

Ellen Abrams

Postdoctoral Fellow

Cornell University Society for the Humanities

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Education

Ph.D. in Science & Technology Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, August 2020

[Dissertation: “Making Mathematics American: Gender, Professionalization, and Abstraction During the Growth of Mathematics in the United States, 1890-1945”]

M.A. in Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, May 2017

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, June 2011

Research Prizes and Recognitions

British Society for the History of Mathematics Early Career Prize, 2018-2019

National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council World War I Grand Prize, 2018

Sheila Jasanoff Prize for Academic Excellence in Science & Technology Studies, 2017

Grants and Fellowships

Research Assistantship with Prof. Stephen Hilgartner “Ethics-in-the-Making: Changing Practices in Data Science,” 2020

American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship—alternate, 2020

American Philosophical Society John C. Slater Predoctoral Fellowship—declined, 2020

Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Research Fellowship, 2019

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2018

National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council World War I Grant, 2018

Cornell University Graduate Research Travel Grant, 2018

Society for the Humanities Research Travel Grant, 2017, 2019

American Studies Research Travel Grant, 2017

Publications

“An Inalienable Prerogative of a Liberated Spirit: Postulating American Mathematics.”

British Journal for the History of Mathematics (2020): 1-21.

“‘Indebted to No One’: Grounding and Gendering the Self-Made Mathematician.” *Historical*

Studies in the Natural Sciences 50, no. 3 (2020): 217-247.

“A Letter from Dr. Caroline Eustis Seely.” In *Women in the History of Science: A Liberating the Curriculum Sourcebook*, edited by Rebecca Martin, Farrah Lawrence-Mackey, Sadie Harrison, Erika Jones, and Hannah Wills. London: UCL Press, (forthcoming).

“Training for Trade at the Nesin Mathematics Village.” In *Modern Natural Science from the Late Ottoman to the Present*, edited by Vefa Saygın Ögütte and Sanem Güvenç-Salğırılı. Istanbul: Doğu Batı Publishers, (2019).

Review of *American Mathematics 1890-1913: Catching up to Europe*, by Steve Batterson. *BSHM Bulletin: Journal of the British Society for the History of Mathematics* 33, no. 3 (2018): 200-201.

“Sake.” In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Alcohol: Social, Cultural, and Historical Perspectives*, edited by Scott C. Martin, 1101-1103. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 2015.

Selected Conference Presentations

“‘Logical Fate’ and ‘Intellectual Freedom’.” American Mathematical Society and Mathematical Association of America Joint Mathematics Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2021 (in-person meeting switched to online format)

“American Masculinities and Modern Mathematics, 1890-1945.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, January 2021 (in-person meeting canceled)

“The Scripta Mathematica Library and the “Survival” of Mathematics in America.” The History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2020 (in-person meeting postponed)

“‘Indebted to No One: Grounding and Gendering the Self-Made Mathematician.’” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, New York, January 2020

“‘An Inalienable Prerogative of the Liberated Spirit’: Postulating American Mathematics.’” The History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Utrecht, The Netherlands, July 2019

“‘My Dear Sir’ and ‘My Dear George’: The Relevance and Rhetoric of American Mathematics During and After World War I.” World War I and the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Public Conference for Invited Applicants, Washington, D.C., October 2018

“Invisible Labor in American Mathematics: 1894–1945.” European Society for the History of Science Biennial Conference, London, UK, September 2018

“Making Mathematics American: Postulate Theory and American Mathematics, 1900–1945.”

The History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, November 2017
“The Practice of Postulates in American Mathematics, 1900–1945.” The Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, August 2017
“Backwards Graphs: Negotiating the Local and the Global at the Nesin Mathematics Village.” The International Congress of History of Science & Technology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 2017
“Training for Trade at the Nesin Mathematics Village.” The History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2016
“Participant Observation at the Leavitt Path Algebras and Graph C*-algebras CIMPA Research School.” Northeast Science and Technology Studies Graduate Student Conference, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, March 2016
“Swimmability: Values and Metrics in Cayuga Lake.” The Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2015
“In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Samba,” The International Conference on Intercultural Communication Studies, Louisville, KY, November 2008

Invited Talks

“Making Mathematics American.” The Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, January 2020
“Diversity and Mathematics.” Universals’ Locals History of Mathematics Workshop, University of Edinburgh, January 2020
“Postulating American Mathematics.” Science Studies Research Group, Cornell University, May 2019
“Monthly Biographies and the ‘Average Mathematician’.” Science Studies Research Group, Cornell University, May 2018
“The Nesin Mathematics Village as Trading Zone.” Science Studies Research Group, Cornell University, February 2016

Conference Travel Grants

American Historical Association Conference Travel Grant, 2020
History of Science Society Conference Travel Grant, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Cornell University Conference Travel Grant, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

British Society for the History of Science Butler-Eyles Conference Travel Grant, 2018
Commission on Women in Science and Gender Studies Conference Travel Grant, 2017
International Commission for the History of Mathematics Conference Travel Grant, 2017

Teaching Positions

Instructor, “Truth in America: Science, Technology, and United States History,” Cornell University, Spring 2021
Instructor, “Science, Technology, and Politics,” Cornell University, Summer 2019, Summer 2020
Instructor, “Knowledge, Power, and Mathematics,” Cornell University, Fall 2016, Fall 2019
Instructor, College Math & Writing, Cornell Prison Education Program, Auburn Correctional Facility, 2015-2017
Instructor, Power Writers College Prep, University Heights High School, The Bronx, NY, Fall 2017
Teaching Assistant, College Writing Workshop for Veterans, Warrior-Scholar Project, Cornell University Summer 2020
Teaching Assistant, Viruses, Humans, Viral Politics, Cornell University, Spring 2020
Teaching Assistant, Computing Cultures, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Spring, 2019
Teaching Assistant, Ethics and the Environment, Cornell University, Fall 2015, Spring 2017
Teaching Assistant, Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine, Cornell University, Spring 2016

Teaching Awards

Cornell STS Abraham Zito Boczkowski Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2020
Cornell Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines James Slevin Assignment Sequence Prize, 2017

Teacher Training

“Going Online” Distance Learning Workshop, Cornell University, Spring 2020
Theater Techniques for Teaching, Cornell University, Fall 2019
Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom, Cornell Online, Fall 2018
Teaching Writing, Cornell University, Summer 2016

Service

Graduate and Early Career Representative, History of Science Society Committee on

Diversity and Inclusion, 2018-2019

Diversity Co-Chair, History of Science Society Graduate and Early Career Caucus,
2018-2019

Treasurer, Science and Technology Studies Graduate Student Association, Cornell
University, 2015–2017

Conference Organizer, Intersectional Feminisms on Campus: A Workshop, Cornell
University, November 2015

Professional Associations

The American Historical Association

The History of Science Society

The British Society for the History of Science

The Society for the Social Studies of Science

Previous Employment

Lead Teacher, Brooklyn Robot Foundry, Brooklyn, NY, 2013–2015

Program Assistant, Museum of Food and Drink, New York, NY, 2013–2014

IT Business Analyst, Coyote Logistics, Chicago, IL, 2011–2014

Research Assistant, Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine, Naples, Italy, 2012–2013

Language/Technical Skills

Certified CELI Italian Language Speaker: Proficient, June 2013

Early Intermediate Spanish Language Speaker

Programming Experience: SQL; HTML/CSS; Java; Matlab; Stata; CAD (NX 5.0)