

# JESSICA MADISON PÍSKATÁ

Curriculum Vitae  
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## **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. Anthropology, University of California at Santa Cruz, 2021  
M.A. Anthropology, University of California at Santa Cruz, 2015  
M.F.A. Creative Writing (Poetry), The New School, 2010  
B.A. Creative Writing, University of Southern California, 2007

## **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- 2021 Visiting Assistant Professor, Anthropology Department, Oberlin College

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Edited Volumes**

- 2021 “The *Energitei* Body: Energy Centers and Geosocial Health in Mongolia.” In *Navigating Medicine, Health, and Ethnography in North and East Asia*. Ed. Manduhai Buyandelger and Mari Valdur (Forthcoming).

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

- 2021 “On Sacrifice, Desire, and Forgiveness at Altan Ovoo’s National Tahlilga.” In *Études mongoles & sibériennes, centrasiatiques & tibétaines (EMSCAT)*. Volume 52, 2021

### **Book Reviews**

- 2017 *Fear and Fortune: Spirit Worlds and Emerging Economies in the Mongolian Gold Rush* by Mette M. High. *Inner Asia* 19, issue 2 (2017): 315-17.

### **Web-Based Publications**

- 2018 (published as Madison, Jessica) “Golden Mountain, Iron Heap: A Poetic Ethnography of Extraction in Eastern Mongolia.” In *A Non-secular Anthropocene: Spirits, Specters and Other Nonhumans in a Time of Environmental Change*. More-than-Human. AURA Working Papers Volume 3, 2018. N. Bubandt, ed.

[https://anthropocene.au.dk/fileadmin/Anthropocene/MORE\\_THAN\\_HUMAN\\_vol.3.pdf](https://anthropocene.au.dk/fileadmin/Anthropocene/MORE_THAN_HUMAN_vol.3.pdf)

- 2018 (with Marissa J. Smith) “White Tower, Yellow Dog: Kheviin Boov as the Centerpiece of Exchange and Transformation—Tsagaan Sar Gift Index 2018.” *UCL Emerging Subjects Blog*.  
<https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/mongolian-economy/category/blog-series/tsagaan-sar-gift-index/>

### **Translations**

- 2020 “Grass Trilogy: 3 Poems by Ochirbatyn Dashbalbar.” trans. Jessica Madison Pískatá In *SAPIENS*. Earth Day 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue, Apr. 22, 2020.  
<https://www.sapiens.org/language/introduction-to-grass-trilogy/>

### **Poetry**

- 2010 (published as Madison, Jessica) “Two Poems by Jessica Madison.” *Augury Books*.  
<http://augurybooks.com/2010/12/30/2-poems-by-jessica-madison/>
- 2010 “Angelenos” *The Sonora Review* 34.

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2020 Chancellor’s Dissertation Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz
- 2019 Margaret Mead Journalism Fellowship to Attend LARB Publishing Workshop
- 2017 Field Research Fellowship, American Center for Mongolian Studies
- 2017 Visiting Scholar Fellowship, Aarhus University Research Foundation
- 2016 Research Grant, China and Inner Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies
- 2015 Language Fellowship, American Center for Mongolian Studies
- 2008 Creative Writing Fellowship, The New School

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2019 “Mongolian Geosocialities.” ACES Brown Bag, Hamilton Luger School of Global and International Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2017 “Golden Mountain, Iron Heap: A Poetic Ethnography of Extraction in Eastern Mongolia.” UC Berkeley Mongolia Initiative, Berkeley.
- 2017 “Golden Mountain, Iron Heap: Ethnography and Extraction in Eastern Mongolia,” American Center for Mongolian Studies Speaker Series, Ulaanbaatar.

### **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY & PARTICIPATION**

#### **Conferences Organized**

- 2016 UCSC Anthropology Department Graduate Student Conference: “Shapes, Colors, Contours.” UC Santa Cruz.

## **Panels Organized**

2018 “Humans and Others in the Post-Socialist World.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose.

## **Workshops Attended**

- 2021 University of Helsinki, Medical and Medicinal Margins in Inner Asia, Remote.
- 2021 Social Science Research Council Religion and the Public Sphere Summer Institute, Religion, Spirituality, and Environmental Crises, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2019 UC Santa Cruz Anthropology Department, Pedagogy Workshop, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 2019 UC Berkeley Mongolia Initiative, Points of Transition: Ovoo and the Ritual Remaking of Religious, Ecological, and Historical Politics in Inner Asia, Berkeley, CA.

## **Papers Presented**

- 2021 “The *Energitei* Body: Energy Centers and Geosocial Health in Mongolia.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, St. Louis MO.  
*\*cancelled due to COVID-19*
- 2020 “Seven Years on the *Shuudan*.” Eurasian Spaces Conference. UC Berkeley, Berkeley.  
*\*cancelled due to COVID-19*
- 2020 “On *Energi*” Annual Meeting of the Mongolia Society. Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
*\*cancelled due to COVID-19*
- 2019 “Radium Palace: Radium Palace: Radioactive Ecologies, Post-Atomic Futures and the Chain of Decay.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association and the Canadian Anthropological Society, Vancouver, BC.
- 2019 “On Sacrifice, Desire, and Forgiveness at Altan Ovoo’s National Tahilga.” Points of Transition: Ovoo and the Ritual Remaking of Religious, Ecological, and Historical Politics in Inner Asia. UC Berkeley.
- 2018 “Chains of Decay: Radioactive Half-Lives in two Post-Soviet Mining Towns.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA.
- 2017 “Golden Mountain, Iron Heap: A Poetic Ethnography of Extraction in Eastern Mongolia.” Non-Secular Anthropocene Conference, Aarhus University.
- 2016 “Opportunity, Degradation, and the Gendering of Space on a Mined Mongolian Landscape.” Central Eurasian Studies Conference, Indiana University.
- 2014 “The Yellow and the Black: Shamanic Dualism in Mongolia.” Energies Conference, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of California at Santa Cruz, Instructor of Record**

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Summer 2019, Summer 2020)

Teaching Writing in Anthropology (Fall 2019)

**University of California at Santa Cruz, Teaching Assistant**

Analysis of Field Materials (Winter 2020)

Religion and Visual Culture in China (Spring 2019)

Survey of Cultural Anthropology Theory (Winter 2017, Winter 2019)

Language and Culture (Spring 2016)

Anthropology of Children and Childhoods (Winter 2016)

Communicating Anthropology (Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2018)

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2015)

Land and Waterscapes (Winter 2015)

**Shildeg International School (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia) Instructor and Course Design**

Advanced Placement English Language and Literature (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

Poetry Consultant, American Repertory Theater, *The Story of the Weeping Camel* (in production)

Contributing Social Media Editor, Society for Cultural Anthropology (2020-2021)

Poetry Editor, Feral Atlas (2020)

<http://feralatlans.org/>

Reader, Golden Snail Opera, Performance at Aarhus University (2017)

**DEPARTMENTAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Instructor, Anthropology Writing Program (2019-2020)

Organizer, Emerging Genres Writing Workshop (2016-2017)

Organizer and Fundraising Coordinator, UCSC Graduate Student Conference (2016)

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Panelist, USC Peace Corps Alumni Panel, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. (2021)

Lecture, "Writing the Personal Essay: Forms, Methods, and Strategies." Mongolian National University of Education, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. (2018)

Lecture, “Teaching Writing in the United States.” National University of Mongolia, Orkhon Branch, Erdenet City, Mongolia. (2017)

Volunteer, Friends of Mongolia. (2017)

Presentation, “The Endless Knot: Discourses of Re-Enchantment in Post-Soviet Mongolia.” Peace Corps Connect Conference, San Francisco. (2015)

Instructor and Counselor, New Dariganga Children’s Camp, Sukhbaatar, Mongolia (2012)

Instructor and Counselor, “Dream Camp” at the Sukhbaatar Province Center for Children (2012)

Education, Peace Corps Mongolia Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force (2011-2013)

Volunteer, PEN America Prison Writers’ Program (2008)

Writing Tutor, 826LA Echo Park (2007)

### **RELATED EMPLOYMENT**

Writing Instructor, Academia English Language Institute, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2018)

Writing Instructor, Shildeg Mongolian-American Cooperation School, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2017-2018)

Peace Corps Volunteer, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, United States Peace Corps, Mongolia (2011-2013)

Writing Instructor, Education Unlimited, Berkeley, California (2008-2011)

Editorial Assistant, The Gothamist, New York, New York (2008-2010)

Editorial Intern, People Magazine, Los Angeles, California (2008)

Editorial Intern, LA Alternative Press, Los Angeles, California (2006-2007)

### **LANGUAGES**

**English:** Native-speaker proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension.

**Mongolian:** Advanced proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension.

**German:** Intermediate proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension.

**Czech:** Beginner/Heritage proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

2020 Oberlin College, Affiliated Scholar

2020 Society for Cultural Anthropology, Contributing Editor

2019 Alumna Los Angeles Review of Books Publishing Workshop

2019 Mongolia Society

2019 Soyuz: The Research Network for Post-socialist Cultural Studies

2016 Society for the Anthropology of Religion  
2016 American Anthropological Association  
2016 Society for Humanistic Anthropology  
2015 Association for Asian Studies  
2013 American Center for Mongolian Studies  
2011 United States Peace Corps Association

## **REFERENCES**

### **Mayanthi L. Fernando, Associate Professor (Dissertation Advisor)**

UC Santa Cruz Anthropology Department

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### **Anna L. Tsing, Professor**

UC Santa Cruz Anthropology Department

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### **Manduhai Buyandelger, Associate Professor**

MIT Anthropology

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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### **Melissa L. Caldwell, Professor**

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