

ISABEL BETHKE

L I T E R A T U R E A N D L A W

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

2020 – 2026

PhD, JD, English Literature and Law Dual Degree

JD Completed Spring 2024, Conferred May 2026

Advisors: Timothy Brennan, Ellen Messer-Davidow

Megan Finch, Steve Meili

English coursework completed in 1.25 years (compared to average 2.5), Law coursework in 2.5 years (compared to average 3+ for dual degree students).

Dissertation Topic: Narrative Adherence in Asylum Law

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

2018 – 2020

MA, English Literature

Advisor: Anna Kornbluh

Project Advisor, "Hinge Picture: Evolution of Edition," Walter Benn Michaels

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (Visiting Researcher)

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

2011 – December 2014

BA, English Literature, and International Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Asylum and Refugee Law as Narrative - Immigration Law - Narrative Theory

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PUBLICATIONS

ACADEMIC:

[Exploring Im/Migration Archives: Insights From The Immigration History Research Center Summer Fellows](#)

IN PROGRESS:

"Preparing Pro Se: Navigating Immigration Court without Legal Representation" Primary Investigator, Co-Author/Researcher with Kim Carr (St. Olaf) and Chris Levesque (Kenyon College)

"Mediating Marriage and Migration: Examining Narrative Strategies of Legal Actors"

GENERAL:

[Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from Chicago High Schools](#), Legal Narrative Editor

ISBN: 978-1-949523-31-7

CREATIVE:

"The Agricultural Dream Job" (Fiction) *The Haven*, 2019

IN PROGRESS: *Deals with the Devil: Short Stories*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

MMLA *The Stateless Wife: Reading the Expatriation Act of 1907 and the Contours of International Citizenship*, Panelist 2024

Law and Society *Marriage and Migration*, Panelist 2024

MLA Next-Generation Research in English: A Graduate Student Showcase 2024

Law, Culture and Humanities Graduate Student Workshop 2023

Place of Memory and Memory of Place, *Cancelled due to COVID-19*

University of Oxford

Presentation Title: "False Memories of Utopia: Evaluating Failure of a Vision for Integrated Immigration"

INVITED LECTURES

Introduction to Immigration Law 2025

St. Olaf College, Political Science 299 U.S. Immigration: Politics and Punishment

Postcolonial Theory, Ethnic Studies, and Critical Race Theory 2025

in Gayatri Spivak's "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

Grand Valley State University, English 316: Literary Theory and Criticism

Washington University in St. Louis Chancellor's Career Fellow Alumni Panel 2024

Marriage and Migration 2024

Gustavus Adolphus College

IHRCA: Archival Research for Graduate Students 2023

ASSISTANTSHIPS

GRADUATE ASSISTANT 2025

Immigration History Research Center (IHRC), University of Minnesota

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 2022

University of Minnesota Law School

Professor Kevin Reitz, J. Annenberg Le Ve a Land Grant Chair in Criminal Procedure Law

- Editing and supplemental research for “Parole Release and Revocation” project, sponsored by the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

LECTURER

2026 – Present

English 1301W: US Literature and Social Injustice

Fall 2026

- Designed and developed course to focus on immigration in the United States, tracking its legal history alongside literary tradition. Specific focus on evidence-based inquiry, discussion, and debate.

English 3001W: Textual Analysis: Methods

Fall 2026

English 3002: Modern Literary Criticism and Theory

Fall 2026

GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR

2022 – Present

University of Minnesota:

English 1301W: US Literature and Social Injustice

2025

- Designed and developed course to focus on immigration in the United States, tracking its legal history alongside literary tradition. Specific focus on evidence-based inquiry, discussion, and debate. Syllabus linked here: [ENGL1301W \(008-BETHKE\)](#)

English 3005W: Survey of American Literature & Cultures I

2024-2025

- Designed and developed course independently to foreground oppressed voices and legal texts. Instructing students in close reading, critical writing, and literary discussion. Syllabus linked here: [ENGL 3005 BETHKE](#)

Writing 1301

2022-2024

- Instructor for Writing 1301, the foundational writing course required for all undergraduate students.
- Taught course in person (2023-24) and asynchronously (2022-23), gained experience in multi-modal coursework while developing syllabus over four semesters.

TEACHING ASSISTANT POSITIONS

2021 – 2022

University of Minnesota

English 1701, Modern Fiction (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

- Grader for English 1701, Modern Fiction. Responsible for grading and providing feedback for 75 students on a weekly basis.

University of Illinois Chicago

January 2020 – May 2020

RELS/CST 120: Introduction to Catholic Thought: Martyrs for God

A W A R D S

ENGLISH DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIP

RIDGS DISSERTATION WRITING RETREAT

“A” DEAN’S LIST

UMN Law School – Highest Dean’s List Honor

JUDY KEATING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO), Chapter JX

IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER (IHRC) SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Immigration History Research Center

BEST ORALIST

University of Minnesota Law School

Civil Rights/Liberties Moot Court, 2023

Legal Research and Writing, 2022

MLA CONFERENCE GRANT

Modern Language Association

SUMMER MERIT GRANTS (3)

University of Minnesota

EARLY CAREER MERIT GRANT

University of Minnesota

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

University of Minnesota

TRAVEL GRANTS

University of Minnesota

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FEE WAIVER, FULL TUITION AWARD

University of Illinois Chicago

SIGMA TAU DELTA

Washington University in St. Louis

S E R V I C E

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

Great Lakes Representative to the Delegate Assembly

2024 – 2027

Elected to serve three-year term as Regional Delegate

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

President 20/21 Century Subfield <i>Planning workshops, lectures, presentations for all English graduate students.</i>	2022 – 2024
Recruitment Coordinator for Incoming PhD Students	2023 – 2024
Selected Graduate Student Committee Member Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee	2022 – 2023
Vice President Graduate Student Organization (GSO)	2022 – 2024
Graduate Student Representative English Department Graduate Studies Committee	2022 – 2023

P R O F E S S I O N A L E X P E R I E N C E

LEGAL NARRATIVE EDITOR, LEGAL NARRATIVE CONSULTANT Green Card Voices <i>Remote and Minneapolis, MN</i> • Consulting with Green Card Voices team to de-identify narrators, minimize risk. • Editing 30 stories of youth migration to prioritize safety and accuracy, while maintaining narrative integrity. • Project Description: Green Card Youth Voices: Chicago High Schools is a collection of personal essays written by 30 students attending Stevenson High School and Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy. The stories, gathered using a trauma-informed approach, highlight the diverse experiences, resilience, and strength of young immigrants as they navigate life in the United States.	2025 – Present
LEGAL INTERN – REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT PROGRAM Advocates for Human Rights <i>Remote and Minneapolis, MN</i> • Performed intake interviews for new pro se asylum cases, created workup of initial I-589, primarily with Unaccompanied Children (UACs). • Participated in court deliberations and follow up, worked with clients to prepare asylum applications and affidavits, supported staff with other related immigration applications. • Conducted legal and human rights research to prepare cases to transmit to attorneys, created or supplemented country conditions reports.	2023 – 2024

- Assisted staff and volunteer attorneys with supplemental research to support pending asylum claims, including brief writing.

STUDENT ATTORNEY – IMMIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

2023 - 2024

University of Minnesota Law School

Minneapolis, MN

- Sole author of VAWA Cancellation of Removal/42b Cancellation Brief.
- Acted as student attorney under supervision of Mackenzie Heinrichs and Steve Meili representing asylum seekers.
- Sought certifications for U-Visas as alternate strategy to asylum case.
- VAWA cancellation of removal applications.
- Wrote affidavits, performed client interviews, drafted case briefs, and researched country conditions for individual clients.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

2020 – 2025

National Resource Center for Lifelong Learning Institutes at Northwestern University

Remote, Chicago, IL

- Implementation of transitional techniques for selected Special Services Clients.
- Hired and trained Osher Online moderators and instructors.
- Stewarded Osher Online Program: moderated courses, emceed national events.
- Supported 125 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes and Director of Osher NRC.
- One-on-one Institute consultation for membership growth.

IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER FELLOW

2023

University of Minnesota

Immigration History Research Center and Archives / Minneapolis, MN

- Case file research into Immigration and Human Rights Clinic.
- Invited Lecture on Marriage and Migration at Gustavus Adolphus College in Fall 2023.
- Invited Lecture for Immigration History Research Center Lecture Series.
- Blog post creation for archival awareness, paper in draft: *Language of Racism: Reading Narrative Theory in the 1961-1968 Interpreter Releases*.

ADMISSIONS OFFICER

2017 – 2018

University of Washington

Office of Admissions / Seattle, WA

- Recruited prospective undergraduate students through tailored presentations, meetings, and email/phone communications.

- Evaluated and ranked applicants based on academic preparation/performance and personal achievements/characteristics.
- Conducted essay-writing workshops for high schools in the Seattle and San Francisco areas; coordinated all travel and expenses.

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

2015-2017

Seattle Opera

Seattle, WA

- Founding member of Seattle Opera Equity Task Force, whose mission is to establish tangible goals to achieve equity.
- Managed fundraising portfolio of 100 + donors, from \$5 - \$250,000.
- Extensive event planning/management, creating documentation for standard practices.
- Established intern/volunteer recruitment practices, forging/strengthening community relationships; trained incoming interns.
- Wide-ranging customer service tasks including phone intakes for new donors, answering questions from the donor services hotline, and managing mismanaged accounts.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

2014 – 2015

Thompson Coburn, LLP

St. Louis, MO

- Revised and edited briefs and depositions for supervising attorneys.
- Evaluated communication from incarcerated individuals for potential appeals.

SAT/ACT/GRE INSTRUCTOR

2012 – 2021

The Princeton Review

St. Louis, MO, Seattle, WA, Chicago, IL / 2012 – 2021

- Certification/Instruction in Science, Math, Reading, English, and Writing, 50+ training hours.
- Taught classes of 3-20 students aged 15-40, created syllabi, evaluated student progress, and provided feedback.

INSTRUCTOR AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

2014

Columbia University in the City of New York

New York, NY

- Prepared and aided in lectures on globalization and its effects on global arts and literature for class of 22 students.
- Provided criticism and revised student papers, explained errors in syntax/semantics.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Washington University Calling Center (Fundraising)

2011-2013

St. Louis, MO

- Solicited potential donors, primarily in “Do Not Call,” “Never Given” fields.
- Earned highest credit card donations for 13 weeks.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING INTERN

2012, 2013

Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Harris theater for Music and Dance

Chicago, IL

- Created marketing materials for performances using Photoshop.
- Offered translation support from French to English.

SOLOIST, PERFORMER

2004 – Present

Youth Choral Theater of Chicago; Independent Soloist

- Soloist at Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., “I Never Saw Another Butterfly,” broadcast via PBS Thanksgiving Special; Children’s Choir for Joffrey Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* in Washington D.C. and Chicago.
- Wedding and Funeral performer throughout Twin Cities, Chicago, and Seattle area.

SERVICE/OUTREACH

ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COURTROOM OBSERVER

2024 – Present

Merit and Bond Hearing Observer and Researcher at Fort Snelling Immigration Court

[More information here](#)

DACA PERSONAL FUNDRAISING APPEAL

2024 – 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBER

2021 – Present

Hamline Midway Library Renovation

St. Paul, MN

COMMITTEE MEMBER

2020 – Present

Hamline Midway Neighbors Helping Homeless Neighbors

St. Paul, MN

LEADERSHIP WITHOUT BORDERS UNDOCU ALLY

2018

University of Washington

Seattle, WA

- Training on narratives of undocumented students and their families.
- Overview of history, policies, and current issues impacting this population.
- Why and how to be an ally to undocumented students.
- Strategies and models to support undocumented students.

SENIOR CAREER PEER

2013 – 2015

Washington University in St. Louis Career Center

St. Louis, MO

- Dispensed career and educational advice to Washington University students, graduate students, and alumni.
- Edited and reviewed materials for content, grammar, and style.
- Introduced and altered new advising system.

STUDENT ADVISOR

2012 – 2015

Washington University in St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

- Selected to serve Dr. Nicole Svobodny, Assistant Dean, to academically advise 20 freshmen per year. Conducted advising meetings and aided in course selection.