

# Ellen Abrams

Postdoctoral Associate | McGill University

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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

## Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Researcher, McGill University, Montreal, QC 2021-2024

Visiting Fellow, Cornell Tech Digital Life Initiative, New York, NY 2021-2023

Adjunct Professor, New York University, New York, NY 2022

Postdoctoral Fellow, Cornell Humanities Scholars Program, Ithaca, NY 2020-2021

Instructor, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 2019-2023

## 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

- “A Letter from Dr. Caroline Eustis Seely.” In *Women in the History of Science: A Sourcebook*, edited by Rebecca Martin, Farrah Lawrence-Mackey, Sadie Harrison, Erika Jones, and Hannah Wills. London: UCL Press, (2023).
- “Emergent Unfairness in Algorithmic Fairness-Accuracy Trade-Off Research.” *Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society* (2021) with A. Feder Cooper.
- “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.
- “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-Salgırlı. Istanbul: Doğu Batı Publishers, (2019).
- “Sake.” In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Alcohol: Social, Cultural, and Historical Perspectives*, edited by Scott C. Martin, 1101-1103. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 2015.

## Reviews

- Review of *Pragmatism’s Evolution: Organism and Environment in American Philosophy*, by Trevor Pearce. *Isis* 113, no. 4 (2022): 885-886.
- 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.

## Selected Conference Presentations

- “The Scripta Mathematica Library and the “Survival” of Mathematics in America.” *The History of Science Society Annual Meeting*, November 2021 (online)
- “Centering the Fringe: A Focus on Mathematical Knowledge across Fields and Contexts.” *Society for Social Studies of Science*, October 2021 (online)
- Symposium co-organizer and chair: “Placing Mathematical Knowledge in a World of and Beyond Nations.” *The International Congress of History of Science & Technology*, July 2021 (online)
- “Global Mathematics and Local Masculinities.” *The International Congress of History of*

- Science & Technology*, July 2021 (online)
- “‘Logical Fate’ and ‘Intellectual Freedom’.” *American Mathematical Society and Mathematical Association of America Joint Mathematics Meeting*, January 2021 (online)
- “American Masculinities and Modern Mathematics, 1890-1945.” *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, January 2021 (online)
- “‘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

### **Invited Talks**

- “Feminist Theories of Mathematics.” University of Kentucky working group on Ethics, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice in the Mathematical Sciences, October 2023
- Keynote Speaker: “Bridging Science and the Humanities.” Undergraduate Research Day, University of Texas Permian Basin, April 2022
- 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

### **Teaching Experience**

Adjunct Professor, New York University, New York, NY

STS 2144 Ethics and Technology—Spring 2022, Fall 2022

Instructor, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

STS 1101 Science, Technology, and Politics—Summers 2019-2023

STS 2750 Introduction to the Humanities: Science and Human Culture—Spring 2021

STS 1126 Knowledge, Power, and Mathematics—Fall 2016, Fall 2019

Instructor, Cornell Prison Education Program, Auburn Correctional Facility, Auburn, NY

HIST 105 American History Since 1865—Spring 2021

CPEP Prep: College Math and Writing—Fall 2016, Spring 2017

Instructor, University Heights High School, The Bronx, NY

Power Writers College Prep—Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant, Warrior-Scholar Project, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
College Writing Workshop for Veterans—Summer 2020

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
STS 2841 Viruses, Humans, Viral Politics—Spring 2020  
STS 3561 Computing Cultures—Spring 2019  
STS 2061 Ethics and the Environment—Fall 2015, Spring 2017  
STS 2051 Ethical Issues in Health and Medicine—Spring 2016

### **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-chair, Women’s Caucus, History of Science Society, 2024-2025  
Co-organizer, Cornell Science and Technology Studies Anti-racist Working Group 2021  
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