

# ALIX B. JOHNSON

Department of International Studies, Macalester College  
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## I. EDUCATION

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2018 Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz  
2013 M.A. in Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz  
2009 B.A. in Linguistics and French, University of California, Berkeley  
Distinction in General Scholarship

## II. POSITIONS HELD

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### *Full-Time Appointments*

2022–present **Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies**  
Macalester College, St. Paul, MN  
2019–2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology  
Affiliate faculty, Center for European Studies  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
2018–2019 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology  
Affiliate faculty, Surveillance Studies Centre  
Queen’s University, Kingston, ON

### *Part-Time Appointments*

2016–2017 Researcher, Center for Emerging Worlds  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
2014–2015 Researcher, Humanities in the European Research Area Project  
University of Iceland (*Háskóli Íslands*)

## III. RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Information technology; infrastructure; data storage and data mobilities; nationalism and post-colonialism; militarism and U.S. empire; secrecy; surveillance; Iceland; the Arctic; ethnographic theory and practice

## IV. PUBLICATIONS

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### *Books*

2023 *Where Cloud is Ground: Placing Data and Making Place in Iceland*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press (in production)

### **Peer-reviewed Articles**

- 2021 "The Mechanics of Sovereignty: Autonomy and Interdependence across Three Cables to Iceland," *American Anthropologist* 123(3): 578-589
- 2019 "Data Centers as Infrastructural In-Betweens: Expanding Connections and Enduring Marginalities in Iceland," *American Ethnologist* 41(1): 75-88
- 2019 "Emplacing Data Within Imperial Histories: Making Iceland Information's 'Natural' Home," *Culture Machine* 17: 1-12

### **Book Chapters**

- 2022 With Nathalie Ortar, A. R. E. Taylor, Julia Velkova, Patrick Brodie, Clément Marquet, Andrea Pollio and Liza Cirolia. "Powering 'Smart' Futures: Data Centres and the Energy Politics of Digitalisation," in *Energy Futures: Anthropocene Challenges, Emerging Technologies, and Everyday Life*, Sarah Pink, Simone Abram, Nathalie Ortar and Karen Waltoorp eds. Berlin: De Gruyter.

### **Special Issues**

- 2023 With Chloe Ahmann, Ali Feser, Erin McFee and Amy Leia McLachlan, eds. "Fieldwork Confessionals," special section of *American Anthropologist* (in production)
- 2019 Editor of "Coastal Media," special section of *Synoptique Online Journal of Film and Moving Image Studies* 6(2), Mar 2019
- 2018 Editor of "Ruination, Remaking, Return: Critical Dialogues on Re-built Environments," special section of *City & Society* 30(3): 1-6, Dec 2018
- 2017 Co-editor with Mél Hogan, of "Location and Dislocation: Mapping Geographies of Global Data," special issue of *Imaginations Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies* 8(2), Sep 2017

### **Book Reviews**

- 2017 "Island in the Storm: Iceland and the Financial Crisis of 2008." Review of E. Paul Durrenberger and Gísli Pálsson, eds. *Gambling Debt: Iceland's Rise and Fall in the Global Economy*. *Anthropology Book Forum*, May 2017

### **Other Scholarly Writing**

- 2023 "I Have No Proof, But..." in "Fieldwork Confessionals," special section of *American Anthropologist* (in production)
- 2023 With Patrick Brodie, Juliet Pinto, and Anne Pasek. "What is Environmental Media Studies So Far?" *Journal of Environmental Media* (in production)
- 2023 "Infrastructuring Inequality: Investigations of a Proposed Nickel Mine in Northern Minnesota," *Mississippi River Open School for Kinship and Exchange*, July 11, 2023
- 2022 "Down to Earth: The Situated Materiality of Digital Media," *Journal of Environmental Media* 2(2): 185-191
- 2020 "Hacking Politics Itself," *hack.curio*, May 20, 2020
- 2017 "Vulnerability and Violence in Anthropology," *Allegra Lab: Anthropology, Art, Law, World*, Oct 5, 2017

- 2016 "Paranoid Reading, Writing and Research: Secrecy in the Field," *Savage Minds: Notes and Queries in Anthropology*, Mar 21, 2016
- 2016 "The Self at Stake: Thinking Fieldwork and Sexual Violence," *Savage Minds: Notes and Queries in Anthropology*, Mar 16, 2016
- 2014 "Data Havens of Iceland," *Savage Minds: Notes and Queries in Anthropology*, Feb 6, 2016

### *Media Coverage*

- 2019 Interview on *Data Center Industrial Complex* podcast, "People, Imagination, and Concrete," Oct 2, 2019
- 2017 "Secrecy and Revelation," interview on *Best, Concordia* Podcast, Mar 14, 2017
- 2015 "Iceland's Information Politics," interview on *Chicago Public Radio*, Nov 10, 2015

## **V. AWARDS**

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### *National Grants and Fellowships*

- 2020 Wenner-Gren Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2017 Mellon / American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2017 Mellon / Council for European Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined)
- 2015 National Science Foundation Arctic Social Sciences Program Fellowship
- 2014 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
- 2014 Leifur Eiriksson Foundation Research Scholarship
- 2014 American-Scandinavian Foundation Research Scholarship
- 2012 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

### *University Grants and Fellowships*

- 2023 Course Development Grant, Mellon Humanities for All Time Initiative, Macalester College
- 2021 CLAS funding awarded for National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity Faculty Success Program
- 2019 Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Award, University of Florida, College of Arts and Sciences
- 2019 Global Fellows Award, University of Florida, International Center
- 2018 Travel Grant, Surveillance Studies Centre, Queen's University
- 2018 Travel Grant, School of Graduate Studies, Queen's University
- 2014 Travel Grant, UC Santa Cruz Graduate Student Association
- 2013 Travel Grant, Department of Anthropology, UC Santa Cruz
- 2012 Travel Grant, Department of Anthropology, UC Santa Cruz
- 2011 Regents' Fellowship, University of California, Santa Cruz

### *Other Honors*

- 2021 Nominated for Adviser/Mentor of the Year Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida

- 2020 Manuscript selected for competitive Atelier Series,  
University of California Press
- 2017 Society for Urban, National, and Transnational Anthropology (SUNTA)  
Graduate Student Paper Prize

## **VI. PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

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### *Invited Talks*

- 2023 "The Where of Data: Digital Infrastructure and the Politics of Place," Media Studies Colloquium, Macalester College, Apr 14
- 2021 "Making Data's 'Natural' Home: Geographies of Digital Development in Europe's New Node Pole," Center for European Studies, University of Florida, Sep 28
- 2021 "New Nordic Anthropology: Technologies" roundtable, sponsored by Stockholm University, the University of Oslo, and SMU [online], Apr 13
- 2019 "Mechanics of Connection and Complicity: Iceland, IT, and Entangled Sovereignties," UC Irvine Department of Anthropology, Irvine, CA, Apr 26
- 2019 "Watched Waters: Emerging Regimes of Arctic Surveillance," Surveillance Studies Centre, Kingston, ON, Queen's University, Jan 16
- 2018 "Compromising Connections: Iceland and the In-Between of Infrastructure and Empire," University of Colorado, Boulder Department of Anthropology, Boulder, CO, Oct 18
- 2018 "Intimate Attunements: Legacies of Sonar and Sexual Surveillance on Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula," Concordia University Ethnography Lab, co-sponsored by the Global Emerging Media Lab, Montreal, QC, Feb 5

### *Sessions Chaired or Organized*

- 2021 Data + Care: Relations, Practices, Affects, double panel co-organized and chaired with Steven Gonzalez, Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference, Toronto, Oct 6-9 [online]
- 2020 Data / Sovereignty, roundtable organized and chaired, Raising Our Voices, online meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Nov 5-14
- 2020 Data / Sovereignty, panel co-organized with Elliott Prasse-Freeman, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO [Conference cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2020 Data / Sovereignty, panel co-organized with Elliott Prasse-Freeman, American Ethnological Society, Austin, TX, Mar 26-28 [Conference cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2020 Digital Ethnography: Grounded Engagements with Online Worlds, workshop co-organized with Marit Ostebo, University of Florida, Jan 25
- 2019 Data Capitalisms and Digital Regimes of Value, roundtable co-organized with Alison Cool, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Nov 20-24
- 2018 The Disrupters: Ethnographies of Technocapitalism, panel chaired, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, Nov 14-18

- 2017 The Ends of Infrastructure, panel co-organized with Stephanie McCallum. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Nov 29–Dec 3
- 2017 Sexual Violence in Anthropology, roundtable co-organized with Mingwei Huang. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Nov 29–Dec 3
- 2017 Secrecy in and of Ethnography, panel co-organized with Mingwei Huang. American Ethnological Society Annual Meeting, Stanford, CA, Mar 30–Apr 1
- 2016 Technologies of Secrecy, panel co-organized with Davide Orsini. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, Nov 16–20

### *Selected Presentations*

- 2022 “Where Data Lives: Data Storage as Place-Making Politics in Iceland,” Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference, Cholula, MX, Dec 7–10 [online]
- 2021 “I Have No Proof, But...: Secrecy and Silence Post-Military Occupation,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, Nov 17–21 [online]
- 2021 “‘Just Infrastructure’: Logics and Labors of Data Center Care,” Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference, Toronto, Oct 6–8 [online]
- 2021 “Island in the Net: Data Sovereignty, Digital Exceptionalism, and the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative,” Council for European Studies, Reykjavík, IS, Jun 24–26 [online]
- 2020 “I Have No Proof, But...: Secrecy and Silence Post-Military Occupation,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO [Submission accepted; conference cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2020 “The Mechanics of Connection: Iceland, IT, and Entangled Sovereignties,” American Ethnological Society, Austin, TX [Submission accepted; conference cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2020 “The ‘Big Bitcoin Heist’ and Data’s Situated Materiality,” Digital Ethnography: Grounded Engagements with Digital Worlds Workshop, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, Jan 25
- 2019 “Digital Development and Imperial Debris,” Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference, New Orleans, LA, Sep 4–7
- 2019 “The Wild Green Yonder: Imagining Iceland as Digital Data’s ‘Natural’ Home,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle, WA, Mar 13–17
- 2018 “Sovereign Ties: Information Technology as Bridge and Border in Postcolonial Iceland,” Borders and Bridges: Nordic Nationalisms and Transnationalisms, Berkeley, CA, Mar 9–10
- 2017 “Information Infrastructure in Iceland: Hard Edges and the In-Between,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Nov 29–Dec 3
- 2017 “Islands in the Net: Information Infrastructures and Coastal In-Betweens,” Porting Media Conference, Global Emerging Media Lab, Montreal, QC, Oct 12–14

- 2017 “Icelandic Information Infrastructure and the Making of Marginality,”  
Workshop on Configurations of Remoteness, University of Vienna, Austria,  
May 26–27
- 2017 “Evidence and the Unexpected: Producing Knowledge in a Secretive Field,”  
American Ethnological Society Annual Meeting, Stanford, CA,  
Mar 31– Apr 1
- 2016 “Submerged Connections: Technologies of Sonar and Sexual Surveillance in  
Reykjanes,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting,  
Minneapolis, MN, Nov 16–20
- 2015 “Built-in Marginality: IT Infrastructure in an On-the-Way Place,”  
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO,  
Nov 17–22
- 2015 “Compromising Connections: Inherited Infrastructures at Iceland’s Ásbrú  
Park,” Connected Life Conference, Oxford College, Oxford, UK, Jun 4-6

### *Other Activities*

- 2022 Roundtable participant, Fieldwork Confessionals, American Anthropological  
Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, Nov 11
- 2021 Organizer (as Senior Program Chair for Association for Feminist  
Anthropology), Feminist Approaches to Abolition: A State of the Field  
Review, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore,  
MD, Nov 21
- 2020 Co-organizer with Marit Ostebo, Digital Ethnography: Grounded  
Engagements with Online Worlds workshop, University of Florida, Jan 25
- 2019 Discussant, The Island Effect: On the Condition of the Pelagic Military  
‘Outpost’, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting,  
Vancouver, BC, Nov 22
- 2018 Roundtable participant, Sexual Violence in Anthropology (Executive  
Session), American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose,  
CA, Nov 18
- 2016 Participant, Hackademia Summer School in Digital Cultures, Leuphana  
University, Luneberg, Germany, Aug 28–Sep 2
- 2015 Convener and participant, Secrets, Silences, and Limits to Knowledge, APLA  
graduate student workshop, American Anthropological Association Annual  
Meeting, Denver, CO, Nov 18

## **VII. TEACHING**

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### *Instructor of Record*

Macalester College, Department of International Studies

- 2022–2023 Surveillance and Power (INTL 294-04 / MCST 294/03)  
Infrastructuring Inequality (INTL 294-04)  
Digital Cultures (INTL 294-04)  
Global Media Industries (INTL 202-01 / MCST 202-01)

University of Florida, Department of Anthropology

2021–2022	Afterlives (ANT 4930 / ANG 6930) Digital Anthropology [online] (ANT 4851)
2020–2021	Foundations for a Career in Anthropology (ANT 6930) Gender, Sex, and Ethnographic Fieldwork (ANT 4930/ ANG 6930)
2019–2020	Surveillance, Suspicion, Secrecy (ANT 4930 / ANG 6930) Digital Anthropology (ANT 4851 / ANG 6930) Digital Cultures and Communities (ANT 3930)

Queen’s University, Department of Sociology

2018–2019	Surveillance and Empire (SOCY 304) Gender and Sexuality (SOCY 303)
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*Teaching Assistant*

UC Santa Cruz, Department of Anthropology

2014–2015	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2)
2012–2013	Religion in American Culture and Politics (ANTH 80)

**VIII. COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH**

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2022–present	Research Team Member, Environmental Media Lab
2021–2022	Associated Member, African Technoscapes Cluster Regions 2050 Project, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research
2018–2019	Postdoctoral Fellow, Big Data Surveillance Project Surveillance Studies Centre, Queen’s University
2017–2018	Member, Infrastructure and Environment Working Group Ethnography Lab, Concordia University
2017–2018	Researcher, Montreal Waterways Research Group Ethnography Lab, Concordia University
2016–2017	Graduate Student Researcher, Center for Emerging Worlds University of California, Santa Cruz
2014–2015	Graduate Student Assistant, Humanities in the European Research Area Project, University of Iceland

**IX. SERVICE**

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*Professional Service*

2022–present	Associate Editor, Journal of Environmental Media
2022–2023	Reviewer, National Science Foundation
2020–2021	Senior Program Chair, Association for Feminist Anthropology
2021	Chair, Sylvia Foreman Prize Committee, Association for Feminist Anthropology
2020–2021	Advisory Committee Member, Ethnographic Evidence in the Americas: On the Aesthetics of Methods and the Crafting of Claims Conference
2018–2020	Junior Program Chair, Association for Feminist Anthropology

2020 Reviewer, Sylvia Foreman Prize Committee, Association for Feminist Anthropology

2020 Mentor, Society for Social Studies of Science Mentorship Program

2018 Member, Working Group on Sexual Harassment Policy, Members' Programmatic Advocacy and Advisory Committee, American Anthropological Association

2014–2017 Graduate Student Committee Member, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

2016–2017 Graduate Student Organizing Board Member, American Ethnological Society Annual Meeting

2016 Cultural Horizons Prize Juror, Society for Cultural Anthropology

2013–present Reviewer: *PoLaR*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*, *Critique of Anthropology*, *Canadian Journal of Communications*, *New Media & Society*, *New Media & Communications*, *Journal of Environmental Media*, *Gastronomica*

### ***Departmental and University Service***

2023–present Library Liaison, Department of International Studies, Macalester College

2022 Member, AI Ethics and Policy Working Group, University of Florida

2022 Mentor, Preparing Future Faculty Program, University of Florida

2021–2022 Member, Search Committee for Lecturer in Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology

2020–2022 Member, External Advisory Board, Center for European Studies, University of Florida

2020–2022 Member, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Head, Curriculum, Writing, and Research Working Group, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida

2020–2022 Member, Equitable AI Committee, University of Florida

2020–2021 Member, Advisory Committee, Center for Latin American Studies Annual Conference, "Ethnographic Evidence in the Americas"

2020 Reviewer, Paul and Polly Doughty Award, Amaya-Burns Award, James C. Waggoner Jr. Grants-in-Aid, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida

2019–2021 Member, Digital Humanities Graduate Certificate Committee University of Florida

2019–2020 Member, Advisory Committee, Department of Anthropology University of Florida

2017–2018 Co-coordinator, "Experimental Methods" Workshop Series Ethnography Lab, Concordia University

2014 Selection Committee Member, Richard Randolph Essay Competition Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz

2012–2013 Coordinator, Ethnographic Engagements Workshop Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz