

# Erin Danielle Routon, PhD

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Houston, TX

[edrouton@uh.edu](mailto:edrouton@uh.edu)

### Education

- 2020 Doctor of Philosophy in Sociocultural Anthropology, Latino/a Studies Graduate Minor, Cornell University  
Advisor: Dr. Sofia Villenas  
Dissertation Title: “*Los Extraños Familiares: Legal Advocacy, Care, and Intimacy in U.S. Family Detention*”
- 2013 Master of Arts in Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside  
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Scheper-Hughes
- 2006 Bachelor of Arts in English, Writing Concentration, University of Hawai’i, Hilo

### Teaching

Assistant Professor, University of Houston  
2023-Present

Instructor, Harvard Extension School

2022-Present *Advanced Academic Writing in the Social Sciences: Border Bodies*

Instructor, Harvard Summer School

2022-Present *Writing About Social and Ethical Issues: Forced Migration Through the Graphic Lens*  
*Advanced Academic Writing in the Social Sciences: Border Bodies*

Preceptor, Harvard College Writing Program, Harvard University

2021-2023 *Expository Writing: Immigration and Incarceration*

Instructor, Cornell University

2020 *First Year Writing Seminar: Come to America, Go to Jail*

### Teaching Assistantships

Cornell University

2019 *Chimps and Politics*

2019 *Multicultural Issues in Education*

2018 *Practicing Medicine: Healthcare Culture Careers*

2018, 2015 *Latinos in the U.S.*

2017 *Going Global/Coming Home*

2016 *Intergroup Dialogue Project*

2015 *Myth, Ritual, and Symbol*

2014 *Comparison of Cultures*

2014 *Anthropology of Food*

University of California, Riverside

2013 *Science and Religion*

2012 *Comparative Literature: Close Reading*

2012, 2013 *Introduction to Western Religions*

2012 *Religious Myths and Rituals*

### Publications

Pandey, Riddhi. 2021. "Legal Work as Care Work: Interview with Erin Routon." Supplementals,

- Fieldsights*, October 26. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/legal-work-as-care-work-interview-with-erin-routon>
- Routon, Erin. 2021. "Legal Care and Friction in Family Detention". *Cultural Anthropology* 36 (2):312–339. <https://doi.org/10.14506/ca36.2.06>.
- Riva, Sara and Erin Routon. 2020. "Reinforcing and Contesting Neoliberal Citizenship: Legal Advocates and the Asylum Interview at the U.S.-Mexico Border". *Journal of Refugee Studies*.
- Routon, Erin. 2018. "La Iglesia Detenida" and "Nexus". *Whispers From the Field: Ethnographic Poetry and Creative Prose* (ed. Annie Sheng): Cornell Council for the Arts.
- Routon, Erin. 2018. "When the State Does Care, Do You?". *University of Oxford Border Criminologies* Blog, September 7. <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2018/09/when-state-does>.
- Routon, Erin. 2018. "The Trauma of Helping Asylum-Seekers." *SAPIENS*, June 19. <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/us-family-detention-advocacy/>.
- Routon, Erin. 2013. "Recognizing a Saint: The Politics of Identity within the Canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha." *Claremont Journal of Religion*, Issue 3, January.
- "Review: We Are the Face of Oaxaca: Testimony and Social Movements." 2014. *Latin American Politics and Society*.
- "Review: Governing Immigration Through Crime: A Reader." 2014. *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies*.
- "Review: Devoted to Death: Santa Muerte, the Skeleton Saint." 2014. *Journal of Religion and Culture*, Concordia University. Volume 24, February.

### **Presentations and Lectures**

- 2023 American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Roundtable: "Abolitionist Pedagogies"
- 2021 *Human Stories* digital blog series, University of Toronto  
"Family Detention and Legal Care"
- 2020 American Ethnological Society/Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Joint Spring Conference, Austin, TX (conference cancelled)  
"Caring in Confinement: Legal Advocacy and Friction in U.S. Family Detention"
- 2019 Cornell University, Department of Anthropology Fall Colloquium Series  
"A Particular Social Group: Legal Advocacy, Care, and Conflict in U.S. Family Detention"
- 2019 American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada  
Roundtable: "Volunteers, Border Crossers, and Spaces of Solidarity: Thinking Beyond Humanitarianism"
- 2019 Cornell University, Annual Sociology Graduate Research Symposium, Ithaca, NY  
"Los Extraños Familiares: Legal Advocacy, Care, and Intimacy in U.S. Family Detention"
- 2019 Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR (accepted)  
"Keeping Families: Narratives of Separation and Challenges to Advocacy in U.S. Family Detention"
- 2018 Invited Lecture, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria  
"Los Extraños Familiares: Immigrant Detention and Legal Aid in the U.S."
- 2018 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA  
"‘Tell her she’s a good mother’: Legal Advocacy and Contesting Dehumanization in Detention"
- 2018 Law and Society Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (accepted)

- “Encounters in the Middle of Nowhere: Migrant Detention and Migratory Legal Aid in Texas”
- 2018 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Cultural Anthropology, Co-sponsored by Society for Visual Anthropology, Virtual Conference  
“Crying at the Airport: Migratory Aid Work, the Estrangement of Home, and Ethnographic Comfort”
- 2018 Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA  
“When it Doesn’t End: Legal Aid and Sustainable Futures in Migrant Detention”
- 2017 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC  
Poster for Session “Fieldwork ‘interrupted’: sensorial (re)presentations of anthropological research”
- 2017 Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Annual Meeting, Antigua, Guatemala  
“Split: U.S. ‘Family’ Detention and Legal Humanitarianism”
- 2017 Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM  
“Migrant Encounters and Ethnographic Ephemerality in Family Detention Aid Work”
- 2013 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL  
“Desert Plasticity: Constructed Spaces and Material Beings in the Southwest Borderlands”
- 2013 University of California, Riverside, Institute for the Study of Immigrant Religion: Mellon Speaker Series  
“Following the Trail: The Materialization of Undocumented Migration”
- 2013 Western Commission on the Study of Religion Regional American Academy of Religion Meeting, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
“Wasted Space: Exploring the Vibrant Materiality of Arizona’s Sonoran Desert”

### **Fellowships, Grants, and Awards**

#### Harvard University

2021-2022 Inclusive Practice Fellow, Harvard Inclusive Teaching Institute, Harvard DCE  
2023-2024

2021, 2022 Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning  
2022 Fuerbringer Faculty Grant

#### Cornell University

2020 Art Fellow, Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center  
2020 Humanities Council President’s Fund Travel Grant  
2017, 2018 Mellon Fellow, Society for the Humanities, Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities  
2018, 2019 Graduate School Conference Travel Grant  
2017 Graduate School Research Travel Grant  
2017 Allan Holmberg Travel Award  
2014/17/18 American Studies Research Grant  
2013, 2017 Lauriston Sharp Award

#### University of California, Riverside

2012-2013 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award  
2012-2013 Religious Studies Publication Award  
2012-2013 Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion (ISIR) Research Award  
2012 Religious Studies Graduate Professional Support Award

Other  
2010 Allston Civic Community Scholarship Recipient, Allston, MA

### **Social Justice Work**

2021-present Court accompaniment and detention pen pal coordination with Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN), Boston/Plymouth, MA  
2015-2019 Legal assistant/interpreter with Dilley Pro Bono Project, Dilley, TX  
2016-2017 Legal assistant/interpreter with Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), San Antonio, TX  
2016-2020 Legal assistant and detention pen pal with Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative, SPLC  
2019 Volunteer engagement services with Ohio Immigrant Alliance, Cleveland Jobs with Justice

### **Language Skills**

Spanish-advanced proficiency  
English-native fluency

### **References**

Dr. Sofia Villenas  
Associate Professor, Anthropology  
Cornell University  
[svillenas@cornell.edu](mailto:svillenas@cornell.edu)

Dr. Vilma Santiago-Irizarry  
Director, Latina/o Studies Program  
Associate Professor, Anthropology/Latinx Studies  
Cornell University  
[vs23@cornell.edu](mailto:vs23@cornell.edu)

Dr. Adam Smith  
Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences, Anthropology  
Cornell University  
[ats73@cornell.edu](mailto:ats73@cornell.edu)