

Curriculum Vitae

Heidi C. Nicholls

she/her/hers

hnicholls1@binghamton.edu | <https://heidinicholls.weebly.com/>

APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 - Assistant Professor of Sociology, Binghamton University
- 2022 – 2024 Mellon [Black Beyond Data](#) Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Sociology, Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University
- 2022 – 2024 [Council on Library and Information Resources](#) (CLIR) Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2019-2022 Instructor, University of Virginia (summers)

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Sociology, University of Virginia, 2022
- Graduate Certificate in American Studies, University of Virginia, 2020
- M.A. Sociology, University of Virginia, 2019
- B.A. Social Science-Sociology, Westmont College

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

race, racism, empires and states, settler colonialism, global and transnational sociology, qualitative methods, decolonial and Indigenous feminisms, law, health and medicine, environmental sociology, Indigenous studies, Black studies, gender, sexuality, cultural sociology, political sociology, social theory, militarism.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Nicholls, Heidi. (2022). Antiracism amidst empire? Understanding the United States' relationship to whiteness. *Sociology Compass*, e13017. <http://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.13017>
- Nicholls, Heidi. (2021), "Colonial and Decolonial Resignification: US Empire-state Sovereignty in Hawai'i", White, A.I.R. and King, K.Q. (Ed.) *Global Historical Sociology of Race and Racism (Political Power and Social Theory, Vol. 38)*, Emerald Publishing Limited, Bingley, pp. 191-220. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S0198-871920210000038010>
- Nicholls, Heidi. (2026), Settler Sociology: Eugenic Responses to Imperial Crises in the 20th Century.” *Sociology Lens* (accepted and forthcoming).

INVITED ESSAYS

Nicholls, Heidi. (2023), "Citizen, Subject, Human: For a Humanist Sociology at the End of the Eurocene" *Humanity & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01605976231160520>

Lee, Kristina and Heidi Nicholls. (2023), "Reflections from the CHS Mini Conference Organizers, Philadelphia 2023" *Trajectories*, Newsletter of the ASA Comparative and Historical Sociology Section, Vol 34 No. 1 Fall 2023. <http://chs.asa-comparative-historical.org/trajectories-fall-2023/>

AUDIO DOCUMENTARY

Nicholls, Heidi and Matthew Ito (2020) "Kū Kia'i Mauna: Mauna Kea, Protecting the Sacred, and the Thirty Meter Telescope" *Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab*, University of Virginia. <https://religionlab.virginia.edu/projects/ku-kia-i-mauna-mauna-kea-protecting-the-sacred-and-the-thirty-meter-telescope/>

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript

Lineages of Empire: Settler Colonialism and the White Body Politic in Virginia and Hawai'i

Special Issues

"Indigeneity, History, and Historical Analysis" (co-editor along with Andrew Curley, Rebecca Jean Emigh, and Levin Welch, in progress for *Critical Sociology*)

Article Manuscripts

"Fueling Empire: Internalizing Anger and the O'ahu Water Crisis" (in preparation)

"Greeting Our Ghosts: Community Engaged Historical Sociology" (in preparation)

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

"O'ahu Water Crisis and Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Leakages" Content analysis, media analysis, archival research and in depth-interviews researching the impact of the water crises on Indigenous and non-Native solidarities.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Hawai'i Public Radio, The Conversation. January 29, 2024, "Future of Chinatown; Women in UH Sports." Interviewed about "[Archives of Life and Death at Red Hill Camp: 1941-1943](https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/the-conversation/2024-01-30/sociologist-shares-working-conditions-during-the-construction-of-red-hill-in-the-1940s)" <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/the-conversation/2024-01-30/sociologist-shares-working-conditions-during-the-construction-of-red-hill-in-the-1940s>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Ongoing Red Hill Study, in-depth semi-structured interviews with individuals impacted by water contamination. Binghamton University
- 2024 Archival Research, Hawai'i State Archives, Honolulu, Hawai'i.
- 2022-2024 Red Hill Study, in-depth semi-structured interviews with individuals impacted by water contamination. Johns Hopkins University HIRB#00016833
- 2023 Archival Research, National Archives at College Park, Maryland.
- 2022 Research Consultant, St. Francis Neighborhood Center, Community Needs Assessment Survey. Baltimore, Maryland.
- 2021-2022 Research Assistant, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, in collaboration with ORB International. A mixed methods project titled "Assessing vaccine trust and its impact on uptake of adult vaccines, during COVID-19." Interviews and focus-groups.
- 2020-2022 Archival Research
- Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- Hawai'i State Archives, Honolulu, Hawai'i
- Library of Virginia Archives, Richmond, Virginia
- Old Dominion University, Perry Library, Norfolk, Virginia
- Special Collections and University Archives, Norfolk Public School Desegregation Collection, Norfolk, Virginia
- Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i
- The Tracy W. McGregor Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- United States Library of Congress, Washington D.C.
- 2017-2018 Participant observation, ethnographic, in-depth interviews, and archival research on the island of O'ahu in Hawai'i (summers, totaling four months).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Binghamton University

SOC 380X *Settler Colonialism* (Spring 2026)

SOC 580 *Problems of Method: Comparative Historical Sociology* (Graduate Course, Fall 2025)

SOC 100 *Social Change: Introduction to Sociology* (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026)

SOC 380T *Whiteness* (Spring 2025)

Johns Hopkins University, National Endowment for the Humanities Institute

Health Humanities: Dismantling Structural Injustice in Healthcare (March – October 2024)

University of Virginia

SOC 3120 *Sociology Research Methods* (Summer 2022)

SOC 3559 *The Racial Politics of Empire* (Summer 2021, online)

SOC 4559 *Postcolonial Sociology* (Summer 2019)

ADVISING

Dissertation Committees

Francisco Gachet Parades (Chair)

Kenyon Cavender (Chair)

Renée Szematowicz (History, Committee Member)

Undergraduate Thesis

Nicole Burek (Honors Thesis Reader)

Qian Jiang (Honors Thesis Reader)

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

2020 “Creating Engaged and Well-Paced Summer Courses.” University of Virginia. **Presenter**

2020 “Sociology Teaching Workshop.” University of Virginia. **Presenter**

2020 “Teaching Online Summer Courses.” University of Virginia. **Presenter**

2019 “Graduate Student Teaching in Sociology.” University of Virginia. **Presenter**

Completed Trainings (select)

2026 “Engage@Scale, Designing Large Lecture Courses” Binghamton University

2025 “Creating Engaging Large Lecture Discussions” Binghamton University

2024 “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Classroom.” Johns Hopkins University

2021 C3 Course Design Training. Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Virginia.

2021 “Inclusive Teaching Toolkit: First Days.” University of Virginia

2021 “Structuring and Sustaining a More Inclusive Classroom.” University of Virginia

2020 “Teaching Controversial Topics.” University of Virginia

2020 “Responding to Student Writers.” University of Virginia

2020 “Navigating Difficult Moments in the Classroom and Online.” University of Virginia

2019 “Understanding and Implementing Equitable Teaching.” University of Virginia

2019 “Learning and Teaching Listening.” University of Virginia

- 2019 “Engaging Controversial Topics: Teaching Inequality in Our Political Moment.” University of Virginia
- 2019 “UVA Acts’ Inclusive Teaching Toolkit: Small Groups.” University of Virginia
- 2019 “The Benefits of Self-Disclosure in the Classroom Workshop.” University of Virginia
- 2019 “A Contemplative Feminist Approach to Teaching about Race and Whiteness.” University of Virginia
- 2018 UndocuALLY Training, UndocUVa University of Virginia
- 2018 “Beyond Discussion Questions: Engaging Students through In-Class Activities.” University of Virginia
- 2018 “Teaching Controversial Topics: A Workshop for Graduate Students.” University of Virginia

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

- 2024 Center for Civic Engagement, “Community Engagement Faculty Research Grant” for “Red Hill community-engaged environmental justice work on the Hawaiian Island of O’ahu.” Binghamton University (\$5000)
- 2023 NEH Institutes for Higher Education Faculty. Awarded to “Health Humanities: Dismantling Structural Injustices in Healthcare” Johns Hopkins University (Senior Faculty) (\$175,000)
- 2022 Department of Sociology Teaching Award
- 2021-2022 Society of Fellows Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Virginia (\$25,000)
- 2021-2022 Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Virginia, (\$20,000, declined)
- 2020 Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab Fellowship at the University of Virginia (\$5,000)
- 2020 Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Summer Research Fellowship (\$4,000)
- 2020 Society of Fellows Research Grant (\$3,200)
- 2020 Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, Global South Lab Dissertation Proposal Fellowship, University of Virginia (\$1,000)
- 2019-2020 Junior Fellow, The Society of Fellows at the University of Virginia
- 2019 Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab Fellowship at the University of Virginia Awarded \$5,000 to produce an audio documentary. Research collaboration with Matthew Ito (M.A. Cultural Studies, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa) and advised by Dr. Camilla Fojas (Ph.D. and Chair, American Studies, University of Virginia)
- 2019 University of Virginia, Department of Sociology Travel Grant (\$800)

- 2018 University of Virginia, Department of Sociology Travel Grant (\$800)
- 2017 Summer Research Grant, University of Virginia Department of Sociology (\$700)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Invited Panel: “Decentering the Atlantic.” **The American Sociological Association** (ASA). New York City, USA. August 2026.
- 2026 Invited Panel: “Methods for Global-Transnational Sociology.” **The American Sociological Association** (ASA). New York City, USA. August 2026.
- 2026 “The Misogynoir of Sovereignty: The Political Lives of Cockacoeske and Lil’uokalani.” **The Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics** (SASE). Bordeaux, France. July 2026.
- 2026 “Our Good Friends from Israel have Been Here”: Confronting Militarism in Hawai’i through Spatial and Temporal Solidarities.” **Eastern Sociological Society**. Washington D.C., USA. March 2026.
- 2025 “Fueling Empire: Kanaka Maoli and Non-Native Solidarities during the O’ahu Water Crisis.” **Native American and Indigenous Studies Association** (NAISA). Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA. June 2025.
- 2025 “The Misogynoir of Sovereignty: Cockacoeske, Lili’uokalani, and the Violence of Recognition.” Decolonizing Sociology Mini-Conference, **Eastern Sociological Society**. Boston, Massachusetts, USA. March 2025.
- 2025 “Faulty Lines: Grief and Guilt in the Wake of Ecological Violence.” Environmental Sociology Mini-Conference, **Eastern Sociological Society**. Boston, Massachusetts, USA. March 2025.
- 2024 “Greeting Our Ghosts: Community Engaged Historical Sociology.” Panel on “State Violence and Empire” for the **Mini-Conference of the ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology**. Montréal, Canada. August 2024.
- 2024 “Inherent Empire: Political and Biological Lineages of State Power.” Race and Ethnicity Regular Sessions, “Race, Space, Institutions and Power.” **American Sociological Association**. Montréal, Canada. August 2024.
- 2023 “The Black Queen”: Antiblackness and State-Sovereignty in the Colonization of Hawai’i.” Panel on “Here, There, Everywhere: Blackness Across the Globe.” **Social Science History Association**. Washington D.C. November 2023.

- 2023 “Indigeneity, History, and Historical Analysis.” Panel Organizer and Discussant. **Social Science History Association**. Washington D.C. November 2023.
- 2023 “Liquid Solidarities: The O’ahu Water Crisis Impact on Haoles and Hawaiians.” Panel on “Contemporary Colonization, Occupied Land, and Indigenous Peoples in Global Perspective.” **American Sociological Association**. Philadelphia, PA. August 2023.
- 2023 “Critical Approaches to the Archives” **2023 Comparative Historical Sociology Mini-Conference**. Panel Discussant. Philadelphia, PA. August 2023.
- 2023 “Imperial Epistemologies of Ignorance: Rights and Whiteness in the Hawai‘i Equal Rights Commission (1935-1947)” Panel on “Diasporic Routes in Colonized Hawai‘i.” **Berkshire Conference of Women Historians**. Santa Clara University, California. June-July 2023.
- 2023 “Bodies Worthy of States: Bio-Imperialism Before Eugenics.” Panel on Layers of Corporeality in Imperial Politics. **Eastern Sociological Society**. Baltimore, MD. February 2023.
- 2022 “The Integrationists Won: Constitutionality and the Future of the Progressive Empire.” Panel on The Potential and Paradoxes of Anti-Colonial Knowledge Production. **Social Science History Association**. Chicago, IL. November 2022.
- 2022 Plenary Session: Community Data at Scale, **Achieving Health Equity in a World of Data**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Baltimore, MD. October 2022.
- 2022 "Seeing Race Like a State: New Avenues for Studying Empires and Racism." Plenary Panel for the **Mini-Conference of the ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology** Section. Los Angeles, CA. August 2022.
- 2022 “Imperial Epistemologies of Ignorance: The Equal Rights Commission in Occupied Hawai‘i.” Panel on Racial Epistemologies. **Eastern Sociological Society**. Boston, MA. March 2022.
- 2021 “Making the Nation Through Racial Equations: Eugenics and Settler Sociology.” Panel presentation on Empire, Citizenship and Racial Subjectivity. **Social Science History Association**. Philadelphia, PA. November 2021.
- 2021 “Whiteness at the Edges of U.S. Empire.” Roundtable presentation, Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations Section. **American Sociological Association**. August 2021.
- 2019 “Colonial and Decolonial Resignification: Nations and Sovereignities in Hawai‘i” Panel on “Race and Power in Transoceanic Circuits.” **Social Science History Association**, Chicago, IL. November 2019.

- 2019 “International Dimensions of Race and State Formation.” Panel discussant. **Social Science History Association**, Chicago, IL. November 2019.
- 2019 “The Cultural Politics of Sovereignty: Semiotic Currents and the Polynesian Voyaging Society.” Regular session panel: “Race, Colonialism, and Fields in Comparative Historical Sociology.” **American Sociological Association**, New York, NY. August 2019.
- 2019 “Resignifying Peoples and Places: Settler Colonialism in Hawai‘i.” Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition (selected with honorarium). **University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA. March 2019.
- 2018 “The Cultural Politics of Sovereignty: Decolonial collective action and the Polynesian Voyaging Society.” Panel presentation on “Power and Normativity” at the annual meeting of the **Social Science History Association**, Phoenix, AZ. November 2018.
- 2018 “Settler Colonial Resignification and Indigenous Resurgence: cultural sovereignty in Hawai‘i.” Section Session on Racial and Ethnic Minorities on Settler Colonialism at the annual meeting of the **American Sociological Association**, Philadelphia, PA. August 2018.
- 2017 University of Virginia, Charlottesville. **Diversifying Scholarship at UVA**. “Settler Colonial Insights into the Study of Race and Class.” November 2017

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “[Remembering Red Hill](#)” Red Hill Registry Community Event. November 2025
- 2025 “Understanding Settler Colonialism” SUNY BDS. October 2025.
- 2024 “‘The Black Queen’: Antiblackness and State Sovereignty in the Colonization of Hawai‘i” Borderlands Colloquia, Department of History. University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. February 2024.
- 2023 “Archives of Life and Death at Red Hill Camp (1941-1943)” The Red Hill Task Force at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (virtual). December 2023.
- 2023 “Colonialism-Blind Antiracism: Constitutionality and the Limits of Settler Infighting” School of International Service, American University, Ethnographies of Empire Faculty Cluster, Washington D.C. April 2023.
- 2023 “Liquid Solidarities: The O‘ahu Water Crisis” Research Presentation. Department of Sociology, PGSC Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. April 2023

- 2023 Coalition for Networked Information. CLIR Postdoctoral Panelist. Denver, CO. April 2023
- 2022 Dissenters Teach-In Rally. Presentation, “JHU’s Complicity in War and Climate Disaster.” Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, MD. November 2022.
- 2022 Guest Lecture and Q&A “Antiracism Amidst Empire” for Dr. Katrina Quisumbing King’s course, *The Politics of Racial Knowledge*. Northwestern University (virtual). October 2022.
- 2022 “Whiteness and U.S. Empire.” Native and Indigenous Relations Community (NIRC). University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. March 2022.
- 2022 Flash Panel of Comparative Historical Analysis and Theory (CHAT) on the Global Historical Sociology of Race and Racism. January 2022 (virtual).
- 2021 “Theories of Degeneration: Racial Teleologies on the Eastern Seaboard and in Oceania” Paper Presentation to the Sociological Working Group on Aesthetics, Meaning, and Power (SWAMP). Department of Sociology, University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. April 2021.
- 2021 “Race, Religion, and Science in Settler Colonial Contexts” Guest lecture and discussion for Sociology of Religion, Dr. Katya Makarova, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. April 2021.
- 2021 *Empires: A Historical and Political Sociology* by Krishan Kumar, Book Talk Discussant. Department of Sociology, University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. April 2021.
- 2020 “Origins of Race: Histories of Slavery and Settler Colonialism” Guest Lecture for Sociology of Race, Dr. Rose Buckelew, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. September 2020.
- 2018 Native American Studies at UVA, Intersections: Place/Policy and Culture/Capitalism. University of Virginia, Charlottesville. April 2018.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Race and Ethnicity

Comparative Historical Sociology

Global and Transnational Sociology

Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations

Political Sociology

Environmental Sociology

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)

Social Science History Association (SSHA)
Association for Humanist Sociology (AHS)
Eastern Sociological Association (ESS)
American Studies Association (ASA)

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Current | Binghamton Native American and Indigenous Studies Working Group (B-NAIS) |
| Current | Haudenosaunee Festival Planning Committee (hosted at Binghamton University) |
| Current | Graduate Committee, Department of Sociology |
| 2025-2026 | Graduate Admissions Committee |
| 2026 | LGBTQIA+ Panel: Navigating Your College-to-Career Journey. Panel Participant. Binghamton University and the Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development. February 11, 2026. |
| 2025 | “Decolonizing Higher Education: Engaging with Haudenosaunee Partners at Binghamton University” Panel Event Organizing Committee. February 21, 2025. |
| 2024 | Co-organizer. “The U.S. Military-Industrial-University Complex and the War on Gaza.” Panel discussion. Johns Hopkins University |
| 2023 | Organizer of event on nuclearization in Oceania, “On the Morning You Wake” Film screen and discussion with Dr. Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio and Dr. Sylvia Frain. Johns Hopkins University. |
| 2020-2022 | Member of the Native and Indigenous Relations Community (formerly the Native American and Indigenous Studies at UVa Working Group) Former committee member on “Curriculum and Place-making” and “Inter-Disciplinary PhD Fellowship in Indigenous Studies.” |
| 2021 | Sociology Department Colloquium Committee, University of Virginia. |
| 2020-2021 | Graduate Working Group on Anti-Racism and Equity in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia. Co-Founder. |
| 2020 | Committee and Facilitator, “Teaching Online Summer Courses” May 2020, Hosted by the Department of Sociology, University of Virginia. |
| 2019-2020 | Department of Sociology Representative, Graduate Council of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia. |
| 2019 | Committee and presentation, “Graduate Student Teaching in Sociology.” Hosted by the Department of Sociology, University of Virginia. August 26, 2019. |

- 2018 Committee and student organizer, department symposium, “Diverse Disciplines, Inclusive Institutions: Rethinking our Academic Agendas” March 15-16, 2018. Hosted by the Department of Sociology, University of Virginia.
- 2017-2019 Graduate peer-advisor for incoming first-year graduate students within Sociology

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2025-2026 Decolonizing Sociology Mini-Conference, Eastern Sociological Society, March 2026. (Co-organizer)
- 2025-2026 Awards Committee, Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations Section (IPNN) of the ASA
- 2025- Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations (IPNN, ASA), Council Member-at-Large
- 2025- Membership Committee for the Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations Section (IPNN) of the ASA, committee chair
- 2024 - Global and Transnational Sociology (GATS) Research Cluster, “Empire and Its Legacies.” (Co-organizer)
- 2024-2025 Comparative-Historical Sociology (CHS) Program Committee
- 2023-2025 Communications Committee for the Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations Section (IPNN) of the ASA, committee co-chair
- 2023 CHS Mini-Conference Planning Committee Member
- 2021- 2023 Managing Editor, [*Humanity and Society*](#)
- 2021-2022 Global and Transnational Sociology (GATS) Professional Development Workshop Series, Coordinator
- 2021-2022 Nominations Committee for the Global and Transnational Sociology Section of the ASA, committee member

Ad hoc reviewer: *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Humanity & Society*, *Anthropology in Action*, *Mobilizations*, *Wičazo Ša Review*

READING AND WORKING GROUPS

- 2023-2024 Hopkins Coalition Against War
- 2022-2023 Black Worlds Seminar, Johns Hopkins University

- 2020-2021 Research and Reading Group on Transpacific Empires, ASA section on Global and Transnational Sociology
- 2017-2022 Sociological Working Group on Aesthetics, Meaning, and Power, (SWAMP) University of Virginia
- 2019 Working Group on Critical Theories of Modernity, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia
- 2017 Critical Race Theory Reading Group, University of Virginia
- 2016-17 Postcolonial Theory Reading Group, University of Virginia