

## CHARLES A. McDONALD

Sava Ranisavljevic Postdoctoral Fellow  
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### EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D., Anthropology and Historical Studies, New School for Social Research (NSSR)  
Dissertation: *Return to Sepharad: Citizenship, Conversion, and the Politics of Jewish Inclusion in Spain*  
Committee: Ann Stoler (chair), Miriam Ticktin, Jonathan Boyarin, Tom Abercrombie
- 2012 M.A., Anthropology, New School for Social Research (NSSR)
- 2008 M.A., Liberal Studies (American Studies), City University of New York (CUNY)  
Thesis: *In the Shadow of Fountain Valley: Economic Transformation and the Production of History on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands*. Advisor: Sarah E. Chinn
- 2005 B.A., Cultural Studies, *cum laude*, CUNY Baccalaureate for Interdisciplinary Studies

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2020-22 Sava Ranisavljevic Postdoctoral Fellow, Northwestern University  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies  
Department of Anthropology
- 2019-20 Samuel W. and Goldye Marian Spain Postdoctoral Fellow, Rice University  
Program in Jewish Studies
- 2015- Managing Director, Institute for Critical Social Inquiry (ICSI), New School

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **Books**

- In Progress *Return to Sepharad: Jews, Spain, and Europe's Moral Order*  
(Proposals solicited by Stanford University Press and University of California Press).

#### **Articles**

- In Progress "Blood and Choice: 'Return' Conversion and the Ethics of Liberal Judaism," to be submitted to *Cultural Anthropology* in July 2020.

Revision Requested “Rancor: Sephardic Jews, Spanish Citizenship, and the Politics of Sentiment,” submitted to *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. Revision due in July 2020.

2019 “Return,” *Cultural Anthropology*, Theorizing the Contemporary, December 2019.

### **Book Chapters**

In Progress “The Return that Wasn’t: Attachment, Ethics, and Sentiment,” In *Reparative Citizenship: Identity, Belonging, and Spanish and Portuguese Nationality for Sephardi Descendants*, Dalia Kandiyoti and Rina Benmayor, eds. (New York: Berghahn Books, forthcoming).

### **Other Publications**

2020 “Marking Time and Being Remade,” In “Pandemic Diaries,” Gabriela Manley, Bryan M. Dougan, and Carole McGranahan, eds., *American Ethnologist*, May 16, 2020.

2016 “Refusal as Ethnographic Concept: An Interview with Carole McGranahan, Elisa Sobó, and Erica Weiss,” Dialogues, *Cultural Anthropology*, August 2016.

2015 Review of “Recovering Jewish Spain: Politics, Historiography and the Institutionalization of the Jewish Past in Spain (1845–1935),” Michal Rose Friedman, *Dissertation Reviews*.

2014 “Interview with Noah Tamarkin on ‘Genetic Diaspora: Producing Knowledge of Genes and Jews in Rural South Africa,’” *Cultural Anthropology*, August 2014.

2013 “Interview with Michal Osterweil on ‘Rethinking Public Anthropology Through Epistemic Politics and Theoretical Practice,’” *Cultural Anthropology*, October 2013.

### **EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

2017-19 Posen Society of Fellows, Dissertation Fellowship  
2017 Council for European Studies, Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined)  
2017 Association for Jewish Studies, Maurice Amado Foundation Travel Grant  
2017 American Academy for Jewish Research, Travel Grant  
2015-16 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant  
2015-16 Social Science Research Council, Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship  
2015 Center for Jewish History, Lapidus Summer Fellowship  
2007-8 Spanish Ministry of Education, Language and Culture Teaching Fellowship

### **INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

#### **New School**

2019 Stanley Diamond Memorial Award for Best Dissertation in the Social Sciences

2017-18 Heckscher Fellowship  
2017-18 Teaching Fellowship, Anthropology  
2016-17 Holocaust Memorial Dissertation Fellowship  
2013-15 Teaching Fellowship, First Year Writing Program  
2012-15 Melamid/Donnelley Prize Fellowship

### **CUNY**

2005-7 Graduate Counseling Assistantship  
2005 Alumni Fund Graduate Scholarship

### **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Race and religion; gender and sexuality; mobility, migration, and citizenship; conversion and subjectivity; Jews and Judaism; kinship; liberalism; colonialism and empire; queer studies; experimental ethnography; Spain; Europe; U.S.; Caribbean

### **INVITED TALKS**

2019 “Scenes of Exposure: Personhood, Place, and Conversion in Jewish Spain,”  
Department of Anthropology, Rice University, November 6.

2019 “Blood and Sentiment: Anthropology, Race, and Spain’s Sephardic Citizenship Law,”  
Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Houston, October 23.

2019 “The ‘Return’ That Wasn’t: Reason, Sentiment, and Spain’s 2015 Sephardic  
Citizenship Law,” Department of Anthropology, UT-Austin, October 7.

2019 “The ‘Return’ That Wasn’t: Spain’s 2015 Sephardic Citizenship Law,” Houston  
Jewish Community Center, October 2.

2016 “When Is Return? Conversion, Citizenship, and the Pragmatics of Jewish Inclusion in  
Contemporary Spain,” Boston University, November 14. Respondent: Marcy  
Brink-Danan (Hebrew University).

2016 “Conversión judía y subjetividad en la España contemporánea,” Anthropology  
Department, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, April 25. Respondent: Liliana  
Suárez-Navaz (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid).

### **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

2014 *Political Concepts: A Lexicon in Formation* (with Ann Stoler, Jay Bernstein, and Todd  
Kesselman), New School for Social Research, April 18-19.

2012 *Rethinking Inheritance*, Department of Anthropology, New School for Social Research,  
April 27-28.

## **PANELS ORGANIZED**

- 2020 “Legal Matters: Unexpected Affordances of Law, Citizenship, and Im/Mobility” (with Valentina Ramia, Stanford, and Christopher Krupa, University of Toronto), Panel at *American Ethnological Society Conference: Bridges/Borders*, Austin, TX, March 26-28. (Conference canceled due to COVID-19 Pandemic).
- 2019 “The Return to Sepharad and the Politics of Memorial Identity,” (with Joëlle Bahloul, Indiana University), Panel at *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, San Diego, CA, December 15-17.
- 2019 “Race and Anthropology: Ethnographic Responses to Changing Political Climates” (with Sultan Doughan, University of Boston), Panel at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Vancouver, Canada, November 22.
- 2018 “Pragmatics of Inclusion: Ethnographies in an Authoritarian Age” (with Sharika Thiranagama, Stanford; and Valentina Ramia, Stanford), Panel at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, San José, CA, November 14-18.
- 2017 “The Long Exposure: Latency, Visibility, and Method” (with Katheryn Detwiler, NCSR; and Joshua Z. Weiss, UC-Davis), Panel at *American Ethnological Society Meeting*, Stanford University, April 1.
- 2016 “Toward an Anthropology of Return” (with Mikaela Rogozen-Soltar, University of Nevada-Reno), Panel at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, November 17.
- 2014 “Troubling Resurrections: The Politics of Time and Materiality in Spain,” Panel at the Council for European Studies Annual Conference, *Resurrections*, March 14-16.
- 2012 “Heritage and the Imperial Imagination,” Panel at *Rethinking Inheritance*, Department of Anthropology Annual Conference, New School for Social Research. April 28.

## **PAPERS PRESENTED**

- 2020 “Exodus and Return: Populism, Migration, and Europe's Jewish Citizenship Laws,” Paper to be presented on panel, ““Legal Matters: Unexpected Affordances of Law, Citizenship, and Im/Mobility,” *American Ethnological Society Conference: Bridges/Borders*, Austin, TX, March 26-28. (Conference canceled due to COVID-19 Pandemic).
- 2019 Roundtable Panelist, “Undisciplined Jews: From Jews in Anthropology to Anthropology in Jewish Studies,” *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, San Diego, CA, December 15.
- 2019 “Attachments: Reason, Sentiment, and Spain's 2015 Sephardic Citizenship Law,” Paper presented on panel, “The Return to Sepharad and the Politics of Memorial Identity,” at *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, San Diego, CA, December

16. Discussant: Julia Phillips Cohen (Vanderbilt University).

- 2019 “The Road to Modernity: Anthropology, Sephardic Jews, and Racial Regeneration in Spain,” Paper presented on panel, “Race and Anthropology: Ethnographic Responses to Changing Political Climates,” at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Vancouver, Canada, November 22. Discussant: Michael Ralph (NYU).
- 2018 “Affective Ecologies: Hatred, Fear, and Europe’s Moral Order,” Paper presented on panel, “Politics of Hate? Crafting European Belonging through anti-Jewish Hatreds Old and New,” at *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, Boston, MA, December 16-28. Discussant: Paul Silverstein (Reed).
- 2018 “Pragmatic Returns: Claiming and Disavowing the “Gift” of Citizenship in a Time of Hardening Borders,” Paper presented on panel, “Pragmatics of Inclusion: Ethnographies in an Authoritarian Age,” at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, San José, CA, November 14-18. Discussant: Thomas Blom Hansen (Stanford).
- 2018 “Criteria of Inclusion: Citizenship, Sentiment, Deliberation,” Paper presented at *Posen Society of Fellows Workshop*, Berkeley, CA, August 16. Discussants: David Biale (UC-Davis); Nathaniel Deutsch (UC- Santa Cruz).
- 2017 “Rancor and Nostalgia: An Affective History of the Return to Sepharad,” Paper presented on panel, “Spain’s Recent Law of Sephardic Return: Refractions of Memory in Modernity” at *Association for Jewish Studies Meeting*, Washington, DC, December 17-19. Discussant: Julia Phillips Cohen (Vanderbilt University).
- 2017 “Generation and Obligation: Spain, the Sephardic Diaspora, and the Making of 1992,” Paper presented at *Posen Society of Fellows Workshop*, Berkeley, CA, August 17. Discussants: David Biale (UC-Davis); Naomi Seidman (Graduate Theological Union).
- 2017 “Jewish Revivalism in Contemporary Spain,” Paper presented at *SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship Workshop*, Philadelphia, PA, June 10. Discussants: Courtney Handman (UT-Austin); Christopher Tozzi (Howard).
- 2017 “Queer Scenes of Exposure in Jewish Spain,” Paper presented on panel, “The Long Exposure: Latency, Visibility, and Method” at *American Ethnological Society Meeting*, Stanford University, April 1. Discussant: Carole McGranahan (University of Colorado-Boulder).
- 2017 “Race and Kinship in Modern Jewish Spain,” Paper presented on panel, “Diversity and its Discontents: Historical Others, Their Past and Future in Contemporary Iberia” at *Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Meeting*, New York, NY, March 17. Discussant: Joshua Goode (Claremont Graduate University).
- 2017 “Jewish Relations: Race, Kinship, and the Return to Sepharad,” Paper presented on panel, “Troubling the Kin: Race, Kinship and Affect in Psychological Anthropology”

at *Society for Psychological Anthropology Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, March 9. Discussant: Jennifer Cole (Chicago).

- 2016 “Return As Ethnographic Object: Notes from the Ends of Europe,” Paper presented on panel, “Toward an Anthropology of Return” at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, November 17. Discussant: Jonathan Shannon (CUNY Graduate Center).
- 2015 “Return to Sefarad: Towards a History of the Jewish Present in Spain,” Paper presented at *Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Meeting*, Johns Hopkins University, March 22. Discussant: Joshua Goode (Claremont Graduate University).
- 2014 “Spain As Crisis: Periodization and Failure from the Black Legend to the Global Recession,” Paper presented at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Washington, D.C., December 4. Discussants: Susana Narotzky (U Barcelona), Neni Panourgia (New School).
- 2014 “No Longer Nostalgia: Jewish Spain and The Future of the Inheritable Past in Europe,” Paper presented at the Council for European Studies Annual Conference, *Resurrections*, March 14-16. Discussant: Melissa Caldwell (UC-Santa Cruz).
- 2014 “When Is Conversion Return? Making a Time and Place for Jewish Spain,” Paper presented at the Council for European Studies Annual Conference, *Resurrections*, March 14-16. Discussant: Avi Astor (U Autònoma Barcelona).
- 2013 “The Other Within: Jews, Spain, and the Future of the Inheritable Past in Europe,” Paper presented at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Chicago, November 21. Discussant: Jaime Palomera (U Barcelona).
- 2013 “When did Jewish History Become Spanish National Heritage? Forging Personhood, Patrimony, and Place in Córdoba’s Jewish Quarter,” Paper presented at *The Past for Sale? New Perspectives on the Economic Entanglements of Cultural Heritage*, University of Massachusetts-Amherst Center for Heritage and Society, May 15-17.
- 2013 “What Does it Take to Become Jewish? Conversion and the Inheritable Past in Contemporary Spain,” Paper presented at *The Kronstadt Moment—The Road to Damascus: an Interdisciplinary Conference on Conversion and Disenchantment*, Department of Liberal Studies, New School for Social Research, April 26-27.
- 2012 “Recuperating Sefarad?: Conversion, Heritage, and History in Contemporary Spain,” Paper presented at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, San Francisco, November 14.

### PANEL CHAIR OR DISCUSSANT

- 2016 Chair, "Toward an Anthropology of Return," Panel at *American Anthropological Association Meeting*, Minneapolis, MN, November 17.
- 2014 Chair, "Troubling Resurrections: The Politics of Time and Materiality in Spain," Panel at the Council for European Studies Annual Conference, *Resurrections*, March 14-16.
- 2012 Chair, "Heritage and the Imperial Imagination," Panel at *Rethinking Inheritance*, Department of Anthropology Annual Conference, New School for Social Research. April 28.

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT

#### **Northwestern University**

Global Im/Mobilities: Borders, Migration, and Citizenship (2021)  
Jews and Muslims in Modern Europe (2021)

#### **Rice University**

Global Im/Mobilities: Borders, Migration, and Citizenship (2020)  
Europe and Its Others: Race, Religion, and Multiculturalism (2020)

#### **The New School**

What Was Europe? Ethnography, History, and the Unsettled Present (2018, 2017)  
Subject to Change: Varieties of Self-Transformation (2015, 2014)  
Reading and Writing the City: Urban Ethnography (2014, 2013)

### GRADUATE COURSES ASSISTED

#### **The New School**

Critical Foundations of Anthropology (2017, 2014)  
Anthropology, Photography, Visuality (2011)  
Diasporic Longings & Belongings in the Indian Ocean (2011)

### RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 2016 Visiting Researcher, Anthropology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid  
2016 Visiting Researcher, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)  
2015 Visiting Researcher, Anthropology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

### ACADEMIC SERVICE

#### **To the Profession**

- 2017 Juror, Cultural Horizons Prize, Society for Cultural Anthropology  
2013-18 Contributing Editor, *Cultural Anthropology*

2013-14 Editorial Assistant, *Political Concepts*

**Manuscript Review**

*Anthropological Quarterly*, *Transforming Anthropology*

**At Rice University**

2020 Curriculum Committee, Program in Jewish Studies  
2019-20 Faculty Sponsor, Jewish Studies Student Association

**At New School for Social Research**

2013 Representative, Anthropology Faculty Hiring Committee  
2013-14 Representative, Dean's Leadership Council  
2013-14 Representative, Dean's Advisory Council  
2013-14 Representative, Graduate Faculty Student Senate

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Anthropological Association  
Society for Cultural Anthropology  
American Ethnological Society  
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology  
Society for the Anthropology of Europe  
Association for Queer Anthropology  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion  
Association for Jewish Studies  
American Historical Association  
Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (fluent speaking and reading), French (beginner reading)

**REFERENCES**

Ann Laura Stoler

Willy Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and Historical Studies

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