

# *Curriculum Vitae*

## **Caitlin M. Zaloom**

Professor  
New York University  
Department of Social and Cultural Analysis

20 Cooper Square, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10003  
caitlin.zaloom@nyu.edu  
p 212.992.9671 | f 212.995.4734

## **Employment**

### *New York University*

- Professor, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, 2020-present.  
Affiliated Professor, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication 2019-present.
- Associate Professor, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, 2009-2020.  
Associate Professor of Business and Society, Stern School of Business, 2012-2016.  
Affiliated Professor, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication 2019-present.  
Affiliated Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, 2009-present.
- Assistant Professor, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, 2005-2009.  
Affiliated Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, 2006-2009.
- Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, Metropolitan Studies Program, 2003-2005.

## **Education**

### *University of California, Berkeley.*

- PhD Socio-Cultural Anthropology, December 2002.
- MA Socio-Cultural Anthropology, May 1998.

### *Brown University*

- BA Modern Culture and Media; Middle Eastern Studies, *Magna cum laude*, May 1995.

## **Books**

### *Single-authored*

- *Indebted: How Families Make College Work at Any Cost*  
Princeton University Press (2019).
- *Out of the Pits: Traders and Technologies from Chicago to London*  
University of Chicago Press (2006).

### *Edited*

- *The Long Year: A 2020 reader*, edited with Thomas Sugrue,  
Columbia University Press (2022).
- *Think in Public*, edited with Sharon Marcus,  
Columbia University Press (2019).
- *Anti-Democracy in America: A Trumpism Reader*,  
edited with Eric Klinenberg and Sharon Marcus  
Columbia University Press (2019).

## Peer-reviewed Articles

- "Financialization and the Household," with Deborah James, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 52: 399-415, October 2023.
- "The Future is Family," Essays in honor of Aihwa Ong, *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, 10 (3): 1085-1087, December 2020.
- "Purity & Danger (1966)," *Public Culture*, 32 (2): 415-422, May 2020.
- "A Right to the Future," *Cultural Anthropology* 33 (4): 558-569, November 2018.
- "How Will We Pay?': Projective Fictions and Regimes of Planning in US Student Finance," *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 8 (1/2) 239-251, June 2018.  
--Translated and re-printed by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, 2021.
- "The Evangelical Finance Ethic," *American Ethnologist* 43 (2) 325-338, May 2016.
- "The Shortsighted Brain: Neuroeconomics and the Governance of Choice in Time," with Natasha Schull, *Social Studies of Science*, 41(4): 515-538, August 2011.
- "Habitus as Embodied Theory, or a Moment of Reflexivity in the Practice of Science," Special issue, "Naturalism/Constructivism," Tanja Bogusz and Estrid Sorenson eds. *Berliner Blätter* 55: 78-84, March 2011.
- "The Spectacle of Wealth and Its Costs," *Social Psychology Quarterly* 72(3): 203-205, September 2009.
- "How to Read the Future: The Yield Curve, Affect, and Financial Prediction," *Public Culture* 21(2): 243-266, Spring 2009.
- "Markets and Machines: Work in the Technological Sensoryscapes of Finance," *American Quarterly* 58(3): 815-837, September 2006.
- "The Productive Life of Risk," *Cultural Anthropology* 19(3): 365-391, August 2004
- "Ambiguous Numbers: Trading Technologies and Interpretation in Financial Markets," *American Ethnologist* 30(2): 258-272, May 2003.  
--Revised and reprinted, In *Frontiers of Capital*, Melissa Fisher and Greg Downey (eds.), Durham: Duke University Press 2006.

## Book Chapters

- "Of Pits and Screens," Nigel Thrift, Adam Tickell, and Steve Woolgar eds. *Globalization in Practice*, pp. 157-162, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- "Neuroeconomics and the Politics of Choice" with Natasha Schull, Ted Fischer and Peter Benson eds. *Markets and Moralities*, pp. 141-157, Santa Fe, NM: SAR Press, 2014.
- "Traders and Market Morality," Karin Knorr Cetina and Alex Preda eds. *The Handbook of the Sociology of Finance*, pp. 169-186, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- "The City as Value Locus: Markets, Technologies, and the Problem of Worth," Thomas Bender and Ignacio Farias eds. *Urban Assemblages*, pp. 251-267, New York: Routledge, 2009.
- "The Discipline of Speculators," Aihwa Ong and Stephen Collier eds. *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*, pp. 253-269, New York: Blackwell, 2005.
- "Time, Space, and Technology in Financial Networks," Manuel Castells ed. *The Network Society: A Cross-cultural Perspective*, pp. 197-213, Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2004.

## Selected Commentary, Interviews, and Reviews

- “Why is Economics So Powerful?” *The New York Review of Books*, in revision.
- “The Fight Over a Berkeley Library Is a Fight for the Future of Higher Ed,” *The Chronicle Review*, May 4, 2023.
- “Migrant Lives, Global Stories,” with Jeremy Adelman, *Public Books*, February 21, 2022.
- “The Broken Promise of Retirement,” *The New York Review of Books*, July 1, 2021.
- “Bringing the Humanities to the Public and the Public to the Humanities,” *The Chronicle Review*, April 7, 2021.
- “Make Education a Public Good Again,” *California Magazine*, Summer 2020.
- “Medical Student Debt Reform: A Proposed Value-Based Loan Repayment Policy,” with Julia Dreissen and Will Shrank, *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 35: 1576-1578, March 5, 2020.
- “How the Student Debt Complex is Crushing the Next Generation of Americans,” *Time Magazine*, October 29, 2019.
- “What Failure Feels Like,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 13, 2019.
- “How Student Debt Shapes Family Life,” *Times Higher Education*, September 12, 2019
- “How Paying for College is Changing Middle Class Life,” *The New York Times*, August 30, 2019.
- “Financial Literacy Alone Won’t Solve the Student Debt Crisis,” *Marketwatch*, June 19, 2019.
- “Does the U.S. Still Have a ‘Middle Class’?,” *The Atlantic*, November 4, 2018.
- “The Household: Finance,” Correspondences, *Cultural Anthropology*, August 7, 2017.
- “The Ethics of Wall Street,” *Cultural Anthropology*, May 2012.
- “Interview with Mary Poovey,” *Public Culture* 24(1), April 2012.
- “The Derivative World,” *The Hedgehog Review* 12(2): 20-27, Summer 2010.
- Review, *Authors of the Storm: Meteorologists and the Culture of Prediction*, Gary Alan Fine, *American Ethnologist* 36(3): 611-612, August 2009.
- “Still Speculating: Why Wall Street Women are Underpaid,” Review essay based on *Selling Women Short: Gender and Money on Wall Street*, Louise Marie Roth, *Qualitative Sociology* (30): 337-342, September 2007.
- “Future Knowledge,” Forum Commentary, *American Ethnologist* 34(3): 444-446, August 2007.
- “Influences: Clifford Geertz,” *The Chronicle Review*, March 2007.

## Projects

- *Primary Sources*, *Public Books* and Type Media Center, 2022.  
Executive produced a five-part podcast series highlighting the surprising influences of intellectuals, artists, and writers.
- *Migrant Lives, Global Stories* series, *Public Books*, 2022.  
Designed, assigned, edited, and introduced a six-piece series on the global migration crisis.
- *Public Books*, *Founding Editor and Editor at Large*, 2012-present.  
Designed and founded *Public Books*, a digitally-native, daily essay review forum where scholars engage in vigorous debate about works and ideas that deserve timely, intensive discussion. Building, editing, and developing *Public Books* marries my research on the

dynamics of new technologies and institutional change with a mission to bring scholarly depth and rigor to a highly educated public. Currently, Public Books attracts an average of 20,000 readers per week.

- Chicago History Museum, *Project Director*, Trading Families Oral History Archive, 2007. Conceived, directed, and conducted interviews to establish an oral history archive that documents the role of Chicago's futures trading families in the city's agricultural and financial derivatives exchanges. The 30-subject archive focuses on neighborhood and ethnic connections between families and trading, links between Chicago's futures marketplace and regional agriculture, and more recent developments in electronic trading and the globalization of futures markets.

## Invited Presentations (since 2010)

- *Household Speculations, Ethnography and Social Theory Colloquium*, Yale University, Department of Anthropology, February 2023.
- *Financialization, Family Care, and College Education*, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, The Social Science of Caregiving Workshop, November, 2022.
- *The Promise of Higher Education: Family Aspirations and the Weight of College*, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Innovation, Education, and the Future of Prosperity Group, October, 2022.
- *Indebted: Student Finance, Social Speculation, and the Future of the U.S. Family*, University of Michigan, Interdisciplinary Committee on Organizational Studies, March 2022.
- *The Common Roots of Ethnography and Public Anthropology*, University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, Socio-Cultural Working Group, March 2022.
- *The Common Roots of Ethnography and Public Anthropology*, From Ethics to Politics: Performing Public Anthropology of Religion (Invited Roundtable), Society for the Anthropology of Religion, May 16, 2021.
- *The Costs of College for the U.S. Middle Class*, University of Stellenbosch Business School, Leader's Angle: Addressing the National Student Debt Crisis, April 21, 2021.
- *Indebted: Student Finance, Social Speculation, and the Future of the U.S. Family*, UCLA, Department of Anthropology, February 2020.
- *Indebted: How Families Make College Work at Any Cost*, UC Irvine, School of Education, February 2020.
- *Indebted: How Families Make College Work at Any Cost*, Arizona State University, School of Social Transformation, February 2020.
- *What Means Tests Mean*, Johns Hopkins, Mellon Sawyer Seminar, "Data & Society," December 2019.
- *Indebted: Family Sacrifice, College Costs, and the Age of Student Finance*, New York Institute for the Humanities, October 2019.
- *Indebted: Family Sacrifice, College Costs, and the Age of Student Finance*, London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Anthropology, October 2019.
- *Student Debt and the Potential of Cancellation*, Rethinking Macroeconomics workshop, London School of Economics and Political Science, October 2019.
- *Indebted: Family Sacrifice, College Costs, and the Age of Student Finance*, University of Cambridge, CRASSH Politics of Economics and the Max Planck Cambridge Center for Ethics, Economy, and Social Change, October 2019.

- *Indebted: Family Sacrifice, College Costs, and the Age of Student Finance*, Princeton University, Department of Anthropology, September 2019.
- *Priceless Potential*, Debt in Global Context, Columbia University, April 2019.
- *Purity & Danger*, Undead Texts: Grand Narratives and the History of the Human Sciences, Columbia University and Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, November 2018.
- *What is a Household?*, Rebuilding Macroeconomics, National Institute for Economic and Social Research, HM Treasury, October 2018.
- *Home Economics: Student Finance and Family Sacrifice in the US Today*, Department of Anthropology, University of Southern California, April 2018.
- *Imagining Student Debt*, Heilbroner Center for Capitalism Studies, The Collective Imaginations of Capitalism Symposium keynote lecture, The New School, April 2018.
- *Home Economics: Finance, Family, and Student Loans*, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, November 2016.
- *Projective Fictions: US Households and the Moral Economy of Financial Planning*, Stanford University, Humanities Center Capitalism Workshop, October 2016.
- *Financing Potential: The "Fictitious" Futures and "Real" Math of US Student Loans*, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Núcleo de Pesquisas em Cultura e Economia (UFRJ), Workshop on Real Economy, June 2016.
- *American Oikos: Finance, Family, and the Student Loan Crisis*, The New School, Capitalism Studies colloquium, April 2016
- *American Oikos: Finance, Family, and the Student Loan Crisis*, Brandeis University, Department of Anthropology, Hunt Lecture in Economic Anthropology, April 2016.
- *A Moral History of the Household Budget*, Washington University Saint Louis, Department of Anthropology colloquium, April 2015.
- *The Protestant Finance Ethic*, Johns Hopkins University, Department of Anthropology colloquium, March 2015.
- *A Moral History of the Household Budget*, CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Sociology colloquium, February 2015.
- *Infrastructures of Foresight*, University of Southern California, Annenberg School, October 2014.
- *Infrastructures of Foresight*, Columbia University, Heyman Center for the Humanities, April 2014.
- *A Moral History of the Household Budget*, Princeton University, Economic Sociology seminar, April 2014.
- *The Protestant Finance Ethic*, University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, Socio-Cultural Workshop, April 2014.
- *A Moral History of the Household Budget*, Columbia University, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, November 2013.
- *The Paradox of Personal Finance*, Department of the History and Sociology of Science, Symposium in honor of Ruth Schwartz Cowan, University of Pennsylvania, May 2013.
- *Volatility and the Problem of Planning a Life*, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, University of Chicago, May 2012.
- *The Ethics of Liquidity*, Stockholm Center for Organizational Research (SCORE), Stockholm University, April 2012.
- *God's Money Managers*, Department of Anthropology, Stockholm University, April 2012.
- *The Virtue of Market Makers*, Columbia University, Heyman Center for the Humanities, April 2012.

- *Trader Ethics*, New York University, Institute for Public Knowledge, April 2012.
- *Evangelical Finance and Dependent Rationality*, London School of Economics, Department of Anthropology colloquium, March 2012.
- *Collaborating on Collaboration*, American Anthropological Association, Executive Session (Invited status), November 2011.
- *God's Money Managers*, Columbia University, Franz Boas Lecture, October 2011.
- *Evangelical Finance and Reflexive Rationality*, University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology colloquium, April 2011.
- *Masculine Ethics and Financial Capitalism*, Cornell University, Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program colloquium, April 2011.
- *God's Money Managers*, New York University, Department of Anthropology colloquium, March 2011.
- *God's Money Managers*, New York University, Stern School of Business, Paduano Seminar, February 2011.
- *The Shortsighted Brain*, Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women and Gender colloquium, November 2010.
- *The Shortsighted Brain*, Rice University, Department of Anthropology colloquium, October 2010.
- *The Protestant Financial Ethic*, Stanford University Humanities Center, Capitalism and its Crises workshop, April 2010.
- *God's Money Managers*, University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology colloquium, April 2010.

## Conference Presentations (since 2010)

- *Finance and the Dream of Future Homes*, American Anthropological Association, November 2023
- *What the Category of the Economy Tells Us about Morality*, European Association of Social Anthropologists, July 2022.
- *Everyday Fraud*, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, June 2019.
- *Potential is Priceless: Middle Class Life and Student Debt in American Families* (Presidential Panel), Eastern Sociological Society, March 2019.
- *The Future is Feminist*, American Anthropological Association, November 2018.
- *The Financial Household*, American Anthropological Association, November 2017.
- *The Fragile Family*, American Sociological Association, August 2014.
- *Anthropology's Warring Gods*, American Anthropological Association, November 2012.
- *The Future in the Brain*, American Anthropological Association, November 2010.

## Fellowships and Grants

- Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Fellow, 2023-2026.
- Robert L. Heilbroner Center for Capitalism Studies, The New School for Social Research, Faculty Fellow, Spring 2019.
- Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, Fellow, 2016-2017.
- American Council of Learned Societies, Public Fellow Host Grant for Public Books, 2015-2017.

- Mellon Foundation, Planning Grant for Public Books, 2015-2016.
- Russell Sage Foundation, Fellow, 2013-2014.
- NYU Stern School of Business, Paduano Fellowship, 2011-2013
- National Science Foundation, Research Grant, Science and Society Program, Neuroeconomics: From Synapse to Society, 2006-2009.
- International Center for Advanced Studies, Faculty Fellowship, NYU, 2004-2005.
- Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Fellowship, 2001.

## Research and Teaching Experience

### *Undergraduate courses:*

- Value
- Culture of the City
- Landscapes of Consumption
- Work and Wealth in the City
- Urban Ethnography Seminar
- Global Communications
- Strategies for Social & Cultural Analysis
- Senior Honors Seminar
- Debt and Life

### *Graduate courses:*

- Blood and Money
- Strategies in Social & Cultural Analysis
- U.S. Ethnography
- Culture and Economy
- How to Be a Critic
- Going Public

Stanford University, 2007-2008

- *Visiting Scholar*, Center for Work, Technology, and Organizations.

## Professional Service (since 2010)

Social Anthropology, 2019-present.

- *Editorial Advisory Board*

Public Culture, 2010-2019.

- *Senior Editor*

Oikos Working Group, Institute for Public Knowledge, 2015-2019.

- *Co-organizer*

Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 2010-2013.

- *Editorial Advisory Board*

Cornell University Press, 2010-2012

- *Advisory board member for "Expertise" book series, Dominic Boyer editor*