

ISABELLE SOIFER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Irvine **Sep. 2018-Present**

- Emphasis on legal/political anthropology, urban U.S., and global studies

M.A. in Sociocultural Anthropology, Columbia University **Sep. 2015-May 2017**

- Thesis: “The Right to Remain: The dialectics of control and autonomy in New York City community formation”
- Elected by residents to Resident’s Council at NYC International House to serve as liaison between residents and administration

B.A. in Social-Cultural Anthropology, *African Studies* minor, Rice University **August 2011-Dec. 2013**

- Capstone: “Humanitarianism in Northern Uganda and the Imaginings of Child Soldiers”
- Member of Boniuk Council for Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance, Rice Coalition on Hunger and Homelessness, Rice African Student Association, and Zen Club

SIT Study Abroad: Multiculturalism and Human Rights, Cape Town, South Africa **August 2012-Dec. 2012**

- Independent Study Project: “The ‘Marikana Massacre’ and the Reactions of South Africans”
- Languages studied: Xhosa and Afrikaans
- Lived with four different home-stay families: in Langa, Tschabo, Cape Town, and Stellenbosch

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs **August 2009-May 2011**

- English major with emphasis on creative writing
- Member of Free Expression Poetry Club
- Transferred to Rice University in 2011

AWARDS

Office of U.S. Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, December 2016 – Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, earned in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community

Rice University, December 2013 – President’s Honor Roll, for recognition of outstanding academic achievement in a particular semester

PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS

“Renewal.” *The Colorado Mathematical Olympiad: The Third Decade and Further Explorations*, Alexander Soifer. 2017. Poem on p. 74-5.

“Soifer: Combating poverty, one person and one policy at a time.” *Houston Chronicle*. September 2015. <https://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Soifer-Combating-poverty-one-person-and-one-6486061.php>.

“Yang, Soifer: USAID reforms needed to save lives.” *Houston Chronicle*. June 2015. <https://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Yang-Soifer-USAID-reforms-needed-to-save-lives-6356618.php>.

“Civic Vitality Community Indicator Report.” *Center for Houston’s Future*. May 2015.

“The Center for Houston’s Future Community Indicators.” *Center for Houston’s Future*. December 2014. houstonindicators.org.

“Arts and Cultural Heritage Community Indicator Report.” *Center for Houston’s Future*. May 2014.

“Humanitarianism in Northern Uganda and the Imaginings of Child Soldiers.” *Academia.edu*. December 2013. https://www.academia.edu/5639070/Humanitarianism_in_Northern_Uganda_and_the_Imaginings_of_Child_Soldiers.

“Los Jardineros de Houston.” *Blurb Books*. December 13, 2013. <http://www.blurb.com/books/4863951-los-jardineros-de-houston>.

“Perspectives on the Marikana Miners’ Strikes.” *The Rice Standard*. January 8, 2013.

“The Marikana Massacre and the Reactions of South Africans.” Independent Study Project (ISP). Fall 2012. http://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection/1409.

“The Afrikaner Identity.” *The Rice Standard*. December 3, 2012.

“Economic Realities in the Eastern Cape.” *The Rice Standard*. November 14, 2012.

“Impressions of a South African Church.” *The Rice Standard*. November 6, 2012.

Yuh, Soifer: Interview with Truong Doan. *Houston Asian American Archive, Chao Center for Asian Studies, Rice University*. April 2012.
<https://scholarship.rice.edu/bitstream/handle/1911/64512/wrc02605-transcript-rev.pdf>.

Yuh, Soifer: Interview with Alice Chen. *Houston Asian American Archive, Chao Center for Asian Studies, Rice University*. March 2012.
<https://scholarship.rice.edu/bitstream/handle/1911/64075/wrc02601-transcript-rev.pdf>.

Cuba Transnational: A Celebration of Cuban Diasporic Artists. University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. May 2011. <http://cubatransnational.blogspot.com/>.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Dept. of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine **Sep. 2018-Present**

Teaching Assistant- Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology & American Culture (25 hours/week)

- Managing three 50-minute discussion sections of about 30 students each, noting student attendance and participation
- Developing lesson plans based on lectures, readings, and films, incorporating active learning and group activities to engage students with the material
- Hosting office hours and appointments, answering student emails, and sending out weekly emails with supplementary material and announcements
- Grade bi-weekly written assignments, mid-terms, and final papers

Dept. of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Houston, TX **Feb. 2017-May 2018**

Program Coordinator (40 hours/week)

- Streamlined scheduling and administrative procedures in collaboration with Department Chairs
- Led student recruitment efforts via information sessions and flyer design/distribution
- Managed logistics for the TX Challenge to Reach Higher State Convening conference
- Oversaw professional development and task load of work study students

Office of U.S. Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08), Brooklyn, NY **Sep. 2016-Dec. 2016**

Constituent Services Fellow (21 hours/week)

- Handled 40 constituent cases concerning public housing and resources for the homeless
- Partnered with Brooklyn Legal Services to secure legal representation for low-income constituents

Oxford University Press

June 2016-August 2016

Higher Education Editorial Intern (20 hours/week)

- Managed the reviewer database and contacted professors to review textbooks
- Developed and edited ancillary materials for textbooks (Powerpoints, websites, image banks)
- Attended list planning meetings to learn about textbook market and collaborative process between marketing, development and editorial departments

Center for Houston's Future, Houston, TX

August 2014-March 2015

Strategic Initiatives Coordinator (40 hours/week)

- Researched and analyzed health, education, public safety, natural environment and civic vitality statistical data
- Built Tableau visualizations and GIS maps depicting data for the Indicators website
- Collaborated with the Communications Department to launch the Indicators website and host the ceremony for its launch: www.houstonindicators.org

Center for Houston's Future, Houston, TX

Jan. 2014-May 2014

Strategic Initiatives Intern (20 hours/week)

- Researched, wrote, and copy-edited the "Community Indicators Report: Arts and Cultural Heritage," covering best practices and data on local arts, cultural heritage, and tourism in the Houston region
- Wrote a 32-page report about crime rates, traffic fatalities, domestic violence, and human trafficking in Houston

YMCA of Greater Houston, Katy, TX

July 2013-August 2013

Summer Camp Counselor (40 hours/week)

- Led a group of ten 1st graders each day through science and nutrition lessons, reading, physical fitness activities, and field trips

Fondren Library

Jan. 2013-May 2013

Student Assistant (15 hours/week)

- Managed and distributed library materials to patrons
- Signed up members of the Houston community and alumni to the Friends of Fondren Program to access library resources

Kraemer Family Library

Jan. 2011-May 2011

Student Assistant (20 hours/week)

- Greeted and assisted library customers, checked books in and out, and replenished bookshelves

Family Development Center

Nov. 2009-Sep. 2010

Teacher Assistant (20 hours/week)

- Assisted teacher with instructing 14 toddlers through sensory activities, reading, playing, and family-style dining

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Helping Hearts- UCI Chapter

Sep. 2018-Present

Volunteer (7 hours/week)

- Participate in bi-weekly meetings, attend monthly Laundry Love event in Santa Ana to provide free laundry help to low-income and homeless individuals, and visit Skid Row to distribute hygiene kits, clothing, and food to the homeless

Anteaters Tzu Ching

Sep. 2018-Present

Volunteer (5 hours/week)

- Visit senior homes and participate in tutoring services at local schools

South Sudanese News Agency

Sep. 2012-Present

Freelance Editor (3 hours/week)

- Regularly copy-edit articles relating to sociopolitical and cultural issues in South Sudan

Covenant House – Texas

Jan. 2018-May 2018

Street Outreach Volunteer (5 hours/week)

- Visited homeless encampments to distribute food, hygiene kits, clothes, blankets, and referrals to Covenant House's educational and vocational programs

**HOPE for Houston (Homeless Outreach
Providing Essentials for Houston)**

Sep. 2017-May 2018

Volunteer (4 hours/month)

- On a monthly basis, distributed hygiene kits, food, and clothing to the homeless in midtown

Food Not Bombs

May 2017-July 2017

Volunteer (8 hours/week)

- On a weekly basis, prepared vegetarian meals to distribute to the homeless in downtown Houston

Project Row Houses**March 2017 & Oct. 2013*****Volunteer (5 hours/event)***

- March 2017: Helped sell merchandise at the market on the opening day of the exhibit *Black Women Artists for Black Lives Matter at Project Row Houses*
- October 2013: Assisted with setting up furniture, food, and other amenities for the Third Ward Community Market and Talent Showcase

Community Voices Heard**Jan. 2017-May 2017*****Volunteer (5 hours/week)***

- Attended weekly film screenings and meetings to discuss gentrification and lobbying efforts for affordable housing in East Harlem
- Participated in actions with the NYCHA campaign, demanding increases in city budget for public housing developments

RESULTS, Inc., Washington D.C.**July 2015-July 2016*****REAL Change Organizing & Advocacy Fellowship to Fight Poverty (10 hours/week)***

- Lobbied NY and TX congress members and senators to protect anti-poverty programs (EITC, CTC, and SNAP)
- Published op-ed pieces in the *Houston Chronicle* discussing tax policies and international access to basic healthcare

Rice University, Houston, TX**April 2015-Sep. 2015*****Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Book Prize- Assistant to the Chair (5 hours/week)***

- Contacted presses to advertise the Book Prize, managed database for book entries, and updated members of the Committee on deadlines for the competition

Rice University, Houston, TX**August 2014-Jan. 2015*****Research Assistant to Dr. Andrea Ballesterio (10 hours/week)***

- Researched for an Anthropological Encyclopedia and wrote an annotated bibliography examining the approaches of anthropologists to “transparency,” “access to information,” and “audit culture”

Rice Coalition on Hunger & Homelessness, Houston, TX**Sep. 2013-Dec. 2013*****OwlsHelp Consultant (10 hours/week)***

- Secured access to various resources available to members of the Houston community, including subsidized housing, food stamps, and jobs

Boniuk Council at Rice University, Houston, TX**August 2013-Dec. 2013*****Community-Outreach and Member Relations Coordinator (5 hours/week)***

- Arranged and facilitated interfaith dialogues, film screenings, and interfaith mixer events to encourage religious tolerance and awareness at Rice University

**Partnership for the Advancement & Immersion of
Refugees (PAIR), Houston, TX**

Sep. 2011-Dec. 2011

English Tutor (6 hours/week)

- Tutored 6th and 8th grade refugee children in English and writing composition skills at Fondren Middle School
- Engaged students in activities such as writing stories, drawing illustrations, completing worksheets, playing sports, and encouraging participation in question and answer sessions

HOBBIES & SKILLS

- **Writing:** creative fiction, with an emphasis on poetry and short stories
- **Volunteering:** for political and humanitarian causes
- **Sports:** running, hiking, camping, boxing, basketball, racquetball, and ping-pong
- **Cooking:** primarily vegetarian/vegan cuisine as well as baking
- **Art:** Making jewelry and sculptures, sketching animals and landscapes, and photography (nature, portraits, and candid)
- **Music:** listening to a wide variety, including hip-hop, rap, classic rock, blues rock, classical, rhythm and blues, and soul
- **Traveling:** visited Spain, Germany, South Africa, Italy, Prague, Russia, Mexico, The Netherlands, and France
- **Technical skills:** Tableau, ArcGIS mapping, website development, and Windows Office (excel, word, powerpoint, access, outlook, publisher, and onedrive)