

Görkem Aydemir-Kundakcı

Curriculum Vitae

University of Calgary
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
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EDUCATION

- 2022 **The George Washington University**, Washington, D.C.
Ph.D. in Anthropology
M.A. in Anthropology
Dissertation: *Eventful Things of a Frozen Conflict: Contingency, Materiality, and Movement in the Contested Periphery of Georgia*
- 2010 **Sabancı University**, Istanbul
M.A. in Cultural Studies
- 2006 **Boğaziçi University**, Istanbul
B.A. in English Language and Literature
Minor in American Studies

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-present **University of Calgary**, Calgary, AB
Faculty of Arts' Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

RESEARCH and TEACHING INTERESTS

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

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- In Progress *Contested Movements: Material and Temporal Anatomy of Life in Georgia's Frozen Conflict*
Preparing book proposal upon interest from Cornell University Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- Under review "Generative Exhaustions: Thresholds of Long-term Uncertainty and Stinkbug Crisis in Georgia's Contested Borderland." *History and Anthropology*.
- 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

- Under Review “Electric Zone.” *Anthropology News*.
- 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 “Border Places” (Photo Essay) (for submission to “Anthropological Currents” in *Current Anthropology*)
- In progress “From Decay to *Remontî*: 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 “Elastic Borders: Sensory Topologies of Movement in the Disputed Georgia-Abkhazia Borderland” (invited chapter contribution to the volume *Twisting the Fabric of Sovereignty: Torsions, Distortions, and the Topological Imagination* edited by Rebecca Bryant and Franck Billè)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022-present **University of Calgary**, Calgary, AB
 Instructor: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2023)
- 2013- 2022 **George Washington University**, Washington, D.C.
 Graduate Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology (Fall 2013 - two sections, Sarah Wagner; Spring 2014 – three sections, Richard Grinker; Fall 2014 - three sections, Richard Grinker)
 Language and Culture in Society (Spring 2015 - three sections, Alexander Dent)
 Anthropology of Human Rights (Fall 2015 - three sections, Robert Shepherd)
 Anthropology of Development (Spring 2016 - three sections, Robert Shepherd)
 Grader: Anthropology of Forensic Science and Technologies of Truth (Fall 2018, Sarah Wagner)
 Anthropology of Science and Technology (Spring 2020, Sarah Wagner)
- 2007-2009 **Sabancı University**, Istanbul
 Graduate Teaching Assistant: Major Works of Western Art (Fall 2008 - two sections; Spring 2009 - two sections, Bratislav Pantelic)
 Grader: Major Works of Literature (Fall 2007; Spring 2008, Deniz Ceylan & Hulya Adak)

AWARDS AND HONORS**External Grants, Awards, and Fellowships**

- 2024-2027 **Research Foundation- Flanders (FWO)**
Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2022-2023 **KU Leuven, Leuven**
Postdoctoral Mandate (PDM) (declined)
- 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

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Lectures

- 2023 “From Decay to *Remonti*: Long-term Displacement and Space in Urban Collective Centers of Georgia,” Cornell University, Ethnographies of Brokenness and Repair, April 14.
- 2022 “‘Globalization’ and Anthropology,” University of Calgary, Anthropological Theory, November 14.
- 2022 “Ethnographic Methods in Contested Spaces,” George Washington University, Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology, March 3 (held virtually).
- 2021 “Reviving the Passports of a Dead State: Il/legalities 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, Pricyprus 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

- 2023 Co-organizer (with Sarah Richardson): “Living Uncertainty: Frameworks of Agency, Possibility, and Injury.” American Anthropological Association Meeting, Toronto, November 15-19.
- 2022 Co-organizer (three-part panel with Scott Ross): “Infrastructural Intimacies.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, November 9-13.
- 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 and Workshops

- 2023 “Elastic Borders: Sensory Topologies of Movement in the Disputed Georgia-Abkhazia Borderland.” American Association of Geographers, Denver, CO, March 25.
- 2023 Discussant for “Resilience in the Environmental and Energy Humanities.” University of Calgary Energy in Society and FRIAS Workshop, Banff, AB, March 17-20.
- 2022 “Electric Zone: Infrastructural Encounters in Georgia’s Contested Periphery.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, November 9.
- 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 Vkebod*: 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 and COLLABORATIONS

- 2023-Present Canada: University of Calgary Office of the Vice President and Calgary Institute of the Humanities Research on Transdisciplinarity
Literature review, best practices and barriers research
- 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
Research Assistant
- 2011-2012 **7 Billionth Person Project (Open Society Foundation)**, Istanbul
Co-founder
- 2009-2010 **MY Executive Human Resources Consulting Company**, Istanbul
Senior Researcher
- 2006-2007 **MY Executive Human Resources Consulting Company**, Istanbul
Researcher

SERVICE

- 2021 Reviewer for *Caucasus Survey, Anthropological Quarterly*
- 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 Editor of GW Anthropology Department
- 2016-2018 Graduate Thesis Advising, Ilia State University and Tbilisi State University
- 2015 Editorial Screening for *Anthropological Quarterly*
- 2014-2015 Co-organizer of GW Anthropology Department Reading Group

LANGUAGES

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