

## Kate McGurn Centellas, Ph.D.

Croft Associate Professor of Anthropology & Associate Chair  
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### Professional Experience

- Associate Chair**, Department of Sociology & Anthropology 2017-present
- Croft Associate Professor of Anthropology**, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Mississippi 2015-present
- Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology**, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Mississippi. 2009-2015
- Postdoctoral Research Associate**, National Science Foundation-funded project “The Social Ecology of Participation Customs: Cooperation and Competition in Multidisciplinary Research Centers,” Steve Fifield, P.I., Delaware Education Research & Development Center, University of Delaware. 2008-2009
- “Medicine, Science & Society,” Adjunct Lecturer** 2007  
Fall Semester, Departments of Anthropology, Sociology, and the Health Studies Certificate Program, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA.
- “Social Science Research Methods,” Adjunct Lecturer** 2007  
The Integrated Henry Luce Semester Program for environmental, natural, and social scientists, Environmental Studies Department, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA.
- “Introduction to the Anthropology of Medicine and Science,” Starr Lecturer** 2007  
Spring Quarter, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. Lectureship awarded to six outstanding graduate students per year to teach a course of their own design.

### Education

- Ph.D.:** Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. 2008  
Dissertation title: “For Love of Land and Laboratory: Nation-Building and Bioscience in Bolivia.” Professors Jean Comaroff and John Kelly, co-chairs.
- Exchange Scholar:** History of Science Program, Harvard University. 2003  
Spring semester coursework covering scientific objects, the figure of the “scientist”, history of scientific categories, the philosophy of biology, and creative academic writing strategies.
- M.A.:** Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. 2002  
Thesis title: “Anthropology’s Ghosts and Salvage Genetics: Embedding Anachronistic

Anthropology in Human Genetics.”

**B.A.:** The College, University of Chicago.

1999

Dual concentrations in biology and anthropology. Graduated with general honors in biology, departmental honors in anthropology, Phi Beta Kappa

## Publications

### *Articles*

- 2014 “A Culture of Solidarity?: Bolivian-Iranian Hospitals and Theory from the South.” Submission as part of a special issue entitled “Extending theory, rupturing boundaries: Reproduction, health and medicine beyond north-south binaries.” *Medical Anthropology*. DOI: 10.1080/01459740.2014.911295
- 2013 “Calibrating Translational Cancer Research: Collaboration without consensus in cross-disciplinary laboratory meetings.” Co-authored with Steve Fifield and Regina Smardon. Published online ahead of print by *Science, Technology and Human Values*. 10.4.2013.
- 2013 “Cameroon is Just Like Bolivia!: South-South Scientific Collaboration and the Construction of Equivalency,” *Information & Culture* (49:2).
- 2011 “Sun God Pharma: Bolivian Pharmaceuticals and Symbolic Power.” *Eä – Journal of Medical Humanities & Social Studies of Science and Technology* 3(1): <http://issuu.com/eajournal/docs/sun-god-pharma-bolivian-pharma>
- 2010 “The Localism of Bolivian Science: Tradition, Policy, and Projects.” *Latin American Perspectives*, 37 (3): 160-175.

### *Other Publications*

- 2016 “Trojan Horse Aid: Seeds of Resistance and Resilience in the Bolivian Highlands and Beyond.” Susan Walsh. Montreal, QC: Queen’s University Press (2015). Book review for *American Anthropologist*.
- 2013 “Intimate Indigenities: Race, Sex, and History in the Small Spaces of Andean Life.” Andrew Canessa. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press (2012). Book review for *Journal of Anthropological Research*.
- 2011 “Medical Practices in Bolivia: Indigenous, Western, or Natural?” *Revista: The Harvard Review of Latin America* <http://www.drclas.harvard.edu/publications/revistaonline/fall-2011/medical-practices-bolivia>
- 2008 “Unequal Cures: Public Health and Political Change in Bolivia, 1900-1950.” Ann Zulawski. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press (2007). *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 13(1): 249-250.

### *Book Manuscript*

*Plural Science: Epistemology and Politics in Postneoliberal Bolivia*. (Review: Cornell University Press; 90,000 words)

*Articles under review or in progress*

“Epistemic Prejudice and Health Inequalities: The Case of Mississippi.” First author; with John Green, Emma Willoughby, and Miller Richmond. (under review)

“Fried Chicken Politics: Toward a Political Economy of Obesity in the Deep South.” With Emma Willoughby (first author; drafting)

“The Politics of Technohealth in Bolivia: Space and Intimacy.” (preparing for submission; completely drafted)

“The Microsociology of Interdisciplinarity.” Co-authored with Regina Smardon and Steve Fifield. (Under Review)

“Somos Autonomistas de Siempre’: University Politics & Governance in Bolivia.” Co-authored with Miguel Centellas. (Drafting)

**Conference Papers & Invited Lectures**

The Statistical Politics of Maternal Death, paper to be presented as part of panel on Motherhood in Latin America, LASA2018, Barcelona, Spain (also organizer & chair of panel) 2018

Fielding Knowledge not Harassment: Promoting Safer Field Schools  
Invited presenter; COGEA panel, AAA 2017, Washington, D.C. 2017

The Politics of Technohealth in Bolivia (presented in Spanish)  
Bolivia Section invited panel: LASA 2017, April 2017, Lima Peru 2017

Fieldwork, Children, and Gender: roundtable discussion  
Featured panelist: LASA 2017; April 2017, Lima, Peru 2017

Global Health Grand Rounds, University of Mississippi Medical Center 2016

Postneoliberalism and Embodiment  
Invited Roundtable Session: LASA 2014, May 2014, Chicago IL 2014

South-South Collaboration in Environmentalism and Medicine  
Invited lecture, Departments of Environmental Studies and Anthropology  
Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 2014 2014

The Americas After Chavez: The Case of Bolivia  
Roundtable presentation at the 2013 AAA Annual Meeting, November 2013, Chicago IL 2014

Snakes on the Altiplano: Geography, Culture, and Knowledge at the Bolivian Antivenin Laboratory.  
Presented at the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 2013, Mérida, Mexico. 2013

“Somos Autonomistas de Siempre’: University Politics & Governance in Bolivia.”  
Presented with Miguel Centellas at the Southern Political Science Association Meeting, January 2013, Orlando, FL 2013

- A Culture of Solidarity?: Bolivian-Iranian Hospitals and Theory from the South  
Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2012,  
San Francisco, CA 2012
- “Cameroon is just like Bolivia! Enactment of expertise and the construction of equivalency in  
South-South Collaborations.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting,  
Montreal, QC. 2011
- “The Microsociology of Interdisciplinarity.” (with R. Smardon and S. Fifield). American  
Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV 2011
- “Sun God Pharma: Bolivian Pharmaceutical Circulation and Symbolic Meaning.” Presented at  
the 109<sup>th</sup> AAA Meetings, November 2010, New Orleans, LA. Also organizer and chair of panel  
“Pharmaceutical Meanings: The Circulation of Legitimacy and Knowledge.” 2010
- “National and International Science: Perspectives from the Autonomous Universities  
in La Paz and Santa Cruz, Bolivia.” Presented at LASA2010, October  
2010, Toronto, CA. Also organizer and chair of panel “Science, Education, and Social Change  
in Latin America: Comparative Perspectives.” 2010
- “Science, Sovereignty, and Social Crisis: The Influence of Bioscientists in Bolivia.”  
Paper presented at the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting,  
Washington, D.C., October 2009. 2009
- “‘Outside we autoclave, ultraviolet sterilize, all of that’: The fluid boundaries of  
Bolivian molecular biology laboratories.” In preparation for the Fifth Laboratory  
History Conference, June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. 2009
- “Social Network Analysis and Systems Perspectives in Studies of Collaborative  
Science & Technology Research.” Co-authored with Steve Fifield and Regina Smardon;  
Presented at the American Evaluation Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado. 2008
- “The Social Ecology of Participation Customs: Comparing Two Case Studies.”  
Paper presented with Regina B. Smardon, Steve Fifield, and Jennifer Koester at  
as part of Science, Knowledge, and Technology Refereed Roundtable Session,  
103<sup>rd</sup> Annual American Sociological Association Meeting, Boston, MA. 2008
- Below presented as Katherine McGurn*
- “Sociable Biologists: Creating Community Among Bioscientists in La Paz,  
Bolivia.” Paper delivered at the 2007 Congress of the Latin American  
Studies Association, Montréal, Canada. 2007
- “Anthropology and the Unexpected.” Guest lecture, Introduction to Latin  
American Studies, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA. 2007
- “Llamas, Snakes, & Scientists: Ethnography as a Research Tool in Health Studies.”  
Talk presented to anthropology and sociology faculty at Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA. 2007
- “Routines within chaos: Quotidian laboratory practice during the ‘revolutionary epoch’  
in Bolivia.” Paper presented as part of the panel “Mundane conflict in a revolutionary

- epoch: Bolivian cultures of resistance in the new millennium,” 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA (Also panel co-organizer).
- “Biociencia en Bolivia: Teoría, Fortalezas, y Sugerencias.” Invited public lecture given to Bolivian researchers and personnel at the La Paz office of the IRD, a French governmental aid agency. Discussion focused on evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of Bolivian research programs, per the IRD’s request. 2006
- “Special Blood and Deadly Venom: Allegories of the Nation at a National Antivenin Laboratory.” Paper presented as part of the panel “States of Nature, States of Violence: ‘Resources’ and Factionalism in Bolivia,” 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C. (Also panel chair and organizer). 2005
- “Cuddly Collas and Reptilian Cambas: Immunologically Unifying Bolivia at the National Health Laboratories (INLASA).” Draft of Chapter 1 of dissertation, presented at the Workshop on Science, Technology, Society and the State, University of Chicago. 2005
- “Ciencia en Bolivia.” Talk presented to members of the Instituto de Biología Molecular y Biotecnología (IBMB) at UMSA, La Paz, Bolivia. 2005
- “Ciencia en Bolivia y Antropología.” Poster presented at the IBMB Student Conference, La Paz, Bolivia. 2004
- “Por qué Antropología?” Talk given to freshman agronomy students at the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA), La Paz, Bolivia. 2004
- “‘There is Nothing Bolivian Anymore’: Neoliberalism, Biomedical Research, and Citizenship in Contemporary La Paz.” Paper presented to the History of Medicine Working Group, History of Science Department, Harvard University. 2003
- “Oscillating Scales and Telescoping Time: Reaching for ever-evaporating categories in comparative molecular genomics.” Presented as part of the panel “Studies in the Anthropology of the Ungraspable,” 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C. 2002

## Press

- Featured in an episode of the National Geographic series “The Story of Us With Morgan Freeman” filmed on location in Bolivia. 2017
- Consultant to a report by Sanjay Gupta on innovation in healthcare in Bolivia, CNN 2017
- Hastings, Tinsley. “Students Gain Valuable Experience During Summer in Bolivia.” Published online on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and featured on the front page of the University of Mississippi’s website (<http://news.olemiss.edu/?s=bolivia>). The same story was also featured in the Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 football program. 2016
- Knef, Annabelle. “Ole Miss Students and Faculty Host Global Health Symposium.” Published on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 online and in the print edition of The DM, the daily student paper at the University of Mississippi. 2016  
(<http://thedmonline.com/copy-chief-um-students-and-faculty-host-health-symposium/>)

Bryant, Tracy. "Biologists are from Mars, chemists are from Venus? UD study explores how scientists from different fields work together." Story published online in UDaily, the daily online news outlet at the University of Delaware. Story also featured in *Messenger*, the alumni magazine of the University of Delaware, Vol 16(2).  
 Stable URL: <http://www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2008/apr/disciplines043008.html> 2008

### **Fellowships, grants, and awards**

NSF REU Site Proposal: Social Science Methods in The Andes: Approaches to Social & Ecological Change (submitted) 2017

College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Grant, University of Mississippi  
 Funds to write a major (\$350,000 budget) NSF grant over the summer 2017

Faculty Internationalization Grant, Office of Global Engagement, University of Mississippi  
 Travel to Bolivia to enhance partnerships with local institutions 2016

McLean Institute CEED grant, research into Mississippi-Iran healthcare collaboration 2015

Course Development Grant, Sally M. Barksdale Honors College 2012

College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Award, University of Mississippi 2010, 2011

Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (3CT) pre-doctoral fellow. 2006-7

Co-coordinator: Workshop on Science, Technology, Society, and the State, University of Chicago, Council on Advanced Studies. 2005-6

Awarded National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant #0314063 for anthropological fieldwork in La Paz, Bolivia. 2003

Co-awarded the Albert Prize by the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, for best Master's Thesis, Academic Year 2001-2002 (shared prize). 2003

Awarded a Fulbright-Hays Overseas Dissertation Research Fellowship for anthropological fieldwork in La Paz, Bolivia. 2003

Awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. 2001

Named as an alternate for a Jacob A. Javits Graduate Fellowship; offered Fellowship in Summer 2001 (declined in favor of National Science Foundation Fellowship). 2001

Awarded travel grant of \$1,200 for preliminary summer research to Bolivia by the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago. 2001

Awarded a University Fellowship for Graduate Study, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. 2001

## Teaching Experience

Developed & taught a range of courses including:

- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (three formats: lecture, honors, and seminar)
- Cultural Anthropology: History and Theory (required course for majors)
- Gender & Kinship in Latin America
- Introduction to Latin American Studies
- Anthropology of Biomedicine
- Anthropology of Public Spectacle
- Anthropology of Science & Nature
- Introduction to Science & Technology Studies
- Research Design & Methods
- Field Methods in the Andes (taught in Bolivia)
- Culture and Politics in the Andes (taught in Bolivia)
- Ethnographic Methods
- Graduate Anthropological Theory
- Key Topics in Global Health

### *International Teaching and Project Management*

- Co-developed an ethnographic field school in La Paz, Bolivia (budgeting, logistics, project development)
- Pilot program with 12 students from the Universidad Católica Boliviana and the University of Mississippi completed summer 2011.
- Second season May-June 2012
- Third season June-July 2016
- Fourth season June-July 2017
- Designed as a theoretical/practical course with complementary classroom and field components
- Students develop an original research question and research design, then carry out their research after extensive hands-on training in research design and social scientific methods
- Partnered with local intellectuals, NGOs, government institutions, and others for hands-on training, including visits to an intercultural birthing center, an indigenous collaborative high altitude climatological project, an ecotourism project in the Amazon, and a company town in a very remote sector of the Altiplano.
- Public archives of digital collaborative ethnography at <http://olemiss-bolivia.tumblr.com> and [www.bfs2016.blogspot.com](http://www.bfs2016.blogspot.com)

### *Mentoring/ Advising*

Mentor and advise students writing undergraduate honors and graduate student theses including (over 20 theses directed):

- “Healthcare and Syrian Refugees in Jordan: A study of gender disparities in refugee camps,” (Croft Institute, fieldwork based, developing for co-publication)
- “Venezuela’s Healthcare Crisis: how generalizable are the causal factors for collapse?” (Croft Institute)

- “Cuban Doctors in Ecuador: an anthropology of regional collaboration,” (Croft Institute Undergraduate Thesis, fieldwork based, developing for co-publication)
- “Bolivian Community Justice and Models of the State.” (Croft Institute Undergraduate Thesis, fieldwork based, winner best Latin American thesis for the Institute 2012-2013).
- “Project MESHNET: Governance and Surveillance in an alternate network.” (M.A. thesis, fieldwork based)
- “Global Governance in Ethiopian Higher Education.” (M.A. thesis, fieldwork based)
- “Legalized Prostitution and Human Trafficking: The Case of Brazil” (Croft Institute for International Studies, fieldwork based)
- “Chile’s Seismic Culture and Post-Disaster Citizenship.” (Croft Institute for International Studies, winner best Latin American thesis for the Institute 2011-2012)
- “Toxic Landscapes: The aftermath of the oil spill in the Ecuadorian Amazon and the U.S. Gulf Coast.” (Undergraduate honors thesis, fieldwork based)
- “Identity and Body Modification Among Argentines.” (Croft Institute for International Studies, undergraduate honors thesis)

## Service Activities

Involved in outreach and service including:

- Anthropology coordinator, program external review (2016-2017)
- Provided theoretical justification for the Constellations Initiative Grant; collaborated with over 50 partners from every school in revising the framework; also a member of the inaugural steering committee
- Search committee chair, Croft/Anthropology Korea Foundation search (2016)
- Active in developing the Society & Health Minor and affiliated faculty (2015-present)
- Primary faculty member for the Global Health concentration, Croft Institute
- Enhanced exchange partnerships between the Universidad Católica Boliviana and the University of Mississippi
- Opened an internship opportunity for students at a rural health clinic in Santa Cruz, Bolivia
- Coordinated a campus global health event and working group to facilitate interdisciplinary and inter-career stage collaboration (2016-present)
- Program Track Chair, “Health, Medicine, and Body Politics,” Latin American Studies Association 2014 meeting
- Reviewer for several journals, including *Cultural Anthropology*, *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, *Science, Technology, and Human Values*, *Information & Culture*, *Social Studies of Science*, *Social Science & Medicine*, and *The Global South*
- Reviewer for several publishers, including Wiley-Blackwell and Rowman & Littlefield
- Officer, Health, Science, and Society section, Latin American Studies Association
- Website manager, Health, Science, Society section, Latin American Studies Association
- Departmental Honors Committee
- Steering Committee for the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, University of Mississippi
- Fulbright Campus Committee
- Croft Institute for International Studies Curriculum Committee
- Croft Institute Scholarship committee
- Worked with the Mississippi Air National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) to develop stronger links between universities in Mississippi and Bolivia



- Through the SPP briefed a group of Choctaw leaders on Bolivian identities and current events prior to an indigenous leadership exchange
- Coordinated a visit of indigenous Aymara leaders to the University of Mississippi for a two-day conference on global indigenous leadership (2010)
- Planned, coordinated, and ran a visit of Aymara and Quechua scholars to the University of Mississippi to discuss the integration of community justice and traditional knowledge with Western legal norms in Bolivia (2012)

### Other Skills

- Fluent in Spanish
- Extensive field experience in Bolivia
- Reading proficiency in French, Italian, Portuguese
- Proficient in a wide array of social and natural science research methods
- Active in sections of professional associations including the AAA, 4S, ASA, and LASA

### References

Jean Comaroff  
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