

**Smoki Musaraj, PhD**  
**Curriculum Vitae**  
April 2023

Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Ohio University  
162 Bentley Annex  
Athens OH 45701

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**EDUCATION**

2012 Ph.D. - The New School, New York, NY, USA, Anthropology  
2004 M.A. - The New School, New York, NY, USA, Political Science  
2001 B.A. - Trent University, Peterborough, Canada, [B.A. with Honors] Cultural Studies  
and Political Studies  
1997 I.B. - Lester B. Pearson College, United World Colleges, Victoria, Canada

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS**

2020~ Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ohio University  
2023 Chaire Germain Tillon, Tomorrow Mediterranean, IMéRA Institute of Advanced Study,  
Aix Marseille University, France  
2014-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ohio University  
2022~ Affiliated Faculty, Mershon Center for International Security, Ohio State University  
2020-2021 Director, Center for Law, Justice, and Culture, Ohio University  
2021 Fellow, New York Public Library  
2015-2020 Director of Study, Anthropology Program, Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University  
2015-2020 Affiliated Faculty, Center for Law, Justice and Culture, Ohio University  
2015-2020 Affiliated Faculty, Wealth and Poverty Theme, Ohio University  
2012-2014 Postdoctoral Scholar, Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion,  
University of California, Irvine

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2020 New York Public Library Short Term Fellowship  
2019 Baker Fund, Ohio University  
2017, 2018 Humanities Research Fund, College of Arts and Sciences, OU  
2016 Research Apprenticeship Fellowship, Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University  
2015 Ohio University Research Committee Award, Ohio University  
2008 Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science and Humanities Research Council  
2008 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council  
2008 Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation  
2008 Dissertation Fellowship, The New School, New York, NY  
2007 Pre-dissertation Fellowship, Council for European Studies (CES), New York, NY  
2006-2011 University Teaching Fellowship, The New School, New York, NY  
2002 MacLaine Program Fellowship, International House, New York, NY

- 1997-2001 International Student Full Scholarship, Trent University (Canada)  
1995-1997 International Student Scholarship, Lester B. Pearson College (Canada)

#### AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 Stavro Skëndi Book Prize for Achievement in Albanian Studies  
2020 Outstanding Tutor Award, Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University  
2019 First Book Subvention Award, Association for East European, Eurasia, and Slavic Studies (ASEEES)  
2017 Distinguished Mentor Award Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University  
2012 Stanley Diamond Dissertation Award, The New School  
2001 Jack Matthews Award for International Awareness, Trent University (Canada)

#### PUBLICATIONS

##### Books

- 2021 Remitting, Building, and Restoring Contemporary Albania. (Co-edited with Nataša Gregorič Bon). Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2020 Tales from Albarado: Ponzi Logics of Accumulation in Postsocialist Albania. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.  
**Winner** of 2020 Stavri Skëndi Book Award for Best Book in Albanian Studies  
**Reviewed in:** *American Anthropologist*; *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*; *Anthropological Notebooks*; *Dissent Magazine*
- 2018 Money at the Margins: Global Perspectives on Technology, Inclusion and Design. [Co-edited with Bill Maurer and Ivan Small]. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books.  
**Reviewed in:** *JRAI Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*; *Revista da Antropologia a USCAR*; *American Ethnologist*

##### Peer Reviewed Articles

- 2024 “Housing as Payment: Construction, Speculation, and Financialization at the European Periphery.” *American Anthropologist* (forthcoming)
- 2019 “The Magic of Pyramid Firms: Political Cosmologies, Credibility and Collapsed Finance” *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*. 84(2): 179-200.
- 2018 “Corruption, Right On! Hidden Cameras, Satire and Intimacies of Anti-corruption.” *Current Anthropology*. 59 (S18): S105-S116.
- 2017 “Pyramid Firms and Value Transformation in Postsocialist Albania.” *Ethnologie Française*. (2): 321-330.

2011 “Tales from Albarado: The Materiality of Pyramid Schemes in Postsocialist Albania.” Cultural Anthropology. 26(1): 84-110.

### **Book Chapters**

2022 (With Matthew Rosen) “Tirana Visible and Invisible.” In Invisible Cities and the Urban Imagination. Edited by Benjamin Linder. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave MacMillan.

2021 “Temporalities of Concrete in a Postcommunist City.” In Remitting, Building, and Restoring the Contemporary Albania. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

2021 (With Nataša Gregoriç Bon) “Introduction: Remitting, Restoring and Building Contemporary Albania.” In Remitting, Building, and Restoring the Contemporary Albania. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

2018 (with Ivan Small) “Introduction: Money and Finance at the Margins.” In Money at the Margins: Global Perspectives on Technology, Inclusion and Design. Eds. Bill Maurer, Smoki Musaraj, and Ivan Small. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books (The Human Economy Series, Eds. Keith Hart and John Sharp).

2018 “Corruption Indicators in the Local Legal/Political Landscape: Reflections from Albania. In The Palgrave Handbook of Indicators in Global Governance. Eds. Deborah Valentina Malito, Gaby Umbach, and Nehal Bhuta. Gewerberstrasse, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

2015 “Indicators, Global Expertise, and a Local Political Drama: Producing and Deploying Corruption Perception Surveys in Albania.” In The Quiet Power of Indicators: Measuring Governance, Corruption, and Rule of Law. Eds. Sally Engle Merry, Kevin Davis, Angelina Fisher, and Benedict Kingsbury. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

2012 “Alternative Publics, Alternative Temporalities: Unofficial Collective Practices in Communist Albania’.” In Albania: Family, Society and Culture in the 20th Century. Eds. Andrea Hemming, Gentiana Kera, Enriketa Papa. LIT Verlag.

### **Editorially Reviewed Articles**

2016 “Shtëpi Evropjane për një të ardhme më të mirë.” (European Homes for a Better Future.) Përpjekja Vol 34 (1): 128-144.

2009 “Passport Troubles: Social Tactics and Places of Informal Transactions in Postsocialist Albania.” Anthropology of East Europe Review. 27(2): 157-175.

2008 “Pikëpyetje Antropologjike Mbi Korrupsionin.” (Anthropological Questions on Corruption) Polis (6): 4-14.

### **Blogs, Articles, and Podcasts**

2023 “[Letter from Ksamil: Creating Order Amidst the Chaos](#)” *Kosovo 2.0*. July 28, 2023.

2023 “[Ponzi Schemes in Postsocialist Albania](#).” Under the Table: An Anthropology of Corruption Podcast. With Aaron Ansell and Sylvia Tidey.

2021 “[Photographing Migration and Ethnicity at Ellis Island](#)” New York Public Library Doc Chat Episode 35.

2021 “[Migrants, Travelers, and Storytellers: Albanian-American Encounters in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century](#).” New York Public Library Blog.

2021 “[Doing an Anthropology of Corruption](#)” Allegra Lab. January 9, 2021.

2020 “[Teaching Capitalism in the Time of Corona](#).” *Anthropology News* website, July 31, 2020.

### **Book reviews and Review Essays**

2022 (with Matthew Canfield) “Book Reviews Editorial: Emerging Themes in Political and Legal Anthropology.” PoLAR: Journal of Political and Legal Anthropology. (45)2: 304-310.

2022 Review of The Fixer: Visa Lottery Chronicles by Charles Piot (with Kodjo Nicolas Batema), 2019. Durham, London: Duke University Press. Anthropological Notebooks.

2017 Review of Anthropology and Economy by Stephen Gudeman. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016. Current Anthropology 58 (6): 822-823.

2014 Review of Politics in Color and Concrete: Socialist Materialities and the Middle Class in Hungary. By Krisztina Fehérváry. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013. Current Anthropology. Vol 55(6): 832-833.

### **INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

2023 “The Global Superrich as a Cultural Problem.” (With Morgan Liu). Mershon Mondays. Mershon Center for International Security Studies. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH.

2022 “Judicial Reform at the Margins of Europe.” Mershon Mondays. Mershon Center for International Security Studies. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH.

- 2022 “Book Talk: Remitting, Restoring and Building Contemporary Albania.” Institute for Cultural Anthropology and Art. Tirana, Albania.
- 2021 “Book Talk: Ponzi Economics in Postcommunist Europe.” Harriman Institute. Columbia University. April 20.
- 2021 “Temporalities of Concrete: Housing Imaginaries in the Postcommunist City.” Plenary Session. Midwest Slavic Studies Conference. Ohio State University. April 16.
- 2021 “Book Talk: Tales from Albarado.” Balkan Circle. University of Texas, Austin. April 2.
- 2019 “Construction, Corruption, and Concrete: Lamenting Betonizim in Urban Albania.” Ecopolitics of Cement and Concrete: Third Annual International Anthropology of Concrete Workshop. Rice University, Houston, TX.
- 2018 “Materiality Turn in Albanian Studies.” Practices, Materiality, and Temporality in Albanian Studies. University of Tirana. Tirana, Albania.
- 2016 “Cynical Parody and Investigative Journalism as a Powerful Anti-Corruption Discourse in Albania.” Wenner-Gren Symposium: The Anthropology of Corruption. Sintra, Portugal. September 9-15.
- 2014 “Corruption Indicators, Global Governance and Local Political Drama.” Global Studies Seminar. Denison University, Granville, OH. October 13.
- 2013 “Corruption Perception Surveys and Afera Korruptive in Albania.” Global Governance by Indicators Workshop. European University, Florence, Italy. October 17-18.
- 2013 “The Magic of Pyramid Schemes: Gendered Discourses of Finance in early ‘90s Albania.” Cosmoeconomics Workshop. University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway. June 17-18.
- 2013 “Homes for a Better Future: Pyramid Scheme Circulations and The Paradox of Alienability/Inalienability of Homes in Postsocialist Albania.” Culture, Power, and Society Colloquium Series. Department of Anthropology and Center for European and Eurasian Studies. University of California, Los Angeles. March 14.

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

- 2023 “Mediterranean Urbanism: Governing Tourism and Real Estate Booms in Saranda (Albania) and Barcelona (Spain).” International Urban Symposium. Montecatini Terme, Italy. July 28-31.

- 2023 “Remittances, Kinship and the Rule of Law: Judicial Reform at the Margins of Europe.” AES/APLA Conference: Indeterminacy. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- 2022 Roundtable: Political and Legal Anthropology Under Review: An Invitation to Re-Think Our Parameters. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- 2022 “Settling for Unsettling Places: The Politics of Dwelling in Ambiguity” Discussant. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- 2022 “Remittances, Kin Ties, and the Rule of Law: An Ethnography of the Vetting Process in Albania.” Law and Society Association Annual Convention. Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2021 “Albanian Migrations, Past and Present.” Panel chair and discussant. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES). (Virtual) New Orleans, USA.
- 2020 “The Mediterranean City as a Temporality of the Future” *Anthropology and Geography: Dialogues Past, Present, and Future*. Royal Anthropological Institute. September 17.
- 2020 “Measuring Wealth, Reframing the Rule of Law” Development Today: Accumulation, Distribution, Surveillance. Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. July 20.
- 2019 “The Anthropology of Contemporary Economy and Finance.” ATA (THEM) Center. Kamëz, Albania. July 17.
- 2019 “Construction, Corruption, and Concrete: Lamenting *Betonizim* (Concrete-ization) in Urban Albania.” ASEEES Summer Convention. Zagreb, Croatia. June 15.
- 2019 “Speculating in Kind: Klering (barter) Payments and Construction Financing in Albania’s Construction Industry.” Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Annual Meeting. Harriman Center, Columbia University. New York, NY.
- 2018 “Construction, Corruption, and Concrete: Lamenting *Betonizim* (Concrete-ization) in Urban Albania.” North-east Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. NYU Jordan Center. New York, NY.
- 2017 “Speculating in Kind: Klering Payments and the Socialization of Risk in Albania’s Construction Boom.” International Urban Symposium: The Informal and the Formal in Times of Crisis: Ethnographic Insights. Corinth, Greece. July 7-9.
- 2017 “Corruption, Right On! Hidden Cameras, Cynical Satire, and Banal Intimacies of Anti-corruption.” American Ethnological Society Annual Meeting. Palo Alto, CA, March 31.

- 2016 “Speculating in Kind: Klering Payments and the Socialization of Risk in Albania’s Construction Boom.” American Anthropological Association, American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MI. Nov. 19.
- 2016 (Co-organizer with Sean Mallin) Panel: Properties of Speculation and Debt. American Anthropological Association, American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MI. Nov. 19.
- 2016 “The Magic of the Albanian Pyramid Firms: Gender, Ethnicity and Speculation in a Context of Low Finance.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Berkeley, CA. June 25.
- 2016 “Property, Law, and Speculation in the Making of a Mediterranean Gem.” SOYUZ (Society for the Postsocialist Cultural Studies) symposium. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL. March 12.
- 2015 “Property, Law, and Speculation in the Making of a Mediterranean Gem.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Denver CO.
- 2015 (discussant) Panel: Urban Financialization and Its Collapse. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Denver CO.
- 2015 “Syrian Refugees and the Question of Responsibility.” Faculty Panel. Ohio University. Sept. 16.
- 2015 “A Postcolonial Invention or a Battle for a New Market? Pushing Mobile Money at the Margins of Europe.” American Ethnological Society Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. March 14.
- 2014 (Organizer and Chair) Panel: Materialities and Socialities of Speculation: An Anthropology of Construction and Real Estate in Postsocialist Contexts. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. December 3-7.
- 2014 “*Fiks Fare* (Right On)! as an Ambivalent Whistleblower: Cynical Parody and Investigative Journalism as a Powerful Anti-Corruption Discourse in Albania. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. December 4.
- 2013 “Gambling Homes Through Ponzi Schemes.” Anthropology of Markets and Consumption Conference. University of California, Irvine. March 7.

#### **COURSES TAUGHT**

*Ohio University, 2014~*

##### Undergraduate:

Cultures of the Mediterranean

Economic Anthropology

Ethnographies of Global Capitalism

Anthropology of Bubbles, Crashes, and Crises  
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
Wealth and Poverty Seminar  
Colloquium on International Studies

Graduate Sections:

Ethnographies of Global Capitalism  
Cultures of the Mediterranean  
Economic Anthropology

*Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University, 2015~*

One-to-One Tutorials:

Anthropology of Corruption  
Economic Anthropology  
Anthropology of the Mediterranean  
Anthropology of Migrants and Refugees  
Research Proposal and IRB Application  
Thesis Writing

*The New School, New York, 2006-2011*

Undergraduate:

Cultures of Corruption  
Corruption and Transparency  
Idea of Culture  
Development and Media

Graduate:

Global Flows and the International Community

**UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Ohio University, Athens, OH**

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Anthropology Curriculum Committee (2014~)  
Promotion and Tenure Committee (2020~)  
Anthropology BRICKs (General Education) coordinator (2023~)  
Director of Study, Anthropology Program, HTC (2015-2020)  
Academic student advisor (2015~)  
Faculty advisor for the anthropology students club, OSAS (2018-2022)  
Budget and Merit Committee (2019-2022)  
Colloquium Committee (2017-2019)



### College and University

Director of Center for Law, Justice and Culture (CLJC) (2020-2021)  
Graduate Admissions Committee, CLJC (2018-2020)  
Provost Undergraduate Research Fund (PURF) Selection Committee (2019)  
Cutler Scholar Selection Committee (2018, 2019)  
Fulbright Selection Committee (2017, 2018)  
European Studies Academic Advisor (2017-2019)  
Center for International Studies Curriculum Committee

### **Professional Service**

Book Reviews Editor, *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (2022~)  
Program Chair Elect, Society for the Anthropology of Europe (2022~)  
Board of Directors, United World Colleges, Albania Chapter (2019~)  
Stavro Skëndi Book Award Committee Chair (2021-2022)  
Society for Economic Anthropology, Juror for Graduate Paper Award (2020, 2022)

### **PHD, MA, AND HONORS THESIS ADVISING**

#### M.A. AND B.A. THESIS SUPERVISION

Deontae Brown, *Economic and Cultural Lives of the Giza Necropolis*, Honors Tutorial College, (expected 2024)  
Elliot Smith, *A legal and discursive analysis of the recent challenges to the Migrant Protection Protocols*, Law, Justice, and Culture MA Program, (M.A. 2020)  
Madeleine Hordinski, *Politics, Art, and Dissent in Post-Fidel Havana*, Honors Tutorial College, (B.A. 2020)  
Sue Ryu-Yeon, *Periphery Life: Community Identity in Serrinha, Brazil*, Honors Tutorial College, (B.A. 2020, Boren Fellow 2021, Fulbright Fellow 2022)  
Stacie Carleton, *City not for Sale: Claiming Barcelona in the Midst of Tourism Massification*, Honors Tutorial College, (B.A. 2019)  
Sasha Estrella-Jones, *Food for all: A Study of Inclusivity of the Athens, Ohio Local Food Movement*, Honors Tutorial College, (B.A. 2017, Fulbright Scholar)

#### PH.D. AND GRADUATE THESIS COMMITTEES

Christiana Ampadu, International Development Studies, MA Exams Committee, 2018  
Lisa Trocchia-Balkits, Communications, PhD Dissertation Committee, 2017  
Zhejie Ding, Physics and Astronomy, PhD Dissertation Committee, 2017  
Mavis Nkansah, International Development Studies, MA Thesis Committee, 2017  
Guillermo Gomez, International Development Studies, MA Thesis Committee, 2016

## MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

Stanford University Press; Palgrave Macmillan; American Anthropologist; American Ethnologist; Cultural Anthropology; Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute; Anthropological Quarterly; American Political Science Review; Economic Anthropology; PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review; Focaal; Visual Anthropology Review; Studies in Comparative International Development

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association; Association for Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies Association for Political and Legal Anthropology; Law and Society Association; Society for the Anthropology of Europe; International Studies Association

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in Albanian, English, and French; Proficient in Italian and Spanish

## FIELDWORK AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

- 2022            Fieldwork: *Judicial Reform in Southeast Europe*  
Tirana, Albania, June-July
- 2021            Fieldwork: *Judicial Reform in Southeast Europe*  
Tirana, Albania, July  
Funded by the Center for Law, Justice, and Culture Research Fund
- 2021            Archival Research: *Albanian Resources at the New York Public Library*  
New York Public Library, New York, NY, June  
Funded by NYPL Short-term Fellowship
- 2019            Fieldwork/Archival Research: *Tales from Albarado: Ponzi Logics of Accumulation in Postsocialist Albania*  
Tirana, Albania, July-August  
Funded by the Baker Fund, Ohio University
- 2017            Fieldwork: *Construction, Speculation, and the Mediterranean Dream*  
Tirana, Saranda, Ksamil, Albania, June  
Funded by the Humanities Research Fund
- 2015            Fieldwork: *Construction, Speculation, and the Mediterranean Dream*  
Tirana; Saranda; Ksamil, Albania, June-July  
Funded by the Ohio University Research Council
- 2013            Fieldwork: *Construction, Speculation, and the Mediterranean Dream*  
Tirana, Albania, October  
Funded by the Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion

- 2012 Archival Research: *Tales from Albarado: Ponzi Logics of Accumulation in Postsocialist Albania*  
National Library and National Archives, Tirana, Albania, June
- 2008-2009 Fieldwork/Archival Research: *When and What is Corruption? A Case Study from Albania*  
Tirana and Vlora, Albania, January 2008 - March 2009  
Funded by the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the  
Social Science and Humanities Research Council, The New School Dissertation Award