

AMY MORAN-THOMAS

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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, MIT 2015 – Present
<http://anthropology.mit.edu/people/faculty/amy-moran-thomas>

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Anthropology September 2012
Princeton University, Princeton NJ
Dissertation: “Metabola: Chronic Life in Belize”
Advisors: João Biehl and Carol Greenhouse

Masters of Arts (MA) in Anthropology May 2008
Princeton University, Princeton NJ; “Mark of Distinction”

Bachelors of Arts (BA) in Literature May 2005
American University Honors Program, Washington DC
Senior Thesis: “Hookworm and History”
Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Medicine; Chronic Disease and Environmental Change; Metabolic and Parasitic Disorders; Cultural Histories of Global Health; Medical Humanities and Ethics; Ethnographic Writing; the Caribbean and Central America (Belize).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

WRITING AND TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich
Rachel Carson Writing Fellowship 2016-2017

Brown Dept. of Anthropology & Cogut Humanities Center
Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in International Humanities 2013-2015

Woodrow Wilson School for Public & International Affairs
Global Health Program, Postdoctoral Fellowship 2012-2013

Mellon-ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies)
Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2011-2012

Woodrow Wilson Society of Fellows
Dissertation Writing Fellowship 2010-2011 (Declined 2011-2012)

Josephine De Kármán Trust
Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Declined, 2011-2012)

RESEARCH AND TRAVEL FUNDS

MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences SHASS Research Fund	2017
Wenner-Gren Engaged Foundation for Anthropological Research Engaged Anthropology Grant	2014
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship	2009-2010
American Philosophical Society Lewis & Clarke Fund Field Research Grant, Belize	2009
West African Research Association Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Ghana	2009
Princeton Program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies Faculty-Student Research and Publication Grant	2009
US Department of Education - UNC Chapel Hill Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant, Yucatec Maya	2009
Rockefeller Archive Center, Tarrytown NY Grant-in-Aid, History of Global Health Research	2008
Princeton Program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies William Ebstein Summer Research Grant, Belize	2008
Princeton Grand Challenges Development Initiative Pan African Institute Research Grant, Ghana	2008
Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Grant, Guatemala	2007
Office of the Dean, American University College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Research Grant, National Library of Medicine	2005

STUDY SUPPORT

Princeton University Presidential Fellowship	2006-2011
American University Presidential Fellowship	2001-2005

AWARDS AND HONORS

Curl Essay Prize	
Royal Anthropological Institute	2014
David M. Schneider Prize	
American Anthropological Association	2011
Elsie Clews Parsons Medal	
American Ethnological Society	2011
Rudolph Virchow Graduate Paper Award	
Critical Anthropology of Global Health Group	2011
Science, Technology, and Medicine Paper Prize	
Science and Technology Interest Group, Society of Medical Anthropology	2011
Christine Wilson Paper Prize	
Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition	2008
Best Undergraduate Thesis Prize	
Department of Literature, American University	2005
Best Undergraduate Thesis Presentation	
University Honors Program, American University	2005
Award for Academic Excellence	
Department of Literature, American University	2005
Louise Young Award, First Prize for Creative Writing	
College of Arts and Sciences, American University	2003

PUBLICATIONS

Symptom: Subjectivities, Technologies, and Social Ills (with João Biehl). *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Don Brenneis and Peter Ellison (eds). Volume 38: 267-88, 2009.

<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-anthro-091908-164420>

“Paradox, Disparity, Ethnography: Observations on the Spread of Diabetes in the Developing World.” Society for the Anthropology of Nutrition, Rachel Black (ed). *Anthropology News* 50:4, 2009.

“In Search of the ‘Philanthropic Plum’: Diabetes Research, Hookworm Interventions, and Comparative Philanthropy in Historical Perspective.” Ken Rose (ed). Rockefeller Archive Center: Tarrytown, NY, 2010.

“The Paradox of Non-Communicable Epidemic: A Generational Perspective on Diabetes Care in Northern Ghana.” *West African Research Association News*, Spring 2010, p. 8.

“A Salvage Ethnography of the Guinea Worm: Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic in a Disease Eradication Program.” In *When People Come First: Critical Studies in Global Health*, João Biehl and Adriana Petryna (eds). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2013, p. 207-39. Available at <http://www.whenpeoplecomefirst.com/the-book>

“Studying Unformed Objects: Integration.” *Cultural Anthropology* online, “Fieldnotes” series together with Michelle Murphy, Kathleen Stewart, and Britt Dahlberg. July 17, 2013. <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/365-studying-unformed-objects-integration>

“The Pacification of Rio, as Observed from a Gondola.” *Boston Review*. May/June 2014. <http://www.bostonreview.net/mayjune-2014>

“Malignant: How Cancer Becomes Us, by S. Lochlann Jain (review).” *American Ethnologist* 41(3): 607-8, 2014. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/amet.12100_16/full

“Creation of Emergency and the Afterlife of Intervention: Reflections on Guinea Worm Eradication in Northern Ghana.” In *Health and Humanitarianism: Ethnographies of Practice*. Catherine Panter-Brick & Sharon Abramowitz (eds). U of Pennsylvania Press, 2015.

“I Didn’t Bring My Camera.” Book forum on Hervé Guibert’s “Cytomegalovirus: A Hospitalization Diary.” Eugene Raikhel (ed). *Somatosphere*, December 2016. Available at <http://somatosphere.net/forumpost/i-didnt-bring-my-camera>

“Breakthroughs for Whom?: Global Diabetes Care and Equitable Design.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 375; 24: 2317-9, December 2016. Available at <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1611475#t=article>

“Mine.” *Cultural Anthropology* online, “Hot Spots” series. David Bond and Lucas Bessire (eds). January 2017. Available at <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1030-the-rise-of-trumpism>

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

“Metabola: A Global Epidemic as Seen From Belize.” (Under contract, UC Press 2018).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Animate Thresholds: Diabetes and Chronic Life at the Edge of the Sea.” Roundtable workshop for “Eating Beside the Human: Intercalary Exchanges on Food’s Thresholds.” Society for the Study of Science and Society Conference, Boston. September 2017.

“Struggles for Equitable Design: Black Box Medical Devices and Conundrums of Practice.” “Making and Doing” Installation, with Jose Gomez-Marquez ([MIT Little Devices Lab](#)). Society for the Study of Science and Society Conference, Boston. September 2017.

““Blood Sugar: Scenes from the Diabetes Epidemic in Caribbean Central America.” Paper presentation for “Epidemiography.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Meeting, Ithaca NY. April 2016.

- “What is Adherence, and When Should It Apply to Policy Makers?” Panel presentation, co-authored with Adia Benton. For conference: “Elimination: The Role of Science, Policy, and Advocacy.” Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene: London, 2015.
- “Healthy Living Made Fun and Easy!: Ironies of Education in the Global Diabetes Epidemic.” Paper Presentation for panel on “Ethics and Expertise,” organized by Sarah Vaughn and Kirk Fiereck. AAA Meeting: Denver, 2015.
- “ToxiCities: Exploring Contamination.” Panel Discussant. AAA Meeting: Denver, 2015.
- “Chemicalized Ecologies: ‘Uncertain Exposures’ and Metabolic Disorders in Belize.” Paper Presentation and Panel Co-Organizer for “Metabolizing Environment: Anthropology of Metabolism Between Molecular and Eco-Political Scales,” with Nadine Levin. AAA Meeting: Washington DC, 2014.
- “Unfixed Intervals: Chronic Care and Making Time in Diabetes Triage.” Paper Presentation for Panel on Time and Metabolic Syndrome, organized by Jessica Hardin. SMA/SfAA Meetings: Albuquerque, NM 2014.
- “Waiting for the Hurricane: Chronic Disease and Life Between Storms in Belize.” Paper Presentation for double panel “Governing Catastrophe.” AAA Meetings: Chicago, 2013.
- “Creation of Emergency and the Afterlife of Intervention: The Guinea Worm Eradication Program in Ghana.” Paper Presentation. AAA Meeting: San Francisco, 2012.
- “Lines of Difference and Possibility in Medical Technology.” Panel Co-Organizer for Science, Technology and Medicine Interest Group. AAA Meetings: Montreal, 2011.
- “Kinship Electric: Technological Worms and the Parasitism of Americana.” (Paper Presentation). American Anthropological Association Meeting: Montreal, 2011.
- “Diabetes and the Occult in Northern Ghana.” (Elise Clews Parsons Award Ceremony and Reading). American Ethnological Society Meeting: San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2011.
- “Diabetes in Ramadan: Medicine, Identity, and the Politics of Hunger.” (Paper Presentation). American Ethnological Society Meeting: San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2011.
- “Constricted Geography of Metrics: Numbers and Occlusion in a Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program.” (Paper Presentation). AAA Meetings, New Orleans, LA, 2010.
- “Corporate Philanthropy, ‘Neglected Tropical Disease,’ and the New Terrain of Corporate Humanitarianism” (with Ari Samsky). (Paper Presenter and Co-Organizer of Panel “The Aid Complex”). Social Studies of Science and Society (4S) Meeting, Washington DC, 2009.
- “Paradoxes of Consumption: Notes on the Emergence of Diabetes in Northern Ghana.” (Paper Presentation). Society for Medical Anthropology, Yale University, 2009.

“Worms Politic.” (Paper Presentation). American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University, 2009.

“Anecdote and Allegory in Health Policy Documents: The Role of Human Stories in Bureaucratic Evidence.” (Paper Presentation). NE Modern Language Association, Boston 2008.

“Metrics of Life: Emerging Medical Populations and Evidence-Making in Chronic Disease Care.” (Paper Presentation). American Anthropological Association: San Francisco, CA, 2008.

“A Comparative History of Hookworm Campaigns in Neglected Tropical Disease Control.” (Paper Presentation). Association for Applied Anthropology Meeting: Memphis, TN, 2008.

WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, AND COLLOQUIA

Invited Talk: “A Global Perspective on Diabetes Care.” Massachusetts American Association of Diabetes Educators. Lowell General Hospital, June 2017.

Workshop Presenter: “Volatile Futures/Earthly Matters.” Roundtable organized by Joseph Masco and David Bond. Bennington University, May 2017.

Invited Talk: “Blood Sugar Beside Itself: Epidemic Diabetes in the Postcolonial Caribbean.” Harvard Friday Morning Seminar in Culture, Medicine, and Global Mental Health, October 2016.

Workshop Presenter: “Food’s Entanglements with Life.” Panel organized by Wim Van Daele and Heather Paxson. University of Oslo, Norway September 2016.

Workshop Presenter: “Things That Care: Humanitarian Goods.” Organized by Jamie Cross and Alice Street. University of Edinburgh, Scotland June 2015.

Invited Talk: “The Problem of Maintenance: Medical Technologies for Global Diabetes.” Series organized by Erica James, MIT Global Health & Medical Humanities Initiative, April 2015.

Invited Talk: “Medical Technologies and the Humanization of Care.” Organized by José Ricardo C. M. Ayres. Princeton University, November 2014.

Colloquia Participant: “Race and Citizenship in Science and Medicine.” Princeton Program in Latin American Studies “Race and Citizenship in the Americas” Research Network, 2013-2014.

Workshop Presenter: “Medical Humanitarianism in States of Emergency.” Organized by Catherine Panter-Brick and Sharon Alane Abramowitz. University of Florida, Feb 2013.

Invited Talk: “An Anthropology of the Global Diabetes Epidemic.” Tulane University Department of Anthropology, February 2013.

Workshop Presenter: “Food, Medicine Rights: How Do We Measure Social Determinants of Health?” Princeton Anthropology and Health Grand Challenges Initiative, May 2011.

Featured Artist and Exhibit Coordinator: “The Arts in Global Health.” Bernstein Gallery, Woodrow Wilson School; Princeton, NJ. Exhibit opening February 2011.

Workshop Presenter: “When People Come First: Social Innovation in Global Health.” Organized by João Biehl & Adriana Petryna. Princeton Institute of Interregional Studies, March 2010.

COURSES TAUGHT

21A.500/STS.075: Technology and Culture.

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2016.

21A.301: Disease and Health: Culture, Society, and Ethics.

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2016.

21A.305/STS.062: Drugs, Politics, and Culture.

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2015.

21A.00: Introduction to Anthropology.

MIT Anthropology, Spring 2016 and 2017.

21A.901/21A.902: From Plant, to Chemical, to Medicine (Independent Study)

MIT Anthropology, Fall 2016 - Spring 2017.

ANTH 1551: Techno-Ecologies: Health, Environment, and Culture in the Digital Age.

Brown University, Spring 2015.

ANTH 1552: Environmental Change: Ethnographic Perspectives.

Brown University, Spring 2014.

ANTH 1310: Anthropology of Global Health.

Brown University, Spring 2014.

ANTH1305: Medical Humanities: Illness, Healing, and Culture.

Brown University, Fall 2013.

STUDENT AWARDS

Paige Omura won the fall 2016 Kelly Douglas Travel Fund Award to support her ethnographic research on malaria pharmacology at the New York Botanical Garden, as well as the 2016 James Howe Anthropology Paper Prize for her final essay in 21A.305: Drugs, Politics, and Culture.

Savanah Harshbarger won the 2014 Rudolf Virchow Award for her essay, “For the Right Reasons: The Ethics of Medical Voluntourism and Perspectives on ‘Global Health Trip’ Student Participants” (course project/final paper for ANTH 1310: Anthropology of Global Health).

Lily Gutterman won the \$1,000 W.W. Norton & Co Writer’s Prize 2015 honorable mention for her essay “Decelerating: A Personal Anthropology of Climate Change” (course project/final paper for ANTH 1552: Environmental Change and Ethnographic Perspectives).

INDEPEDENT RESEARCH SUPERVISED

Kimberlee Manora – narrations of medical technologies for type 1 diabetes, Summer-Spring 2017

Stephanie Kim – nutrition, food systems, and diabetes care in Central America, Spring 2016

Ariana Habbestad – policy timeline of techniques used in guinea worm eradication, Spring 2016

Sierra Weingartner -- water infrastructure policy in the history of global health, Fall 2015
Catherine Johnson -- a cultural history of eradication policies and technologies, Fall 2015

MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association
Society for Cultural Anthropology
American Ethnological Society
Society for Latin American & Caribbean Anthropology
Anthropology and Environment Society
Society for Medical Anthropology

LANGUAGES

English (native), Spanish and Belizean Kriol (proficient w/continuing study), Yucatec Maya (reading)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Burchard Faculty Fellow at MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, 2016-2017
Faculty Mentor for Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship Program at MIT SHASS, 2016-2017
Elsie Clews Parsons Prize Committee for American Ethnological Society Graduate Paper, 2017
Charles Hughes Prize Committee for Society for Medical Anthropology Graduate Paper, 2016
Collaborating Organizer for Friday Morning Seminar in Culture, Psychiatry, and Global Mental Health at Harvard (with Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, Byron Good, and Michael Fischer), 2017
Undergraduate Concentration Advisor for MIT Anthropology Program, 2016-2017
Committee Member, History, Anthropology and STS (HASTS) Graduate Admissions, 2016-2017
Affiliate Member, Harvard Contemporary Latin American Anthropology Workshop, 2017
Steering Committee Member for MIT Global Health and Medical Humanities Initiative, 2016 -
Anthropology Faculty Representative, HASTS Graduate "Program Seminar," Spring 2016
Faculty Affiliate of Science, Technology and Society (STS) Program at Brown, 2013-2015
Prize Committee Chair, Anthropology of Science, Technology, & Medicine Interest Group 2013
Project Coordinator for "Princeton Brazil Global Fellows" exchange network, brought ten students to collaborate with faculty advisors at University of São Paulo Brazil, March 2013
Teaching Fellow for Princeton "Anthropology of Security" seminar with IAS Professor Didier Fassin, Spring 2013
Graduate Mentor for undergraduate students in Princeton's Health Grand Challenges Project "Social Determinants of Health: Future of Global AIDS Treatment," 2007-2012
Peer Reviewer for National Science Foundation; University of California Press; *Social Science and Medicine*; *Biosocieties*; and *Medical Anthropology*