

DR CAMILA BASSI

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Education

- 1999-2003 Department of Geography, University of Sheffield
DPhil (ESRC award R00429934028)
- 1999-2000 University of Sheffield
Certificate in Social Science Research Training
- 1998-2000 Open University
Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (Post-Compulsory)
- 1994-1997 University of Newcastle upon Tyne
BA (Hons) Geography, First Class
Graduate awards: Ford Prize in Geography for Best Performance & WW Anson Memorial Prize for Best Dissertation

Publications

Bassi, C (accepted with revisions / forthcoming) When 'the trans question' meets 'the Jewish question': on the dangers of a nature essentialist material world. *Sexualities*.

Bassi, C (2023) Geography, antisemitism and Zionism. *Geography* 108(3), 130-133.

Bassi, C (2023) *Outcast: How Jews Were Banished from the Anti-Racist Imagination*. No Pasaran Media.

Bassi, C (2019) On the Death Throes of Education: Erich Fromm's Marxism and a Rallying Cry for a Healthy University. In Nocella II, A J, Juergensmeyer, E and Seis, M (eds.) *Theories on Academic Repression*. Brill Publishers.

Bassi, C (2017) On Identity Politics, *Ressentiment*, and the Evacuation of Human Emancipation. In Nocella II, A J and Juergensmeyer, E (eds.) *Fighting Academic Repression*. Peter Lang, 63-75.

Bassi, C (2016b) Tunnels of Social Growth within the Leviathan: A Story of China's Super Girl. In Brown, G and Browne, K (eds.) *The Routledge Companion to Geographies of Sex and Sexualities*, Routledge, 89-96.

Bassi, C (2016a) What's Radical about Reality TV? An Unexpected Tale of a Chinese Antihero. *Gender, Place and Culture* 23(11), 1619-1630.

Bassi, C (2012) The inane politics of Tony Cliff. *Journal for the Study of Anti-Semitism* 3, 1601-1610.

Bassi C (2012) 'Shanghai Goes West': Reflections on the city's gay political economy. In Hines, S and Taylor, Y (eds.) *Sexualities: Past Reflections, Future Directions*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Bassi, C (2010) 'It's new but not that new': On the continued use of old Marx. *Feminist Legal Studies* 18, 69-76.

Bassi, C (2010) 'The anti-imperialism of fools': A cautionary story of the revolutionary left vanguard of England's post-9/11 anti-war movement. *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 9(2), 113-137.

Bassi, C (2008) The precarious and contradictory moments of existence for an emergent British Asian gay culture. In Dwyer, C and Bressey, C (eds.) *New Geographies of Race and Racism*, Ashgate.

Bassi, C (2006) Riding the Dialectical Waves of Gay Political Economy: A Story from Birmingham's Commercial Gay Scene. *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography* 38(2), 213-235.

Book review publications

Bassi, C (forthcoming) "The Common Camp: Architecture of Power and Resistance in Israel-Palestine" by Irit Katz. *Association of American Geographers Review of Books*.

Bassi, C (2011) "The counter-counterinsurgency manual: Or, notes on a demilitarizing American society" edited by Network of Concerned Anthropologists. *Anthropological Forum*, 21(1), 77-78.

Bassi, C (2008) "Risky pleasures? Club cultures and feminine identities" by Fiona Hutton. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 15(4), 445-455.

Bassi, C (2006) "Space Invaders: Race, gender and bodies out of place" by Nirmal Puwar. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 13(3), 317-328.

Book prize

London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism best book on contemporary antisemitism prize in 2023 for *Outcast: How Jews Were Banished from the Anti-Racist Imagination* (Bassi, 2023).

Principal research interests: geographies of 'race', ethnicity and sexuality, critical geographies, and Marxist geographies

My doctoral research in Birmingham (UK) and later research in Shanghai concern the intersection of 'race' and sexuality within and through urban political economy. My ongoing project within critical geography is to indicate the benefits of a return to, and reinvigoration of, Marx and Marxism. Accordingly, my work has offered an original exploration of key ideas from Marx and Gramsci to think through more subtle accounts of capitalism - specifically, instances from within that escape its oppressive conditions. I make a case for a return to Marxism as an alternative to the seeming necessity to reconfigure Marxianisms via queer theory (and, more generally, post-structuralism). My ACME paper (Bassi, 2010) builds on this 'return to Marxism' by critiquing the revolutionary left vanguard of England's anti-war movement through what I argue to be the spirit of Marxism, that is, the task of building a third camp of independent, internationalist, working class politics. An excavation of early Marxist work on 'the Jewish question' guides my writing on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and issue of left-wing antisemitism (Bassi, 2011). I also explore the present-day political deadlock between a current of radical feminists and transgender activists, which has played out on social media and across university campuses (Bassi, 2017).

My book, *Outcast: How Jews Were Banished from the Anti-Racist Imagination* (2023), is an explanation of how Jewish people's experiences of racism have been cast out of the anti-racist imagination, as the very possibility of recognising anti-Jewish racism has been displaced by the commonplace leftist belief that when Jewish people cry 'antisemitism!', their surreptitious intent is to cover up the real racism propagated by Israel against the Palestinians. How this has happened lies both in an academic framework for the study of racism that confines racism to a

colonial phenomenon of 'white over black' domination, and in the antisemitic idea of 'the Jewish question': that something must be done about the harm which Jews pose to humanity. *Outcast* shows that when both are translated into an understanding of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Zionism and all associated Jews become the representation of racism incarnate demanding the unprecedented wipe out of Israel. As a route forward, this book demonstrates that when the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is analysed through the wider historical context of European antisemitism, colonialism and nationalism, and free from 'the Jewish question', the racist and colonial dimensions of Israel are comprehended but not as an exceptional aberration and an outstanding stain on humanity. Escaping the confines of identity politics, including 'racial' identity politics, based on the idea that there are intrinsic differences dividing and excluding humanity, *Outcast* makes the case for a genuinely universal politics of human liberation.

My forthcoming paper (accepted with revisions for *Sexualities*) revives a Marxist approach to the idea of human nature, bound not to a fixed essence, but to sensuous human activity and social transformation, while exploring an ideological current in the gender critical feminist milieu which fuses transphobia with anti-Jewish racism.

My blog, *Anaemic On A Bike* (<https://anaemiconabike.com>), contains a range of posts and podcasts which synthesise my academic ideas with wider political currents, and reflects my commitment to open access and public engagement.

Employment

09/2003 to date Senior Lecturer in Human Geography and Course Leader of BA / BSc Geography, Sheffield Hallam University

Awards: Faculty Inspirational Teaching Award (2014); University Inspirational Teaching Award (2015); Sheffield Hallam Students' Union Academic Staff of the Year Award (2016).

Present course leadership: BA / BSc (Hons) Geography. Previous course leaderships: MSc Urban Regeneration; BA (Hons) Human Geography.

Course leadership duties: individual student casework; student induction, retention, achievement, and experience; course academic design and management; liaison with university administration and student support, and with external examiners and professional bodies.

Undergraduate teaching: Approaches to Human Geography; Climate Change and Sustainability for Geography; Professional Geographer; Deviance, Order and Protest; Geographies for a Just Future; Researching Politics, International Relations and Society; Contemporary Debates in Human Geography; Everyday Worlds with GIS; Dissertation, Employability and Communication.

Postgraduate dissertation supervision for MSc Environmental Management.

06-08/2003 Retention and Achievement Development Officer, Peaks Centre, Sheffield College

This post was funded by the European Social Fund to address the issues of high dropout and under-achievement rates in the 14-19 cohort. Within a relatively short space of time, I set up a Homework Club, a Teaching and Learning Feedback Forum and a Student Enrichment Programme. I also had student casework.

02-06/2003 Temporary Lecturer in Human Geography, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield

This post entailed both undergraduate lecturing and teaching on the MA in Social and Cultural Geography course. It also involved the design of course material, assessment of undergraduate assignments and general departmental administration.

02-05/2003 Visiting Lecturer in Human Geography, Urban and Regional Studies, Sheffield Hallam University

This post involved lecturing on both the Social and Cultural Geography and Qualitative Methods undergraduate courses, facilitating workshops for dissertation design and the assessment of undergraduate Social and Cultural Geography assignments.

2000-2003 Part-time Tutor in Geography, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield

This included undergraduate small group teaching in Methodology, Study Skills for Geographers and Social and Political Geography, and assessment of undergraduate assignments in Economic, Social and Political Geography and Methodology.

1998-1999 Lecturer in Geography and Sociology, Tynemouth College

In this post I taught A Level Geography, and GCSE, A Level and Access Sociology. It is worth noting that I was commended by the college for the results achieved by my GCSE Sociology group, which were of an unprecedented high standard.

1998-1999 National Union of Students Tyne Tees Convenor (elected)

This was a one-year post geared towards training on, and implementation of, student union development and key campaigns. This entailed one-to-one, group and conference training/workshops, and the production of detailed briefings and training packs.

1997-1998 Sabbatical Welfare Officer, University of Newcastle upon Tyne Union Society (elected)

This was an elected, full-time post. Responsibilities included: line managing Student Advice Centre and Childcare Fund, distribution of Student Hardship Fund, training part-time executive officers, and organising high profile student welfare campaigns.

1997-1999 National Union of Students Women's Campaign Committee (elected)

Responsibilities included: production of briefing packs, organisation of training days and workshops, public speaking, liaising with local and national media, and running conferences.

External responsibilities

Elected Parent Governor (from 2026) at Westways Primary School, Sheffield.

International Conference Papers

Bassi, C (2024) Expanding the conversation and comprehension of 'race' and identity in education. Geographical Association annual conference, Manchester.

Bassi, C (2023) 'Decolonisation is not a metaphor' in the wake of the 7th October. Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism public seminar series.

Bassi, C (2023) Panellist on "Antisemitism as Racism" at the University of Westminster's "Challenging Racisms in Higher Education and Beyond" conference, London.

Bassi, C (2023) Panellist on Author Meets Critics session: Camila Bassi's *Outcast: How Jews Were Banished from the Anti-Racist Imagination*. Institute of British Geographers Conference, London.

Bassi, C (2014) Panellist on Authors Meet Critics session: Kath Browne's and Leela Bakshi's *Ordinary in Brighton? LGBT, Activisms and the City*. Institute of British Geographers Conference, London.

Bassi, C (2008) The ramifications of Shanghai's emerging gay political economy. Institute of British Geographers Conference, London.

Bassi, C (2006) On a Rediscovery Not a Retreat from the Spirit of Marxism: Some Cautionary Thoughts on Britain's Anti-War Movement. Institute of British Geographers Conference, London.

Bassi, C (2002) 'Market for a Brummie Pink Rupee?': Struggles to Map Asian Gay Space within Pink Pound Territory. Association of American Geographers Conference, Los Angeles.

Bassi, C (2001) Translations of Space through Birmingham's Asian Gay Club Scene. RGS/IBG Postgraduate Forum Mid Year Conference, University of Sheffield.

Bassi, C (2001) Birmingham's Asian Gays Negotiating the Potentials and Limits of the Commercial Gay Scene. Association of American Geographers Conference, New York.

Bassi, C (2001) Negotiating a Supposed 'Insider' Status, on a Sexuality and Fieldwork Panel. Association of American Geographers Conference, New York.

Bassi, C (2001) Significations of an Emerging Asian Gay Club Scene. Globalisation and Sexuality Conference, New York.

References (available on request)