

# Samia Cohen

(she or they; formerly Samuel Coren)  
Curriculum Vitae

Department of American Studies  
Brown University

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. American Studies, Brown University (May 2024)  
M.A. Public Humanities, Brown University, 2019  
Graduate Certificate, Science and Technology Studies, Brown University, 2024  
M.A. History, Rhode Island College, 2015  
B.A. History, Rhode Island College, 2007

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

"trans becoming and the uncanny." *Angelikai* 30.5, no. 1 (forthcoming, 2025).

["Only Disconnect: The Problem of Stormwater in a Rainy City."](#) *Flux: Cahiers scientifiques internationaux Réseaux et territoires* 131, 1 (2023): 51-65.

["Interface: Providence and the Populist Roots of a Downtown Revival."](#) *Journal of Planning History* 16, no. 1 (February 2017): 3–23. A required reading for URBN 0210, "The City: An Introduction to Urban Studies" at Brown University, Fall 2019.

## DIGITAL AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

["Difficult Topographies."](#) *Contingent Magazine* (May 2021).

["Urban Planning and the Spatial Transformations of Providence, RI: 1959-2000."](#) (2016).

## EXHIBITIONS

Researcher and Co-Organizer, Doors Open Rhode Island's summer 2021 program: *Providence Waterways*; and Co-Author of the [Providence Waterways Story Map](#).

Solo Exhibition, [Topographics in Pursuit of Spirit: A Month of Getting to Know the Providence River](#). AS220 Project Space, Providence, Rhode Island. February 2017

Public History Exhibitor, [IN:SITE Exhibition: Widow Jane Mine](#), Century House Historical Society with NYSCA. Rosendale, NY. June-August 2016

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2024 Invited Participant, New York as Port City workshop (sponsored by the NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture). New York, NY, July 2024.
- 2022-2023 Graduate Fellowship, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University
- 2022-2023 Graduate Fellowship, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (declined)
- 2022 Invited Participant, Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop: Landscape History and Historiography. Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC., May 2022.
- 2021-2022 Endowed Fellowship, Robert W. Morse Endowed Fellowship Fund
- 2020 Research and Travel Grant, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society.
- 2019 New England Botanical Club, Small Research Scholarship.  
International Travel Funding, Brown University Graduate School.
- 2018 Rhode Island Council on the Humanities, Research Grant. Sponsored by the Congress for the New Urbanism, New England Chapter for the exhibition *(Un)Built Providence*.

#### **CONFERENCES, ROUNDTABLES, INTERVIEWS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 2024: Panelist, Annual Conference of The Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH). Presentation Title: "Where the Dumps that Used to Be Ponds Used to Be." Panel Title: Landfill Landscapes: Waste and the Production of Urban Space. San Diego, CA, October 2024 (pending acceptance).
- 2024: Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter, American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Annual Meeting. Presentation Title: "Where the Dumps that Used to Be Ponds Used to Be." Panel Title: Wastescapes: Managing Excess in the Twentieth-Century United States. Denver, CO, April 2024.
- 2023 Panel Organizer and Moderator, Professional Development Series. Panel Title: ["From Dissertation to Manuscript: A Panel Conversation with Authors and Editors."](#) Department of American Studies at Brown University. December 2023.
- Invited Panelist, Dissertation Retreat at the Sheridan Writing Center at Brown University. July 2023.
- Presenter, 2023 Earth Day Celebration at RISD Nature Lab. Providence, RI.  
<https://samcoren.files.wordpress.com/2023/07/earth-day-thoughts-1.pdf>
- Presenter, American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting. Presentation Title: "Highways, Urban Rivers, and Odd Remainders." Panel Title: *Infrastructure & Inequality 1: Constructing Urban Space*. Denver, CO, March 2023.
- 2022 Presenter, Brown University Cogut Institute for the Humanities' "Meet the Fellows" lightning talks. Presentation Title: "Lifeworlds of the Providence River." October 2023.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vMgVUgXGjY>

Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter, Annual Conference of The Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH). Presentation Title: "'Possibilities of Providence Harbor': The (Un)Making of a Sacrifice Zone." Panel Title: *Viscous Histories: Landscapes of the US Petroleum Industry*. New York, NY, October 2022.

Invited Speaker and Guide, environmental history and justice tour of the Providence River, for pre-college course: *Informed Leadership: Science, Technology and Society*.  
Taught by Nicole Sintetos, Summer 2022 at Brown University, Providence, RI.

Presenter, Conference, *Watersheds: ASLE 2022 Symposium*. Presentation Title: "Only Disconnect: The Promise and Pitfalls of Green Infrastructure in a Rainy City."  
University of Delaware, June 2022.

2021 Interviewee, "Hydrological City Life: On Infrastructure, Water, and Storytelling; an Interview with Public Scholar Sam Coren," with Ricardo Gomez for *College Hill Independent*, October 6, 2021.

Panel Co-Organizer, *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting*. Title: "Diminished Mobility, Reciprocity, Deepening Ties to Place."  
Toronto, Ontario, October, 2021.

Invited Speaker, LITR 0310U: *Hydropoetics: writing with and as water*.  
Taught by Imani Jackson, Fall 2021 at Brown University, Providence, RI.

Featured Speaker, Citizen Science Showcase: *Waterworks, Wilds and the Wealth Divide: the Role of Lay People in Stormwater Management in Providence, RI*.  
American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA, May 2021.

Interviewee, Tiny Exhibit: "Casting Shade: Shade Inequity, Health, and Spatial Justice."  
Produced by Angela Zhang, Maggie Unverzagt Goddard, et al.  
John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University, Providence, RI, April 2021.

2020 Co-Organizer, *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*. Title: "Ecologies of Voice: An Open Dialogue About Co-authorship and Collaboration."  
Baltimore, MD, November 2020 (canceled, due to the pandemic).

Design Team Member, [Reveal/Heal](#): a proposal submitted to the City of Providence in response to the Call for Design Ideas: Crook Point Bascule Bridge Reuse.

Panel Co-Organizer, *Urban History Association Annual Meeting*. Title: "Viscous Histories: The Environments of the American Petroleum Industry" (canceled, due to the pandemic).  
Detroit, MI, October 2020.

Interviewee, *Not Built For Us: audio essays on the intersections of medicine, structure, & the marginalized*, hosted by Angela Zhang. "Episode 2: Casting Shade: Shade Inequity, Health, and Spatial Justice." Published July 2020 on Spotify.

Presenter, Conference, *Environmental Justice in Multispecies Worlds*. Presentation title: “Gardens Against the Machine: TEK (traditional ecological knowledge) and the system of automobility in Hawai’i.” With Aja Grande, PhD student, MIT HASTS. University of Wisconsin–Madison, March 2020.

Invited Speaker, Our Streets Providence Symposium, *Mobility Justice: Movement, Equity, and Action*. Presentation title: “Uprooted and Stuck: Urban Renewal and Highway Building in Providence, RI.” Southside Cultural Center, Providence, RI, February 2020.

2019 Principal Co-organizer and Panel Moderator, [ReSeeding the City: Ethnobotany in the Urban](#). Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, Providence, RI, October 2019.

Panelist, Presenter, *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*. Title: “Exploring the Environmental and Cultural History of U.S. Interstate H3.” With Aja Grande, PhD student, MIT HASTS. Honolulu, HI, October, 2019.

Panelist, Presenter, *RC21@Delhi: In and Beyond the City: Emerging Ontologies, Persistent Challenges and Hopeful Futures*. Presentation title: “Expressway Worlds: Life and Landscape on the Margins of US I-95.” Delhi, Research Committee 21 (RC21) on Sociology of Urban and Regional Development of the International Sociological Association, September 2019.

Speaker, UMass Graduate Conference, *The Routes of History*. Presentation title: “Expressway Worlds: Life and Landscape on the Margins of US I-95.” University of Massachusetts, Amherst, March 2019.

2018 Co-organizer, [From Monographs to Movements: Activist Approaches to Publishing](#). Watson Institute, Brown University, December, 2018.

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, URBN 1200: The United States Metropolis, 1945-2000, Prof. Samuel Zipp (Brown University, Spring 2021)

Research Assistant to Professor Elena Shih for Human Trafficking Research Cluster (Brown University, Fall 2020)

Instructor, AMST 0190: Expressway Worlds: Landscape and Life on the Margins of U.S. Highways (Brown University, Spring 2020)

Teaching Assistant, ENG 1711: Monsters in Our Midst: The Plantation and the Woods in Trans-American Literature, Prof. Dixia Ramirez (Brown University, Fall 2019)

Teaching Assistant, AMST 1010: American Icons, Prof. Matthew Guterl (Brown University, Spring 2019)

Teaching Assistant, URBN 0210: The City: Introduction to Urban Studies, Prof. Samuel Zipp (Brown University, Fall 2018)

## RECENT EMPLOYMENT

Website Editor, Society for American City and Regional Planning History (May 2024-ongoing)

Professional Development Workshop Coordinator, Department of American Studies at Brown University (Fall 2023-Spring 2024)

Writing Center Associate, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning at Brown University (2022-present)

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE**

2023 Promotional Content Author and Volunteer  
Providence African Film Festival. Providence, RI

2021 Board Member (ongoing) and River Cleanup Coordinator  
Friends of the Moshassuck. Providence, RI

Project Partner, West River Cleanup and Restoration  
Groundwork RI.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitor  
University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch.

2019 Graduate Student Mentor at Brown University (ongoing)  
Providence, RI

2018 Tour Guide and Organizer  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Rhode Island Latino Arts and Latinos in  
Heritage Conservation. Providence, RI. *Encuentro 2018*.

2018 Advisory Member  
Historical Interpretation Working Group, State House Restoration Committee. Providence, RI.

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR STUDIES**

2021 Participant in weeklong seminar, *Freshwater and Diadromous Fishes of New England*  
Eagle Hill Institute, Maine.

2020 Brown University Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4), GIS Institute completion

2019 5 Continuing Education Units, University of Maine, for completion of *Lichens and Lichen Ecology* Seminar, Eagle Hill Institute, Maine.

2015 Certificate of Completion, Grant Writing Full-Day Workshop, University of Rhode Island