

# ELISE LARGESSE

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## EDUCATION

### **Boston College**, Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences

MA, Sociology (2016)

GPA: 3.98

MA thesis: Anthropogenic Coverage Change: Emergent Vocabularies within the Boston Globe's Climate Change Coverage

Committee: Prof. Stephen Pfohl (chair), Prof. Juliet Schor

PhD Candidate and Teaching Fellow, Sociology (2022 expected)

Areas:

#### **Environmental Sociology**

Committee: Prof. Brian Gareau (chair), Prof. Andrew Jorgenson

Paper: 'If you get your way, other people lose their land:' Purchasing protection on Nantucket Island

#### **Sociology of Place**, With Distinction

Committee: Prof. Stephen Pfohl (chair), Prof. Brian Gareau

Paper 1: Place to be defended, place as defense

Paper 2: Placeless to Place and Back Again: Annihilation and Reconstitution at the Hegemonic Millstone

Advisors: Prof. Stephen Pfohl (primary), Prof. Andrew Jorgenson

Dissertation committee: Prof. Stephen Pfohl (chair), Prof. Brian Gareau, Prof. Sarah Babb

### **New York University**, Gallatin School of Individualized Study

BA, Individualized Study (2007-2010)

GPA: 3.8

Concentration in Comparative Science and Religion

Double minor in Creative Writing and Photography

Senior Thesis: Science, Religion and Human Interaction as Sources of Validation in the Face of the Unknown

Founder's Day Award Recipient, GAF Grant Recipient, Honors Scholar

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## PRESENTATIONS, PANELS & INVITED LECTURES

**'The Light That Lifts Your Soul:' Nantucket as the Elite's Favorite (Transcendent) Product** (Author presentation & discussion)

Featured discussants: Prof. Tammy Lewis (CUNY), Prof. Stephen Pfohl, Prof. Brian Gareau  
Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston, MA, Fall 2021

**'Until It Falls In:' Place Attachment, Inequality and Climate Crisis on Nantucket Island, MA** (Author presentation & discussion)

Featured discussants: Prof. Rebecca Scott (MU), Prof. Katherine Foo (WPI)

Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston, MA, Fall 2020

**Teaching the Intersections of Environmental Justice and COVID-19** (Poster session)

Advancing Research and Scholarship Day: Responding to COVID-19, Boston College, Fall 2020

**'If you get your way, other people lose their land': Protection and consequence on Nantucket Island** (Author presentation)

American Sociological Association (Annual Conference, Summer 2020)

Environmental Sociology Refereed Roundtable: "Politics of Conservation." San Francisco, CA.\*

**Collaborative Mapping of Environmental Justice and Injustice in Boston, MA: Pedagogy of Hope, Action and the Local** (Author presentation, discussant)

Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, Summer 2020

Teaching Social Problems Critical Dialogue Session: "Classroom Technologies: Implications for Teaching Social Problems and Social Change." San Francisco, CA.\*

**'Spent a Half Million Dollars in Sand': Climate Change, Private Protections and Unintended Consequences on Nantucket Island** (Author presentation, paper session)

Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, Summer 2020

Environment and Technology/Sport, Leisure and the Body Co-sponsored Paper Session: "Tourism, Culture and Environment." San Francisco, CA. \*

**'Until it falls in': Place Attachment, Inequality, and Climate Crisis on Nantucket Island, MA.** (Author presentation)

Sociology Graduate Student Open House Research Symposium, Spring 2020

Boston College, Boston, MA.

**Place to be defended, place as defense** (Author presentation, paper session)

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Spring 2020

Paper Session: "Community Responses to Environmental Perils." Philadelphia, PA.

Paper Session: **Community Responses to Environmental Perils** (Presider)

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference

Spring 2020, Philadelphia, PA

**Deep Displacement and Place Threat: How Climate Change and Touristic Gentrification Impacts Combine and Amplify Threats to Place on Nantucket Island** (Author presentation, paper session)

Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, Summer 2019

Paper Session: "Urban Responses to Climate Change." New York, NY.

**Deep Displacement and Place Threat: How Climate Change and Touristic Gentrification Impacts Combine and Amplify Threats to Place on Nantucket Island** (Author presentation, paper session)

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Spring 2019

Paper Session: "Communities and the Environment." Boston, MA.

**Qualitative Methods in the Field** (Invited Speaker)

Social Research Methods with Prof. Sarah Babb, Spring 2018. Boston College, Boston, MA.

**Nantucket Island: Climate Change, Tourism, and Gentrification** (Invited Speaker: author presentation)

Where on Earth? Foundations in Global History, Culture, and Society with Prof. Brian Gareau, Fall 2018. Boston College, Boston, MA.

**Going Down with the Ship: Understanding 'Stayers' in Small Communities Threatened by Climate Change** (Author presentation, discussant)

Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, Summer 2017

Environment and Technology Section, Critical Dialogue: "Applications in Environmental Studies and Narratives on Interdisciplinary Research." Montreal, QC.

**What does it mean to save a place? Processes of Place on Nantucket Island, MA** (Invited Speaker: author presentation)

Methods of Social Research with Prof. Sarah Babb, Spring 2017. Boston College, Boston, MA.

**Anthropogenic Change: Shifts in climate change discourse in the Boston Globe, 1981-2015** (Author presentation, paper session)

Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, Summer 2016

Environmental Sociology Paper Session: "Climate Change and Environmental Discourse." Seattle, WA.

**Anthropogenic Change: Shifts in climate change discourse in the Boston Globe, 1981-2015.** (Author presentation, paper session)

American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Summer 2016

Marxist Sociology Paper Session: "Capitalism and the Anthropocene: Confronting the Ecological Crisis." Seattle, WA.

Environmental Sociology Section Panel: **Advances in Meso-Level Research** (Presider)

American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Summer 2016. Seattle, WA.

**Advancing Research and Scholarship at Boston College: Research Day, Big Data** (Featured research)

Methods and results featured in faculty presentation on digital humanities:

"Tunneling through the Text" by Prof. Joseph Nugent, Spring 2016, Boston MA.

**When Places Cease to Be: Ontological Preservation of Communities Threatened by Climate Change** (Author presentation)

Sociology Graduate Student Association Student Research Symposium, Spring 2014.

Boston College, Boston, MA.

\*cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

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## GRANTS & AWARDS

**2021 Full Conference Scholarship: Awakening to the Existential Threat of Environmental Collapse,** Contemporary Freudian Society

**2021-2022 Clough Center Graduate Fellowship,** Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy

**2021 Professional Development Grant**, Graduate Student Association, Boston College

**2021 Spring Laura Bassi Scholarship (Second Tier)**, Editing Press

**2021 Summer Research Fellowship**, Sociology Department, Boston College

**2020-2021 Ivan Brown Graduate Research Grant**, Sociology Department, Boston College

**2020-2021 Clough Center Graduate Fellowship**, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy

**2020 Summer Research Fellowship**, Sociology Department, Boston College

**2020 Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award**, Boston College

**2020 Eastern Sociological Society Travel Grant**, Eastern Sociological Society

**2019 Summer Research Fellowship**, Sociology Department, Boston College

**2019 Graduate Student Presenter Conference Funding**, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston College

**2018 Graduate Research Expense Grant**, Sociology Department, Boston College

**2017 Summer Conference and Research Grant**, Graduate Student Association, Boston College

**2015 Summer Research Fellowship**, Sociology Department, Boston College

**2014 Individual Research Grant**, Sociology Graduate Student Association, Boston College

**2014 Full Tuition Scholarship and Fellowship**, Boston College

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Environmental Justice** (Teaching Fellow)

Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Boston College

300-level course, designed from scratch

Very positive course evaluations

Students independently seek out and investigate local sites of environmental justice and injustice, and collaboratively create an interactive online map with this novel data for public use

Expands the traditional reach of Environmental Justice studies beyond the unjust distribution of toxic exposures into other realms, such as emergent threats (e.g. climate change impacts) or environmentalist responses themselves (e.g. green gentrification)

Literature covers key theories and case studies in environmental justice through book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles, from foundations to current works

### **Introduction to Sociology** (Teaching Fellow)

Fall 2018, Boston College

Very positive course evaluations

Developed curriculum through adaptation and augmentation of previous reading lists into a more “flipped classroom” approach, with class time focusing on discussion and interactive activities rather than content review and lecturing

Students wrote weekly field notes applying class content to their own lives, current events, and the context of BC; they also produced a 12-15 page research paper on a sociological topic of their choice, led class discussions through group presentations on current sociological journal articles, took weekly reading comprehension quizzes, and participated in in-class activities that aimed to make abstract and theoretical concepts concrete through experience.

### **Global Brigades: Nicaragua** (Faculty Chaperone)

Spring 2018, Boston College in partnership with Merrimack College

Nominated by students to be faculty chaperone on interdisciplinary medical service trip

Traveled to Nicaragua with undergraduates to provide medical services and work on infrastructural improvements (water access)

Facilitated discussion to promote critical, sociological understandings of global inequalities of health, services, environment and rights

### **Introduction to Sociological Thinking for Healthcare Professions** (Teaching Fellow)

Fall 2017, Boston College

Very positive course evaluations

Developed curriculum through adaptation and augmentation of previous reading lists into a more “flipped classroom” approach, with class time focusing on discussion and interactive activities rather than content review and lecturing

Students wrote weekly field notes applying class content to their own lives, current events, and the context of BC; they also produced a 15-page research paper on a sociological topic of their choice, led class discussions through group presentations on current sociological journal articles, took weekly reading comprehension quizzes, and participated in in-class activities that aimed to make abstract and theoretical concepts concrete through experience.

### **Methods of Social Research** (Section Instructor and Teaching Assistant for Prof. Sarah Babb)

Spring 2017, Boston College

Graded papers and other coursework

Led section in discussion and application of material

Guest-taught class on qualitative methods in the field

### **Planet in Peril** (Section Instructor and Teaching Assistant for Profs. J. Schor & P. Parthasarathi)

Fall 2016, Boston College

Participated in second iteration of flipped classroom pedagogic method

Led section in discussion, guided group research project on climate adaptation and mitigation opportunities in Roxbury, MA, including outreach, fieldwork and analysis

Specifically requested by Prof. Schor for assistantship

### **People and Nature** (Section Instructor and Teaching Assistant for Profs. J. Schor & P. Parthasarathi)

Spring 2016, Boston College

Participated in pilot of flipped classroom pedagogic method

Led section of 19 undergraduates in discussion and research projects

Specifically requested by Prof. Schor for assistantship

**Deviance and Social Control** (Undergraduate Research Advisor and Teaching Assistant for Prof. Stephen Pfohl)

Fall 2015, Boston College

Managed and advised 14 undergraduate group research projects combining theory and practice

Developed guiding document for research projects

Facilitated critical thinking and inquiry through individual discussions with students

**Intro to Statistics/SOCY2200** (Teaching Assistant for Prof. Michael Malec)

Spring 2015, Boston College

Held office hours to discuss real-life implications of statistical analyses with students

Assisted undergraduates with SPSS coding and analysis

Specifically requested by Prof. Malec for assistantship

**Select Topics in Environmental Studies** (Teaching Assistant for Prof. Brian Gareau)

Fall 2014, Boston College

Assisted in facilitating class conversation

Edited weekly analyses written by undergraduates to promote critical thinking

Graded all papers and weekly written responses

**Rikers Island High School** (Writing/Arts Teacher: Lyrics on Lockdown program)

Fall 2009, Island Penitentiary, East Elmhurst, NY

Co-led writing/art classes for incarcerated youth at Rikers Island Penitentiary under the guidance of Prof. Ella Turenne

Researched art therapy techniques, psychological conditions and sociological context of incarcerated minors, the prison-industrial complex, incarceration for non-violent crimes in US

Designed and implemented coursework and class plans, yielding positive results and response from students

**Michael Carter Lisnow Respite Center** (General Caretaker) 2004-2007, Hopkinton, MA

Assisted with and co-led group workshops, activities and caretaking for people with physical and mental disabilities, of diverse abilities and ages (toddler to senior)

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Dissertation research:

Multi-method deep ethnography

65 in-depth interviews paired with demographic/attitudinal exit surveys and brainstorming activity

95 days in the field across 7 years, including 1 month in residence

Extensive geotagged photographic documentation

Participatory observation: erosion control, town infrastructure debates and meetings, disaster impact and response, public and private social events

Use of extant data in tandem: GIS data, FEMA flood maps, town/county documents, public tax and real estate records, journalism, archives

### **Master's thesis research:**

Pioneering use of method from digital humanities: TF/IDF (term frequency/inverse document frequency)

Scraped 35 years of climate change coverage in the Boston Globe (3786 articles)

Analyzed using Python and Natural Language Processing, broken into eras of coverage

Through automated calculation of TF/IDF on all terms, identified the terms that most distinguish one era of coverage from all other eras: what is uniquely important in each particular era

### **Design Researcher:** Intern (2014) and Consultant (2014-2019), Essential Design, Boston MA

Innovative survey design, implementation and analysis using Qualtrics

Extensive qualitative research: fieldwork, interviews, job/use shadowing

Areas of focus: medical products and settings, such as services and products for the visually impaired, patient monitoring, nurse workflow, sleep apnea treatment, oncological clinical trial portal/database design

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## **SKILLS**

### **Apprenticeship in College Teaching** at the Center for Teaching Excellence at Boston College:

Active Learning

Assignment Design

Course Design

Creating Effective Learning Environments

Teaching in Online Contexts

Teaching Students with Disabilities

Grading for Learning

**Data, Research and Analysis:** SPSS (proficient, experience as teaching assistant), Python for content analysis and web scraping, related digital humanities tools (natural language processing/NLP, MALLET and topic modeling, Gephi and network analysis, Pandas, stylometry, basic machine learning, visualization with Tableau and Illustrator), QGIS/ArcGIS and other mapping tools (PolicyMap, collaborative use of Google MyMaps, Social Explorer), cloud services: management and remote collaboration (Google App Suite, Amazon Mechanical Turk or MTURK, Dropbox, etc.), audio processing/conversion (Audacity, Switch, etc.), mindmapping (MindMup, Coggle, Xmind), CAQDAS (MaxQDA, NVivo) and audio-synced transcription, online survey/data collection and analysis (Qualtrics, Revelation, Optimal Workshop, Google Forms, SurveyMonkey), research citation and document management (Zotero, Zotfile, RefWorks, Evernote, Calibre, Scrivener), IFTTT

**Teaching/Interactive/Management:** Canvas, Perusall, Doodle polling, Google MyMaps, real-time classroom polling/response (PollEverywhere, Google Forms, Kahoot, Google JamBoard)

**Design and Publication:** Adobe Photoshop (/other Adobe CS versions/programs: Dreamweaver, Bridge, Illustrator, InDesign) automated batch image processing, online publishing clients (e.g. SquareSpace, Wordpress), fundamental CSS/HTML, FTP, virtual presentation/slideshow software (SoundSlides, Powerpoint, Prezi, Keynote), basic video editing and organization (Final Cut, Adobe Premiere)

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-reviewed:

Largesse, Elise. 2021. "Class, climate change, and closed systems: Inverted Quarantine on Nantucket Island." *Environmental Sociology*. Under review.

Largesse, Elise. 2021. "Text, Image, Document: Bridges from Copy to Contact." *Journal of Visual Culture*. Under review.

### Articles in progress:

Largesse, Elise. 2021. "Anthropogenic Coverage Change: Emergent Vocabularies in the Boston Globe's Climate Change Coverage, 1981-2015." *In preparation*.

### Other:

Largesse, Elise. 2012. "Eulogy." Pp. 6–9 in *HEJ: a print-curatorial project*. Vol. 1. New York: Artbook @ MoMA/PS1.

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## SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP

Faculty Representative, Sociology Graduate Student Association (2015-2017)

Boston College Environmental Sociology Working Group (Coordinator 2017-2018, member 2014-present)

Faculty Chaperone, Boston College Global Brigades, Nicaragua (2018)

Guest Scholar on Environmental Justice, Arrupe Undergraduate Group of Boston College (2020)

American Sociological Association (2016-present)

Society for the Study of Social Problems (2016-present)

Eastern Sociological Society (2018-present)



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## REFERENCES

Stephen Pfohl, Professor of Sociology  
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Brian Gareau, Associate Professor of Sociology, Associate Dean for the Core  
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