

**Lauren Coyle**  
121 Aaron Burr Hall, Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
[laurencoyle@princeton.edu](mailto:laurencoyle@princeton.edu)

---

### **Academic Appointments**

#### **Princeton University**

Assistant Professor of Anthropology (tenure-track), July 2016 –  
Fellow, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, July 2015 – June 2016

Faculty Fellow, Fung Global Fellows Program  
Executive Committee Member, Program on African Studies  
Associate Departmental Representative, Department of Anthropology

#### **Harvard University & Harvard Law School**

Lecturer in Social Studies & Law, July 2014 – June 2015  
Fellow, W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute, Hutchins Center

### **Education**

#### **University of Chicago**

M.A. in Anthropology (sociocultural), June 2011

Ph.D. in Anthropology (sociocultural), August 2014

Master's thesis: "Tender Reckoned in Time: Dispossession and Reconstitution on the Edges of a Gold Mine in Ghana"

Dissertation: *Sovereigns of the Golden Twilight: Law, Land, and Sacrificial Labor in Ghana*

University Fellowship, Division of the Social Sciences (most competitive full fellowship)

Dissertation received the single University of Chicago nomination across disciplines for a national competition for Best Dissertation in the Social Sciences (convened by Council of Graduate Schools)

#### **Harvard Law School**

J.D., *cum laude*, June 2008

Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Unbound: Harvard Journal of the Legal Left*

Editor, *Harvard Human Rights Journal*

Passed the New York Bar Exam, July 2008

#### **Ohio University**

B.A. in Anthropology, *summa cum laude*, with Highest Departmental Honors, June 2005

B.S. in Journalism, *summa cum laude*, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, June 2005  
Named Scripps “Overall Outstanding Senior” (given to top graduating student)  
Phi Beta Kappa (junior year; received Thomas M. Wolfe award for highest GPA of initiates)

## Publications

### Book manuscripts in preparation:

Coyle, Lauren. *Fires of Gold: Law, Land, and Sacrificial Labor in Ghana*.

Coyle, Lauren. *Law in Light: Truth, Temporality, and Ritual Power in Africa*.

### Articles or book chapters:

Coyle, Lauren. “In Gold’s Thrall: Mining Politics and Mystical Power in Ghana” (in prep.)

Coyle, Lauren. “Fallen Chiefs and Sacrificial Mining in Ghana,” in *The Politics of Custom: Chiefs, Capital, and Culture in Contemporary Africa*, eds. Jean Comaroff and John L. Comaroff (Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press), 2017. (in press; commissioned)

Coyle, Lauren. “Tender Is the Mine: Law, Shadow Rule, and the Public Gaze in Ghana,” in *Corporate Social Responsibility? Human Rights in the New Global Economy*, eds. Charlotte Walker-Said and John Kelly (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 2015. (commissioned)

Ralph, Michael, and Lauren Coyle. “Resource Curse?” *Transition* 107 (2012):151-159. (film review essay, *Elmina* (2010)) (commissioned)

Coyle, Lauren. “The Spiritless Rose in the Cross of the Present: Retracing Hegel in Adorno’s *Negative Dialectics* and Related Lectures.” *Telos* 155 (2011):39-61.

Coyle, Lauren. “The Birth of the Labor Bureau: Surveillance, Pacification, and the Statistical Objectivity Metanarrative.” *Rethinking Marxism* 22, no. 4 (2010):544-568.

Coyle, Lauren, Nate Ela, and Zinaida Miller. “Introduction: Reveling in Resistance, Imagining Reconstruction.” *Unbound: Harvard Journal of the Legal Left* 3 (2007):i-v.

## Selected External Fellowships, Grants, & Honors

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2017      | Member, Center for Theological Inquiry (unable to accept)   |
| 2016      | Visiting Scholar, W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute for African and African American Research, Hutchins Center, Harvard University (summer) |
| 2015-2016 | Fellow, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS)  |

- 2014-2015 Fellow, W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute for African and African American Research, Hutchins Center, Harvard University (non-residential)
- 2013-2014 Dorothy Porter and Charles Harris Wesley Fellowship, W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute for African and African American Research, Hutchins Center, Harvard University (residential)
- 2013-2014 Research Fellowship, Program on the Study of Capitalism and Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard University
- 2011-2014 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Science to Achieve Results (EPA-STAR) Graduate Research Fellowship (36 months)
- 2011-2012 Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), International Dissertation Research Fellowship, with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (12 months)
- 2011-2012 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (12 months)
- 2011-2012 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Osmundsen Initiative Award (supplementary grant for anthropological research with broader social or intellectual relevance)
- 2011-2012 Some Institutes for Advanced Study (SIAS) Summer Institute Fellowship, "Regulating the World Society: Law, Governance, and the Quest for Global Justice," 2011 in Germany and 2012 in U.S. (administered by the National Humanities Center (NHC) and the Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin, with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation).
- 2011-2012 Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Planning and Urban Form
- 2011 West African Research Association (WARA) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
- 2010 American Philosophical Society, Lewis and Clark Field Scholar
- 2010 Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI) / Institute for Poverty, Land, and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), research grant

### **Selected University Fellowships, Grants, & Honors**

- 2017 Research Grant, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University
- 2016 Research Grant, University Committee on Research in the Humanities and

Social Sciences, Princeton University

- 2016 Award recipient, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund for Innovation in Undergraduate Education, Princeton University
- 2012, 2014 Research Fellowship, Nicholson Center for British Studies, University of Chicago (unable to accept, 2012).
- 2013-2014 Social Sciences Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2008-2013 University Fellowship, Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago (most competitive fellowship) (active 2008-2011, partially declined 2011-2013)
- 2012-2013 Human Rights Research Grant, Human Rights Program, University of Chicago
- 2011 Human Rights Internship, Human Rights Program, University of Chicago (unable to accept)
- 2010 Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture Research Grant, University of Chicago (unable to accept)
- 2010, 2011 African Language Fund Grant, Committee on African and African American Studies, University of Chicago (unable to accept, 2010)
- 2008 Travel grant, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School
- 2007 Harvard Human Rights Program Summer Fellowship, Harvard Law School
- 2005 Named Scripps Overall Outstanding Senior (given to the top graduating student)
- 2005 Awarded highest departmental honors for thesis in Anthropology: “A Reconstruction of Obsidian Trade Networks in the Southeastern Periphery of the Ancient Maya Lowlands”
- 2004 Phi Beta Kappa (elected junior year)
- 2004 Thomas M. Wolfe Award, for highest GPA of Phi Beta Kappa junior-year initiates
- 2004-2005 Ed Brown Memorial Scholarship from E.W. Scripps School of Journalism
- 2004-2005 Alice O. Kemmerle Scholarship from the College of Arts & Sciences
- 2002-2005 Dean’s Scholarship
- 2002-2003 Cortland Anderson Scholarship from E.W. Scripps School of Journalism

## Teaching Experience

### Courses taught independently:

Vision & Mystery: Spirits, Fields, Truths (Princeton)  
Labors of Consciousness: Culture, Capital, Moral Economy (Princeton)  
Rituals of Governing (Princeton)  
The Ethnographer's Craft (Princeton)  
Harvard Africa Workshop: New Forms of Law, Economy, Politics, and Culture (Harvard Law School)  
Global Climate Change (Harvard)  
Law, Culture, and State Power in Africa (Harvard)  
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (North Central College)

### Courses taught as a teaching fellow:

The Anthropology of Law: Perspectives from Africa and Elsewhere (Harvard & Harvard Law School)  
Self, Culture, and Society (University of Chicago)  
Public Policy Practicum (University of Chicago)  
U.S. Environmental Policy (University of Chicago)  
History of American Capitalism (Harvard)

## Fieldwork & Archival Research

Summer 2014 – archival research in London (colonial, missionary, merchant, and mining company archives)  
December 2011 – December 2012 – ten months in Obuasi, two months in Accra (Ghana)  
Summer 2011 – Accra, Kumasi, and Obuasi  
Summer 2010 – Accra, Kumasi, and Obuasi  
Summer 2007 – Accra

## Selected Organizing Roles

2013            Co-organizer, panel session on “Violence, Capital, and the Logics of Sacrifice in Africa,” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 20-24, 2013.

2013            Co-organizer, panel session on “Authoritarian Rule of Law, ‘Upward Adjustment,’ and Sovereignty in the Postcolonial World,” Law and Society Association annual meeting, Boston, Mass., May 30 – June 2.

2011            Co-organizer, Committee on African and African American Studies spring conference, “Time, Place, and the Problem of Uncertainty in Africa,” University of Chicago, May 27-28.

- 2010-2011 Coordinator, African Studies Workshop, Council on Advanced Studies and Committee on African and African American Studies, University of Chicago.
- 2010 Co-organizer, Committee on African and African American Studies spring conference, “Politics in Africa: A Reexamination on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *African Political Systems*,” University of Chicago, April 30-May 1.
- 2007 Co-organizer, *Unbound*’s spring symposium, “Resistance and the Law: Radicalism, Extremism, Legitimacy, Cooptation,” Harvard Law School, March 16-17.
- 2006-2007 Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Unbound: Harvard Journal of the Legal Left*.
- 2006-2007 Board Member, Women’s Law Association, Harvard Law School. (Chair, Women in Academia)
- 2005-2006 Editor, *Harvard Human Rights Journal*.

#### **Selected Invited Lectures & Presentations**

- 2017 Presentation, “Ritual Realms of Illicit Gold,” panel on “The Illicit Circulation of Precious Minerals,” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November.
- 2017 Commentary, panel on “Migrant Desires: Uprooted Lives and Labor in Late Capitalism,” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November.
- 2017 Presentation, “Anthropology, Discipline, and Critical Pedagogy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C, June 8.
- 2017 Poetry reading, selections from the collection, *Aslant*, Faculty Salon, Department of Anthropology, Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton University, April 17.
- 2017 Lecture, “Spectral Laws of the Golden Lands in Ghana,” Center for Constitutional Democracy, Indiana University.
- 2016 Paper presentation, “Ghosts of Gold,” for conference, “Evidence of What?” Princeton University, Oct. 13-14.
- 2016 Participant, final round table for conference, “Landscapes of Law: Trade, Security, and Transnational Ethnography,” Princeton University, Apr. 9.

- 2015 Paper presentation, "Gold, Terror, and Spiritual Labor in Ghana," American Anthropological Association annual meeting, panel on "Transparent Minerals," Denver, Col., Nov. 18.
- 2015 Lecture, "Sovereign Shadows and Gold's Two Bodies in Ghana," Princeton Society of Fellows, Oct. 16.
- 2015 Lecture, "Sacrificial Gold and Ritual Power in Ghana," Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Williams College, Jan. 20.
- 2015 Lecture, "Soul's Gold and Sacred Violence in Ghana," Department of Anthropology, Princeton University, Jan. 13.
- 2014 Lecture, "Sovereignty and the Spirits of Gold in Ghana," Department of Anthropology and Watson Institute, Brown University, Dec. 8.
- 2014 Paper presentation, "Shadow Sovereigns and Gold's Two Bodies in Ghana," American Anthropological Association annual meeting, panel on "Producing the Semi-Official: Anthropologies of Bureaucracy and the Everyday." Washington, D.C. Dec. 3-7.
- 2014 Panel presentation, book launch event for Christine Desan's *Making Money: Coin, Currency, and the Coming of Capitalism* (Oxford University Press, 2014), Harvard Law School, Nov. 12.
- 2014 Presentation, "Extractive Industries: Gold and Oil in Ghana," Heterodox Innovations and Development Pathways (economists and critical legal scholars), Sciences Po Law School and Harvard Law School Institute for Global Law and Policy. Held at Sciences Po, Paris, May 17-19.
- 2014 Paper presentation, "Chiefs, Gold, and Sacred Violence in Ghana," Harvard Committee on African Studies spring conference, "Chiefship and the Customary in Contemporary Africa," Apr. 25.
- 2014 Presentation at Ghana Oil Governance, Radcliffe Exploratory Workshop, Harvard University, Mar. 15.
- 2014 Lecture, "Sacrificial Gold and Sovereign Shadows in Ghana," Department of Anthropology and Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University, Mar. 13.
- 2014 Lecture, "Sovereignty and the Spirits of Gold in Ghana," W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute for African and African American Research, Hutchins Center, Harvard University, Feb. 19.

- 2013 Paper presentation, "Sovereigns of the Sacred: Possession, Redemption, and Sacrificial Mining in Ghana," Harvard Africa Workshop, Harvard University, Oct. 21.
- 2013 Lecture, "Sacrificial Mining and the Blood of the Body Politic in Ghana," Walter Rodney Seminar Series, African Studies Centre, Boston University, Oct. 7.
- 2013 Paper presentation, "Sacrificial Laws of the Golden Lands: Fallen Chiefs, Artisanal Miners, and 'Upward Adjustment' in Ghana," Harvard Africa Workshop spring conference, "The State of Extractive Economies in Contemporary Africa," Harvard University, Apr. 26.
- 2013 Presentation, roundtable on "The Romance of Constitutional Participation" (with Vicki Jackson and Mark Tushnet), Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study Workshop, "Improvising Responsive Democracy: Ghana's Bold Project in Constitutional Design," convened by Lucie White, Katie Young, and Raymond Atuguba, Apr. 11-12.
- 2012 Paper presentation, "Sacrificial Sovereigns and the Policing of Territorialized Citizenship: Techniques of Neoliberal Awakening in Mining Towns in Ghana," workshop on "Organizing Fragmented Territoriality," through the EU COST working group, "International Law between Constitutionalization and Fragmentation," University of Hamburg, Germany, Nov. 15.
- 2011 Paper presentation, "The Spiritless Rose in the Cross of the Present: Retracing Hegel in Adorno's *Negative Dialectics* and Related Lectures," Social Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, May 16.
- 2011 Paper presentation, "Gold Mining, Dual Legal Regimes, and the Complexities of Extractive CSR in Ghana," Human Rights Program spring conference, "Corporate Social Responsibility: A New Business Framework for Human Rights," University of Chicago, Apr. 30.
- 2010 Paper presentation, "Refiguring the Anthropology and Sociology of Money: Beyond Performativity and Discursivity to Money as Capital," Workshop on the Political Economy of Modern Capitalism, Harvard University, Mar. 28.
- 2009 Paper presentation, "Bourgeois Totality and Juridical Universality as Commodity Form: Retracing Hegel in Adorno's *Negative Dialectics* and Related Lectures," Law, Culture, and Society Workshop, University of Chicago, Nov. 4.

#### **Other Selected Lectures & Presentations**

- 2013 Paper presentation, "Desire, Death, and Sacrificial Mining in Ghana," American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 20-24.



- 2013 Paper presentation, "Sovereigns of the Sacred: Possession, Redemption, and Sacrificial Mining in Ghana," African Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Nov. 19.
- 2013 Paper presentation, "Sacrificial Laws of the Golden Lands: Artisanal Miners, Authoritarian Echoes, and 'Upward Adjustment' in Ghana," Law and Society Association annual meeting, Boston, Mass., May 30.
- 2013 Paper presentation, "Sacrificial Laws of the Golden Lands: Fallen Chiefs, Artisanal Miners, and Authoritarian Echoes in Ghana," African Studies Workshop spring conference, "No Condition Is Permanent? Permanence, Flux, and Mobility in Contemporary Africa," University of Chicago, May 17.
- 2011 Paper presentation, "Tender Reckoned in Time: Dispossession and Reconstitution on the Edges of a Gold Mine in Ghana," SIAS Summer Institute, Berlin, July 11.
- 2011 Paper presentation, "Tender Reckoned in Time: Dispossession and Reconstitution on the Edges of a Gold Mine in Ghana," African Studies Workshop spring conference, "Time, Place, and the Problem of Uncertainty in Africa," University of Chicago, May 27.
- 2010 Paper presentation, "Dual Ghosts of Dispossession: Schism and Reconstitution on the Margins of Ghanaian Gold Mining Towns," African Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Dec. 7.
- 2010 Paper presentation, "Specular Visions, Spectacular Violence: Fetish Figurations of Law and Order in the Wake of the Accra Riots of 1948," at the African Studies Workshop spring conference, "Politics in Africa: A Reexamination on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *African Political Systems*," University of Chicago, May 9.
- 2007 Opening reflections for talk by Immanuel Wallerstein, "Precipitate Decline in U.S. Power and Its Legal Implications," Harvard Law School, Apr. 12.

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Anthropological Association  
 Anthropology and the Environment, AAA section  
 American Ethnological Society  
 Association for Africanist Anthropology  
 Association for Political and Legal Anthropology  
 Ghana Studies Association  
 Law and Society Association  
 Society for Cultural Anthropology  
 Society for Economic Anthropology  
 West African Research Association

