

Erin E. O'Connor, Ph.D.

erinconnor@mmm.edu ▪ 001 (917) 294-9082

CURRENT POSITION

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Politics and Human Rights
Affiliated Faculty of Environmental Studies, Department of Natural Sciences

New York, NY
2009 - present
2015 - present

EDUCATION

NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

Ph.D., Sociology
M.A., Sociology

New York, NY

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

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A., Interdisciplinary Humanities (Social Science, English Literature, Philosophy)
Honors: *summa cum laude*

East Lansing, MI

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

AWARDED

- 2025. Marymount Manhattan College Faculty Scholarship Award, New York, NY.
- 2024. Marymount Manhattan College Faculty Scholarship Award, New York, NY.
- 2023. Rakow Grant for Glass Research, Corning Museum of Glass. Corning, NY.

PUBLIC PERIODICALS & LECTURES

- Hurricane Helene's Urgent Message About the Arts, Environment, and Global Mining," *Hyperallergic*. November 14, 2024. <https://hyperallergic.com/965631/hurricane-helene-was-a-wake-up-call-for-glass-artists/>
- September 25, 2024. "Glassblowing as Terraforming: Posthumanist Turns in Theories of Embodied Knowledge." A Paul and Irene Hollister Lecture on Glass, Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- August 2025. *Fire Craft: Art, Body, and World among Glassblowers*. Columbia University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

- In Preparation. "The Water Within: Studio Glassmaking and the Hydrosphere."
- In Preparation. "Minerals on the Move: The Cosmology and Geophilosophy of Studio Glass."
- Forthcoming. "Hotshop: Placing the Genesis of American Studio Glassblowing." *Canadian Review of American Studies*.
- Forthcoming. "From Furnace to Mine: Purity and Impurity of the Early Studio Glass Movement." *West 86th: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture* 31(1), 83-102.
- 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.]
- 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.

EDITED VOLUMES

- In Press, 2026. “Embodied Knowledge in Glassblowing: meaning and the struggle towards proficiency.” *The Glass Reader*, eds. Kevin Petrie and Jeffrey Sarmiento. London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- 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. London: Routledge.
- 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.

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE, SOCIAL JUSTICE ACADEMY

New York, NY

- Bread & Roses: Labor, Work & Action (Curator) Spring 2024
- The “New” New York Academy (Participant) Spring 2022
- The Sojourner Truth Suffrage Academy, Inaugural (Founder and Curator) Spring 2021

BEDFORD HILLS & TACONIC COLLEGE PRISON PROGRAMS

New York, NY

- Faculty Liason, B.A. in Politics and Human Rights and A.A. in Sociology
- Advisor, the Bedford Hills College Program Club

EXHIBITIONS

- In Review. Co-Curator. Supercooled Liquid in the Time of Global Warming, Apex Art, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2016. Co-Curator. Paracosm: new worlds in glass, Norte Maar, Brooklyn, NY.

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- 2025, Fall. “The Water Within: Glassmaking and the Hydrosphere.” Artistry @ Work. Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in collaboration with the Royal Anthropological Institute, Paris and London.
- 2025, February. “Sustainability & Studio Art Practices among Glassblowers.” Tyler Glass Sustainability Micro-Symposium, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024, March. “Mining Studio Craft: A Case Study from Glassmaking.” Craft History Workshop, Queens University.
- 2022, March. “Where the action isn't: intracorporeal becomings, elements, and resources among glassblowers.” l'École nationale supérieure d'architecture Paris-Malaquais.
- 2019, November. “Of Sticks and Men [sic]: the ontological (re)turns of embodiment.” Rochester Institute of Technology.
- 2015, October. “Embodied Knowledge: choreographing glassblowing to dance.” Marymount Manhattan College, Department of Dance, October.

- 2013, November. "An Embodied Approach to Phenomenological Sociology." The New School for Social Research, Phenomenological Sociology Seminar.
- 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

- 2025, September. "Art Worlds Are Mining Worlds: Geology and The Deep Time Of Creativity." Panel Organizer. Society for Social Studies of Science (4S). Seattle, WA.
- 2025, May. "The Life of Glass: Following Pathways of Connection, Rupture, and Alteration." Glass Art Society Conference. Arlington, TX.
- 2025, March. "Pedagogies of Eco-Marxism and the Anthropocene in the Arts," Art & Aesthetics – Marx in the Anthropocene, Università Iuav di Venezia. Venice, Italy.
- 2024, September. "Posthumanism and the Deep Time of Studio Glassblowing." Panel Organizer and Presenter, Venice Glass Week. Venice, Italy.
- 2024, June. "The Glassy State: the logic of vitrification as a matter of self and worldmaking." Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art. Lyon, France.
- 2024, March. "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, November. "Following the Glass: the material life of batch from mine to furnace." Urban Glass Academic Symposium. New York, NY.
- 2023, March. "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 (4S). 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 20th 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. "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

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

New York, NY

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

Courses variously serve the additional minors: Sociology, Anthropology, Arts Management.

- PHR 101 Foundations of Social and Political Inquiry
- SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology
- SOC 103 Introduction to Anthropology
- PHR 210 Anthropology at Museums in NYC
- PHR 218 Environmental Justice
- PHR 304 Art, Politics & Society
- PHR 306 Culture & Ideology
- PHR 308 Material Culture
- PHR 312 Radical Labor & Artisan Movements
- PHR 314 Ethnography
- PHR 320 EcoCulture & Sustainability
- PHR 330 Great Social Thinkers
- PHR 450 Senior Capstone

ACADEMIC SERVICE

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

New York, NY

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

REFERENCES

Craig Calhoun
 University Professor of the Social Sciences
 School of Politics and Global Affairs
 Arizona State University
 craig.calhoun@asu.edu
 (480) 727-7717

Manolo Estavillo
 Associate Professor of Sociology
 Department of Politics and Human Rights

Marymount Manhattan College
221 E. 71st Street
New York, New York 10021
mestavillo@mmm.edu
(646) 263-4046

Trevor Marchand
Professor of Social Anthropology, Emeritus
School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London
tm6@soas.ac.uk

Richard Sennett
University Professor of Humanities
Department of Sociology
New York University
295 Lafayette Street, Room 4109
New York, New York 10012
R.Sennett@lse.ac.uk
(212) 998-8340

Terry Williams, Dissertation Chair
Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
New School for Social Research
79 Fifth Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10003
WilliT01@newschool.edu
(212) 229-5737