

Chelsea Good Abbas, M.Phil.

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Education

Columbia University, New York, NY

Doctor of Philosophy, Applied Anthropology

Ph.D. Candidate, ABD

Columbia University, New York, NY

Master of Philosophy, Applied Anthropology

May 2014

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Master of Arts, Anthropology and Education

May 2012

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology

Bachelor of Science, International Area Studies

December 2008

Magna cum Laude

Magna cum Laude

Professional Experience

Instructor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology (8/2017-present)

Widener University, Chester, PA

- Courses: ANTH 105 Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 288 Chasing the Dream: Latino Experiences in the US

Affiliated Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales (2/2016 – 12/2016)

University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica

- Responsibilities: Participate in the core seminar of the New Forms of Accumulation, Distribution and Inequality research program. Publish work in scholarly journals. Disseminate dissertation research findings through public presentations.

Lead Research Associate, Center for the Study of Ethnicity & Race (2/2014 – present)

Columbia University, New York, NY

- Responsibilities: Lead and train research team in collection, management, and analysis of large quantitative data sets. Contribute to writing and editing of three reports on the state of Latino representation in American mainstream media. Assist in post-publication press outreach in the form of interviews and opinion editorials. Projects were funded by the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts and the Columbia's Media & Idea Lab.

Adjunct Instructor, City University of New York (8/2012 – 5/2014)

Borough of Manhattan Community College, Center for Ethnic Studies, New York, NY

- Courses Taught: Peoples and Cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean
The Latino Experience in the U.S.
Puerto Rican Culture and Folklore
The History of the Dominican Republic

- Responsibilities: Develop original and relevant curricula on topics in Latino Studies, Latin American Anthropology, U.S.-Latin American Relations, such as migration, human rights, and Latino social movements in the US. Instruct and advise a diverse, inner-city group of students from various academic majors and levels of expertise, in general classes and the college's Honor Discovery Program.

Research Assistant, The Research Foundation (10/2013 – 5/2014)

City University of New York, New York, NY

- Responsibilities: Research Assistant to Dr. Patricia Mathews-Salazar, Director of the Center for Ethnic Study. Conducted research, language transcription and editorial work for project on gender, indigenous heritage policies and discourses of empowerment in the Peruvian Andes. Grant #65387

Teaching Assistant, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (8/2013 – 12/2013)

Columbia University, New York, NY

- Responsibilities: Assistant to Dr. Gary Okihiro in Introduction to Third World Studies, a core curriculum course with over 200 students. Teach weekly review session to 35 students. Prepare materials, correct weekly papers, advise students in my section. Grade midterms and final exams for all students with other TAs.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology (1/2011 – 5/2011)

Columbia University, New York, NY

- Responsibilities: Assistant to Dr. Terrance D'Altroy in Rise of Civilization, an archaeology course with 400 students. Teach weekly review session of lecture material. Develop exam material in conjunction with other TAs; administer and grade exams; meet with students.

Bilingual Representative and Data Enumerator (3/2010 – 7/2010)

United States Census Bureau, Upper West Side Division, New York, NY

- Responsibilities: Provide bilingual census assistance to residents of the Latino community in Hell's Kitchen, NYC. Reliably administer census questionnaire, in both English and Spanish. Systematically collect door-to-door data for the 2010 national census and organize responses.

Fieldwork Experience

Dissertation Research-Ethnographic Study (11/2014-12/2015)

“Social Relations and Political Narratives of the Conflicted Rio San Juan Borderlands of Costa Rica”

This research is based on 14 months of qualitative and quantitative ethnographic research conducted along the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border in the village of Delta, Costa Rica. It focuses on the social relations of parties involved in a five-year long international border dispute between the two nations. Through an analysis of interactions and identity construction (between land owners, migrant workers and the police) this study depicts an alternative narrative of conflict constructed *within* the contested border region. From interviews with high-ranking politicians and military leaders in both nations, the aim then shifts to compare this reality to the constructed national-level political narratives that were used to control and manipulate discourses

surrounding the dispute. This comparison highlights the concocted political nature of the conflict while showing how a transborder identity based on time spent in the region can supersede divisions based on nationality, language, race and even notions of (il)legality.

Doctoral Colloquium Fieldwork-Ethnographic Study (5/2011-8/2011)

“Bounded Lives in the Borderlands: Increased Police Presence as a Daily Reality in a Costa Rican Border Community”

Ethnographic exploration of police-civilian relations in the community of Barra del Colorado, Costa Rica. This research examined community opinions of police presence and utilization of public spaces such as the local school, communal salon, soccer field and airstrip after the number of police drastically increased within the village. Using qualitative methods over a three month period, the findings suggest that due to profit increases in the local economy, and perceptions of insecurity due to drug trafficking, the community welcomed the presence of the police.

Oral History-Visual Anthropology, Latina Women’s Narrative Project (2011)

“Danger Passes Through Me: A Drug Documentary of a Latina’s Struggles in Hell’s Kitchen.”

Working under Dr. Maria Torres-Guzman at Teachers College, this research was the result of a working group on Latina identity and cultural erasure. Conducted over multiple open-ended interview sessions, this visual work examines one Puerto Rican woman’s resilience in the face of addiction, homelessness, rape, murder and change over several decades in Hell’s Kitchen, NYC.

Undergraduate Research (10/2006-5/2007)

“Matrifocal Households in Limon, Costa Rica”

Research conducted at a social center and orphanage in Barrio Los Cocos, Limon, Costa Rica exploring mothering in female-headed, multigenerational households.

Publications

Abbas, C. (forthcoming) *Conflicto como el desarrollo: Perspectivas locales sobre el “proyecto de guerra” en la Isla Calero*. Anuario de Estudios Centroamericanos, Editorial Universidad de Costa Rica. San Jose, Costa Rica.

Negron-Muntaner, F. and **Abbas, C.** (2016) With media mergers, Latino roles drop and stereotypes skyrocket on TV. *Fox News Latino*, April 22, 2016.

Negron-Muntaner, F., and **Abbas, C.** (2016) *The Latino Disconnect: Latinos in the Age of Media Mergers*. The Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Columbia Univ. New York.

Negron-Muntaner, F., with **Abbas, C.**, Figueroa, L. & Robson S. (2014) *The Latino Media Gap: A Report on the State of Latinos in U.S. Media*. The Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Columbia Univ. New York.

Conference Presentations

Abbas, C. (2017) Lessons from a Latin American Border: Cross Cultural Perspectives. Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA. March 2017.

- Abbas, C. (2016) Como Hacer y Fingir un Conflicto: Líderes Políticos, Tramas y Legitimación en la Disputa Fronteriza por La Isla Calero. IX Jornadas de Investigaciones. Institute for Social Research, University of Costa Rica. San Jose, Costa Rica. September 2016.
- Abbas, C. (2016) Narratives of Conflict and Transborder Identity in the Disputed Rio San Juan Borderlands of Costa Rica. Institute for Social Research, University of Costa Rica. San Jose, Costa Rica. May 2016.
- Abbas, C. (2015) Beyond the Boundaries: Social Relations between the Police, Local Land Owners and Migrant Farm Workers in the Contested Costa Rican Border Region. American Anthropological Association Annual Conference. Denver, CO. November 2015.
- Abbas, C. (2015) Police-Civilian Relations in the Contested Border Region of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Sustaining Peace Conference, The Earth Institute, Columbia University. March 2015.
- Abbas, C. (2013) Putting the Narco to Work: Militarization of the U.S.-Mexico Border and the War on Drugs. Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA. November 2013.
- Abbas, C. (2012) Bounded Lives in the Borderlands: Increased Police Presence as a Daily Reality in a Costa Rican Border Community. Master's Thesis Defense, Teachers College, Columbia University. April 2012.
- Abbas, C. (2011) Nica vs. Tico: Exploring Environment and Identity in the Rio San Juan Borderlands of Costa Rica. American Anthropological Association Annual Conference. Montreal, QC. November, 2011.
- Abbas, C. (2011) Danger Passes through Me: A Drug Documentary of a Latina's Struggles in Hell's Kitchen. Film presented at the Education Across the Americas Conference, Teachers College, Columbia University. April, 2011.
- Abbas, C. (2009) A Look at Poverty in Paradise: Rethinking Undergraduate Research through Experiences in Limón, Costa Rica. American Anthropological Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. November, 2009.

Honors and Awards

- Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, Grantee 2017-2018
 Teachers College, Grant-in-aid, 2016-2017
 TC 125th Anniversary Scholarship, 2015-2016
 Graduate Fellow, The Earth Institute, Columbia Univ. *Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity*, 2014-2015
 Outstanding Service Award, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University, 2014
 Fulbright US Student Program, Costa Rica, *Finalist* 2014-2015
 National Science Foundation, Summer Institute for Research Design, 2012
 Institute of Latin American Studies, Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant, 2011
 Teachers College Dean's Grant for Student Research, 2011
 Teachers College Scholarship Award 2009-2010
 Drexel University, Magna Cum Laude, 2008
 Film awarded National Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Medal, 2008
 Plotkin's Grant for International Co-op, 2007
 Award for Excellence in Foreign Language Study, Drexel University, 2006

Professional Society

Anthropology Alumni Advisory Committee, Drexel University - *Member*

Society for Anthropological Studies, Teachers College, Columbia Univ. - *President (2011, 2012)*

American Anthropological Association – *Member*

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology – *Member*

Society for Applied Anthropology - *Member*

Research Training and Skills

National Science Foundation, Summer Institute for Research Design (7/2012-8/2012)

Duke University Marine Lab, Beaufort, NC.

American Ethnological Society Workshop, American Ethnological Society Conference

Methodological and Ethical Issues in Ethnographic Research on Conflict and Violence. Led by Carolyn Nordstrom and Sally Engle Merry. Chicago, IL. April 2013.

Data Analysis Programs: MAXQDA Text Analysis, MYSTAT Statistical Analysis, Excel

Languages

Spanish – Fluent (Reading, Writing, Speaking)

Community Engagement

English Teacher, Escuela La Esperanza, Delta Costa Rica (11/2014-12/2015)

- Development of Centro de Reciclaje La Esperanza, Community Recycling Center

English Teacher, Escuela Primaria, Barra del Colorado Sur, Costa Rica (5/2011-8/2011)

Volunteer and English Teacher, Aldea S.O.S. Los Cocos, Limon, Costa Rica (2006)