

Abigail Stepnitz, PhD

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Appointments	2021-current	Assistant Professor, Law, Politics & Society Drake University (Tenure-Track)
	2020-2021	UC Dissertation Year Fellow, Jurisprudence & Social Policy University of California, Berkeley
	2019-2020	Honors Teaching Fellow, Legal Studies University of California, Berkeley
	2017-2018	Instructor, Migration Studies University of San Francisco
	2015-2018	Graduate Student Instructor, Legal Studies University of California, Berkeley
Education	2021	Ph.D., Jurisprudence and Social Policy University of California, Berkeley
	2007	M.Sc., Human Rights London School of Economics & Political Science, UK
	2004	B.A., Politics University of San Francisco
Teaching	Law and Society, Climate Change, Immigration, Constitutional Law	
Research	Law, policy & social science, law and policy of climate change, legal storytelling, credibility and discretion, refugees & asylum-seekers, qualitative methods, pedagogy & mentorship	
Publications	Stepnitz, Abigail. <i>Storied Pasts: Evolving Norms in US Affirmative Asylum Narratives 1989-2018</i> , 41(1) LAW & INEQ. ____ (2023).	
	Stepnitz, Abigail. <i>Believing Asylum-Seeking Women: Doing Gender in Legal Narratives of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence</i> , 32 SOCIAL & LEGAL STUDIES (2023).	
	Stepnitz, Abigail. <i>Between Convention and Resistance: Counter-Narrative Strategies in Political Asylum Claims</i> in THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF COUNTER-NARRATIVES (Klarissa Leug and Marianne Wolff Lundholt, eds., Routledge, 2020).	
	Stepnitz, Abigail. <i>Re(art)iculating Refugees: Spectacle and the Cultural Contestation of Law</i> . 16 BERKELEY JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY (2018).	
	Stepnitz, Abigail. <i>A Lie More Disastrous Than the Truth: Asylum and the Identification of Trafficked Women in the UK</i> . 1 ANTI-TRAFFICKING REVIEW 104 (2012).	

Article Under Review	<i>Death by Interpretation: Making Law at the End of the World</i> Under review
Articles In Preparation	Admission By Flight: Climate Havens, Investment Migration and Resilience for Sale
Book Manuscript Under Review	<i>Making Law for the End of the World: People, Planet and the Politics of What Comes Next</i>
Book Chapter Forthcoming	“Now You Have Them, Now You Don’t: Border Magic, Bilocation, and Vanishing Rights” <i>forthcoming</i> in Corcos, Christine, ed. <i>Law and Magic Volume II</i> . Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2024.
Book Reviews	<p>Review of David FitzGerald’s “Refuge beyond Reach; How Rich Democracies Repel Asylum Seekers.” 54 <i>LAW AND SOCIETY REVIEW</i> 1388 (2019).</p> <p>Review of Victoria Canning’s “Gendered Harm and Structural Violence in the British Asylum System,” <i>ALLEGRA: LAW AND ANTHROPOLOGY</i> (2019).</p>
Grants & Awards	<p>2023 Drake University Deming Grant for Community Learning (\$2,000)</p> <p>2023 Drake University Faculty Development Grant (\$1,620)</p> <p>2022 Drake University Faculty Summer Research Grant (\$2,500)</p> <p>2021 Drake University Faculty Development Grant (\$1,100)</p> <p>2020 UC Dissertation Year Fellowship, UC Berkeley (\$48,000)</p> <p>2019 UC Humanities Research Institute, Residential Research Fellow, UCI (\$11,000)</p> <p>2018 Empirical Legal Studies Fellow, UC Berkeley (\$1,000)</p> <p>2018 Center for the Study of Law & Society dissertation grant, UC Berkeley (\$500)</p> <p>2018 Daniel E. Koshland Jr. Fellowship in the Art of Teaching Writing, UC Berkeley</p> <p>2018 Teaching Effectiveness Award, UC Berkeley</p> <p>2018 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley</p> <p>2017 Inst. for Study of Societal Issues, Graduate in Residence, UC Berkeley (\$1,000)</p> <p>2016 Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program Fellowship, UC Berkeley (\$29,000)</p> <p>2014 Selznick Doctoral Fellowship, UC Berkeley (\$29,000)</p>
Public Scholarship	<p>2023. “Law & The Age of Global Boiling” <i>under review</i></p> <p>2019. “Public Biography: <u>What They’re Reading</u>,” and “<u>Conspiracy Theories</u>,” podcast audio, UC Humanities Research Institute Research Residency on <u>Truth</u></p> <p>2018. “Migrant Caravan Members Have the Right to Claim Asylum – Here’s Why Getting It Will Be Hard.” <u>The Conversation</u> (44k+ readers globally, in English and Spanish)</p>

Courses
Taught

Drake University

2023-2024

Courses: Applied Immigration Law (co-taught with Drake Law School), Constitutional Law, Law, Politics & Society Senior Seminar

Evaluation data not yet available

2022-2023

Courses: Migration & Membership: 1700-Present, Constitutional Law, Law & Popular Culture, Law & Society in a Changing Climate

Overall increase in understanding score (n=103) Mean: 4.8/5

2021-2022

Courses: Migration & Membership: 1700-Present, Constitutional Law, Law & Culture, Law & Society in a Changing Climate

Overall increase in understanding score (n=52) Mean: 4.8/5

University of California, Berkeley

2019-2020 **Honors Teaching Fellow**, Legal Studies

Courses: Legal Studies Honors Seminar

Overall teaching effectiveness score (n=18) Mean: 6/6

2018-2020 **Qualitative Social Sciences Leader**, Teaching Resource Center

Overall teaching effectiveness scores (n=73) Mean: 4.8/5

2018 **Instructor of record**, Legal Studies

Course: Law, Language and Culture (required reading & composition course)

Overall teaching effectiveness scores (n=22) Mean: 6.2/7

2015-2017 **Graduate Student Instructor**, Legal Studies

Courses: Foundations of Law and Society, Immigration and Citizenship, Youth, Justice and Culture, and Law and Development.

Overall teaching effectiveness scores (n=164) Mean: 6.5/7

University of San Francisco

2017-2018 **Lecturer**, Migration Studies (MA program)

Course: Global Immigration Policy and Politics (2017, 2018)

Overall teaching effectiveness scores (n=25) Mean: 5.9/6

Selected
Presentations

2023 “Complete Helplessness to Protect: Asylum and the limited cognizability of private harm before and after Matter of A-B” 16 June 2023. **Emerging Immigration Law Scholars Conference**. Georgetown University School of Law, Washington DC

2023 “A Matter of Grace: Truth, Suspicion, and The Rise of Unbound Discretion in US Immigration Law and Policy from *Fong Yue Ting* to *US v Patel*” 4 June 2023. **Law and Society Association Annual Meeting**. San Juan, Puerto Rico

2022 “Believing Asylum-Seeking Women: Doing Gender in Legal Narratives of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence” 16 March 2022. **Leiden University Law School, Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Society**.

2020 “Storied Pasts: Evolving Norms in US Affirmative Asylum Narratives 1989-2018.” August 9, 2020. **American Sociological Assoc Annual Meeting**. San Francisco, CA.

2020 “Managed Truths: Credibility in Affirmative Asylum Claims.” May 28, 2020. **Law and Society Association Annual Meeting**. Denver, CO.

- 2019 “Asylum Seeking in Unsettled Times: The Changing Nature and Function of Credibility in Immigration, Law, and Culture.” October 31, 2019. **UC Davis Migration Research Cluster, Global Migration Center**. Davis, CA.
- 2019 “Narrating Credible Sexual and Gender-Based Asylum Claims.” August 11, 2019. **American Sociological Association Annual Meeting**. New York, NY.
- 2019 “Identifying and Understanding the Construction of Credibility in Asylum Claims.” February 14, 2019. **Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Forum**. UC Berkeley.
- 2018 “This American Law: Storytelling and Legal Hegemony in NPR’s *This American Life*.” March 30, 2018. **Pacific Sociological Assoc. Annual Meeting**. Long Beach, CA.
- 2017 “Through A Glass Darkly: Spectacle and The Re(art)iculation of Refugees in Contemporary Europe.” March 31, 2017. **Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and Humanities Annual Conference**. Stanford University

Memberships & Service

Member:

Law & Society Association

Climate Social Science Network

UC Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality

Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative

Second Nature Academics for Climate Advocacy Working Group

American Association of University Professors / American Federation of Teachers

Service:

2022-23 Arts & Sciences Diversity Sub-Committee, Drake University

2022-23 Faculty advisor, *Drake Political Review*, Drake University

2019-20 Graduate Admissions Committee, UC Berkeley JSP

2017- 20 Curriculum Committee, UC Berkeley Legal Studies

2015-17 Diversity Committee, UC Berkeley JSP