###### ALANA S. ACKERMAN

###### (CV - current as of March 2023)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Department of Anthropology

109 Davenport Hall

607 S. Mathews Ave., Urbana, IL 61801

asacker2@illinois.edu

Education

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

PhD in Anthropology, anticipated graduation: May 2024

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 (cumulative GPA: 4.0)

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

B.A. in Spanish, *cum laude*

Research Interests

Sociocultural anthropology; critical migration, border, and refugee studies; feminist peace and security studies; critical disability studies; Latin America; Ecuador and Colombia

Publications

Ackerman, Alana (2022). For Colombians in Ecuador, Displacement is Ongoing, and Refuge is

Elusive. *North American Congress on Latin America*, 28 June 2022.

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.

Ackerman, Alana (abstract accepted, draft in progress.) Cripping Ethnography: Disability,

Movement, and Power in the Field. In Anna Jaysane-Darr & Sumi Colligan (Eds.),

*Disability in the Field*.

**Grants, Awards, and Honors**

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

2023 Graduate Student Award in Applied Society for Latin American &

and Public Anthropology Caribbean Anthropology

Spring 2023 Dissertation Writing Fellowship Anthropology Dept., UIUC

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

& Caribbean Studies, UIUC

2020 Teachers Ranked as Outstanding UIUC

2019 Nicholson Fellowship Unit for Criticism &

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 Anthropology Dept., UIUC

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

2005, 2006, 2008 Dean’s List Tufts University

Research Experience

Aug. ’21 – Aug. ’22 Quito, Ecuador / Champaign, Illinois: Long-term ethnographic

dissertation research involving in-person participant observation, in-

person and Zoom interviews, and Whatsapp communication with

Colombian refugees and NGO workers based in Quito, Ecuador. The

question that guides this research is how refugees experience and navigate ongoing violence, persecution, and displacement in spaces and at times of supposed peace and refuge 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; creating an annotated bibliography of scholarship on changes and continuities in U.S. detention and family

separation; compiling sources on legal testimony; and assisting the

professor with the IRB process, 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.

Oct. 2010 – Oct. ’12 Quito, Ecuador: Research assistantship in the Department of Anthropology at FLACSO Ecuador. Responsibilities included organizing social science conferences, 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, analysis of laws, agreements, treaties, and other documents regarding migration and foreign affairs; and interviews with government workers and immigrants based in Quito.

**Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures**

April 2023 Invited colloquium speaker, “Refugio Carcelario,” Facultad

Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Ecuador

March 2023 Paper presentation, “Navigating Bureaucracies of Entrapment: An

Ethnography of Refugee Resettlement in the Global South,” American

Ethnological Society, Princeton University

March 2023 Paper presentation, “Resettlement Denied: Persecution, Refuge, &

Violent Entrapment of Colombian Refugees in Quito, Ecuador,” Society

for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Universidad de

Cartagena (winner of the Graduate Student Award in Applied and Public Anthropology)

March 2023 Paper presentation, “They Gave Us a Visa, But We Aren’t Safe Here:

Refugee Status as Violent Entrapment in the Global South,” Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford (my paper was accepted, but the

conference was canceled due to labor strikes)

April 2022 Graduate student roundtable, “Obstacles and Opportunities: The Changing

Landscape of Fieldwork in Latin America,” University of Chicago

March 2022 Graduate student roundtable, “Displacement,” for the Gender & Women’s

Studies Graduate Student Colloquium, “Formations,” UIUC

October 2021 Invited colloquium participant, “Student Experience Panel” on disability

and ableism, Crip\*Colloquium, 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 Paper presentation, “Cripping Ethnography: The Leaky Intersections of

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

UIUC

March 2019 Paper presentation, “Cripping Ethnography: The Leaky Intersections of

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

Ethnological Society Annual Conference, Washington University in St.

Louis

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

Teaching Experience (at UIUC)

Fall 2022 Instructor, Anthropology 103 online: Anthropology in a Changing World

Spring 2015 - 2021 Teaching Assistant for various classes in the Anthropology Department, including Introduction to Anthropology (101); Anthropology in a

Changing World (103); Advanced Introduction to Sociocultural

Anthropology (230); Language and Culture (270); and Business,

Economy, and Society (279).

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

Public Outreach & Service Work

Oct. ’22 – May ’23 **School of Art & Design, UIUC**

Fellowship with Professor Liza Sylvestre in the UIUC School of Art &

Design. I work in collaboration with a group of d/Disabled student fellows

on artistic expressions of disability and ableism. One project for the

fellowship is an experimental video collage incorporating various artistic

mediums—including creative writing, audio, and video recordings—that

represent personal experiences of disability and ableism. Another project

for the fellowship focuses on representations of disability in the

University Archives Disability-Related Digital Resources.

April 2023 **Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago**

Roundtable discussion and experimental video exposition on disability and

ableism with a collective of Illinois-based disability scholars and activists.

Spring ’20–Fall ’22 **Graduate Employees’ Organization (GEO), UIUC**

I founded and was an active member of the GEO Disability Caucus, which advocates for D/disabled graduate workers on campus. 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.

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, as well as issues related to working with people affected by armed conflict; conducted small research projects on migration and borders in Latin America; provided general office

assistance; greeted visitors to the NGO; and provided occasional childcare for refugee families who visited the NGO.