

# Erin O'Connor, Ph.D.

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## CURRENT POSITION

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### MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

Associate Professor of Sociology

Affiliated Faculty of Environmental Studies, Department of Natural Sciences

New York, NY

2009 - present

2015 - present

## EDUCATION

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### NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

*Ph.D., Sociology*

*M.A., Sociology*

New York, NY

2009

2002

- Dissertation: "Hotshop: An Ethnography of Embodied Knowledge in Glassblowing"
- Committee: Professors Craig Calhoun, Richard Sennett, Terry Williams

### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

*B.A., Interdisciplinary Humanities, summa cum laude*

- Areas of study: Social Sciences, English Literature & Philosophy
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship, 1996-1998

East Lansing, MI

1998

## GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2024. Marymount Manhattan College Faculty Scholarship Award, New York, NY.
- 2023. Rakow Grant for Glass Research Recipient, Corning Museum of Glass. Corning, NY.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### BOOKS

- In Review. *Fire-Craft: art, body, and world among glassblowers*.

### EDITED VOLUMES

- 2024. "Becoming with Glass: medium and materiality in embodied knowledge". In *Craft and Design Practice from an Embodied Perspective*, eds. Camilla Groth and Nithikul Nimkulrat. London: Routledge.
- 2023. "Materia Erotica: making-love among glassblowers". In *Leaving the field? Methodological Insights from Ethnographic Exits*, eds. Robin Smith and Sara Delamont. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- 2016. "The Prototype: problem work in the relationship between designer, artist and gaffer in glassblowing." Co-authored with Suzanne Peck. In *Craftwork as Problem Solving: Ethnographic Studies of Design and Making*, ed. Trevor Marchand. Farnham: Ashgate.
- 2015. "Inter- to Intracorporeality: the haptic hotshop heat of a glassblowing studio." In *Studio Studies: Ethnographies of Creative Production*, eds. Ignacio Farias and Alex Wilkie. London: Routledge.
- 2012. "Saber hecho carne: la experiencia dl sentido y la busqueda de expertise en el soplado de vidrio." In *Hacia una nueva sociología cultural: Mapas, dramas y prácticas*, ed. Claudio E. Benzecry. Buenos Aires: Quilmes University Press.
- 2007. "Hot Glass: The Calorific Imagination of Practice in Glassblowing." In *Practicing Culture: Taking Culture Seriously*, eds. Craig Calhoun and Richard Sennett. London: Routledge.
- 2007. "Embodied Knowledge in Glassblowing: meaning and the struggle towards proficiency (modified reprint)." In *Embodying Sociology: Retrospect, Progress and Prospects*, The Sociological Review Monograph, ed. Chris Shilling. London: Wiley.

### REFERRED ACADEMIC JOURNALS

- In Preparation. "Slingshot Batch: Mixing the Raw Minerals of American Studio Glass."
- Forthcoming. "From Furnace to Mine: Purity and Impurity of the Early Studio Glass Movement." *86th Street: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture*.

- 2017. "Touching tacit knowledge: Handwork as Ethnographic Method in Glassblowing." *Qualitative Research*. 17(2): 217–230.
- 2012. "Cross Disciplinary Literacy in Age of Apps and Mobile Devices." "Cross Disciplinary Literacy in the Age of Apps and Mobile Devices" Co-Authored with Rebecca Mushtare and Millie Burns, in *Emerging Pedagogies for the New Millennium*. Faculty Resource Network: A Journal of Faculty Development. Web. [<http://www.nyu.edu/frn/publications/emerging.pedagogies/Burns.Mushtare.OConnor.html>]
- 2009. "The Act of Collaborative Creation and the Art of Integrative Creativity: Originality, Disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity in Science." Co-Authored with Diana Rhoten. *Thesis Eleven* 96(1): 83-108.
- 2007. "The Centripetal Force of Expression: Drawing Embodied Histories into Glassblowing." *Qualitative Sociology Review* 3(3): 113-134.
- 2006. "Glassblowing Tools: Extending the Body towards Practical Knowledge and Informing a Social World." *Qualitative Sociology*, 29(2): 177-193.
- 2005. "Embodied Knowledge: Meaning and the Struggle Towards Proficiency in Glassblowing." *Ethnography*, 6(2): 183-204.

## **PUBLIC-FACING SOCIOLOGY**

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### **MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE, SOCIAL JUSTICE ACADEMY**

New York, NY

#### **Bread & Roses: Labor, Work & Action Social Justice Academy**

Spring 2024

#### **Great Migrations Social Justice Academy**

Spring 2023

#### **The "New" New York Academy**

Spring 2022

#### **Sojourner Truth Suffrage Academy**

Spring 2021

- Developed, piloted, and led a co-curricular, college-wide, and semester-long student experience on contemporary social justice issues, including course offerings, speakers, direct action workshops, and a student-led SJA Student Board.
- Programed and structured the SJA to include justice-impacted students earning Marymount Manhattan College degrees at both the Bedford Hills & Taconic Correctional Facilities.
- Upon request, advised the College regarding the integration of the Social Justice Academy into the general education curriculum; the SJA is widely viewed as a high impact curriculum that fosters engaged citizens, grows community collaboration within and outside of the College, and retains students.

### **BEDFORD HILLS COLLEGE PROGRAM**

Bedford, NY & Taconic, NY

- Facilitate the B.A. in Politics and Human Rights as well as the A.A. in Sociology offered by Marymount Manhattan College at the Bedford Hills & Taconic Women's Correctional Facilities in collaboration with on-site staff.
- Co-Advise the Bedford Hills College Program Club among non-incarcerated MMC students.
- Process *Pi Gamma Mu* International Honor Society membership applications for incarcerated MMC students.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

Brooklyn, NY

- 2016. Co-Curator. Paracosm: new worlds in glass.

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2024. "Mining Studio Craft: A Case Study from Glassmaking." Craft History Workshop, Queens University, March.
- 2022. "Where the action isn't: intracorporeal becomings, elements, and resources among glassblowers." l'École nationale supérieure d'architecture Paris-Malaquais, March.
- 2019. "Of Sticks and Men [sic]: the ontological (re)turns of embodiment". Rochester Institute of Technology, November.
- 2015. "Embodied Knowledge: choreographing glassblowing to dance". Marymount Manhattan College, Department of Dance, October.
- 2013. "An Embodied Approach to Phenomenological Sociology". The New School for Social Research, Phenomenological Sociology Seminar, November.
- 2007. "Craftsmanship". New York University, Culture & Society Seminar, September.
- 2006. "In Situ Ethnographic Research in the Sociology of Culture". Eugene Lang College, May.
- 2006. "Creativity and Imagination in Glassblowing." Massachusetts College of Art, December.

## SELECTED CONFERENCES

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- 2024. "The Glassy State: the logic of vitrification as a matter of self and worldmaking." Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art. Lyon, France.
- 2024. "'The Middle Mineral & the Mine: an ethno-mineralogy of studio glass.'" In the Burrow: Critical Approaches to Infrastructure. University of California, Irvine. Irvine, California
- 2023. "Following the Glass: the material life of batch from mine to furnace." Urban Glass Academic Symposium. New York, NY.
- 2023. "Batched Up: Resource Extraction and Wastework among Glassblowers." Wastework, Bibliotheca Hertziana - Max Planck Institute for Art History, Rome, Italy.
- 2019. "Of Sticks and Men [sic]: the ontological (re)turns of embodiment." Materializing Resistance: Gender, Politics, and Craft (The Feminist Art Project), University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.
- 2015. "Practicing Craft, Body, and Materiality." Session Organizer, Society for Studies of Science, Denver, Colorado.
- 2015. "Amateur Craft: Learning and teaching the value of labor and work in contemporary studio glassblowing." Making Futures: craft and the (re)turn of the maker in a post-global sustainably aware society, Plymouth College of Art, Plymouth, England.
- 2014. "Handwork Hierarchy: A Micro-analysis of handwork in glassblowing." Hands on Instruments: Instrumental Practice in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Science, Medicine and Technology, Centre for Research in the Arts, Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.
- 2014. "Intercorporeality and Teamwork: bodies and collaboration in a glassblowing studio." Studio Studies. Author's Conference, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Berlin, Germany.
- 2014. "Breathing Body: the tertiary dimension of embodiment in glassblowing." Eastern Sociological Society Conference: Invisible Work, Baltimore, Maryland.
- 2012. "Collective Bodies: Theorizing the Positions of the Glassblowing Team from the Dispositions of Practice," The Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S), Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2011. "Mobile Technologies in the Classroom." Emerging Pedagogies for the New Millennium, Faculty Resource Network Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2011. "The Craft of Ethnography." Columbia University. New York, New York.
- 2011. "Circulating Knowledge: The Myth of Murano in Contemporary Glassblowing." Cultures of Circulation Conference, Carlton University. Ottawa, Canada.
- 2009. "The Division of Labor in Glassblowing." The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Washington D.C.
- 2007. "Glassblowing Tools: Extending the Body Towards Practical Knowledge and Informing a Social World." American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York, New York.
- 2007. "The Making of a Style: the historical construction of 'expression' in American studio glass." 5th Annual NYLON Conference in Politics and Culture, New York University and London School of Economics, London, England.
- 2006. "Getting at the Matter of Practice: *In Situ* Research towards a Typology of Practical Knowledge." Colloque Ethnographies du travail artistique, Sorbonne, Université Paris, Paris, France.
- 2006. "Imagination and Reverie in Glassblowing." 4th Annual NYLON Conference in Politics and Culture, New York University and the London School of Economics, New York, New York.
- 2005. "Embodied Knowledge: Meaning and the Struggle Towards Proficiency in Glassblowing." 100th Annual American Sociological Association Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2005. "Embodied Knowledge: Meaning and the Struggle Towards Proficiency in Glassblowing." 37th Annual World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2005. "Ethnography in the Elucidation of Practical Knowledge: The Glassblower's Education." Ethnographies of Practice: From the Local to the Global, SUNY Stonybrook, Stonybrook, New York.
- 2005. "Glassblowing Tools: The Embodiment of Tools towards Dialogue." 3rd Annual NYLON Conference of Politics and Culture, New York University and London School of Economics, London, England.
- 2004. "Achieving Craft Knowledge in Glassblowing." Putting Bourdieu to Work: A Working Conference New School for Social Research and New York University, New York, New York.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

New York, NY

Courses variously serve the following majors: Politics & Human Rights; Environmental Studies; Visual Art.

- PHR 101 Foundations of Social and Political Inquiry
- PHR 210 Anthropology at Museums in NYC
- PHR 218 Environmental Justice
- PHR 304 Politics, Art & Society
- PHR 306 Culture & Ideology
- PHR 308 Material Culture
- PHR 312 Radical Labor & Artisan Movements
- PHR 320 EcoCulture & Sustainability (Queer Ecologies)
- PHR 330 Great Social Thinkers
- PHR 450 Senior Capstone

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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### MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

New York, NY

- 2020-Present Social Justice Academy, Creator & Coordinator
- 2017-Present Faculty Liaison, MMC College Prison Programs
- 2017-Present Co-Advisor, Bedford Hills College Club (Prison Program)
- 2018-2023 Chair, Department of Politics and Human Rights
- 2021-2022 Presidential Educational Task Force Committee, MMC
- 2010-2022 Internship and Independent Study Sponsor, MMC
- 2020-2021 Strategic Planning Committee, MMC
- 2019-2020 Presidential Task Force Committee, MMC
- 2014-2017 Recruiter, Politics & Human Rights and International Studies, MMC
- 2011-2012 Curriculum Committee, MMC
- 2011-2012 Outcomes Assessment Committee, MMC
- 2010-2012 Enrollment Management Committee, MMC
- 2010-2012 Recruiter, Social Science Division, MMC
- 2010-2011 Digital Literacy Forum
- 2009-2010 Advanced Interdisciplinary Committee, Cultural Perspectives Scholarship

## REFERENCES

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Craig Calhoun  
 University Professor of the Social Sciences  
 School of Politics and Global Affairs  
 Arizona State University  
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