

## Beyond the Case: Comparative Ethnography During COVID-19 and Beyond

Friday, December 4  
12:00pm - 3:00pm PT, followed by  
an Ethnography Mixer

*Sponsored by Center for Ethnographic Research*

*Co-sponsored by Department of Sociology, UC  
Berkeley; School of Sociology, University of  
Arizona*

[Zoom Webinar: Register Here \(free\)](#)

### Confirmed Speakers

**Corey M. Abramson**, University of Arizona

**Lynn Chancer**, City University of New York

**Aaron Cicourel**, UC San Diego

**Claire Laurier Decoteau**, University of Illinois at Chicago

**Thomas DeGloma**, Hunter College

**Daniel Dohan**, UC San Francisco

**Neil Gong** UC San Diego; University of Michigan

**Annette Lareau**, University of Pennsylvania

**Max Papadantonakis**, CUNY Graduate Center

**Martín Sánchez-Jankowski**, UC Berkeley

**Iddo Tavory**, New York University

**Stefan Timmermans**, UC Los Angeles  
**Diane Vaughan**, Columbia University  
**Alford A. Young, Jr.**, University of Michigan

How do ethnographers engage in comparison? Do their comparative logics align with or diverge from the methodological foundations of other forms of social scientific research? And how do the current historical ruptures in the era of COVID-19 shape the present and future of ethnographic comparison? Drawing on central themes from *Beyond the Case: The Logics and Practices of Comparative Ethnography* (Oxford University Press 2020) this event will provide a venue for researchers from various ethnographic approaches to share their thoughts on these topics. The speakers, including many of the book's contributors, represent a host of ethnographic traditions ranging from phenomenology, to interpretivism, to the extended case method, to various "post-positivist" forms of scientific realism. It is our hope that this discussion will reveal not only points of divergence, but also synergies with other empirical methods, and between competing approaches to ethnography. This parallels the book's call to leverage the field's epistemic variation in order to expand opportunities for meaningful comparisons and conversations on a broad range of substantive topics—including the convergent crises of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact [cer@berkeley.edu](mailto:cer@berkeley.edu) or (510) 642-0813.

If you require an accommodation for effective communication (ASL interpreting/CART captioning, alternative media formats, etc.) in order to fully participate in this virtual event, please contact [maxwellvan@berkeley.edu](mailto:maxwellvan@berkeley.edu) with as much advance notice as possible.

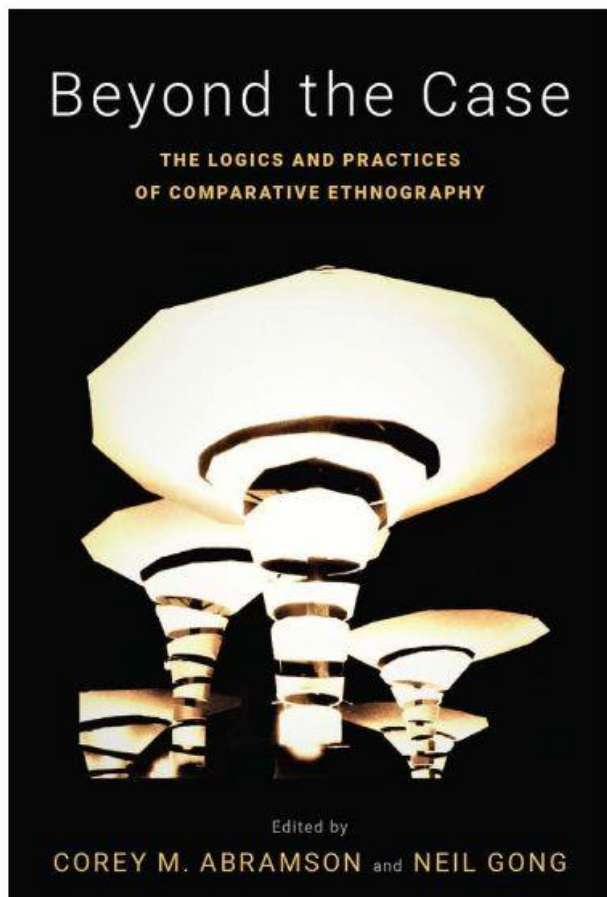
*The book is available from the Oxford University Press [website](#) at a 20% off with the event discount code of ASFLYQ6.*

NEW FROM OXFORD

# BEYOND THE CASE

THE LOGICS AND PRACTICES OF COMPARATIVE ETHNOGRAPHY

Edited by Corey M. Abramson and Neil Gong



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“Perhaps the hottest topic in contemporary ethnographic research is the possibility, the value, and the drawbacks of comparative ethnography. In *Beyond the Case*, Corey Abramson and Neil Gong and their well-chosen authors provide a diverse set of explanations for how and when comparative ethnographies advance description, theory, and policy analysis. This is a book that will stand the methodological test of time and every field researcher will wish to consider its arguments for their own projects and for those of their students.”

—Gary Alan Fine, Northwestern University

The social sciences have seen a substantial increase in comparative and multi-sited ethnographic projects over the last three decades. Yet, at present, researchers seeking to design comparative field studies have few scholarly works detailing how various ethnographic schools approach comparison. In *Beyond the Case*, Corey M. Abramson and Neil Gong gather expert field researchers working in a variety of ethnographic traditions such as phenomenology, grounded theory, positivism, the extended case method, and interpretivism, to explain both the logic behind and practice of comparison in their works. The contributors connect the long history of comparative (and anti-comparative) ethnographic approaches to their contemporary uses. By honing in on how ethnographers render sites, groups, or cases analytically commensurable and comparable, *Beyond the Case* offers a new lens for examining the assumptions, payoffs, and potential drawbacks of different forms of comparative ethnography.

Corey M. Abramson is Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Arizona.

Neil Gong is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of California, San Diego, and currently a Junior Fellow at the University of Michigan Society of Fellows.

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