

# ANNA WEICHSELBRAUN

Department of European Ethnology  
University of Vienna  
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## 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

## Academic Appointments

- 2018-2024 Universitätsassistentin (research and teaching postdoc)  
University of Vienna, Department of European Ethnology
- 2016-2018 Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow  
Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation

## Publications

- Forthcoming “From Accountants to Detectives: How Nuclear Safeguards Inspectors Make Knowledge at the IAEA.” *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*.
- 2019 “Of Broken Seals and Broken Promises: Attributing Intention at the IAEA.” *Cultural Anthropology* 34.4:503-528.
- In preparation “No Accents, No Affects: Producing the ‘Civil Voice’ of the IAEA” for submission to *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*
- In preparation “Queering Bureaucracy” for submission to *Historische Anthropologie*
- In preparation *The Nuclear Order of Things: Bureaucracy, Objectivity, and Boredom at the IAEA* for consideration at Cornell University Press
- 2018 Review of *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.
- 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.

## Public Scholarship

- 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 Cooperation

- since 2019 Member of Research Collaboration “Trust” with Shaila Seshia Galvin (University of Geneva)
- since 2019 Member of Working Group “The State Multiple” at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies of the University of Vienna
- since 2010 Member of Research Network “Nuclear Proliferation International History Project” at the Wilson Center

## Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

- 2018 Engaged Anthropology Grant, for returning to field site to present research results, Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$4,675)
- 2018 Research Grant, History of the Nuclear Industry, Wilson Center (\$2,025)
- 2013-2014 Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation (\$17,829)
- 2013-2014 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (\$18,450)
- 2013-2014 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$18,307)
- 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

- 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 Paper Presentations

- 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 IAEO.” 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

- 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

- 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,” Michigan State University, 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 International Atomic Energy Agency,” 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, SITES Labex, 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

- 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

### INSTRUCTOR

- 2020 Research Fields (Forschungsfelder), University of Vienna, undergraduate
- 2020 BA Thesis Seminar (BA Seminar), University of Vienna, undergraduate
- 2019-2020 Historical Methods (Historische Methoden), University of Vienna, undergraduate
- 2019-2020 Experts (Experten), University of Vienna, graduate
- 2019 Language and Culture (Sprache und Kultur), University of Vienna, undergraduate
- 2019 From Atom to Anthropocene (Vom Atom ins Anthropozän), University of Vienna, graduate
- 2019 International Security in a Changing World, Stanford University, undergraduate and graduate

### 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*
- Journal manuscript review, *Language in Society*
- Journal manuscript review, *Catalyst*
- Book proposal review, MIT Press
- Biweekly speaker series coordinator, Stanford University
- Linguistic anthropology lab coordinator, University of Chicago

## Department/University Service

- Curricular Commission, Faculty of Historical and Cultural Sciences (since 2019)
- Teaching materials committee (since 2019)
- Research data management compliance coordinator (since 2019)

## Advocacy

- Labor organizer, *Graduate Students United* at the University of Chicago
- Co-Founder of *hollaback!*, grassroots non-profit organization that combats gender-based harassment

## Language Skills

English (speaking, reading, writing): native

German (speaking, reading, writing): native

French (speaking, reading, writing): fluent

## Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde

European Association of Social Anthropologists

International Studies Association

Society for Social Studies of Science

Society for Cultural Anthropology

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

## References

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