Anna Weichselbraun

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Academic Appointments

2025	Gastprofessorin University of Vienna, Department of European Ethnology
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

2025	"Language Machines: Towards a Linguistic Anthropology of Large Language Models." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, (Introduction to Special Issue co-authored and co-edited with Siri Lamoureaux and Michael Castelle), December.
2025	"Human tests for machine models: What lies "Beyond the Imitation Game"?." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, (co-authored with Noya Kohavi), December.
2025	"Die epistemischen Affordanzen von Papier: Beobachtungen zur Digitalisierung eines Handbuchs." *Zeitschrift für Empirische Kulturwissenschaft. Journal for Cultural Analysis and European Ethnology* 121 (2): 231–52.
2025	"'How Will I Know?': Semiotic Indeterminacy, Transparency and Expectations of Sincerity in the Global Nuclear Order" in *Signs and Society* 13(1): 1-17.
2023	"Introduction: Technologies and Infrastructures of Trust," (co-authored with Ramah McKay and Shaila Seshia Galvin). Special Issue co-edited with Shaila Seshia Galvin and Ramah McKay. In *The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology* 41.2: 1–14.
2023	"Atomic Destruction." In *Handbook of the Anthropocene.* Eds. Nathanaël Wallenhorst and Christoph Wulf. Springer Nature. 1477–1481.
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. 31–45.
2023	*Problematisieren und Sorgetragen. Kulturanalytische Konzepte von Öffentlichkeit und Arbeitsweisen des Öffentlichmachens* with eds. Mattias Beitl, Christian Elster, Alexa Fär-

	ber, and Anna Weichselbraun. 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 Anthropology* 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.

Manuscripts in Preparation/Submitted

Under contract	*Nuclear Bureaucracy: IAEA Safeguards and the Epistemic Politics of Verification* at Cornell University Press, Cultures of Expertise series.

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

2024	"Nuclear Energy: From Dark Past to Green Future?" Roundtable discussion with Elisabeth Roehrlich, Stephen Gross, and Rosamund Johnston, RECET History and Social Sciences Festival: Green Transformations, 5 June. Podcast episode.
2024	"The Constitutions of Web3" with Joshua Tan, Max Langenkamp, Ann Brody, and Lucia Korpas. Metagov.org., https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2403.00081.
2022	"Trust, truth, and the blockchain." *Allegra Lab*, September.
2022	"Technologies of Trust: Introduction," with Shaila Seshia Galvin and Ramah McKay. *Allegra Lab*, September.
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
2021-2023	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

2025	Invited to interview for European Research Council Consolidator Grant competition
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 Göttsche'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 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

2025   "Beyond the Immaterial: Rethinking Signs and Language in the Age of Machines" with Britta Schneider, ELAN Inaugural Conference, Leiden, Nov 6-7.

2024   "LLMs and the Language Sciences: Material, Semiotic, and Linguistic Perspectives from STS and Linguistic Anthropology" with Siri Lamoureaux and Michael Castelle, EASST-4S, Amsterdam, Jul 16-19.

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.

2025   ""We Have Never Been Immaterial": Semiotic Ideologies under Conditions of Digital Transformation," ELAN Inaugural Conference, Leiden, Nov 6-7.

2025   "Crypto-Commons Imaginaries: Memes, Utopias, and the Future of the Internet," SIEF, Aberdeen, Jun 3-6.

2025   "Semiotic Technologies and the Ideational Materiality of Nuclear Law," Finding Nomos, UC Irvine, May 16-17.

2024   "Human Tests for Machine Models: Listening for the Echo of the Archive" with Noya Kohavi, EASST-4S, Amsterdam, Jul 16-19.

2023   Participation in Roundtable "Signs in Circulation: Infrastructure, Logistics, Storage" co-organized by Miyako Inoue and Michael Lempert, American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Nov 15-19.

2023   "Filing Culture" with Nick Seaver, American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Nov 15-19.

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 Interna-

tionale 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," Michicagoan, 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

2023-24, 2024-25	Introduction to European Ethnology (Einführung in die Europäische Ethnologie)
2023-24	Historical Methods: Conflict and Controversy (Historische Methoden: Konflikt und Kontroverse)
2023	Digital Ethnographic Methods (Digitale Ethnographische Methoden)
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, 2024	BA Thesis Seminar (BA Seminar)
2019-2020	Historical Methods (Historische Methoden)
2019	Language and Culture (Sprache und Kultur)

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, GRADUATE

2024	Journal Article Writing Practicum (Wissenschaftliche Schreibwerkstatt)
2023-24	Digital and Ethnographic Methods (Digitale und ethnographische Methoden)
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)

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

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Empirische Kulturwissenschaft: Ständiger Ausschuss für Forschungs-daten und -ethik, member since 2022

Review of abstracts submitted to Society for Linguistic Anthropology for 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association

CASTAC David Hakken Prize Committee (2019-2021)

Journal manuscript review, *American Anthropologist, HAU, Language in Society, Catalyst, Journal of Material Culture, Journal of Cultural Economy, Signs and Society*

Book proposal review, MIT Press
Book manuscript review, HAU

Department/University Service

Ersatzmitglied Mittelbaukurie, Historisch-kulturwissenschaftliche Fakultät (2024-2025)
Departmental Erasmus Coordinator (2023-2025)
Editor, Blog of the Department of European Ethnology (2021-2022)
Curricular commission, Faculty of Historical and Cultural Sciences (2019-2022)
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 organi-zation 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
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Empirische Kulturwissenschaften
European Association of Social Anthropologists
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Empirische Kulturwissenschaft und Volkskunde
Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et Folklore
Society for Linguistic Anthropology
Society for Social Studies of Science