

Sabrina Axster

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Cornell University	
	Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies	
	Domestic Affiliate Scholar, Migrations Program	Since 2025
	Postdoctoral Associate, Migrations Program	2023-2025
	Faculty Affiliate, Institute for European Studies	2024-2025
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Johns Hopkins University	Since 2025
	Office of the President	
	Policy Researcher and Speechwriter	
	United Nations	
	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	
	Sustainable Development Officer	2023
	Consultant	2020-2021
	Research Consultant	2011-2015
EDUCATION	Johns Hopkins University	2023
	Ph.D. Political Science	
	Dissertation title: <i>Making Migrant Illegality: Vagrancy, Indentured Labor, and the Policing of Mobility in Germany</i>	
	Committee: Erin Chung, Vesla Weaver, Tarak Barkawi, Angus Burgin, Joe Turner (University of York, UK)	
	<i>*Honorable Mention, 2024 APSA Migration & Citizenship Section Best Dissertation Prize</i>	
	<i>*Shortlisted, 2024 IMISCOE Maria Ioannis Baganha Dissertation Award</i>	
	Rutgers University	2017
	M.S. Global Affairs	
	Certificate in Women & Gender Studies	
	University of Amsterdam	2010
	M.Sc. International Development Studies	
	University of the West of England	2009
	B.A. Media and Cultural Studies and Politics	
BOOK PROJECT	Controlling Migrants: Vagrancy, Indentured Labor, and the Policing of Mobility in Germany	
	<i>*Winner of the Oxford University Press Early Career Researcher First Book Prize</i>	
	<i>*Under contract with Oxford University Press</i>	
	<i>*Presented at a manuscript workshop at Cornell University in October 2024</i>	

- PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS Sabrina Axster. Forthcoming. "Seeing like a Racial State: The Colonial and Racial Capitalist Roots of German Citizenship." *South Atlantic Quarterly*.
- Sabrina Axster and Ida Danewid. 2025. "Counter-mapping the Carceral Security State: Beyond the Imperial Boomerang." [*International Studies Quarterly*](#). Online first.
- Sabrina Axster and Rachel Beatty Riedl. 2025. "Multi-level Migration Governance, Citizenship, and Exclusion." [*International Migration*](#). Online first.
- Sabrina Axster. 2024. "Arresting Movement: The History of German Immigration Detention Beyond the Camp." [*Punishment & Society*](#). 26(3): 465-485.
*Winner of the 2022 Edward Said Award, Global Development Section, International Studies Association
- Sabrina Axster. 2023. "'We try to Humanize their Stories': Interrogating the US Immigrant and Refugee Rights Spaces Through the Shifts from 'Poverty Porn' to Humanization and Resilience." [*Millennium: Journal of International Studies*](#). 51(2): 615-639.
*Winner of the 2022 Northedge Prize for best graduate student paper
- Sabrina Axster, Ida Danewid, Asher Goldstein, Matt Mahmoudi, Burak Cemal Tansel, and Lauren Wilcox. 2021. "Colonial Lives of the Carceral Archipelago: Rethinking the Neoliberal Security State." [*International Political Sociology*](#). 15(3): 415-439.
*2nd most-read *International Political Sociology* article of 2021
*Cited over 80 times
- BOOK CHAPTERS Sabrina Axster and Ida Danewid. 2025. "Corporeal Power." In Stacie Goodard, George Lawson, and Ole Jacob Sending (eds) *Oxford University Press Handbook of International Political Sociology*.
- BOOK REVIEWS Sabrina Axster. "John Hultgren. *Border Walls Gone Green: Nature and Anti-Immigrant Politics in America*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2015. [*Critical Sociology*](#). 44(4-5): 825-827.
- UNDER REVIEW Sabrina Axster. "Vagrancy Laws, Colonialism, and the Construction of the Criminal Subject." Under review for Julian Go and Stuart Schrader (eds) *The Imperial Entanglements of Policing*. Contracted with Duke University Press.

WORKING PAPERS	<p>“Assembling the Illegality Regime: Antisemitism and the Making of the Figure of the Illegal Migrant in Germany”</p> <p>“From Prussia to the Pacific: The Colonial Roots of the German Guestworker Program” <i>*Part of the fall 2024 Migration Politics’ residence program</i></p>	
MEDIA APPEARANCES AND PUBLICATIONS	<p>Interviewed for an article on the history of German deportations. “Deutschlands erstes Abschiebegefängnis,” Spiegel Geschichte.</p> <p>“Targeting Jewish Migrants and Unwanted Foreigners in the 1920s.” Border Criminologies Blog, University of Oxford.</p> <p>“London After Brexit.” Strangers Guide.</p> <p>“A Tale of Two Countries: The Privatization of Immigrant Detention in Germany and the US.” American German Institute.</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2023</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2017</p>
AWARDS	<p>Oxford University Press Early Career Researcher First Book Prize</p> <p>Honorable Mention, 2024 APSA Migration & Citizenship Section Best Dissertation Prize</p> <p>Postdoc Achievement Award for Excellence in Leadership, Cornell University</p> <p>Edward Said Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, Global Development Section, International Studies Association</p> <p>Northedge Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, <i>Millennium: Journal of International Studies</i></p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2022</p>
EXTERNAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS	<p>Secret State Archives Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Archival Research Stipend</p> <p>National Science Foundation (SES-2000500), American Political Science Association Dissertation Research Improvement Grant</p> <p>German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Long-Term Doctoral Research Grant</p> <p>Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Humanities for All Fellowship</p> <p>Carnegie Council, Robert J. Myers Fund</p> <p>European International Studies Association, Early Career Researchers Workshop Organization Grant</p> <p>DAAD, American German Institute Research Fellowship</p> <p>Carnegie Council, Global Ethics Fellow for the Future</p> <p>DAAD and German National Academic Foundation, Carlo-Schmid Fellowship</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>2021-2022</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2017</p> <p>2015-2016</p> <p>2011-2012</p>
INTERNAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS	<p>Cornell University</p> <p>Cornell-King's Global Strategic Collaboration Award</p> <p>Interdisciplinary Monograph Writing Group</p> <p>Johns Hopkins University</p> <p>James Hart Fellowship</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2022-2023</p>

	Dean's Teaching Fellowship	2022
	Gender and Racial Justice Scholars Award	2021
	Summer Language Study Grants	2020
	Doctoral Research Grant, 21 st Century Cities Initiative	2020
	Nicole Suveges Fieldwork Fellowship	2019
	Max Kade Foundation Summer Grant	2018
	J. Brien Key Fund	2018
	Rutgers University	
	Teaching Fellowship, Division of Global Affairs	2015-2017
	Homeland Security Fellowship	2015-2016
	Professional Development Fellowship	2015
	Summer Research Grant	2015
	University of Amsterdam	
	Amsterdam University Fund	2010
	STUNT Scholarship	2010
ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS	King's College London, UK, Visiting PhD Student	2022
	Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Germany, Guest Researcher	2016, 2017, 2018, 2021
	American German Institute, USA, DAAD Research Fellow	2017
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor	
	The Politics of Migration Control (JHU)	2022
	An Introduction to Global Migration (JHU)	2022
	Global Migration Control, Past and Present (JHU)	2021
	An Introduction to the United Nations (Rutgers University)	2017
	Teaching Assistant	
	U.S. Foreign Policy (JHU)	2019, 2020
INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS	"Seeing like a Racial State: The Colonial and Racial Capitalist Roots of German Citizenship" (Ancestral Citizenship Project, International School of Social Sciences, the Netherlands)	2025
	"Beyond Securitization: Antisemitism and the Making of Migrant Illegality in 1920s Germany" (George Mason University)	2025
	"Rethinking the Migration Crisis" (Oberlin College)	2024
	'Colonized Flows' (University of Amsterdam, sponsored by the Dutch Association for Migration Research)	2024
	"Assembling the Illegality Regime: Vagrancy Laws, Indentured Labor, and the Making of Migration Control in Germany" (Cornell University)	2024

	“Antisemitism and the Making of Migrant Illegality in 1920s Germany” (Swarthmore College)	2023
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	Working to End Racial Oppression Research Program Conference (University of Waikato, New Zealand)	2025
	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2024
	European Workshops in International Studies	2024
	LSE Joint Sessions on Critical Europe	2024
	Social Sciences Historical Association Annual Meeting	2023
	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2023
	Policing the World (University of Chicago)	2023
	Citizenship and Migration (APSA 2022 Dissertation Workshop)	2022
	Carceral Policy, Policing and Race Inaugural Conference (School of Oriental and African Studies)	2022
	Global Meeting on Law and Society	2022
	Annual Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics	2022
	British International Studies Association Conference	2022
	Annual Conference of the International Studies Association	2022
	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2021
	Annual Conference, European International Studies Association	2021
	IMISCOE Annual Conference	2021
	Annual Conference, European International Studies Association	2019
	Annual Conference of the International Studies Association	2019
	(Un)making Borders (British International Studies Association Colonial / Postcolonial / De-colonial Working Group Annual Workshop)	2018
	Annual Conference of the International Studies Association	2018
	Migration With(out) Boundaries (Michigan State University)	2017
	Racialized Realities in Word Politics (Millennium Conference)	2016
	Annual Graduate Student Conference, European Consortium for Political Research	2016
	IMISCOE Annual Conference	2016
	Global Ethics Fellow Annual Conference (Carnegie Council)	2015
	European Consortium for Political Research General Conference	2015
	2015 Politicologenetmaal Conference	2015
CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION	“The Global Colonial Present” (European Workshops in International Studies)	2024
	“Racial Capitalism and the Global Carceral Empire of Control” (Mini-Conference during the Annual Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics)	2022
	“The Political Economy of Control: Race and (In)security in the Neoliberal Present” (European International Studies Association Early Career Workshop)	2019
	“Eyes on Surveillance: (In)security in Everyday Life” (Program in Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship, JHU)	2019

	“(Re)conceptualizing Displacement.” (Program in Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship, JHU)	2018
	“Dynamics of Global Inequality: New Thinking in Global Affairs” (Division of Global Affairs, Rutgers University)	2017
SUMMER SCHOOLS	“Decolonizing Knowledge and Power: Postcolonial Studies, Decolonial Horizons.” Barcelona, Spain	2018
	IMISCOE PhD Summer School: “New Immigration and the Redefinition of the Mainstream.” Princeton University, USA	2016
	REMESO Graduate School “Interrogating the Refugee Crisis.” Linköping University, Sweden	2016
	Summer School on Black Europe: “Interrogating Citizenship, Race and Ethnic Relations.” Amsterdam, the Netherlands	2015
UNIVERSITY SERVICE	Selection Committee Member, DAAD/AGI Research Grant	Since 2021
	Editorial Assistant, <i>Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions</i> ‘	2019-2020
	Graduate Assistant, Program in Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship, JHU	2018-2020
	Colloquium Organizer, Department of Political Science, JHU	2018-2019
	Colloquium Organizer, Division of Global Affairs, Rutgers University	2016-2017
	Vice President, Student Association of Global Affairs, Rutgers University	2016-2017
	Ad hoc reviewer for <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> , <i>European Journal of International Relations</i> , <i>International Migration</i> , <i>Review of International Studies</i> , and <i>Security Dialogue</i>	
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (vary by year)	American Political Science Association International Studies Association European International Studies Association Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics European Consortium for Political Research International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Network (IMISCOE) Law and Society Association British International Studies Association	

REFERENCES

Dr. Erin Chung (Doctoral Advisor)
Charles D. Miller Professor of East Asian Politics
Department of Political Science
Johns Hopkins University
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