

Zachary D. Sheldon

3710 North Damen Ave. | Chicago, IL 60618 | (917) 238-1904 | zdsheldon@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

- 2014-2020 **University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology**
Ph.D. in Socio-cultural and Linguistic Anthropology
Dissertation: “Waiting on Embers: Duration, Dispossession, and Everyday Life among Iraqi Migrants in Jordan.”
Committee: Hussein Agrama (chair), Julie Chu, John Kelly, Orit Bashkin
- 2012-2014 **University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology**
M.A. in Socio-cultural and Linguistic Anthropology
Advisor: Hussein Agrama
- 2007-2011 **Tufts University**
B.A. in Anthropology
Highest Thesis Honors

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Migration & refugees, modern Middle East, labor & capital, social reproduction, epistemology, U.S. imperialism, games

PUBLICATIONS

- (In preparation) “The Malicious Game: Friendship and Frustration at an Iraqi Teahouse in Jordan.”
- 2022 “How to Play *Logistics Command*: An Archaeology of the Ludic Imagination.” In *Roadsides* 7:15-20, co-authored with Jack Mullee.
- 2021 “Managing the Humanitarian Workplace: Capitalist Social Time and Iraqi Refugees in the United States.” In *The Anthropology of Work Review* 42(1):35-46
- 2017 “Refuge, Market, and Garden: Tropes of Jordanian Stability among Amman’s Iraqi Residents” in *POMEPS Studies* 25:66-69

FELLOWSHIPS & FUNDING

- 2020-2022 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship, The University of Chicago
- 2019-2020 Social Sciences Division Doctoral Completion Grant, The University of Chicago
- 2016-2017 Predoctoral Research Fellowship, The Council of American Overseas Research Centers
- 2014-2015 Student Research Fellowship with supplementary Critical Language Enhancement Award, U.S. Fulbright Program
- 2012-2016 Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation

2012-2013 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education

TEACHING

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

- 2022-2023 “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.” Undergraduate lecture course.
- “Language, Culture, and Society.” Introductory course on linguistic anthropology.
- “Games: Theory, Practice, and Experience.” Methods course on digital and in-person ethnography of gaming communities.

LECTURER, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

- 2020-2022 “Self, Culture, and Society.” Undergraduate seminar course on social theory.
- “Games: Theory, Practice, and Experience.”

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISOR, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

- 2019 “*Foodcultura*: The Art and Anthropology of Food and Cuisine.” Undergraduate research practicum focused on urban ethnography of food.

LECTURER, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

- 2016, 2018 “Power, Identity, and Resistance.” Undergraduate seminar course on political theory.

LEAD INSTRUCTOR, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CENTER - AMMAN

- 2015 “The World in the City and the City in the World.” Reading seminar for scholars and professionals designed around works held at the Janet Abu-Lughod Library.

TEACHING INTERN, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

- 2015 “Power, Identity, and Resistance.” College seminar course on political theory.

TEACHING ASSISTANT, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

- 2011 “Popular Cultures of the Middle East.” College lecture course on music, television.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

- 2017 “Safe but not Settled: Iraqi Refugees in Jordan” American Center of Oriental Research, Amman, Jordan.
- 2016 “Reading the Janet Abu-Lughod Library” The Sijal Institute, Amman Jordan

2015 “Rethinking Migration & Hospitality” The Center for British Research Libraries, Amman, Jordan.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 (accepted but unable to attend) “The Cosmopolitan National Status Group: Applying Hanna Batatu’s Theory of Classes to the Contemporary Iraqi Diaspora.” Conference: Iraq Studies: Past, Present and Future. Columbia University.
- 2019 “Transits and Transformations of the Iraqi Carp.” Conference: Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- 2019 “‘What are Classes?’: Hanna Batatu’s Historical Sociology”, Conference: Beyond Turmoil and Conflict: Iraq Since 2003, New York University Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies.
- 2018 “Urban Spaces of National Politics: The Iraqi Elections in Amman”, Conference: Contemporary Amman and the Right to the City, Columbia University Global Center, Amman, Jordan
- 2018 (Panel Chair), “The Dilemma of Embodying Nationality for Iraqis in Amman”, Conference: Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. San Jose, California.
- 2017 “Tropes of Jordanian Stability among Iraqis” Workshop: Project on Middle East Political Science, University of Southern California.
- 2016 “On the Uses of Disorder in Amman: Young Iraqis and the Urban ‘Garden.’” Conference: Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2015 (coauthored with Eleonore C. Rimbault), “Kafka in the Attic.” Conference: Walter Benjamin in Palestine: On the Place and Non-Place of Radical Thought. Ramallah, Palestine.
- 2013 “After Freedom: Iraqi Refugee Resettlement in the United States.” Conference: Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Chicago, Illinois.

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2021 Selected to Participate in Teaching Fellows Training Program at the University of Chicago
- 2018 University of Chicago Urban Doctoral Fellowship
- 2015 Department Prize for Best M.A. Essay

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 “Teaching Time and Labor, from the Factory Act to Prop 22.” Exertions: The Web Publication of the Society for the Anthropology of Work (<https://saw.americananthro.org/exertions>)
- 2018 “Nationality, Class, and Iraqi Migrants in Jordan.” The Blog of the American Center of Oriental Research (acorjordan.org).
- 2017 “The World in the City and the City in the World: Reading the Janet Abu-Lughod Library.” *Jadaliyya* (jadaliyya.com).

SERVICE & RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2020-2022 Steward and Bargaining Team Member, Faculty Forward, The University of Chicago
- 2018-2019 Member, Dean's Council on Doctoral Education, Division of Social Sciences.
- 2018 Co-Organizer, "You are Here: A Panel on Social Justice at UChicago.
- 2013-2014 Department Coordinator, Social Science Student Activities Fund.

OTHER SERVICE & EMPLOYMENT

- 2019 Research Consultant, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.
- 2018 Research Consultant, Internal Displacement Monitoring Center.
- 2017-2018 Volunteer, Welfare Together for Development & Training, Amman, Jordan
- 2015 English as a Second Language Instructor, Collateral Repair Project, Amman, Jordan
- 2013-2016 Deputy Managing Editor, HAU Books.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

American Anthropological Association.

LANGUAGES

English, Arabic (Ammani & Baghdadi dialects spoken, Modern Standard reading and writing), French

REFERENCES

Hussein Agrama
hagrama@uchicago.edu
Tel: (773) 834-4496
Department of Anthropology
University of Chicago
1126 East 59th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

John Kelly
johnkelly@uchicago.edu
Tel: (773) 702-4333
Department of Anthropology
University of Chicago
1126 East 59th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

Julie Chu
juliechu@uchicago.edu
Tel: (773) 702-7708
Department of Anthropology
University of Chicago
1126 East 59th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

Orit Bashkin
oritb@uchicago.edu
Tel: (773) 834-8346
Department of Near Eastern Languages
and Civilizations
University of Chicago
1126 East 59th St.
Chicago, IL 60637