#### Curriculum Vitae

# Rebecca A. Seligman, PhD February 2025

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### **Specializations**

Medical and psychological anthropology; culture and mental health; anthropology of psychiatry; embodiment and somatization; chronic and medically unexplained illness; trauma and dissociation; cultural therapeutics; cultural neuroscience; Brazil; U.S.; Mexican diaspora.

### **Appointments**

2015-present	Associate Professor, Anthropology and Global Health, Northwestern University
2008- 2014	Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Global Health, Northwestern University
2006-2008	Dial Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Global Health,
	Northwestern University
2004-2006	Canadian Institute of Health Research Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of
	Psychiatry, Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry, McGill University

### Affiliations

2024-present	Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Faculty Fellow, Northwestern University
2014-present	Science in Human Culture Affiliated Faculty, Northwestern University
2013-present	Latin American and Caribbean Studies Affiliated Faculty, Northwestern University
2012-present	Cognitive Science Affiliated Faculty, Northwestern University
2009-present	Institute for Policy Research, Faculty Fellow

#### Education

2004	PhD, Emory University, Department of Anthropology
2002	Certificate, Transcultural Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University
2001	MA, Emory University, Department of Anthropology,
1995	BA, Anthropology, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, summa cum laude

## **Publications**

## Books:

*In Preparation* **Seligman, R.** Conditions of Meaning: An Ethnography of Mind-body Illness. Under review for Advance Contract, University of California Press.

- 2015 Chiao, J., R. Turner, S. Li, and **R. Seligman** Editors, Oxford Handbook of Cultural Neuroscience. Oxford University Press.
- 2014 **Seligman, R.** Possessing Spirits and Healing Selves: Embodiment and Transformation in an Afro-Brazilian Religion. Palgrave/MacMillan, Culture, Mind, and Society Series of the Society for Psychological Anthropology.

### Articles:1

In Preparation Seligman, R., \*\*Layla Imani Joseph, \*\*Brian Whetsell, and Rebecca Ford-Paz.

Mental health care for Mexican American adolescents: Integrating the microand macrosocial in clinical care. To be submitted to Social Science and Medicine.

In Preparation Seligman, R. and M. Canna.\*\* Ethnography as Care. To be Submitted to Current Anthropology.

In press Seligman, R. and M. Canna.\*\* Biological Systems and the Embodiment of Culture. In Cambridge Handbook of Psychological Anthropology. Edward Lowe, Editor.

2024 **Seligman, R.** Mothering and Mental Health Care: Moral Sense-Making Among Mexican-American Mothers of Adolescents in Treatment. *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*, 48:614-633.

**Seligman, R.** Emotion Regulation Across Disciplines: Anthropology. *In* Handbook of Emotion Regulation (3e). James Gross and Brett Ford, Editors.

Seligman, R. Metaphor and the politics and poetics of youth distress in an evidence-based psychotherapy. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 13634615211066692.

Canna, M.\*\*, **Seligman, R.** & Koroma, M. (2021). How culture breaks down the mind-body divide. An interview with Maddalena Canna and Rebecca Seligman by Matthieu Koroma. ALIUS Bulletin, 5, 12-27.

\*\*ojalehto, Bethany, Douglas Medin, and **R. Seligman.** Cognition beyond the human: Cognitive psychology and the new animism. Ethos 48(1): 50-73.

2020 Canna, M.,\*\* and **Seligman, R.** Dealing with the Unknown: Functional Neurological Disorders and the Conversion of Cultural Meaning. Social Science and Medicine 246: 112725.

2018 **Seligman, R.** Mind, Body, Brain and the Conditions of Meaning. Ethos 46(3): 397-417.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Starred names indicate student or postdoctoral co-authors



## **Working Papers**

**Seligman, R.** Mothering and Mental Health Among Mexican American Mothers. IPR Working Paper Series. June 2024.

#### **Book Reviews**

2017

2017	Quarterly.
2009	<b>Seligman R.</b> Mental Health among Taiwanese Americans: Gender, Immigration, and Transnational Struggles, by Chien-Juh Gu. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 23(1):72-74.

Seligman, R. Religion and the Politics of Ethnic Identity in Bahia Brazil, by Stephen Selka. American Ethnologist 36(4):807-808.

## **Research Fellowships and Grants**

2024-25	Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, full year sabbatical support.
2023	National Science Foundation Supplemental Grant. R. Seligman, Pl. \$20,000.
2022	Buffett Institute Global Catalyst Grant "Remaking Media and Mental Health Across Cultures." <b>R. Seligman,</b> Peter Locke, David Tolchinsky Pls. \$60,000.
2022-2025	Three-year Institute for Policy Research Faculty Fellowship, Northwestern University.
2021	Buffett Institute Global Catalyst Grant "Media Representation of Mental Health/Illness." <b>R. Seligman,</b> Peter Locke, David Tolchinsky Pls. \$60,000.
2021	National Science Foundation Senior Scholars Grant. "From Sensations to Symptoms: The Social Shaping of Functional Illness Experience." <b>R. Seligman, Pl.</b> \$216,629.
2019-2022	Three-year Institute for Policy Research Faculty Fellowship, Northwestern University.

WT Grant Foundation Research Grant: "Cultures of Care: Exploring Inequalities in

Mental Health Services Among Mexican American Youth." R. Seligman PI, R.

Ford-Paz Co-PI. \$102,321.

2016-2019	Three-year Institute for Policy Research Faculty Fellowship, Northwestern University.
2016	Northwestern Buffet Center Big Ideas Grant: Medical Cultures and Law. Helen Tilley PI, R. <b>Seligman, Co-PI</b> .
2016	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: "The Role of Socioeconomic and Cultural Variation of Neurotrauma Recovery." <b>R. Seligman, Pl</b> . L. Garofalo, Co-Pl.
2014	Northwestern Institute for Policy Research Small Grant: "Making Sense of Mental Health Care: Interpretive, Cultural, and Psychosocial Dimensions of Mexican American Adolescent Experiences with Psychiatry." R. Seligman, Pl.
2013-2016	Three-year Institute for Policy Research Faculty Fellowship, Northwestern University.
2011	NIH-funded Research Consortium "International Cultural Neuroscience" Joan Chiao PI, Shinobu Kitayama PI. <b>R. Seligman Key Personnel</b> .
2010	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: "Emotion, Stress, and Diabetes" <b>R. Seligman PI</b> , E. Mendenhall Co-PI.
2009-2012	Three-year Institute for Policy Research Faculty Fellowship, Northwestern University.
2000-2003	National Institutes of Health, National Research Service Award Fellowship, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine: "Psychobiology and Mental Health in a Spirit Possession Religion." <b>R. Seligman Pl</b> .
2000	National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, Programs in Cultural and Physical Anthropology: "A Call to Mediumship: Social, Psychological, and Psychobiological Predispositions Among Mediums in a Brazilian Spirit Possession Religion." <b>R. Seligman Pl</b> .
2000	Emory University Internationalization Fund, Research Grant Award. R. Seligman PI.
1999	Mellon Foundation Summer Research Grant Award. R. Seligman PI.
1997-2003	Four Year Graduate Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Emory University

1995 Fulbright Institute of International Education (IIE), Grant for Independent Research Abroad: "Calypso and Carnival: A Psychosocial Study of a Trinidadian Mass Ritual." **R. Seligman, PI**.

Northwestern University Associated Student Government Faculty and

## **Awards and Honors**

2019-2020

	Administration Honor Roll, Teaching Award.
2018-2019	Northwestern University Associated Student Government Faculty and Administration Honor Roll, Teaching Award.
2013-2014	Northwestern University Associated Student Government Faculty and Administration Honor Roll, Teaching Award
2003	Charles Hughes Fellowship for best paper, awarded by the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture: "From Affliction to Affirmation: Narrative Transformation and the Therapeutics of Candomblé Mediumship."

- O. Roger Gallagher Memorial Award for Outstanding Student in the field of Anthropology, Skidmore College.
- 1995 Periclean Honor Society Award for Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis, Skidmore College: "Synthetic Anthropology: A Biocultural Examination of the Trinidadian Carnival."
- 1995 Phi Beta Kappa

## **Conferences Organized**

- 2023 **Seligman, R.** Conference organizer and Program Chair, Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meeting. Joan B. Kroc Center for Peace Studies, San Diego, California. April 27-30.
- Seligman, R. Co-Organizer, three-day symposium on Media and Mental Health, Co-organized with Pritzker Pucker Studio Lab and Dave Tolchinsky, Peter Locke, and Kate Erskine (Buffett Global Catalyst working group on Media and Mental Health). May 25-27.

## **Invited Lectures/Presentations**

- Seligman, R. Conditions of Meaning: An Ethnography of Functional Illness. Invited lecture, Kaplan Conversations series. Northwestern. February 12.
- 2024 **Seligman, R.** New Paradigms of Brain and Body: Neurotechnologies in the Treatment of FND. Advanced Study institute, McGill University Division of Transcultural Psychiatry, Montreal QC. June 26-28.







**Seligman, R.** International Mental Health. Presented at C2S/CICS Workshop on International Dimensions of Social Disparities in Health, October 12, Northwestern University.

## **Conference Panels Organized/Chaired, Panel Discussant**

- **Seligman, R.** and Keegan Krause Co-Organizers. Complex Embodiments: Reciprocal Bodies and Social Worlds. Panel for Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meeting. April 3-6, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2019 Canna, M. and **R. Seligman** Co-Organizers. "Somatic Cultures and Consciousness" panel for the meetings of the American Anthropological Association. Vancouver, CA. November 20-24, 2019.
- **Seligman, R.** Discussant for "Bodily Techniques of Self-Transformation" Panel, SPA Biennial Meeting, April 4-7. Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.
- **Seligman, R.** Discussant for "Place, Identity, Trauma and Healing" Panel, AAA November 19-23. Denver, Colorado.
- **Seligman, R.** and S. Selka Co-Organizers. "The Religious Dynamics of Body, Place, and Subjectivity." Panel for the meeting of the American Anthropological Association. November 20-24, 2013, Chicago, Illinois.
- **Seligman, R.** Member, Conference Committee. International Cultural Neuroscience Consortium Conference, Northwestern University May 10-12.
- **Seligman, R.** Session Chair "Cultural Neuroscience of Emotion" and "Enhancing the Culture in Cultural Neuroscience" panels at International Cultural Neuroscience Consortium Conference, Northwestern University May 10-12.
- **Seligman, R.** and R. Lester Co-Organizers and Chairs. "Volition and Self-direction in Subjective Experience, Emotional Distress, and Healing." Panel for the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meeting. March 27-29, Asilomar, CA.
- Seligman, R. and KA McKinney Co-Organizers. "Suffering and the Self." Session organized for the joint meetings of the Society for Medical Anthropology and the Society for Applied Anthropology, March 25-29, Memphis, TN.
- **Seligman, R.** Organizer and Chair. Religion and Mental Health. Panel for the biennial meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, April 7-10, San Diego.

#### **Conference Presentations**

**Seligman, R.** Social Symptoms and Medical Meanings: Processes of Embodiment

in a Functional Illness. Society for Psychological Anthropology, Biennial Meeting. April 3-6. Santa Fe, NM.

- Seligman, R. Plenary talk "Communicative Traps and Feedback Loops: Using Bateson to Think About Embodied Distress." Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. San Diego, California. April 27-30.
- Seligman, R. and M. Canna. Functional Disorders, Conversion, and the Biocultural Emergence of Chronic Illness. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. April 6-10, 2021.
- 2019 **Seligman, R.** Somatic Enculturation, Emotion Regulation and the Body in Child and Adolescent Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, CA. November 20-24, 2019.
- 2019 **Seligman, R.** Anthropology of the mind-body. Flash-presentation at "Big-Tent Anthropology Convening," Emory University. Atlanta, GA. September 6-8, 2019.
- 2019 **Seligman, R.** Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Narrative Transformations among Mexican American Youth in Psychotherapy. Biennial meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. April 4-7, 2019 Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.
- 2017 **Seligman, R.** and \*\*L. Garofalo The Imperative to rebirth: Post-Traumatic growth and the meaning of trauma. Presented at the Society for Psychological Anthropology biennial meeting. March 9-12, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2015 **Seligman, R.** Feelings Thermometers and False Alarms: The Strange-Familiar Dynamics of Clinical Metaphors in CBT with Kids. Presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting. November 19-23, 2015, Denver, Colorado.
- 2015 M. Cameron Hay, D. Lende, H. Odden, E. Anderson-Fye, **R. Seligman**. Exploring the Intersections and Psychological and Medical Anthropology. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. April 11, Boston, MA.
- Seligman, R. Transforming Subjectivity Through Embodied Practice in Brazilian Candomblé. Presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting. November 20-24, 2013, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2011 **Seligman, R.** Embodied suffering and "self" care among Mexican Americans with diabetes and depression. Paper presented at the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meeting. March 31-April 3, Santa Monica, CA.



2003 **Seligman, R.** Mediumship and mental health: insights from Brazilian Candomblé. Presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, April 10-13, San Diego.

Seligman, R. Mental health and Spirit Possession Mediumship: biocultural findings from a study of religious participation in northeastern Brazil. Presented at "Building Biocultural Anthropology Conference," Emory University March 5-7, Atlanta.

2002 **Seligman, R.** Mediumship and mental health: preliminary results from a biocultural study in northeastern Brazil. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 19-23, New Orleans.

#### **Briefings**

2018 **Seligman, R.** and Rebecca Ford-Paz. Interpretive, Cultural and Psychosocial Dimensions of Latino Adolescent Experience with Psychiatry and Psychotherapy. Briefings for Clinicians at OPS (Study Site) December 7 and 12.

#### **Consultancies and Research Consortiums**

2017-2019 **Member,** Northwestern Research Consortium on Latino Health, a consortium of social and health science researchers developing a collaborative research program to better understand and intervene in Latino health disparities. Funded by Northwestern University Grant for Innovation in Diversity and Equity.

#### **Areas of Teaching**

Psychological Anthropology, Medical anthropology, Global Health.

#### **Courses Taught and Curriculum Development**

Brain, Body, Culture (ANTH 496): Graduate "bridging" seminar.

Culture and the Brain (ANTH 101): Freshman seminar Mind, Body, and Health (ANTH 485): Graduate seminar

Medical Anthropology (ANTH 315): Upper-level undergraduate course

Psychological Anthropology (ANTH 377): Upper-level undergraduate course

The Nature and Culture of Ritual (ANTH 101): Freshman seminar

International Perspectives on Mental Health (GH 390, now GH 307) Upper-level undergraduate Gender and Global Health (GH 303): Upper-level undergraduate course

### **Professional Service**

2025	Reviewer for University of California Press
2024	Member Anthropology Senior Review Panel, National Science Foundation
2024	Reviewer for Ethos, Cambridge University Press
2022-2023	Chair, SPA Biennial Program Committee.

2022	External Reviewer for Tenure Case, University of Haifa
2020-Present	Member, Editorial board of Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological
	Anthropology
2021	Reviewer for National Science Foundation, Transcultural Psychiatry, Ethos
2020	Reviewer for Transcultural Psychiatry, Ethos, Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry;
	External Reviewer for Tenure Case, Haverford College.
2019	Reviewer for Ethos, National Science Foundation, Identities, Transcultural
	Psychiatry, Routledge, and Cultural Anthropology
2018	Reviewer for Oxford, WT Grant Foundation, Cultural Anthropology, Social
	Science and Medicine, Ethos
2018	Chair, Condon Student Paper Prize Committee, Society for Psychological
	Anthropology
2017	Reviewer for Ethos, Identities, Social Science and Medicine
2017	Program Committee Chair, SPA Biennial Meeting
2014-2018	Elected Member, Board of the Society for Psychological Anthropology
2015-2017	AAA Program Committee Chair, SPA section
2013-2019	Book Reviews Editor, Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological
	Anthropology
2015	Reviewer for National Science Foundation, Oxford University Press, Transcultural
	Psychiatry, Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry and American Ethnologist
2013	Reviewer for National Science Foundation, Ethos, Transcultural Psychiatry,
	Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry and SSHRC
2012	Reviewer for National Science Foundation, Ethos, Culture, Medicine and
	Psychiatry
2011	Reviewer for Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry and Transcultural Psychiatry
2010	Reviewer for National Science Foundation, Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry and
	Ethos
2009	Reviewer for National Science Foundation, Journal of Social, Cognitive, Affective
2003	Neuroscience and Transcultural Psychiatry
2009	Chair, Condon Student Paper Prize Committee, Society for Psychological
2005	Anthropology, reviewer for Transcultural Psychiatry
2006-2009	Member, Condon Student Paper Prize Committee, Society for Psychological
2000 2003	Anthropology
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Northwestern University Service	
2025-2026	Franke Fellows Coordinator, Kaplan Institute for the Humanities
2021-2023	Member, Anthropology Department Executive Committee
2024 2022	Nambay Cristana in Human Cultura Advisory Board

2023-2020	Tranke reliows Coordinator, Rapian institute for the frumanities
2021-2023	Member, Anthropology Department Executive Committee
2021-2022	Member, Science in Human Culture Advisory Board
2020-2021	Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Tenure and Promotion Case, Weinberg College
2019-2023	Associate Chair, Department of Anthropology
2018-19	Member: IPR at Fifty Conference Committee
	Member: Global Health Studies Promotion Committee for Peter Locke
2018	Chair: Anthropology Department Tenure Committee for Adia Benton
-	Member: Global Health Studies Promotion Committee for Noelle Sullivan

-	Member: IPR Seed Grant Committee
-	Member: Anthropology Department Executive Committee
2016-18	Member: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
2016	Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Anthropology
-	Member: Weinberg College Ad Hoc Tenure Committee
-	Member: Institute for Policy Research and Indigenous Studies Research Initiative
	Search Committee
-	Member: Institute for Policy Research Summer Undergraduate Research
	Assistantship Committee
2015	Member: Search Committee for Medical Anthropology/PAS Assistant Professor
-	Member: Departmental Review Committee for teaching faculty promotion case
2014	Member: Executive Committee, Dept. of Anthropology
-	Member: Undergraduate Honors Committee, Dept. of Anthropology
-	Member: Search Committee for continuing lecturer in Global Health Studies
2013	Member: Executive Committee, Anthropology Department
-	Member: Search Committee, Continuing Lecturer in Global Health
-	Member: Undergraduate Honors Committee, Department of Anthropology
2009	Member, Graduate program committee, Department of Anthropology,
	Northwestern University

2008-present Member, Global Health Curriculum Committee, Northwestern University

## **Professional Memberships**

American Anthropological Association Society for Psychological Anthropology Society for Medical Anthropology Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture

# **Language Skills**

Fluent Portuguese Conversational Spanish French - reading