

# Gordon Lewis Ulmer

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2019                    **Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology, Humboldt State University
- 2018-2019            **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Department of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University
- 2013-18                **Instructor of Record**, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2014-15                **Visiting Fellow**, National Amazonic University of Madre de Dios, Peru

## EDUCATION

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- 2018                    **Ph.D. in Anthropology**, The Ohio State University
- 2011                    **M.A. in Anthropology**, The Ohio State University
- 2009                    **B.A. in Anthropology** (with Departmental Honors); minor in Sociology, The University of Texas at Austin

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Environmental anthropology, applied anthropology, environmental health, illicit economies of labor, polluted waterscapes, health and embodied inequality, disposability and precarity, critical discard studies, infrastructures, resource extraction and biodiversity conservation, surfing, the Anthropocene, urban ecology, public health, migration, global development, qualitative methodology, Andes-Amazonia, Central America, Pacific Northwest

## FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2014-2015            **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad**  
U.S. Department of Education; \$44,141
- 2012-2013            **Foreign Language and Areas Study (FLAS) in Quechua (2<sup>nd</sup> year)**  
U.S. Department of Education; \$23,000

2011-2012 **Foreign Language and Areas Study (FLAS) in Quechua (1<sup>st</sup> year)**  
U.S. Department of Education; \$23,000

#### **GRANTS & AWARDS**

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- 2016 **Office of Energy & Environment Travel Grant**  
The Ohio State University; \$500
- 2015 **Edward J. Ray Travel Award**  
The Ohio State University; \$750
- 2013 **Office of International Affairs Travel Grant**  
The Ohio State University; \$4,300
- 2013 **Tinker Field Research Grant**  
Tinker Foundation; \$2,200
- 2013 **Elizabeth A. Salt Travel Award**  
The Ohio State University; \$500
- 2013 **Student Travel Award**  
Society for Economic Anthropology; \$650
- 2012 **Summer Institute for Research Design (SIRD) in Cultural Anthropology**  
NSF-sponsored tuition, room & board at Duke University Marine Lab
- 2012 **Center for Latin American Studies Travel Award**  
The Ohio State University; \$1,800 (Declined in order to attend SIRD)

#### **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

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Crews, Douglas E, Nick Kawa, Jeffrey H. Cohen, **Gordon L. Ulmer**, and Ashley Edes. 2019. Climate Change, Uncertainty, and Allostatic Load. *Annals of Human Biology*.

Kawa, Nick; **Ulmer, Gordon L.** and Sidney Silverstein. 2018. A Pretext for Plunder? Environmental Change and State-led Redevelopment in the Peruvian Amazon. *Anthropology Today* 34(2):14-17.

**Ulmer, Gordon L.** and Jeffrey H. Cohen. 2016. Ethnographic Inquiry in the 'Digitized' Fields of Madre de Dios, Peru and Oaxaca, Mexico: Methodological and Ethical Issues. *Anthropological Quarterly* 89(2):535-556.

**Ulmer, Gordon L.** 2015. Gold Mining and Unequal Exchange in Western Amazonia. *disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory* 24:1-23.

## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

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**Ulmer, Gordon L.** The Earth is Hungry: Existential Precarity and Disposable Labor in Amazonian Peru. Invited themed group submission for 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary jubilee issue of *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREP**

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Kawa, Nick and **Gordon L. Ulmer**. *In Prep*. Troubling Ecologies of the Anthropocene: Floods, Garbage, and Disease in an Amazonian Urban Settlement.

**Ulmer, Gordon L.** *In prep*. The Political Ecology of Gold Fever.

Cairns, Maryann, **Ulmer, Gordon L.** and Megan Brown (manuscript on Behavioral Analysis of Recreational Activities in Costa Rica, MERA Investigation)

**Ulmer, Gordon L.** and Maryann Cairns. Visualizing the Materiality of Water and Risk. In prep to Cultural Anthropology, Writing with Light Photo Essay Series.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

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**Ulmer, Gordon L.** (Forthcoming) 2020. Precarity, Migration, and Disposable Labor in the Peruvian Amazon. *The Handbook of Culture and Migration*, Jeffrey H. Cohen and Ibrahim Sirkeci, eds. Edward Elgar Publishing.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE (FULL APPOINTMENTS)**

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- 2019      **Living in the Anthropocene: Environmental Change & the Human Condition**  
Upper Level Course, Humboldt State University, Autumn 2019
- Argonauts of Human Life**  
Introductory Course, Humboldt State University, Autumn 2019
- Anthropology Internship**  
Lab and internship supervisory course, Humboldt State University, Autumn 2019
- 2015-2018      **Crisis! Anthropological Perspectives of Global Issues**  
Upper Level Capstone Course, The Ohio State University  
Autumn 2015; Spring 2016; Summer 2016; Summer 2017; Autumn 2017; Spring 2018
- 2013-2014      **Cultural Conflict in Developing Nations**  
Upper Level Capstone Course, The Ohio State University  
Autumn 2013; Spring 2014

## OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2018 Co-Instructor, **Capacitación de las Prácticas Éticas y el Protocolo del Estudio Epidemiológico de la Investigación MERA**  
Training program in anthropology, ethical social science research, and survey collection, Southern Methodist University
- 2017 Co-Instructor and course developer, **Music and Spanish in the Andes Language Learning Academy**  
Summer language and culture program, Center for Latin American Studies

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

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- 2019 **Paper Presentation**, “The MERA Investigation: A transdisciplinary approach to tropical beach management” with Erin M. Symonds, Pablo Rivera Navarro, Adriana Gonzalez, Javier Gallard, Megan Brown, Bonnie Mull, Jerzy O. Lukasik, Darner Mora Alvarado, Valerie J. Harwood, Mya Breitbart, Maryann R. Cairns, *20th International Symposium on Health-Related Water Microbiology*, September 15th-20th, 2019. Vienna, Austria
- 2018 **Invited Lecture**, “La multiplicidad de hogares en la Amazonía peruana”  
Universidad de Costa Rica, hosted by El Programa de Maestría en Antropología, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, San Jose, Costa Rica.
- 2017 **Paper Presentation**, “*La tierra tiene hambre* (Earth is hungry): Political ecologies of gold and disposable labor in the Peruvian Amazon” for panel “Conserving and Confounding Nature: The New Middle Grounds in Amazonia,” *American Anthropological Association Annual Conference*, November 29th-December 3rd, 2017, Washington D.C.
- 2017 **Paper Presentation**, “Troubling ecologies and creative adaptations: Living with floods in urban Amazonia” with Nick Kawa, *Ohio Latin Americanist Annual Conference*. October 20th-21st, 2017. Columbus, Ohio.
- 2016 **Invited Lecture**, “Precarious labor and neoliberal conservation in Western Amazonia,” Case Western Reserve University, hosted by the Social Justice Institute, November 12th, 2016, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 2016 **Paper Presentation**, “Contingent labor and occupational multiplicity in the Peruvian Amazon,” *American Anthropological Association Annual Conference*, November 16th-20th, 2016, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2016 **Conference and Workshop Co-Organizer**, “Feria de Idiomas” (Language Workshop) at the first annual Symposium on Indigenous Languages and Cultures of Latin America (ILCLA), hosted by the Center for Latin American Studies at The Ohio State University, October 13th-16th, 2016

- 2015 **Paper Presentation**, “Ethnographic inquiry in the ‘digitized’ fields of Madre de Dios, Peru and Oaxaca, Mexico: Methodological and ethical issues,” Roundtable session: Strange new techniques and familiar friends: Current trends in anthropology research methods, *American Anthropological Association Annual Conference*, November 18th-22nd, 2015, Denver, Colorado.
- 2013 **Paper Presentation**, “Gender habitus and the cultural production of livelihood disparities in Amazonia Peru,” *Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Conference*, Washington University in Saint Louis. April 11th-13th, 2013, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2012 **Paper Presentation**, “Ecotourism and extractive economies in Madre de Dios, Amazonia Peru,” *Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference on Nature/Society*. The University of Kentucky Political Ecology Working Group, April 13th, 2012, Lexington, Kentucky.

#### INVITED CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS

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- 2017 **Invited Lecture**, “Intermodalities of anthropological inquiry,” Methodological Colloquium hosted by College of Education and Human Ecology, The Ohio State University, April 7th, 2017, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2015 **Panel Discussant**, Interdisciplinary panel on ethnographic research: “Field methods seminar,” Hosted by Department of Spanish & Portuguese, The Ohio State University, September 9th, 2015, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2014 **Invited Lecture**, “Extraction, conservation, and contingent labor in the Peruvian Amazon,” *Andes/Amazonia Working Group brown bag lunch series*, The Ohio State University, March 5th, 2014, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2013 **Invited Lecture**, “Ethnographies of *la chamba* in Amazonia Peru,” *Tinker Talks*, Center for Latin American Studies, The Ohio State University, October 7th, 2013, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2010 **Paper Presentation**, “Andean literati: The politics of ethno-history and social memory,” *Folklore, history, and memory: Ireland and beyond*, Center for Folklore Studies, The Ohio State University, February 19th, 2010, Columbus, Ohio.

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK TIMELINE

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- 2019 MERA Project: Ethnographic research and surveys on water recreation and health in Costa Rica, Southern Methodist University (3 months)
- 2018 MERA Project: Ethnographic research and surveys on water recreation and health in Costa Rica, Southern Methodist University (4 months)
- 2017 Graduate Research Associate, Center for Latin American Studies, The Ohio State University
- 2016-present Ethnographic data analysis on relocation of residents in Belén, Iquitos, Peru. Collaborative Project with Nick Kawa, The Ohio State University (ongoing)
- 2013-2015 Ethnographic research on extraction/conservation in Madre de Dios, Peru for Ph.D. dissertation, The Ohio State University (18 months)
- 2013 Note taker/Transcriber for k-12 grade teacher focus groups, PAST Foundation (1 month)
- 2012 Summer Institute for Research Design in Cultural Anthropology, NSF-sponsored methods training program, Duke University Marine Lab (3 weeks)
- 2010-2011 Graduate Research Assistant, Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, The Ohio State University, Supervisor: Doug Nelson (2 years)
- 2010 Ethnographic research in Amazonia Peru for M.A. thesis, The Ohio State University (3 months)
- 2008 Ethnographic research in Amazonia Peru for honors project, University of Texas at Austin (3 months)

## SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES & PUBLIC OUTREACH

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- 2018-present **Student Mentor**, Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica
- 2018 **External grant reviewer**, Faculty grants at Centro de Investigaciones Antropológicas, Universidad de Costa Rica
- 2017 **Mentor**, Global Awareness Project, Granville High School, Columbus, Ohio
- 2015-2017 **Musician and Volunteer**, Andean Music Ensemble, The Ohio State University
- 2014-2015 **Student Mentor**, National Amazonic University of Madre de Dios, Peru

- 2014-2015     **Workshop Co-leader**, Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA): Conservation workshops for school-aged children in Amazonia Peru
- 2013-2014     **Diversity Committee Representative**, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University
- 2013           **Guest Speaker**, West Broad Elementary School, Columbus, Ohio: Conservation in the Amazon Rainforest
- 2013           **Volunteer**, YWCA Family Center, Columbus, Ohio
- 2010-2018     **Mentor**, Undergraduate Anthropology Mentor Program, Ohio State University
- 2008-2010     **Invited Participant**, Scientific Saturdays, Los Amigos Biological Station, Madre de Dios, Peru

#### **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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Qualitative Data Analysis Software (Atlas.ti; MAXQDA); Reference Management Software (Mendeley; Endnote); Digital Audio Workstation and Video Editing (Final Cut; Adobe Premiere; Pro Tools; Ableton Live); Basic website design (WordPress), recording (Livescribe pencasts, stereophonic field recorders), ODK and mobile devices; DSLR photography and editing software (Photoshop)

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Anthropological Association, Society for Applied Anthropology; Society for Economic Anthropology

#### **LANGUAGES**

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**English**- Native speaker  
**Spanish**- Advanced  
**Quechua**- Basic