

CHRISTOPHER G. BALL

Curriculum Vitae

**CHRISTOPHER G. BALL**

Department of Anthropology  
University of Notre Dame  
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Notre Dame, IN 46556  
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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2013 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Notre Dame  
2018, Autumn Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Chicago  
2016 – 2020 Faculty Fellow, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies,  
University of Notre Dame  
2014 – 2019 Faculty Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies,  
University of Notre Dame  
2013 – 2016 Faculty Fellow, Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies,  
University of Notre Dame  
2012 – 2013 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Economics and  
Political Science, MacEwan University  
2007 – 2012 Robert A. and Catherine L. McKennan Postdoctoral Fellow, Department  
of Anthropology, Dartmouth College

**EDUCATION**

2007 Joint Ph.D. Anthropology & Linguistics, with Distinction, University of Chicago  
2003 M.A. Anthropology, University of Chicago  
1996 B.A. Linguistics, with Honors, Distinction in Major, University of California at  
Santa Barbara  
1991 Diploma Hispanic Studies, Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Linguistic anthropology. Visual anthropology. Semiotics of culture. Politics of communication.  
Pragmatics. Realism. Ritual. Alterity. Discourse and interaction. Possession and exchange.  
Grammatical categories and thought. Photography. Primitivism. Indigeneity. Amazonia.

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS**

2017-2020 National Science Foundation (NSF) Senior Research Grant, Cultural  
Anthropology “Mapping Linguistic, Cosmological, and Political  
Dimensions of Place in Riverine Environments” (\$234,000)  
2017 ISLA International Conference Travel Grant, University of Notre Dame  
2017 Visiting Fellow, CRASSH, Wolfson College, Cambridge University  
2016-2017 American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship  
2015 Office of Research Initiation Grant, University of Notre Dame  
2015 Kellogg Institute Faculty Research Grant, University of Notre Dame  
2014 Henkels Large Conference Grant, ISLA, University of Notre Dame

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- 2013 ISLA International Conference Travel Grant, University of Notre Dame  
2012 Christopher Smeall Summer Scholar Fellowship in Anthropological Linguistics, School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe  
2012, 2010, 2008 Goodman Research Grant, Dartmouth College  
2007 (renewed 2009) McKennan Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth College  
2006 Starr Lectureship, University of Chicago  
2005 Doolittle Harrison Travel Grant, University of Chicago  
2004, 2003, & 2002 Tinker Travel Fellowship for Research in Latin America, U of Chicago  
2003 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship  
2003 Fulbright IIE Fellowship (declined)  
2003 Leiffer Pre-Field Travel Fellowship, University of Chicago  
2002 & 2001 FLAS Title VI for Portuguese  
2001 & 2000 (summer) FLAS Title VI for Portuguese  
2001 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

- 2018 *Exchanging Words: Language, Ritual, and Relationality in Brazil's Xingu Indigenous Park*. University of New Mexico Press / School for Advanced Research Press.

### Journal Articles

- 2018 Language of Kin Relations and Relationlessness. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 47:47-60.  
2017 Let There Be Light: Wauja People and the Practice of Photographic Primitivism in Sebastião Salgado's *Genesis*. *Visual Anthropology Review*, Vol. 33(1):28-37.  
2017 Realisms and Indexicalities of Photographic Propositions. In *Qualia and Ontology*, Lily Chumley (ed.), special issue of *Signs and Society*, Vol. 5(S1):S154-S177.  
2016 Symmetry is a Rare Type of Asymmetry: Response to Philippe Descola's "Transformation Transformed." *Hau Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, Vol. 6(3):53-60.  
2016 And There Was Light: Sebastião Salgado's *Genesis* and (Ethno-)Primitivist Realism. Essay, *Visual Anthropology, American Anthropologist* 118.3:641-645.  
2016 Co-authored with Shunsuke Nozawa. Tearful Sojourns and Tribal Wives: Primitivism, Kinship, Suffering, and Salvation on Japanese and British Reality TV. *American Ethnologist*. Vol. 43, No. 2:243-257.  
2015 Avoidance as Alterity Stance: An Upper Xinguan Affinity Chronotope. In *Kinship Chronotopes*, special issue of *Anthropological Quarterly*. 88.2. 337-372.  
2014 On Dicientization. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. 24.2:151-173.  
2012 Stop Loss: Developing Interethnic Relations in Brazil's Xingu Indigenous Park. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 17.3: 413-434.  
2012 Boasian Legacies in Linguistic Anthropology: A Centenary Review of 2011. *American Anthropologist* 115.2: 203-216.  
2011 As Spirits Speak: Interaction in Wauja Exoteric Ritual. *Journal de la Société des Américanistes* 97(1): 87-117.  
2011 Inalienability in Social Relations: Language, Possession, and Exchange in Amazonia. *Language in Society* 40(3): 307-341.

- 2006 Le commerce de la culture, la médecine rituelle et le Coca-cola. Co-authored with Marcelo Fiorini. *Gradhiva* 4. Musée du quai Branly, Paris: 97-113.
- 2004 Repertoires of Registers: Dialect in Japanese Discourse. *Language and Communication* 24.4: 291-435.

### Edited Volumes

- 2015 Kinship Chronotopes. Christopher Ball & Nicholas Harkness (eds.), special issue of *Anthropological Quarterly* 88.2.
- 2012 Discourses of Loss in Amazonia. Christopher Ball (org.). Dossier, *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 17.3.

### Book Chapters

- 2014 Linguistic Subjectivity in Ecologies of Amazonian Language Change. In *Iberian Imperialism and Language Evolution in Latin America*. Salikoko Mufwene (ed.). University of Chicago Press.
- 2014 Negation in Wauja Discourse. In *Negation in Arawak*, Lev Michael and Tania Granadillo (eds.). Brill.
- 2011 Pragmatic Multilingualism in the Upper Xingu Speech Community. In *Alto Xingu: Uma Sociedade Multilíngue*. Bruna Franchetto (ed.), Rio de Janeiro: Museu do Índio – FUNAI: 87-111. Published online @ [www.ppgasmuseu.etc.br/publicacoes/altoxingu.html](http://www.ppgasmuseu.etc.br/publicacoes/altoxingu.html)
- 2005 Fazendo das línguas objetos: línguas em perigo de extinção e diversidade cultural. *IPHAN – Revista do Patrimônio*, No. 32: 207-221. Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional do Ministério da Cultura, Brasília.

### Book Reviews

- 2016 *The Chicken and the Quetzal: Incommensurate Ontologies and Portable Values in Guatemala's Cloud Forest*. Paul Kockelman. Durham: Duke University Press. New Release Book Review in *Anthropological Quarterly*, vol. 89, no. 2:557-567.
- 2012 *The Occult Life of Things: Native Amazonian Theories of Materiality and Personhood*. Fernando Santos-Granero, (ed.). 2009. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*.
- 2011 *Collected Works of Edward Sapir, I: General Linguistics*. Pierre Swiggers (ed.). 2008. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. *Language in Society* 40(1):124-125.

### Conference Proceedings and Working Papers

- 2005 An Automodular Approach to Classifiers in Piratapuya (Eastern Tukanoan). *Proceedings of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, Berkeley, California.
- 2003 The Semiological and the Semiotic in Linguistic and Social Theories of Language Change. *Contemporary Linguistics*. University of Chicago Linguistics working papers.
- 2002 (as editor) *Proceedings from the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, Volumes 1 and 2*. Andronis, Mary, Christopher Ball, Heidi Elston and Sylvain Neuvel, (eds.) Chicago: Chicago Linguistic Society.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Instructor

- 2018 *Language in Culture 1*. University of Chicago  
2017/18 *Global Visual Culture: Anthropology of the Image*. University of Notre Dame  
2016 *Language and Identity in Modern Japan*. University of Notre Dame  
2015/16/19 *Orientations to Linguistic Anthropology*. Graduate Seminar. U Notre Dame  
2015/18 *Global Indigenous Politics*. University of Notre Dame  
2014 *Language and Culture*. University of Notre Dame  
2013-19 *Fundamentals of Linguistic Anthropology*. University of Notre Dame  
2013/14 *Language and Power: Institutions and Ideologies*. University of Notre Dame  
2013 *Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. MacEwan University  
2013 *Economic Anthropology*. MacEwan University  
2012/13 *Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*. MacEwan University  
2012 *Culture and Globalization*. MacEwan University  
2012 *Multilingualism and Symbolic Practice in Amazonia*. MacEwan University  
2010/11 *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. Dartmouth College  
2010/11 *Language and Power: Institutions and Ideologies*. Dartmouth College  
2009 *Japan's Linguistic Modernity*. Dartmouth College  
2008-11 *Introduction to the Study of Language and Culture*. Dartmouth College

### Teaching Assistant

- 2007 *The Development of Social Theory (Systems) 2*. University of Chicago Anthropology Department graduate seminar, Instructor Manuela Carneiro da Cunha  
2003 *Introduction to Linguistics 2*. University of Chicago, Instructor John Goldsmith  
2002 *Introduction to Linguistics 1*. University of Chicago, Instructor Jason Merchant  
2001 *Introduction to Linguistics 3*. University of Chicago, Instructor Sheri Pargman

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

### Conferences and Panels Organized and Chaired

- 2015 *Le Structuralism Vif / Living Structuralism*. Conference co-organizer with Michael Silverstein and Alejandro Paz. University of Toronto.  
2015 *Cosmologies of the Collective*. Conference co-organizer with Michael Silverstein and Alejandro Paz. University of Notre Dame.  
2014 *Structuralism's Minuses, Structuralism Plus*. Conference co-organizer with Michael Silverstein and Alejandro Paz. University of Chicago.  
2013 *Structuralism's First Century 1916-2016: A Roundtable Prospectus*. Conference co-organizer with Michael Silverstein and Alejandro Paz. University of Chicago.  
2012 *Shared Landscapes*. Chair of panel for the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco.  
2012 *The Role of Discourse Context in the Construction of Social Meaning in Variation*. Co-organizer with James Slotta of symposium for the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, Oregon.  
2012 *Kinship Chronotopes*. Chair and co-organizer with Nicholas Harkness of panel for the Society for Cultural Anthropology Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island.  
2011 *Kinship Chronotopes*. Chair and co-organizer with Nicholas Harkness of panel for the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal.

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- 2011 Comparative Indigenities: Autonomy Discourses, Land Conflicts, and Rhetorics of “Rights.” Co-organizer with Lourdes Gutiérrez Nájera of panel for the New England Council of Latin American Studies Conference, Dartmouth College.
- 2010 The Diaphanous Medium: A Semiotics of Hiding and Suggestion. Co-organizer with Shunsuke Nozawa of panel for the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans.
- 2009 The Ends of Amazonian Language and Culture? Chair and co-organizer with Tania Granadillo of invited panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, co-sponsored by the Society for Linguistic Anthropology & the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology.

**Conference Presentations**

- 2018 Miscommunication Breakdown. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA.
- 2018 The Digital is Immanent in the Analogue. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Linguistic Anthropology.
- 2017 Discussant. When Time Matters. Panel at the AAA Meetings in Washington DC. Ana Browne-Ribeiro and Karl Swinehart, organizers.
- 2017 Tantrum, Trance, and Awayness: Climax Structure and Propositionality in Gregory Bateson’s Photography. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Stanford, California.
- 2015 Poser: Photographic Realism and the Problem of Reference. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, Colorado.
- 2015 Response paper to “Transformation Transformed,” Keynote address by Philippe Descola at the conference Le Structuralism Vif / Living Structuralism, University of Toronto.
- 2015 Social Facticity, Psychological Reality, & Communitarian Realism: Collectives in Three Cosmologies. Paper presented at the conference Cosmologies of the Collective. University of Notre Dame.
- 2014 Characteristics of Dialect: Looking and Listening for Rural Japan. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 2014 Practical Politics of Interdiscursivity. Paper presented at the IX Sesquiannual Conference of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA), School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 2013 Tribal Wives: British Reality TV and the Affinity Category. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago.
- 2012 Others in the Landscape: Narrative Cosmologies of Place. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco.
- 2012 Forest Branches: Armatures of Semiosis and Semiology in Amazonia. Paper presented (in absentia) at the European Association of Social Anthropologists, Nanterre, France.
- 2012 Avoidance as Alterity Stance: Naming in a Xinguan Chronotope of Affinity. Paper presented at the Society for Cultural Anthropology Meetings, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2012 Allegory of the Cave: Wauja Ethnohistory in Service of the Future. Paper presented at the Latin American Studies Association Meeting, San Francisco, California.
- 2012 Orders of Difference: Enregistering Kunisaki Dialect. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, Oregon.

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- 2011 “Jaguar,” “Has Claws”: Naming in Wauja Chronotopes of Descent and Affinity. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal.
- 2011 Amazonian Autonomies: Transforming Rhetorics of Indigenist Discourse. Paper presented at the New England Council of Latin American Studies Conference, Dartmouth College.
- 2010 Take it as an Index: Dicontentization in Ritual. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans.
- 2010 Verbal Category and Speech Act Function in Wauja (Arawak) Negation. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, Baltimore.
- 2009 Open Ends: Transactional Ideologies in Amazonian Projects. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia.
- 2008 Commentary: Making Plans in Amazonia: Futures of Sustainable Development. Invited panel discussion presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco.
- 2008 No Shame: Alterity Stances in Wauja Registers of Incivility. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco.
- 2008 Complaint and Respect in the Upper Xinguan Multilingual Linguistic Community. Presented at the conference “Linguistic Evidence for the Understanding of a Multilingual Society: The Upper Xingu.” National Museum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2008 “Upper Xinguans Are Rock Stars”: The Pragmatics of Complaint in Indigenous Amazonian Development Projects. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Anthropological Association, UMass Amherst.
- 2007 Genres of Territorialization in the Brazilian Upper Xingu. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Washington DC.
- 2007 Translation and Territorialization in Central Brazil. Presented at the Ninth Annual Michiganian Conference in Linguistic Anthropology, University of Michigan.
- 2007 The Ecology of Ecological Discourse. Presented to the Iberian Imperialism and Language Evolution in Latin America Conference, University of Chicago.
- 2004 Notes on Classification and Cosmology in the Upper Xingu (Brazil). Presented at the Sixth Annual Michiganian Conference in Linguistic Anthropology, Chicago.
- 2004 An Automodular Approach to Classifiers in Piratapuya (Eastern Tukanoan). Presented at the Berkeley Linguistics Society meeting, Berkeley, California.
- 2003 Stability, Loss, and Renewal as a Narrative Theme in Piratapuya Discourses of Language Loss. Presented at the Eighth International Pragmatics Conference, Toronto.
- 2003 Indigenous Intermediaries and Piratapuya Language Shift. Presented at the Fifth Annual Michiganian Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Michigan.
- 2002 The Boundaries of Dialect in Japanese Discourse. Presented at the Fourth Annual Michiganian Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Chicago.

**Colloquia and Workshop Presentations**

- 2017 Art Photojournalism in Amazonia: Wauja People in Sebastião Salgado’s *Genesis*. Invited presentation to CUSAS, Department of Anthropology, Cambridge University and the Latin American Anthropology Workshop, London School of Economics.

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- 2017 Realisms and Indexicalities of Photographic Propositions. Invited presentation to Photography Between Invisibility and the Unseen workshop, CRASSH, Cambridge University.
- 2016 Invited Commentary on *Technologies of Semiosis*, Michicagoan Conference, University of Chicago.
- 2015 The Metaphysical Space of Translation: Why Translation Requires Semiotic Realism and Vice Versa. Paper presented at Workshop on Translation, Bill Hanks and Carlo Severi, orgs. University of California, Berkeley.
- 2014 Much Obligated: Amazonian Ritual Dependencies. Invited lecture, Department of Anthropology and Center for Latin American Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2013 Much Obligated: Amazonian Ritual at the Quasi-Personal Fringe. Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Wassenaar, The Netherlands.
- 2013 Introduction. Structuralism's First Century, 1916-2016: A Round Table Prospectus. With Alejandro Paz. Franke Institute, University of Chicago.
- 2012 Ritual Transformations: Healing, Development, and Culture Show in an Amazonian Society. Invited colloquium presentation to the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe.
- 2010 "I-Turn," "U-Turn," Why Turn?: Language and Practice in the Construction of Community in Rural Japan. Brown Bag colloquium presentation to the Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College.
- 2009 Difference by Default: Alterity and Identity in Amazonian Discourse. Invited colloquium presentation to the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto.
- 2009 Alterity, Stance, and Hypostasis: Difference and Identity in Amazonian Discourse. Colloquium presentation to the Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College.
- 2007 Amunau Ogatakuja: Voice and Space in Wauja Political Oratory. Presented to the Workshop on the Anthropology of Latin America, University of Chicago.
- 2006 Transformações, Troca e Espiritos no Alto Xingu. Invited colloquium presentation to the Department of Anthropology, University of Brasília.
- 2006 Huluki: (In)alienability and Ethnolinguistic Differentiation in the Upper Xingu. Presented to the Semiotics: Culture in Context Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2003 Activism and Authenticity in the Brazilian Amazon. Presented at ICISP: Understanding and Teaching Latin America, Illinois Valley Community College.
- 2003 Structure and Change in Piratapuya Language and Culture: Loss and Renewal in the Northwest Brazilian Amazon. Presented to the Semiotics: Culture in Context Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2002 The Story of Role: An Autolexical Account of Causative, Passive, and Adversative Constructions in Japanese. Jointly presented with Mika Ishino, Mayu Yoshihara, Keiko Yoshimura and Ichiro Yuuhara in the Linguistics Department colloquium series, University of Chicago.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

#### **Professional Memberships**

American Anthropological Association (AAA), Society for Linguistic Anthropology (SLA), Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA), Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA)

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**Manuscript Reviewer**

*University of California Press, University of Colorado Press, American Anthropologist, American Ethnologist, Journal of Linguistic Anthropology, Language in Society, Journal of Anthropological Research, Anthropological Quarterly, Conservation and Society, Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Journal de la Société des Américanistes*

**Judge**

Society for Linguistic Anthropology Annual Student Paper Competition (2010-2015)

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish- high proficiency, Portuguese – high proficiency, Wauja (Arawak) – high proficiency, Japanese (spoken) – high proficiency