

Anna Weichselbraun

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Academic Appointments

- 2018-2025 Universitätsassistentin (equivalent to assistant professor, fixed term, non-tenure track)
University of Vienna, Department of European Ethnology
- 2016-2018 Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow
Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation

Education

- 2016 PHD in Anthropology, University of Chicago
- 2012 MA in Anthropology, University of Chicago
- 2008 MASTER 1 in Anthropology, Sociology, and History, École Normale Supérieure and École
des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales
- 2006 BA in Individualized Study, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University

Publications

- 2023 “Wort für Wort. Bedingungen der Analyse diplomatischer Wortprotokolle als historische
Quellen.” (Word for Word. Analyzing diplomatic verbatim records as historical sources.)
In *Das Protokoll*. Eds. Peter Plener, Niels Werber, Burkhardt Wolf. J.B. Metzler.
- 2023 *Problematisieren und Sorgetragen. Kulturanalytische Konzepte von Öffentlichkeit und Ar-
beitsweisen des Öffentlichmachens* with eds. Mattias Beitzl, Christian Elster and Alexa Fär-
ber. Buchreihe der Österreichischen Zeitschrift für Volkskunde, Band 30.
- 2021 “In Code We Trust: On the Semiotics of Blockchain” *Kuckuck: Notizen zur Alltagskultur*
36.1: 62–65.
- 2020 “From Accountants to Detectives: How Nuclear Safeguards Inspectors Make Knowledge
at the IAEA.” *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 43.1: 120–135. (*PoLAR*’s most
downloaded article in 2020.)
- 2019 “Of Broken Seals and Broken Promises: Attributing Intention at the IAEA.” *Cultural An-
thropology* 34.4:503-528.
- 2014 “Language and Law.” (with Justin Richland) In *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*. Ed.
John Jackson. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2014 ““People Here Speak Five Languages!”: the Reindexicalization of Linguistic Minorityhood
Among Carinthian Slovenes in Vienna, Austria.” *Language in Society* 43.4: 421–444.

ACCEPTED, IN PRESS

- 2023 “Introduction: Technologies and Infrastructures of Trust,” with Ramah McKay and Shaila
Seshia Galvin. Special Issue co-edited with Shaila Seshia Galvin and Ramah McKay. In
Cambridge Journal of Anthropology, Winter 2023 (Volume 41, Issue 2).

2024 “Atomic Destruction.” In *Handbook of the Anthropocene*. Eds. Nathanaël Wallenhorst and Christoph Wulf. Springer Nature.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Revisions *The Order of Nuclear Things: Making Safeguards Technical at the IAEA* for consideration at Cornell University Press, Cultures of Expertise series.
“Coronatopes: Ritual Temporalities of the Covid-19 Pandemic” for submission to *Semiotic Review* as part of an issue organized with Stefan Groth on “Talk and Temporality.”

REVIEWS

2023 Nielsen and Nielsen, *Revisiting Trustworthiness in Social Interaction*. *Routledge Research in Language and Communication*. In *Language in Society*, 52.3 June.

2018 *Containment*. Directed and produced by Peter Galison and Robb Moss. Redacted Pictures, 2015. 81 minutes. In *Environmental History*, Volume 23, Issue 2, 2018: 393–396.

2015 Dan Jurafsky, *The Language of Food: a Linguist Reads the Menu*. In *Allegra Lab*, May 12.

2009 Gisèle Sapiro, ed. *Translatio. Le marché de la traduction en France à l’heure de la mondialisation*. In *Revue de Synthèse*, Dec.

Public Scholarship

2022 “Trust, truth, and the blockchain.” *Allegra Lab*, September.

2022 “Technologies of Trust: Introduction,” with Shaila Seshia Galvin and Ramah McKay. *Allegra Lab*, September.

2022 “Constitutions of Web3” with Joshua Tan, Max Langenkamp, Ann Brody, and Lucia Korpas. Metagov.org.

2021 “Chronotopos Corona.” *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Volkskunde*, LXXV.1:81-85.

2020 “Corona Chronotopes.” *Cultural Anthropology Fieldsights*, Editor’s Forum on Covid-19, April 27.

2018 “Not Talking about Disarmament at the IAEA: How Nonproliferation Rules Ensure That Nuclear Weapons Are Here to Stay.” *Anthropology News*, 59.4:42-43.

2017 “Don’t Assume Trump Is More Responsible with Nuclear Weapons than North Korea.” *The Guardian*, Jul 6.

2017 “‘Crisis Talk’ in Crisis and Nuclear Scholars’ Responsibility to Imagine.” *First 100 Days: Harvard STS Blog*, Apr 14.

2015 “Increasing Transparency at the IAEA Archives.” *Issue Brief No. 4*, Washington, D.C.: Wilson Center Nuclear Proliferation International History Project. Mar 3.

Research Groups and Affiliations

since 2023 Academic advisor, Tech Diplomacy Network

since 2021 Scientific partner of Regional Research Consortium “Verification in a Complex and Unpredictable World: Social, Political and Technical Processes” (VeSPoTec) with RWTH Aachen,

	Forschungszentrum Jülich, and Universität Duisburg-Essen
since 2021	Contributor to interdisciplinary research collective Metagovernance Project
2019-2023	Member of research collaboration on “Trust” with Shaila Seshia Galvin (Geneva Graduate Institute) and Ramah McKay (University of Pennsylvania)
2019-2021	Member of working group “The State Multiple” at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies of the University of Vienna
since 2018	Affiliate, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University
since 2010	Member of research network “Nuclear Proliferation International History Project” at the Wilson Center

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

2022-23	USC Berggruen Fellowship
Fall 2021	Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford University, The Europe Center
2018	Engaged Anthropology Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$4,675), PI
2018	Research Grant, History of the Nuclear Industry, Wilson Center (\$2,025), PI
2013-2014	Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, Co-PI (\$17,829)
2013-2014	International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (\$18,450), PI
2013-2014	Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$18,307), PI
2011	Wilson Center Nuclear Proliferation International History Project, ten-day immersion seminar in Allumiere, Italy. (Tuition, room, and board, and travel covered; estimated \$5000).

UNIVERSITY

2021	Stanford Post-Doc Exchange Mobility Fellowship, University of Vienna
2017	Sol Tax Dissertation Prize, for a dissertation which “combines highest intellectual merit with relevance to anthropology and action,” University of Chicago
2015	Social Sciences Division, Summer Grant, University of Chicago
2012	Roy D. Albert Prize for Best MA Essay in Anthropology, University of Chicago
2011	Leiffer Preliminary Research Travel Grant, University of Chicago
2009	Social Science Fellowship, University of Chicago (2009-2013, 2015-2016)

Invited Talks

2023	“Technologies of Trust: Experiments in Web3 Governance” Center for International Security and Cooperation Seminar, Stanford University, Feb 14. [VIDEO]
2023	“What’s Governing Web3?” USC Berggruen Fellows Talk, Center for Science, Technology, and Public Life, University of Southern California, Feb 1.
2022	“The Verification Regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency: Between Politics and Technology” Prof. Dr. Malte Götsche’s graduate seminar “Approaches to Current Arms Control Challenges,” RWTH Aachen University, Jun 13.

- 2020 “Technologies of Trust: The Semiotics of Blockchain” Anthropology and Sociology Department Seminar Series, Graduate Institute Geneva, Oct 20.
- 2019 “Verhängnisvolle Innovationen in der Wissenproduktion: IAEA Nuclear Safeguards.” Workshop: Modern Bureaucracy and Innovation, University of Vienna, Dec 12-13.
- 2019 “Making the World Safe for Nuclear Weapons: Bürokratische Sichtbarkeitspraktiken an der IAEA.” Talk at Department of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, University of Graz, Dec 5.
- 2019 “On the Problem of Dual-Use in Nuclear Science and Technology.” Workshop at Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna, Nov 12.
- 2019 “A Critical Genealogy of Nuclear Safeguards,” Geschichtskontor, Historisches Seminar, Universität Zürich, Apr 16.
- 2018 “The Half-Life of Bureaucratic Objectivity,” Kauffman Lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, Mar 22.
- 2018 “Of Broken Seals and Broken Promises,” Department of Anthropology Discourse Lab, UCLA, Feb 28.
- 2017 “Temporal Grammars of Nuclear Expertise: Forestalling the Future of Disarmament,” LSA Bicentennial Theme Semester Symposium: The Future of War and Peace, University of Michigan, Nov 9.
- 2017 “On the Semiotics of Boredom,” Semiotics Workshop, University of Chicago, Jun 1.
- 2017 “Knowledge Change at the IAEA: the State Level Concept and Bureaucratic Objectivity,” Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Sep 28.
- 2016 “IAEA Nuclear Safeguards: Bureaucratic Possibilities and Constraints for Verification Practices,” Program on Science and Global Security, Princeton University, Dec 14.
- 2015 “Artifacts and Practices of ‘Technical Independence’ at the IAEA’s Department of Safeguards,” Konrad Lorenz Institute, Klosterneuburg, Austria, Jun 9.
- 2015 “Negotiating the Technical/Political Divide at the IAEA,” Doktoratskolleg, “The Sciences in Historical, Philosophical and Cultural Contexts,” University of Vienna, May 27.

Conference Participation

PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2022 Roundtable “Filing Culture: The Management of Anthropological Materials” with Nick Seaver, American Anthropological Association, Seattle, WA, Nov 9-13.
- 2022 “Sprechen und Zeitlichkeit” with Stefan Groth, 43. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Empirische Kulturwissenschaften, Regensburg, Apr 4-7.
- 2019 “Materiality, Meaning, Agency and Value (Double Panel)” with Hannah Chazin and Colin Halverson, Society for Social Studies of Science, New Orleans, LA, Sep 4-7.
- 2018 “Revisiting *The Network Inside Out*: Form, Substance, and Practice among Institutions” with Jessica O’Reilly, American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, Nov 14-18.
- 2017 “Technocracks: Loose Nuclear Epistemics” with Vincent Ialenti, American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, Nov 30-Dec 3.
- 2017 “STS After Truth: Narrative, Translation, and Advocacy” with Davide Orsini, Society for Social Studies of Science, Boston, MA, Aug 30-Sep 2.

- 2016 “Stereo-Types: Voicing Persons, Entities, and Concepts through Graphic Artifacts” with Keith Murphy, American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, Nov 16-20.
- 2016 “Architectures of Anticipation: Expert Collaborations and Mediations” with Vincent Ialenti, Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Meeting, Ithaca, NY, May 13-14.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- 2022 “Jetlag und Schleudertrauma in der ‘Corona-Zeit’” 43. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Empirische Kulturwissenschaften, Regensburg, Apr 4-7.
- 2021 “Trust and its Technological Mediation” American Anthropological Association, Baltimore, MD, Nov 17-21.
- 2021 “Risk and Uncertainty in Nuclear Knowledge Production at the IAEA” Société Internationale d’Ethnologie et de Folklore, Helsinki, Jun 19-24.
- 2021 “Gendering the IAEA? Nuclear Bureaucracy as Eunuch” International Studies Association, April 6-9.
- 2020 “Blockchain as Semiotic Infrastructure for Truth” Digital Truth Making, 7th conference of the Section “Digitization in Everyday Life” of the German Association of Cultural Anthropology and Folklore Studies (dgv), Oct 7-9.
- 2019 “Practical Applications of the Critical: Anthropology as “Think Tank”?” American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, BC, Nov 20-24.
- 2019 “What Does the Seal Say? Making Meaning in Nuclear Treaty Verification,” Society for Social Studies of Science, New Orleans, LA, Sep 4-7.
- 2018 “No Accents, No Affects: Producing the ‘Civil Voice’ of the IAEA,” American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, Nov 14-18.
- 2018 “The Boring Document: Semiosis, Abduction, and Affective Effects,” Opaque Media Workshop, UC Irvine, Apr 6-7.
- 2018 “Challenging Nuclear Norms: Negotiations for a Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons,” International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, Apr 4-7.
- 2017 “Bureaucratic Objectivity at the IAEA and the Technical/Political Distinction,” American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, Nov 30-Dec 3.
- 2017 “In Defense of Bureaucracy: Heroes of the Administrative State,” Society for Social Studies of Science, Boston, MA, Aug 30-Sep 2.
- 2017 “Controlling People, Controlling Knowledge: the Early Development of Nuclear Safeguards,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Arlington, VA, Jun 22-24.
- 2017 “Making Nuclear Boring: Developing Ways to Contain Nuclear Technologies,” Making the World Nuclear After Hiroshima, Stanford University, May 22-23.
- 2016 “The Boring Document: Semiosis and Affective Effects,” American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, Nov 16-20.
- 2016 “How Does the IAEA Know? Safeguards Inspectors, Collaboration and Bureaucratic Objectivity,” Society for Cultural Anthropology, Ithaca, NY, May 13-14.
- 2016 “Language as Semiotic Technology at the International Atomic Energy Agency,” Michiganigan, University of Chicago, May 6-7.
- 2015 “The IAEA Inspector’s Bible: Safeguards Experts’ Paperwork in a Digital Age,” American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, Nov 18-23.
- 2014 “Limits of Compliance and Compliant Limits: Boundaries and Truth-Claims at the IAEA,”

American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, Dec 3-7.

- 2014 “Nuclear Experts at the IAEA: Safeguards Inspectors and Pre-NPT Verification Efforts,” Nuclear Experts and Nuclear Expertise in a Global Context after 1945, Berlin, Oct 7.
- 2013 “The Limits of Technical Knowledge: Producing Legitimacy at the IAEA’s Safeguards Department,” American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, Nov 20-24.
- 2012 “The Discursive Production of Technical Independence at the International Atomic Energy Agency,” Sites of Regulatory Knowledge, INFRIS, INRA SenS, Paris, Jun 21-22.
- 2011 “Austria Just Says No (to Eastern European Power Plants): Legacies of the Radionuclide Contamination Threat,” American Anthropological Association, Montreal, QC, Nov 16-20.

Campus Talks

- 2022 “Vertrauen in Blockchain. Ein Bericht aus Silicon Valley (Trust in Blockchain. A Report from Silicon Valley),” Department of European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Jan 13.
- 2019 “Technologien des Vertrauens (Technologies of Trust),” Department of European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Jun 6.
- 2018 “Interrogating the Technical/Political Distinction as Cultural Fact at the IAEA,” Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, Jan 22.
- 2017 “Epistemic Values: Bureaucratic Objectivity at the IAEA,” Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, Feb 16.

Teaching Experience

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, UNDERGRADUATE

- 2021-22 Language and/as Culture (Sprache und/als Kultur)
- 2021 Historical Methods: Complaint (Historische Methoden: Beschwerden, BürgerInnen und Bürokratie)
- 2020-21 Linguistic Anthropology Methods (Sprache und Interaktion aus ethnographischer Perspektive)
- 2020 Introduction to current research in European Ethnology (Forschungsfelder der Europäischen Ethnologie)
- 2020 BA Thesis Seminar (BA Seminar)
- 2019-2020 Historical Methods (Historische Methoden)
- 2019 Language and Culture (Sprache und Kultur)

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, GRADUATE

- 2022 Departmental Colloquium: Weather/Knowledge (Wetter/Wissen) co-organized with Christian Elster
- 2021-22 On the End of the World (Vom Ende der Welt)
- 2021 Trust (Vertrauen). Held as Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) course together with Prof. Shaila Seshia Galvin at the Geneva Graduate Institute
- 2020-21 Chronotopes (Chronotopos)
- 2019-2020 Experts (Experten)

- 2019 From Atom to Anthropocene (Vom Atom ins Anthropozän)
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
- 2019 International Security in a Changing World, graduate and undergraduate, co-instructor
TEACHING ASSISTANT
- 2016 Anthropological Methods, University of Chicago, graduate
2015 Human Rights Core Sequence, University of Chicago, undergraduate
2012 Introduction to Anthropological Theory, University of Chicago, undergraduate
2011 Power, Identity, Resistance, University of Chicago, undergraduate
2009 Introduction to Anthropology, Sciences Po, undergraduate

Service to the Profession

Journal manuscript review, *American Anthropologist*, *HAU*, *Language in Society*, *Catalyst*, *Journal of Material Culture*
Book proposal review, MIT Press
CASTAC David Hakken Prize Committee (2019-2021)
Review of abstracts submitted to Society for Linguistic Anthropology for 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association

Department/University Service

Editor, Blog of the Department of European Ethnology (2021-2022)
Curricular commission, Faculty of Historical and Cultural Sciences (since 2019)
Pedagogy committee (2019-2021)
Research data management compliance coordinator (since 2019)
Biweekly speaker series coordinator, Stanford University (2017-2018)
Linguistic anthropology lab coordinator, University of Chicago (2015-2016)

Advocacy

Labor organizer, *Graduate Students United* at the University of Chicago
Co-Founder of *hollaback!* (renamed to *Right To Be* in 2022), grassroots non-profit organization that combats identity-based harassment

Language Skills

English (speaking, reading, writing): fluent
German (speaking, reading, writing): fluent
French (speaking, reading, writing): fluent

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

European Association of Social Anthropologists

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

Society for Social Studies of Science