

DIDIER FASSIN

JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Anthropologist, sociologist and physician

MD, MPH, PhD

Contacts :

School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study
1, Einstein Drive Princeton, NJ 08530 United States
E-mail : dfassin@ias.edu
Website : <https://www.sss.ias.edu/faculty/fassin>

OTHER POSITIONS

Director of Studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris (1999-)
Visiting Professor at Princeton University in the Anthropology Department (2010-)
Professor at the Collège de France on the Annual Chair in Public Health (2019-2020)

CAREER

Resident in Internal Medicine – “Interne des Hôpitaux de Paris” (1979-1980, 1982-1984, 1986-1987).
Medical Coordinator of the Home for Dying Destitutes in Calcutta – India (1980-1981).
Resident in Cardiology and Coordinator of Rheumatic Fever Prevention Program – Tunisia (1981-1982).
Junior Researcher for INSERM, National Institute for Health Research – Senegal (1984-1986).
Assistant Professor in Infectious Diseases and Public Health – Hospital Pitié-Salpêtrière (1987-1989).
Senior Researcher for the IFEA, French Institute for Research in the Andes – Ecuador (1989-1991).
Assistant Professor (1991-1997), then Professor at the University of Paris North (1997-2007)
Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of Paris North (2007-2009)
Director of studies Political and Moral Anthropology at the EHESS (1999-)
James D. Wolfensohn Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study of Princeton (2009-)

DEGREES

Doctorate in Medicine (University of Paris 6, 1982).
Master in Public Health (University of Paris 11, 1986).
PhD in Social Science - Advisor: Georges Balandier (EHESS, 1988).
“Habilitation” in Public Health (University of Paris 6, 1994).
“Habilitation” in Social Sciences (EHESS, 1995).

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Academic

Executive Officer of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study since 2014
Coordinator of the Summer Program in Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study since 2015
Member of the Scientific Council of the City of Paris since 2007
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Ombudsman on Prison in France since 2017

Edition

Associate Editor *Medical Anthropology* since 2009
Member of the Editorial Board *Cultural Anthropology* since 2009
Member of the Editorial Board *Cambridge Anthropology* since 2011
Member of the Editorial Board *Anthropological Theory* since 2014
Member of the Scientific Board *L'Homme* since 2016
Member of the Scientific Board *Cartografie sociali* since 2016
Member of the Scientific Board *Humanity* since 2010
Member of the Scientific Board *Materiali Foucaultiani* since 2012
Member of the Editorial Board *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care* since 2005
Member of the Scientific Board of *AM. Rivista della Società italiana di antropologia medica* since 2013
Member of the International Scientific Board of *Cuestiones Criminales* since 2017

Other

President of the Comede, French Medical Committee for Exiles, since 2006

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

Academic

Director and founder of Iris, Institut de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux sociaux (CNRS-Inserm-EHESS-University Paris 13) from 2007 to 2010
Director and founder of Cresp, Center for Research on Contemporary Health Issues (1995-2006)
Member of the Administration Board of the Faculty of Medicine of Bobigny (1998-2002)
Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Committee at the University of Paris North (2004-2008)
Chair of the Social Science Department at the Faculty of Medicine of Bobigny (2001-2009)
Coordinator of the Master Health-Populations-Social Policy, EHESS-University of Paris North (2006-2009)
Member of the Doctorate Committee for Social Sciences, EHESS-Ecole Normale Supérieure (2008-2009)
Member of the Scientific Council of Inserm, National Institute for Health Research (2001-2003)
Member of the Administration Board of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (2001-2005)
Member of the French Group for the Study and Prevention of Racial Discrimination (1999-2002)
President of the Social Science Committee of the ANRS, French Agency for AIDS Research (2003-2006)
Vice-President of the French National Council on AIDS (2004-2006)
President of the Committee for the Evaluation of French University Cooperation Programmes (2005)
Vice-President then President of the Human and Social Sciences Committee of the ANR (2005-2006)
Co-founder and Deputy director of the Maison des sciences de l'Homme Paris Nord (2001-2009)
Member of the Ethics Committee of INRA, National Institute for Research on Agronomy (2007-2010)
Member of the Scientific Committee of the UNAIDS High Level Commission on HIV Prevention (2010)
Member of the Scientific Council of the University Alliance of Paris Cité (2010-2013)

Member of the Committee on World Anthropologies, American Anthropological Association (2010-2013)
Member of the Scientific and Strategic International Committee of the Collège de France (2010-2014)
Visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong (2010-2013)
Member of the Ethics Committee of the Institut Pasteur of Paris (2014-2017)

Edition

Member of the Editorial Board *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (2013-2016)
Corresponding Editor *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (2005-2015)
Member of the International Board of *Social Science and Medicine* (2000-2006)
Director of the series “Bibliothèque de l’Iris” at La Découverte Publishers, Paris (2008-2013)
Codirector of the series “Sociologiques” at Anthropos/Economica Publishers, Paris (1994-2012)

Medicine

Founder and Director of the Villermé Unit (social and medical unit for uninsured patients), Hospital Avicenne, Assistance publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Bobigny (1996-2003)

Other

Administrator then Vice-President of Médecins sans frontières, Doctors Without Borders (1999-2003)

DISTINCTIONS

Professeur de Classe Exceptionnelle (French highest distinction for professorship) 2007
Chevalier des Palmes Académiques ((French distinction for academic achievement) 2007
Laureate of the Advanced Grant IDEAS (European Research Council) 2008
Douglass Prize for the Best Book in the Anthropology of Europe for *The Empire of Trauma* 2010
France Culture Prize of the Best Essay for *Les Nouvelles Frontières de la Société Française* 2010
Honorable Mention for the Bateson Prize for *Humanitarian Reason* 2012
Mellon Distinguished Visiting Scholar Fellowship at Wits University in Johannesburg 2013
Honorary Professor at the University of Hong Kong 2013
Gold Medal in Anthropology (granted every 3 years at the Swedish Royal Academy of Science) 2016
Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Cambridge 2017
Nomis Distinguished Scientist Award (granted for the first time to a social scientist) 2018
Career Achievement Award of the French Red Cross for contribution to humanitarianism 2019

RESEARCH GRANTS

The social condition of undocumented immigrants (CNRS, 1996-1998)
The management of poor patients in emergency departments (RNSP, 1997-1999)
The politics of suffering and the places of listening (Inserm, 1998-2000)
The history and sociology of lead-poisoning in France (Ministry of Research, 1999-2001)
The political anthropology of AIDS in South Africa (ANRS, 2000-2003)
The biopolitics of a natural disaster in Venezuela (Ecos, 2001-2002)
The social signification of racial discrimination in France (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2003-2005)
The social and racial inequalities in Colombia (with Mara Viveros, Ecos, 2004-2005)
The social uses of psychic trauma in France (with Richard Rechtman, CNRS-Inserm-MiRe, 2002-2005)

The body of victims, the spaces of subjects (with Michel Agier, Ministry of Research, 2005-2007)
Moral sentiments and local justice in health care in South Africa (with Helen Schneider, ANRS, 2006-2008)
Beyond the question of immigration. The new frontiers of French society (ANR, 2006-2009)
Towards a critical moral anthropology (European Research Council, 2009-2012)
The politics and experience of asylum in South Africa (Mellon Foundation, 2013)
Ethnography and policing (Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, 2014)
Public ethnography (Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, 2014)
Borders and boundaries (Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, 2017)
Summer Program in Social Sciences for scholars of the Global South (Mellon Foundation, 2017-2023)
Crisis. A global inquiry into the contemporary moment (Nomis Foundation, 2018-2023)

SPECIAL LECTURES

Keynote Lecture, 3rd EMBL/EMBO Conference on Science and Society, Heidelberg, 8-9 November 2002.
Keynote Lecture, 9th Conference European Association of Social Anthropology, Bristol, 18 September 2006.
Keynote Lecture, 18th European Congress Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, Barcelona, 19-20 April 2008.
Keynote Address, Conference The Body and the State, New School for Social Research, 10 February 2011.
Munro Lecture, the University of Edinburgh, 17 March 2011.
Elisabeth Colson Lecture, Center for Refugee Studies, Oxford University, 15 June 2011.
Distinguished Lecture, Political and Legal Anthropology Society, Montreal, 18 November 2011.
Roger Allan Moore Lecture, Harvard Medical School, Boston, 3 February 2012.
First Walter Goldschmidt Lecture, University of California Los Angeles, 30 May 2012.
Annual Distinguished Lecture on Europe, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 29 January 2013.
A.W. Mellon Public Lecture, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 21 May 2013.
Christian Michelsen Annual Lecture, Christian Michelsen Institute, Bergen, 14 March 2014.
Keynote Lecture, Canadian Anthropological Society, York, 30 April 2014.
Nicholson Annual Lecture, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 9 May 2014.
Keynote Lecture, British Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Liverpool, 11 July 2014.
The Tanner Lectures on Human Values, University of California, Berkeley, 12-14 April 2016.
Keynote Lecture, 6th Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference, Bergamo, 10 June 2016.
The Adorno Lectures, Institut für Sozialforschung, Frankfurt, 15-17 June 2016.
Keynote Lecture, 14th Conference European Association of Social Anthropologists, Milan, 20 July 2016.
Eugène Fleischmann Lecture, Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, 25 November 2016.
Keynote Lecture, American Ethnological Society Conference, Stanford University, 30 March 2017.
Keynote Lecture, Critical Criminology Conference, University of Ottawa, 4 May 2017.
Inaugural Lemin Lecture, Rutgers University, 17 April 2018.
Melvin Tumin Lecture, Princeton University, 27 September 2018.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Authored Books

- 2018 *Life. A Critical User's Manual*, Cambridge: Polity Press (first published in French at Le Seuil; translated in German, forthcoming in Italian and Spanish).
2018 *The Will to Punish*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (first published in French at Le Seuil; translated in German, Italian and Spanish).

- 2017 *Le Monde à l'épreuve de l'asile. Essai d'anthropologie critique*, Nanterre: Société d'ethnologie.
- 2016 *Prison Worlds. Ethnography of the Carceral Condition* Cambridge: Polity Press (first published in French at Le Seuil; translated in Portuguese).
- 2015 *Four Lectures on Ethics. Anthropological Perspectives* (with Veena Das, Michael Lambek, and Webb Keane), Chicago: Hau Books.
- 2015 *At the Heart of the State. The Moral World of Institutions*, London: Pluto Press (first published in French at Le Seuil).
- 2014 *Ripoliticizzare il mondo. Saggi antropologici su vita, corpo e morale*, Milan: Ombre Corte (translated in Spanish).
- 2013 *Enforcing Order. Ethnography of Urban Policing*, Cambridge: Polity Press (first published in French at Le Seuil, translated in Spanish and Italian).
- 2011 *Humanitarian Reason. A Moral History of the Present*, Berkeley: University of California Press (first published in French at Le Seuil, translated in Spanish and Italian).
- 2009 *The Empire of Trauma. Inquiry into the Condition of Victim* (with Richard Rechtman), Princeton: Princeton University Press (first published at Flammarion, translated in Korean).
- 2007 *When Bodies Remember. Experience and Politics of AIDS in South Africa*, Berkeley: University of California Press (first published at La Découverte, translated in Italian).
- 2005 *Faire de la santé publique*, Rennes: Editions de l'École nationale de santé publique.
- 2004 *Des maux indicibles. Sociologie des lieux d'écoute*, Paris: La Découverte.
- 2000 *Les Enjeux politiques de la santé*, Paris: Karthala.
- 1996 *L'Espace politique de la santé. Essai de généalogie*, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.
- 1992 *Pouvoir et maladie en Afrique*, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.

Edited Volumes

- 2019 *A Time for Critique* (with Bernard Harcourt), New York: Columbia University Press.
- 2017 *If Truth Be Told. The Politics of Public Ethnography*, Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2017 *Writing the World of Policing*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- 2013 *Moral Anthropology. A Critical Reader* (with Samuel Lézy), London: Routledge.
- 2012 *Moral Anthropology. A Companion Volume*, Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2012 *Economies morales contemporaines* (with Jean-Sébastien Eideliman), Paris: La Découverte.
- 2010 *L'État des savoirs de la santé publique* (with Boris Hauray), Paris: La Découverte.
- 2010 *Contemporary States of Emergency* (with Mariella Pandolfi), New York: Zone Books.
- 2010 *Les nouvelles frontières de la société française*, Paris: La Découverte.
- 2009 *Inégalité et santé*, Paris: La Documentation française.
- 2008 *Politiques de l'enquête. Epreuves ethnographiques* (with Alban Bensa), Paris: La Découverte.
- 2006 *De la question sociale à la question raciale?* (with Eric Fassin), Paris: La Découverte.
- 2005 *Les Constructions de l'intolérable* (with Patrice Bourdelais), Paris: La Découverte.
- 2004 *Afflictions. L'Afrique du sud, de l'apartheid au sida*, Paris: Karthala.
- 2004 *Le Gouvernement des corps* (with Dominique Memmi), Paris: Editions de l'EHESS.
- 2001 *Critique de la santé publique* (with Jean-Pierre Dozon), Paris: Balland.
- 2000 *Les Inégalités sociales de santé* (with Annette Leclerc, et al.), Paris: INSERM-La Découverte.
- 1998 *Les Figures urbaines de la santé publique*, Paris: La Découverte.
- 1997 *Les Lois de l'inhospitalité* (with Alain Morice and Catherine Quiminal), Paris: La Découverte.
- 1994 *Les Métiers de la santé* (with Pierre Aïach), Paris: Anthropos.
- 1992 *Mujeres de los Andes* (with Anne-Claire Defossez and Mara Viveros), Bogotá: IFEA.
- 1990 *Sociétés, développement et santé* (with Yannick Jaffré), Paris: Ellipses-AUPELF.

Recent articles

- 2018 The Public Presence of Anthropology: A Critical Approach, *Kritisk. Etnografi-Swedish Journal of Anthropology*, 1 (1): 13-23.
- 2017 The Endurance of Critique, *Anthropological Theory*, 17 (1): 4-29.
- 2015 The Public Afterlife of Ethnography, *American Ethnologist*, 42 (4): 592-609.
- 2015 Untimely Meditations on the Charlie Hebdo Attack, *Anthropology Today*, 31 (2): 3-7.
- 2015 L'asile et la prison, *Esprit*, 413 (3-4): 82-95.

- 2014 Revisiting Boundaries Between Ethnography and Fiction, *American Ethnologist*, 41(1): 40-55.
 2013 Why Ethnography Matters, *Cultural Anthropology*, 28 (4): 621-646.
 2013 A Case for Critical Ethnography, *Social Science and Medicine*, 99: 119-126.
 2013 On Resentment and Ressentiment, *Current Anthropology*, 54 (3): 249-267.
 2013 The Precarious Truth of Asylum, *Public Culture*, 69 (1): 39-63.
 2012 How Asylum Claims are Adjudicated, *Revue Française de Sociologie*, 53 (4): 444-472.
 2010 Ethics of Survival. A Democratic Approach to the Politics of Life, *Humanity*. 1 (1): 81-95.
 2011 The Trace: Violence, Truth and the Politics of the Body, *Social Research*, 78 (2): 281-298.
 2009 Another Politics of Life is Possible, *Theory, Culture and Society*, 26 (5): 44-60.
 2009 Les économies morales revisitées, *Annales. Histoire, Sciences sociales*, 6, 1237-1266.
 2008 La politique des anthropologues. Une histoire française, *L'Homme*, 185-186: 165-186.

And more than 200 articles as only or first author in

Social science journals including *Public Culture, Cultural Anthropology, American Ethnologist, American Anthropologist, Current Anthropology, Anthropological Theory, Social Anthropology, Anthropology Today, Ethos, Hau, Social Science and Medicine, Dissent, Qui parle?, L'Homme, Gradhiva, Anthropologie et sociétés, Theory, Culture and Society, Actes de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales, Revue française de sociologie, Cahiers internationaux de sociologie, Sociologie et sociétés, Sociétés contemporaines, Tracés, Annales, Genèses, Enquête, Revue française de science politique, Politix, Revue Tiers Monde, Critique internationale, Cahiers d'études africaines, Cahiers des Amériques latines, Sciences sociales et santé, Revue européenne des migrations internationales, Critique, Les temps modernes, Esprit, Études, Mouvements, Sciences humaines, West End (Germany), Antropologia (Italy), Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa (Italy), Revista de Antropologia Social (Spain), Kritisk (Sweden), Biograf (Czech Republic), Tempo Social (Brazil), Palimpsestus (Colombia), Cuadernos de Antropologia Social (Argentina)*

Medical journals including *The Lancet, British Medical Journal, British Medical Bulletin, AIDS, EMBO Reports, American Journal of Public Health, International Journal of Epidemiology, Transcultural Psychiatry, Revue de médecine interne, Revue d'épidémiologie et de santé publique, Médecine/Sciences*

And occasional contributions to *The London Review of Books, The Nation, Le Monde, Libération, Mediapart, Politis, L'Obs, Le Magazine littéraire, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Nueva Sociedad*