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MICHAEL R. POLSON

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□ **Current Position**

Davidson College (NC)
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology

□ **Education**

City University of New York (CUNY), Graduate Center (New York, NY)
PhD Anthropology (3.95 GPA), January 29, 2016
*Dissertation: Through the Gateway: Marijuana Production, Governance, and the Drug War
Détente in Northern California*
Committee: Leith Mullings (chair), Jane Schneider, Donald Robotham, and Jeff Maskovsky
Examination Fields: Regulation in Late Capitalism (Law, Science, and Economy)
United States History and Anthropology

Wesleyan University (Middletown, Connecticut)
B.A. English (3.75 GPA), May 2001
Graduated Summa Cum Laude

□ **Previous Academic Employment**

University of California - Berkeley - Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellow in Natural Resource
Economics and Political Economy & Postdoctoral Researcher
Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
Fall 2017 – Summer 2020
Conducted several applied research projects; Co-founded UC Berkeley's
Cannabis Research Center; Published and publicly shared findings

American University - Professorial Lecturer (Visiting Professor)
Department of Anthropology
Spring 2016 – Spring 2017:
Designed/taught 3 courses per semester. *Undergrad:* "Sex, Gender &
Culture"; "Culture & the Human Experience" *Masters/PhD:* "Public
Anthropology"; "Dissertation/Thesis Preparation and Writing Seminar"

School of Professional Studies (Online), CUNY - Adjunct Professor
Communications and Media Department
Spring 2012 Designed/taught "Research Methods" online course (1 course)

Baruch College, CUNY - Adjunct Professor

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

Fall 2010 Designed/taught "Introduction to Anthropology" (2 courses)

Brooklyn College, CUNY - Adjunct Professor

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

Spring 2009 – Spring 2010

Designed/taught "On Being Human: An Introduction to [Four-Field]

Anthropology" and "Introduction to Ethnography" (2 courses per semester)

□ **Publications**

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2013 Land and Law in Marijuana Country: Clean Capital, Dirty Money, and the Drug War's *Rentier* Nexus. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*. Special Issue: *Illegal Anthropology* 36(2). pp.215-230.
- 2015 From Outlaw to Citizen: Police Power, Property, and the Territorial Politics of Medical Marijuana in California's Exurbs. *Territory, Politics, Governance*. Special Issue: *Illegal Geographies*. 3(4). pp.387-406.
- 2018 Marketing Marijuana: Prohibition, Medicalisation and the Commodity. *Economy, Crime and Wrong in a Neoliberal Era*. J Carrier, Ed. European Association of Social Anthropologists Series. New York: Berghahn Books. pp.140-171.
- 2019 Making Marijuana an Environmental Issue: Prohibition, Pollution, and Policy. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. 2(2). pp.229-251.
- 2019 Cannabis Farmers or Criminals? Enforcement-First Approaches Fuel Disparity and Hinders Regulation. Co-author: Margiana Petersen-Rockney. *California Agriculture*. Special Issue: *Cannabis Production*. 73(3): 185-193.
- 2019 Outlaw. *Rural Almanac*. Special Issue of *Journal for the Anthropology of North America*.
- 2020 Exurban Fortress, Buttressed and Breached: The Exurban Fortress, Cannabis Activism and the Drug War's Shifting Political Geography. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. 38(4): 626-645.
- 2021 Shifting Geographies of Legal Cannabis Production in California. C Dillis, H Bodwitch, E Biber, V Busic, J Carah, P Parker-Shames, **M Polson**, T Grantham,. *Land Use Policy*. 105. 1-11.

In Press

Cultivating Cannabis, Excepting Cannabis. *The War on Drugs: A History*. Farber D, Ed. New York: New York University Press.

In Press

Why Comply? Farmer Motivations and Barriers in Cannabis Agriculture. H Bodwitch, **M Polson**, E Biber, G Hickey, V Busic. *Journal of Rural Studies*.

Edited Book Chapters

2017 Prohibition and Planning: Marijuana, Development and the Upheaval of Governance in Rural California. *The Illicit and Illegal in Regional and Urban Governance and Development: Corrupt Places*. Francesco Chiodelli, Tim Hall, & Ray Hudson, Eds. Regions and Cities Series of Regional Studies Association. New York: Routledge. pp.141-162.

In Press

Legalization and Prohibition: Breaks, Continuities, and the Shifting Terms of Racial-Capitalist Governance. *Routledge Handbook of Interdisciplinary Cannabis Research*. Eds. Meisel J & Corva D. Routledge.

In Press

Industrializing Cannabis? Socio-Ecological Implications of Legalization and Regulation in California. Dillis C, **Polson M**, Bodwitch H, Carah J, Carlson S, Power M, Sayre N. *Routledge Handbook of Interdisciplinary Cannabis Research*. Eds. Meisel J & Corva D. Routledge.

Writing in Progress

Under Contract:

Legalized: Prohibition, Producers and the New Social Life of Cannabis. University of Minnesota Press.

Under Peer Review

After Legalization: Cannabis, Environmental Compliance and Agricultural Futures. **Polson M**, Biber E, Bodwitch H, Butsic V, Grantham T. Submitted to: *One Earth*.

Readying for Submission

Cannabis, the Criminal Commons and Alternatives to Enclosure. **Polson M** & Bodwitch H. Submission for Special Issue of: *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*.

Other Publications

Book Review of *Medicalization of Marijuana: Legitimacy, Stigma and the Patient Experience* by Newhart M & Dolphin W (New York: Routledge, 2019). *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.

Get Big Agriculture Out of Cannabis Farming in California. *Los Angeles Times*. February 11, 2020.

Contributing to Public Debate: The Potential of Engaged 'Anthropology Now'. **Polson M**, Grove C and Lincoln M. *Anthropology News*. Jan 2011.

Tending 'the Grow': Marijuana at the Crossroads. *In These Times* (Cover Story). Feb 2010. 12-16.

Anthropology Now! Findings Column. Various Issues 2009-2010:

Restructuring Knowledge
Insecure Workers

Trying Time for Tobacco
Working on Waste

Grants & Fellowships

2021 State of California, Bureau of Cannabis Control Grant: "Transformation of Unregulated Cannabis Cultivation Under Proposition 64" (\$658k team grant)

2021 State of California, Bureau of Cannabis Control Grant: "Cultivation Bans, Local Control and the Effects and Efficacy of Proposition 64" (\$329k team grant)

- 2020 Resources Legacy Fund "Cannabis Research" Grant (Research on collective solutions to cannabis regulatory non-compliance) (\$100k team grant)
- 2019 Resources Legacy Fund "Cannabis Research" Grant (Qualitative researcher on interdisciplinary team to investigate cannabis policy and environmental impacts) (\$100k team grant)
- 2018 Project Team Grant from UC Berkeley's Social Science Matrix for Cannabis Research Center (\$5k seed grant)
- 2017 Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowship in Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy at University of California - Berkeley
- 2012-2015 Predoctoral Ruth L. Kirschstein National Service Award, National Institutes of Health (NIH), NIDA Grant #: 5T32 DA07233. Administered by: National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. "Behavioral Science Training in Drug Abuse Research"
- 2012 Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Dissertation Support and Donald R. Cressey Award in Criminal Justice and Penology
- 2011 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences. Award #: 1060469.
- 2010 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant and Osmundsen Initiative Grant
- 2010, '08 Doctoral Student Research Grant (CUNY)
- 2006-2011 Chancellor's Fellowship (CUNY)
- 2007-2010 CUNY Graduate Teaching Fellow
- 2006-2007 Humanities Fellowship at CUNY Graduate Center's Center for Humanities
- 2007, '08, '09 Sue Rosenberg Zalk Student Travel and Research Fund (CUNY)
- 2008 Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF)
- 2001 High Honors for senior thesis entitled "Insurgent Inhabitations: Queer Transnationality and South Asian Literature" (Wesleyan University)
- 2000-2001 Student Research Fellow in the Center for Humanities (Wesleyan University)
- 2000 Dana Scholarship for internship at National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (Wesleyan University)
- 1999 Gay and Lesbian Student Educator Network (GLSEN) Award for Outstanding Activist (Connecticut)
- 1999 Olin Fellowship for summer research on gay men, bareback sex, and sex panics (Wesleyan University)

□ **Conferences, Panels, Presentations & Talks**

Conference Chair

- 2015 Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA) Conference. Theme: "Inequality, Equality, Difference." April 16-18: New York, NY.

Panels Organized

- 2016 Models of Public Anthropology. Public Anthropology Conference at American University. October 8-9: Washington, DC.
- 2013 Emergent Regimes of Punishment in the War on Drugs. Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA); March 15-16: Durham, North Carolina.
- 2010 The Land, The City, The Economy (Co-Organizer). SANA. April 15-17: Denver, Colorado.
- 2009 Anthropology and the Economic Crisis (Co-Organizer). American Ethnological Society. May 13-16: Vancouver, Canada.
- 2007 Poverty as Disaster: Struggles Over Access to Basic Resources (Co-Organizer). SANA. April 29-21: New Orleans, LA.
- 2006 Class Consciousness Today (Co-Organizer). Working Class Studies Association (WCSA). June 8-10: Stonybrook, NY

Panel Chair

American Anthropological Association

- 2015 High Stakes: Marijuana, Ethnography, and American Geographies of Risk. Organizers: Molly Cunningham, Kaya Williams; Discussant: Laurence Ralph. November 18-22: Denver.

Conference Presentations

American Anthropological Association

- 2018 Exurban Fortress: Housing Consumption, the War on Drugs, and the Management of the Rural/Urban Divide. *Panel:* Urban Futures and Expropriated Natures I: Rearticulating Relationalities of Struggle. *Discussant:* Preeti Sampat.
- 2016 Submitting Evidence: Marijuana and the Transformation of Criminal Knowledges in the Public Realm. *Panel:* Cannabis and Justice: Evidence, Arguments, and Legal Change. *Discussant:* Yongming Zhou. November 16-20: Minneapolis.
- 2015 A Joint Session: Anthropology of Cannabis Policy (Roundtable). *Organizer:* William Beeman. *Chair:* William Garriott III. (*Sponsor:* Association for the Anthropology of Policy). November 18-22: Denver.
- 2011 Report from the Field: The Practices and Political Economy of Marijuana in Northern California. *Panel:* Illegal Anthropology and Anthropologists. *Discussants:* Jeremy Campbell & Josiah Heyman (*Sponsor:* Association for Political and Legal Anthropology). November 16-20: Montreal.

American Association of Geographers

- 2016 Roundtable: Geographies of Marijuana Production. March 29-April 2. San Francisco.

- 2016 Drug War Frontiers: Governance, Freedom and Fortune on the Rural/Urban Edge. *Panel: De-Centering the Frontier: Catch-All for Dispossession or Useful Analytical Concept? Discussant:* Alice Kelly. March 30-April 3: San Francisco.
- 2013 Regulation, Capital and Rights in Northern California's Marijuana Economy. *Panel: Illicit Economies and State(less) Geographies: Researching the Politics of Illegality.* April 9-13. Los Angeles.

Society for the Anthropology of North America

- 2015 Marketing Marijuana: Prohibition, Economization, and the Politics of Legalization. Panel: Postindustrial Politics and Policy. March 15-16: New York.
- 2013 Sustainability and the Politics of Production: Criminality, Formalization, and the Environment in Northern California's Marijuana Economy. *Discussant:* Howard Campbell. March 15-16: Durham.
- 2010 Roundtable presentation on panel entitled: The Land, The City, The Economy. *Discussant:* Brett Williams. April 15-17: Denver.
- 2007 Redeveloping the River: Work, Criminality, and Displacement on the Periphery of the 'Global City-Region.' *Discussant:* Michaela di Leonardo. April 29-31: New Orleans.

Pacific Sociological Conference

- 2019 Author Meets Critics: *The Medicalization of Marijuana: Legitimacy, Stigma and the Patient Experience* by Michelle Newhart and William Dolphin. March 28-31: Oakland.
- 2012 Marijuana and Economic Development in Post-Industrial Oakland. *Panel: Cannabis Research. Chair:* Josh Meisel. March 22-25. San Diego.

American Ethnological Society

- 2009 Chronic Crises: The Marijuana Industry of Northern California. *Panel: Anthropology and the Economic Crisis. Discussant:* Ida Susser. May 13-16: Vancouver.

Working Class Studies Association

- 2008 Placing the Exurbs: Realizing Capital in Northern California. *Panel: Urban, Suburban, Exurban: Class Politics of Space, Home, Identity. Discussant:* David Roediger. June 3-6. Pittsburgh.
- 2006 Working West County: Illegal, Under-the-Table and Contingent Work in a "Redeveloping" Economy. *Panel: Class Consciousness Today.* June 8-10: Stonybrook.

Invited Talks, Public Engagements and Media Appearances

- 2020 *Uprooted: California's Complicated Road to Legalization* (documentary). *Weedmaps.*
- 2020 The War on Cannabis and the Logic of Legalization. Drug Wars Workshop. Department of History, University of Kansas. April: Lawrence, KS.

- 2020 Whose Rural? Cannabis Policing, Activism, and Political Ecology in Exurban California. Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management, UC Berkeley. April: Berkeley, CA.
- 2019 Equity and Erasure: Cannabis, Legalization and the Legacies of Prohibition. Department of Geography, UC Berkeley. October: Berkeley, CA.
- 2019 Community Report-Backs on Cannabis Cultivation Survey. September: Multiple Locations
- 2019 Social Science and Cannabis Policy. State Capitol, Office of the Governor. September: Sacramento, CA.
- 2019 Purity and Pollution: Cannabis as Matter Out of Place. Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, UC Berkeley. September: Berkeley, CA.
- 2019 Interview. The Cannabis Connection (radio show). July: Santa Cruz, CA.
- 2019 Beyond Legalization (panel). Discover Cal, UC Berkeley. May: Seattle, WA.
- 2019 Talking Weed Policy. Talk Policy to Me (podcast), Goldman School of Public Policy, UC Berkeley. April: Berkeley, CA.
- 2017 Making Marijuana an Environmental Issue: Pollution, Prohibition and the Terms of Regulation. Energy & Resources Group Colloquium, UC Berkeley. August: Berkeley, CA.
- 2017 Marijuana's Governance: Prohibition, Marketization, and the Medical Break. The Governance of the Global Narcotics Trade Conference. Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University. February: Arlington, VA.
- 2016 Interview: Michael Polson. *The Wenner-Gren Blog*. Accessible at: <http://blog.wennergren.org/2016/09/interview-michael-polson/>
- 2016 Prohibition and Planning: Marijuana, Development and the Upheaval of Governance in the Urban Seat of Rural California. The Illicit in the Governance and Development of Cities and Regions (conference). Gran Sasso Science Institute. September 7: L'Aquila, Italy.
- 2016 Prohibition and Planning: How Marijuana Became an Economic Development Strategy. Social Justice Colloquium. Anthropology Department, American University. April 6: Washington DC.
- Guest speaker in classes and special event panels at: Stockton University (NJ); University of Denver (CO); San Francisco State University (CA)

□ **Departmental and Academic Service**

- 2019-2021 Treasurer of Society for Anthropology of North America
- 2018 Co-Founder of Cannabis Research Center at UC Berkeley's Social Science Matrix
- 2018 American Anthropological Association Program Lead Reviewer for Society for Anthropology of North America
- 2017 Masters Thesis Committee Member for Gina Arevalo

- 2017 American Anthropological Association Program Reviewer for Society for Anthropology of North America
- 2016-2017 Graduate Committee, Anthropology Department, American University
- 2016-2017 Social Justice Committee, Anthropology Department, American University
- 2013-2014 Executive Committee, Anthropology Department, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2011 Admissions Committee Student Representative, Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2009-2011 Editorial Collective Co-Editor/Co-Organizer, *Anthropology Now*, "Findings" column.
- 2010 Research Assistant
Professor Ida Susser, NSF Research Grant
Statistical and historical research on Greenpoint-Williamsburg, Brooklyn for re-release of *Norman Street: Poverty and Politics in an Urban Neighborhood*.
- 2010 Research Assistant
Professor Jeff Maskovsky
Compiled, catalogued and formatted index for *Rethinking America: The Imperial Homeland in the 21st Century*, edited by Ida Susser and Jeff Maskovsky
- 2008-2009 Graduate Council Representative, CUNY Graduate Center
- Peer Reviewer for:
- *Agriculture & Human Values*
 - *Culture, Agriculture, Food & Environment (CAFE)*
 - *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*
 - National Science Foundation
 - *Museum Worlds: Advances in Research*
 - *Journal of Canadian Studies*
 - *Substance Abuse, Treatment & Policy*

Other Relevant Training

- 2020 Online Teaching Workshop Series. Digital Learning Institute. Davidson College.
- 2012 "Preparation for Teaching Online: A Certification Workshop for CUNY Faculty": Trained/Certified through CUNY School of Professional Studies.
- 2005 Trained at the Foundation Center's:
"Foundation Funding Research: Strategies for Finding and Evaluating Prospects"
"Proposal Writing Seminar: Tailoring Your Proposals to Maximize Success"
- 2000 Pitzer College in Nepal Program Graduate
Conducted independent research study on underground networks of gay men in Kathmandu; learned Nepali language and culture.

Sample Teaching Areas

- Economic Anthropology
- Regulation and Economy: Anthropological Approaches
- History of Anthropological Theory & Practice
- Ethnography: Reading, Writing, Doing
- Crime, Criminalization, Capitalism
- Global Prohibitionism
- Neoliberalism, State and Governance
- Sex, Gender and Culture
- Public Anthropology
- Liberalism and The Rule of Law
- Policy: Networks, Flows, and Artifacts
- Commodities and Circulation
- Agrarian Transformations
- Drugs and the War on Drugs

Languages

Spanish: spoken and written, intermediate

Nepali: spoken, beginning

Other Work and Volunteer Experience

Grant Writing and Development Contractor:

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| 2015-2018 | <i>Grun Strategic</i> |
| 2015 | <i>Center for Cannabis and Social Policy (Seattle, Washington)</i> |
| 2009-2013 | <i>O'Connor Consulting Services (Maine)</i> |
| 2008-2016 | <i>Fabian Consulting, Inc (New Jersey)</i> |
| 2008 | <i>Lischin Consulting Services (New Jersey)</i> |
| 2007-2010 | <i>Resource Development Network (New Jersey/New York)</i> |
| 2006-2011 | <i>Women's Economic Agenda Project (Oakland, CA)</i> |
| 2006 | <i>Haddad Consulting (Minneapolis, MN)</i> |

Website and Event Coordinator

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| 2007-2010 | <i>Nonprofit Central (www.npocentral.net)</i> |
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Development Associate

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| 2003-2005 | <i>Women's Economic Agenda Project (Oakland, CA)</i> |
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Institute for Justice and Economic Security Coordinator

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| 2003-2006 | <i>Women's Economic Agenda Project (Oakland, CA)</i> |
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Community Organizer and Educator

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| 2002-2006 | <i>Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC) and University of the Poor (National)</i> |
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Office Manager/SPIN Media Project Assistant Program Coordinator

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| 2002 | <i>Independent Media Institute (San Francisco, CA)</i> |
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Program Intern

2000 *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (Washington, DC)*

Organizational Coordinator

1999-2000 *Queer Alliance (Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT)*

Editorial Staff Intern

1999 *POZ Magazine (New York City, NY)*

Writing Tutor/Teaching Assistant

Spring and Fall 1999 *Wesleyan University English Department (Middletown, CT)*