

AARON BOBROW-STRAIN

Politics Department
Whitman College
345 Boyer Ave.
509.527.5026
Walla Walla WA 99362

(o) 509.527.5996
(h) 509.522.5201
(f)

straina@whitman.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2004- Assistant Professor, Politics Department, Whitman College, Walla Walla WA
2003 Lecturer in Geography and Development Studies, University of California, Berkeley CA

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Geography, 2003
M.A. Stanford University, Latin American Studies, 1993
B.A. Macalester College, International Studies, Magna Cum Laude, 1992

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2007 Fluno Award for Student-Faculty Research (with Justine Pope), Whitman College
2006 Mellon Diversity Grant for developing innovative curriculum related to immigration politics in eastern Washington, Mellon Foundation-Whitman College
2006 Louis B. Perry Research Award, Whitman College
2004 Abshire Fellowship, Whitman College
2003 UC Berkeley Academic Senate Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor

- 1999 Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council.
- 1999 National Science Foundation Geography and Regional Sciences Grant, National Science Foundation
- 1999 Simpson Dissertation Fellowship, Institute for International Studies (Declined)
- 1998 Humanities and Social Science Research Grant, University of California, Berkeley
- 1998 Travel Grant University of California, Berkeley Human Rights Center
- 1988-92 DeWitt Wallace Distinguished Scholarship, Macalester College

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Books

2007. *Intimate Enemies: Landowners, Power, and Violence in Chiapas*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- In Progress. *White Bread: Dreamworlds of the Store-Bought-Loaf*. Represented by Matt McGowan at the Francis Goldin Literary Agency, New York.

Articles & Book Chapters

- Forthcoming. "Liquid Fincas: Land, Commerce, and Liquor in North-Central Chiapas (1820-1950)." In Rus, J. and S. Lewis eds. *Dangerous Liaisons: A Century of Plantations, Coerced Labor, and Ethnic Relations in Modern Chiapas*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Forthcoming. "¿Qué harán los ladinos?: finqueros, espacio, y violencia en Chiapas." *Anuario de Estudios Indígenas XII*. (peer-reviewed journal based at the the Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas)
- Forthcoming. "Desplazando la Finca: Terratenientes, revolución y reforma en Chilón, Chiapas (1920-1962)." *Pueblos y Fronteras* (peer-reviewed journal based at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).
2008. "White Bread Bio-politics: Purity, Health, and the Triumph of Industrial Baking." *Cultural Geographies*. 15: 97-118.
2007. "Kills a Body Twelve Ways: Bread Fear and the Ethics of 'What to Eat?'" *Gastronomica: the Journal of Food and Culture*. 7(2) 45-52.
2005. "Articulations of Rule: Landowners, Revolution, and Territory in Chiapas, Mexico (1930-1962)." *Journal of Historical Geography*. 31(4) 744-762.

2004. “(Dis)accords: Land Invasions, Agrarian Accords, and the Politics of Market-Assisted Land Reform in Chiapas, Mexico.” *World Development*. 32(6) 887-903.
2001. “Between a Ranch and a Hard Place: Violence, Scarcity, and Meaning in Chiapas, Mexico.” in Peluso, Nancy Lee and Michael Watts eds. *Violent Environments*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Reviews, Commentary, and Pedagogy

- Forthcoming. Invited commentary on the “Cattle and Capital” special issue of *Geoforum*.
2007. “Ethnographic Fieldnotes” for UNC Chapel Hill, University Center for International Studies undergraduate curriculum on “Ethnographies of Globalization.”
2003. Review of S. McCook. *States of Nature: Science, Agriculture, and Environment in the Spanish Caribbean, 1760-1940*. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. 21(5) 629-630.

In Progress

- “Making White Bread by the Bomb’s Early Light: the Politics of Bread in the Early Cold War.” Invited contribution for a special issue of *Food and Foodways*.
- “Wonder Bodies: Synthetic Enrichment and the Militarization of Eating.” To be submitted to *Cultural Geographies*.
- (with E. Melanie DuPuis). “Improper Handling: Playing with Microbes at Home, Fermenting Food Politics.” To be submitted to *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.
- Revision of “White Bread Bio-politics: Purity, Health, and the Triumph of Industrial Baking.” For inclusion in Rachel Slocum ed. *Geographies of Race and Food: Fields, Bodies, Markets*. Aldershoot UK: Ashgate Press.
- Review of Tanalís Padilla’s *Rural Resistance in the Land of Zapata: The Jaramillista Movement and the Myth of the Pax Priísta, 1940-1962* for the *American Historical Review*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

The Land Question and a Landed Elites’ Decline. Invited talk at Fifteen Years After the Zapatistas, A Retrospective Conference, David Rockefeller Latin American Studies Center, Harvard University, April 10, 2009.

Author / respondent. “Aaron Bobrow-Strain’s *Intimate Enemies*, an author meets critics session.” At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Las Vegas, April 2009

Cold War / Hot Loaf: Making White Bread by the Bomb’s Early Light. At the Tasting Histories Conference, Robert Mondavi Center for the Study of Food and Wine, University of California Davis, March 2009

Soft Sell: Engineering ‘the Invention of Sliced Bread’ in an Age of Anxiety. At the Annual Meetings of the Society for the History of Technology, Lisbon, Portugal, October 13, 2008.

Des-Fincando las Fincas Pos Revolucionarios en Chiapas. Invited talk at the Repensando la Revolución Mexicana en Chiapas conference, PROIMMSE-UNAM. San Cristóbal, Chiapas, June 11-14, 2008.

The Trouble with Microbes: Fermentation Science and the Politics of Health in Early-Twentieth-Century America. At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers. Boston. April 2008.

Intimate Enemies: Landowners and the Spaces of Violence in Chiapas, Mexico. Invited talk at a conference on “Identity, Territory and Social Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Syracuse University. February 2008.

Death of a Neoliberal Chicken. At the Annual Meetings of the Latin American Studies Association. Montreal. September 2007.

Political Investments of ‘White Trash Cooking.’ At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers. San Francisco. April 2007.

Discussant for two paper sessions on Pastoralism, Cattle, and Capitalism. At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers. San Francisco. April 2007.

Invited presenter. “Since Sliced Bread: Purity, Hygiene, and the Making of Modern Bread.” At the University of California, Humanities Research Institute program Eating Cultures: Race and Food. October 2006.

Wonder Bodies: War, Whiteness, and the Making of Modern Bread. At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, March 2006.

Session Chair and Discussant. Urban Foodscapes: City, Creativity, and Local Food Ecologies. At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, March 2006.

Session Organizer. The Making of Modern Food: Science, Culture, and the Politics of Food. At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, March 2006.

Invited presenter. “Kleen-Maid: Purity, Hygiene, and White Bread.” At the White Food: Race and the Politics of Purity workshop at the University of California, Santa Cruz, October 2005.

Since Sliced Bread: Science, Culture, and Anxiety in the Making of Modern Bread. At the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Denver, April 2005.

Participant in a panel discussion on “Capitalist ‘Accumulation by Dispossession’ and the Rise of Resource Populisms.” At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Denver, April 2005.

(Dis)Accords: The Politics of Market-Assisted Land Reform in Chiapas, Mexico. At the Pacific Conference on Development Economics, San Francisco, March 2005.

Finqueros ‘In the Country of Wild Indians’: Fear and the Place-Making of Agrarian Change in Chilón , Chiapas (1994-2000). At the Annual Meetings of the Latin American Studies Association, Las Vegas, October 2004.

Governmentality in Motion. At the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Philadelphia, March 2004.

‘In the Country of Wild Indians’: Geographies of Fear, Practices of Violence. At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, New Orleans, March 2003.

Co-organizer, panel discussion on “Neoliberalism in Rural Mexico.” At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, New Orleans, March 2003.

Da Capo at the ‘End’ of Reform: Land Invasions and the Politics of Redistribution in Chiapas, Mexico (1994-1998). At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, California, March 2002.

Rethinking Thuggery: Landed Elites, the State, and Indigenous Mobilization in Chilón, Chiapas. At the Quinto Congreso Internacional de Mayistas, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, July 2001.

Between a Ranch and Hard Place: Violence, Scarcity, and the Struggle for Land in Chiapas, Mexico. At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 1999.

Workshop Moderator “Population, Environment, and Development Panel.” at the Stanford University Medical School Health Policy Forum, Spring 1993.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

External examiner for the Ph.D. dissertation of Robin Jane Roff, Geography Department, Simon Fraser University.

2008. Invited discussant of Susanne Freidberg's *Fresh a Perishable History* at the Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College

Ph.D. Dissertation committee member for Eric Samson, Texas State University, Geography Department.

Article referee for *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Ethnos*, *Cultural Geographies*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Geoforum*, *Geopolitics*, *World Development*, *Ethnos*, *The European Journal of Anthropology*, and *The Journal of Human Development*.

External manuscript review for Duke University Press and the Institute for Food and Development Policy.

UNDERGRADUATE PEDAGODY INNOVATION

Faculty leader. "Globalization, Immigration, and Development on the US-Mexico Border." A community-based travel seminar offered May/June 2009, 2007, 2006, & 2005.

Food Politics in the Walla Walla Valley, civic engagement project connected to Politics 119, Fall 2008.

Faculty Adviser. Student-led alternative spring break program on immigration debates in the Pacific Northwest. March 2008.

"Whitman College's US-Mexico Border Program." Presentation at the American Association of Colleges and Universities' *Civic Learning at the Intersections* conference. October 2007.

"Politics 119 Community Food Security Assessment for the Walla Walla Valley". A community-based research course carried out in cooperation with several local non-profit organizations. Spring 2007.

Faculty leader. "Borders in Our Backyard: Immigration Debates in Eastern Washington." Mellon-funded program in community-based education. Fall 2006.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Helped teach a series of classes on immigration politics for the Catholic Diocese of Spokane. Spring 2008.

Interview for local Univisión network report on area farm worker organizing. Fall 2007

Whitman campus liaison with local United Farm Workers organizing efforts. Spring 2007-Present

Organizer. "Remolinos / Whirlwinds: Student Voices from the US-Mexico Border." October 2007.

Sponsor and organizer for the visit of United Farm Workers president Arturo Rodriguez to Eastern Washington. Spring 2007.

Speaker at a public forum on immigration at Whitman College sponsored by Club Latino, Spring 2005

Talk on "The Rise of The New Left in Latin America" for Grassroots, Walla Walla, April 2005.

Speaker at a public forum on the Whitman Community Food Cooperative, February 2005.

Featured Guest, KPFA / Pacifica Radio, Against the Grain, October 6, 2003.

Geographies of the Chiapan Conflict(s). At the U.C. Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies Summer Institute, "Mexico: Themes in the History Curriculum." Summer 2002.