

**Christopher Kaplonski**  
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or: chris@anthroenology.org

## **Current Positions**

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Affiliated Lecturer; Social Anthropology, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge.

Founder and Director, Anthroenology, focusing on research and education in wine and sustainability.

## **Education**

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1996 Ph.D. Anthropology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.

1991 M.A. Anthropology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.

1989 B.S. Chemical Engineering *magna cum laude* with minor in Science, Technology and Society, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, N.J.

## **Academic Employment History**

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2007-2016 University of Cambridge; Social Anthropology  
Lecturer (2012-13, 2014-2016); Senior Research Associate (2007-2012, 2014)

2004-7 William Paterson University; Department of Anthropology  
Assistant Professor

2000-1, 2003-4 National University of Mongolia; Departments of Anthropology and  
Sociology Visiting Professor

2001-2 SUNY – Plattsburgh; Department of Anthropology  
Visiting Assistant Professor

1997-2000 William Paterson University; Department of Anthropology  
Adjunct Assistant Professor

1992-6 Jersey City State College, Department of Anthropology Adjunct Professor

## **Research Interests**

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Consumption; Sustainability; Anthropology of the senses; Sovereignty; Political Violence; Post-socialism; Identity; Memory; Inner Asia.

## **Research Grants**

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- 2016 Cambridge Humanities Research Grant: Producing belief: nature, technology and biodynamics in Austrian wine-making.
- 2010 Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, for archival research on *The lama question*.
- 2008-9 British Academy Small Research Grant, *The death of the Buddhist state: violence and sovereignty in early Socialist Mongolia* (SG-50260)
- 2007-12 Arts and Humanities Research Council grant, *The oral history of Twentieth Century Mongolia* Grant was awarded to David Sneath at Univ. Cambridge; I was key grant author and Project Manager
- 2006-7 Renewal of funding for Oral History of 20<sup>th</sup> century Mongolia project
- 2005-6 Funding for pilot project, Oral History of 20th century Mongolia, University of Cambridge.
- 2000 IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) Mongolia Research Fellowship
- 1998 American Philosophical Society General Research Grant
- 1997 IREX Individual Advanced Research in Mongolia Grant
- 1995 IREX Individual Advanced Research in Mongolia Grant (Funding for this grant was eliminated due to federal budget cuts.)
- 1993 IREX Individual Advanced Research in Mongolia Grant

## **Other Grants, Awards and Indicators of Distinction**

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- 2015 Archaeology and Anthropology Travel Grant, University of Cambridge
- 2011 British Academy Conference Support Grant, for *Thinking through oral history: anthropological findings and reflections on the oral history of twentieth century Mongolia*
- 2009 Crowther-Beynon Fund, for acquisition of Tsam Mask, and accompanying lecture, for Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge.
- 2009 Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) Conference Grant, for *The Political Life of Documents: Debating the Commons*

*through Files, Testimonies, Archives and State Secrets.*

2006-8 Obtained corporate sponsorship from Khan Bank, Mongolia in support of Oral History of 20<sup>th</sup> century Mongolia pilot project.

2004-5 Academic Fellowship Program / Open Society Institute (declined)

2003-4 Civic Education Project – Visiting Faculty Fellow, National University of Mongolia.

2000-1 Civic Education Project – Visiting Lecturer, National University of Mongolia.

## **Teaching**

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### *Undergraduate lectures and seminars*

- 'The global political economy of food', 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate. Cambridge
- 'Anthropology and politics,' 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate. Cambridge
- 'Anthropology of socialism and post-socialism,' undergraduate, Cambridge
- 'Memory, identity and the past,' undergraduate, Cambridge
- 'The politics of religion in Mongolia.' 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate, Cambridge.
- 'Sovereignty, governmentality and exception', 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate. Cambridge
- 'Globalisation and the internet', 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate. Cambridge
- 'Life cycles', 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduates. Cambridge
- 'Identity and difference', 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduate. Cambridge
- Research methods, SUNY – Plattsburgh, William Paterson
- 'Introduction to anthropology' and 'Introduction to cultural anthropology' SUNY – Plattsburgh, William Paterson, National University of Mongolia, Jersey City State College
- 'Anthropology of Colonialism' SUNY – Plattsburgh
- 'Global Issues in Anthropology Perspective' SUNY - Plattsburgh
- 'Wordplay (Linguistic anthropology)' William Paterson University
- 'Law in Culture and Society' William Paterson University
- 'Academic Writing for the Social Sciences' National University of Mongolia

### *Post-graduate lectures and seminars*

- 'Anthropology and politics,' MPhil, Cambridge
- Seminar in economic anthropology, MPhil, Cambridge
- Seminar in political anthropology, MPhil, Cambridge
- Ethnographic research methods, workshop, MPhil, Cambridge
- Archival research methods. MRes / PhD, Cambridge
- Digital Data Management and Security, MRes / PhD, Cambridge
- Anthropology of the senses, MRes / PhD, Cambridge
- Ethnographic research methods for non-anthropologists. MRes / PhD Cambridge
- PhD Pre-fieldwork seminar, Cambridge
- Graduate seminar on anthropological theory, National University of Mongolia

### *Small-group supervisions and tutorials*

- Political economy, 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate, Cambridge
- The anthropology of post-socialism, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate, Cambridge
- Human society in comparative perspective, 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduate, Cambridge

- MPhil supervisions, all topics

## **Publications:**

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### ***Books:***

- 2014 *The lama question: violence, sovereignty and exception in early socialist Mongolia*, University of Hawai'i Press
- 2004 *Truth, History and Politics in Mongolia: the Memory of Heroes* London: RoutledgeCurzon. Paperback edition, 2014.
- 1999 Editor, *Twentieth Century Mongolia* (translation of B. Baabar's *XX zuuny Mongol*) Cambridge: White Horse Press (Reprinted in 2005 by Global Oriental; reprinted multiple times in Mongolia as *The History of Mongolia*).

### ***Web resources, Outreach and Engagement:***

The Oral History of Twentieth Century Mongolia: [amantuuh.socanth.cam.ac.uk](http://amantuuh.socanth.cam.ac.uk)

*Anthroenology* Project and blog: [www.anthroenology.org](http://www.anthroenology.org)

- 2016 'Mongolian Cheese' *Oxford Companion to Cheese*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

### ***Edited volumes and special issues of journals:***

- 2011 'The Political Life of Documents: Archives, Memory and Contested Knowledge,' special issue of *History and Anthropology*, 22(4) edited with Catherine Trundle
- 2010 'Oral Histories of Socialist Modernities in Central and Inner Asia', special issue of *Inner Asia*, 12(1). edited with U. Bulag and Y. Konagawa.
- 2010 Editor, with David Sneath, *The history of Mongolia*. (3 volumes) Folkstone, Kent: Global Oriental.

### ***Articles:***

'Pretentious prose and leaky knowledge: expert knowledge and the translation of the senses in wine-tasting' under revision for *Gastronomica*

In preparation 'Populating the exception: the governmentality of bare life'

- 2012 'Resorting to violence: technologies of exception, contingent states, and the repression of Buddhist lamas in 1930s Mongolia' *Ethnos* 77(1):72-92.
- 2011 'Archived relations: repression, rehabilitation and the secret life of documents in Mongolia' *The Political Life of Documents*, special issue of *History and Anthropology* 22(4): 431-444.
- 2011 'Introduction: the political life of documents', with Catherine Trundle, *History and*

- Anthropology* 22(4): 407-414.
- 2010 'Data, basically: computers, context and anthropological data'. *Inner Asia* 12(1):47-60.
- 2010 'Editorial Introduction' with Uradyn Bulag and Yuki Konagawa, *Inner Asia*, 12(1):1-3.
- 2008 'The end of post-socialism? An account of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July riots in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia,' with Gregory Delaplace and David Sneath; *Inner Asia* 10(2): 353-365.
- 2008 'Prelude to violence: show trials and state power in 1930s Mongolia' *American Ethnologist* 35(2):321-337.
- 2008 'Neither truth nor reconciliation: political violence and the surfeit of memory in post-Socialist Mongolia' *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*. 9(2):371-388.
- 2005 'The case of the disappearing Chinggis Khaan: dismembering the remembering' *Ab Imperio* 4/2005: 147-173.
- 2003 'Editor's Introduction' *Inner Asia* 5(2).
- 1999 'Blame, guilt and avoidance: the struggle to control the past in post-socialist Mongolia' *History and Memory* 11(2):94-114.
- 1998 'Creating national identity in socialist Mongolia.' *Central Asian Survey*. 17(1):35-49.
- 1997 'One hundred years of history: changing paradigms in Mongolian historiography.' *Inner Asia: Occasional Papers*. 2(1):48-68.
- 1993 'Collective memory and Chingunjav's rebellion.' *History and Anthropology* 6(2-3):235-259.

### **Book chapters:**

- 2016 'Intimate documents: trust and secret police files in post-socialist Mongolia' *Trusting and its tribulations: interdisciplinary engagements with intimacy, sociality and trust*, V. Broch-Due and M. Ystanes, eds. Oxford, Berghahn.
- 2015 'Criminal lamas: court cases against Buddhist monks in early socialist Mongolia.' *Buddhism in Mongolian history, culture and society*, Vesna Wallace, ed. Oxford University Press.
- 2010 'Introduction: Qing' in *The history of Mongolia*. D. Sneath and C. Kaplonski, eds. Folkstone, Kent: Global Oriental
- 2010 'Introduction: Twentieth Century Mongolia' in *The history of Mongolia*. D. Sneath and C. Kaplonski, eds. Folkstone, Kent: Global Oriental
- 2010 'Democracy comes to Mongolia' in *The history of Mongolia*. D. Sneath and C. Kaplonski, eds. Folkstone, Kent: Global Oriental
- 2009 'Neither truth nor reconciliation: political violence and the surfeit of memory in post-

- socialist Mongolia' *Perpetrators, Accomplices and Victims in Twentieth-Century Politics: Reckoning with the Past*. A. Khazanov and S. Payne, eds. London: Routledge
- 2006 'Exemplars and heroes: the individual and the moral in the Mongolian political imagination' in *States of Mind: Power, Place and the Subject in Inner Asia*, D. Sneath, ed. Bellingham: Western Washington University.
- 2002 'Thirty thousand bullets: remembering political repression in Mongolia' in *Historical Injustice and Democratic Transition in Eastern Asia and Northern Europe: Ghosts at the Table of Democracy*, Kenneth Christie and Robert Cribb, eds. London: RoutledgeCurzon.
- 2001 'Reconstructing Mongolian nationalism: the view ten years on' in *Mongolian political and economic development during the past ten years and future prospect*. Taipei: Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission.
- 2000 'The role of the Mongols in Eurasian history: a reassessment' in *The Role of Migration in the History of the Eurasian Steppe : Sedentary Civilization Vs. 'Barbarian' and Nomad*, Andrew Bell, ed. New York: St. Martin's Press.

### **Selected Conference, Workshop and Seminar Presentations:**

- 2016 *Learning to taste: writing the senses in a glass of wine*. The Worlds in a Wine Glass: Wine Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences. London.
- 2016 *Cultivating terroir: a history of the present of sustainable winemaking*. Consuming the World: Eating and Drinking in Culture, History, and Environment, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich.
- 2016 *The unproduction of wine: eliding technology in natural and post-modern wine making*. Amsterdam Symposium on the History of Food.
- 2016 *Sensing ethical consumption: wine and sustainability*. Invited lecture, Plumpton College.
- 2015 *Waiting for the consumer to catch up: sustainability and the taste of wine in Austria*. Oxford Food Forum Annual Conference.
- 2015 *The rise and fall of modern wine*. Newnham College, Cambridge.
- 2014 *Plotting counter-revolution: narratives of treason and state power in early socialist Mongolia*. Association for Asian Studies.
- 2013 *Tracing the wine-chain: creating and recreating emotions from wine-making to wine-tasting*. CUSAS seminar, University of Cambridge.
- 2013 *The Violence of History: Differential social memory and political violence in Mongolia*. Workshop on the production of history. Halle, Germany.
- 2012 *Intimate documents: trust and secret police files in post-socialist Mongolia*. "The

- Entangled Tensions of Intimacy, Trust and the Social” Workshop, University of Bergen, Norway.
- 2011 *In documents we trust: secret police files in the rehabilitation of the repressed in Mongolia* American Anthropological Association.
- 2011 *A most important issue: the slow extermination of the Buddhist establishment in early socialist Mongolia*. International Conference, the Anthropology of Political Violence, St. Andrews.
- 2010 *The language of violence: remembering counter-revolutionaries and traitors in socialist Mongolia*. Ideals, Narratives and Practices of Modernities in Former and Current Socialist Countries, Cambridge.
- 2010 *Archived relations: repression, rehabilitation and the secret life of documents in Mongolia*. The political life of documents, Cambridge.
- 2009 *Archived relations: repression, rehabilitation and the secret life of documents in Mongolia*. American Anthropological Association.
- 2009 *Archiving Repression: State Relations, Political Violence and the Rehabilitation of Documents in Anthropology*. St. Andrews University.
- 2009 *Rethinking political violence: Buddhism and the state in early socialist Mongolia*. ACMS Research Fellowship Seminar, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- 2009 *Resorting to violence: the repression of Buddhist lamas in 1930s Mongolia*. Buddhism in Mongolia: Rebirth and transformation, Smith College.
- 2009 *Chinggis Khaan: an unexpected national hero*. Reinventing Eurasian identities: Ghengis Khan revisited, Kahn Institute, Smith College.
- 2008 *A ghost in the archives: repression, rehabilitation and the secret life of documents in Mongolia*. The Committee on Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, Harvard
- 2008 *Forgetting the lamas: the politicization of death in post-socialist Mongolia*. Contemporary Mongolia: Transitions, development and social transformations. University of British Columbia.

## **Selected Professional Activities:**

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### ***Service, administration and committees***

- MPhil Tutor & Senior Examiner; Social Anthropology, Cambridge (2014-2015)
- Director of Studies, Social Anthropology, Part II, Selwyn College (2014-2015)
- Paper Coordinator, Anthropology of Post-Socialist Societies (2014-2015)
- Judge, Wyse Prize for Undergraduate Dissertation Research (2013-2014)
- Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Social Anthropology (2012-2014)

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PhD Committee, Social Anthropology (2013)

PhD examiner, University of Cambridge and others (2012-Present)

Faculty Advisor for PhD candidate, Social Anthropology (2012-2016)

Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Social Anthropology (2012-2014)

Member, MPhil Admissions Committee, Social Anthropology (2012-2016)

Member, Executive Committee, Social Anthropology (2011-2016)

Board of Directors, Mongolia Society (2001-7)

Member, Hangin Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee (2003)

Chair, Nominating committee for Mongolia Society Board of Directors (2002)

Grant reviewer, numerous funding bodies (2001-present)

### ***Outreach and community engagement***

2015-16 Member, Nazarbayev University School of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Development, Collaboration and Exchange team. (M.A. External Advisor)

2010-12 International Scholar (Mentor), OSI / HESP Central Asia Research and Training Initiative

2008-9 Chair, Organizing Committee for MIASU Open Day, Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge

2004-6 Study Leader, Smithsonian Journeys tour of Mongolia,

2004 Instructor, Teacher Development Workshop, Summer School for Mongolian Social Work Teachers.

2004 International election observer, Mongolian Ih Hural (Parliament) elections.

2001 Organizer, Civic Education Project / TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) workshop on social science research methods, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

2001-3 Senior Research Advisor, Central Asia Research Initiative, Open Society Institute.

2001 International election observer, Mongolian Presidential elections.

2001 Member, Social Science Curriculum Reform in Mongolia Team

### ***Conference or panel organizer***

2012 Workshop organizer, *Thinking through oral history: anthropological findings and reflections on the oral history of twentieth century Mongolia*. University of Cambridge

2011 Panel organizer, *Trust as traces: the past in the present and emotive relationships*, American Anthropological Annual Meetings.



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- 2010 Conference organizer, *The Political Life of Documents: Archives, Memory and Contested Knowledge*, CRASSH, University of Cambridge
- 2009 Panel organizer, *The life of documents: new beginnings, new ends*, American Anthropological Annual Meetings.
- 2008 Co-organizer, International symposium on oral history, University of Cambridge
- 2007-10 Organizer and Convener, *Telling memories* discussion group, Department Of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge.
- 2006 Organizer, American Center for Mongolian Studies / Mongolia Society joint poster Session.
- 2003 Panel co-organizer, *Peaceful violence and violent peace: questioning boundaries and definitions*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings.
- 2003 Panel organizer, *Perceiving change and changing perceptions: reconceptualizing the transition in Contemporary Mongolia*, Association of Asian Studies, New York.

### **Language Skills:**

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Mongolian:

Strong reading, good speaking and writing;

Classical Mongolia (not a spoken language):

Strong reading, basic writing

German:

Introductory; learning