###### ALANA S. ACKERMAN

###### Curriculum Vitae

(current as of April 2022)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Department of Anthropology 415-660-8412 109 Davenport Hall asacker2@illinois.edu

607 S. Mathews Ave., Urbana, IL 61801

Education

2014 – present **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)**

PhD in Anthropology, anticipated graduation: December 2023

Graduate minor in Gender and Women’s Studies

Co-advisors: Professors Gilberto Rosas & Andrew Orta

2010 – 2013 **Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Quito, Ecuador**

M.A. in Anthropology

Thesis title: “La ley, el orden y el caos: una antropología de la constitución mutua del estado ecuatoriano y el ‘otro’ extranjero, 1938-2012.”

2004 – 2008 **Tufts University, Medford, MA**

B.A. in Spanish, *cum laude*

Research Interests

Sociocultural anthropology; anthropology of migration, refuge, and borders; bodies and

embodiment; critical disability studies; Latin America; Ecuador.

Publications

Ackerman, Alana (2020). “Displaced in Place: On Being Forced to Move and Forced to Stay

During a Global Pandemic.” In Gabriela Manley, Bryan M. Dougan, and Carole McGranahan (Eds.), *American Ethnologist* website, 15 June 2020.

Ackerman, Alana (2014). *La ley, el orden y el caos: construcción social del Estado y el*

*inmigrante en Ecuador*. Quito: Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales.

Fieldwork Projects / Research Experience

August 2021 – Quito, Ecuador / Champaign, Illinois: Long-term ethnographic

dissertation research with Colombian refugees and NGO workers in Quito, Ecuador, involving in-person participant observation, in-person and Zoom

interviews, and Whatsapp communication. The current question that guides this research is how displacement and refuge are dynamically

embodied in Quito, a place of supposed arrival in the global South.

June – Dec. 2019 Urbana-Champaign, Illinois: Research assistantship with Professor Gilberto Rosas at UIUC. Assistantship involved studying scholarship

related to U.S. immigration detention, family separation, deportation, and asylum; communicating with and gathering information from scholars of U.S. immigration and borders; creating an annotated bibliography of

scholarship on changes and continuities in U.S. detention and family

separation; compiling sources on legal testimony; assisting the professor with the IRB process; and editing academic articles to comply with journal submission requirements, among other responsibilities.

June – Aug. 2016 Quito, Ecuador: Preliminary doctoral fieldwork involving interviews and participant observation with Colombian refugees in Quito; participant observation in Asylum Access, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that aided Colombian refugees; interviews with NGO workers and

Ecuadorian government officials; and online research of secondary sources to learn about the Colombian conflict and issues affecting

Colombian refugees in Ecuador.

June – Aug. 2015 Quito, Ecuador: Preliminary doctoral fieldwork involving interviews with NGO workers, academics, and government officials about the Mercosur residency visa and Colombian refuge in Quito, Ecuador.

Oct. – Dec. 2014 Urbana-Champaign, Illinois: Ethnographic research for a Qualitative Methods course, including interviews and focus groups with Latin American students, researchers, and staff affiliated with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign regarding their preconceptions about the United States before migrating versus their experiences after migrating.

Aug. – Dec. 2014 **Urbana-Champaign, Illinois**: Research assistantship with Professor Jessica Greenberg at UIUC. Research project focused on the tension between freedom of expression and protection of reputation in the legal discourse of the European Court of Human Rights. Specific duties included reading court cases pertaining to this topic, grouping cases according to analytical categories, deciding on relevance of cited precedent cases, and organizing information via Zotero, a research management software.

Oct. 2010 – Oct. 2012 Quito, Ecuador: Research assistantship in the Department of Anthropology at FLACSO Ecuador. Responsibilities included organizing social science conferences (including conducting the call for papers, organizing the acceptance process, forming panels, and organizing logistics), conducting archival research, transcribing recorded interviews, and translating academic articles from Spanish to English, among other activities.

Oct 2011 – Aug 2012 Quito, Ecuador: Master’s research involving: participant observation in visa processing offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services of Ecuador; archival research in the National Assembly of Ecuador and analysis of laws, agreements, treaties, and other documents regarding migration and foreign affairs; and interviews with government workers and immigrants.

**Fellowships, Grants, Awards, and Honors**

**Year** **Title of Award** **Awarding Organization**

2021 Mary Jane Neer Scholarship Disability Resources &

Educational Services, UIUC

2020 Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fulbright-Hays

2020 Dissertation Travel Grant Graduate College, UIUC

2020 Kilby Fellowship Center for Latin American

and Caribbean Studies, UIUC

2020 Teachers Ranked as Outstanding UIUC

2019 Nicholson Fellowship Unit for Criticism and

Interpretive Theory, UIUC

2019 Diversity Travel Grant American Ethnological

Society

2016 Changemaker Award Live Oak School

2016 Dissertation Proposal Development Social Science Research

Fellowship Council

2016 Whitten Fellowship CLACS, UIUC

2015 Tinker Foundation Fellowship CLACS, UIUC

2015 Summer Research Grant Anth. Dept., UIUC

2008 B.A., *cum laude* Tufts University

2005, 2006, 2008 Dean’s List Tufts University

Teaching Experience (at UIUC)

Spring 2015 - present Teaching Assistant for various classes, including Introduction to

Anthropology (Professor Alison Carter); Anthropology in a Changing

World (Professors Krystal Smalls and Jeffrey Martin); Advanced

Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology (Professor Virginia Dominguez); Language and Culture (Professor Brenda Farnell); and

Business, Economy, and Society (Professor Andrew Orta).

Responsibilities included learning course content, attending lectures, teaching discussion sections, creating quizzes, answering students’ questions, grading.

Summer 2020 Instructor, Gender and Women’s Studies 201: Race, Gender & Power

Spring 2019 Taught two classes of Professor Gilberto Rosas’ 400-level (mixed

undergraduate and graduate) course, “Borders and Legalities.”

**Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures**

April 2022 Participated in a graduate student roundtable, “Obstacles and

Opportunities: The Changing Landscape of Fieldwork in Latin America,” University of Chicago

March 2022 Presented a paper, “Displacement,” for the Gender & Women’s Studies

Graduate Student Colloquium, “Formations,” UIUC

October 2021 Invited participation on a “Student Experience Panel,” as part of the

Crip\*Colloquium, a 2-day colloquium on disability and ableism held by

Krannert Art Museum, UIUC

December 2020 Invited conversation on migration and displacement in Ecuador, for

Professor Ellen Moodie’s undergraduate course on “Introduction to Latin America,” UIUC

May 2019 Presented a paper, “Cripping Ethnography: The Leaky Intersections of

Forced Displacement and Chronic Pain as Strange Ways of Moving and Feeling,” for the Sociocultural Anthropology Graduate Student

Symposium, UIUC

March 2019 Presented a paper, “Cripping Ethnography: The Leaky Intersections of

Disability, Pain, and Strange (Im)mobilities,” for the American

Ethnological Society Annual Conference

November 2016 Co-organized a panel with Professor Sophia Balakian, “Refugees, Evidence, and the Politics of Proof,” for the American Anthropology

Association Annual Meeting

November 2015 Invited lecture, “Language and Culture in Ecuador,” for Professor Alison Carter’s undergraduate class, “Introduction to Anthropology,” UIUC

November 2015 Presented a paper, “Refugees or Universal Citizens? Shifting Notions of Citizenship in Twenty-First Century Ecuador,” Tinker Workshop for Summer Fellows, UIUC

October 2015 Invited lecture, “Language and Culture in Ecuador,” for Professor Gilberto Rosas’ undergraduate class on “Social Problems,” UIUC

April 2015 Presented a paper, “Borders in Transit: Government Discourse in Twenty- First Century Ecuador,” at the colloquium, “Thinking Andean Studies: An Interdisciplinary Colloquium,” University of Pennsylvania

February 2015 Invited lecture, “Language and Culture in Ecuador,” for Professor Brenda Farnell’s undergraduate class, “Language and Culture,” UIUC

November 2014 Invited talk at the presentation of my book, *La ley, el orden y el caos*, National Institute of Higher Education, Quito

June 2012 Presented a paper, “La relación entre el estado ecuatoriano y los extranjeros residentes a través del trámite de la visa de residencia,” at the “VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Ciencia Política,” FLACSO Ecuador

June 2011 I organized the panel, “Etnografiando Ecuador: una perspectiva de la economía política,” within which I presented the paper, “La emigración ecuatoriana a los Estados Unidos: un estudio antropológico desde un enfoque de la economía política,” at the “V Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Ecuadorian Studies Chapter,” FLACSO Ecuador

Public Outreach and Service Work

Spring 2020 – present **Graduate Employees’ Organization (GEO), UIUC**

I founded and am an active member of the GEO Disability Caucus, which advocates for D/disabled graduate workers on campus. At various points since Spring 2020, I have also been a GEO officer-at-large, and a member of the GEO Covid-19 Impact Bargaining Team, Solidarity Committee, and Communications Committee.

Fall 2019 – Spring 2021 **Disability Resources, Education, Activism, and Mentoring**

I was an active member of the local chapter of this national disability group for undergraduate and graduate students. At our local chapter

meetings, we discussed disability issues on campus, collaborated with

related student organizations, organized and supported initiatives such as the establishment of a disability cultural house on campus, among many other activities.

May 2016 **Live Oak School, San Francisco, CA**

I gave a Changemaker Award acceptance talk to students at my alma

mater about “Anthropology and Migration in Ecuador.”

June – August 2016 **Asylum Access, Quito, Ecuador**

I completed an 8-week Legal Advocate Internship, for which I:

participated in a training week for NGO volunteers; participated in

workshops on refugees’ rights to documented status, education, healthcare, etc., as well as issues related to working with people affected by armed conflict; conducted small research projects for NGO employees regarding current events on migration and borders in Latin America;

provided general office assistance including answering the phone and door; greeted visitors to the NGO including refugees and their families; and provided occasional care for the children of refugees who visited the NGO.

2011 **Conference Organizing Committee, Quito, Ecuador**

Served on the event organizing committee and panel moderator, “I Congreso Ecuatoriano de Gestión Cultural,” FLACSO Ecuador, September 22-24, 2011.

2011 **Conference Organizing Committee, Quito, Ecuador**

Served on event organizing committee and member of the selection committee, “V Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Ecuadorian Studies Chapter,” FLACSO Ecuador, June 1-3, 2011.

**Translation and Editing Work**

Jan 2013 – present **Freelance translation and editing, Spanish-English**

I translate and edit articles, conference papers, and documents on

economics, politics, law, and social issues for private and public

institutions and individuals. Clients include the Simón Bolívar Andean

University of Ecuador, the National Institute for Higher Education of Ecuador, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador, and various doctoral students in Europe, South America, and the U.S.

July 2012 – Dec 2015 **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Quito, Ecuador**

I was the stylistic editor of the English publication of *Línea Sur: The Foreign Policy Journal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility*. My responsibilities included editing English translations of articles about Ecuadorian foreign affairs.