

REBEKAH M. CIRIBASSI

A.D. White House, 27 East Avenue, Ithaca, New York 14853
Tel: +1 630 561 5210 | Email: rmc334@cornell.edu | rebekahciribassi.com

EDUCATION

- 2021 **Ph.D., Cornell University**
Sociocultural Anthropology (Expected May 2021)
Minors: Science and Technology Studies; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Dissertation: “Fierce Blood and Gentle Genes: Sickle cell disease and the making of intergenerational bodies in Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania”
Committee: Stacey Langwick (Chair); Saida Hožić; Viranjini Munasinghe; Rachel Prentice.
- 2017 **M.A., Cornell University**
Sociocultural Anthropology
- 2014 **M.A., M.P.H., University of Illinois at Chicago**
Anthropology and Global Health Joint Degree Program
Concentrations: Medical Anthropology and Community Health Sciences
- 2011 **B.A., University of Illinois at Chicago**
Anthropology
Minors: International Studies and Italian

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2016 Ciribassi, Rebekah M. and Crystal L. Patil. “We don’t wear it on our sleeve’: Sickle cell disease and the invisible body in parts.” *Social Science & Medicine* 148:131-138.

Book Reviews

- 2020 “Returning life: language, life force and history in Kilimanjaro. By Knut Christian Myhre.” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*.
- 2018 “Vanilla Landscapes: Meaning, Memory and the Cultivation of Place in Madagascar. By Sarah Osterhoudt.” *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

Public Scholarship

- 2020 “The Temporal Politics of Ethnography, Heritability, and Contagion in Tanzania During COVID-19.” *Platypus: The CASTAC Blog*. May 6, 2020.
- 2020 “COVID-19: Views from the Field” (Introduction). Series organizer. *Platypus: The CASTAC Blog*. April 16, 2020.
- 2016 ““If you Want to Live, You Have to Work”: On Bureaucratic Ecologies, Paper-Work, and Enacting the Biomedical Body. *Anthropos: Lively Thought @ Cornell* (blog). January 29, 2016.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2020-2021 **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**
Graduate Fellowship at the Society for Humanities, Cornell University, Theme: “Fabrication.” (\$28,500)
- 2019-2020 **National Science Foundation**
Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (Cultural Anthropology) (\$23,602)
- 2018-2019 **Fulbright-Hays**
Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (\$24,828)
- 2017 **Social Science Research Council**
Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (\$5,000)
- 2017 **Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University**
International Research Travel Grant (\$1,950)
- 2016 **Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University**
International Research Travel Grant (\$1,800)
- 2015-2021 **Cornell University**
SAGE Fellowship
- 2015 **National Geographic Committee for Research and Exploration**
Young Explorers Grant (\$5,000)
- 2015 **University of Illinois at Chicago**
Provost Award (\$2,500)
- 2014 **Fulbright-Hays, Michigan State University**
Group Projects Abroad Fellowship, Advanced Swahili
- 2013 **Yale University**
Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Intermediate Swahili

2013 **Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago**
Charles Reed Fund (\$500)

2012-2014 **University of Illinois at Chicago**
University Fellowship

PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

Panels Organized

2016 “Anthropology’s Publics: Critical Reflections on Public Engagements.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Meeting. May 13 (co-organized).

Selected Papers Presented

2020 “Heritable Space-Time, Genetic Sensibilities: Sickle cell disease as scaffolding for racialization in post-colonial Tanzania.” EASST/4S Prague 2020 (Virtual)

2019 “Tracing the Legacies of Ujamaa: Post-colonial, post-socialist, and Bio-Genetic Familyhood in the United Republic of Tanzania,” Soyuz Symposium, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2018 “Riding Dragons into Fieldwork: Science / Speculative Fiction, (Dis)orientation, And Ethnographic Practice,” Society for Cultural Anthropology Conference. Virtual.

2016 “Paying with your Life: Vital and health statistics as currency in a Tanzanian sickle cell clinic,” Second City Anthropology Conference, Chicago, Illinois

2013 “Centering: An Innovative Model of Group Healthcare Delivery,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois. (Co-authored with C.L. Patil)

2011 “Intersecting the Educational and Clinical Fields: Conditions for youth with sickle cell in Schools,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada

Invited Lectures

2015 “The Culture of Cultured Cells: Possibilities for ethnographic research and molecular medicine in Tanzania,” Muhimbili-Wellcome Programme for Sickle Cell Disease Research, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cornell University Teaching Assistantships

Ancient Peoples and Places (Fall 2017, John Henderson)
Ethics of Health and Medicine (Fall 2016, Stephen Hilgartner)
Medicine, Culture, and Society (Spring 2016, Stacey Langwick)

University of Illinois at Chicago Teaching Assistantships

Introduction to Anthropology (Spring 2015, Brian Bauer)
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2014, Matthew Schauer)
Introduction to Biological Anthropology (Fall 2013, Julie Lesnick; Fall 2014, Larissa Smith)

FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Dissertation Fieldwork (Cornell University Department of Anthropology)

- 2019-2020 Ethnographic research in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar, Tanzania on the sensory politics of sickle cell disease care across a nationalist divide (funded by National Science Foundation).
- 2018-2019 Ethnographic research including participant observation and life history interviews in Mwanza and surrounding Lake Zone region on sickle cell disease and nationalist belonging (funded by Fulbright-Hays).
- 2015 Preliminary data collection on complementary and alternative medicine use among sickle cell disease patients in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (funded by National Geographic).

Research Assistantship & MPH Thesis Practicum (University of Illinois at Chicago)

- 2012-2013 Worked with an interdisciplinary team to develop a curriculum guide and implementation plan for Centering Sickle Cell Disease, a model for group healthcare delivery for sickle cell disease. Combined with anti-discrimination in schools programming for Chicago Public Schools to prevent violence against students with sickle cell. (Funded by Illinois Violence Prevention Association).

Ethnographic and community health studies research (University of Illinois at Chicago)

- 2012-2013 Independent, mixed methods study of health indicators and community health priorities in the Chatham neighborhood of Chicago, specifically targeting questions around the intersections of Black middle classness and racial segregation in Chicago.

Qualitative sickle cell disease research team member (University of Illinois at Chicago)

2010-2015 Ethnographic research team targeting questions around life with sickle cell disease in Chicago, under supervision of P.I. Crystal Patil.

SERVICE

Service to Profession

2016 Society for Cultural Anthropology Annual Meeting Volunteer
2015 Invited peer reviewer, Journal of Ecology of Food and Nutrition

Departmental Service

2015-2016 Secretary, Anthropology Graduate Student Association, Cornell University
2014-2015 President, Graduate Anthropology and Geography Association, UIC
2013-2014 Committee Head, UIC Second City Anthropology Conference

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2018-2019 Umoja wa Walezi wa Watoto wenye Sickle Cell (“Cooperative of parents of children with sickle cell”)
Co-founder and Secretary, Mwanza, Tanzania
Worked with multidisciplinary team including patients and social worker to develop a monthly support meeting for community support among families with sickle cell

2013-2020 Sickle Cell Disease Patients’ Community of Tanzania
Advising and proposal writing, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Secured funding for various projects, developed proposals and plans for programming, assisted with implementation

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

2020 Teaching & Learning in the Diverse Classroom
Center for Teaching Innovation, Cornell University (*Ongoing*)

2020 Learning Community for Inclusive Teaching for Graduate Students & Postdocs
Future Faculty and Academic Careers Office, Cornell University (*Ongoing*)

2015 Writing in the Majors Seminar,
Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University

LANGUAGES

Swahili High Advanced, Non-native speaker (Studied 2012-2017)
Italian Advanced reading, speaking and writing (Studied 2008-2011)
French Beginner in speaking, reading, and writing (Studied 2004-2007)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropology Association
Society for Social Studies of Science
African Studies Association
Society for Medical Anthropology
The Association for Queer Anthropology
Cornell Graduate Students United
Cornell Anthropology Graduate Students Association