

Liliana Gil

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023- **Assistant Professor of Comparative Studies (STS), Ohio State University**
Secondary affiliations: Anthropology; Center for Latin American Studies; Global Arts and Humanities; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- 2023 **Lecturer, NUS College, National University of Singapore**
Arts & Design Impact Experience Cluster

EDUCATION

- 2022 **PhD in Anthropology, The New School**
Dissertation: "Beyond Make-do Innovation: Practices and Politics of Technological Improvisation in Brazil" | Committee: Hugh Raffles (chair), Miriam Ticktin, Mara Mills, Ivan da Costa Marques
- 2015 **MA in Anthropology, The New School**
- 2011 **MSc in Medical Anthropology, University of Coimbra**
Thesis: "Exhibiting Irritations: Experimenting Inside Art and Science" | Advisor: Luís Quintais | Research Visit: Fulbright Program at UC Berkeley, hosted by Paul Rabinow
- 2008 **Licenciatura in Anthropology (Bio and Sociocultural), NOVA University of Lisbon**

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

anthropology of tech, STS, design, innovation, computing, work, repair, industrial ethnography, digital futures, DIY and citizen science, art-science intersections, inequality, critical development, post/decolonial and feminist theories, ethnographic methods.

PUBLICATIONS

- Journal Articles**
- 2023 "Becoming a Repair Entrepreneur: An Ethnography of Skills Training in Brazil." *Third World Quarterly*, 45, 4: 640-657.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2023.2207006>
- 2022 "A Fablab at the Periphery: Decentering Innovation from São Paulo." *American Anthropologist*, 124, 4: 721-733. <http://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13769>

- 2016 “Method as Responsibility in Applied Research.” *Vis-à-vis: Explorations in Anthropology*, 13, 1: 97-113. (Co-authored with Filipa Queirós, refereed graduate student journal) <https://vav.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/vav/article/view/27058>
- 2014 “A Relevância das Narrativas de Experiência da Doença: Desafios Concetuais e Metodológicos.” *Sociologia Online – Revista da Associação Portuguesa de Sociologia*, 7: 81-97. (Co-authored with Filipa Queirós and João Arriscado Nunes) <https://revista.aps.pt/pt/a-relevancia-das-narrativas-de-experiencia-da-doenca-desafios-concetuais-e-metodologicos/>
- 2010 “«A Arte Pós-Darwin»: Política dos Artefactos e da Tecnologia a Partir de uma Experiência Etnográfica.” *Antropologia Portuguesa*, 27-28: 97-120. http://dx.doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982_27_6

In Preparation

- Improvised Tech: Tactics for an Unequal World* (book manuscript)
- “Improvisation from the South: Kaleidoscopic Snapshots of Everyday Tech-Making.” *Configurations* (Special Issue on Improvisation and STS)
- “The Making Together Kit.” VandenBroek, Angela and Taylor, Nicole (eds.). *Kits for Digital Methods: Doing Sociotechnical Research*. Routledge.
- “Social Lives of Repair.” York, Emily et al. (eds.). *An STS Teachbook*. Lever Press.
- [reprint] “Becoming a Repair Entrepreneur: An Ethnography of Skills Training in Brazil.” Brown, Trent and De Neve, Geert (eds.). *The Social Life of Skills in the Global South*. Routledge.

Book Reviews and Author Interviews

- 2025 Interview with Chloe Ahmann about *Futures After Progress: Hope and Doubt in Late Industrial Baltimore* (University of Chicago Press 2024). New Books Network podcast. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/chloe-ahmann-futures-after-progress-hope-and-doubt-in-late-industrial-baltimore-u-chicago-press-2024>
- 2024 Interview with Héctor Beltrán about *Code Work Hacking Across the US/México Techno-Borderlands* (Princeton University Press 2023). New Books Network podcast. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/code-work>
- 2023 Interview with Nettrice Gaskins about *Techno-Vernacular Creativity and Innovation* (MIT Press 2021). New Books Network podcast. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/techno-vernacular-creativity-and-innovation>
- 2023 Interview with Elizabeth Reddy about *Alerta! Engineering on Shaky Ground* (MIT Press 2023). New Books Network podcast. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/alerta>
- 2018 “Teresa Caldeira on Urban Practices and Ethnographic Intimacy.” AnthroPod: The SCA Podcast, *Cultural Anthropology* website. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/teresa-caldeira-on-urban-practices-and-ethnographic-intimacy>

- 2017 "To Build This Other World Upon: An Interview with Stefanie Graeter." Dialogues, *Cultural Anthropology* website. (Co-authored with Marianinna Villavicencio) <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/to-build-this-other-world-upon-an-interview-with-stefanie-graeter>
- 2017 "Ethnography and Design." AnthroPod: The SCA Podcast, *Cultural Anthropology* website. (Executive Producer for Tariq Rahman and Katherine Sacco; episodes 1, 2, and 3) <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/ethnography-and-design-1-disability-design-and-performance>
- 2012 "Medical Anthropology, Activists and Intellectuals. An Interview with Nancy Scheper-Hughes." *Antropologia Portuguesa*, 29: 205-214. https://doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982_29_13
- 2008 Book review of *Picturing Personhood: Brain Scans and Biomedical Identity*, by J. Dumit. *Antropologia Portuguesa*, 24-25: 197-201. http://dx.doi.org/10.14195/2182-7982_25_14

Other Selected Work

- 2024 "Ecologia do reparo." Interviewed about my research on repair in São Paulo (Portuguese). Oxigênio podcast. <https://www.oxigenio.comciencia.br/176-ecologia-do-reparo-a-producao-tecnologica-no-santa-ifigenia-parte-1>
- 2017 "Palliative Care/Cuidados Paliativos." *Facta – Revista de Gambiologia*, 4: 117-120. <https://issuu.com/gambiologia/docs/facta4/117>
- 2016 "ISRO: On Resourceful Science." Contribution to The New School India China Institute Website. <https://www.indiachinainstitute.org/2016/07/14/isro-on-resourceful-science/>

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Awards

- 2025 **Margaret Lynd Faculty Teaching Award, Department of Comparative Studies, OSU**
Awarded annually to a Comparative Studies faculty member for excellence in teaching. Nominated by students for work in the undergraduate and graduate programs
- 2020 **David Hakken Graduate Student Paper Prize, CASTAC, GAD, AAA**
Awarded by the Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing of the American Anthropological Association for "A Fablab at the Periphery"
- 2020 **Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, New School for Social Research**
Awarded to six NSSR graduate student instructors. Nominated by students for work done as a Teaching Fellow at Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts
- 2009 **Merit Scholarship Award, University of Coimbra**
Top fourteen students (<1%) at the Faculty of Sciences and Technology
- 2007 **Merit Scholarship Award, New University of Lisbon**
Top six students (<1%) at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences

External Grants and Fellowships

- 2021-22 **Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship**
for dissertation write-up, awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies
- 2019-20 **National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant**
for fieldwork in Brazil, awarded by the Science, Technology, and Society Program with
co-review by the Cultural Anthropology Program
- 2019 **Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant**
for fieldwork in Brazil
- 2013-17 **Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology Doctoral Fellowship**
for graduate studies at The New School
- 2010-11 **Fulbright Program Research Grant**
for master's thesis research on sci-art at the University of California, Berkeley

Selected Internal Grants and Fellowships

- 2025-26 **Faculty Research Grant, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, OSU**
for course buy-out and other support to complete manuscript for publication
- 2024-26 **Dean's Innovation Fund – Educator Abroad Accelerator Fund**
to develop study abroad course in Lisbon, Portugal
- 2024-25 **International Research and Scholarship Grant, Office of International Affairs, OSU**
for summer research project "Colonial Threads of Technological Improvisation"
- 2024-25 **Undergraduate Research Access Innovation Seed Grant, Ohio State University**
for undergraduate experiential learning project "Social Lives of Repair (and other
overlooked tech practices in Columbus)"
- 2023-25 **Humanities Institute Collaboratory Grant, Ohio State University**
for Feminist Science and Technology Studies & Social Justice Working Group
- 2023-24 **CLAS Faculty Travel Grant, Ohio State University**
for summer fieldwork in Brazil
- 2017-19 **Janey Program in Latin American Studies Fellowship, The New School**
for summer research and year-round participation in the Janey Workshop
- 2016 **India China Institute Starr Summer Travel Research Grant, The New School**
for exploratory research in India (Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore)
- 2015-18 **Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Grant, New School for Social Research**
Multiple travel grants for pre-dissertation fieldwork

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Guest Lectures

- 2025 "Design Beyond the Board: Improvisation, Inequality, and Everyday Tech-Making." Going
Back to the Drawing Board: A Workshop on the Anthropology of Design, Humanities
Center, University of Rochester, USA.
- 2023 "Becoming a Repair Entrepreneur: An Ethnography of Skills Training." Sensibilidad y
Representación, Departamento de Antropología, Universidad de los Andes, Chile.

- 2023 “Ethnographic Methods for Unboxing Tech.” Smart Cities: History of Urban Data in Urban Planning, Urban Studies, Yale-NUS College, Singapore.
- 2022 “Studying Tech in/from Latin America.” Labor Tech Research Network Launch. ESOCITE/Society for Social Studies of Science Joint Meeting, Cholula, Mexico.
- 2022 “Can the Innovation Tools Dismantle the Innovation House?” Code-X Machina: Práticas de Código Crítico en las Artes, MedialabMx and Centro Multimedia - CENART, Mexico.
- 2021 “The Brazilian ‘Electronics Paradise:’ Repair Work and Skill in Santa Efigênia.” Anthropology of Work, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Lucerne, Switzerland.
- 2019 “Um Fab Lab na Periferia: Modelos em Trânsito e Inovação Inclusiva em São Paulo.” Alberto Luiz Coimbra Institute for Graduate Studies and Research in Engineering (COPPE), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2019 “Uma Etnografia sobre Improvisado Tecnológico: Partilhando Estratégias de Pesquisa.” GEICT – Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Study Group, Department of Science and Technology Policy, University of Campinas, Brazil.
- 2011 “The Work of Art in the Age of Biotechnology. An anthropological consideration of BioArt.” Portuguese Studies Lecture Series, University of California, Berkeley, USA.

Selected Conference Presentations

- 2024 “Tecno-ativismo: Circulações Sul-Norte.” IV Encontro Latino-americano de Antropologia Digital, Red Latinoamericana de Antropología Digital, Mexico/Argentina/Venezuela.
- 2024 “Urban Lives of Minor Electronics: A History of Santa Efigênia.” El Laboratorio Seminar, Virginia Commonwealth University and University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA.
- 2024 “Social Lives of Repair: A Pedagogical Experiment.” AES/APLA Spring Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
- 2023 “Improvisation as Praxis in Brazilian Techno-Art and Activism.” Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Honolulu, USA.
- 2022 “Tropicalizing Electronics: Forest, Factories, and Techno-Adaptation.” ESOCITE/Society for Social Studies of Science Joint Meeting, Cholula, Mexico.
- 2022 “Tropical Factories: Histories of Tech Production in Manaus, 1960s-present.” SIGCIS, SHOT Special Interest Group for Computing, Information & Society, New Orleans, USA.
- 2022 “Tropical Factories: Histories of Tech Production in Manaus, 1960s-present.” Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA.
- 2022 “The Uses of Improvisation in Techno-Art and Activism.” Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association. Georgetown University, Washington, USA.
- 2021 “An Urban History of Electronics: Hobbyists, Dealers, and Repairers.” Histories of Maintenance and Repair Workshop. Centre for Contemporary and Digital History, University of Luxembourg, Esch-Belval, Luxembourg.
- 2021 “Learning to Fix: Brazilian Lessons for an Obsolete World.” The Social Life of Skills Workshop, University of Melbourne, Australia.

- 2020 “The Brazilian ‘Electronics Paradise:’ Repair Work, Expertise, and Global Connections in Santa Efigênia.” Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Annual Graduate Student Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA.
- 2019 “A FabLab in the Periphery: Reconfiguring Innovation from São Paulo.” Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA.
- 2019 “Desafios de um Estudo Empírico sobre Improvisado e Tecnologia.” GEICT Workshop/LE-E Seminar, University of Campinas and Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil.
- 2018 “Technological Improvisation: Reinventing Innovation from Brazil.” Speculative Futures Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA.
- 2017 “Quick-fix as Innovation? Thoughts from Brazil.” Maintainers II: Labor, Technology, and Social Orders, Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, USA.
- 2016 “Geographies of Improvisation.” Chat n’ Chai Student Fellows, The New School India China Institute, New York, USA.
- 2013 “The constitution of subjects in health literacy. Theoretical considerations from narrative-based research.” Beyond Biosocialities in Med Anthropology, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 2012 “Letting stories breathe: narrative and experience of asthma.” Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark. (with Filipa Queirós, João Arriscado Nunes, Carlos Barradas, and Rita Serra)
- 2011 “Affect from a blossom: art, ethics and nature.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- 2011 “Contemporary Moral Uncertainties of BioArt.” Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meeting, Los Angeles, USA.
- 2010 “Arte e Ciência: política dos artefactos e da tecnologia a partir de uma experiência etnográfica.” III Seminário de Memória e Cultura Visuais, Cabeceiras de Basto, Portugal.

EVENTS ORGANIZED AND MODERATED

- 2025 Organizer, STS Book Talks - Spring 2025 Series with Amit Prasad (*Science Studies Meets Colonialism*, Polity 2022), Nesselte Falu (*Unseen Flesh*, Duke 2023), and Alexander Dent (*Digital Pirates*, Stanford 2020). OSU, USA.
- 2025 Invited Chair, “Exploring Race, Folklore, and Feminist Ethnography.” Panel at the Annual Folklore and Ethnomusicology Student Conference. Folklore Student Association, OSU and Indiana University, Columbus, USA.
- 2024 Co-organizer, “Knowing & Doing: training at the human/non-human intersection.” Panel at 4S Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands. (with Alexios Tsigkas)
- 2024 Invited Discussant, “Tropical Materialities.” Panel at 4S, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 2024 Invited Chair, “Movements and Shifts.” Panel at Race and Data Symposium, OSU Translational Data Analytics Institute, Columbus, USA.
- 2024 Chair, “Reparative Technopolitics, Part I.” Panel at AES/APLA Spring Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
- 2023 Co-organizer, “Technologies from the South as Method and Challenge.” Roundtable at AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada. (with Verónica Uribe del Águila)

- 2022 Chair, "Circulation of Knowledge." Panel at ESOCITE/4S Joint Meeting, Cholula, Mexico.
- 2021 Discussant, "Mexico City as an Atmospheric Laboratory." Paper by Mariana García Arias, The New School Janey Program in Latin American Studies Workshop, NY, USA.
- 2020-21 Coordinator, "FICT x Sing." Anthropology and speculative fiction project with Yale-NUS students and alumni in Singapore, organized at Osaka University in Japan.
- 2019 Invited Moderator, "O Fim das Salas de Informática? E agora?" Panel at Campus Party Brasil, Municipal Secretary of Innovation and Technology, São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2018-19 Organizer, Workshops on DIY Microscopy, FabLab Livre SP, São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2015 Moderator, "Political Intimacies." Panel at Magnetic: Attraction, Repulsion, and the Social Sciences – Anthropology Student Conference, NCSR, NY, USA.
- 2014-15 Co-organizer, "Out of Sight" Film Series, New School for Social Research, NY, USA.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

- 2025 **Seminar in Technology and Culture, Ohio State University**
Professor. Advanced graduate seminar
- 2023- **Introduction to Cultures of Science and Technology, Ohio State University**
Professor. General Education undergraduate course
- 2022 **Artificial Intelligence, Creativity & Social Justice, The New School**
Teaching Assistant for Jeongki Lim and Andrew Shea. Parsons undergraduate course
- 2020 **Modern Social Thought, Yale-NUS College**
Adjunct Lecturer, instructor of record. Social Sciences undergraduate course
- 2020 **World Histories of Anthropology, The New School**
Teaching Fellow, instructor of record. Anthropology undergraduate course
- 2018 **Critical Foundations of Anthropology, The New School**
Teaching Assistant for Abou Farman. Anthropology graduate course
- 2015-17 **Introduction to Cultural Studies, The New School**
Guest Lecturer for McKenzie Wark. Media Studies undergraduate course

Advising and Examination

- 2025 PhD Committee Member (Brittany Halley), English, OSU
- 2025 Undergraduate Research Mentor (Ryan Sivakumar), STS Minor, OSU
- 2024 PhD Defense Jury (Vitor Chiodi), Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences, Unicamp
- 2024 PhD Committee Member (Deanna Holroyd), Comparative Studies, OSU

OTHER SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Interdisciplinary Research Collaborations

- 2024 **Race and Socio-Environmental Knowledge ERG, OSU Sustainability Institute**
Participant in exploratory research group led by Becky Mansfield and Maria Miriti
- 2023-25 **Feminist STS and Social Justice Working Group, OSU Humanities Institute**
Co-organizer of working group with Maya Cruz

- 2023- **Speculative Eco-Futures ERG, OSU Sustainability Institute**
Participant in exploratory research group led by Jake Boswell and Amy Youngs
- 2015 **Barraco #55 - Platform for Art & Research**
Scholar-in-Residence in collaborative research and media project about improvised fixing in Complexo do Alemão, Rio de Janeiro
- 2012-13 **Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra**
Junior Researcher to João Arriscado Nunes in project about public knowledge on health and health information, funded by the Harvard Medical School – Portugal Program
- 2011 **International Ocean Institute, University of Malta**
Research Intern to Alicia Said and Alan Deidun in project on marine protection, supported by the European Union Leonardo da Vinci Program
- 2010 **Centre for Research in Anthropology, New University of Lisbon**
Junior Researcher to Maria Cardeira da Silva in project about Africanist Jill Rosemary Dias' collection, funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology

Administrative Appointments

- 2015-17 **Graduate Institute for Design, Ethnography & Social Thought, The New School**
Program Assistant to Hugh Raffles at GIDEST, an experimental institute for research at the intersection of social theory, art, and design, funded by the Mellon Foundation

SELECTED WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- 2024 Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
- 2022 Feminist Research Methodologies and Digital Feminist Research. Seminar. University in Exile Consortium and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Institute, The New School
- 2019 Cell Phone Maintenance Course (iPhone&Android). Premium, São Paulo
- 2019 Maker Culture, Science(s) and Technological Trends: Contemporary Creative Experiences with Tech. Mini-course, VIII Esocite.Br Symposium, CEFET-MG
- 2014 Biotechnology, Biosocialities and Governance of Life Sciences. Summer School, Unicamp

SERVICE

Committee and Leadership Roles

- 2024- Advisory Committee Member, Global Arts + Humanities Research Exchange, OSU
- 2024- Program Coordinator and Advisor, STS Minor, Department of Comparative Studies, OSU
- 2023- Graduate Studies Committee Member, Department of Comparative Studies, OSU
- 2020 Student Representative, Faculty Meetings, Anthropology Student Association, NSSR
- 2016-17 Treasurer, Anthropology Student Association, New School for Social Research
- 2013-15 Student Representative, Dean's Advisory Council, New School for Social Research

External Refereeing

- 2024 Referee for Routledge, 'The Anthropology of Now' Book Series
- 2024 Referee for *Visual Studies*
- 2023 Referee for *IJURR – International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*

2023 Referee for *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*
2018 Referee for *Design and Culture*

Editorial Work and Outreach

2023- Host on the New Books Network Podcast Anthropology Channel
2017-19 Contributing Editor, AnthroPod: The SCA Podcast, *Cultural Anthropology* website
2009-12 Assistant Editor, *Antropologia Portuguesa* journal and website

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (native), Spanish (intermediate), French (basic)

REFERENCES

Hugh Raffles

Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Graduate Institute for Design, Ethnography & Social Thought, The New School
rafflesh@newschool.edu

Miriam Ticktin

Associate Professor of Anthropology, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
mticktin@gc.cuny.edu

Mara Mills

Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University
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Ivan da Costa Marques

Professor of History of Science, Techniques and Epistemology, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
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Becky Mansfield

Professor of Social and Environmental Geography, Ohio State University
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Miranda Martinez

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Nick Kawa

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