

Jonatan Kurzwelly

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Citizenship: German and Polish

Languages: Polish – native; German – proficient; English – proficient; Spanish – proficient; Portuguese – intermediate; Catalan – intermediate (passive); Russian – beginner; French – beginner

Education

PhD in Social Anthropology, University of St Andrews, UK, supervisors: Prof. Nigel Rapport and Prof. Mark Harris (2017)

MA in Anthropological Research, University of Manchester, UK (2013)

LLP Erasmus, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain (2011)

BA in Cultural Anthropology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland (2012)

XXXII Liceum Ogólnokształcące (high school), Poznań, Poland

Appointments

Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology Institute, University of Göttingen, Germany; Researcher in the ‘Sensitive Provenance’ research project (1 August 2020 – 31 July 2023)

Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State, South Africa (from 1 August 2020)

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State, South Africa (1 April 2017 – 31 July 2020)

Visiting Researcher at AHCISP (Anthropology and History of the Construction of Social and Political Identities), Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain (May-July 2019 and November 2019 - March 2020)

Publications

Books

Kurzwelly, J. (forthcoming 2021). Identities: A unified theory of social identities through life stories from Nueva Germania [working title]

Kurzwelly, J. and Escobedo, L. (Eds.). (in press 2021). Migrants, Thinkers, Storytellers: Making meaning and building life in Bloemfontein. HSRC Press, Cape Town.

Special journal issues

Kurzwelly, J., Rapport, N., and Spiegel, A. (2020). Encountering, Explaining and Refuting Essentialism. Anthropology Southern Africa.

Peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters:

Forthcoming

Jacorzynski, W. and Kurzwelly, J. (accepted for publication, 2021). La teoría de las necesidades de Bronislaw Malinowski: sic et non. In: Korsbaech, L. and Jacorzynski, W. (Eds.). Malinowski como filósofo y antropólogo. CIESAS Press, Mexico.

Kurzwelly, J., Escobedo, L. (in press, 2021). Identities, Categories and Life Stories. In: Kurzwelly, J. and Escobedo, L. (Eds.). Migrants, Thinkers, Storytellers: Making meaning and building life in Bloemfontein. HSRC Press, Cape Town.

Kurzwelly, J., Fernana, H. and Ngum, M. E. (in press, 2021). Radicalisation and Identity - The life story of Muhammad Elvis Ngum. In: Kurzwelly, J. and Escobedo, L. (Eds.). Migrants, Thinkers, Storytellers: Making meaning and building life in Bloemfontein. HSRC Press, Cape Town.

Escobedo, L., Kurzwelly, J., Agbedahin, K., (in press, 2021). Transcending simplistic categories: Life stories as a humanising method. In: Kurzwelly, J. and Escobedo, L. (Eds.). Migrants, Thinkers, Storytellers: Making meanings and building life in Bloemfontein. HSRC Press, Cape Town.

Published

Kurzwelly, J., Rapport, N., and Spiegel, A. (2020). Encountering, Explaining and Refuting Essentialism. Anthropology Southern Africa. [doi: 10.1080/23323256.2020.1780141](https://doi.org/10.1080/23323256.2020.1780141)

Kurzwelly, J, with Fernana, H. and Nhum, M. E. (2020) The Allure of Essentialism and Extremist Ideologies. Anthropology Southern Africa.
[doi:10.1080/23323256.2020.1759435](https://doi.org/10.1080/23323256.2020.1759435)

Kurzwelly, J. (2019). Photographic Complementarity and the Story of Abel Pavon. Visual Anthropology, 32(5), pp.460-475.
[doi:10.1080/08949468.2019.1671752](https://doi.org/10.1080/08949468.2019.1671752)

Kurzwelly, J. (2019). Being German, Paraguayan and Germanino: exploring the relation between social and personal identity. Identity: An International Journal of Theory and Research, 2/2019, pp.144-156.
[doi:10.1080/15283488.2019.1604348](https://doi.org/10.1080/15283488.2019.1604348)

Kurzwelly, J. (2019). Nowa Germania, Niemieckość, Paragwajskość i Problem Tożsamości Społecznych. Czas Kultury, (200) 1/2019, pp.125-136.

Gordon, R. and Kurzwelly, J. (2018). Photographs as Sources in African History. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History.
[doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.250](https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.250)

Also published in: Spear, T. (Ed.) (2019). The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Historiography: Methods and Sources. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780190698706.

Kurzwelly, J. (2012). Photography as a participatory method in visual anthropology. Perifèria, 17. [doi:10.5565/rev/periferia.372](https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/periferia.372)

Kurzwelly, J. (2012). Meksyk: fotografia partycypacyjna. Czas Kultury, 3/2012, pp.4-15, 66-71.

Not peer-reviewed, non-textual, or non-academic

Kurzwelly, J. (2020). [Gesundheitsvorsorge und Politik an Bord von Raumschiff Erde](#). Die Aktion.

Kurzwelly, J. (2015). [Encrypting Ethnography: Digital Security for Researchers](#). Savage Minds Blog.

(2015). Public space, our space - outcomes of the Res Publica workshops, published in: Slubfurt Profil 20.11.2015

(2010). Photographic exhibitions of the outcomes from the Views from Inside research project (in Poznań, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Katowice, and Gdańsk)

Media appearances

Tribuna in *Paraguay TV* [Paraguayan national television], aired on: 14.07.2018; Recording available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBWc98pEF2A&feature=youtu.be>

La Nacion [Paraguayan newspaper], 13.07.2018, "El fallido intento de crear una raza aria alemana en Paraguay," <https://www.lanacion.com.py/pais/2018/07/13/el-fallido-intento-de-crear-una-raza-aria-alemana-en-paraguay/>

Conferences

Conveying a panel at the EASA biennial congress, July 2020, entitled "Contemporary Essentialisms."

Presentation at the Congreso Catalán de Antropología in Tarragona, Spain, in January 2020, entitled "El encanto del esencialismo."

Presentation at the ASnA (Anthropology Southern Africa) annual conference in Port Elisabeth, South Africa, September 2019, entitled "Radicalisation, Essentialism and Reductionism."

Conveying a panel at the IUAES inter-congress in Poznań, Poland, in August 2019, entitled "Ethnographic Encounters with Reductionism and Essentialism [Commission on Marginalization and Global Apartheid]."

Presentation at the IUAES inter-congress in Poznań, Poland, in August 2019, entitled "Radicalisation as Identity Processes."

Organisation and coordination of a symposium entitled "Life stories of international migrants in Bloemfontein." This symposium was part of an edited book project. Contributors to the book presented and discussed their draft chapters. The symposium was organised with the support from the Institute of Reconciliation and Social Justice. (27.10.2018, University of the Free State, South Africa)

Presentation at the ASnA (Anthropology Southern Africa) annual conference in Gaborone, Botswana, September 2018, entitled: "Decolonising Identities: Reflections on teaching an undergraduate course at the University of the Free State," as part of the panel: *Doing Decolonisation: Reflections on Pedagogy and Anthropology in Central South Africa*.

Conveying a panel at the IUAES world congress in Florianopolis, Brazil, in July 2018, entitled "*Identities and alterity: encounters beyond essentialism*"; Co-convener: Dr Simone Toji.

Presentation at the IUAES world congress in Florianopolis, Brazil, in July 2018, entitled: "Social Identities and The Self: A theoretical grounding of social theory in philosophy."

Presentation at EASA annual conference in Milan, Italy, July 2016 - "*Epistemological implications of collaborative photography methodology, in the case of ethnographic research in Nueva Germania, Paraguay*" [Panel of the Visual Anthropology Network of EASA (VANEASA)]

Presentation at ASA annual conference in Durham, UK, July 2016 - "*The nationalised body: lifeworlds and embodiment of Germanness and Paraguayannes in Nueva Germania, Paraguay*"

Participating in the Collaborative Anthropology Week and Symposium at the University of St Andrews, UK, 2015

Volunteer organizational work at the IUAES World Anthropological Conference, *Evolving Humanity Emerging Worlds*, Manchester, UK, 5-10 August 2013

Participation at "The Group for Debates in Anthropological Theory" (GDAT) annual meeting entitled "The concept of neoliberalism has become an obstacle to the anthropological understanding of the twenty-first century", in Manchester, UK, on the 1 December 2012

Presentation at the "Patrzyć a Widzieć" anthropological conference - "Fotografia partycypacyjna" in Poznan, Poland, on 25 May 2012

Co-organizing the "Patrzyć a Widzieć" anthropological conference in Poznan, Poland, on 24-25 May 2012

Teaching

Lecturer for the undergraduate ANTD2614 "The Anthropology of Identity" course at the University of the Free State (co-designing the curriculum and coordinating with Christian Williams; first semester 2020)

Co-organising and facilitating a three day long postgraduate writing workshop, together with staff and students from anthropology departments from the University of the Free State, North West University, University of Pretoria, and Witwatersrand University (9-11.08.2019)

Lecturer for the Postgraduate Honours course ANTA6824 "Introduction to Visual Anthropology" at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (designing curriculum and lecturing; second semester 2019)

Lecturer for the Postgraduate Research Seminar at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (first and second semester 2019)

Lecturer for the undergraduate ANTD2614 "The Anthropology of Identity" course at the University of the Free State (co-designing the curriculum and coordinating with Christian Williams; first semester 2019)

Lecturer for postgraduate honours class ANTI6844 "Anthropological Perspectives on Migration and Refugees" at the University of the Free State (co-designing the curriculum and coordinating with Christian Williams; second semester 2018)

Organising and supervising a fieldwork practice for third year undergraduate students at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (26-29.04.2018, Phillipolis, South Africa)

Master Class lecture on "Introduction to Phenomenology," for staff and postgraduate students at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (22.03.2018)

Lecturer for the undergraduate ANTD2614 "The Anthropology of Identity" course at the University of the Free State (co-designing and coordinating with Christian Williams; first semester 2018)

Lecturer for postgraduate honours class ANTI6844 "Anthropology of Identities" at the University of the Free State (designing the curriculum and lecturing; July-November 2017)

Lecture on "Photography as an Ethnographic Tool" for third-year anthropology students at the University of the Free State (07.09.2017)

Lecturer for ANTD2614 "The Anthropology of Identity" undergraduate module, at the University of the Free State (codesigning and coordinating with Christian Williams; first semester 2017)

Lectures on "Theories of Nationalism" for the SA2901 "An Anthropological Understanding of Today's World" module at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Saint Andrews (second semester, 2017)

Tutor for the ID1003 "Great Ideas 1" interdisciplinary module at the University of St Andrews (first semester, 2016)

Workshop leader: "Structuring your argument, writing and editing your draft", CAPOD, University of St Andrews (14.10.2016)

Workshop leader: "Structuring your argument, writing and editing your draft", CAPOD, University of St Andrews (24.02.2016)

Tutor for the SA1002 "Ways of Thinking" module at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of St Andrews (second semester, 2015)

Tutor for the SA1001 "Anthropology In The World" module at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of St Andrews (first semester, 2015)

Workshop Leader for the EU funded international project "AKTYWATOR": Leading a series of 3 workshops on photography and ethnography in Germany, Poland and Slovakia (Summer 2015)

Guest lectures and seminars

"El encanto, las formas, y los peligros del esencialismo" - Guest lecture for the Gender, Identity and Diversity Research Group (GENI - Grup de Recerca en Genere, Identitat i Diversitat), University of Barcelona (Spain, 05.03.2020)

"Encontrando, explicando y refutando el esencialismo - Reflexiones sobre el encanto y el peligro de las identidades sociales" - Guest lecture for the Anthropology and History of the Construction of Social And Political Identities (AHCISP - Antropologia i Historia de la Construccio de les Identitats Socials i Politiques), Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain, 18.02.2020)

"The Allure of Essentialism." - Guest lecture at the Department of Anthropology and Cultural Studies, Universität Bremen; Combined with a staff meeting, discussing potential collaborations between the German Association for Social and Cultural Anthropology (DGSKA) and the Anthropology Southern Africa (ASnA) association. (Germany, 21-22.01.2020)

"¿Por qué es importante ser alemán, paraguayo o germanino? Identidad personal e identidades sociales en Nueva Germania, Paraguay." - Seminar at the Department of Anthropology, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain, 22.02.2019)

"Ser alemán, paraguayo y germanino" - Public lecture and debate in Nueva Germania at the Municipality (Paraguay, 30.06.2018)

"Ser alemán, paraguayo y germanino: explorando la relación entre identidad social y personal en el caso de Nueva Germania." - Public guest lecture at the Catholic University of Asunción (Paraguay, 22.06.2018)

"Fotografía como herramienta etnográfica" - Guest lecture for MA anthropology students at the Catholic University of Asunción (Paraguay, 22.06.2018)

"Being German, Paraguayan and Germanino: exploring the relation between social and personal identity" - Seminar at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (South Africa, 26.02.2018)

"Teoria tożsamości społecznych na przykładzie historii mieszkańców Nowej Germanii" - Guest lecture at the Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland, 15.01.2018)

"Theorie sozialer Identitäten, entwickelt an Geschichten von Menschen aus Nueva Germania, Paraguay" - Guest lecture during the "Migration und Minderheiten" colloquium at the European University Viadrina (Germany, 12.01.2018)

"Theory of social identities developed through people's stories from Nueva Germania, Paraguay" - Guest lecture at the Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Swakopmund; lecture delivered twice, in German and in English (Namibia 24.10 and 02.11.2017)

"Germanness, Paraguayanness and People's Stories in Nueva Germania" - Guest lecture at the Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan, 26.06.2017)

"Collaborative photography and epistemic complementarity" - Seminar at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (South Africa, 20.04.2017)

Supervision

Ongoing

PhD

[2019-] Jose Antonio Muñoz Mori - "Bullfighting and Catalan Nationalism", Department of Anthropology, Autonomous University of Barcelona (co-supervision with prof. Silvia Alvarez Litben)

MA

[2019-2021] Tammy Fray - "Coloured nationalism and essentialist identity discourses on social media platforms.", Department of Anthropology and Department of English, University of the Free State (co-supervision with prof. Helene Strauss and dr Susan Brokensha)

[2018-2020] Chéri Matjila - "The 'Business' of Hair: The meaning of hair for Southern African Black women", Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (co-supervision with dr Christian Williams)

Completed

Honours [*a postgraduate degree in South Africa]

[2019] Jodi Mafaro - "The changing experiences of interracial romantic relationships in the Free State, South Africa", Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State

[2019] Thembi Hemene - "Racial Identity and Trust in Interpersonal Relationships," Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (co-supervision with dr Christian Williams)

[2019] Zikhona Ngqula - "Political Imagination in Rural Eastern Cape: Seeing South Africa from Agnes Rest," Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (co-supervision with dr Christian Williams)

Fellowships and grants

Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of the Free State [250 000 ZAR p.a., April 2017 - July 2020]

Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities grant for a short research project in Kazakhstan [2000 GBP, 2017]

Three year PhD scholarship from the University of St Andrews for the project: Collective Identities and Lifeworlds in Nueva Germania, Paraguay [university fees and a grant of 5000 GBP p.a., 2013-2016]

"Rector's award for the best students of the Adam Mickiewicz University" - one year scholarship [12 000 PLN p.a., 2011-2012]

Adam Mickiewicz University funding for the Views from Inside research project in Mexico and Guatemala [3500 PLN, 2010]; Additionally I obtained funding from private firms and corporations for this project, including King Cross Marcelin [5000 PLN] and SanDisk [equipment worth of 5000 PLN].

Research experiences

[ongoing] A comparative research in Namibia and Paraguay on social identities, with the use of storytelling and participatory photography, as part of the post-doctoral fellowship; a book is planned to be published as the main outcome of this project.

A collaborative research project with international migrants in Bloemfontein. Project led together with Luis Escobedo (researcher at the Institute of Social Justice and Reconciliation, UFS) and Sheikh Hamid Fernana (local imam and religious scholar at UFS). An edited volume is the main outcome of this research.

A follow up research in Paraguay, June-July 2018 – presenting and discussing my doctoral thesis with people from Nueva Germania, Paraguay.

Research in Kazakhstan on Ethnic and other identity minorities, with the use of collaborative storytelling and photography (funded by the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities, June – July 2017)

PhD fieldwork research in Paraguay (December 2013 – May 2015)

Paid social research for PBS DGA and IBE, investigating the level of primary school education in Poland (March – April 2012)

A self-initiated visual anthropology research project, entitled "Views from Inside", in Mexico and Guatemala. With support from professor Witold Jacórzynski (CIESAS, Mexico) and professor Jacek Schmidt (UAM, Poland). Research co-funded by Adam Mickiewicz University and sponsoring private institutions (June - August 2010)

Membership of professional bodies

Executive Council Member – Anthropology Southern Africa (ASnA)

Member - European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Member - International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)

Member - Marginalization and Global Apartheid IUAES Commission

Associate - Centre for Cosmopolitan Studies, University of St Andrews

Administrative, service and ad-hoc editorial work

Member of the executive council of the Anthropology Southern Africa Association. Post-doctoral representative. (09.2019-09.2021)

Postgraduate Honours Degree Coordinator at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (second semester 2019)

Reviewer of films submitted for the IUAES inter-congress in Poland (2019)

Member of the Departmental Postgraduate Committee in charge of renewal of Honours Programme at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Free State (2018-2019)

Member of the Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSocSci) Curriculum Renewal Task Team at the University of the Free State (2018)

Reviewer of articles submitted to journals: Anthropology Southern Africa, African Affairs, History and Anthropology, The Unfamiliar

Other skills and experiences

Assistant Warden at St Salvator's Hall, St Andrews (January 2016 – April 2017)

Residential Assistant during the International Summer Programme at the University of Saint Andrews (2015)

Driver's licence