

Neill Gabrielle Esquibel-Kennedy, Ph.D.
785-817-0351
neillkennedy@ku.edu

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, American Studies; May 22, 2024; University of Kansas

- Dissertation: “Becoming Mexican Kansas: A Genealogy of Racial Capitalism and Community-Building”

Bachelor of General Studies, University of Kansas; Major in American Studies; Minor in Latino/a Studies; August 2013 – May 2017

Publications

- “Spanish Was Beaten Out of Me: White Violence and Mexican Schools in Early-to-Mid Twentieth Century Kansas,” *American Studies Journal*, Volume 62, Issue 3, Fall 2023, pp. 97-118
- Pending Book Review in *New Mexico Historical Review*

Honors and Awards

- **Dissertation Honors;** “Becoming Mexican Kansas: A Genealogy of Racial Capitalism and Community-Building” defended with honors on May 22, 2024
- **University Graduate Fellowship;** \$30,000 dissertation fellowship from the University of Kansas (August 2021-May 2022)
- **Ford Foundation 2019 Predoctoral Fellowship;** Honorable Mention (March 2019)
- **Comprehensive Exam Honors;** (December 2019)

Academic Presentations

- “Claiming Rights in Kansas: Engaging BIPOC Communities Through Oral Histories and More.” (April 2024) A panel member presenting on behalf of “Reclaiming Home: Remembering the Topeka Bottoms” for The Hall Center for the Humanities at KU, in partnership with KU’s Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities’ *Stories for All* project.
- “An Intimate History of Mexican Kansas.” (Oct. 2023) Invited lecture for KU’s Undergraduate Latinx Visit Day.
- “So-Called ‘New Immigrants’ and Shifting Definitions of Whiteness.” (Sept. 2023) Invited guest lecture presented at the University of Kansas for Professor Elizabeth Esch’s class, American Studies 110: American Identities.
- “The Occupation of Culture: Space, Gendered Labor, and Neoliberal Multiculturalism in Mexican Kansas.” (November 2022) Paper presented at the American Studies Association’s annual meeting.
- “The Currency of Tortillas: Mexican Community-Building, Informal Women’s Labor, and Retrofitted Memory in Topeka, Kansas.” (April 2020) Women and Gender History Symposium at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (canceled due to COVID-19)

- “Building Union Power in and beyond Graduate School.” (Nov. 2019) Chair and organizer of panel at the American Studies Association’s annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawai’i.
- “*I Didn't Think They Let Monkeys on the Street that Much: Racial Scripts, Oral History, and Family.*” (Oct. 2019) Presentation for the Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshop at the University of Kansas.
- “Understanding Hybridity and Resistance through Luis Alvarez’s *Zoot Style and Body Politics.*” (Sept. 2019, Feb. 2019, & Oct. 2018) Guest lecture at the University of Kansas for Professor Ray Mizumura-Pence’s and Professor Christopher Perreira’s classes, American Studies 100: Introduction to American Studies.
- “Chicanos, Identity, and Self-Determination.” (April 2019) Presentation for Red Hot Graduate Research at the University of Kansas.
- “Beyond *Brown v. Board: Race, Citizenship, and the School Segregation of Mexicans in Kansas.*” (March 2019) Conference paper presented at the James A. Rawley Conference in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- “The ‘new middle class’ of a century ago and today’s middle class.” (Nov. 2018). Guest lecture presented at the University of Kansas for Professor David Roediger’s class, American Studies 110: American Identities.
- “Cultural Production, History, and Representation: The Importance of *Zoot Suit.*” (April 2018) Public lecture presented at the Topeka Public Library in Topeka, Kansas.
- “1877: End of Reconstruction and the promise of equality.” (Feb. 2018) Guest lecture presented at the University of Kansas for Professor Elizabeth Esch’s class, American Studies 110: American Identities.

Public History Collaborations

- Graduate Research Assistant, interviewee, and interviewer for “Reclaiming Home: Remembering the Topeka Bottoms,” a multi-media project which includes oral histories, a documentary, and art exhibit. (September 2022-current)
- Co-project lead on Topeka’s Fiesta Mexicana Oral Histories in celebration of Fiesta Topeka’s 90th anniversary in collaboration with Dr. Valerie Mendoza, Humanities Kansas, and the Kansas Historical Society, where the dozens of oral histories will be available digitally and at the archive. (July 2023)
- Interviewee for the episode, “Get Up, Stand Up!” on the Kansas 1972 podcast, a special project recognizing the 50th anniversary of Humanities Kansas. (February 2022).
- Humanities Scholar and Interviewee for the documentary, *Searching for La Yarda*, directed by Lourdes Kalusha-Aguirre and Marlo Angell. (October 2021)
- Interviewer and discussion facilitator for Dodge City Mexican Village Elder Panel for the Dodge City International Festival. (September 2021)
- Speaker for the Humanities Kansas project, Latino Stories of Kansas/Historias Latinas de Kansas. (March 2019-December 2021)
- Panel participant for the screening and panel discussion of *The Revolutionist: Eugene V. Debs* at the University of Kansas. (Feb. 2020)
- “Race and Labor.” (Sept. 2019) Co-facilitator of workshop at Labor Notes’ Kansas Troublemakers School at the University of Kansas.

- “Revolutionary Reels: *Harlan County USA*.” (May 2019) Invited moderator for documentary screening and community discussion at the Lawrence Public Library.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant; University of Kansas; August 2017 – May 2024

- AMS 110 American Identities (Two Discussion Sections). Graduate Teaching Assistant under Dr. David Roediger, University of Kansas, Fall 2017.
- AMS 110 American Identities (Two Discussion Sections). Graduate Teaching Assistant under Dr. Elizabeth Esch, University of Kansas, Spring 2018.
- AMS 100 Introduction to American Studies (Two Discussion Sections). Graduate Teaching Assistant under Dr. Christopher Perreira, University of Kansas, Fall 2018.
- AMS 100 Introduction to American Studies (Two Discussion Sections). Graduate Teaching Assistant under Dr. Ray Pence, University of Kansas, Spring 2019.
- AMS 100 Introduction to American Studies (Two Discussion Sections). Graduate Teaching Assistant under Dr. Ray Pence, University of Kansas, Fall 2019.
- AMS 100 Introduction to American Studies (Two Class Sections). Instructor of Record, Spring 2020.
- AMS 110 American Identities (One Large Class Section). Instructor of Record, Fall 2020.
- AMS 100 Introduction to American Studies (Two Class Sections). Instructor of Record, Spring 2021.
- AMS 260 America’s Latino/as (One Large Class Section). Instructor of Record, Fall 2022.
- AMS 260 America’s Latino/as (One Large Class Section). Instructor of Record, Spring 2023.
- AMS 260 America’s Latino/as (One Large Class Section). Instructor of Record, Fall 2023.
- AMS 260 America’s Latino/as (One Large Class Section). Instructor of Record, Spring 2024.

Adjunct Professor; Kansas City Art Institute; August 2022 – Present

- Critical Studies II: *This Bridge Called My Back*: Women of Color Feminism (One Class Section). Instructor of Record, Fall 2022.
- History 3700: Topics in Gender Studies: Women, Race and Class (One Class Section). Instructor of Record, Spring 2023.
- Critical Studies II: *This Bridge Called My Back*: Women of Color Feminism (One Class Section). Instructor of Record, Fall 2023.
- History 3700: Topics in Gender Studies: Women, Race and Class (One Class Section). Instructor of Record, Spring 2024.

Service to Discipline

American Studies Association Students’ Committee; August 2017 – Present; collaborated on organizing panels and events related to professional development, including a mock job

interview, fellowship and grant application workshops, and book raffles that are sponsored by the Student Committee at ASA's annual meetings. I currently serve as co-chair of the Students' Committee so I also attend the all-chairs meeting where I am an advocate for the Students' Committee priorities and detail our plans for the next ASA meeting. I also coordinate the responsibilities of the rest of the committee with my fellow co-chair.

Team Member for “Ideas to Action” Grant for Latinx Studies; Fall 2022 – Spring 2023; Our “team” for this KU’s Center for Teaching Excellence grant-funded project includes me and three professors from the AMS department. Our goals are broadly centered on growing the Latinx Studies Program which is housed with AMS. We are currently working on growing the program by sharpening curriculum (including revising current classes and pitching new ones), outreach to both undergraduates and graduate students, and programming like public lectures and cultural events for both KU and the broader Lawrence community.

University Service

Graduate Teaching Assistants Coalition; August 2017 – Present; I am proud fourth-generation union member and was honored to serve my union as Vice President from 2018 to 2019 then as President from 2019 to 2021. I am know again serving as Secretary for the 2023-2024 school year. Working with my union has helped sharpen my critical listening, organizing, and reasoning skills as we work to make our university a more equitable place for all.

Task Force on Community-Responsive Public Safety; August 2020 – December 2020; On behalf of my union, I served on this University task force in the wake of the George Floyd uprisings that was formed by the Chancellor to “make recommendations” for how KU handles policing on campus.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Campus Council; January 2021—May 2021: Also, on behalf of my union, I served on the DEIB Campus Council in order to implement policies and programs for marginalized students, faculty, and staff on campus.

Departmental Service

New Cohort Student Representative for American Studies Association of Graduate Students; August 2017– May 2018; represented my departmental graduate student organization at the University of Kansas American Studies department’s monthly faculty meetings. I represented the new cohort of American Studies Graduate Students at these meetings, took notes, reported back to ASAGS, and voted when asked on behalf of the new cohort.

Co-Chair of American Studies Association of Graduate Students; January 2018 – August 2019; served as co-chair for my departmental graduate student organization. Duties included convening ASAGS meetings, introducing the organization to the incoming cohort every August, function as avenues of communication between ASAGS and the American Studies Program Chairperson, and among other individuals and groups outside of the American Studies Program at KU.