

Erin E. O'Connor, Ph.D.

erin@eeoconnor.com | +1 (917) 294-9082 | @erin_e_oconnor

EDUCATION

New School for Social Research | Ph.D., Sociology | New York, NY

Dissertation: Hotshop: An Ethnography of Embodied Knowledge in Glassblowing.

Committee members: Craig Calhoun, Richard Sennett, and Terry Williams.

New School for Social Research | M.A., Sociology | New York, NY

Concentration: Political Sociology.

Michigan State University | B.A., Interdisciplinary Humanities, Honors | East Lansing, MI

Concentrations: Social Science, Philosophy, and English Literature.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Northeastern University - New York City | New York, NY

Faculty | Department of Sociology and Anthropology | 2026–present

Program Coordinator | History, Culture and Law | 2026–present

Design Studies Institute | Anguilla, British West Indies

Doctoral Advisor | 2026–present

Marymount Manhattan College | New York, NY

Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Politics and Human Rights | 2009–2026

Chair, Department of Politics and Human Rights | 2018–2023, 2025–2026

Affiliated Faculty of Environmental Studies, Department of Natural Sciences | 2015–2026

PUBLICATIONS

Books

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

In Preparation *The Middle Mineral and the Mine: A Geoanthropology of Studio Glass*.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2025 Hotshop: Placing the genesis of American studio glassblowing. *Canadian Review of American Studies*, 55(1), 68-100.

2024 From furnace to mine: An ethnominerology 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.

2009 With D. Rhoten and E. Hackett. The act of collaborative creation and the art of integrative creativity: Originality, disciplinarity, and interdisciplinarity in science, *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.

Book Chapters

2027 Embodied knowledge in glassblowing: Meaning and the struggle towards proficiency. In K. Petrie and J. Sarmiento (Eds.), *The Glass Reader*. Bloomsbury Academic.

2024 Becoming with glass: Medium and materiality in embodied knowledge. In C. Groth and N. Nimkulrat (Eds.), *Craft and Design Practice from an Embodied Perspective* (pp. 40-51). Routledge.

2023 Materia Erotica: Making-love among glassblowers. In R. Smith and S. Delamont (Eds.), *Leaving the field: Methodological Insights from Ethnographic Exits* (pp. 86-98). Manchester University Press.

- 2016 With S. Peck. The prototype: Problem Work in the relationship between designer, artist and gaffer in glassblowing. In T.H.J. Marchand (Ed.), *Craftwork as problem solving: Ethnographic studies of design and making* (pp. 33-49). Routledge.
- 2015 Inter- to intracorporeality: The haptic hotshop heat of a glassblowing studio. In I. Farias and A. Wilkie (Eds.), *Studio studies: Ethnographies of creative production* (pp. 105-119). Routledge.
- 2012 Saber hecho carne: La experiencia del sentido y la búsqueda de expertise en el soplado de vidrio. In C. E. Benzecry (Ed.), *Hacia una nueva sociología cultural: Mapas, dramas, actos y prácticas* (pp. 40-51). Universidad Nacional de Quilmes.
- 2007 Hot glass: The calorific imagination of practice in glassblowing. In C. Calhoun & R. Sennett (Eds.), *Practicing culture: Taking culture seriously* (pp. 57-81). Routledge.
- 2007 Embodied knowledge in glassblowing: The experience of meaning and the struggle towards proficiency. In C. Shilling (Ed.), *Embodying sociology: Retrospect, progress and prospects* (pp. 126-141). Wiley-Blackwell.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Applied

- 2026 Vetenskapsrådet [Swedish Research Council]. Artistic research grant. Co-applicant with Anna Mlasowsky. Amount: \$150,000/year for 3 years. Status: Pending.
- 2026 New York State Council on the Arts. NYSCA support for artists grant. Co-applicant with Pawel Wojtasik. Sponsorship: Urban Glass. Amount: \$10,000. Status: Pending.

Awarded

- 2026 *Fire Craft* selected as a “Nerdecision Must Read” and one of the “10 Best Books About Craft, Making, and Handmade Art,” Book Nerdecision.
- 2026 Fulbright Fellowship Finalist. Fulbright-University of Graz Visiting Professor in Humanities, University of Graz, Graz, Austria.
- 2025 Marymount Manhattan College Faculty Scholarship Award.
- 2024 Marymount Manhattan College Faculty Scholarship Award.
- 2023 Rakow Grant for Glass Research, Corning Museum of Glass.
- 2014 Carnegie Mellon Advanced Interdisciplinary Perspective Teaching Enhancement Grant, Fall.
- 2014 Carnegie Mellon Advanced Interdisciplinary Perspective Teaching Enhancement Grant, Spring.

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY: TALKS & MEDIA

Invited Lectures & Presentations

- 2026 The middle mineral and the mine: Alchemy & art in the Anthropocene. Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy.
- 2026 Book talk with the author of *Fire Craft: Art, Body, and World Among Glassblowers*, Erin E. O'Connor. Venice Glass Week, de Santillana Foundation, Venice, Italy.
- 2026 The geanthropology of studio glass. Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Bornholm, Denmark.
- 2026 The geanthropology of studio glass. JUST ART: Creating Common Grounds for Climate Justice Through Artistic Research Symposium, Groninger Museum and the University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands.
- 2025 The elemental work of studio glassblowing. Artistry @ Work Series, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, France & The Royal Anthropological Institute, London, England.
- 2025 Sustainability & studio art practices among glassblowers. Tyler Glass Sustainability Micro-Symposium. Tyler School of Art & Architecture, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- 2024 Glassblowing as terraforming: Posthumanist turns in embodied knowledge. Paul and Irene Hollister Lecture on Glass, Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY, United States.
- 2024 Mining studio craft: A case study from glassmaking. Craft History Workshop, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.
- 2022 Where the action isn't: Intracorporeal becomings, elements, and resources among glassblowers. L'École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris-Malaquais, Paris, France.

Published Media & Periodicals

- 2026 GEEX Talks: Erin O'Connor | May 27. [Glass Education Exchange](#).
- 2025 Vitrifying America. [Glass Quarterly](#), (179).
- 2024 Hurricane Helene's Urgent Message About the Arts and Global Mining. [Hyperallergic](#), November 13.
- 2024 Glassblowing as Terraforming. [Bard Grad Center](#). October 17.

SELECTED CONFERENCES

International

- 2026 Excavating the geoanthropology of studio glass. *Ecocritical Potentials of Lithomateriality Conference*, Aarhus University, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2025 A geoanthropology of studio glass. *3rd Biennial International Conference for the Craft Sciences*, University of Gothenburg, Mariestad, Sweden.
- 2025 And A. Mlasowsky. Futuring studio glass: Speculative curating the postvitreous. *3rd Biennial International Conference for the Craft Sciences*, University of Gothenburg, Mariestad, Sweden.
- 2025 Pedagogies of eco-Marxism and the Anthropocene in the arts. *Art & Aesthetics – Marx in the Anthropocene Conference*, Università Iuav di Venezia, Venice, Italy.
- 2024 Posthumanism and the deep time of studio glassblowing: An international panel of glass scholars and artists (Organizer & Presenter). *The Venice Glass Week*, Venice, Italy.
- 2024 The glassy state: The logic of vitrification as a matter of self and worldmaking. *36th Congrès du Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA)*, Lyon, France.
- 2023 Batched up: Resource extraction and wastework among glassblowers. *Wastework Symposium*, Bibliotheca Hertziana - Max Planck Institute for Art History, Rome, Italy.
- 2015 Amateur craft: Learning and teaching the value of labor and work in contemporary studio glassblowing. *Making Futures Conference*, Plymouth College of Art, Plymouth, England.
- 2014 Handwork Hierarchies. *Instrument Practice in 20th Century Science, Medicine and Technology*, Center for Research in the Arts, Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.
- 2014 Intercorporeality and teamwork: Bodies and collaboration in glassblowing. *Studio Studies Author's Conference*, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Berlin, Germany.

National

- 2025 Mastering & (un)mastering mastery: Knowledge acquisition in studio glass. *UrbanGlass Crafting Mastery Symposium*, New York, NY, United States.
- 2025 Art worlds are mining worlds: Geology and the deep time of creativity (Panel Organizer). *50th Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science*, Seattle, WA, United States.
- 2025 And Indriss, N., & Riley, A. The life of glass: Following pathways of connection, rupture, and alteration. *Glass Art Society (GAS) Conference*, Arlington, TX, United States.
- 2024 The middle mineral & the mine: An ethno-mineralogy of studio glass. *In the Burrow: Critical Approaches to Infrastructure Conference*, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, United States.
- 2023 Following the glass: The material life of batch from mine to furnace. *UrbanGlass Academic Symposium*, New York, NY, United States.
- 2019 Of sticks and men [sic]: The ontological (re)turns of embodiment. *Materializing Resistance: Gender, Politics, and Craft Symposium*, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, United States.
- 2014 Breathing body: The tertiary dimension of embodiment in glassblowing. *Eastern Sociological Society, Annual Meeting: Invisible Work*, Baltimore, MD, United States.

PROGRAM LEADERSHIP & ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Civic-Engagement Learning

- 2027 Director | The Living City (work in progress) | Northeastern University–New York City.
- 2026 Director | Ecology & Art | Marymount Manhattan College.
- 2024 Director | Labor, Work & Action | Marymount Manhattan College.
- 2021 Founder & Director | The Suffrage Academy | Marymount Manhattan College.

Curatorial & Juror Experience

- In Progress Co-Curator | *Supercooled Liquid in the Time of Global Warming* (work in progress) | Exhibition.
- 2026 Juror | Member Exhibition, Glass Art Society, Corning, NY. | Exhibition
- 2016 Co-Curator | *Paracosm: New Worlds in Glass* | Norte Maar, Brooklyn, NY. | Exhibition

Artwork & Production

- In Progress Co-Director | *Of Humans and Stone* | Film.
- 2026 Artist | *The Art of Fire Craft: Glass and Collage by Erin E. O'Connor* | Inaugural Creative Sociology Exhibition, American Sociological Society, New York, NY.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses serve programs in Anthropology, Art, Design Studies, Environmental Studies, Politics, and Sociology.

Anthropology, Introduction to
Anthropology at Museums in NYC
Art, Politics & Society
Artisan Movements & Radical Labor
Culture & Ideology
EcoCulture & Sustainability
Embodiment and Skill as Worldmaking
Environmental Justice
Environmental Ethics
Ethnography
Geoanthropologies of Craft
Material Culture
Social and Political Inquiry, Foundations of
Social Theory
Sociology, Introduction to

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE

International & National

Fellow, Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland | 2025–present
Member, American Anthropological Association | 2024–present
Advisory Board, Mathematizing in Motion, SOAS, University of London | 2024–present
Member, American Sociological Association | 2009–present

Marymount Manhattan College

Chair, Department of Politics and Human Rights | 2018–2023, 2025–2026
Faculty Liaison, College Prison Education Programs | 2017–2026
Presidential Educational Task Force Committee | 2021–2022
Presidential Task Force | 2019–2020
Strategic Planning Committee | 2019–2021
Curriculum Committee | 2011–2012
Outcomes Assessment | 2011–2012
Enrollment Management Committee | 2010–2012
Digital Literacy Forum | 2010–2011
Recruiter, Social Sciences | 2010–2012, 2014–2017
Advanced Interdisciplinary Committee | 2009–2010

LANGUAGE

German: Intermediate speaking, reading, and writing.