

**Owen Nathaniel Kohl, Ph.D.**

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**EDUCATION**

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**Ph.D. and M.A. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology**

**University of Chicago, IL**

**September 2006 – August 2018**

- *Were the Balkans Made for Rap? Semiosis in the Homemade Hip Hop Imaginary*

**B.A. in German and Russian Studies; History minor**

**Macalester College, St. Paul, MN**

**September 1998 – May 2002**

- Semesters abroad at Kuban State University in Krasnodar, Russia (2001); and Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany (2000); January term in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia (1999)

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**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

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**GENERAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Anthropology of Global Hip Hop(s), Anthropology of History, Ethnographic Film(making), Entertainment and Technology Studies, Documentary Production, Ethnographic Methods, Ethnomusicology, Europeanist Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, Media and Multimodal Anthropology; Nationalism, Transnational, and International Studies; Science and Technology Studies; Socio-cultural Anthropology

**TECHNICAL**

Elementary BCS (Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian) Language, Elementary and Intermediate German Language

**REGIONALIST**

Balkan and Former Yugoslav History and Ethnography; German Studies, Russian and Former Soviet Studies

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**PUBLICATIONS**

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**ARTICLES**

with Ilana Gershon. In press. "Media (as a Vehicle for Discourse and Language)" in *The International Encyclopedia of Linguistic Anthropology*, edited by James Stanlaw. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

2016. "Debating the Industrial Limits of Domestic Hip Hop." *Signs and Society* Fall (2).

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

n.d. "Solidarity Poetics: Hip Hop Historiography and the Stakes of Storytelling."

n.d. "Nasty Notes and Shady Sincerity: Voicing, Footing, and Monikers."

**POPULAR PUBLICATIONS**

2018. "Owen Kohl's 'Were the Balkans Made for Rap?'" *CaMP Anthropology*, 29 January.

<https://campanthropology.org/2018/01/29/owen-kohl-were-the-balkans-made-for-rap/>

2015. "Investing in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian+Montenegrin." *CEERES News* 10 (2):6.

2004. "Backpacking up the Ivory Tower (*S ruksakom na toranj od slonovače*)." *Ritam i rima: priče o urbanoj glazbi*. Ed. Velimir Grgić. Zagreb, Croatia: AGM.

**OTHER MEDIA**

with Ozren Milat, dirs. 2003-2004. *Docta Know*. Da Tamada Films.

*Docta Know* screened at the following festivals: BFM International Film Festival, London, UK (September 2006); Blacksoil International Hip Hop Film Festival, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, Netherlands (November 2005); H2O (Hip Hop Odyssey) International Film Festival, New York, NY (October 2005); Gotham City Short Film Festival, New York, NY (September 2005); Plymouth Independent Film Festival, Plymouth, MA (July 2005)

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**SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**CURRENT APPOINTMENT****Visiting Lecturer****Department of Anthropology****University of Illinois-Chicago, IL****August 2018 – December 2018**

- independent lecturing, and instruction of 200-level, general education courses “Virtual Lives: Science, Technology and Culture” and “Are You Not Entertained? The Anthropology and Politics of ‘Fun’”
- courses feature a mix of majors and non-majors with nearly 100 total students

**LECTURESHIPS****Preceptor****Undergraduate Program in Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****September 2015 – June 2018**

- self-design and independent instruction of “Bachelor’s Thesis Writing Seminar”
- close guidance of undergraduate majors through B.A. Thesis writing, office hours, grading
- event planning for study abroad, fellowship / grant, and career information sessions

**“Entertainment Industrial: The Complex Presents, Pasts, and Futures of ‘Fun’”****Undergraduate Program in Global Studies and Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****April 2016 – June 2016**

- self-designed prize course concerning the political economy and semiotics of entertainment
- independent lecturing, grading, and seminar direction, guiding undergraduates through writing
- classic critical theoretical approaches; hip hop industries; ethnographies of news and documentary film

**“Introduction to Contemporary Global Issues II”****Undergraduate Program in Global Studies****University of Chicago, IL****Winter 2013, 2015**

- independent lecturing and seminar direction, assistance with syllabus design, regular lecturer meetings, close guidance of undergraduates through written assignments including B.A. research proposal, grading

**“Anthropological Approaches to Global Hip Hop(s)”****Undergraduate Program in Global Studies and Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****April 2014 – June 2014**

- self-designed prize course on anthropological and ethnomusicological approaches to global hip hops
- independent lecturing and seminar direction, regular office hours, close guidance of undergraduates through final research paper composition, grading
- themes included: musical crafts of rapping, DJing, beatboxing, and beatmaking; genre historiography, language ideologies, commodification, symbolic geography, identity and authenticity debates

**TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS****“Modes of Inquiry II: Multimodal Experiments” (graduate seminar)****Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****April 2018 – June 2018**

- assistance with syllabus design of expanded ethnographic methods curriculum, organization of filmmaking workshops, regular contribution to seminar discussions, guest lecture planning

**“Archaeological Experiments in Filmmaking” (undergraduate and graduate seminar)****Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, Department of Visual Arts, and Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****September 2016 – December 2016**

- team-taught course for undergraduates and graduate students on filmmaking with an archaeological eye
- assisted students with all videomaking needs, including post-production advising

**“Ethnographic Film” (undergraduate and graduate seminar)****Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****January 2016 – March 2016**

- regular office hours and contribution to seminar discussions, review and grading of student assignments, organization of film screenings, assistance with syllabus design

**“Systems II – Development of Social and Cultural Theory” (graduate seminar)****Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****April 2015 – June 2015**

- regular contribution to seminar discussions and office hours, extensive review of graduate student assignments, organization of writing workshops, preparation of special T.A.-led seminars

**“Intensive Study of a Culture: Chicago Blues”****Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****April 2013 – June 2013**

- led discussion sessions, held film screenings and office hours to assist undergraduates with midterm preparation and research papers, regular class participation, grading

**“Anthropological Methods” (graduate seminar)****Department of Anthropology****University of Chicago, IL****January 2013 – March 2013**

- assistance with syllabus design, co-organization of ethnographic filmmaking workshops, regular office hours and contribution to seminar discussions, invited lecture, review of graduate student assignments

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**SELECTED RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, DISTINCTIONS**


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**RESEARCH GRANTS****Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship****December 2010 – December 2011**

- grant for ethnographic field research in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Serbia

**Fulbright IIE Grant to Croatia recipient****2009 – 2011**

- grant for dissertation field research received for two consecutive academic years

**Thomas J. Watson Fellowship****August 2002 – August 2003**

- travel and research grant for international research awarded annually to 50 college graduates across the U.S.
- preliminary fieldwork concerning global hip hop culture in France, Senegal, Croatia, Russia, and Mongolia

**FELLOWSHIPS**

**Visiting Fellowship at the Centre for Southeast European Studies (CSEES) March 2019 – June 2019**  
**Graz, Austria**

- grant to continue publication of dissertation research and begin post-doctoral project

**Lichtstern Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship October 2013 – October 2014**

- provided by University of Chicago's Department of Anthropology to complete dissertation

**Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship September 2007 – June 2010**

- United States Department of Education (USED) fellowship for continued language study and research
- funds used for study of anthropology and BCS at University of Chicago
- fellowship received for three consecutive academic years

**FLAS Summer Fellowship Summers 2007 – 2009**

- USED summer travel and language study fellowship
- funds used to study BCS at 1) Universities of Sarajevo, Zagreb, and Belgrade through the University of Pittsburgh's Advanced Mastery Program; 2) the Azbukum Centre for Serbian Language and Culture in Novi Sad and Belgrade; 3) University of Zagreb's School of Croatian Language and Culture
- fellowship received for three consecutive summer quarters

**DISTINCTIONS****McKnight Binger Prizes**

**Macalester College, St. Paul, MN**

**May 2002**

- received for excellence in study of German and Russian

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**SELECTED CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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**PANELS AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED****"Homemade Mediations"**

Co-organized panel with Ali Feser, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago and paper presentation at Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)

San Jose, CA

November 2018

**"Modes of Ethnographic Inquiry"**

Co-organized workshop with Kaushik Sunder Rajan and Julie Chu, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago at the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (3CT)

Chicago, IL

May 2018

**"The Ethics of Entertaining, Everyday Technologies of Self-Presentation"**

Co-organized panel with Falina Enriquez, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Madison and paper presentation at Annual Meeting of the AAA

Washington, D.C.

November 2017

**"The Poetic Practices of Post-Socialist Solidarity and Breakdown"**

Co-organized panel with Dragana Cvetanović and Alexander Marković and paper presentation at the Annual Conference of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

Chicago, IL

November 2017

**"Neoliberal Styles – Peculiar, Familiar, and Otherwise"**

Co-organized panel with Falina Enriquez and paper presentation at Annual Meeting of the AAA

Denver, CO

November 2015

**“The Quality of Youth: Socio-Semiotic Categories and Shifting Meanings”**

Co-organized panel with Elizabeth Brummel and paper presentation at Annual Meeting of the AAA  
Washington, D.C.

December 2014

**“Belgrade Unlimited™: In and Out of the Past”**

Co-organized panel and paper presentation with Nada Petković at ASEEEES Annual Conference  
San Antonio, TX

November 2014

**PAPERS PRESENTED****“Engaging Transnational Entertainments while Screwing Around in Homemade Hip Hop”**

Paper at ASEEEES Annual Conference  
Boston, MA

December 2018

**“Domestic Hip Hop and the Political Economy of Entertainment:**

**Entanglements Awkward, Spectacular, and Otherwise”**

Paper at Annual SOYUZ Symposium (Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies)

Symposium Topic: “Politics of Difference: Migration, Nation, Postsocialist Left and Right?”

University of Chicago, IL

March 2016

**“Nasty Notes, Cunninlynguistics, and Shady Sincerity in Ex-YU Hip Hop”**

Paper at American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference  
Chicago, IL

January 2014

**“Sounding Like an Uncertain Future: Hip Hop as Critique of Post-Yugoslav Scarcity”**

Paper at Annual Meeting of the AAA

Chicago, IL

November 2013

**INVITED TALKS****“4 Provocations Concerning Ethnographic Method”**

Guest lecture for Elina Hartikainen’s “Ethnographic Methods” at the Master of Arts Program in the Social  
Sciences (MAPSS)

University of Chicago, IL

January 2015

**“(Anti-)Standards, Social Poetics, and Forever Incomplete Domination:**

**Dynamic Views on Hegemony from the Margin in the Localization of Hip Hop”**

Invited lecture delivered in Serbian at Institute for Ethnography and Anthropology in Faculty of Philosophy

University of Belgrade, Serbia

May 2012

**“Social Poetics, National Polemics, and Cross-Border Networks:**

**Ideals, Rules, and Aesthetics Connected to the Localization of Hip Hop”**

Invited lecture delivered in Croatian at Cultural Studies Department in Faculty of Philosophy

University of Rijeka, Croatia

April 2012

**“DJ Dilemmas and Serato at the ‘Wild’ Southeastern Frontier of Illegal Download Supervision”**

Invited lecture delivered in Croatian at Zagreb Musical Academy

Zagreb, Croatia

May 2011

**“Real Rap? The Changing Symbolic Geography of a Globally Distributed Ideology”**

Invited lecture delivered in Croatian at Umag Public Library

Umag, Croatia

February 2011

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**SELECTED CONCURRENT PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

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**Production Consultant, Coordinator, and Research Assistant****Department of Anthropology, Media Lab****University of Chicago, IL****February 2014 – Present**

- assisted in proposal and realization of Lab's physical, curricular, and online expansion
- maintained and integrated new video and audio equipment and developed systems for check-out
- directed, produced, edited, and filmed a YouTube release with Marshall Sahlins in conjunction with a pamphlet publication for Prickly Paradigm Press through University of Chicago Press

**Research and Technical Assistant****Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES)****University of Chicago, IL****August 2009 – February 2010, September 2012 – 2013**

- updated website with audio, video, and new CSS and later Drupal design (ceeres.uchicago.edu)
- weekly publication of an online e-bulletin with announcements pertaining to scholars of the region

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**SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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**Coordinator****Anthropology of Europe Graduate Student Workshop (AEW), Council of Advanced Studies****University of Chicago, IL****June 2008 – June 2010**

- a bi-weekly forum at the Department of Anthropology dedicated to the presentation and discussion of recent scholarship and student research concerning European ethnography, history, sociology, and area studies
- planned and organized calendar of events independently for two academic years

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**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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**Media and Video Production Intern****Documentary Educational Resources (DER)****Watertown, MA****June 2006 – September 2006**

- served as technical consultant for one of the primary ethnographic film distributors in the US
- video editing, DVD output and distribution, maintenance of company website
- implemented Google Video project, compressed entire film catalog, communicated with Google designers

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**SELECTED FUNCTIONAL COMPETENCE**

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**LANGUAGES**

Native fluency in English. Fluency in German and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian+Montenegrin. Advanced study of Russian. Intermediate French.

**TECHNICAL**

Microsoft Office, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, CSS, beginner Drupal design

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**SELECTED REFERENCES**


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**Susan Gal** ([s-gal@uchicago.edu](mailto:s-gal@uchicago.edu)) —

Dissertation Chair since 2007

Mae & Sidney G. Metzl Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago; Joint Appointment in the Department of Linguistics; Director, CEERES

**Julie Chu** ([juliechu@uchicago.edu](mailto:juliechu@uchicago.edu)) —

Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, Supervisor in Teaching and the Anthropology Media Lab 2014-2018

**Stephan Palmié** ([palmie@uchicago.edu](mailto:palmie@uchicago.edu)) —

Dissertation Committee Member since 2008

Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago

*ADDITIONAL REFERENCES*

**Victor Friedman** ([vfriedm@uchicago.edu](mailto:vfriedm@uchicago.edu)) —

Dissertation Committee Member since 2008, Supervisor at CEERES 2009-2013

Professor Emeritus in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Department of Linguistics at the University of Chicago; Associate in the Department of Anthropology; Director, CEERES, 2005-2015

**Ilana Gershon** ([igershon@indiana.edu](mailto:igershon@indiana.edu)) —

Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Indiana-Bloomington

**Larisa Jašarević** ([jasarevic@uchicago.edu](mailto:jasarevic@uchicago.edu)) —

Dissertation Committee Member since 2014, Teaching Supervisor 2013-2016

Senior Lecturer for the Undergraduate Program in Global Studies at the University of Chicago

**Travis Jackson** ([travieso@uchicago.edu](mailto:travieso@uchicago.edu)) —

Dissertation Committee Member since 2009

Associate Professor in the Department of Music and the Humanities at the University of Chicago

**Philip Bohlman** ([boh6@uchicago.edu](mailto:boh6@uchicago.edu)) —

Dissertation Committee Member since 2010, Supervisor for Scarecrow Press 2009-2010

Mary Werkman Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Music and the Humanities at the University of Chicago; Associate Appointment at the Divinity School

**Falina Enriquez** ([fenriquez2@wisc.edu](mailto:fenriquez2@wisc.edu)) —

Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

On request, I will gladly make more professional references available.