

# 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

Concentrations: American History; History and Philosophy of Science and Technology

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 Awards

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

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 Öğütle and Sanem Güvenç-Salgırlı. 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 (online)

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

“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

“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**

Moderator: “Science, Technology, and Antiracism: A Researchers’ Roundtable.” Cornell University, May 2021

“Which shall be regarded as the best?’: Axiom Systems and American Mathematics.” Philadelphia Area Society for the History of Mathematics, March 2021

“American Postulate Theory.” Colorado College Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, February 2021

“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

“‘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

“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

## **Research Assistantships**

Prof. Stephen Hilgartner, “Ethics-in-the-Making: Changing Practices in Data Science,”  
Cornell University, 2020

Dr. Luisa Cortesi, grants and publications editor, Cornell University, 2019-2020

Dr. Diego DiBernardo, publications editor and IT assistant, Telethon Institute of Genetics  
and Medicine, 2012-2013

## **Teaching Positions**

Instructor, Cornell University, 2016-current

STS 2750 Introduction to the Humanities: Science and Human Culture

STS 1101 Science, Technology, and Politics

STS 1126 Knowledge, Power, and Mathematics

Instructor, Cornell Prison Education Program, Auburn Correctional Facility, 2015-2017

HIST 105 American History Since 1865

CPEP Prep: College Math and Writing

Instructor, University Heights High School, The Bronx, NY, Fall 2017

Power Writers College Prep,

Teaching Assistant, Warrior-Scholar Project, Cornell University Summer 2020

College Writing Workshop for Veterans

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, 2015-2020

STS 2841 Viruses, Humans, Viral Politics

STS 3561 Computing Cultures”

STS 2061 Ethics and the Environment”

STS 2051 Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine

## **Teacher Training**

Learning Community for Inclusive Teaching, Cornell Online, Fall 2020  
“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

## **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

## **Service**

Co-organizer, Cornell Science and Technology Studies Anti-racist Working Group  
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; Matlab; Stata; CAD (NX 5.0)

## **References**

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