the President to engender dialogue and participation in the Multi-gender Bathroom Campaign
- Conducted three surveys to assess student, staff, and faculty receptiveness to multi-gender bathrooms

UNITE, California Institute of Integral Studies, 2009-2011

- Attended monthly meetings for the Steering Committee on issues of Curricular Diversity
- Helped implement Department Diversity Committees for different departments at CIIS, specifically to look at ways that students can help drive curriculum and pedagogy to be more attentive to issues of racism, transphobia, and homophobia

Campus Master Plan Subcommittee, California Institute of Integral Studies, 2009-2011

- Student representative on the steering committee to oversee the development of the building renovation plans
- Co-organized a Town Hall Meeting to assess student, staff, administrative, and faculty needs

Hiring Committee for IT Director, California Institute of Integral Studies, 2010-2011

- Student representative on the hiring committee for the new IT Directory at CIIS
- Assessed resumes, conducted phone interviews, and attended in-person interviews
- Reported back to the student body on the status of the hiring process

Hiring Committee for Vice President of Finance Administration, CIIS, 2010

- Student representative on the hiring committee for the new VPFA at CIIS
- Assessed resumes, conducted phone interviews, and attended in-person interviews
- Reported back to the student body on the status of the hiring process and nomination

Board Member, Mixed Nuts Food Co-op, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 2001-2004

- Co-founded a food cooperative on Hampshire’s campus in response to Sodexo Marriott, a food provider with prison industrial ties that had monopolized food distribution campus-wide.
- Sat on the Board of Directors for three years, working with the administration, donors, and other students

President, Students for Social Equality, NYU; New York, 2000-2001.

- Led a politicized student group in making demands for change on campus, ranging from graduate student unionization, cafeteria worker rights, responsible university divestment, and issues of transparency.
- Organized NYU representation at School of the Americas protests in 2000 and 2001
- Worked with different city-wide campaigns against police brutality

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Research

Survey: Skilled at creating, implementing, and interpreting both quantitative and qualitative surveys through participatory action research

Library: Versed in archival and journalistic search engines and tools

Writing: Immaculate editing capabilities. Versed in Chicago, MLA, and AAA formatting

Data: Fluency with Microsoft Office software, including Excel and Powerpoint

Visual

Film Scanning: Skilled at scanning with Imacon, drum, and flatbed scanners; fluent in scanning software

Film Processing: Skilled in developing BW, E-6, and C41 film types

Graphic Design: Fluent in Illustrator and InDesign

Ink Jet Printing: Skilled at printing with various large format Epson inkjets

Painting: Skilled at different painting techniques, from oil-based to acrylic

Photography: Skilled in shooting with digital SLRs, medium format field, TLR, and SLR analogue cameras, as well as 4x5 and 8x10 large format cameras

Photo Editing Software: Fluent in Photoshop, Bridge, and Lightroom

Photo Printing: Excellent at printing silver gelatin, gum arabic, cyanotype, and other alternative photographic printing techniques; skilled at different methodologies of photo-transfer print making; skilled at chromogenic printing

Web Design: Fluent in Dreamweaver, GoLive, Firework, HTML, CSS, Flash, Java Script, and PHP

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, WORKSHOPS

Publications

Book Review: *The Transnationalisation of Risks of Violence*, edited by Martin Kahl
Journal of International and Global Studies, Lindenwood Press, April 2012.

Queering CIIS, *Cambio*

August 2010

California Institute of Integral Studies,
San Francisco, CA

Student Editor-in-chief

“Inglesia.” *Descry Magazine*

September 2009

San Francisco, CA

“Boys.” *The Arts Politic*.

May 2008

Boston, MA

“Double Boys.” *(A)politic*.

February 2009

Gallery XIV

Boston, MA

“Grid.” *Fringe Magazine*, Issue 4

July 2006

<http://fringemagazine.com>

Presentations

“A Conversation About Occupy Wall Street and Occupy Oakland”

17 January 2012

Fogashaz, Budapest VII District

“Mixed Gender Bathrooms: What Must Happen When the Difference You Invite Shows Up and Demands More?”

5 March 2011

Expanding the Circle Conference

- San Francisco, CA
 “Questions of Justice: Practices of Alliance: Kashmir, Delhi, Nepal, London.”
 28 January 2011
 California Institute of Integral Studies
 San Francisco, CA
- “In the North of Ireland: Architectures of Subjugation.”
 21 November 2010
 Narrating Margins: Scholarship of Justice Conference
 California Institute of Integral Studies
 San Francisco, CA
- “Addressing Hate-speech in the Here and Now: Conversations on Institutional Violence.”
 17 November 2010
 California Institute of Integral Studies
 San Francisco, CA
- “Board of Trustees: Representatives.”
 23 November 2009
 California Institute of Integral Studies
 San Francisco, CA

Exhibitions

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 2011 – “Stranger in an Alien Land” *At* Sandbox Bakery, San Francisco, CA
 2008 – “Boys and Girls and..” *At* Locals Tasting Room, Geyserville, CA
 2008 – “Post.” *At* The Million Fishes Collective, San Francisco, CA
 2006 – “Grids and Birds and Such.” *At* The Estate, Hadley, MA
 2004 – “Where the Grid Meets the Grain.” *At* The Harold F. Johnson Building, Amherst, MA

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2010 – “Boys and Girls and..” *At* Barber Lounge, San Francisco, CA
 2009 – “Egoless.” *At* Femina Potens, San Francisco, CA
 2009 – “Defying Gravities.” *At* Fresh Meat Productions, LGBT Center San Francisco, CA
 2009 – “Yes, Let’s.” *At* The Spare Room Project, San Francisco, CA
 2008 – “Artists Annual.” *At* The Kala Gallery, Berkeley, CA
 2008 – “Hands.” *At* Gallery 159, Vallejo, CA
 2008 – “Locals.” *At* The Konrad Gallery, Geyserville, CA
 2008 – “Making Room for Wonder.” *At* SomArts Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 2008 – “Queer Art[ists].” *In* City Arts Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 2008 – “June.” *In* The Artist X-Change, San Francisco, CA
 2008 – “February.” *In* City Arts Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 2008 – “Suite Jesus.” *In* 111 Minna Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 2007 – “Snap to Grid.” *In* Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, Los Angeles, CA
 2007 – “Suite Jesus.” *In* 111 Minna Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 2007 – “By Way of Our Hands.” *In* The Spare Room Project, San Francisco, CA
 2006 – “Diaphragmatic Breathing.” *In* Dye Works, Easthampton, MA
 2006 – “A Warning For the King.” *By* *The Performance Project*, A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton, MA
 2006 – “A Warning For the King.” *By* *The Performance Project*, Holyoke Community College, MA
 2004 – “Backdrop.” *In* Poetry is Music, North Canaan, CT
 2004 – “Birds.” *In* The Gallery TK, Northampton, MA
 2004 – “Div III Exhibition.” *In* The Harold F. Johnson Building, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
 2004 – “Fragments and Dismemberment.” *In* The Art Barn, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

Workshops

GAS/Protokoll – Tactic de Mobilzare si Actiune Directa, 3 July 2011

Transit House

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Co-facilitator

Bylaws Town Hall Meeting, February 2011

California Institute of Integral Studies

San Francisco, CA

Facilitator

Kashmir Youth Speak Writing Workshop, January 2011

International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-Administered Kashmir

Srinagar, Kashmir

Facilitator

Side Panel Alliance Building, April 2010

II World Congress on Psychosocial Work in Exhumation Process, Enforced Disappearances,
Justice and Truth.

Bogota, Colombia

Multi-Gender Bathroom Retraining Workshop, March 2010

California Institute of Integral Studies

San Francisco, CA

Facilitator

Student Concerns at CIIS, February 2010

California Institute of Integral Studies

San Francisco, CA

Facilitator

Urban Composting and Seed Starting, August 2009

Garden For the Environment

San Francisco, CA

Facilitator

Edible Garden Workshop, April 2009

El Dorado Elementary School

San Francisco, CA

Facilitator

Urban Composting Workshop, November 2008

Garden For the Environment

San Francisco, CA

Facilitator

Conferences Attended

The Roma: Persecution, Exclusion, and the Struggle for Human Rights in the European Union

April 2011, The Hastings International and Comparative Law Review, SF, CA

Grounding Kashmir: Experience and Everyday Life on Both Sides of the Line of Control

March 2011, Stanford University, CA

Racially Inferior: Roma, Sinti, and Other Holocaust Victims

February 2011, The Italian Academy, Columbia University, NYC, NY

II World Congress on Psychosocial Work in Exhumation Process, Enforced Disappearances, Justice and Truth.

April 2010, Bogota, Colombia

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Gypsy Lore Society

REFERENCES

Angana Chatterji: Professor, Social and Cultural Anthropology Department at CIIS, Co-convenor of the International People's Tribunal on India Administered Kashmir – Information available upon request

Richard Shapiro – Professor and Chair of the Professor, Social and Cultural Anthropology Department at CIIS – Information available upon request

Norbert Petrovici – Professor in Sociology Department at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, and Organizer of the Working Group of Civil Organizations gLOC and The Group for Social Action (GSA) – Information available upon request