

Hannah Borenstein
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Academic Appointments

2024 – Assistant Professor of Anthropology,
Florida International University

2022-2024 Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Society of Fellows
& Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Social Sciences Division
University of Chicago

Education

2022 Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology, Duke University
Certificates: African and African American Studies
& Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies

2019 M.A., Cultural Anthropology, Duke University

2014 B.A., Individualized Study, New York University

Publications

Books

Running to Labor: Ethiopian Women Distance Runners Enduring Networks of Capital. (Under contract with University of California Press).

Journal Articles

2026. "Finding One's Footing: Hidden Abodes of Production in the Global Running Economy." *Anthropology of Work Review*. no. 1: e70021. <https://doi.org/10.1111/awr.70021>.

2025. "Stories of History: Ethiopia Between Hope and Despair in *Anbessa & Faya Dayi*," *Radical History Review* 25(1): 188-210. (151):188-209. <https://doi.org/10.1215/01636545-11506812>

2023. "[Putting Logos on the World's Best Running Feet: The Emergence of Apparel Sponsors in Ethiopian and Kenyan Athletics.](#)" with Jörg Krieger. *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 41(1) 6-26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09523367.2023.2266395>

2023. "[Performative Disembedding: Amid and Between Potential and Professionalism in Ethiopian Girls' Running.](#)" *NEOS: A Publication of the Anthropology of Children and Youth Interest Group* 15(1) 1-6.

2021. "[Tracking Work from the Wrist: The Surveillance of Ethiopian Women Athletes for Capital.](#)" *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience* (7)1 1-20.

2019. "[Running for Ethiopia: A Performance of Social Reproduction.](#)" *Recreation and Society in Africa, Asia, and Latin America*. (7) 1-15.

Book Chapters

Forthcoming 2026. "Running the Odds," *Distance: On Running, and Not Running, in America*, edited by Joseph Darda. Washington University Press.

2022. "Naturalized East African Runners in the Middle East." *Routledge Handbook of Sport in the Middle East*, edited by Paul Michael Branagan and Danyel Reiche. Routledge.

2022. "Feyisa Lilesa's and the Transnational Protest of Ethiopia's most Enduring Olympian." [*Sport and Protest in the Black Atlantic*](#), edited by Michael Gennaro & Brian McGowan. Routledge 2022.

2020. "Laboring Athletes, Laboring Mothers: Ethiopian Women Athletes' Bodies at Work." [*Sport, Migration, and Gender in the Neoliberal Age*](#), edited by Niko Besnier, Domenica Gisella Calabrò, and Daniel Guinness. Routledge 2020.

Book Reviews

2025. "Katrin Bromber. *Sports and Modernity in Late Imperial Ethiopia*. James Currey, 2022. Pp. 240. Paper \$36.95." *The American Historical Review* 130(1); 378-380.

2024. "Critical Book Review: *The Race to Be Myself*." *Siyabonana: The Journal of Africana Studies*. 2:2.https://www.journalofafricanastudies.com/_files/ugd/062711_d377b56c42df4a20ab6af6bd10ce425

2020. "The Act of Living: Street Life, Marginality, and Development in Urban Ethiopia by Marco Di Nunzio." *City & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ciso.12254>.

2020. "Sports in African History, Politics, and Identity Formation." *Journal of Sport History*. ed. by Saheed Aderinto, and Michael J. Gennaro. *Journal of Sport History*, 47(3) 292-294. *Project MUSE*, [doi:10.1353/sph.2020.0061](https://doi.org/10.1353/sph.2020.0061).

Other Selected Writing

"[China's Industrial Parks in Africa](#)," *China Books Review*, September 17, 2026.

"[Betting on the Beast: Gambling's Wild Run Through Athletics](#)." *Play the Game*, September 10, 2026.

"[Afraid of an Inspiring Olympics Story](#)." *History News Network*, July 16, 2024.

"[Why Shoes Do Not Make the Runner](#)." *SAPIENS*, January 4, 2024.

"[Running in the Dark](#)." *Anthropology News*. January 5, 2023.

"[30 Years Ago, Ethiopia's Derartu Tulu Made History and Reshaped Running](#)." *Washington Post*. August 8, 2022.

"[The Nickelodeon Cartoon That Taught a Generation to Hate Capitalism](#)." *Slate*. March 9, 2022.

"[Reconsidering Killer Stories](#)." *Society for the Anthropology of Work: Exertions*. September 10, 2021.

Awards, Fellowships & Grants

American Association of University Women Short Term Publication Grants, 2026-2027

International Athletics Foundation Research Grant, 2026

Morris and Anita Broad Fellowship for Junior Faculty, 2025

ESPN Research Fellowship, 2024

Smithsonian Lemelson Center Research Fellowship, 2023

James B. Duke International Travel Fellowship, 2020-2021

Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, 2020

Olympic Studies Centre Ph.D. Students Research Grant, 2020

Society for the Anthropology of Work Travel Grant, 2020

Association for Africanist Anthropology Graduate Student Conference Grant, 2019

Versatile Humanists Internship Grant, Duke VH, 2019

Fieldwork Grant, Center of French and Ethiopian Studies, 2019-2020

Ernestine Friedl Research Award, Duke Gender, Sexuality, & Feminist Studies 2019

Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University, 2019

Graduate Student Fellow, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University 2018-2019

Graduate Award for Research and Training, Center for International and Global Studies, Duke University 2018-2019

Summer Research Fellowship, The Graduate School, Duke University, 2018
Migration Lab Fellowship, Duke University, 2017-2018
Summer Research Fellowship, The Graduate School, Duke University, 2017
Young Explorer's Grant, National Geographic, 2016-2017
Dean's Award for Graduating Seniors, New York University, 2014-2015
Gallatin Jewish Studies Grant, New York University, 2014
Dean's Award for Summer Research, New York University 2013
Jewish Leadership Fellowship, New York University, 2011-2012

Teaching Experience

Florida International University

Undergraduate

Introduction to Anthropology, Fall 2024 (U05 & U06), Fall 2025 (U05 & U06), Fall 2026 (U05 & U06)

Graduate

Anthropology of Globalization, Spring 2025 and Spring 2026

The University of Chicago

Undergraduate

"Global Society III" (Two Classes), Spring 2023

"Global Society II: Population and Society" (Two Classes), Winter 2023

"Global Society I" (Two Classes), Autumn 2022

Instructor of Record – Duke University

"Anthropology of Sport," Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant – Duke University,

"Advertising and Society" (2 Discussion Sections) Ed Timke, Spring 2019

"Anthropology of Money" Charles Piot, Fall 2018

"Anthropology of Sports," Orin Starn, Spring 2018

"Introduction to African Studies," Charles Piot, Fall 2017

"Theoretical Foundations of Cultural Anthropology," Anne-Maria Makhulu, Spring 2017

Advising

Alejandro Casas Reyes, (member, PhD in Sociology progress)

Rose Hurwitz, (member, PhD in Anthropology in progress)

Liz Perez, (member, PhD in Anthropology in progress)

Academic Presentations

"'Mere Managers'," World Anthropological Union Congress,
November 2026

"ESPN Research Fellowship Webinar,"
April 2025.

"Gambling on Growth," AAA Annual Meeting,
November 2024.

"Sporting Productive Bodies," AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting,
November 2023

"Transformative Thought Amid Transphobic Policy," AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting,
November 2023

"Contestations of Virtuous Bodies," Capitalist Virtue Ethics Workshop, University of Cologne,
June 2023

"Athlete Migrations, Past & Present," North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS),
Las Vegas,

November 2022
 “Running to Labor,” University of Chicago,” Weissbourd Symposium, The University of Chicago
 October 2022.
 “Working Together, Racing Apart,” Doing, Writing, Thinking Sport History, University of Lausanne Summer School,
 August 2021
 “Premature Finish Lines,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada,
 November 2019
 “A New Running Economy,” Summer Academy International Research Center “Work & Human Life Cycle in Global History” (re: work) and the History Department, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa,
 November 2019
 “Running for Ethiopia,” Performance and Labor Graduate Student Conference, Duke University,
 April 2018
 “Reinscribing Borders, Reinscribing Authenticity,” Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research Conference, California State University Fullerton,
 March 2018

Invited Lectures and Talks

“Gender, Media, and Ethiopian Running,” Duke University, April 2026.
 “Race and Running,” Duke University, April 2025.
 “Sexed Bodies in Sport,” Harvard University, February 2025.
 “Leveraging a PhD Student Internship in a Faculty Career,”
 ” Duke University, February 2025.
 “Beyond Pure Love,” Florida International University, September 2024.
[“Co-Opting AI: Athletics,”](#) NYU Institute for Public Knowledge, December 2023.
 “Sports Management as Method,” University of Minnesota Morris, March 2023.
 “Transnational Sporting Protests,” Aarhus University, September 2022.
 “Response-Ability: Anthropology and Activism,” Duke University, November 2021.
 “East African Runners in the Middle East,” Georgetown University Qatar, September 2021.
 “Attending to the Moment in Anthropology,” Duke University, September 2020.
 “Out of Thin Air: Response,” Durham University, UK, December 2020.

Podcasts/Video Appearances

[“Gambling and Professional Running,”](#) *End of Sport Podcast*, September 2026.
[“The Hidden Labor of Ethiopian Runners with Hannah Borenstein,”](#) *End of Sport Podcast*, April 2026.
[“Hannah Borenstein On the Untold Stories of Ethiopian Runners,”](#) *Citius Mag*, March 2023.
[“ETV Interview with Dr. Hannah Borenstein,”](#) *Ethiopian Broadcasting Services*, September 2022.
[“Ethiopian Elite Running E3: Legatafo Track,”](#) *Sweat Elite*, May 2022.
[“50A Casa Paradiso/50B Gerald's Tonsils \(with Hannah Borenstein\)”](#) *Stoop Kidz*, April 2022.
[“Power and Politics in World Athletics,”](#) *New Books Network*, December 2021.
[“Spotlight: Hannah Borenstein,”](#) *Duke SSRI*. September 2021.
[“Hannah Borenstein on Ethiopian Women’s Long-Distance Running, and Power Dynamic in Track and Field,”](#) *Citius Mag: Social Sport Podcast*, August 2021.

Academic Service/Mentorship/Training

Hybrid Teaching Certification, 2026
 Teaching in the Age of AI Badge, 2026
 Graduate Committee Representative, 2025-2026
 Writing Across the Curriculum Training, Summer 2025

SIPA Curriculum Committee Department Representative, 2024-2025, 2025-2026
Graduate Student Project Manager, Story +
 “Race, Racism, and the History of Duke Sports,” Summer 2022
Feminist Theory Workshop
 Discussion Leader, Spring 2022
Conference Organizer, “Performance and Labor,” Duke University, 2017-2018

Memberships

American Anthropological Association
African Studies Association
Anthropology of Work Society
Association for Africanist Anthropology
North American Society for the Sociology of Sport