

Cyrus O'Brien
Curriculum Vitae
July 2020

Campus Box 1066
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130

www.cyrusobrien.com
cyrusobrien@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- 2018 PhD. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Anthropology and History.
 Dissertation: *Redeeming Imprisonment: Religion and the Development of Mass Incarceration in Florida*

 * *Winner of the 2018 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award*

 Committee: Matthew Lassiter (chair), Stephen Berrey, Paul C. Johnson, Stuart Kirsch, Heather Ann Thompson
- 2016 MA. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Anthropology and History.
- 2008 BA with High Honors in History. Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020- American Civil Liberties Union. (New York, N.Y.).
 Research Fellow
- 2020- Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow. (New York, N.Y.).
- 2018-2020 John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis. (St. Louis, MO).
 Postdoctoral Research Associate,
- 2020-present Restore Justice. (Chicago, Ill.).
 Consultant.
- 2019-present and 2011-12 The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Children at Risk Initiative and Juvenile Justice Strategies Group. (Baltimore, Md.)
 Consultant.
- 2013-2020 Florida State University, The Project for Accountable Justice at the John Scott Dailey Florida Institute for Government (Tallahassee, Fla.)
 Consultant and Researcher.
- 2008-2011 Southern Poverty Law Center (Miami, Fla. and Montgomery, Ala.)
 Juvenile Justice Policy Specialist, 2009-2011.
 Researcher/Paralegal, 2008-2009).
- 2007 Mouvement contre les armes légères en Afrique de l'Ouest (Dakar, Senegal)
 Intern.

2007 American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative (Rabat, Morocco)
Intern.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020-22 Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies

2018-20 Postdoctoral Research Associate, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis

2019 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan; Michigan Society of Fellows; ProQuest Information Systems

2018 Leland Hawes Graduate Essay Prize, University of South Florida Libraries and Tampa Bay History Center

2017-18 Charlotte Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation

2016-17 Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan

2012-16 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation

2016 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan

2015 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research

2015 Rackham Conference Travel Grant, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan

2012 Anti-Discrimination Center Research Grant, Anti-Discrimination Center

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Accepted Cyrus O'Brien, "A Prison in Your Community': Halfway Houses and Melding of Treatment and Control." Accepted by the *Journal of American History* in December 2019.

2008 Cyrus O'Brien, "The Dynamics of Private Security in Senegal," *Review of African Political Economy* 35:118, (Winter 2008), 655-659.

Book Project

Under Contract *Faith in Imprisonment: Religion and the Making of Mass Incarceration in America*. This book is under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press and will be part of its Politics and Culture series.

Book Reviews

- 2019 Cyrus O'Brien, Review of Edward Orozco Flores, "Jesus Saved an Ex-Con," *Reading Religion* (April 2019), <http://readingreligion.org/books/jesus-saved-ex-con>.

POLICY RESEARCH AND REPORTS

- 2020 Restore Justice, "Illinois Failing Key Pillar of COVID-19 Response: Prisons Remain Crowded while Early Releases Exacerbate Racial Inequity," (June 2020), available at <https://restorejustice.org/early-releases-exacerbate-racial-inequity/>.
- 2020 Cyrus O'Brien and Deb Brodsky, "Florida's Obsolete Drug Laws Disproportionately Affect Latinos and Women," The Project on Accountable Justice (January 2020), available at <https://accountablejustice.github.io/report/demographics.html>.
- 2019 Cyrus O'Brien and Deb Brodsky, "Florida Rolled Back Parts of the War on Drugs, but Hundred Remain in Prison Under Obsolete Laws: Justice Demands that Reforms be Made Retroactive," The Project on Accountable Justice at Florida State University (November 2019), available at <https://accountablejustice.github.io/report/retroactivity>.
- 2017 Cyrus O'Brien and Deb Brodsky, "Florida's Prison System: Understanding the Challenges and Opportunities for Reform," The Project on Accountable Justice at Florida State University. (November 13, 2017), available at <https://accountablejustice.github.io/report>.
- 2016 Deb Brodsky, Cyrus O'Brien, and Sal Nuzzo, "No Place for A Child: Direct File of Juveniles Comes at High Cost; Time to Fix Statutes," James Madison Institute and Project on Accountable Justice at Florida State University (February 2016), available at jamesmadison.org.
- 2012 Southern Poverty Law Center, *Unlocking Your Community's Hidden Strengths: A Guidebook to Community Asset-Mapping*, (2012), available at splcenter.org.
- 2011 Florida TaxWatch Center for Smart Justice, "Findings of the Center for Smart Justice Review of Criminal Justice Data," (December 2011), available at floridataxwatch.org.
- 2010 Southern Poverty Law Center and Florida TaxWatch, "Fiscal Responsibility: The Key to a Safer and Stronger Juvenile Justice System," (December 2010), available at splcenter.org.
- 2010 Danielle Lipow, Cyrus O'Brien, and David Utter, "Opportunities to Strengthen Florida's Juvenile Justice System," Southern Poverty Law Center, (September 2010), available at evidencebasedassociates.com.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

- 2019 “Resisting Institutional Identities and Carving Out Spaces for Dignity in a North Florida Prison,” *Ethnographic Futures*, a conference of the Association of Black Anthropologists, the American Ethnological Society, and the Association of Latino and Latina Anthropologists, St. Louis, Missouri, March 14, 2019.
- 2018 “Security, Conspiracy, and Love: Spiritual Care in an Era of Mass Incarceration,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 19, 2018.
- 2018 “Recognizing Human Dignity Amid Mass Incarceration: An Account from a North Florida Prison,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, California, November 18, 2018.
- 2018 “Community Treatment, Community Surveillance: Halfway Houses as Vectors of Punitive State Power,” Biennial Urban History Association Conference, Columbia, South Carolina, October 19, 2018.
- 2016 “The Religious Roots of Private Prisons: Religious Organizations and the Privatization of Prisons and Probation in Florida,” Policy History Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, June 2, 2016.
- 2016 “‘Tell them their daddy was a good man’: Storytelling in Prison and the Regulation of Research with Human Subjects,” Anthropology and History Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 21, 2016.
- 2015 “Where Society Ends and the Prison Begins: The Dialogic Construction of Social Separation in Prison,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, November 21, 2015.
- 2014 “The Subjects of Imprisonment: The Rehabilitative Regime of a Faith- and Character-Based Prison,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 3, 2014.
- 2013 “Risk, Risk-Assessment, and Racial Disparities in Juvenile Courts,” The American Racial State Graduate Student Conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 11, 2013.

Panels Organized

- 2018 Surviving Imprisonment with Dignity: Strategies to Protect One's Humanity in a Dehumanizing Institution, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, California, November 18, 2018.
- 2016 Church and State: Religion in the Development and Implementation of State Policy, Policy History Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, June 2, 2016.

Round Tables

- 2018 "Praying Like a State?: What Religion Tells Us about Government, and Vice Versa," Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 10, 2018.

Commenter/Discussant

- 2016 "Building the Punitive State," Power, Politics, and Social Change: University of Michigan Graduate Student Conference in History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 13, 2016.
- 2016 Bruno Renero-Hannan, "On Being Disappeared," Anthropology and History Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 25, 2016.
- 2014 Lorna Rhodes, "Repetition, Entropy and the Institutional Interior," Anthropology and History Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 14, 2014.
- 2013 "Format and Method," What is an Event: Comparing Perspectives from Anthropology and History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 8, 2013.
- 2012 "Scales of Oppression and Resistance," at the symposium Scales of Anthropology and History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, January 20, 2012.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

- Spring 2020 "Religion and Politics in American History." Instructor of Record, Washington University in St. Louis.
- Fall 2018 "The Politics of Religion, Crime, and Punishment in the United States." Instructor of Record, Washington University in St. Louis.
- 2016-2017 Mentor and Workshop Leader for MS Students in Applied Economics. Florida State University, College of Social Science and Public Policy, Project on Accountable Justice.
- 2013-2014 Graduate Student Mentor for Undergraduate Honors Student in Anthropology, University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology.
- Fall 2013 Graduate Student Research Assistant for New Course Development, The War on Crime and the War on Drugs University of Michigan, Department of History.
- Winter 2013 Graduate Student Instructor
Introduction to Religion: From Rastafari to the Sun Dance
University of Michigan, Department of History.

Fall 2012 Graduate Student Instructor
The Arab-Zionist Conflict
University of Michigan, Department of History.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

2018-present Chaplaincy Innovation Lab Advisory Committee, Brandeis University.
2013-2014 Co-Coordinator of the Anthropology and History Workshop
2012-2014 Coordinator of the Anthropology and History Reading Group
2011-2013 Michigan Anthropology Graduate Association, Sub-Field Representative for
Anthropology and History

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2020 “Ethnography, Institutions, and Subject Formation,” Guest Lecture, American
Studies Program, St. Louis University, November 6, 2019.

2019 “The Iatrogenic Effects of Juvenile Justice Interventions,” Guest Lecture, Program
in Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri St. Louis, March 19,
2019.

2018 “Racism in the U.S. Criminal Justice System,” Invited Lecture, Program in American
Studies, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, April 30, 2018.

2017 “What Will It Take to End Mass Incarceration? Considering the War on Drugs
Alongside Recent Efforts to Release People Convicted of Violent Offenses,” A
Public Forum: Florida Criminal Justice Reform: 2017 and Beyond, Florida State
University, Tallahassee, Florida, March 3, 2017. Video available at
<http://mediasite.capd.fsu.edu/Mediasite/Play/bab4fe7f19624a05b0912698c2383a781d?playFrom=11836000>.

2017 “Religion and American Prisons.” Amherst Regional High School, Social Studies
Department. Amherst, Massachusetts, January 9th, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Anthropological Association
American Ethnological Society
Association of Black Anthropologists
Organization of American Historians
Policy History Association
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
Urban History Association

DIGITAL AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES

SPSS (expert)

System Dynamics with STELLA (advanced)

ArcGIS GIS Mapping (advanced)

SAS (intermediate)

R (basic)

Data-Driven Documents (D3), a javascript library (intermediate)

Python (basic)

Data Visualizations (intermediate with D3)