

CHRIS W. HENDERSON
137 Bath Street, Providence, RI (718) 974-8383
cwhenderson@uri.edu

EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D. UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, American Studies/Sports Studies
Dissertation: *Pleasurable Labors: Activist Fandom, Sport Communities and the Performance of Place*
Co-Advisors: Catriona Parratt & Kim Marra; Committee: Thomas P. Oates, Michael Sakamoto, and Deborah Whaley
- 2017 M.A. UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, American Studies/ Sports Studies
- 2002 M.S. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, Journalism
Thesis: *Home to Home: Collective Remittances From Brooklyn to Rural Haiti*
- 1999 B.A. SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE, Liberal Arts
Study Abroad: School of International Training, Women's Studies, Jamaica

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2020- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, Associate Teaching Professor in Sports Communication, Media & PR
Harrington School, Department of Communications Studies
- 2015- 2020 UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of American Studies

PUBLICATIONS

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sport fan communities; social activism and sport; queerness and sport; women's sport; whiteness and sport; sport media; soccer; grassroots capacity building; branding; embodied culture

ARTICLES

Henderson, Chris W. and Thomas Patrick Oates. 2023. "This Means More: Branded Solidarity at Liverpool's Soccer Clubs." *Communication & Sport*. 11(5), 1011-1033.

Henderson, Chris W., Thomas Patrick Oates and Travis Vogan. 2019. "From Death to Spectacle: Football's Neoliberal Revolution." *Addressing the Crisis: The Stuart Hall Project*: 1(1).

Henderson, Chris W. 2018. "Two Balls Is Too Many: Stadium Performance and Queerness Among Portland's Rose City Riveters Supporter Club." *Sport in Society*. 21(7): 1031-1046.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Hodler, Matthew and Chris W. Henderson. Forthcoming. "Little Real-World Application": The Case for Critical Sport Studies." In S. White (Ed.). *Teaching Sports Studies Anthology*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press.

Henderson, Chris W. and Eileen Narcotta-Welp. 2025. "Tricorns and Rainbow Flags: Incongruities in US Women National Soccer Team Fandom." In A. Beissel, V. Postlethwaite, A. Grainger, J. Brice (Eds.). *Critical Perspectives on the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup: Events, Issues, and Controversies*. London: Routledge.

Henderson, Chris W. and Pratik Nyaupane. 2024. "Cultural Extraction and Subcultural Resistance in US Professional Soccer: If You're Not Anti, You're Pro." In J.A. Ludvigsen & M. Turner (Eds.). *Social Control and Disorder in Football: Responses, Regulation, Rupture*. London: Routledge.

RESEARCH

CURRENTLY RESEARCHING 2026
Pleasurable Labors: An Oral History of Professional Women's Soccer Fandom in the United States (1999-2026)

An interdisciplinary project about the queer women-led organized supporter groups that form around National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) teams. Based on more than 100 interviews in each NWSL city with fans, grassroots media, and former front office staff, the book-length project traces how people have created, sustained and protected the culture of women's soccer fandom in the United States. It illuminates the role of fandom in queer community building, feminist capacity building, stadium activism on behalf of player safety and radical politics, the commodification of queer and feminist fan culture, and the foundational role of whiteness and structural racism in US soccer fandom.

DOCTORAL THESIS, University of Iowa 2020
Pleasurable Labors: Activist Fandom, Community, and the Contested Performance of Place

A critical ethnography and cultural geography of activist fan communities in Portland, Oregon and Liverpool, England. I analyze, compare, and contrast the particular role that

place plays in creating and maintaining acts of resistance amongst a queer-led fan group in Portland and a working class fan group for two high-profile men's teams in Liverpool. Based on two semester-length field studies, 46 oral history interviews and archival research, my study broadens understandings of how groups with limited access to conventional forms of power use the everyday practice of fandom to care for each other, build organizational capacity, and challenge dominant ideologies and institutions.

MASTERS THESIS, Columbia University School of Journalism
Home to Home: Collective Remittances From Brooklyn to Rural Haiti

2002

A documentary inquiry into informal collective organizations formed by Haitian immigrants in Brooklyn that send cash remittances to their rural villages of origin. Research included in-depth interviews with leaders in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn and travel to Port-au-Prince and Anse-à-Veau, Haiti where community donations helped build schools and health clinics.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

Nyaupane, Pratik and **Chris W. Henderson**, "If You're Not Anti, You're Pro: Cultural Extraction and Subcultural Resistance in US Professional Soccer." (International Communication Association, Gold Coast, June 2024)

Henderson, Chris W. and Matthew R. Hodler "Boston Unity: Empowerment Capitalism & National Women's Soccer League Expansion." (Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, MA, March 2024).

Henderson, Chris W. "Tricornes & Rainbow Flags: Incongruities in US Women's National Soccer Team Fandom." (North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, New Orleans, LA, November 2023).

Henderson, Chris W. "The Next Right Thing: Everyday Resistance Amongst Portland's Soccer Fans." (North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Las Vegas, NV, November 2022).

Henderson, Chris W. and Thomas Patrick Oates. "This Means More: Branded Solidarity at Liverpool's Soccer Clubs." (International Communication Association, Paris, May 2022)

Henderson, Chris W., "From Elite Enclave to Queer Counterpublic: Tracing the Lineages of Portland's Providence Park" (British Society of Sports History, London, UK, August 2021)

Henderson, Chris W., "If You Want To Be You Already Are: Queer Performance and Persistence Confronting Contemporary Right-Wing Activism in Portland's Soccer Stadium" (North American Society of Sport History, Virtual Conference, May 2021).

Henderson, Chris W., “By Any Other Name: A Queer Space of Whiteness in Portland’s Soccer Stadium” (American Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, November 2019).

Henderson, Chris W., “You’ll Never Walk Alone: Cultural Labor and Stadium Performance” (North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 2018).

Henderson, Chris W., “Feelings of Structure: Singing, Standing and the Performance of Place in English Football Stadiums” (Performance Studies International, Daegu, North Gyeongsang, Republic of Korea, July 2018).

Henderson, Chris W., “L4: Fandom, Resistant Politics, and the Performance of Place in Liverpool” (North American Society of Sport History, Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 2018).

Henderson, Chris W., “Welcome to the Club: Whiteness and Major League Soccer” (Mid-America American Studies Association, Iowa City, Iowa, April 2018).

Henderson, Chris W., “Please Rise: Soccer, The National Anthem, and US American National Narratives in the MLS/NWSL Era (1994-2017)” (North American Society of Sport History, Fullerton, California, May 2017).

Henderson, Christopher, “Two Balls Is Too Many: Stadium Performance and Queerness Among Portland’s Rose City Riveters Supporter Club.” (North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Tampa, Florida, November 2016 & North American Society of Sport History, Atlanta, Georgia, May 2016).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Session Organizer, “The Wake of the 2023 World Cup,” (North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, New Orleans, LA, November 2023).

Henderson, Chris W., “Pleasurable Labors: Fan Activism and Place.” (Sport Management Course, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom, October 2019)

TEACHING

TEACHING INTERESTS

Sociology of sport and play; inequality and sport; globalization and sport; race and sport; gender and sport; trans exclusive youth sport policies; sport history; ethnographic methods

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE TEACHING PROFESSOR, Sports Communication, Media, & PR
University of Rhode Island

2020-

Intro to Sport, Media, & Communication (changing to Sport, Media & Culture- Fall 2026)

In this core course, students gain an understanding of the interrelation of sport organizations and media companies. It focuses on the ideological and structural power dynamics in sport as expressed through gender, race, class, ability, & nationalism.

Fall 2026 (2 sections, 50 students)

Fall 2025 (1 section, 100 students)

Spring 2025 (1 section, 100 students)

Spring 2024 (1 section, 100 students)

Fall 2023 (1 section, 99 students)

Spring 2023 (1 section, 100 students)

Fall 2022 (1 section, 99 students)

Spring 2022 (2 sections, 50 students)

Fall 2021 (2 sections, 50 students)

Spring 2021 (online- 1 section, 25 students)

Fall 2020 (online- 1 section, 25 students)

Sport, Culture, & Media (changing to Sport in US History- Fall 2026)

Upper-level elective that applies critical cultural methodologies to analyze U.S. sport history and culture. Traces and contextualizes crucial moments when sport and social change intersected along the lines of race, social class, gender, and ability.

Fall 2026 (1 section, 25 students)

Fall 2025 (2 sections, 46 students)

Fall 2024 (2 sections, 40 students)

Spring 2024 (1 Section, 25 students)

Global Issues in Sport

Upper-level elective in which students analyze and articulate how sport constructs and is shaped by broader national & international contexts. Students explore how everyday people organize themselves through sport, while considering the economic, social and political forces in global sporting mega-events, the organizations that produce them, the media that broadcasts them, and the people that consume them.

Spring 2026 (1 section, 25 students)

Independent Studies

Semester-long projects developed with individual students based on their particular interest

Fall 2025: Social Media Practices in the Professional Women's Hockey League

Spring 2025: Women's Soccer is Back in Boston: Where do we go From Here?

Internship

Oversight of students' participation in required eight hour/ three credit internship. Evaluation of students productive outcomes including multimedia presentations, produced/directed/created broadcasts or podcasts, reels, published articles, social media posts, public/media relations campaigns, strategy and/or business reports

Spring 2026 (1 section, 30 students)

Sports Media (changing to Sports Writing- Fa 2026)

Students apply reporting and writing skills by producing sports media including articles, production scripts and social media. They learn to develop sources, structure writing, interview subjects, and edit peer work through collaborative experiential assignments.

Spring 2026 (2 sections, 40 students)

Spring 2025 (2 sections, 40 students)

Fall 2024 (2 sections, 35 students)

Spring 2024 (1 section, 20 students)

Fall 2023 (2 sections, 36 students)

Spring 2023 (2 sections, 40 students)

Fall 2022 (2 sections, 36 students)

Spring 2022 (2 sections, 40 students)

Spring 2021 (online- 2 sections, 40 students)

Fall 2020 (online- 1 section, 18 students)

Strategic Sport Communication & Media

Students develop professional communication strategies, build an online media presence, and conduct video interviews while learning about the current state of the sports communication field using women's professional sports in the US as a case study.

Fall 2021 (2 sections, 46 students)

Spring 2021 (online- 25 students)

Fall 2020 (online- 2 sections, 54 students)

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD, Sports Studies

University of Iowa

2016- 2020

Inequality in American Sport

Students learn how to use a critical cultural studies perspective to examine the meaning of sport in the US. The course focuses on the relationships and dynamics of inequities in sport as structured by race, class, gender, sexuality, age, and physical ability/disability.

Summer 2020 (online- 25 students)

Spring 2018 (24 students)

Summer 2017 (24 students)

Spring 2017 (30 students)

Race and Ethnicity in Sport

This class fosters a better understanding of how racism works as a form of power by utilizing research from sport historians, sociologists, and social scientists to examine how race functions culturally and institutionally in America through the lens of sport.

Fall 2018 (26 students)

Fall 2017 (26 students)

DISCUSSION SECTION LEADER, Sports Studies, University of Iowa

2015-2016

Inequality in American Sport

Fall 2016 (Discussion leader, 3 sections, 65 students total)

Sport & Film

An exploration of sport films as a distinct genre through a critical cultural lens, this writing-intensive course asks students to consider the narrative and structural elements of sport films by exploring notions of gender, race, class, nation, and the American Dream through weekly reviews.

Spring 2016 (Discussion leader, 3 sections, 60 total students)

Fall 2015 (Discussion leader, 2 sections, 34 total students)

DEPARTMENTAL & COLLEGE SERVICE

Academic Advisor, University of Rhode Island, 2021- present

Sports Media Associate Professor Search Committee, University of Rhode Island, Member, 2024- 2025

Sports Media Assistant Teaching Professor Search Committee, University of Rhode Island, Member, 2022- 2023

Sports Media & Communication Curriculum Committee, University of Rhode Island, Member, 2021- present

Trans Inclusion Committee, University of Rhode Island, Member, 2021- 2022

Obermann Center Performance Studies Working Group, University of Iowa, 2016-2020

University Presidential Graduate Student Employment Committee, University of Iowa, Graduate Student Senate Representative, 2017-2019

American Studies Steering Committee, University of Iowa, Graduate Student Representative, 2018-2019

Graduate Student Senate, University of Iowa, American Studies Representative, 2016-2018

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Nebraska Press, Ad-hoc Reviewer, 2024- present

American Association of University Professors, University of Rhode Island, 2020- present

Committee to Organize Graduate Students, University of Iowa, Steward, 2018-2020

AWARDS

Center For Humanities Faculty Research Grant, University of Rhode Island, 2025
Competitive university research grant (\$1,000)

Ballard Seashore Dissertation Fellowship, University of Iowa, Spring 2020
Competitive university fellowship awarded for dissertation completion (\$10,000)

T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Iowa, Fall 2019
Competitive university fellowship awarded for ethnography (\$4,855)

Marcus Bach Graduate Fellowship, University of Iowa, Fall 2019
Competitive College of Liberal Arts and Sciences fellowship for dissertation research (\$9,000)

Summer Fellowship, University of Iowa Graduate College, Summer 2019
Competitive university fellowship for dissertation research (\$4,500)

North American Society of Sport History Dissertation Travel Award, March 2019
Competitive national society award for sport history research (\$3,000)

Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship, University of Iowa Graduate College, Spring 2019
Competitive university fellowship for dissertation research (\$9,000)

Kern Dissertation Travel Award, Department of American Studies, October 2018
Competitive department travel award for dissertation research (\$1,000)

Jean Homewood Memorial Scholarship, Department of American Studies, 2019-20
Competitive department scholarship for Sports Studies students (\$500)

Stanley Graduate Award for International Research, University of Iowa, December 2017
Competitive university awarded for research in Liverpool, UK (\$2,500)

Miriam Taylor Scholarship, Department of American Studies, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20
Competitive department scholarship for Sports Studies students (\$500)

Kern Professional Travel Award, Department of American Studies, November 2016, May 2018,
November 2018, May 2020
Competitive department award for graduate students who present at an international
or national conference (\$500)

Sport Studies Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of American Studies May 2016,
May 2017, November 2019
Competitive department award for graduate students who present at an international
or national conference (\$500)

Graduate and Professional Student Government Travel Award, September 2018
Competitive university award for graduate students who present at an international or
national conference (\$500)

Graduate Student Senate Travel Award, March 2017, November 2018, November 2019
Competitive university award for graduate students who present at an international or
national conference (\$1,000)

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

Large Lecture High-impact Teaching Seminar, 2023, University of Rhode Island, 2023

Strategies & Tools for Teaching: New Faculty Orientation, University of Rhode Island, 2020

Eli Review Asynchronous Hands-On Experience For Instructors, Eli Review, 2020

LGBTQ Safe Zone Certificate, University of Iowa, 2019

TILE (Transform, Interact, Learn, Engage) Active Learning Classroom Teaching Certificate,
University of Iowa, 2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North American Society for the Sociology of Sport
International Communications Association
North American Society for Sport History
British Society of Sports History

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Women's Soccer Reporter , Empire of Soccer, New York, NY	2015
Grant Writer & Manager , Flushing Town Hall, Queens, NY	2014-2015
Program Director , Arts@Renaissance, Brooklyn, NY	2011-2014
Founding Director , Moviehouse, Brooklyn, NY	2007-2013
Freelance Arts Management and Funding Consultant , New York, NY	2007-2011
Art Services Manager , Queens Council on the Arts, Queens, NY	2008-2009
On-camera Producer , Red Blue Road Trip, Al-Jazeera English, New York, NY	2008
Assistant Editor , Queens Chronicle, Queens, NY	2005-2006
Reporter , Southampton Press, Westhampton Beach, NY	2004-2005

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

New York Press Association, Editorial Writing, *Queens Chronicle*, 2006
New York Press Association, Education Reporting, *Southampton Press*, 2005