

# SYDNEY PULLEN

sp2365@msstate.edu

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Racial capitalism, education, labor, development, political economy, historical memory, applied anthropology, historical anthropology; the U.S. South, Latin America and the Caribbean

## EDUCATION

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- 2023 University of Arizona — Tucson, AZ  
Ph.D., Anthropology, with a minor in Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory  
Dissertation: *“Living on the Labor of Others”: Education for Work, (Under)development, and Racial Ideologies in Rural South Carolina*
- 2018 University of Arizona — Tucson, AZ  
M.A. Anthropology. Thesis: *Trabajo Pedagógico: State Visions of Education in Revolutionary Cuba*
- 2011 University of South Carolina — Columbia, SC  
B.A. Anthropology, with a minor in music; summa cum laude  
Honors Thesis: *“Hago mis Canciones”: The Creation of a Mexican Musical Identity as a Means of Countering Hegemonic Discourses of Immigration*

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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- 2023- Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology  
Mississippi State University, Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures
- 2019-2020 Research Assistant, Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology  
2015-2017 University of Arizona

## ARTICLES

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- 2023 Under revision. “Don’t Complain”: Soft Skills Education as Moral Micromanagement in Rural South Carolina. *Anthropology of Work Review*.
- 2023 In preparation. “People Just Don’t Wanna Work”: Dependency Narratives and Economic Development in the U.S. Black Belt. *Transforming Anthropology*.

## REPORTS

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- 2022 “Community-University Relations: Community Perspectives on their Interactions with the University of Arizona.” Amanda Hilton, Sydney Pullen, Elizabeth Eklund, and Diane Austin. Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, University of Arizona.

## **ONLINE PUBLICATIONS**

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- 2020 "Teaching Tools: Ethnography, Journalism, and the Politics of Representation." Co-authored with Mary-Caitlyn Valentinsson. Society for Cultural Anthropology website. October 15. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/ethnography-journalism-and-the-politics-of-representation>
- 2019 "Forum: Culture at Large 2018 with Robin Kelley." Series introduction, transcript, and reading list compiled with Juliana Friend. Society for Cultural Anthropology website. July 8. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/series/forum-culture-at-large-2018-with-robin-kelley>
- 2019 "Bending the Arc." Cultural Anthropology. July 8. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/bending-the-arc>

## **AWARDS & GRANTS**

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- 2022-2023 University of Arizona, School of Anthropology, Amman Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship
- 2021 - 2022 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant Awardee
- 2017 - 2022 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program; Fellowship Awardee
- 2020 University of Arizona, School of Anthropology, Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology Diebold Award
- 2016 University of Arizona Social and Behavioral Science Research Institute Pre-Doctoral Research Grant

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2022 "Don't Complain: Soft Skills Education as Moral Micromanagement." Southern Anthropological Society Annual Meeting. Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 2018 "Trabajo Pedagógico: State Visions of Education in Revolutionary Cuba." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Santa Cruz, California.
- 2018 "Composting Toilets in the Sonoran Desert: The Logistics of Binational Partnerships in Tumultuous Times." Co-authored with Amanda Hilton. Annual meeting of the Canadian Anthropology Society, co-sponsored by the Society for Applied Anthropology. Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.
- 2018 "Composting Toilets in the Sonoran Desert." Poster co-authored with Amanda Hilton. Society for Economic Anthropology Conference. Phoenix, Arizona.

- 2016 "Composting Toilets in the Sonoran Desert." Poster co-authored with Jessica Harris, Amanda Hilton, Elizabeth Koleski, and Julia Nestor. Water Resources Research Center Conference. Tucson, Arizona.
- 2016 "Possibilities and Challenges for Applied Anthropology in Children's Museums." Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 2015 "All Families Welcome: Inclusive Museum Spaces for LGBT Audiences." Presentation with Adrian Zongrone, Sandra Bonnici-Hoecherl, and Margaret Middleton. InterActivity Conference of the Association of Children's Museums. Indianapolis, IN.
- 2014 "All Families Welcome: Inclusive Museum Spaces for LGBT Audiences." Presentation with Adrian Zongrone. Association of Science-Technology Centers Conference. Raleigh, NC.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Arizona – Tucson, AZ**

- 2022 Instructor of Record, ANTH 310: Culture and the Individual  
Online
- 2020 Instructor of Record, ANTH 310: Culture and the Individual  
Online
- 2017 Instructor of Record, ANTH 150B: Many Ways of Being Human  
UAdvantage First Year Experience
- 2017 Teaching Assistant, ANTH 150A: Race, Ethnicity, and the American Dream  
Dr. Jennifer Roth-Gordon, Instructor of Record
- 2016 Teaching Assistant, ANTH 150A: Race, Ethnicity, and the American Dream  
Dr. Lindsay Feldman, Instructor of Record

## **SERVICE**

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### *To the Discipline*

- 2020-2021 Section Editor, Teaching Tools; Society for Cultural Anthropology
- 2018-2020 Contributing Editor, Teaching Tools; Society for Cultural Anthropology

### *To the School/Department*

2018 Member, University of Arizona School of Anthropology Director's Five-Year Review Committee

*To the Community*

2018-2020 Instructor, University of Arizona Prison Education Project

2017-2020 Literacy Coach, Literacy Connects; Tucson, AZ

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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2018-2020 Jewish History Museum — Tucson, AZ  
*Educator*

2012-2015 EdVenture Children's Museum — Columbia, SC  
*Community Projects Coordinator, Educator*

**LANGUAGES**

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English, Spanish (proficient)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Anthropological Association

Society for Applied Anthropology

Southern Anthropological Society