leva Jusionyte, Ph.D.

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs &
Department of Anthropology
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Research Interests

Legal anthropology, public anthropology, human rights, borders, security, gun violence, journalism, ethnographic research methods, ethnographic writing, Latin America, Mexico, US-Mexico border.

Academic Appointments

2025–	Watson Family University Professor of International Security and Anthropology, Brown University Joint appointment, Department of Anthropology and Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs Affiliate, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
2025–	Director, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies, Brown University
2021-	Watson Family University Associate Professor of International Security and
2025	Anthropology, Brown University
	Joint appointment, Department of Anthropology and Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
	Affiliate, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
2020-	John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences, Harvard University
2021	Joint appointment, Department of Anthropology and
	Committee on Degrees in Social Studies;
	Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs;
	Affiliate, American Studies program;
2016-	Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Social Studies, Harvard University
2020	Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs; Affiliate, American Studies program;
2012-	Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Florida
2016	Joint appointment, Department of Anthropology and Center for Latin American Studies
Education	
2012	Ph.D., Anthropology, Brandeis University, Massachusetts
2007	M.A., Anthropology, Brandeis University, Massachusetts
2006	B.A., Political Science, Vilnius University, Lithuania

Publications

Books

2024 Exit Wounds: How America's Guns Fuel Violence Across the Border. University of California Press. 348 p.

- Winner, Juan E. Méndez Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America
- Winner, R.R Hawkins Award, Association of American Publishers
- Winner, PROSE Award for Excellence in Social Sciences, Association of American Publishers
- Nonfiction Longlist, Mass Book Award
- Winner, Best Book in Social Sciences, Latin American Studies Association Mexico Section
- Honorable Mention, Luciano Tomassini Latin American International Relations Book Award

- Reviewed in London Review of Books, Latin American Review of Books, Medical Anthropology Quarterly, The Progressive, AAG Review of Books, ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America, WitnessLA, Consequence Forum, Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos, Etnofoor.
- Featured in CNN GPS, ABC News, NPR Here and Now, NPR 1A, Axios, and other media.
- Excerpt published by Rolling Stone (US and French editions), Nexos (Mexico)
- One of the Most-Anticipated Books of April 2024 (The Frontlist)
- Threshold: Emergency Responders on the U.S.-Mexico Border. Oakland: University of California Press. 296 p.

Lithuanian edition: Slenkstis: Pavojai ir Pagalba JAV-Meksikos Pasienyje. Vilnius: Leidykla LAPAS, 2022.

- Winner of the Society for the Anthropology of Work 2020 Book Prize;
- Winner of the Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing (Third Place) 2019;
- Winner of the California Series in Public Anthropology International Publishing Competition;
- Juan E. Méndez Book Award Shortlist 2018;
- Starred review by Publishers Weekly;
- Reviewed in Medical Anthropology Quarterly, NACLA Review of the Americas, Journal of Anthropological Research, Public Anthropologist, Political and Legal Anthropology Review, Pacific Standard, Inside Higher Ed, EMS World, Nogales International, Allegra Lab, Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, American Ethnologist, ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America
- Savage Frontier: Making News and Security on the Argentine Border. Oakland: University of California Press. 304 p.
 - Reviewed in American Anthropologist; American Ethnologist; Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute; City & Society; Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology; Anthropology of Work Review; Media Culture & Society; Social Anthropology, and Border Criminologies

Edited Journal Issues

2016 "In/visible–In/secure," special issue of Focaal: Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology 75(2), coedited with Daniel M. Goldstein.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- 2024 "The Virus and the Border: Reflections on the Experiences of Emergency Responders in Southern Arizona." In Voices from the Front Lines: The Pandemic and the Humanities. Katherine R. Peeler and Richard M. Ratzan, eds. University of California Health Humanities Press. Pp. 251-259.
- 2021 "Violence Exchange." In Anthropology Now 13(1): 49-54.
- "Writing in and from the Field." In Writing Anthropology: Essays on Craft and Commitment, C. McGranahan, ed. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp. 23-27.
- 2020 "'We All Have the Same Red Blood': Security Aesthetics and Rescue Ethics on the Arizona-Sonora Border." In *Futureproof: Security Aesthetics and the Urban Imaginary*, D. A. Ghertner, D. M. Goldstein, and H. McFann, eds. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp. 87-113.
- 2019 "Time Lag." Journal for the Anthropology of North America 22(2): 93-95.
- 2018 "Injured by the Border: Security Buildup, Migrant Bodies and Emergency Response in Southern Arizona." In *Bodies as Evidence: Security, Knowledge and, Power*, M. Maguire, U. Rao and N. Zurawski, eds. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp. 43-66.
- 2018 "Called to "Ankle Alley": Migrant Injuries and Emergency Medical Services on the U.S.-Mexico Border." American Anthropologist 120(1): 89-101.
- 2017 "The Wall and the Wash: Security, Infrastructure, and Rescue on the U.S.-Mexico Border." *Anthropology Today* 33(3): 13-16.
- 2016 "Crimecraft: Journalists, Police, and News Publics in an Argentine Town." American Ethnologist 43(3): 451-464.
- 2016 "In/visible-In/secure: Optics of regulation and control" (co-authored with Daniel M. Goldstein). An introduction to the edited special issue. Focaal: Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology 75(2): 3-13.

- 2015 "States of Camouflage." Cultural Anthropology 30(1): 113-138.
- 2014 "For Social Emergencies 'We Are 9-1-1': How Journalists Perform the State in an Argentine Border Town." Anthropological Quarterly 87(1): 151-182.
- 2013 "On and Off the Record: The Production of Legitimacy in an Argentine Border Town." *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 36(2): 231-248.
- 2008 "Mano gentis ir aš: Refleksyvios antropologijos spąstuose" [My Tribe and Me: An Anthropologist Through the Looking Glass]. *Inter-studia humanitatis* 6: 119-134.
- 2004 "Neotribalizmas Lietuvoje: Transgresyvus Žiemgalininkų identiteto kūrimas" [Neotribalism in Lithuania: Transgressive Creation of Semigallian Identity]. *Baltos lankos* 18/19:111-134.

Other Academic Writing (Book Reviews, Commentaries)

- 2023 Review of Lifelines: The Traffic of Trauma by Harris Solomon. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 37(4): 429-430.
- 2022 "Deadly Distinctions." Invited comment on Gabriella Soto's article "The Time of Agony: Abjectivity Politics and the Investigation of Border Crossing Deaths along the US-Mexico Border." In *Current Anthropology* 63(3): 257.
- 2021 "To Live on the edge is not the same as to live on the margins." In *Translations of Security*, Trine Villumsen Berling, Ulrik Pram Gad, Karen Lund Petersen, and Ole Wæver, eds. Routledge. Pp. 150-153.
- 2021 "Reflections on Binational Emergency Workers in the Midst of the Pandemic." Society for the Anthropology of Work Book Forum, July 5.
- 2020 Review of Border Work: Spatial Lives of the State in Rural Central Asia by Madeleine Reeves. PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review 43(2): e35-e37.
- 2019 Review of While the City Sleeps: A History of Pistoleros, Policemen, and the Crime Beat in Buenos Aires before Perón by Lila Caimari. Bulletin of Latin American Research 38(2): 248-249.
- 2015 "I Took My Students to Prison." Blog entry, the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, January 27.
- 2014 Review of Enforcing Order. An Ethnography of Urban Policing by Didier Fassin. Social Anthropology/Antropologie Sociale 22(3): 374-375.
- 2014 Review of Guerilla Auditors: The Politics of Transparency in Neoliberal Paraguay by Kregg Hetherington. American Anthropologist 116(2): 452-453.
- 2012 "Doing Anthropology on the Margins of the Law." Anthropology News 53(12): 7-8.

Public Writing

- 2025 "The Dialectic Lurking Behind the Brutality." Los Angeles Review of Books, April 23.
- 2024 "Regreso a Rápido y Furioso." Nexos, July 1.
- "The Ethnography of Deep Suffering: On Angela Garcia's 'The Way That Leads Among the Lost'." Los Angeles Review of Books, June 27.
- 2024 "How the United States Arms the Mexican Cartels." Rolling Stone, April 16.
- "The Border Crisis Factor No One Talks About: American Guns." Los Angeles Times, March 9.
- 2024 "A Scholar of Gun Policy Says His Field Has Gotten It Wrong." The Boston Globe, Feb 11.
- 2024 "Living with a Gun." The Boston Globe, January 28.
- 2019 "Borders Without Doctors?" The Boston Globe Magazine, July 21. Pp. 4-5.
- 2019 "Lograr paz en una sociedad entretejida." *La Gaceta de Paz*, April 29.
- 2019 "Fractures, trauma, amputations: What medics see when they rescue migrants at the border." Los Angeles Times, February 17.
- 2018 "Walls That Wound." UC Press Blog, November 29.
- 2018 "What I Learned as an EMT at the Border Wall." The Atlantic, October 20.
- 2017 "Pain on the Border: Fieldnotes from a Migrant Aid Center in Nogales, Mexico." ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America. 16(1): 46-49.
- 2015 "When Aid, Not Crime, Crosses the Border." Nogales International, December 11.
- 2015 "US, Mexico depend on each other in emergencies." Arizona Daily Star, December 10.
- 2015 "Writing in and from the Field." Savage Minds, November 16.
- 2015 "First responders want to help migrants but immigration policy gets in the way." *The Guardian*, September 21.
- 2014 "Iguazú: los cambios después de tres años." La Voz de Cataratas, March 27.

Documentary Film

Bomberos. leva Jusionyte, director, producer and editor. Puerto Iguazú, Argentina. 2011. 51 min.

Awards and Fellowships

2025	Winner, Juan E. Méndez Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America
2022-23	Maury Green Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University.
2022	New America Class of 2023 Fellowship Finalist.
2020	Winner, Society for the Anthropology of Work 2020 Book Prize.
2020	The Star Family Prize for Excellence in Faculty Advising, Harvard University.
2019	Winner, Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing (Third Place), for Threshold: Emergen
	Responders on the U.SMexico Border.
2018	Fellow, Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Italy.
2016	Winner, International Publishing Competition, California Series in Public Anthropology, fo
	book manuscript Threshold: Emergency and Rescue on the U.SMexico Border.
2015	Junior Faculty Teaching Award, Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP).
2011	First Honorable Mention, Graduate Student Paper Prize, Association for Political and Lega
	Anthropology, for "Performing Journalism on the Backstage of the State: Illegal Airwaves,
	Versatile Cables, and the Struggle for Power in an Argentine Border Town."
2011	University Prize Instructorship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University,
	awarded for the course "Media and Violence: An Anthropological Perspective."
2006-7	Fulbright Fellow, U.S. Department of State.

Grants

External grants:

2016-2017	Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Post Ph.D. Research Grant
2015-2017	National Science Foundation (NSF), Senior Research Award, BCS Cultural Anthropology
	and SES Law and Social Sciences programs; BCS 1533968
2009-2010	Andrew M. Mellon Foundation, Dissertation Research Grants

Interviews and Media Appearances

Media citations and appearances:

ABC News Live Prime

BBC News TV

BBC Two Newsnight

BBC World Service Newsday

CBS 60 minutes

CNN GPS

C-SPAN

El País

Lithuanian National Radio & Television

Newsweek

NPR (All Things Considered; WBUR Here and Now, WAMU 1A, KPBS Midday Edition, WNYC The Takeaway, KQED Forum, KCRW, Texas Public Radio, and others)

NRC (Netherlands)

The Dallas Morning News

The Intercept

The New Yorker

The New York Times

The Wall Street Journal

The Washington Post

Interviews and profiles:

2025 "leva Jusionyte on U.S. Guns in Mexico: Exit Wounds." Recall This Book podcast, April 3.

- "How US Guns Fuel Violence South of the Border." High Country News, March 14.
- 2025 "Beyond Borders: Gun Culture and Gun Violence." Guns Unpacked podcast, March 1.
- "Cuerno de chivo," episode in Roberto Saviano's podcast series "650 al minuto." Audible, December.
- "New book takes readers inside U.S. gun smuggling to Mexico." Axios Latino, June 11.
- "Author leva Jusionyte on how America's lax gun laws fuel crime in Mexico." ABC News Live, May 31.
- "Mexico's cases against gun manufacturers, dealers say violence is coming there from the U.S." KJZZ The Show (NPR), May 16.
- 2024 "The complex Mexican "arms race" spurred on by the influx of American-made guns." Armed With Reason podcast, May 15.
- "AOAV speaks to leva Jusionyte about her book 'Exit Wounds' a glimpse into the world of firearms smuggled south from the United States to Mexico and their reverberating effects." Action on Armed Violence, May 14.
- "US traffic of guns turns productive Mexicans into desperate refugees." KCRW "Scheer Intelligence," May 3.
- 2024 "How American Guns Are Fueling the Southern Border Crisis." CNN GPS with Fareed Zakaria, April 28.
- 2024 "Talking About Guns In America With Two Stellar Authors, And The California Attorney General." By Celeste Fremon, *Witness LA*, April 23.
- "The connections between American guns and the migrant crisis." 1A, WAMU (NPR), April 18.
- 2024 "Exit Wounds." Interview (Spanish) for Radio Bilingüe program Linea Abierta, April 18.
- 2024 Here and Now, interview with Deepa Fernandez, WBUR (NPR) April 15.
- 2024 "Exit Wounds." Interview with Reighan Gillam for New Books Network's New Books in Anthropology podcast, April 15.
- 2024 Stand Up with Pete Dominick podcast: Author leva Jusionyte / Exit Wounds. March 29.
- 2023 "Ja nie mówię, że nie potrzebujemy murów. Mówię, że one nie działają. I nie są w stanie zatrzymać wojny." By Ewa Wołkanowska-Kołodziej, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, June 19.
- 2022 "Following the Guns South." By Colleen Walsh, Harvard Radcliffe Institute website, December 14.
- "An Exchange of Violence." By Lydialyle Gibson, Harvard Magazine, December 2.
- 2022 "Radcliffe Fellow Discusses Consequences of U.S. Gun Industry on Mexico." By Asher Montgomery and Christina Strachn, *The Harvard Crimson*, December 1.
- "What We Get Wrong About Safety and Security at the US-Mexico Border." Interview for Trending Globally: Politics and Policy podcast, February 16.
- "Dr. leva Jusionytė: "Demokratijos išlikimas JAV nėra savaime suprantamas." Interview with Karolis Vyšniauskas on presidential elections, social tensions, and democracy in the United States. NARA Youtube channel, January 18.
- 2021 Lithuanian National Television morning news show "Labas Rytas, Lietuva," live interview with Ignas Krupavičius, July 30.
- 2019 "Weaponizing Walls: Trump, the Border, and Its Scars (with Dr. leva Jusionyte)." Declarations: The Human Rights Podcast, University of Cambridge, UK, September 11.
- 2019 Rising Up with Sonali, interview for KPFK Los Angeles, July 19.
- 2019 Interview for NYLA Talks podcast, Nanook.lt, June 12.
- The Tom Sumner Program, live radio interview, April 2.
- 2018 "'Threshold' Explores Work of First Responders Along U.S.-Mexico Border." Live interview with Michael Krasny for KQED (NPR) Forum, December 11.
- 2018 "What Emergency Responders Face on the US-Mexico Border." Interview for NPR's *The Takeaway* at WNYC Studios, November 20.
- 2018 "Ieva Jusionyte Discusses Her New Book and Its Pressing Importance in Modern America." *The Harvard Crimson*, November 19.
- 2018 BBC World Service Radio Newsday programme, live interview, October 23.
- "Daily life and death on the U.S.-Mexico border." The Harvard Gazette, January 9.
- 2017 Lithuanian National Radio morning news program Ryto Garsai, interview, July 28.
- 2017 Lithuanian National Television program "Project PI: Social Anthropology," interview, June 28.
- 2017 "leva Jusionyte MA'07, PhD'12 Discusses Her Career in Ethnographic Research." Alumni profile, Brandeis University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, April 18.
- 2017 Lithuanian National Radio program Kultūros Savaitė, interview, January 7.
- 2015 "A journalist's view of a 'savage frontier'." UF News, September 4.