

Ellen Block, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2012 **Ph.D.** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, Anthropology and Social Work
- 2007 **M.S.W.** Interpersonal Practice, Children and Youth, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2007 **M.A.** Socio-Cultural Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2002 **B.A.** Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, *summa cum laude*

EMPLOYMENT

- 2020 - present Associate Professor of Anthropology, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, Department of Sociology, Collegeville, MN.
- 2014 - 2020 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, Department of Sociology, Collegeville, MN.
- 2012 - 2014 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Population Studies & Training Center, Brown University (funded by National Institute of Child Health and Human Development 5R24HD041020), Providence, RI.
- 2013 Lecturer, Anthropology, Brown University, Providence, RI.
- 2012 Lecturer, Anthropology, DePaul University, Chicago, IL.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

HIV/AIDS, southern Africa, west Africa, aging, elderly, emergent institutions, palliative care, orphans, care, medical anthropology, global health, Ghana, Lesotho, kinship and social organization, populations, gender, development, Covid-19, healthcare providers, risk.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Block, E., McGrath, W. (2019) *Infected Kin: Orphan Care and AIDS in Lesotho*. Rutgers University Press.

Journal articles

*indicates peer-reviewed

Block, E. (2020) "Exposed Intimacies: Healthcare Providers on the Frontlines of the COVID-19 Pandemic" *Anthropology in Action*, 27(2), 63-67.

*Block, E. (2018) "Living, dying, after death: Achieving a "good" death in the time of AIDS orphan care." *Death Studies*, 42(5), 275-281.

*Block, E. (2016) "Reconsidering the orphan crisis: The emergence of male caregivers in Lesotho." *AIDS Care*, 28(S4), 30-40.

*Block, E. (2016) "The AIDS House: Orphan care and the changing household in Lesotho." *Anthropological Quarterly*, 89(1), 151-180.

*Mkhwanazi, N., Block, E. (2016) "Paternity matters: Premarital childbearing and belonging in South Africa" *Social Dynamics*, 42(2), 273-288.

Manderson, L., Block, E., Mkhwanazi, N. (2016). "Fragility, Fluidity, and Resilience: Caregiving configurations three decades into AIDS." Introduction to Supplementary Issue, Responsibility, Intimacy and Care, eds. Manderson, L, Block, E., and Mkhwanazi, N. *AIDS Care*, 28(S4), 1-7.

Manderson L, and Block, E. (2016). "Relatedness and care in South Africa and Beyond." Introduction to Special Issue: Kinship and Constellations of Care, eds. Manderson, L. and Block, E. *Social Dynamics*, 42(2), 205-217.

*Block, E. (2014) "Flexible Kinship: Caring for AIDS orphans in rural Lesotho." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 20, 711-727.

*Block, E. (2012). 'That's what I see': Enhancing AIDS intervention research through ethnography. *Qualitative Social Work*, 11(4), 379-394.

Book chapters

Eguiluz, I, **E. Block**, L. Mitchinson, L. Núñez Carrasco, A. S-Rivera (2022). "Even death has changed: End of life, burials, and bereavement during the COVID-19 pandemic" In Cecilia Vindrola-Padros and Ginger Johnson, eds. *Caring on the frontline during COVID-19: Contributions from Rapid Qualitative Research*. London: Palgrave Macmillan: 229-252.

- Rivera, A., **E. Block**, J. Lohmann, I. Eguiluz, N. Vera San Juan, A. Gonzalez-Guerra (2022). "Healthcare workers' mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 Pandemic" In Cecilia Vindrola-Padros and Ginger Johnson, eds. *Caring on the frontline during COVID-19: Contributions from Rapid Qualitative Research*. London: Palgrave Macmillan: 139-157.
- Romeu-Labayen, M., B. Alvarez, and **E. Block**, et al. (2022). "Protecting and feeling protected: HCWs experiences with personal protective equipment During the COVID-19 Pandemic" In Cecilia Vindrola-Padros and Ginger Johnson, eds. *Caring on the frontline during COVID-19: Contributions from Rapid Qualitative Research*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 65-90.
- Block, E.** and C. Vindrola-Padros (2021) "Making Do: COVID-19 and the improvisation of care in the UK and the US. In Manderson, Lenore, Nancy J. Burke, and Ayo Wahlberg, eds. *Viral Loads: Anthropologies of urgency in the time of COVID-19*. London: UCL Press: 303-323.
- Block, E. (2021) "Grandmothers" In C. Tomori and S. Han (Ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Anthropology and Reproduction*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Block, E. (2018). "Kinship." In Marc H. Bornstein (Ed.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Lifespan Human Development*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 1234-1236.
- Block, E. (2016). "Chronicle of a Mosotho Boy." In L. Manderson, A. Hardon & E. Cartwright (Eds.), *Vital Signs*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Staller, K. M., **Block, E.**, & Horner, P. (2008). "The history of methods in social science research." In S.Hesse-Biber & P. Leavy (Eds.), *The Handbook of Emergent Methods* (25-51). New York: Guilford Press.

Book reviews

- Block, E. (2019) "Fierce Medicines, Fragile Socialities: Grounding Global HIV Treatment in Tanzania." Dominik Mattes, New York: Berghahn Books, 2019. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 34(3).
- Block, E. (2018) "Making Refuge: Somali Bantu Refugees and Lewiston, Maine." Catherine Besteman. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016. *The Journal of Social Encounters*, 2(1): 102-104.
- Block, E. (2016) "Prescribing HIV Prevention: Bringing Culture into Global Health Communication." By Nicola Bulled. Left Coast Press, 2014. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. doi:10.1111/maq.12323
- Block, E. (2015) "Blood and Kinship: Matter for Metaphor from Ancient Rome to the Present." Christopher H. Johnson, Bernhard Jussen, David Warren Sabeian and Simon Teuscher, eds. New York: Berghahn, 2013. 357 pp. *American Ethnologist*, 42(1): 185-185.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 Shortlisted, Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing, Society for Humanistic Anthropology
- 2013 Illinois Qualitative Dissertation Award, Category A (Traditional), International Association of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign
- 2013 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award, University of Michigan
- 2008 High Pass on Social Work Preliminary Examination
- 2007 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, in recognition of excellence in teaching
- 2002 Lambda Alpha Honor Society for Anthropology, University of Notre Dame

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 Social Science and Humanities Research Council, Partnership Engage Grant, \$22,000.
- 2015 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, African Regional Research Program, Grant #4001, AIDS and AIDS-Related Research, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars
- 2013 Population Studies & Training Center, Brown University, Pilot Research Grant
- 2012 Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2011 University Block Grant for Dissertation Completion, University of Michigan
- 2010 Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2008 W. K. Kellogg Foundation Family Fellow in Children and Families, to support dissertation research in Lesotho
- 2006 Rackham Discretionary Fund, University of Michigan, for research activities

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2022 “Looking Ahead: COVID-19 and the potential for transformative change in hospitals,” Society for Applied Anthropology’s annual meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2021 “Family Loves the Dead: Care after life in Sunyani, Ghana,” American Anthropology’s annual meeting, Baltimore, MD.

- 2021 “Making Do and Improvisation among healthcare providers during COVID-19,” SfAA Roundtable, Interfaces of Global Applied Anthropology: COVID Disparities and their Discontents, virtual.
- 2020 “In Real Time: Using rapid ethnographic assessment to understand the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare providers,” Society for Applied Anthropology’s annual meeting, virtual.
- 2019 “Hybridity and Collaboration: Investigating the Inclusion of Creative Nonfiction in Ethnographic Writing,” American Anthropology’s annual meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 2019 “Early and Often: Guiding Students through Research Projects in Anthropology Classes,” Society for Applied Anthropology’s annual meeting, Portland, OR. Paper presented with Dr. Megan Sheehan.
- 2018 “Theorizing Chance: (Un)Lucky encounters and health outcomes in southern Africa,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, San Jose, CA.
- 2018 “Three, Two, One, Action: Incorporating Video Projects in Class Pedagogy,” Society for Applied Anthropology’s annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA. Paper presented with CSB students Arantxa Hernandez-Chaire, Madelyn Konsor, and Julia Petron.
- 2017 “Living well: Pluralistic treatment seeking in highland Lesotho,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2016 “Ethnographic writing and an anthropology of the ‘whole’,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, Minneapolis.
- 2015 “Reconfigured relations: Orphan care after two decades of AIDS in Lesotho,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, Denver.
- 2015 “Paternity matters: Premarital childbearing and belonging in South Africa” (paper presentation with Nolwazi Mkhwanazi), Health, Wellbeing, and Families of Care Workshop (conference organizer with Lenore Manderson and Hylton White), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2014 “Living with AIDS in Lesotho: A Performance in Three Acts,” Ethnographic Pact Conference, The Center for Ethnography, University of Toronto, Scarborough.
- 2013 “When grandmothers die: Demographic change and orphan care in Lesotho,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, Chicago.

- 2012 “Kinship, flexibility and stability in Lesotho,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, San Francisco.
- 2011 “That’s What I See”: Enhancing Intervention Research Through Ethnography,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, Montreal.
- 2011 “Demonstrating Ethnography’s Role in Social Work Using Research on AIDS Orphans,” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 2011 “Barriers to Antiretroviral Adherence for HIV-Positive Patients in Rural Lesotho and Implications for Social Work Practice,” Society for Social Work Research, Tampa.
- 2011 “‘I Survive Because of Them’: A Community-Based Approach to Supporting AIDS Orphans in Rural Lesotho,” (poster) Society for Social Work Research, Tampa.
- 2010 “Kin and Care: Familial responses to AIDS orphans in rural Lesotho,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, New Orleans.
- 2008 “Kin and Care: Familial responses to orphans in the time of AIDS,” Conference of Childhood and Migration Drexel University, Philadelphia.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2022 “Infected Kin: AIDS and Orphan Care in Lesotho,” UNLV University Forum, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2017 “The ‘good’ death: Demographic changes and orphan care in Lesotho,” Uncommon Connections: Aesthetics, Anthro/History and Health, Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2014 “AIDS is a Kinship Disease.” Anthropology Lecture Series, Bowdoin University, Portland, ME.
- 2013 “AIDS is a Kinship Disease.” Working Group in Anthropology and Population lecture series, Brown University, Providence.
- 2012 “Orphan Care and the Changing Household in Lesotho,” Population Studies and Training Center colloquia series, Brown University, Providence.
- 2008 Keynote Speaker, Red Ribbon Advocacy Event, Washtenaw County American Red Cross Club, HIV/AIDS Awareness Committee, Ann Arbor.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY, CSBSJU

- Spring 2022 Presentation to Global Health Affairs Club on effective service learning
- Spring 2021 Presentation to ETL on reflexivity and ethical storytelling
- Spring 2020 Thursday Forum presentation on “Infected Kin: Orphan Care and AIDS in Lesotho”
- Spring 2020 McCarthy Center, TED talk Tuesday, on “How racism harms pregnant women”
- Fall 2018 Panel on “Globalization is a Feminist Issue,” Institute for Women’s Leadership
- Spring 2018 Presentation on Faculty Technology Day
- Fall 2017 Presentation to Intercultural LEAD Scholars
- Fall 2015 Thursday Forum Talk: “AIDS is a Kinship Disease”
- Fall 2015 Gender Summit, “Men as Caregivers in rural Lesotho”
- Fall 2015 Extending the Link, presentation on rural African agriculture and field methods
- Spring 2015/2016 MLK Teach-In, “Anthropological Approaches to Race”
- Fall 2014 Global Health Club, “AIDS and orphans in rural Lesotho”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught at CSBSJU: Fall 2014- Spring 2022

- Introduction to Anthropology (including Honors section)
 - Anthropology of Global Health Challenges
 - Anthropology of Africa
 - First Year Seminar
 - Transnational Anthropology
 - Medical Anthropology
 - Love, Sex, and Marriage
- 2013 Issues in Anthropology and Population, graduate seminar at Brown University.
- 2012 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, undergraduate lecture course at DePaul University.

- 2007, 2008 Introduction to Anthropology, Head Graduate Student Instructor for the large undergraduate lecture course at the University of Michigan.
- 2006, 2007 Introduction to Anthropology, Graduate Student Instructor for the large undergraduate lecture course at the University of Michigan.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2020 Principal Investigator: United States, “The impact of Covid-19 on Kinship and Care: Clinical and Personal Perspectives from Healthcare Providers”
Conducted 50 interviews with US healthcare providers working in hospitals with Covid-19 patients, supervised and trained three undergraduate student research assistants.
- 2019 Co-Principal Investigator: Sunyani and Accra, Ghana, “The Business of Aging: Emergent forms of Elder Care in Ghana”
Conducted initial cite visit in May of 2019 to build local partnerships and establish contacts for future phases of this longitudinal research project.
- 2015 Principal Investigator: Mokhotlong, Lesotho; “When Grandmothers die: Demographic change and orphan care in Lesotho.”
Conducted 5 months of ethnographic fieldwork as part of Fulbright Scholar grant.
- 2013 Principal Investigator; Mokhotlong, Lesotho; “Aging and Care in Lesotho.”
Conducted 2 months of ethnographic research on the impact of grandmother death on orphans in Lesotho.
- 2007-2009 Principal Investigator; Mokhotlong, Lesotho; Dissertation Research.
Conducted 13 months of ethnographic fieldwork on care for AIDS orphans in rural Lesotho, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on families and communities.
- 2006-2007 Principal Investigator; University of Michigan School of Social Work; Interdisciplinary Journal Project.
Worked with Dr. Karen Staller to examine the influence of journal’s editor’s notes and examine the changes in content over time.
- 2006 Principal Investigator; University of Michigan School of Social Work; History of Methodology of Social Science.
Research on history of social science methodology with Dr. Karen Staller.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- 2021-present IRB Committee, Chair, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
- 2021-present Pre-public health advisor, CSBSJU
- 2020-2022 Chair, Global Health Minor Steering Committee, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
- 2015-2021 IRB Committee, member, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
- 2019-present Communities Subcommittee, Culture & Social Difference Integrations Curriculum
- Fall 2019 Sociology Department Chair
- 2017-2018 RISE Subcommittee Member, Thinking Scientifically about Societies, Groups and Individuals; Human Experience
- Spring 2017 Joint Faculty Senate, sabbatical replacement
- 2015-present Honors Liaison, Department of Sociology, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
- 2015 Fulbright Selection Committee, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
- Spring 2016 Faculty Leader, McCarthy Study Tour, Topic: Public Health
- Fall 2015 Thursday Forum, coordinator, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2012-present Manuscript reviewer: Cultural Anthropology, Medical Anthropology Quarterly, Qualitative Social Work, Global Public Health, American Ethnologist, African Journal of AIDS Research
- 2012-present AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG)
Society for Medical Anthropology, Steering Committee Member.
- 2013 Organizer, Working Group in Anthropology and Population lecture series, Brown University

- 2009-2012 AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG)
Society for Medical Anthropology, Policy Chair. Liaison between
the AARG and the SMA.
- 2006 - 2008 Organizer and discussant, Conversations Across Social Disciplines
interdisciplinary workshop series, School of Social Work, University
of Michigan

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2019-present Executive Director, Touching Tiny Lives Foundation
- 2016-2019 Board Member, Touching Tiny Lives Foundation

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

African Studies Association
AIDS and Anthropology Research Group
American Anthropological Association
American Ethnological Society
Anthropology of Aging and the Life Course Interest Group
Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group
Society for Medical Anthropology
Society for Applied Anthropology

LANGUAGES

French, non-native fluency in reading, writing, and speaking (Certificate of Bilingual Studies,
Ontario, Canada)
Sesotho, conversational knowledge