

MICHELLE ESTHER O'BRIEN

Curriculum vitae

NYU Department of Sociology
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Education

PhD (Graduand), Department of Sociology, New York University.

Dissertation: "Queer Movements and Class Politics in New York City."

Dissertation committee: Jeff Goodwin (chair), Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Jeff Manza, Steven Lukes. Defended November 19, 2020.

Respecialization Candidate, Institute of Psychoanalytic Training and Research.

MSW, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, City University of New York (CUNY). Concentration in Organizational Management and Leadership. Dean's Award, Graduated with honors, 2011.

BA in Women's & Gender Studies, Macalester College (St. Paul, MN). Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 2000.

Research Interests

Social Movements, Political Economy, Political Sociology, Sexualities, Sociological Theory, Gender, Race and Ethnicity, Welfare Policy, Socially-Engaged Research

Honors & Fellowships

American Association of University Women, American Dissertation Fellow, 2017-2018.

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, New York University Department of Sociology, 2016-2017.

Journal Articles & Book Chapters

Michelle Esther O'Brien. "Political Opportunities and LGBTQ Movements During NYC's Financialization," accepted to J. Goodwin and M. Schwartz (eds) *The Political Economy of Social Movements*. Seeking publisher.

Michelle Esther O'Brien. "Why Queer Workers Make Good Organisers," *Work, Employment and Society* (2018 impact factor 2.364). Published online, forthcoming in print. DOI: 10.1177/0950017020940147.

Michelle Esther O'Brien. "Trans Work: Employment Trajectories, Labor Discipline, and Gender Freedom." *Transgender Marxism*, edited by Jules Joanne Gleeson and Elle O'Rourke. London, UK: Pluto Press, accepted and forthcoming.

Michelle Esther O'Brien. "The Influence of Donors on Cross Class Social Movements: Same Sex Marriage and Trans Rights Campaigns in New York State." *Social Movement Studies* (2018 impact factor 2.0), 18(5):586-601, DOI: [10.1080/14742837.2019.1598354](https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2019.1598354), 2019.

Paula England, Jessie Ford and Michelle O'Brien. "Gender and Sexualities." Pp. 108-41 in *Social Problems: The Sociology Project*, edited by Jeff Manza and Patrick Sharkey. New York, NY: Pearson, 2018.

Michelle O'Brien. "Tracing this Body: Transsexuality, pharmaceuticals & capitalism." Pp. 56–65 in *Transgender Studies Reader 2*, edited by Susan Stryker and Aren Z. Aizura. New York, NY: Routledge, 2013.

Michelle O'Brien. "Stayin' Alive: Trans survival and struggle on the streets of Philadelphia." Pp. 305–311 in *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation*, edited by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore. Berkeley, CA: Soft Skull Press, 2003.

Book Reviews

Michelle Esther O'Brien. "Organised By Crisis: A review of *Fear City: New York's Fiscal Crisis and the Rise of Austerity Politics* by Kim Phillips-Fein. (New York, NY: Metropolitan Books, 2017)." *Historical Materialism*, <http://www.historicalmaterialism.org/book-review/organised-crisis>, 2019.

Michelle Esther O'Brien. "Queer in the Eras of Capital: A review of *Warped: Gay Normality and Queer Anticapitalism* by Peter Drucker. (Chicago, IL: Haymarket, 2014)." H-Net Humanities and Social Sciences Online, H-Socialisms List. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=46200>, 2017.

Michelle Esther O'Brien. "Learning from Trans Prison Abolitionists: A review of *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex, Expanded Second Edition*. Edited by Eric A. Stanley & Nat Smith. (Oakland, CA: AK Press, 2011/2015)." H-Net Humanities and Social Sciences Online, H-Socialisms. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=45475>, 2016.

Other Publications

ME O'Brien. *Family Abolition: Capitalism and the Communizing of Care*. Pluto Press. In contract, planned publication fall 2021.

ME O'Brien and Eman Abadelhadi. *The New York Commune* [fiction]. Commune Editions. In contract, planned publication spring 2022.

ME O'Brien. "To Free Straight Society: Stonewall and Black Insurrection." *Invert Journal 1*, 2020.

ME O'Brien. "To Abolish the Family: The Working-Class Family and Gender Liberation in Capitalist Development." *Endnotes 5*:360-417, 2019.

ME O'Brien. "The Communization of Care," *Pinko*, 1, 2019.

Co-editor, *Pinko*. 2019–present.

ME O'Brien. "Junkie Communism: No One Is Disposable," *Commune*, 2019.

ME O'Brien. "Fifty Years of Queer Insurgency: Inside Stonewall 50, a struggle for the next half-century of queer history," *Commune*, 2019.

ME O'Brien. "Kayla Puan Interview Transcript." Homintern, 2019.

Michelle O'Brien. "Of Riots and Mourning," guest curatorial statement. VisualAIDS, 2019.

Michelle O'Brien. "Whose Ally?: Thinking critically about anti-oppression ally organizing," Published on *Colours of Resistance*, 2003.

Invited Talks

- Guest lecturer, “Trans Oral History,” John Hopkins University (online), 2020.
- Guest lecturer, “Trans Oral History,” Grinnell College (online), 2020.
- Presenter, “What Makes Trans Oral History Different? Politics, Practice, and Institutionalization in Community-Driven Research.” John Hopkins University. Invited, and canceled due to COVID-19.
- Presenter, “Oral History, A Queer Art.” Oral History Summer School & NYC Trans Oral History Project. NY, NY, 2020.
- Featured guest, Stonewall 50 Consortium. NY, NY, 2020.
- Visiting lecturer for course on Queerness & Labor. The New Centre for Research & Practice (online), 2019.
- Discussant, “TransLatinx Américas: A Roundtable Discussion and Reception,” *Transgender Studies Quarterly (TSQ)* & Hemispheric Institute of Performance & Politics, NY, NY, 2019.
- Presenter at “The Politics And Ethics of the Archive,” *Scholar & Feminist Online* & Barnard Center for Research on Women, Barnard College, NY, NY, 2019.
- Panelist, “Gay Liberation Press Today,” *Pinko Magazine* & New York Public Library, Tompkins Square Library, NY, NY, 2019.
- Panelist, “From the Margins: Queer Archives,” New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Branch Library. NY, NY, 2019.
- Visiting lecturer, “To Free Straight Society: The Gay Liberation Front’s Relationship to Global Insurrection,” The Juilliard School, Writing Center. NY, NY, 2018.
- Panelist, “Trans Oral History and the Politics of Trans Employment,” CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies, City University of New York Graduate Center, NY, NY, 2017.
- Visiting presenter, Community Organizing, City College of CUNY. NY, NY, 2008.
- Visiting presenter, “Transgender Identity,” Temple University. Philadelphia, PA, 2003.
- Visiting lecturer, “Feminism and Trans Politics Reimagining self-determination,” Reed College. Portland, OR, 2003.
- Visiting lecturer, “Tracing this Body Transgender bodies, pharmaceuticals and transnational capital,” Haverford College (Haverford, PA) and Hampshire College (Hampshire, MA).
- Visiting lecturer, “Reading Trans-Health/Reading Race War,” Vassar College, (Poughkeepsie, NY) and Swarthmore College. Swarthmore, PA, 2003.
- Guest lecturer, “Queer Theory and Movements” to Sexual Minorities HSED 645 MSW Course, Widener University Center for Education. Wayne, PA, 2002.

Academic Conference Presentations

- “Political Opportunities for LGBTQ Movements During New York City’s Financialization,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Paper accepted for Negative Drivers of Collective Action panel, conference canceled due to COVID-19, 2020.
- “Structural Dependency on Movement Donors: Gay Marriage and Trans Rights in New York State,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, 2018.

- “Navigating Academia as a Trans/Non-Binary Scholar,” LGBT Caucus Workshop, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, 2018.
- “Trans and Queer Politics in NYC Retail Worker Organizing,” American Sociological Association Sexualities Pre-Conference. Philadelphia, PA, 2018.
- “Self-Expression and Class Position in Trans Employment,” Eastern Sociological Society, Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD, 2018.
- “Queer and Trans Rights in Workplace Organizing Struggles,” Historical Materialism. London, UK, 2018.
- “To Abolish the Family: Communist Struggle and the Working-Class Family in Capitalist Development,” Historical Materialism. London, UK, 2018.
- “Anticipating the Global City: Elite Planning in the 1960s Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan,” Section Roundtable on Urban Planning. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada, 2017.
- “AIDS and Austerity: Gay Men’s Health Crisis and the Causes of Nonprofit Proliferation.” Presented at “Neoliberal Governance and Biomedical Battlefields,” Regular Session Panel. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada, 2017.
- “Queer Movements and Class Politics in New York City,” Historical Materialism. London, UK, 2017.

Teaching

- Teaching Assistant, SOC-UA 474 Terrorism and Political Violence in the Modern World, NYU. 2 semesters, 2018-2019.
- Adjunct Instructor, SOC-UA 21 Sociology of Gender and Sexuality, NYU. 2017.
- Teaching Assistant, SOC-UA 111 Sociological Theory, NYU. 5 semesters, 2013-2017.
- Teaching Assistant, SOC-UA 135 Race and Ethnicity, NYU. 2016.
- Adjunct Instructor, SOC-UA 511 Sexual Diversity in Society, NYU. 2 semesters, 2013-2014.
- Adjunct Instructor, SOC 234 Urban Sociology, Lehman College, CUNY. 2014.
- Teaching Assistant, SOC-UA 471 Power Politics and Society, NYU. 2013.
- Teaching Assistant, SOC-UA 301 Sociological Research Methods, NYU. 2 semesters, 2012.

Non-Academic Positions

- Community Oral History Coordinator of the New York City Trans Oral History Project, New York Public Library. NY, NY, 2016-Current.
- Coordinator of Urban Listeners, an oral history collaborative. Urban Democracy Lab, New York University, NY, NY. 2018–2020.
- Stonewall Project Coordinator, New York Public Library. NY, NY, 2018-2019.
- Board of Directors, New York Transgender Advocacy Group. NY, NY, 2019-Current.
- Social Work Internship, Queers for Economic Justice. NY, NY, 2010-2011.
- Campaign Manager, Housing Here and Now. NY, NY, 2010.
- Executive Director, Housing Here and Now. NY, NY, 2008-2009.
- Social Work Intern, Rivington House. NY, NY, 2007-2008.
- Community Organizer, Gay Men’s Health Crisis. NY, NY, 2005-2007.

Transitional Case Manager, Access to Treatment Program, NY Harm Reduction Educators. NY, NY, 2004-2005.
 Prevention Case Manager, Transgender Specialist, Action AIDS. Philadelphia, PA, 2003-2004.
 Intensive Case Manager, Transgender Specialist, Action AIDS. Philadelphia, PA, 2003.
 Board of Directors, Third Wave Foundation. NY, NY, 2008.
 Board of Directors, Sylvia Rivera Law Project. NY, NY, 2004-2006.
 Co-Chair, Sexual and Gender Minorities Subcommittee of the Mayor's Taskforce on Homelessness. Philadelphia, PA, 2003-2004.
 Executive Board, Community Alliance of Lane County. Eugene, OR, 1995-1996.

Conference Planning Committees

Many Stories, Many Strategies, Making Money Make Change, 2008.
 Healthy Bodies, Healthy Lives, Healthy Communities, 3rd Annual Philadelphia Trans Health Conference. Philadelphia, PA, 2003.
 Our Bodies, Ourselves Too, 2nd Annual Philadelphia Trans Health Conference. Philadelphia, PA, 2003.

Other Presentations and Workshops

Panelist, "Abolish the Family!," Red May Seattle (online), 2020.
 Panelist, "The Passions and the Interests," Red May Seattle (online), 2020.
 Guest, *Rendering Unconscious* podcast, 2020.
 Guest, Oral History Summer School video series, 2020.
 Speaker, "Queer Communism in the Days of COVID-19: A Discussion with Pinko Magazine," Social Thought and Political Economy Program of UMass Amherst (online), 2020.
 Panelist, *Commune Magazine*, issues 3 release. NY, NY, 2019.
 Panelist, "Resistance and Rebellion in the UAW," NYU, sponsored by Academic Workers for a Democratic Union. NY, NY 2016.
 Panelist, "Organizing Strategy Today," Young Democratic Socialist Conference, 2011.
 Presenter, International Women's Day, Raha Iranian Feminist Collective. NY, NY, 2010 & 2011.
 Workshop co-presenter, United States Social Forum "Radical and Revolutionary Approaches to Reform Struggles," & "Revolution on the Daily." Detroit, MI, 2010.
 Co-presenter, "Organizing to Build Power", Young Democratic Socialist Conference. NY, NY, 2009.
 Co-facilitator, "Making Demands and Building Alternatives," Strategic Dialogue of Revolutionary Work in Our Time. Chicago, IL, 2009.
 Housing Justice Award Recipient and Speaker, City-Wide Taskforce on Housing Court. NY, NY, 2009.
 Presenter, "Rent regulation and organizing," City-Wide Taskforce on Housing Court. NY, NY, 2009.
 Panelist "Thank You Advocates," Redlines Housing Crisis Learning Center Exhibition, Queens Museum of Art. Queens, NY, 2008.
 Presenter, "HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction," Drexel University. Philadelphia, PA, 2003.

Trainer, “Transgender Care for Outreach Workers,” Youth Health Empowerment Project Philadelphia, PA, 2003.

Co-trainer, “Down To Basics Basics of Trans Issues for Social Service and Health Providers,” Philadelphia Trans Health Conference. Philadelphia, PA, 2003.

Presenter, “Living Trans,” Central High School. Philadelphia, PA, 2003.

Workshop presentations, “Strategy and Accountability in Organizing,” at Reed College (Portland, OR), Swarthmore College (Swarthmore PA) and Hampshire College (Hampshire, MA); “Down to Basics An intro on trans politics,” at Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, NY) and Haverford College, (Haverford, PA). 2003.

References

Professor Jeff Goodwin, NYU - jeff.goodwin@nyu.edu, (212) 998-8378

Professor Jeff Manza, NYU - manza@nyu.edu, (212) 998-8935

Professor Steven Lukes, NYU - s153@nyu.edu, (212) 998-8363

Professor Gianpaolo Baiocchi, NYU - gb97@nyu.edu, (212) 992-6312

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