

TANJA N. AHO, PHD

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April 27, 2024

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

American University 2018 – present
Department of Critical Race, Gender & Culture Studies
Senior Professorial Lecturer in American Studies
Director of American Studies & Disability, Health, and Bodies Certificate

EDUCATION

University at Buffalo, SUNY 2018

Ph.D. American Studies with specialization in Global Gender Studies

Dissertation: “A Mad Critique of Anti-Neoliberalism: Sanism in Contemporary Left Thinking on Political Economy”

Committee: Keith Griffler, Michael Rembis, David Schmid

University of Leipzig, Germany 2010
M.A. American Studies; summa cum laude

University of Greifswald, Germany 2008
B.A. British and American Studies / Finnish Philology; summa cum laude

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Disability & mad studies; critical race studies; gender & sexuality studies; cultural political economy; 20th & 21st century US-American literature & culture

PUBLICATIONS: PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Just Like Me, Just Like You’: Narrative Erasure as Disability Normalization in Children’s

Picturebooks.” Co-authored with Grit Alter. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 12.3 (2018): 303-19.

“Active Citizenship, Liberalism, and Labor-Normativity: Queercrip Resistance, Sanist Anxiety, and Racialized Ableism in Viewer Responses to *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*.” *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 11.3 (2017): 321-37.

“Introduction: Mad Futures: Affect/Theory/Violence.” Co-authored with Liat Ben-Moshe and Leon Hilton. *American Quarterly* 69.2 (2017): 291-302.

“Neoliberalism, Racial Capitalism, and Liberal Democracy: Challenging an Emergent Critical Analytic.” *Lateral* 6.1 (2017): n.pag.

“Introduction.” Co-authored with Franziska Boehme et al. *aspeers: emerging voices in american studies* 2 (2009): vii-xxvii.

PUBLICATIONS: EDITED JOURNAL ISSUES/SECTIONS

“Mad Futures: Affect/Theory/Violence.” Special Forum. Ed. with Liat Ben-Moshe and Leon Hilton. *American Quarterly* 69.2 (2017): 291-345.

Disability Studies Quarterly. Ed. with Michael Rembis. 35.4 (2015). Web.

aspeers: emerging voices in american studies. Ed. with Franziska Boehme et al. 2 (2009).

PUBLICATIONS: BOOK CHAPTERS

“Reality Television, Critical Regionalism, and Low Theory: Paranoid and Reparative Readings of Representations of Class and Race in the US South.” *Critical Regionalism*. Ed. Klaus Lösch, Heike Paul, and Meike Zwingenberger. Heidelberg: Winter, 2016. 193-213.

“Reality TV and Its Audiences Reconsidered: Class and Poverty in *Undercover Boss*.” *Class Divisions in Serial Television*. Ed. Sieglinde Lemke and Wibke Schniedermaier. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. 89-117.

“Juno for Real: Negotiating Teenage Sexuality, Pregnancy, and Love in MTV’s *16 and Pregnant/Teen Mom*.” *Television and the Self: Knowledge, Identity and Media Representation*. Ed. Deborah Macey and Kathleen M. Ryan. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2013. 205-23.

“Rosa Lemberg: A ‘Tragic Mulatta’ Goes Transnational.” *Transnational American Studies*. Ed. Udo Hebel. Heidelberg: UP Winter, 2012. 355-74.

PUBLICATIONS: UNDER REVIEW/IN PROGRESS

*Queer*³: *Intersections of Spectrums* (Research in Progress)

Autism, Anxiety, and Mental Illness: A Mad Feminist Critique of Economic Discourses
(Editing in Progress)

“Whiteness, Anxiety, and Neoliberal Literature: Ablesanism in Literary Criticism of Don DeLillo’s *Cosmopolis*.” (Under Review, Contemporary Literature)

“Rethinking Neoliberalism: Affiliative Affect, Access, and Disablism in the Sharing Economy” (Writing in Progress)

PUBLICATIONS: TRANSLATIONS

Peura, Maria. “Auf dem Weg ins Zentrum.” Trans. Tanja Aho et al. *Bist Du’s? Neue Nordische Novellen II*. Ed. Anne Breuer and Rebekka Paula Herberg. Essen: Meysenburg, 2008.

Mörö, Mari. “Huopainen und die Liane.” Trans. Tanja Aho et al. *out of the cool: neue nordische novellen*. Ed. Inken Jana Meyer. Essen: Meysenburg, 2005.

Saxell, Jani. “Die Köder.” Trans. Tanja Aho et al. *out of the cool: neue nordische novellen*. Ed. Inken Jana Meyer. Essen: Meysenburg, 2005.

FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS/GRANTS

American University’s Center for Teaching & Learning Inclusive Pedagogy Fellowship (2022-24)

American University’s Ann Ferren Curriculum Design Award for the creation of the Disability, Health, and Bodies Certificate with Dr Mary Ellen Curtin (2023)

American University’s Faculty and Staff Collaboration Award for the founding of the Disability+ Faculty & Staff Affinity Group (2022)

American University’s Academic Achievement Award for Outstanding Performance or Innovation in Online Teaching (2021)

American University’s College of Arts and Sciences Award for Outstanding Contributions to an Inclusive Community (2020)

American University’s College of Arts and Sciences Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fellow (2019-20)

Inclusive Excellence Mini-Grant for Spring Symposium on “Disability, Access, and Teaching: A One-Day Symposium” at American University (2018)

Andrew W. Mellon Public Humanities New York Fellowship (2017-18)

UB College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2017-18)

UB Humanities Institute Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2016-17)

Competitive Fifth-Year Teaching Assistantship in Transnational Studies at the University at Buffalo, SUNY (2015-16)

Presidential Fellowship for PhD at the University at Buffalo, SUNY (2011-15)

UB Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award (2015)

UB Humanities Institute scholarship to attend Dartmouth Futures of American Studies Summer Institute (2014; 2015)

FinnForum X's North American Travel Grant sponsored by the Institute of Migration, Turku, Finland (2014)

UB Transnational Studies Departmental Teaching Award (2014)

Steven J. Schochet Endowment for GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota conference travel grant (2014)

UB Canadian-American Studies Committee conference travel grant (2012)

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) conference travel grant (2011)

Dissertation scholarship for female scholars at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (2011-12)

Bavarian America Academy scholarship for dissertation research at the Library of Congress (2011)

Dr. Alfred Vinzl-Foundation conference travel grant (2011)

DAAD scholarship for MA thesis research at Youngstown State University, Center for Working-Class Studies (2010)

Grantee of the Timo Riippa Fund for Finnish American Studies at the Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota (2006)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American Studies & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies,
 American University 2018 – present

- Mental Health, Madness, and Neuroqueerness (300 level)
- Disability, Health & Normality (200 level)
- American Dreams, American Lives (200 level)
- Interpreting American Culture (400 level)
- Culture and Poverty (200 level)
- The Shonda Rhimes Experience (300 level)

Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Theory (400/600 level)	
UB Curriculum, University at Buffalo, SUNY	2017 - 2018
UB Curriculum ePortfolio Capstone (300 level; online)	
Transnational Studies, University at Buffalo, SUNY	2011 – 2016
Introduction to American Studies (100 level)	
Introduction to Feminist Theory (200 level)	
American Norms and Deviations (200 level)	
US in the World (200 level)	
Gender, Television, and Society (200 level)	
Race, Gender, and Work (100-200 level)	
Violence in a Gendered World (200 level)	
American Studies, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany	2010 – 2011
American Culture and Civilization	
American Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany	2009 – 2010
Society History Politics I (Colonial Period to Civil War)	

FUNDED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Library of Congress, Washington, DC, USA	2011
Dissertation Research	
American Studies, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany	2010 – 2011
Research Assistant	
Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University	2010
MA Thesis Research	
Finnish American Historical Archives, Hancock, MI	2007
Internship and Research	
Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota	2006
Internship and Research	

CONFERENCE/PANEL ORGANIZATION

Panel Organizer for “Queercrips and Quiet Quitting: Questions for Survival.” American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada; 2023.

Panel Co-Organizer for “CDSC Professionalization Workshop: Surviving Academia, or, How Good Are Your Boundaries?” American Studies Association, San Juan/virtual, USA; 2021.

Panel Co-Organizer for “Mad Time/s of/and Anxiety, Chronic Illness, and Neuroqueerness: Incarcerating Realities, Imagine-Building Futures.” National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, USA; 2019.

Conference Organizer for “Disability, Access, and Teaching: A One-Day Symposium.” American University, Washington D.C., USA; 2019.

Panel Co-Organizer for “Crippling the Study of Science, Technology, and Medicine.” American Studies Association, Atlanta, USA; 2018.

Panel Organizer for “Madness and Decolonization: Histories, Stories, Futures.” Critical Ethnic Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada; 2018.

Conference Co-Organizer for “Living Our Commitment: Inaugural Inclusive Excellence Summit.” University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, USA; 2018.

Panel Co-Organizer for “‘They Can’t Take That Away From Me’: Lightning Shorts on Theft & Reclamation in Financialized Late Capitalism.” Modern Language Association, New York City, USA; 2018.

Panel Co-Organizer for “Mad Futures: Affect/Theory/Violence.” Canadian Disability Studies Association-Association Canadienne des Études sur l’Incapacité (CDSA-ACÉI), Toronto, Canada; 2017.

Panel Co-Organizer and Chair for “ASA Students’ Committee Roundtable: When the University Is Not Your Home.” American Studies Association, Denver, USA; 2016.

Panel Co-Organizer and Chair for “Caucus Critical Disability Studies: Affect Theory Meets Mad Studies: A Roundtable.” American Studies Association, Toronto, Canada; 2015.

Panel Co-Organizer and Chair for “ASA Students’ Committee Workshop II: Innovative Assignments.” American Studies Association, Toronto, Canada; 2015.

Panel Co-Organizer for “Invisible Workers of Modernity: Class, Locationality, and the Rural.” German Association for American Studies, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany; 2013.

Conference Organizer for “Indigenous and American Studies Storyteller’s of the Americas Conference.” University at Buffalo, USA; 2013, 2012.

Conference Organizer for Graduate Student Conference “Between Global Dump or Global Village: Placing America in a Transnational World.” University of Leipzig, Germany; 2010.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Roundtable Participation in “New Disability Methodologies: Forms, Intersections, Disciplines,” MLA, virtual; 2022.

Roundtable Participation in “CDSC Professionalization Workshop: Surviving Academia, or, How Good Are Your Boundaries?” American Studies Association, virtual; 2021.

Roundtable Participation in “Mad Activism in the Global Feminist Movement: A Dialogue on and of Dissent.” Seneca Falls Dialogues, virtual; 2020.

Roundtable Participation in “Mad Time/s of/and Anxiety, Chronic Illness, and Neuroqueerness: Incarcerating Realities, Imagine-Building Futures.” National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, USA; 2019.

Roundtable Participation in “Imagining Mad Time and Mad Futurity through Community.” American Studies Association, Honolulu, USA; 2019.

Roundtable Participation in “Towards Open Access for All: Theory, Methods, and Practice.” American Studies Association, Honolulu, USA; 2019.

Roundtable Participation in “Visions of Institutional Justice: Dream Making the Futurescapes of Disability Studies.” National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, USA; 2018.

Roundtable Participation in “Sustaining Disability Studies in Times of Crisis.” American Studies Association, Atlanta, USA; 2018.

Roundtable Participation in “Madness and Decolonization: Histories, Stories, Futures.” Critical Ethnic Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada; 2018.

Roundtable Participation in “‘They Can’t Take That Away From Me’: Lightning Shorts on Theft & Reclamation in Financialized Late Capitalism.” Modern Language Association, New York; 2018.

Roundtable Participation in “Loopholes, Sanctuaries, and Silences: Pedagogical Media Economies from the 19th Century to Today.” American Studies Association, Chicago; 2017.

“Rationality, Intensity, and Whiteness: Revisiting Financialization and Neoliberalization.” Cultural Studies Association, Washington DC; 2017.

“Rationality, Intensity, and Affect: Mad Studies on Racial Capitalism and Liberal Democracy.” Canadian Disability Studies Association-Association Canadienne des

- Études sur l'Incapacité (CDSA-ACÉI), Toronto; 2017.
- "Ahistoricity, Sanism, and Nation-State Paradigms: Contemporary Anti-Neoliberal Manifestos." Dartmouth Futures of American Studies Institute, Hanover; 2016.
- "A Postwork Politics: Resisting Labor-Normativity." The Failed Individual Conference, Mannheim University, Germany; 2015.
- "Dismodern Societal Solidarity or the Radical Passivity of Gaga Feminism? Theorizing Labor and Disability." Society for Disability Studies, Atlanta; 2015.
- "Why Fighting Neoliberalism Won't End Inequality." Working-Class Studies Association/Labor and Working-Class History Association, Georgetown University, Washington DC; 2015.
- "Dismodern Solidarity and Interdependence: Reading Reality Television Through Disability Studies." Northeast Modern Language Association, Toronto; 2015.
- "Protest 2.0? Materialist Disability Studies, Racialized Capitalism, Space, and Pleasure in Protest Movements." American Studies Association, Los Angeles; 2014.
- "The Sharing Economy: The Neoliberal Logics of Affiliative Affect." Dartmouth Futures of American Studies Institute, Hanover; 2014.
- "Lessons Learned from 'Hall Socialism': Juxtaposing Finnish-American Radicalism with Today's Protest Movements." FinnForum X "Work, Workers, and the Finn Factor in 20th Century Labor Relations: Strikes, Political Economy, and Transnationalism." Michigan Technological University & Finlandia University, Houghton/Hancock; 2014.
- "Sharing Alliances: Late Capitalism Meets Queercrip Temporalities." Attachments: Queer Investments in Capital and Globalizations. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; 2014.
- "Wives and/as Debt: Women's Lived Dissent in the Eighteenth Century." American Studies Association, Washington DC; 2013.
- "Reality Television and Low Theory: Paranoid and Reparative Readings (De-/Re-)Constructing Regions." BAA Summer Academy "American Studies in a Transatlantic Perspective: Critical Regionalism in Politics and Culture." Erlangen & Munich, Germany; 2013.
- "Juno for Real: Negotiating Teenage Sexuality, Pregnancy, and Love in MTV's *16 and Pregnant/Teen Mom*." Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, Pittsburgh; 2012.
- "'Save Money. Live Better': Poverty, Belonging, and a Gendered Re-Claiming of Capitalist Space in Billie Letts's *Where the Heart Is*." Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference, Denver; 2012.

- “Mad to be Mad: Gendered Narratives of Mental Disorder in Mary Jane Ward’s *The Snake Pit* (1946) and Harold Maine’s *If a Man Be Mad* (1947).” German Association for American Studies Conference, University of Mainz, Germany; 2012.
- “*Trailer Park Boys* v. ‘Trailer Court Women’: Gender and Sexuality in Representations of White Poverty.” Popular Culture Association of Canada Conference, Niagara Falls; 2012.
- “Slumming 2.0? Representations of Class and Poverty in *Undercover Boss* (CBS).” Conference at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Freiburg, Germany; 2011.
- “Radical—Ethnic—Transnational: The Finnish American Socialist Theater in the Context of Its Time.” German Association for American Studies Conference, University of Regensburg, Germany; 2011.
- “‘Butter and salt, dust and beer, sweat and stink, flesh of my flesh’: Constituting ‘White Trash’ Southern Female Identity through Food in Dorothy Allison’s Short Story Collection *Trash*.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston; 2011.
- “Cars and Caves as Cradles: Constructions of Home and Female Community in Dorothy Allison’s *Bastard Out of Carolina* and *Cavedweller*.” Spanish Association for American Studies Conference, Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain; 2011.
- “‘I eat shit food and am not worthy’: Reading White Working-Class Female Subjectivities through an Alimentary Lens in Dorothy Allison’s *Bastard Out of Carolina*, *Cavedweller*, and *Trash*.” Southern Studies Conference, Auburn University, Montgomery; 2011.
- “‘The work goes on hungry or starving for hope/a pomegranate swollen in red rage’: Rethinking Class through Dorothy Allison’s Alimentary Language.” Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference, American University; Washington DC; 2011.
- “Displacement and Mobility in Constructions of the Home: Reading Dorothy Allison’s *Bastard Out of Carolina* and *Cavedweller*.” BAA Summer Academy “Modernity, Mobility, and Displacement: Transnational Perspectives from Detroit,” Wayne State University; Detroit; 2010.
- “Women and Migration: Gendered Constructions of the Female Migratory Experience in Julia Alvarez’s *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*.” Graduate Student Conference “Between Global Village and Global Dump: Placing America in a Transnational World,” University of Leipzig; 2010.
- “The Theater Finns: Staging an Ethnic Movement in America.” Finnish American Historical Archive 2007 Fall Finnposium Lecture Series; Hancock; 2007.

INVITED LECTURES

“Sanist Anxiety and Racialized Ableism in Reality Television.” Guest lecture at HU Berlin; 2023.

“Rosa Lemberg: A ‘Tragic Mulatta’ Goes Transnational.” Transnational Mondays Lecture Series, University at Buffalo; 2013.

“Reality TV v. Mockumentary: Representing the (Working) Poor in North American Television from *Undercover Boss* to *Trailer Park Boys*.” Guest lecture at the University of Freiburg, Germany; 2012.

“Food, Class, and Gender in Contemporary US-American Literature.” Guest lecture at the Department of American Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany; 2011.

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

National Women’s Studies Association 2019 – present
Alison Piepmeier Book Award Committee

American Quarterly 2017 – present
Board of Advisory Editors

Disability Studies Quarterly 2016 – present
Editorial Review Board

American Studies Association 2015 – 2018
Co-Chair of the Critical Disability Studies Caucus

Disability Studies Quarterly 2015
Interim Managing Editor

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Ann Ferren Conference, Access Pedagogy Workshops 2019 – present

Inclusive Pedagogy Fellow, Center for Teaching & Learning 2022 – present

Co-founder, Disability+ Faculty and Staff Affinity group 2021 – present

College of Arts & Sciences Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fellow 2019 – 2020

Institute on Disability and Public Policy, American University 2018 – present
Faculty Affiliate

Graduate Student Association, UB 2016 – 2018

As GSA President Served as Active Member on the Following University Committees

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council

Academic Integrity Committee

Graduate School Executive Committee

Graduate Education Marketing Leadership Committee

Student Union Strategic Planning Committee & Global Cafe Committee (major infrastructure developments)

Student Advisory Board for Sexual Violence Prevention, UB 2014 – 2016
Board Member

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

Director, American Studies & Disability, Health & Bodies Certificate	2024 – present
Committee for Intellectual Community	2024 – present
Curriculum Committee	2022 – present
WGSS Hiring Committees (tenure-track and term)	2022
Merit Pay Committee	2022; 2020
Bylaws Committee	2020-22
Faculty Senate Rep	2020-21
AMST Hiring Committee	2021
Grad School Workshop Organizer	2020 - present

MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association	Cultural Studies Association
Critical Ethnic Studies Association	Modern Language Association
Society for Disability Studies	European Association for American Studies
National Women’s Studies Association	German Association for American Studies

LANGUAGE SKILLS

German	native speaker	Finnish	heritage speaker
English	native speaker competence	French, Swedish, Spanish	beginn

REFERENCES

Dr Eileen Findlay, Professor and Department Chair
Department of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies
American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-885-6264; efindla@american.edu

Dr Katharina Vester, Associate Professor for American Studies & History
Department of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies
American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-885-2409; vester@american.edu

Dr Michael Rembis, Director Center for Disability Studies, Associate Professor
Department of History
University at Buffalo, SUNY
552 Park Hall, North Campus
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Dr. Liat Ben-Moshe, Assistant Professor
Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice
University of Illinois at Chicago
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