

**Merin Oleschuk**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
April 2017

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Department of Sociology  
University of Toronto  
725 Spadina Ave Toronto ON  
M5S 2J4  
[merin.oleschuk@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:merin.oleschuk@mail.utoronto.ca)

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.** Sociology, University of Toronto. Commenced Fall 2012. In progress  
“Health and Cooking in Value and Practice: A Mixed Methods Study of Food in Family Life”  
Committee: Josée Johnston (Chair); Shyon Baumann; Melissa Milkie  
Comprehensive Exams: Sociology of Culture, Sociology of Gender

**M.A.** Anthropology, University of Alberta. 2011.  
“Engendering food meaning and identity for Southern Sudanese refugee women in Brooks, Alberta.”  
Committee: Helen Vallianatos (Chair), Amy, Kaler, Jean Debernardi

**B.A.** with distinction. Anthropology, University of Alberta. 2008.  
Minor: History and Classics.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Sociology of Food; Consumption and Consumer Culture; Gender; Bodies; Sociology of Health; Research Methods (qualitative and quantitative)

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Articles**

(Forthcoming). Rodney, A., Cappeliez, S., **Oleschuk, M.**, and Johnston, J.\* The online domestic goddess: An analysis of food blog femininities. *Food, Culture and Society*. \*All authors contributed equally to this article

(Forthcoming). Mayan, M., Lo, S., **Oleschuk, M.**, & Laing, D. Leadership in Community-Based Participatory Research: An Oxymoron? Engaged Scholar Journal.

(2016). **Oleschuk, M.** Foodies of Colour: Authenticity and Exoticism in Omnivorous Food Culture. *Cultural Sociology*. doi: [10.1177/1749975516668709](https://doi.org/10.1177/1749975516668709)

(2012). **Oleschuk, M.** Engendering transnational foodways: A case study of Southern Sudanese women in Brooks, Alberta. *Anthropologica*, 54(1), 119-131.

### **Book Chapters**

(In press). Johnston, J., Cairns, K., and **Oleschuk, M.** A kind diet: Cultivating consumer politics, status, and femininity through ethical eating. In K. Lebesco & P. Naccarato (Eds.), *Handbook of Food and Popular Culture*. Bloomsbury.

(In press) Cairns, K., Johnston, J., & **Oleschuk, M.** Calibrating motherhood. V. Harman & B. Cappellini (Eds.), *Feeding children inside and outside the home*. Routledge.

### **(Non-Scholarly) Media Engagement**

2016. Oleschuk, M., Cairns, K., & Johnston, J. Let's Rethink The Pressure Of Cooking Family Meals During The Holidays. *Huffington Post Canada*.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/merin-oleschuk/family-meal-holidays\\_b\\_13729720.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/merin-oleschuk/family-meal-holidays_b_13729720.html)

### **SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS**

2016-2017 Ontario Graduate Scholarship. \$15,000.  
2016 Connaught Graduate Fellowship, Culinaria Institute \$5000  
2012-2015 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship- Doctoral Scholarship. \$105,000  
2012-2013 Ontario Graduate Scholarship. \$15,000. DECLINED  
2011 Government of Alberta Graduate Student Scholarship. \$3000  
2010 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship- Masters Scholarship. \$17,500  
2010 University of Alberta Walter H Johns Graduate Fellowship. \$5010  
2010 Government of Alberta Persons Case Scholarship. \$3000  
2007 Faculty of Arts School in Cortona Scholarship. \$1000  
2006 Jason Lang Scholarship. \$1000  
2006 University of Alberta Undergraduate Scholarship. \$500  
2004; 2005 Grant MacEwan Undergraduate Scholarship. \$500 yearly  
2003 Alexander Rutherford Scholarship. \$2500

### **AWARDS & PRIZES**

2012-2015 University of Toronto SSHRC Top Up Award. \$2500 yearly  
2013 UTM Graduate Expansion Fund for Research. \$1675  
2012 University of Toronto Graduate Admissions Award. \$2000  
2011 Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Women's Network Prize for Graduate Student Paper in Feminist Anthropology. \$100  
2011 Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS) Mustafa S. Koc Student Paper Award. \$265

- 2011 J Gordin Kaplan Graduate Student Award. University of Alberta Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. \$900
- 2011 University of Alberta Graduate Students Association Professional Development Award. \$250
- 2010 Prairie Center of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration Fariborz Birjandian Graduate Student Award. \$4500
- 2010 Anthropology Graduate Student Tuition Remission Award. \$4626

## RESEARCH

### **Research Assistant.** Jan 2017- Present

Advisor: Dr. Josée Johnston

Support for study: *The Varied Meanings of Meat: Motivations for Avoiding Meat in a Diverse Student Body.*

Duties: Instruct undergraduate students in a senior Sociology of Culture seminar to become effective interviewers (i.e. constructing an interview schedule, sampling, memoing, transcription, and report writing). Conduct additional qualitative coding and data analysis of student interviews.

### **Research Assistant.** Sept 2014- Present

Advisor: Dr. Blair Wheaton

Support for study: *The Intergenerational Transmission of Gender Egalitarian Family Environments: A Follow up Study.*

Duties: search and identify contact information for follow-up study participants; support in ethics submission & quantitative questionnaire development.

### **Research Assistant.** Dec 2012-May 2014; June-Aug 2016

Advisor: Dr. Josée Johnston

Support for the publication of two books: *Food and Femininity* (co-authored with Kate Cairns) and the second edition of *Foodies: Democracy and Distinction in the Gourmet Foodscape* (co-authored with Shyon Baumann). Additional support in 2016 for publications related to feeding children, and femininity in ethical consumption.

Duties: qualitative data analysis: discourse analysis of food blogs, diet related self-help books and gourmet food magazines; literature reviews.

### **Research Assistant.** Sept 2011-Aug 2012

Advisor: Dr. Maria Mayan

Support for: *Community University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth and Families Program; Families First Edmonton.*

Duties: qualitative research support (interviews and participant observation; literature searches and reviews; article, presentation and grant writing) on multi-sectoral community based population health research and knowledge translation. Successful support for CIHR research grant, *Catalyzing the uptake of research: Embedding the roles of knowledge broker and communications specialist in an intersectoral partnership*, \$100,000.

**Research Consultant.** Sept 2011- May 2012

Resilient Solutions Consulting

Support for: *Local Food Supply Chains in Alberta: Case Studies from the Saskatoon, Potato and Lamb Sectors*

Duties: Qualitative research support (interviewing; literature and policy reviews; data collection; transcription and writing) for a case study report contracted by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development relating to local food supply chains in Alberta. Final product can be found at:  
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/explore14150/\\$FILE/LocalFoodSupplyChainPABapprovedNov2012.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/explore14150/$FILE/LocalFoodSupplyChainPABapprovedNov2012.pdf)

**Research Consultant.** Sept 2011- March 2012

M.C. Oleschuk Research and Consulting

Contract with: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Duties: Compile research and produce a funding proposal for a national groups strategy for the organic industry in Western Canada.

**Research Assistant.** Sept 2010- Aug 2012; Dec 2009- May 2010

Advisor: Dr. Connie Lebrun, Associate Professor at the University of Alberta and former Director of the Glen Slather Sports Medicine Clinic.

Duties: Literature searching and organization related to the Female Athlete Triad.

**Community-Based Research Intern.** Oct 2010- April 2011

Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

Internship facilitated through the Prairie Center of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration, Volunteer Internship Program, University of Alberta.

Duties: Researched social return on investment (SROI) in the non-profit sector. Developed a proposal applying SROI to the EMCN's *Bridges* program.

**Research Assistant.** April 2010

Advisor: Dr. Helen Valliantos

Support for study: *Local Food Cultures and Socioeconomic Status as Social Determinants of Nutritional Health: Exploring Family Food Practices*

Duties: Transcription

**TEACHING**

Teaching Assistantships at the University of Toronto:

- Sociology 349: Sociology of Food (Winter 2017; Winter 2016; Fall 2013)
- Sociology 317: Shopping & Society (Fall 2016; Fall 2015; Winter 2015)
- Food Studies B01: Introduction to Food Studies (Fall 2016)
- Sociology 6707: Intermediate Data Analysis (Winter 2015)
- Sociology 345: Economic Sociology (Fall 2014)
- Sociology 236: Sociology of Globalization (Fall 2012)

Teaching Assistantships at the University of Alberta:

- Anthropology 393: Health and Healing (Fall 2009)

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

March 2017. **Oleschuk, M.** “Consuming the family meal: News media constructions of home cooking, processed food consumption and health”. Paper presentation for the American Sociological Association (ASA) Consumers and Consumption @ Yale Symposium, New Haven, CT USA.

August 2016. **Oleschuk, M.**, Wheaton, B. “The Relevance of Women’s Income on Household Gender Inequality Across Class and National Context”. Paper presentation for ASA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA USA.

June 2016. **Oleschuk, M.**, Vallianatos, H. “Bodies, Beauty and the Construction of Moral Boundaries among Arab Canadian Women”. Paper presentation for the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) Annual Meeting, Calgary, AB.

June 2016. **Oleschuk, M.**, Vallianatos, H. “Bodies, Beauty and the Construction of Moral Boundaries among Arab Canadian Women”. Paper presentation for the Paper presentation for Joint Annual Meetings of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society, Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), & Society for Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (SAFN), Toronto, ON.

August 2014. **Oleschuk, M.** “Foodies of Colour: Ethno-Racial Diversity and the Making of Contested Cultural Space”. Paper presentation at the ASA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA USA.

May 2014. **Oleschuk, M.** “Foodies of Colour: Ethnicity and Culinary Cultural Legitimation in the 21st Century”. Paper presentation for CSA Annual Meeting, St. Catharines, ON.

May 2014. **Oleschuk, M.**, Kolar, K. “Tracing the Site of Appetite through Bodily Contestations: Expert Controversies, Lay Advocacy, and the Promotion of ‘Food Addiction’ as a Medical Pathology”. Paper presentation for CSA Annual Meeting, St. Catharines, ON.

June 2013. **Oleschuk, M.** “Gender, Agency and the Multiplicity of Diasporic Belonging for Southern Sudanese in Brooks, Alberta”. Paper presentation for CSA Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC.

Oct 2012. **Oleschuk, M.** “Gender, Agency and the Multiplicity of Diasporic Belonging for Southern Sudanese in Brooks, Alberta”. Paper presentation for *Foodways: Diasporic Diners, Transnational Tables and Culinary Connections* Conference hosted by the University of Toronto’s Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies. Toronto, ON.

May 2012. **Oleschuk, M.** “Unexpected intimacy, honesty and ethical complexity during fieldwork with Southern Sudanese refugees in Brooks, Alberta”. Poster Presentation for the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Annual Meeting, Edmonton, AB.

Nov 2011. **Oleschuk, M.** “Ambivalence in the Southern Sudanese Diaspora: Food, Gender, and Identity among Refugees in Brooks, Alberta”. Poster Presentation for the Prairie Metropolis Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration, Integration, and Diversity Regional Conference, Edmonton, AB.

June 2011. **Oleschuk, M.** “Reflecting on nationhood: Food, gender and identity within the Southern Sudanese diaspora”. Paper presentation for Joint Annual Meetings of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society, Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), & Society for Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (SAFN), Missoula, MT

May 2011. **Oleschuk, M.** “Consuming Identity: A gendered study of Southern Sudanese refugees in Brooks, Alberta”. Paper presentation for the Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS) Annual Meeting, Fredericton, NB

May 2011. **Oleschuk, M.** “Redefining a nation: Food, meaning and identity among Southern Sudanese refugees in Brooks, Alberta”. Paper presentation, panel chair and organizer for the CASCA Annual Meeting, Fredericton, NB

#### **SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

March 2017. **Oleschuk, M.** “From Practicum to Publication: Publishing Foodies of Colour”. *Department of Sociology 2016-2017 Practicum Class*, University of Toronto.

April 2014. **Oleschuk, M.** "Rethinking Omnivorous Culinary Consumption through Ethno-Racial Diversity: Authenticity and Exoticism as Foodie Frames". *Diasporic Foodways Working Group*, University of Toronto.

March 2013. **Oleschuk, M. & Van Esterik, P.** “Cosmopolitanism and Commensality: investigating refugee and diasporic foodways through ethnography”. *Diasporic Foodways Working Group*, University of Toronto.

May 2011. **Oleschuk, M.** “Consuming nationhood: An investigation of food, gender and identity among Southern Sudanese refugees in Brooks, Alberta”. *Prairie Metropolis Center Brown Bag Lunch Seminar*, Edmonton AB

Feb 2011. **Oleschuk, M.** “Reflecting on identity: Flexible foodways of Southern Sudanese women in Brooks, Alberta”. ‘*Fringe Friday*’ *Anthropology Department Speaker Series*, Edmonton, AB

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Disciplinary Service**

Various *Manuscript Reviewer*. Poetics; Journal of Consumer Culture; Food, Culture & Society; Geoforum; Progress in Community Health Partnerships; Graduate Journal of Food Studies

May 2012-Present *Working Group Member*. Culinaria Institute/Diasporic Foodways Working Group.

Dec 2015- June 2016 *Program Committee Member*. Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) 2016 Annual Conference.

Sept 2009- March 2010 *Funding and Finance Coordinator*. 2010 Frucht Memorial Lecture Series Committee, University of Alberta

### **Departmental and University Service**

2014-2015; 2015-2016 (Co-) *Graduate Students' Union Representative*. Graduate Sociology Students' Association (GSSA) Executive Committee, University of Toronto.

Jan- April 2011 *Publication Committee Chair; Journal Review Board Member*. Diversipede Anthropology Student Journal, University of Alberta.

Oct 2010- April 2011 *Internship Assistant*. Prairie Center of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration, University of Alberta.

### **Community Service**

Sept- Dec 2014. *FLY Food Leadership for Youth Program Volunteer*. The Stop Community Food Centre

Oct 2009- April 2010. *Multicultural Sexual Health Education Intern*. OPTIONS Sexual Health.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

2015 - 2017 Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS)

2014 - 2017 American Sociological Association (ASA)

2013 - 2017 Canadian Sociological Association (CSA)

2010 - 2012 Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA)

2010, 2011 Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS)

2011 American Anthropological Association (AAA)

2011 Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (SAFN)