

Dr. Toby Austin Locke

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QUALIFICATIONS

PhD Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths University of London (2015- 2019)
Supervisors: Dr. Chris Wright, Dr. Isaac Marrero-Guillamón
Title: *Fields of Commoning: Attempts at Creating (Un)Common Worlds in New Cross*
Examiners: Dr. Martin Savransky, Goldsmiths University of London; Dr. Alberto Corsin Jimenez, Spanish National Research Council

MRes Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths University of London (2014-2016)
Classification: Distinction

BA Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths University of London (2009-2013)

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Current Projects

ADHD as a Vernacular Anthropology of the Attention Economy. (2022-present). Department of Anthropology, University College London

Exploring TikTok Through Collaborative Digital Ethnography. (2022-present). Department of Anthropology, University College London

EthicAI Ltd. (2022-present). Start-up social technology consultancy and research agency.

Publications

(In preparation) *(Un)Common Fields: Politics of the Pluriverse in London*, Book proposal to be submitted to Duke University Press in Winter 2024.

(In preparation) *Tactics for the Ethnography of Personalised Content Recommendation Algorithms*, (co-authored with Liber, E & Yogarajah, Y). journal article to be submitted to *American Ethnologist*, Summer 2024.

(In preparation) *How Machines Think: Towards an Anthropological Theory of Artificial General Intelligence*, journal article to be submitted to *AI & Society* Spring 2024

(In preparation) *A Dual Proposal for Anthropological and Psychosocial Approaches to Conspiracy Theory: Generosity and Recursion*, journal article to be submitted to *The Journal of Psychosocial Studies*, Spring 2024

(2023) 'In the Cracks of Attention: ADHD, Vernacular Anthropologies and Communities of Care on TikTok'. *Teaching Anthropology* [Special Issue: The TikTok of Teaching and Research: The Pedagogical Possibilities of Collaborative Digital Ethnography]. Liber, E Austin Locke, T & Yogarajah, Y. (eds)

(2019) *The Process of the Field in New Cross*, Austin Locke, T. Plotegher, P. Herbst, M. & Thompson, R. (eds), Los Angeles: JOAAP Press

(2018) 'Self-Organising the Commons through the Right to the City: or, the appropriation of absence in the absence of appropriation', in *Urban Appropriation Strategies: Exploring Space-making Practices in Contemporary European Cityscapes*, Berlin: transcript-verlang

(2016) *The Living and the Dead*, London: Repeater Books

Panels Convened

EASA 2024: Doing and Undoing with Anthropology

Panel: Living with Algorithms: Curation of selves, belonging, and the world around us

ASA 2023: An Unwell World?: Anthropology in Speculative Mode, SOAS

Panel: Crisis, TikTok and Social Media

ASA 2019: Anthropological Perspectives on Global Challenges, University of East Anglia.

Panel: Generosity and Analysis.

Presentations

University College London Material, Visual and Digital Cultures Spring 2024 Seminar Series, University College London

Title: ADHD, Communities of Care and Vernacular Anthropologies of Attention Economics on TikTok

ASA 2023: An Unwell World?: Anthropology in Speculative Mode, SOAS

Title: ADHD, Vernacular Anthropologies, and Attention Economics: notes towards an ethnographic theory of attention

Panel: The Anthropology of Attention

What do we do About Conspiracy Theories? Conference 2019, The National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Title: 'A Dual Proposal for Anthropological and Psychosocial Approaches to Conspiratorial Thought: Generosity and Recursion'

Panel: The Driving Powers of Conspiracy Theories and Conspiracy Theories as Driving Forces

ASA19: Anthropological Perspectives On Global Challenges, University of East Anglia, Norwich

Title: 'Reimagining the Academy as a Generous Ecology of Practices. Or, Could a Conference Become a Potlach?'

Panel: Generosity and Analysis

Goldsmiths Anthropology Department Autumn Research Seminar 2018, Goldsmiths, University of London

Title: 'Commoning Anthropologically: Attempts at Creating (Un)Common worlds in New Cross'

Royal Anthropological Institute Conference 2018: Art, Materiality and Representation, British Museum

Title: 'Commoning Anthropologically and Ethnographic Conceptualism: Intervention, Experimentation, Uncertainty'

Panel: Art (and Anthropology) Beyond Materiality and Representation

ASA2018 Conference 2018: Sociality, Matter and the Imagination: Recreating Anthropology, Oxford University

Title: '(Meta)Modelling the Future: Diagrammatics for Creating Common Worlds',

Panel: Diagrams of revolution: an experiment with social and material morphologies

Anthropology in London 2017, University College London

Title: 'Self-Organising the Commons through the Right to the City: or, the appropriation of absence in the absence of appropriation'

Panel: Locality

12th International Ethnography Symposium 2017, University of Manchester

Title: 'Uncertainly Commoning an Uncertain City'

Panel: Silver Linings: The Creative Potential of Uncertain Times

AAA2017, Washington DC

Title: 'Affecting Care, Caring Affect'

Panel: Protest Matters: The Objects, Art, and Affect of Resistance

Urban Appropriation Strategies Conference 2016, University of Kassel

Title 'Self-Organising the Commons, the Right to the City, and the Limits of Horizontalism'

Panel: Appropriation as tool to create a new, citizen-centred social space in the city

Essays and Multimedia

(2018) Austin Locke, T. 'What is it?' *Cultural Anthropology website*, Dialogues: Bateson Book Forum on *The Resonance of Unseen Things*, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/what-is-it>

(2018) Austin Locke, T. 'An Uncertain Rush of Energy: An #AmAnth17 Panel Review.', *Cultural Anthropology website*, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/an-uncertain-rush-of-energy-an-amanth17-panel-review>

(2017) Austin Locke, T.; Stewart, K. and Romero, A. 'Words in Worlds: An Interview with Kathleen Stewart.' *Cultural Anthropology website*, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/words-in-worlds-an-interview-with-kathleen-stewart>

(2017) Austin Locke, T.; Romero, A. and Mazarella, W. 'On Affect, Aesthetics, and Mass Mediation: An Interview with William Mazzarella.' *Cultural Anthropology website*, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/on-affect-aesthetics-and-mass-mediation-an-interview-with-william-mazzarella>

(2016) Austin Locke, T. 'The Figure of Death in The-Place-Where-the-Black-Caiman-Walks.', Dialogues: Bateson Book Forum on *Behold-the-Black-Caiman*, *Cultural Anthropology website*, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/the-figure-of-death-in-the-place-where-the-black-caiman-walks>

(2016) Austin Locke, T. 'Teaching Refusal.' *Cultural Anthropology website*, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/teaching-refusal>

(2016) Austin Locke, T. and Dodd, L. 'Designing Material Infrastructures to Facilitate Common Belonging.' Place: who belongs here? Think piece #3, *The Glass-House*, <http://www.theglasshouse.org.uk/place-who-belongs-here-think-piece-3/>

(2014) Austin Locke, T. 'Playing with the Possible.' Wick Zine #5: The Makeshift City, Marrero-Guillamón, I (eds), p. 17-9, London: RURban, https://r-urban-wick.net/blog/wicksessions-blog/826/wick-zine_5

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University College London, Department of Anthropology, Lecturer (Teaching) in Digital Anthropology, 2023-present

The Anthropology of Social Media: Convenor of option module for undergraduate and postgraduate students

Introduction to Material Culture: Co-convenor of core module for undergraduate students

Digital Anthropology Practical: Convenor of core module for postgraduate students on the Digital Anthropology MSc

Digital Anthropology: Teaching weeks on ‘artificial intelligence’ and ‘attention economies’ on core module for postgraduate students on the Digital Anthropology MSc

Anthropological Methods: Teaching week on ‘digital ethnography’ for postgraduate students

Being Human: Teaching tutorial groups on ‘thinking with algorithms’ and ‘anthropology and conspiracy theory’

Dissertations: Supervisor for undergraduate and postgraduate students

Goldsmiths University of London, Department of Anthropology, Associate Lecturer, 2023

Digital Anthropology: Visiting lecturer on optional third year and postgraduate module teaching specialist weeks on social media, conspiracy theory, AI & machine learning, and futures.

University of Roehampton, School of Health and Life Sciences, Lecturer in Social Anthropology, 2021 – 2023

The Anthropology of Life and Death: Convenor of optional third year module on comparative anthropological studies and philosophical theories of life and death.

Cultural Politics on Tour: Convenor of second year undergraduate module on cultural politics. This course also entails a series of fieldtrips in London, part of the assessment being project-based ethnographies of cultural politics situations in the city.

Research Methods in Anthropology: Convenor of second year undergraduate module on statistical and ethnographic research methods and proposal development.

Theory: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives: Convenor of second year undergraduate module on anthropological theory

Kinship: Comparative and Contemporary Studies: Convenor of second year undergraduate module on kinship studies in anthropology.

Fieldwork: Theory, Practice and Product: Convenor of first year undergraduate introducing students to ethnographic fieldwork. Course is assessed through fieldwork projects and presentations.

Anthropology Dissertation: Convenor of all anthropology dissertations and supervisor from conception to completion.

Anthropology Independent Study Project: Convenor of alternative module to dissertation. Module is assessed by a portfolio of three articles written for a popular audience.

London South Bank University, Sessional Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Department of Criminology, 2021-22

Sociology for the 21st Century: Convenor of third year undergraduate module on contemporary issues and theories in sociology.

Understanding Punishment: Penal Theory and Practice: Seminar tutor on second year undergraduate module on theories of punishment and social control.

Birkbeck University of London, Department of Psychosocial Studies, Associate Tutor, 2019-20

Bodies: Assistant tutor on second year module exploring ethnographies and theories of the body across the social sciences and humanities.

Goldsmiths University of London, Department of Anthropology and Graduate School, Associate Lecturer, 2016-20

General Principles of Social Anthropology: Seminar leader and guest lecturer for second year undergraduate module on anthropological theory

Anthropology of Religion: Seminar leader and guest lecturer for second year undergraduate and postgraduate module on anthropology of religion

Politics Economics and Social Change: Seminar leader and guest lecturer for second year undergraduate and postgraduate module on political and economic anthropology. Module was also taken by student studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Short Research Project: Supervised 17 foundation year research projects from conception to completion.

Qualitative Research Methods: Seminar leader and guest lecturer on Graduate School module taken by first year PhD and MRes students from all disciplines. Module entailed practical workshops and fieldtrips.

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Member of Centre for Digital Anthropology, University College London

Member of the Centre for the Anthropology of Technics and Technodiversity, University College London

AWARDS

AHRC CHASE Doctoral Studentship

PROFESSIONAL BODY MEMBERSHIP

Association of Psychosocial Studies
European Association of Social Anthropologists

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

University College London, Department of Anthropology, Lecturer (Teaching) in Digital Anthropology 2023-present

In my position at UCL I have been responsible for administration on three modules catering to undergraduate and post graduate students. I am Anthropology Tutor for the BSc Anthropology and Archaeology, being students' primary point of contact in the anthropology department. I worked as a volunteer member of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee to assist in addressing barriers faced by neurodivergent students and staff. I have also acted as personal tutor for several undergraduate and postgraduate students.

University of Roehampton, School of Health and Life Sciences, Lecturer in Social Anthropology 2021 – 2023

I was appointed to the post of full time Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Roehampton after the overwhelmingly positive student feedback for courses I delivered as Visiting Lecturer in 2021 and following a major restructuring which saw an exodus of all social anthropology lectures. Due to the adverse conditions within the university at the time of my appointment I was required to take on all administration for teaching in social anthropology at very short notice. This required a high level of organisational management to finalise assessments, reading lists, teaching timetables, course structures, resits, deferrals and retakes, and to take over several complex issues concerning student pastoral care and support. Due to the sudden nature of the restructure this organisational work had to be completed successfully within three weeks.

The British Library, Social Policy Support Officer 2011-15

Responsible for: partnerships and collaborations with higher education institutions, governmental bodies, third sector organisations and individual scholars; social media platforms; obtaining permissions for digital archiving; minute taking in meetings; public facing event organisation; PhD training workshops; selection of materials for digital archiving; abstract writing; metadata submission; engagement and usage reporting; and responding to requests and inquiries from colleagues, researchers and external partners.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Cultural Anthropology. The Society for Cultural Anthropology, Contributing Editor, 2016-19

Responsible for: producing supplementary content for website; conducting interviews with high profile academics; editing supplementary material; production of 'Teaching Tools' materials; and participating in roundtables for the Bateson Book Forum.

Imponderabilia, University of Cambridge, Section Editor, 2010-12

Responsible for: peer reviewing; article selection; copy editing; fundraising; section editing for 'Theory, Thoughts and Methods', and 'Activism and Development'; liaising with authors; submission of publication to archives; and abstract writing.

NON-ACADEMIC SECTOR

EthicAI Ltd, Company Director (2022-present)

Founder and director of EthicAI Ltd, a start-up consultancy and research agency which works at the intersections of social and technical infrastructures to uncover and intervene in emerging ethical issues, conduct original research, and offer advice and reporting services. The company seeks to bring together technical experts and academic experts in psychology, social sciences and arts and humanities to confront some of the emerging challenges posed by technological innovations and transformations.

The Field (CIC), Social Impact Consultant and Digital Platforms Manager (2014-17)

Worked closely with a local social centre in London on responding to the local needs of the community. Responsible for: minute taking; accounts; budgeting; digital platform management; web development; collaborative workshop design; research; building maintenance; social media; email management; public relations; fundraising; user support; timetabling; and, volunteer management.

SKILLS

IT: Microsoft Office Suite, Microsoft Teams, Moodle, TALIS, Zoom, Panopto, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, SketchUp, WordPress, WikiMedia, Web Hosting, MongoDB, MYSQL, HTML, CSS, JavaScript (basic), Python (basic)