

Hedwig Amelia Waters

Anthropologist, PhD

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PERSONAL PROFILE & RESEARCH FOCI

A highly self-motivated and intellectually-curious researcher capable of identifying, implementing and publically-conveying innovative research insights on the nexus of economic and socio-cultural transformation. Over three years' ethnographic experience living and working with diverse rural populations, often in political-sensitive topics or regions such as pastoral herders affected by large-scale mines; sex workers and plastic surgery patients; illegal wildlife smugglers; black market middlemen; or anti-government protestors. A proven ability to identify unique research insights from rural Mongolia that are of interest to global audiences, communicating them through both individual and team-based initiatives, incl. individual and group blogs, photography and art exhibition participation. An award-winning writer.

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| ■ Economic transformation | ■ Political Movements | ■ Environmental Relations |
| ■ Financialisation & Debt | ■ Grassroot 'Populisms' | ■ Medicinal Plants |
| ■ Price formation | ■ The Commons & Sharing | ■ Supply Chains |
| ■ Moral Economies | ■ Il/legalities | ■ Anthropocene |
| ■ Plastic Surgery & Reproductive Technologies | ■ Gender, Beauty & Body Image | ■ Construction of Medicinal Industries |
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EDUCATION

09/2014 – 02/2019

University College London | London, United Kingdom

PhD: Anthropology

Supervisor: Professor Rebecca Empson

Thesis Title: *'Living from loan to loan': tracing networks of gifts, debt and trade in the Mongolian borderlands*

- Doctorate was carried out within the research team 'Emerging Subjects of the New Economy' with four other researchers investigating the subjective effects of the 2011-2014 mining boom in Mongolia
- Research team funded through European Research Council Consolidator Grant under the direction of Professor Rebecca Empson

10/2010 – 06/2014

Free University Berlin | Berlin, Germany

M.A.: Social and Cultural Anthropology

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Dilger

Thesis Title: *The Impact of Globalization on Beauty and Body Ideals in Contemporary Mongolia*

- Final GPA: 1,3 on a scale of 1 to 4 ('A' equivalent)
- Included ten months of fieldwork funded by a Fulbright Fellowship (see 'Awards and Accomplishments')

09/2004 – 12/2008

George Washington University | Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

B.A.: Anthropology

Supervisor: Dr Patricia Kelly

Thesis Title: *Transcending Gender: Gender Dynamics within a German Intentional Community*

- Magna Cum Laude, Anthropology Honors and Dean's list (four semesters)
 - Final GPA: 3.69; Major GPA: 3.79
 - Included non-degree work at Humboldt University, Berlin
 - Included non-degree work at School for International Training in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (see 'Research Experience')
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RELEVANT RECENT EMPLOYMENT

01/2023 – 01/2025

Postdoctoral Fellow | Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic

- 24-month research project with in the Asian Studies Department funded by a European Commission European Research Area (ERA) Postdoctoral Fellowship (see 'Awards and Accomplishments')

08/2022 – 12/2022

Senior Researcher | Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic

- Five-month position in preparation for ERA Fellowship
- Includes funded fieldwork in Mongolia

03/2021 – 12/2021

Postdoctoral Fellow | International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, Netherlands

- Ten-month fellowship at Leiden University intended for the completion of the book manuscript 'Economic Transformation in the Mongolian Borderlands' (see 'Publications')

02/2019 – 01/2020

Postdoctoral Fellow & Teaching Fellow | University College London, London, United Kingdom

- Lecturer, organiser, marker and student supervisor for undergraduate and master's courses on 'The Anthropology of Capitalisms' (see 'Teaching Experience')
- Restructuring of PhD thesis into book manuscript with UCL Press and journal articles (see 'Publications')
- Maintenance of 'Emerging Subjects' blog and online presence

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Books:

2023. *Moral Economics Transitions in the Mongolian Borderlands: A proportional share*. London: UCL Press.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

2022. Building Merit—The Moral Economy of the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Rural, Post-Socialist Eastern Mongolia. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* **64**(2).

2018. The financialization of help: moneylenders as economic translators in the debt-based economy. *Central Asian Survey* **37**(3), 408-418. Winner of 2019 Irene Hilgers Prize (see 'Awards and Accomplishments').

2016. Erotic Capital as Societal Elevator: Pursuing Feminine Attractiveness in the Contemporary Mongolian Global(ising) Economy. *Sociologus* **66**, 25-52.

2013. On Marriage and Mutton: The Difficulties of the First Field Experience. Cambridge University student-reviewed anthropology journal *Imponderabilia* **2013**, 41-43.

2012. Globalizing Beauty on the Gobi Desert. *Anthropology Now* **4**(3), 67-74.

Other Relevant Publications:

Summer 2022. Collateralising Mongolia's Wildlife. *IIAS Newsletter* **92**.

15/05/2017. Revisiting History: Debt and Protest during the Manchu Period. *UCL Emerging Subjects Blog*.

28/03/2016. The 'Slow Violence' of Inaction: On the Apathy towards Air Pollution. *UCL Emerging Subjects Blog*.

22/01/2016. Living on Loans. *UCL Emerging Subjects Blog*.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2022 – European Research Area (ERA) Postdoctoral Fellowship

- Awarded prestigious funding by European Commission within Horizon Europe's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for research project PLANTECON
- 24-month project on medicinal plant supply chains in Mongolia

2020 – Horizon 2020 Seal of Excellence

- Awarded by European Commission for highly ranked project proposal within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for proposed project on Herder Earth Rights

2020 – Bayly Prize Finalist

- A finalist with cash prize (£250) awarded by Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland
- Awarded for distinguished doctoral thesis in an Asian subject falling within the scope of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society or of Modern Asian Studies

2019 – Irene Hilgers Memorial Prize

Winner of best article published by a junior scholar in the preceding four issues of *Central Asian Survey* (£500)

2014 – UCL Studentship

Fully-funded PhD scholarship funded by European Research Council

2010 – Fulbright Fellowship

Funding for ten months of self-initiated ethnographic study (\$20,000)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Invited Guest Lecturer

- February 2022 – Lecture ‘Economy, reciprocity, value’ on course ‘Introduction to Social Anthropology’ for undergraduate students in Humanitarian Studies at Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London, UK
- September 2021 – Lecture ‘Illegal moral economies’ on course ‘Schwarzgeld and Schattenwirtschaft [Black money and shadow economies]’ for graduate students in Anthropology at University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Course Convener/Lecturer

- 2019 – 2021: Regular lecturer on course ‘The Anthropology of Capitalism(s)’ for undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Anthropology, University College London, UK
- 2018 – Academic tutor on course ‘Theoretical Perspectives in Social Anthropology and Material Culture’ for undergraduate students, Department of Anthropology, University College London, UK

HONORARY AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

2020/03 – 2022/05

Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Anthropology, University College London

2020/02 – 2020/07

Visiting Researcher, Mongolian and Inner Asian Studies Unit, Department of Anthropology, University of Cambridge

2019/09

Visiting Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS

June 2023 to December 2023 – Mongolia (Gobi desert, Eastern Mongolia, Northern Mongolia) as ERA fellow

August 2017 to September 2017 – Eastern Mongolian (Khalkhgol Soum), Inner Mongolia (Amgalanbaatar, New Barag Left Banner; New Barag Right Banner) as PhD scholar

August 2015 to December 2016 – Central Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar), Eastern Mongolia (Choibalsan; Khalkhgol Soum), Inner Mongolia (Zamiin-Üüd/Erlia; Manzhouli) as PhD scholar

March 2011 to January 2012 – Central Mongolia (Arkhangai), Eastern Mongolia (Sukhbaatar), Southern Mongolia (Khanbogd, Ömnögovi) through Fulbright Scholarship

August 2006 to December 2006 – Northern Mongolia (Darkhad Depression, Hövsgöl), Southwest Mongolia (Bayankhongor) through Students in International Training (SIT)

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH – Native language

GERMAN – Second native language

MONGOLIAN – Fluent speaking, reading, writing (Cyrillic Script); Basic writing (Mongolian Traditional Script)

RUSSIAN – Passive knowledge