

**AARON BOBROW-STRAIN**  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2010-present Associate Professor, Politics Department, Whitman College  
2004-2010 Assistant Professor, Politics Department, Whitman College  
2003-2004 Lecturer in Geography and Development Studies, University of California, Berkeley

### 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

### SELECTED AWARDS & GRANTS

2005-present 2 Abshire Grants, 2 Fluno Awards, and 1 Perry Grant for Student-Faculty Collaborative Research, Whitman College.  
2010 Robert Y. Fluno Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Social Sciences, Whitman College.  
2003 UC Berkeley Academic Senate, Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award.  
1999 Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship.  
1999 National Science Foundation, Geography and Regional Sciences Dissertation Grant.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

2012 *White Bread: A Social History of the Store-Bought Loaf* (Boston: Beacon Press).  
“In this fascinating history of perhaps the most maligned and emblematic American food—industrially made white bread—Bobrow-Strain subtly upends common prejudices while illuminating fundamental shifts in the nation’s economy, gender relations, aesthetic preferences, diet, and cultural politics.” —Benjamin Schwarz, *The Atlantic Monthly*  
Additional reviews may be found in: *American History Review*, *Journal of Historical Geography*, *The New York Times Sunday Book Review*, *Choice*, *Slate.com*, *Serious Eats*, and *PopMatters*.

2007 *Intimate Enemies: Landowners, Politics, and Violence in Chiapas, Mexico* (Durham: Duke University Press).  
“One of the most interesting, original, and important books about Chiapas (and, I think, about rural Latin America) that has been published in the past twenty years.” —*Hispanic American Historical Review*.

“One of the best geographic ethnographies of the last decade.” —*Professional Geographer*.

“[*Intimate Enemies*] is likely to have an impact on the field for many years to come.” —*Latin American Perspectives*.

“There are books that are so decisive and important that we sometimes wonder how we could have lived so long without them. This is the case with Aaron Bobrow-Strain’s book, *Intimate Enemies*.” (translated from Spanish) —*Pueblos y Fronteras*.

“A fascinating ethnography and cultural history... The human drama of the shifting historical balances of fortunes portrayed here is reminiscent of *Gone With the Wind*, or Giuseppe di Lampedusa’s *The Leopard*, or on a smaller screen the rural Chiapas novels of Rosario Castellanos.” —*Journal of Latin American Studies*

“Lyrically written, theoretically rich...[It]challenges some deeply held assumptions about the history of land in Chiapas.” —*Perspectives on Politics*

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- Forthcoming “Fincas líquidas: tierra, comercio y aguardiente en el norte centro de Chiapas (1850-1950).” In Justus Fenner and Dolores Palomo, *La Historia de Chiapas* (Mexico: CIESAS).
- 2011 “Making White Bread by the Bomb’s Early Light: Anxiety, Abundance, and Industrial Food Power in the Early Cold War.” “Food Globality and Foodways Localities,” *Food and Foodways*, Volume 19, 2 (2011).
- Reprinted in B. Lawrance & C. de la Peña eds. *Local Foods Meets Global Foodways* (New York: Routledge, 2012).
- 2010 “Desplazando la Finca: Terratenientes, revolución y reforma en Chilón, Chiapas (1920-1962).” In Lisbona Guillén, Miguel and Justus Fenner eds. *La Revolución mexicana en Chiapas, un siglo después*. México City: PROIMMSE–IIA–UNAM.
- 2009 “¿Qué harán los ladinos?: finqueros, identidad, y conflicto en Chilón.” *Anuario de Estudios Indígenas*. 13 231-264.
- 2008 “White Bread Bio-politics: Purity, Health, and the Triumph of Industrial Baking.” *Cultural Geographies*. 15: 97-118.
- Reprinted in R. Slocum and A. Saldanha eds. *Geographies of Race and Food: Fields, Bodies, Markets* (Burlington: Ashgate, 2013).
- 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.

#### Not Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- Forthcoming “Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla’s Land Mark (Foot Prints).” In Emily Eliza Scott and Kirsten Swenson, eds. *Critical Landscapes: Contemporary Art and the Politics of Land Use*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- 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).
- 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.

#### Selected Narrative Nonfiction

- Under review “Puck on the Border.” Submitted to *The Believer*.
- 2012 “Atomic Baking at Home.” *The Believer* (February 2012).
- 2012 “What *Would* Great-Grandma Eat?” *The Chronicle of Higher Education Review* (February 26, 2012).
- 2012 “How White Bread Became White Trash.” *The Huffington Post* (March 23, 2012).
- 2007 “Kills a Body Twelve Ways.” *Gastronomica* (Summer 2007).

#### Academic Reviews and Commentaries

- 2010 Review of T. Padilla. *Rural Resistance in the Land of Zapata: The Jaramillista Movement and the Myth of the Pax Priísta*. *American Historical Review*. 115 (2).
- 2009 “Logics of Cattle-Capital.” Invited commentary on a themed journal issue dealing with livestock and rangeland economies, *Geoforum* 40(5).
- 2007 “Ethnographic Field Notes from Chiapas” 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.

### **SELECTED INTERVIEWS & MEDIA COVERAGE**

#### Selected Radio News Interviews

NPR Weekend Morning Edition; NPR Morning Edition.

#### Selected Guest Appearances on Radio Current Affairs and Arts Programs

WNYC, New York Public Radio, Brian Lehrer Show; WHYY, Philadelphia Public Radio, Radio Times with Marty Moscoane; Wisconsin Public Radio, To The Best of Our Knowledge; KPFA, Pacifica Radio Network, Against the Grain; Wisconsin Public Radio, Veronica Rueckert Show; WNYC, New York Public Radio, The Leonard Lopate Show; WFMU, New York, Too Much Information; New Hampshire Public Radio, Word of Mouth KPZ; KCRW, Los Angeles Public Radio, Good Food Show; Southern California Public Radio, The Patt Morrison Program; WILL, Illinois Public Radio, Radio Focus; KPOJ, Portland, Thom Hartmann Morning Show; KBOO, Portland, Food Show; WNYC, Late Morning Show;

Progressive Radio Network, It's All About the Food; Radio New Zealand, Nine to Noon Show; New England Public Radio, Mark Lynch Show.

Journalist source for news stories

*The New York Times* (2), *The Boston Globe*, *Foxnews.com*, *Psychology Today*

Author Q&A (Print)

*The Boston Globe*, interviewed by Devra First. Sunday edition front page of the "Ideas" section, April 15, 2012

*Süddeutsche Zeitung Magazin*. Three full pages in a special holiday issue on bread, November 30, 2012

*Culinate*. Interviewed by Amy Halloran, July 9, 2012

*Calcist* (Israel's Business Weekly), April 20, 2012

*Gravy* (University of Mississippi's Southern Foodways Alliance Magazine), September 2012

**INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS & KEYNOTES**

- 2013 "Making White Bread by the Bomb's Early Light: Anxiety, Abundance, and Industrial Food Power in the Early Cold War." Department of Geography Colloquium, University of California, Berkeley, April.
- 2012 "A White Bread History of Food Justice." Program in Sustainable Agriculture Colloquium, October.
- 2012 "Anxiety, Allure, and the Meaning of Industrial Eating." Department of Geography Colloquium, University of Oregon, April.
- 2011 "White Bread Bio-Power." Facultad de Antropología de la Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Merida. November 29.
- 2011 "Enemigos íntimos: finqueros, identidad y conflicto en Chiapas (1994-2007)." Facultad de Antropología de la Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Merida. November 28.
- 2011 "The Staff of Death': Anxiety, Social Difference, and the Making of America's Industrial Food System." The Melbern G. Glassrock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University. April 9.
- Reprinted in Brian Boucher ed. *Representative American Speeches 2010-11* (New York: HW Wilson, 2012)].
- 2011 "White Bread: The History of a Dream." University of California, Santa Cruz, Multicampus Research Program on Food and Body Public Symposium: "Food Anxieties." March 14.
- 2011 "Making White Bread by the Bomb's Early Light: Anxiety, Abundance, and Industrial Food Power in the Early Cold War." Willamette University, February 4.

- 2010 “Making White Bread by the Bomb’s Early Light: Anxiety, Abundance, and Industrial Food Power in the Early Cold War.” The Agrarian Studies Seminar, Yale University, September 18.
- 2009 “Making White Bread by the Bomb’s Early Light.” University of Arizona Department of Geography and Development Colloquium Talk. November 13.

#### **NON-ACADEMIC INVITED TALKS & BOOK FESTIVALS**

- 2012 Author Panelist, The Miami International Book Festival, November 18.
- 2012 “White Bread: A Social History.” Slow Food New York, June 22.
- 2012 “White Bread and Food Justice.” Slow Food Portland, May 24.
- 2012 Author Panelist, The *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, April 22.
- 2012 Author Panelist, GetLit! Festival of Books, April 30.
- 2010 Panelist, The People Who Feed Us Speaker Series, Slow Food Portland, June 28.

#### **SELECTED ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2013 Panelist, “Beyond Food.” At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, April.
- 2012 “Securing Health: Nutrition, War, and the Biopolitics of Bread Enrichment.” At the Annual Meetings of the Society for the Social Study of Science, Copenhagen, October 20.
- 2011 “The Trouble With Food Reformers.” At the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society, New York, June.
- 2011 Discussant, Author Meets Critic Session for Julie Guthman’s *Weighing In: Obesity and the Limits of Capital*. At the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers, New York, April.
- 2010 “The Biopolitics of Amylophobia.” At the History Studies Society, Montreal, November.
- 2010 “Eating Against the Grain: Bread, Biosociality, and Modernity from Graham to Gluten-Free.” At University of California, Berkeley, Institute for European Studies Symposium on the History of Food, April 30.
- 2009 “The Land Question and a Landed Elites’ Decline.” At Fifteen Years After the Zapatistas, A Retrospective Conference, David Rockefeller Latin American Studies Center, Harvard University, April 10.
- 2009 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.

- 2008 “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.” At Repensando la Revolución Mexicana en Chiapas, 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.” At Identity, Territory and Social Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean, Syracuse University. February.
- 2007 “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.
- 2006 “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.
- 2005 “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 “From *Argentinazo* to *Zapatismo*: Mexico’s Zapatistas and the Transnational Roots of Rebellion in Argentina (co-authored with Belen Seara).” 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.

- 2004 “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.
- 2003 “‘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.
- 2002 “*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.
- 2001 “Rethinking Thuggery: Landed Elites, the State, and Indigenous Mobilization in Chilón, Chiapas. “At the Quinto Congreso Internacional de Mayistas, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, July.
- 1999 “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.
- 1993 Workshop Moderator “Population, Environment, and Development Panel.” at the Stanford University Medical School Health Policy Forum, Spring.

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- 2005-2010 Qualify Exams and Dissertation Committee Member for Eric Samson, Geography Department, Texas State University.
- 2008 External Examiner, Ph.D. dissertation committee 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

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

External book manuscript review for University of California Press, Duke University Press, University of New Mexico Press, Routledge Press, and the Institute for Food and Development Policy.

### **UNDERGRADUATE PEDAGOGY INNOVATION**

Co-Instructor. Global Studies Cross-Disciplinary Course Offering, “Raw Geographies,” with Prof. Michelle Acuff (Studio Art). Fall 2012.

Faculty Advisor. Whitman Direct Action Guatemala Summer Project, 2011, 2012.

Faculty leader. “Globalization, Immigration, and Development on the US-Mexico Border.” A community-based travel seminar offered May/June 2012, 2009, 2007, 2006, & 2005.

Faculty adviser. “Food Politics in the Walla Walla Valley.” A civic engagement project connected to Politics 119, Fall 2008.

Faculty adviser. “Borders in Our Backyard Alternative Spring Break.” Student-led alternative spring break program on immigration debates in the Pacific Northwest. Spring 2008.

Conference presenter. “Whitman College’s US-Mexico Border and Latinos Research Program.” At the American Association of Colleges and Universities’ *Civic Learning at the Intersections* conference. October 2007.

Faculty adviser. “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 Fall Break program in community-based education. Fall 2006.

Organizer. Half-day Center for Teaching and Learning workshop on community-based education led by Celine Fitzmaurice, Associate Director of Community Programs at Portland State University. Spring 2005.

## **FORMAL COLLEGE SERVICE**

### *Department Chair / Program Director*

Director, Environmental Studies (Fall 2012)  
Chair, Politics Department (2010-2011)  
Director, Latin American Studies (2007-2008)

### *Standing College Committees (Elected & Appointed) & Ad Hoc*

Film & Media Studies Advisory Board (2012-present)  
Garrett-Sherwood Fellows Selection Committee (Sp 2013)  
ASID (2009-2012)  
WCTS Faculty Portal Advisory Committee (F 2010)  
Institutional Review Board (2008-2010)  
Admissions and Financial Aid (2005-2008)  
WCTS Support Staff Search Committee (Summer 2005)

### *Tenure Track Search Committees (External & Internal Member)*



Film & Media Studies, Television Studies (F 2013)  
Environmental Studies & Sociology, Environmental Sociology (F & Sp 2012-2013)  
Politics, Constitutional Law (F 2012)  
Politics, Asian Politics (F 2011)  
Theater, Scenic Lighting and Design (F & Sp 2010-2011)  
Economics, International Political Economy (F 2009)  
Politics, American Politics (F 2007)  
Politics, American Politics (F 2006)  
Spanish, Latin American Literature B (Sp 2007)  
Spanish, Latin American Literature A (F 2006)

*Student Group Advising*

Whitman Direct Action (2008, 2010-present)  
Beyond Borders (2007-2009)  
Club Latino (2006-2007)