

# Görkem Aydemir-Kundakci

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844 Campus Place N.W.  
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## **EDUCATION**

- 2022            **George Washington University**  
Ph.D. in Anthropology  
M.A. in Anthropology  
Dissertation Title: “Eventful Things of a ‘Frozen Conflict’: Contingency, Materiality, and Movement in the Contested Periphery of Georgia”
- 2010            **Sabancı University**  
M.A. in Cultural Studies
- 2006            **Boğaziçi University**  
B.A. in English Language and Literature  
Minor in American Studies
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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2022-            **University of Calgary**  
Faculty of Arts’ Postdoctoral Associate  
Department of Anthropology and Archeology
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## **RESEARCH and TEACHING INTERESTS**

Mobility and migration, borders, the state and sovereignty, conflict and uncertainty, materiality, space and time, multispecies ethnography, digital ethnography, innovative methods, post-Soviet studies, Georgia and the Caucasus

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

In Progress    *Freezing the Conflict: Struggles for Uneventful Lives in the Disputed Margins of Georgia*

### Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- 2021 “Contingent Homes: Mobility and Long-term Conflict in the Contested Periphery of Georgia.” *Journal of Refugee Studies*. Volume 34. Issue 1.
- 2017 “Constructing Lives on the Move: Displacement and Return in the de facto Georgia-Abkhazia Borderland.” *Maintaining Refuge: Anthropological Reflections in Uncertain Times*, edited by David Hanes, Jayne Howell and Fethi Keles. Committee on Refugee and Immigrants, American Anthropological Association.

### Public Scholarship

- 2021 “Uncertainty and Viral Emergencies in the Margins of Georgia.” *Anthropology News*. March 24.
- 2014 “Küresel Kamu Malları Olarak Küresel Normlar (Global Norms as Global Public Good)” with Hakan Altınay, Burcu Baran, and Cansu Ekmekcioğlu. *İktisat ve Toplum (Economics and Society)*.

### Working Papers

- In progress “Homes in Decay: Repair, Ruination, and Long-term Displacement in Collective Centers of Post-Soviet Georgia” (for submission to *American Ethnologist*); winner of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe’s 2017 Graduate Student Paper Prize
- In progress “‘Generative Exhaustions’: Time and Thresholds During Georgia’s Stinkbug Infestation” (for submission to *Cultural Anthropology*)

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### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022-present **University of Calgary**  
Postdoctoral Associate
- Militarism and Militarization (2023 Spring)
- 2013- 2021 **George Washington University**  
Graduate Teaching Assistant
- Anthropology of Science and Technology (2020 Spring)  
Sarah Wagner, grading
- Anthropology of Forensic Science and Technologies of Truth (2018 Fall)  
Sarah Wagner, grading

Anthropology of Development (2016 Spring)  
Robert Shepherd, three sections

Anthropology of Human Rights (2015 Fall)  
Robert Shepherd, three sections

Language and Culture in Society (2015 Spring)  
Alexander Dent, three sections

Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology (2014 Fall)  
Richard Grinker, three sections

Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology (2014 Spring)  
Richard Grinker, three sections

Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology (2013 Fall)  
Sarah Wagner, two sections

2007-2009      **Sabancı University**  
Graduate Teaching Assistant

Major Works of Western Art (2009 Spring)  
Bratislav Pantelic, two sections

Major Works of Western Art (2008 Fall)  
Bratislav Pantelic, two sections

Major Works of Literature (2008 Spring)  
Deniz Ceylan, Hülya Adak, grading

Major Works of Literature (2007 Fall)  
Deniz Ceylan, Hülya Adak, grading

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## **HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

### **External Grants and Awards**

- 2021              **American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)**  
Emerging Voices Finalist Research Grant
- 2017              **Society for the Anthropology of Europe (SAE)**  
Graduate Student Paper Prize Competition, Winner
- 2016-2017      **National Science Foundation (NSF)**  
Cultural Anthropology Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 2008              **Central European University, Hungary**  
Summer School Scholarship

**Internal Grants and Fellowships**

- 2019 Fall      **George Washington University**  
Dean's Dissertation Completion Grant
- 2019 Summer   **George Washington University**  
Summer Dissertation Fellowship
- 2019 Spring    **Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies**  
Hoffman Fellowship
- 2014, 2015     **Lewis N. Cotlow Foundation**  
Lewis N. Cotlow Grant for Ethnographic Research
- 2014            **Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies**  
Summer Language Scholarship
- 2013-2014     **Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies**  
Doctoral Student Fellowship
- 2013-2020     **The George Washington University**  
University Fellowship (declined AY2016-2017, 2017-2018)
- 2007-2009     **Sabancı University, Turkey**  
University Fellowship
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**PRESENTATIONS****Invited Talks and Lectures**

- 2021            “Reviving the Passports of a Dead State: Il/legality in the de facto Georgia-Abkhazia Borderland,” Center for Russian Studies—Bilkent University, November 11 (held virtually).
- 2021            “‘Even bugs are against us’: Time and Space During Georgia’s Stinkbug Crisis,” George Washington University, Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, April 24 (held virtually).
- 2021            “Innovative Ethnographic Methods: Mapping-Storytelling and Object Biographies,” Kenyon College, Methods in Cultural Anthropology, March 20 (held virtually).
- 2020            “Homes in Decay: Ruination and Long-term Displacement in Urban Collective Centers of Georgia.” Ilia State University, Anthropology Seminars, July 10 (held virtually).
- 2020            “Convulsive Futures: Contingency, Time, and Stinkbug Infestation in the Contested Periphery of Post-Soviet Georgia.” University of Ottawa, Sociology & Anthropology Workshops, Ottawa, February 7.

- 2019 “Contingent Returns, Contingent Homes: Border Crossings and Displacement in the Contested Margins of Georgia.” University of Calgary, The Anarky Talks, Calgary, October 23.
- 2017 “Displacement and Border Crossings in Georgia’s De Facto Border with Abkhazia.” Ilia State University, Anthropology Summer School, Tbilisi, September 21.
- 2017 “Lives on the Move: Mobility and Materiality in Georgia-Abkhazia Borderland.” Ilia State University, Anthropology Seminar Series, Tbilisi, March 21.
- 2016 “Displaced or at Home? Border Crossings, Displacement, and Return in the Georgia-Abkhazia Borderland.” Return, Remixing, and Reconciliation: Lessons to be Learned, Prio Cyprus Centre, Nicosia, November 26.
- 2016 “Long-Term Displacement and Ruination in Post-Soviet Georgia.” Peripheral Visions: Urbanism at the Edges of Europe. American Ethnological Society Spring Meeting, Washington, D.C., March 18.
- 2015 “Roundtable Discussion, Ukraine: When Crisis Shapes the Country.” Emergence: American Ethnological Society Spring Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 12-14.

### **Panels/Conferences Organized**

- 2022 Co-organizer (three-part panel with Scott Ross): “Infrastructural Intimacies.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, November 9-13.
- 2020 Co-organizer (with Sarah Richardson): “Exhausting Violence: Expenditure, Affect, and the Limits of Political Conflict.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; conference canceled due to COVID-19.
- 2018 Co-organizer (with Tetiana Bulakh): “Coping with Displacement: Experiences of Forced Migration, Conflict, and Uncertainty.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, November 16.
- 2015 Co-organizer (with Sarah Richardson) of the Symposium: Disclosures: Meaning and Materiality across Spaces. Annual Anthropology Symposium, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., March 20.

### **Selected Presentations**

- 2020 “Convulsive Futures: Contingency, Time, and Stinkbug Infestation in Georgia.” European Association of Social Anthropologists Annual Meeting, July 22 (held virtually).
- 2020 “Mapping and Telling the *Chernyi Vkhod*: Unofficial Crossings and Senses of Border-ness in the Disputed Periphery of Georgia.” American Ethnological Society Spring Meeting, March 26-28; conference cancelled due to COVID-19.

- 2019 “‘Even bugs are against us’: Multispecies Encounters, Uncertainty, and Long-term Displacement in Post-Soviet Georgia.” AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, November 21.
- 2018 “Contingent Homes: Displacement, Return, and Modes of Crossings in the Disputed Georgia-Abkhazia Borderland.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, November 16.
- 2017 “Homes in Decay: Long-term Displacement and Urban Collective Centers in Post-Soviet Georgia.” Society for the Anthropology of Europe Café Europa: Graduate Student Paper Prize Competition Finalists, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 30.
- 2015 “Homes in Decay: Displacement and Ruination in Georgia,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 18.
- 2015 “‘Looking down from a Christmas Tree’: Displacement and Memory in Georgia.” American Ethnological Society Spring Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 13.
- 2014 “IDP, Returnee, or Both? Border Crossings and the Curious Case of Gali.” Cotlow Research Conference, Washington, D.C., October 17.
- 2014 “Ordering the City, Ordering the Memory: Displacement, Memory, and the Hotel Iveria Case in Georgia.” Anthropoplus Conference, College Park, MD, March 21.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2022-Present Georgia: Ethnographic research on infrastructure and mobility  
*Oral history, interviews, participant observation, document analysis, digital storytelling, collaborative mapping and visualization*
- 2014-Present Georgia: Ethnographic research on border crossings  
*Oral history, household surveys, interviews, participant observation, cognitive maps and storytelling, object biographies, family album and document analysis*
- 2014- Present Georgia: Ethnographic research on IDP collective centers and ruination  
*Oral history, interviews, participant observation*
- 2010-2012 Georgia: Oral history project on 1990s and post-Soviet spatial changes  
*Interviews*
- 2007-2010 Turkey: Ethnographic research on global professionals with MBA degrees  
*Participant observation, interviews*

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2009-2014 **Global Civics Project (Brookings Institute), Istanbul, Turkey**  
Research Assistant

- 2011-2012     **7 Billionth Person Project, Open Society Foundation**  
Co-founder
- 2009-2010     **MY Executive Human Resources Consulting Company**  
Senior Researcher
- 2006-2007     **MY Executive Human Resources Consulting Company**  
Researcher
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### **SERVICE**

- 2021            Reviewer for *Caucasus Survey*
- 2020            Co-author of the undergraduate thesis manual in Anthropology at George Washington University
- 2020            Turkish Language Co-Editor for *Life by Algorithms: How Roboprocesses are Remaking Our World*, edited by Catherine Besteman and Hugh Gusterson, University of Chicago Press, 2019.
- 2018            Social Media Manager for Anthropology Department at George Washington University
- 2016-2018     Graduate Thesis Advising, Ilia State University and Tbilisi State University

### **LANGUAGES**

**Turkish** – Native speaker; **English** – Advanced; **Russian** – Lower Advanced; **Georgian** – Lower Advanced; **Megrelian** – Basic.

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Anthropological Associations (AAA)  
Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (IERES)  
Society for the Anthropology of Europe (SAE)  
European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)