

Mark Drury

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RECENT EMPLOYMENT

- Fall 2024- **Visiting Research Scholar**, Program in Anthropology, The Graduate Center, CUNY
Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University
- Fall 2023-
Spring 2024 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Program,
Colgate University
- Fall 2022-
Spring 2023 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University
- Fall 2019-
Spring 2022 **Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology, Princeton University
- Fall 2018-
Spring 2019 **Lecturer**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Pace University

EDUCATION

- PhD **The Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY)**, New York, NY
Department of Anthropology - 2018
Dissertation, “Disorderly Histories: An Anthropology of Decolonization in Western Sahara”
Advisor: Professor Gary Wilder
- MA **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL
Master of Arts Program in the Social Science – 2008
Specialization: Cultural Anthropology
Thesis: “Policing the Migrant-Beggar: Social Structure, Sovereignty and Sub-Saharan
Africans in Morocco”
- BA **Vassar College**, Poughkeepsie, NY
Bachelor of Arts, Phi Beta Kappa – 2003
Africana Studies, French double major
Paul Robeson Award for thesis & June J. Christmas Prize for academic excellence in the
Program in Africana Studies, Vassar College

PUBLICATIONS

An Anthropology of Decolonization in Western Sahara (book manuscript, in preparation)

“Observed Participation: Sousveillance and Human Rights Activism in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara,” *American Ethnologist* (under review)

“Decolonization and the Underground,” *African Studies Review* special forum (co-editor; proposal accepted)

“‘Il faut savoir sans être vu’: Strategies of Subversion of the Kadehine in the early Islamic Republic of Mauritania (1960s-1970s),” *African Studies Review* special forum (co-author; under review)

“Anticolonial Irredentism: The Moroccan Liberation Army and Decolonisation in the Sahara.” *The Journal of North African Studies* 29, no. 2 (March 3, 2024): 228–54.

“Stranded in Decolonization: The Attritional Temporality of Human Rights Activism in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara.” In *In the Meantime: Toward an Anthropology of the Possible*, Adeline Masquelier and Deborah Durham, eds. 91-114. New York: Berghahn Books. (2023)

“Naming the City: Saharan Urbanization and Disaggregated Sovereignty” *L’Ouest Saharien* 17: 39-65. (2023)

“Disidentification with Nationalist Conflict: Loyalty and Mobility in Moroccan-Occupied Western Sahara.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, Special Issue “Loyalty and Critique,” 40, 1 (May 1, 2020): 133–49.

“On the Border in Northern Mauritania” *L’Année du Maghreb* 21 (December 10, 2019): 325-340.

“‘Home Is Knocking on the Mind’: Decolonization, Translation and the Poetics of Longing for Western Sahara” *CELAAN: Review of the Center for the Studies of the Literatures and Arts of North Africa* XV, 2-3 (Fall 2018). Special Issue: Sahara and Identity: 31-72.

“Global Futures and Government Towns: Phosphates and the Production of Western Sahara as a Space of Contention.” *The Arab World Geographer* 16, 1 (Spring 2013): 101-124.

REVIEWS AND OTHER ESSAYS

Hannoum, Abdelmajid. *Living Tangier: Migration, Race, and Illegality in a Moroccan City*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020. *American Anthropologist* 123, 3: 706-707, 2021.

Stenner, David. *Globalizing Morocco : Transnational Activism and the Postcolonial State*. Stanford University Press, 2019. *H-France Review* 21, 47, March 2021.

“Sahrawi Self-Determination, Trump’s Tweet and the Politics of Recognition in Western Sahara,” *Middle East Report Online*, December 22, 2020.

“Review Essay: Politics in the Name of Humanity, Revisited.” Çubukçu, Ayça. *For the Love of Humanity : The World Tribunal on Iraq*. Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018. Fadlalla, Amal Hassan. *Branding Humanity : Competing Narratives of Rights, Violence, and Global Citizenship*. Stanford Studies in Human Rights. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2019. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (blog), February 5, 2020.

“Security Vans of Laâyoune.” *Jadaliyya* (blog), September 3, 2019.

Wilson, Alice. *Sovereignty in Exile: A Saharan Liberation Movement Governs*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016. *Allegra Laboratory* (blog), May 2018.

Ojeda-Garcia, Raquel, Irene Fernández-Molina, and Victoria Veguilla. *Global, Regional and Local Dimensions of Western Sahara’s Protracted Decolonization: When a Conflict Gets Old*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, 2017. *Journal of North African Studies* 23, 1-2 (Jan-Mar 2018): 355-358.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Qatar Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown (2022)
Research Award (short term), American Institute for Maghrib Studies (2020)
Research Award, Princeton University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences (2019)
Ralph Bunche Dissertation Fellowship, CUNY (2016)
Dissertation Writing Fellow, Committee on Globalization and Social Change, CUNY (2015)
Dissertation Writing Fellow, The Center for Place Culture and Politics, CUNY (2015)
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (2013)
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (2013)
Research Award (short term), American Institute for Maghrib Studies (2012)
Kathryn Davis Peace Fellowship, Middlebury Arabic Language School (2012)
Critical Language Scholarship Alumni Development Award (2011)
Enhanced Chancellors Fellowship, CUNY (2009-2013)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Strategies of Subversion of the Kadehine in the early Islamic Republic of Mauritania (1960s-1970s).” African Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, November 30-December 2, 2023. Co-organizer, three-part panel “Decolonization and the Underground.”

“Instruments in the Struggle: Sousveillance and Human Rights Activism in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara.” Hagop Kevorkian Center Research Workshop, NYU. November 16, 2023.

“Sahara As Revolutionary Subject.” Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, Quebec, November 2-5, 2023.

“Race and Slavery in the Sahara: 19th c. Continuities, 20th c. Shifts, 21st c. Legacies.” Summer Teacher Institute, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, August 2, 2023.

“Western Sahara: A Multidisciplinary, Transregional Journée d’Etude,” International Academic Observatory on Western Sahara. Online, November 30, 2022. Co-organizer.

““They Film Us... We Film Them: Human Rights Activism and Proliferating Forms of Veillance in the Western Sahara Conflict.” Works-in-Progress Talk, Anthropology Department, Princeton University, December 3, 2020.

“Anticolonial Irredentism: Decolonization, The Liberation Army of Morocco and the Saharan making of the Maghreb in the 1950s.” Decolonization, Development and State Building in North Africa. Brown University, Providence, RI, September 25, 2020.

“Observed Participation: Sovereignty, Surveillance and Subjectivity in Laâyoune, Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara.” American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 14-18, 2018.

“Waiting in Conflict, Waiting in Judgment: Notes from a Summer on the Margins of the Western Sahara Conflict in Nouadhibou, Mauritania.” Waiting: a Conference/Workshop. Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, April 16, 2018.

“Western Sahara, International Law and the Dilemmas of ‘Orderly’ Decolonization.” African Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 29-December 2, 2018.

“The Western Sahara in Fiction, Translation, and Politics” Middle Eastern & Middle Eastern American Center, CUNY-Graduate Center, March 15, 2017. With Professor Alex Elinson.

“Morocco’s Liberation Army, and Decolonization of the Sahara in the 1950s.” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 1-3, 2016.

“Law, Justice and Global Political Futures” student-faculty seminar at Center for the Humanities, CUNY-Graduate Center, 2011-2012 academic year. Co-organizer.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE & PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

New York University (2025)

Human Rights and Culture (scheduled)

Rutgers University (2024)

Anthropology of the Middle East (scheduled)

Colgate University (2023-2024)

Race in the Middle East and North Africa

Transcultural North Africa

Muslim Societies in Motion

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Program Honors Thesis Adviser

Georgetown University (2022-2023)

Sahara: Authority, Mobility, Ecology

Princeton University (2019-2022)

Ethnography, Evidence and Experience, Co-Instructor

The Ethnographer’s Craft, Co-Instructor

Political Anthropology

Anthropology of Human Rights

Urban Anthropology

Ethnographic Studies Certificate & Junior Papers undergraduate adviser

Pace University (2018-2019)

Anthropology of the Middle East and North Africa

Global Culture and Local Identities

Introduction to Anthropology

Bronx Community College, CUNY (2013)

Writing Across the Curriculum Fellow

Developed faculty workshops promoting writing-intensive pedagogy

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Advanced proficiency in reading Modern Standard Arabic

Middlebury at Mills Arabic School, Summer Graduate Session (2012)

Hunter College Arabic Program, Teaching Assistant (2009)

Critical Language Scholarship, Summer Arabic in Oman (2008)

Advanced Proficiency in Hassaniya Colloquial Arabic, Conversational in Moroccan Colloquial Arabic

Advanced proficiency in French from undergraduate coursework
Basic proficiency in reading Spanish

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Mauritania, December 2022, June 2022; February-August 2015

- 2022: Interviewed former members of the Kadehine movement. 2015: spent summer months in northern Mauritania, conducting fieldwork and recording oral histories concerning how the Western Sahara conflict, in past and present, has shaped people's mobility and regional commerce.

France, January 2023, January 2020

- Conducted archival research concerning Opération Ecouvillon, a joint 1950s Spanish-French counterinsurgency in the Sahara, and 1970s Mauritanian opposition politics.
- Archives consulted: La Contemporaine (Nanterre), Service Historique de la Défense (Vincennes), Archives nationales d'outre mer (Aix-en-Provence).

Sahrawi Refugee Camps near Tindouf, Algeria, January 2016

- Recorded oral histories with Sahrawi nationalists, and with an older generation of Sahrawi refugees who experienced decolonization before the outbreak of conflict over Western Sahara.

Morocco, Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, March-December 2014, July 2013, July 2011

- Conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Laâyoune/El Aaiún, the largest city in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, researching how the ongoing political conflict, and the experience of living with intense surveillance and suspicion, shapes political subjectivity. Recorded oral histories with members of different generations that experienced decolonization efforts in the Sahara, from the 1950s until the ethnographic present, throughout Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, and Morocco proper.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Scientific Council, International Academic Observatory on Western Sahara (OUIISO), 2021-Present
American Institute for Maghrib Studies
African Studies Association
Middle East Studies Association
American Anthropological Association
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Co-host and Moderator, Decolonizing the Discipline, Department of Anthropology, Princeton University, 2020
Expert affidavit and witness, US Immigration Court proceedings concerning asylum seeker related to Western Sahara political conflict, 2018-19
Faculty sponsor of undergraduate research presentations, Society of Fellows Annual Meeting, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Pace University, 2019
Student Representative, CUNY Anthropology Admissions and Awards Committee, 2016