

GRETCHEN BAKKE

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY • MCGILL UNIVERSITY
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CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor, Anthropology, McGill University, Montréal QC 2012-present
Developmental Editor for Academic Books, Writing Coach 2009-present

EDUCATION

2007 Doctor of Philosophy, University of Chicago, Anthropology
Dissertation: *Contemporary Slovene Art and Artifice*

1997 Master of Arts, Indiana University, Russian and East European Studies
Thesis: "Mimicking Democracy: The Symbolic Role of Law in Post-Soviet Russia"

1993 Bachelor of Arts, The Evergreen State College
Major: Sovietology; Minor: Photography

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social and Technological Change, Post-Socialism, Human-Machine Interactions, Men and Masculinity, Anthropology of Science and Technology, Anthropology of Art and Aesthetics, Infrastructure and the Built Environment, Bureaucracy. Former Soviet Union, Ex-Yugoslavia, Europe, North America.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2016-2018 Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Public Life of Art and Ideas, McGill University

2015 SSHRC Connection Grant "Between Matter and Method: Anthropology and the Arts"

2015 SSHRC/McGill Internal Social Sciences and Humanities Development Grant

2011 Dibner Research Fellow, History of Science and Technology, Huntington Library

2009-10 Research Fellowship, Science in Society Program, Wesleyan University

2008-09 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wesleyan University

2007 Rado L. Lencek Graduate Student Essay Prize, Society for Slovene Studies

2004-05 Research Scholar, Library of Congress

2004 Research Grant, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

2003-04 Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies

2003-04 Social Sciences Dissertation-Year Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (declined)

2002-03 Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant, Fulbright-Hays, U.S. Department of Education

2002-03 Dissertation Research Grant, Fulbright-III, U.S. Department of State (declined)

2002-03 Overseas Dissertation Research Grant, University of Chicago (declined)

2001 Intensive Foreign Language Title IV Fellowship (FLAS), Slovene at Ljubljana University,

1999-2002 Phoenix Fellowship, University of Chicago

1999 Cuban Scholarly Exchange Research Grant MacArthur Foundation

1998 Graduate Studies Fellowship, National Science Foundation, Honorable Mention

1996-1997 Graduate Assistantship, Russian and East European Institute, Indiana University

1989-1990 Cultural Diversity Scholarship, The Evergreen State College

1989-1990 Evergreen Foundation Scholarship, The Evergreen State College

1989 The Jan and John Swanson Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- Bakke, G. 2016. *The Grid: The Fraying Wires Between Americans and Our Energy Future*. New York: Bloomsbury, Written for the general public this book brings anthropological sensibilities to a study of the immense infrastructural, historical, technological, legislative, and fiscal complexity of the US electric grid. The grid is currently being reworked and reimagined to incorporate renewable forms of generation (wind, solar) it has rarely been more fragile or more ripe for the creative possibilities attendant to repair.
- Bakke, G. and M. Peterson eds. 2016. *Anthropology of the Arts: A Reader*. London: Bloomsbury
A course text incorporating classic and much newer works on the arts (including sound, performance, dance, media and visual arts) by anthropologists, this tome is designed as a teaching tool for anthropologists working to bring the social contexts of arts production, reception and circulation to bear upon how students understanding and approach the arts.
- Bakke, G. and M. Peterson eds. 2017. *Toward an Artful Anthropology: Between Matter and Method* London: Bloomsbury. A companion volume to the course text above, this book gathers new work on aesthetics, performance, sound, design, film, craftwork and sensory experience from some of anthropology's most engaging scholars (in production).

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

2010. "Dead White Men: An Essay on the Changing Dynamics of Race in American Action Cinema." *Anthropology Quarterly* 83(2): 400-428.
2008. "Reframing History." *Slovene Studies* 30 (2): 185–217.
2007. "Continuum of the Human." *Camera Obscura* 22 (3 66): 60-91.
2004. "On the Deliberate Foreclosure of Emotional Response - an Essay on Slovene Art and European Civilization more Generally." [O namernem preprečevanju čustvenih odzivov: Esej o slovenski umetnosti in evropski civilizaciji na splošno] bilingual publication *Etnolog* 14: 189-227.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Electricity is Not a Noun," accepted to *Anthropology and Electricity*, Abram, S., T. Yarrow and B. R. Winthereik eds. Cambridge Mass.: MIT Press. Forthcoming 2017.
- "Crude Thinking" accepted to *The Rhetoric and Discourse of Oil*, Graves H. and J. Gordon. eds. Morgantown WV: WVU Press. Forthcoming 2017
- "The Comparative Method: A Novella" accepted to *Toward an Artful Anthropology*. Bakke, G. and M. Peterson eds. London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2017.
- "Incorporations: Contemporary Slovene Art and the Body Politic" *Anthropology of the Arts: A Reader*. eds. Bakke G. and Peterson M. eds. London: Bloomsbury, 2016: 213-222.
- "Afterword: The Bathwater and the Baby" in *Beyond the Aesthetic and the Anti-Aesthetic*, eds. James Elkins & Harper Montgomery. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2013: 205-219.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2016
"Venezuela's Electricity Crisis: A Cautionary Tale." *The New Yorker*. May 17, 2016
<http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-electricity-crisis-in-venezuela-a-cautionary-tale>

WORK IN PROGRESS

Apropos of Nothing: Semblance and Self in Slovene Society

Based on my PhD research in Slovenia this book is an experimental volume on two fronts. First, it attempts to use the arts as a primary data source while nevertheless retaining their intractability. Second, it aims to theorize a category of mind in transition, in part by a drastic forefronting of analytics provided by local philosophers, historians, artists, and others. Once finished this volume (now half done) will be sent out for review as part of the Ethnographic Studies in Subjectivity Series, University of California Press.

Write it; Work it: A Practical Guide to Writing a Genuinely Excellent PhD Thesis in a Reasonable Period of Time and Building a Well-Remunerated, Eminently Satisfying Career Path and Following it. A Book in Two Parts, with Verity Elston. In conversation with Princeton University Press.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2016 Lowe, Lisa. *The Intimacy of Four Continents* in *Reviews in Cultural Theory*, In Progress
- 2014 Bjelić, Dušan. *Normalizing the Balkans: Geopolitics of Psychoanalysis and Psychiatry*, in *Slavic Review*, 73(1): pp188-189
- 2009 Toffoletti, Kim. *Cyborgs and Barbie Dolls: Feminism, Popular Culture and the Posthuman Body*, in *Body & Society*, 15(1): 112-114.
- 1996 Carlton, Eric. *Massacres: An Historical Perspective*, in *The Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, June 9(2): 460-61.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2007 "Incorporations." *Cahiers Parisiens/Parisian Notebooks*, vol. 3: 703-723.

INVITED LECTURES

- April 2017 "Infrastructure for a Changing Climate," to be presented at *Cities, Climate Change and the Problem of Resilience*, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University. Stanford California.
- April 2015 "The Immaterialization of Power: The Case of Electricity" presented at the 4th Annual CENHS Research Symposium, Rice University, Houston Texas.
- Nov. 2014 "Translating an Intractable Quasi-Object (or, Electricity mon amour)" presented at the School of Interdisciplinary Arts seminar on energy, Ohio University, Athens Ohio.
- Sept. 2011 "Apropos of Nothing: Semblance and Self in Slovene Society" presented at the Department of Anthropology Lecture Series, McGill University, Montréal.
- Mar. 2011 "Apropos of Nothing: Semblance and Self in Slovene Society" presented at the Department of Anthropology Lecture Series, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
- Feb. 2009 "Self in Slovene Society" presented as part of the 2008-2009 lecture series "Figuring the Human," Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut

KEYNOTES

- May 2017 Utility Supply Management Alliance Educational Conference, Fort Worth TX
- Apr. 2017 North Carolina State Energy Conference, Raleigh, NC

Mar. 2017 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Washington D.C.
 Jan. 2017 GE, Energy Connections Leadership Meeting, Boca Raton FL
 Dec. 2016 Eversource Energy, Leadership Team Meeting, Durham, NH
 Nov. 2016 Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN
 Nov. 2016 PG&E, System Protection Group, All Team Meeting, San Ramon, CA
 Oct. 2016 Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. (MISO) Informational Forum, Carmel, Indiana (via WebEx)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Nov. 2016 "Beyond Information: Reading Minimal Differences 'Mere Nothings' Slovene-Style" presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis MN.

Mar. 2016 "Max Normal: A Novella" presented at the workshop *Between Matter and Method: Anthropology and the Arts*, Banff, Alberta Canada.

Dec. 2014 "Electricity and Misunderstanding" presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC

Nov. 2013 "Sliquids" presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL

Nov. 2011 "Die Antwoord: Anthropology's Impossible Object" presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montréal QC

Feb. 2011 *Apropos of Nothing: Semblance and Self in Slovene Society* (chapters 1-4) presented at the Semiotics Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago IL

June 2010 "Techniques for the Transmutation of Substance" presented at the Canadian Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, Montréal QC, Canada

Dec. 2009 "Slavoj Žižek: Philosopher as Native Informant" presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

Oct. 2009 "The Problems with Personhood: Distribution, Agency, and Technoscience" presented at The Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.

May 2008 "How the Black Guys got to Kill all the White Guys and Still be Good: An Essay on the Changing Dynamics of Race in American Action Cinema" presented at the American Locations Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago IL

Nov. 2006 "Incorporations" presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose CA

Nov. 2006 "Reality Plus..." presented at the Universities Art Association of Canada Annual Meeting, Halifax, NS, Canada

Oct. 2005 "Person, Project, Device, and Prop" presented at Regards croisés sur les sociétés d'Europe de l'Est, Table Ronde organisée par la Maison René Ginouvès, Archéologie et Ethnologie, (CNRS- Université Paris X-Nanterre), Paris, France.

Feb. 2005 "*Laibach Kunst* and the Redeployment of the Despicable" presented at the Anthropology of Europe Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago IL

Feb. 2005 "Continuum of the Human" presented at the Science, Technology, and the State Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago IL

- Jan. 2005 “Contemporary Slovene Art and Artifice” presented at the Theoretical Seminar, Department of Anthropology and Ethnology, Faculty of Philosophy, Ljubljana University, Ljubljana Slovenia
- May 2000 “Five Short Essays about Time” presented at the History and Anthropology Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago IL

SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS, AND SESSIONS ORGANIZED

- Mar. 2016 Organizer with M. Peterson. *Between Matter and Method: Anthropology and the Arts*, three-day invited workshop at Banff Center for the Arts. Banff AB, Canada
- Nov. 2012 Organizer. “Theoretical Utopias Roundtable: The Problem of Education in Mass Societies, or, The University: What is to be done?” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago IL
- June 2010 Panel organizer with S. Lloyd, *Alien unto Oneself*, Canadian Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, Montréal QC, Canada
- Dec. 2009 Panel organizer and chair for *Anthropology and Philosophy*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 2009, Philadelphia PA
- Nov. 2008 Organizer, with M. Wolf-Meyer, two-day invited workshop on the anthropology of normalcy, Santa Cruz CA
- May 2008 Panel organizer, with M. Wolf-Meyer, *Aesthetics of Normalcy* and *Enforcing Normalcy*, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Biannual Meeting 2008, Long Beach CA
- Nov. 2002 Panel organizer and chair for *The Anthropology of the Ungraspable*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 2002, New Orleans LA

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2010-2011 Instructor, Anthropology and the Faculty of Arts, McGill University, Montreal QC
- 2009-2010 Research Fellow, Science in Society Program, Wesleyan University, Middletown CT
- 2008-2009 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, Middletown CT
- 2005-2007 Editorial Assistant / Photographer, American Anthropological Association, Arlington VA
- 1999-2000 Editorial Assistant, *Public Culture*, Chicago IL
- 1998-1999 Research Assistant / Translator [Russian], Political Science, University of Chicago,

COURSES TAUGHT

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|---|-------------|
| THEORIES OF SOCIETY AND CULTURE | Spring 2016 |
| CITIZEN, NATION, AND MODERNITY - CONTEMPORARY ETHNOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS | Autumn 2013 |
| DISSERTATION WRITING SEMINAR | 2010 - 2014 |
| TOPICS IN THE STUDY OF SOCIETY: POPULAR CULTURE | Autumn 2010 |
| CREATIVE WRITING: SCIENCE FICTION | Spring 2009 |
| MAKING THE POSTHUMAN (IN SCIENCE, FILM, AND CONTEMPORARY ART) | Autumn 2008 |
| WOMEN IN SOCIETY | Spring 2008 |
| ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION | Autumn 2007 |
| ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS | Summer 2007 |

DEVELOPMENTAL EDITING AND COACHING

Private Writing Coach, since 2009

Working with PhD students across the arts and humanities on dissertation completion (200+); helping faculty develop book manuscripts for publication, working with faculty to complete publication requirements for tenure, helping faculty to conceptualize and begin second or third projects, aid with grants preparation, aid with academic job applications.

Short (3 hour) and long (2 day) dissertation writing courses offered in the US, Canada, and Switzerland

SHORT-TERM INSTITUTES AND WORKSHOPS

- Mar. 2016 *Between Matter and Method: Anthropology and the Arts*, Banff Centre for the Arts, Banff AB
Oct. 2015 *Infrastructure, Environment, and Life in the Anthropocene*, Concordia University, Montreal QC
July 2010 Stone Summer Theory Institute: *Beyond the Aesthetic and the Anti-Aesthetic*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL
Aug. 2004 Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Center for Eastern European Studies
Junior Scholars Training Seminar Washington D.C.
June 1999 Summer Institute in Communication: *Rhetoric, Linguistics, and the Political Text*, Northwestern University, School of Speech, Chicago IL

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- English Mother Tongue
French Speaking and reading fluency
Spanish Speaking and reading fluency
Slovene Scholarly competence
Russian Formerly fluent, reading and speaking ability, comprehension high
Danish Formerly fluent, reading competence, residual speaking and writing abilities

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association
Society for Cultural Anthropology
Society for Slovene Studies
Society for the Social Studies of Science

MEDIA

KUDOS

Bill Gates names *The Grid: The Fraying Wires Between Americans and Our Energy Future* one his five "Favorite Books of 2016" Dec. 5, 2016. <https://www.gatesnotes.com/About-Bill-Gates/Best-Books-2016>

REVIEWS

- *LSE Review of Books*, March 15, 2017
"Anthropology of the Arts edited by Gretchen Bakke and Marina Peterson" by S. Hölsgens
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2017/03/15/book-review-anthropology-of-the-arts-edited-by-gretchen-bakke-and-marina-peterson/>
- *Energy Research & Social Science* 25, March 2017: 110-111
"Anthropology of the Grid" by R. Kritkausky

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629617300075?np=y>

- *Inside Higher Ed*. September 18, 2016
"The Grid' and the Higher Ed Energy Conversation," by J. Kim.
<https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/technology-and-learning/grid-and-higher-ed-energy-conversation>
- *National Post*, July 29, 2016
"Gretchen Bakke's *The Grid* illustrates the right way to fix what's wrong with the future of energy," by M. Sauter. <http://news.nationalpost.com/arts/books/book-reviews/gretchen-bakkes-the-grid-illustrates-the-right-way-to-fix-whats-wrong-with-the-future-of-energy>
- *Science*. July 22, 2016
"Power to the People," by C. Howe. 353 (6297): 355.
<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/353/6297/355>
- *The Wall Street Journal*. July 16, 2016
"The Marvel of Electricity," by R. T. Priest
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-marvel-of-electricity-1468616241>
- *Kirkus Review*. June 1, 2016.
[https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/gretchen-bakke/the-grid-fraying-wires/The Grid](https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/gretchen-bakke/the-grid-fraying-wires/The%20Grid)
- *Publishers Weekly*, May 23, 2016
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-60819-610-4> date The Grid

INTERVIEWS

RADIO

- *Radio Lab* coming soon.
- WBUR – Boston, Massachusetts, *On Point*, February 13, 2017 – "New Moves on American Wind Power" Live Radio Program, Archived at: <http://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2017/02/13/wind-power-energy-america>
- KBOO – Portland Oregon, *Locus Focus*, January 9, 2017 – "The Grid" Live Radio Interview, Archived at: <http://www.kboo.fm/media/55046-grid>
- AM590 – Riverside California, *Green Power Report*, December 19, 2016.
<http://www.greenriverside.com/gpr>
- WPR - Wisconsin Public Radio, *The Joy Cardin Show*, November 30, 2016 – "Our Electric Energy Future" Live Radio Interview. Archived at: <http://www.wpr.org/listen/1027201>
- *Living on Earth*, Public Radio International, November 4, 2016 – "People and the Electric Grid" <http://www.loe.org/shows/shows.html?programID=16-P13-00045#feature6>
- Sirius XM. *Inside the Issues with Wilmer Leon*, September 17, 2016
Live Radio Interview
- WFSU-FM - Florida Public Radio, Tallahassee FL, September 13, 2016
Live Radio Interview
- KPCW – Park City UT, *Cool Science Radio*, September 8, 2016
Live radio interview.
- WATR – Waterbury, CT. *Talk of the Town with Larry Rifkin*, August 29, 2016
Live radio interview.

- WHYY- Philadelphia, PA. *Fresh Air*, August 22, 2016 (Rebroadcast on *Fresh Air Weekend*, Aug. 27, 2016)
"Aging And Unstable, The Nation's Electrical Grid Is 'The Weakest Link'
<http://www.npr.org/2016/08/22/490932307/aging-and-unstable-the-nations-electrical-grid-is-the-weakest-link>
- KERA-Dallas, TX *Think*, August 3, 2016 – "Navigating the Grid"
<http://www.kera.org/2016/08/03/navigating-the-grid/>

PODCASTS

- *The Ellis Martin Report*. February 26, 2017
Also airs on VoiceAmerica business channel and AM 740 WSBR (South Florida)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHw78COBrao>
- HEAL Utah, Podcast #63, December 14, 2016. "The Grid with author Gretchen Bakke"
<http://www.healutah.org/episode-63-grid-author-gretchen-bakke/>
- *42 Minutes*, Podcast 251, December 5, 2016 – "Gretchen Bakke: The Grid"
<http://thesyncbook.com/?pagename=42minutes&ep=251>
- *The Writer's Voice* with Francesca Rheannon, Podcast, October 21, 2016
<http://www.writersvoice.net/2016/10/gretchen-bakke-grid/>
- *White Night Skies*, Podcast 008, October 17, 2016
<http://www.nightwhiteskies.com/new-blog/2016/10/15/gretchen-bakke>
- *Curious Minds*, Podcast CM057, October 10, 2016 – "Gretchen Bakke: On Innovations In Energy"
<http://www.gayleallen.net/cm-057-gretchen-bakke-on-innovations-in-energy/>
- ZTALK RADIO *The Mind's Eye* Podcast, September 15, 2016
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ4-Kilegec>
- Publishers Weekly Radio, Podcast #183, July 22, 2016.
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/podcasts/index.html?channel=8&podcast=605>

TELEVISION

- *The David Pakman Show*, Free Speech TV, November 7, 2016.
<https://davidpakman.com/2016/11/november-7-2016/>

PRINT

- *Aftenposten*, (Norway), January 21, 2017.
"60.000 defekte broer. 2000 forgiftede drikkevannskilder. 7 milliarder timer i bilkø. Dette er jobben Trump må klare." by C. Pletten.
<http://www.aftenposten.no/verden/60000-defekte-broer-2000-forgiftede-drikkevannskilder-7-milliarder-timer-i-bilko-Dette-er-jobben-Trump-ma-klare-613161b.html>
- *The Banker* – a suppliant of *The Financial Times*, January 1, 2017.
"The great global energy 'trilemma'" by J. King.
<http://www.thebanker.com/Reports/International-Meetings/View-from-Davos/The-great-global-energy-trilemma>
- *Inverse* August. 1 2016
"The State of the American Grid is...Confusing," by W. H. Fortuna.

<https://www.inverse.com/article/18949-electrical-grid-future-of-renewable-energy-transmission-gretchen-bakke>

• *Anthropology News*, October 2015, 56(10) Pp. 8-9.

“An Anthropological Endeavor: Crossing Disciplines: Art and Anthropology” by C. I. Edinger