**Rita Bouwens, M.A.** (she/her)

PhD Student and Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Department of Anthropology

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**Education\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Ph.D. (2027 expected) Anthropology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Advisor: Dr. Jane C. Desmond

M.A. (2021) Applied Anthropology, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. Thesis title: “A Zoological Spectacular: Conservation in an American Zoo.”

Co-advisors: Dr. Kate McClellan and Dr. David M. Hoffman

B.A. (2016) *Summa Cum Laude,* Anthropology, Modern Languages and Literatures (Spanish and French), Beloit College, Beloit WI.

**Research Interests\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Human-animal relations, multispecies ethnography, political ecology, multispecies futures and coexistence, alternative futures and ontologies, neoliberalized wildlife conservation, modernity and the nature/culture divide, companion animals, biopolitics, postcapitalism

**Grants, Scholarships, and Awards\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**External Grants, Scholarships, and Awards:**

2019 **(Alternate)** Fulbright U.S. Student Program, Institute of International Education, Open Study/Research Award, Costa Rica

2014-2016 Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges Rath Scholarship. $12,000/year

2014-2016 M. Alice Smith Scholarship. $4,000/year

2015 Ronald E. McNair Scholar Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program award, U.S. Department of Education. $2,800/summer

2014 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, U.S. Department of State. $4,000

**Internal Scholarships and Grants:**

2018-2019 Mississippi State University Office of the Graduate School Incoming Student Fellowship. $2,500

2012-2016 Eaton Merit Scholarship. Beloit College. $10,000/year

2015 Mouat and Whiteford Endowed Research Fund. Beloit College Department of Anthropology. $1,600

2013 Lockwood Field School Scholarship. Beloit College Department of Anthropology. $500

**Fieldwork Experience\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Jan 2020-Aug 2021 Master’s student, thesis research. Designed, conducted, and analyzed IRB-approved ethnographic research on conservation in an American zoo.

Jan-May 2016 Student, undergraduate ethnographic methods course. Designed and conducted IRB-approved ethnographic research in Beloit, WI on barriers to pet adoption with a local animal rescue.

Jan-May 2015 Student, Associated Colleges of the Midwest. San Pedro de Montes de Oca, Costa Rica. Designed and conducted IRB-approved ethnographic research in San Rafael de Heredia, Costa Rica. Studied human-animal relationships, specifically regarding people's perceptions of and interactions with livestock and companion animals and how those categories are defined and constructed.

Mar-July 2014 Student, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Beloit, WI. Designed and executed IRB-approved exploratory ethnographic research project about food choice and political economy in Beloit, WI. Interviewed and conducted participant observation in Beloit area restaurants.

June 2013 Ethnographic field school participant, Beloit College Department of Anthropology, directed by Dr. Lisa Anderson-Levy and Dr. Nancy Krusko. Kingston, Jamaica. Researched coming-of-age narratives from Jamaican women in a 3-week-long ethnographic field school. Conducted IRB-approved participant observation and interviews at internship site. Interned for the Jamaica Cultural Development Center.

**Publications\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2021 Bouwens, Rita. "A Zoological Spectacular: Conservation in an American Zoo." Order No. 28648990, Mississippi State University. <https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/zoological-spectacular-conservation-american-zoo/docview/2572580053/se-2>

2021 Bouwens, Rita. “Anthropology from the Bedroom: Navigating Ethnographic Methods in the Time of COVID-19.” Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropologists. <https://www.copaainfo.org/post/anthropology-from-the-bedroom-navigating-ethnographic-methods-in-the-time-of-covid-19>

**Conference and Symposium Presentations\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

May 2021 “A Zoological Spectacular: Conservation in an American Zoo.” Virtual presentation. Witnessing and Worlding Beyond the Human: An Interdisciplinary and Interspecies Conversation (May 28-29, 2021) by Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

March 2021 “A Zoological Spectacular: Conservation in an American Zoo.” Virtual poster presentation. Mississippi State University Graduate Student Research Symposium.

March 2021 “A Zoological Spectacular: Conservation in an American Zoo.” Virtual poster presentation. 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (March 23-27, 2021). Remote.

Nov. 2015 “From Papaya-Eating Dachshunds to Animals that Taste Good: Perceptions of and Interactions with Animals in San Rafael de Heredia, Costa Rica.” 14th Annual International Symposium (November 18th, 2015). Beloit, WI.

Aug. 2014 “Who Eats What and Why?: A Political Economy Study of Food Choice in Beloit, WI.” 23rd Annual McNair Scholars Symposium. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA.

Nov. 2013 “Behave Yourself!: An Ethnographic Study of the Self through Coming-of-Age Narratives from Kingston, Jamaica.” 12th Annual International Symposium (November 20th, 2013). Beloit, WI.

**Teaching and Work Experience\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

2022-present University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

ANTH 230: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology

2020-2021 Mississippi State University

CO 2413: Introduction to News Writing and Reporting

2018-2020 Mississippi State University

AN 1143: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

**Grader**

2021-2022 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

ANTH 103: Anthropology in a Changing World

ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology

**Adoptions Staff**

2022-present Champaign County Humane Society

Urbana, IL

Facilitated the adoption application process for companion animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, Guinea pigs, rats, ferrets, birds, reptiles) in a public-facing role. Duties include animal care and handling, facility cleaning and maintenance, data processing and entry, assisting patrons and the public, telephone communications, reviewing medical records, scheduling, filing, stocking inventory, and conducting background checks and property tax assessments.

**Seasonal Guest Experience Facilitator and Zoo Guide**

2019-2021 John Ball Zoo

Grand Rapids, MI

Facilitated admissions and guest experiences (camel rides, budgerigar aviary, funicular tram), interpreted animal exhibits as an educator in the education dept.

**Instructor of Record**

2016-2018 Henan University

Kaifeng, Henan, China

Undergraduate English Writing and Oral English

**Languages\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

English (native proficiency)

Spanish (professional working proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing)

French (limited working proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing)

**Technological Skills\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

MAXQDA qualitative data analysis software

QDA Miner Lite qualitative data analysis software

Shelterluv

**Memberships and Affiliations\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2021 Society for Applied Anthropology

2013-2014 American Anthropological Association