

Daniel K. Thompson

Curriculum Vitae

Emory University
Department of Anthropology
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban political economy, human migration, cross-border trade, governance, cartographic representation, eastern and southern Africa

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Anthropology

Emory University, Atlanta, GA—August 2019 (Dissertation defense May 3, 2019)

- Dissertation: “Capital in the borderlands: economies of power in an Ethiopian frontier city”
- Dissertation committee: Peter Little (Chair), David Nugent, Clifton Crais, Kristin Phillips

M.A., Anthropology

Emory University, Atlanta, GA—August 2017

M.A., Geography

University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL—May 2012

- Thesis: “Bridging the divided city: immigrant economies and the ethics of spatial organization in Johannesburg”
- Thesis committee: Richard Grant, Alejandro Portes, Thomas Boswell
- Certificate in Geospatial Technology

B.A., Religious Studies and English (Creative Writing)

University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL—May 2010

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

Competitive research funding

- 2018 **Jigjiga University** Research Grant: “Urban economy at the edge: multi-scalar trade networks and the transformation of Jigjiga’s central business district.” (Co-PI with Jemal Yusuf and Wubeshet Gazaghan.) (150,000 ETB = US \$5,500)
- 2017 **National Science Foundation** Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant – Cultural Anthropology: “Capital in the borderlands: diaspora investment and cross-border trade in Jigjiga, Ethiopia.” (\$25,200). Award No. 1658234. (Co-PI with Peter D. Little.)
- 2017 **Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research** Dissertation Fieldwork Grant: “Capital in the Borderlands: Diaspora Investment and the Borderland Economy in Jigjiga, Ethiopia.” (\$4,130). Award No. 9478.
- 2011 **National Geographic Society** Young Explorers Grant: “Xenophobia, spatial mobility, and inclusion: Somali entrepreneurs bridging Johannesburg’s divided city.” (\$5,000). Award No. 9007-11.
- 2011 **Arsht Ethics and Community Research Grant** (R. Grant, PI, Jyotika Ramaprasad and Daniel Thompson): “Foreign nationals, xenophobia and space in Johannesburg, South Africa.” (\$24,000)
- 2009 **Beyond the Book Undergraduate Research Scholarship (University of Miami)**: “Religious conflict and reconciliation in South Sudan and Uganda.” (\$2,500)

Fellowships, scholarships, awards (graduate level, competitive)

- 2018 Annotation for Transparent Inquiry Challenge, “Ogaden Allegiances: Lineages of the State in Somali-Ethiopia.” (\$2,000) (19 papers selected from 80 entries for workshop)
- 2017 George Armelagos Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, Department of Anthropology, Emory University (\$500) (Selected from among ~25 graduate students)
- 2017 Institute for African Studies Graduate Student Prize, Emory University (Selected from among 10 graduate students)
- 2014 George. W. Woodruff Fellowship, Emory University (August 2014-present, 5-year financial supplement awarded to up to 15 entering graduate students each year “who show excellent promise as future leaders in their fields”)
- 2012 Outstanding Graduate Research Award, Department of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Miami

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

10. 2018 Thompson, D.K. Ethnicity and nationality among Ethiopians in Canada: a consideration of overlapping and divergent identities in migration statistics. *Comparative Migration Studies* 6/6.
08. 2017 Thompson, D.K. Scaling statelessness: absent, present, former and liminal states of Somali experience in South Africa. *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 40(1): 86-103.
07. 2017 Thompson, D.K. Visible and invisible diasporas: Ethiopian Somalis in the diaspora scene. *Bildhaan: an International Journal of Somali Studies* 17: 1-31.
04. 2016 Thompson, D.K. Risky business and geographies of refugee capitalism in the Somali migrant economy of Gauteng, South Africa. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 42(1): 120-135.
03. 2015 Thompson, D.K. and Grant, R. Enclaves on edge: strategy and tactics in immigrant business spaces of Johannesburg. *Urban Forum* 26(3): 243-262.
02. 2015 Grant, R. and Thompson, D.K. City on edge: immigrant businesses and the right to urban space in inner-city Johannesburg. *Urban Geography* 36(2): 181-200.
01. 2013 Grant, R. and Thompson, D.K. The Development Complex, rural economy and urban-spatial and economic development in Juba, South Sudan. *Local Economy* 28(2): 218-230.

Book reviews

06. 2016 Thompson, D.K. Conflict in the Horn of Africa: The Kenya-Somalia Border Problem, 1941-2014 by Vincent Bakpetu Thompson. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 54(1): 182-184.

Other Publications

11. 2020 (In press). Thompson, D. K. Refugees and asylum seekers. In A. Kobayashi, ed., *The International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, 2nd ed. Elsevier.
09. 2017 Thompson, D.K. “Foreword.” In *Metropolitan Nomads: a journey through Joburg’s Little Mogadishu*, ed. Nereida Ripero-Muñiz with Salym Fayad. The MoVE Project, African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand. Pp. 11-13.
https://issuu.com/move.methods.visual.explore/docs/mn_publication_-_ebook_-_10_october
05. 2016 Thompson, D.K. Reinscriptions of “stateless” socialities in South Africa: some thoughts on “Metropolitan Nomads: a journey through Joburg’s ‘little Mogadishu.’” *Anthropology Southern Africa*, 39(3): 241-244. (Invited commentary on photographic essay.)

Manuscripts in Preparation/review

Thompson, D.K. Capital of the imperial borderlands: Jijjiga town and the Ethiopia-British Somaliland boundary, 1890-1910. Under review in *Journal of Eastern African Studies*.

- British archival sources and Somali poetry from the period show how conflicts between Ethiopian state-building and British intervention to capture trade flows in eastern Ethiopia created incentives for Somalis to reject Ethiopian taxation, and governance more generally, as it

extended into the region. This article details how the development of a fluid cross-border economy and shifts in governance on either side of the Ethiopia-British Somaliland border shaped the early urban development of Jigjiga town as a node of trade and governance.

Thompson, D.K. Border crimes, extraterritorial jurisdiction, and the fragmentation of Ethiopian sovereignty in the Ethiopia-British Somaliland borderlands during the 1920s. Under review in *Africa*.

- A series of court cases related to contraband smuggling and cross-border tax collection prompted British intervention to protect Somalis in the Jigjiga area from prosecution by Ethiopian lawmakers. This article traces the construction of the border between “Somali” and “Ethiopian” identities and territories during this critical decade.

Thompson, D.K. The end(s) of authority: space and time, authoritarianism and democratization in eastern Ethiopia. Planned submission to *American Ethnologist*, 2019.

- Examines how political authority and people’s allegiance to leadership take shape in everyday life among Ethiopian-Somalis, beginning with the outbreak of intra-national border conflict in September 2017 and following events through P.M. Hailemariam Dessalegn’s resignation, Dr. Abiy Ahmed’s rise to premiership, and regional president ‘Abdi Moḥamoud ‘Umar’s forcible removal in 2018.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Panels Organized

- 2016 Co-organizer (with Aubrey P. Graham), The Politics of Expectation in the Borderlands. Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, November 17, Minneapolis, MN.

Conference and Workshop Papers

- 2019 (scheduled) Thompson, D.K. Capital of rebels? From secessionist agitators to urban financiers in an Ethiopian provincial capital. Annual Meetings of the American Association of Geographers, Washington, D.C., April 3.
- 2019 (scheduled) Thompson, D.K. “The natural state of a Somali”: Racial Geographies, Anti-Urbanism, and the Ruinous Legacy of British Intervention in Ethiopia’s Somali Region. Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference, Washington, D.C., April 2.
- 2019 Thompson, D.K. Comparing cities in a world of race and nation: diaspora connections and visions of planetary urbanism from eastern Ethiopia. Comparative Urbanism: Global Perspectives, Urban Studies Institute, Georgia State University, Mar. 7.
- 2018 Thompson, D.K. Ogaden allegiances: lineages of the state in Somali-Ethiopia. Annotation for Transparent Inquiry Initiative, New York, NY, Nov. 29-30.
- 2018 Thompson, D.K. Contraband urbanity: parallel markets, social boundaries and urban transformations in Somali-Ethiopia.” Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 16.
- 2017 Thompson, D.K. Diaspora Return, Economic Growth and Inequality in Eastern Ethiopia and Somaliland: Redistribution or Reinscription? Ethiopian Economics Association, 6th Annual Conference on Eastern Ethiopia Economic Development, Jigjiga University, December 9.
- 2016 Thompson, D.K. Re-membering a borderlands city: diaspora reconstructions of Jigjiga, Ethiopia. Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, November 17, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2014 Grant, R. and Thompson, D. K. City on edge: immigrant businesses and the right to urban space in inner-city Johannesburg. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Tampa, Florida, April 8-12.
- 2010 Thompson, D. K. Politicized Christianity, conflict and reconciliation in South Sudan. Atlantic Coast Conference Meeting of the Minds, Atlanta, GA, May 6.

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 Thompson, D.K. The social contract in an African city: clan entitlements, state authority and urban inequality in Jigjiga, Ethiopia. Institute for African Studies, Emory University. March 7.
- 2018 Thompson, D.K. “Contraband urbanity: border struggles and the organization of urban trade in Jigjiga, Ethiopia.” Urban Studies Institute, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. Oct. 25.
- 2012 Thompson, D. K. “Urban Nomads: Migration, Business and Xenophobia in the Lives of Somali Refugees in South Africa.” National Geographic Society, Washington, DC, December 8.
- 2012 Thompson, D. K. “Bridging the Divided City: Immigrant Economies and the Ethics of Spatial Organization in Johannesburg.” University of Miami/Migrant Community Board workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa, July 13.

DIGITAL AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2018 Interviewed on BBC Somali morning broadcast (idaacadda subaxnimo), January 20, 2018.
- 2018 Replication data for various publications associated with “Capital in the Borderlands” project, as well as statistics and GIS training data:
<https://dataverse.unc.edu/dataverse/capitalintheborderlands>
- 2015 GIS consultation for Mapping Senufo Project, February-May, 2015.
<https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/mappingsenufo/>
- 2013 Interviewed on National Geographic Weekend Radio, Feb. 16, 2013.
<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2013/02/16/february-16-2013-winter-mountain-climbing-great-ape-stakeouts-and-more/>

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of record

Anthropology 385 – Inequality, urbanization, migration: wealth and livelihoods in today’s global economy – Spring 2019

Teaching associate

Anthropology 280 – Africa: Anthropological perspectives – Fall 2016

Anthropology 101 – Introduction to anthropology, Emory University – Spring 2016

Teaching assistant

Anthropology 202 – Introduction to cultural anthropology, Emory University – Fall 2015

Urban Studies 301 – Cities in space and time, University of Miami – Spring 2012

Geography 105 – World regional geography, University of Miami – Fall 2011

Urban Studies 201 – Metropolitan Miami, University of Miami – Fall 2010

Selected lectures and training provided

Staff Training, “Data management and GIS in R,” Jigjiga University – November 2017

Staff Training, “Logistic regression in R,” Jigjiga University – June 6, 2016

Guest lecture, “Border cities,” Cities in Space and Time (Urban Studies), University of Miami – March 24, 2015

Guest lecture, “Conflict and reconciliation in South Sudan,” Master of Arts in International Affairs master class, University of Miami – 2011

Guest lecture, “Conflict in the Sudans,” Politics in the Greater Middle East, University of Miami - 2011

Guest lecture, “Statehood, Globalization and Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa,” World Regional Geography, University of Miami – October 2011

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Emory University Program in Development Studies, Atlanta, GA
Administrative Coordinator and Research Assistant, August 2016 – May 2017, January 2019-present

Emory University Department of Anthropology, Atlanta, GA
Graduate Assistant/Teaching Assistant, August 2014-Present

Emory University Program in Development Studies, Atlanta, GA
Research Assistant, June – August 2014; January – April 2015

Mount Pisgah Christian School, Alpharetta, GA
Lead Teacher (Geography), August 2013-May 2014

The Carter Center Conflict Resolution Program, Atlanta, GA
Geographic Information Systems Consultant, June 2012-October 2012; April 2013-July 2013

The Carter Center Conflict Resolution Program, Atlanta, GA and Juba, South Sudan
Graduate Assistant, May – August 2011

LANGUAGES

English – native speaker
Somali – fluent speaking, reading, writing
Oromo – beginner

TECHNOLOGY

Geographic information systems software: ArcGIS, IDRISI, Spatial Ecology
Statistics: R, SPSS
Qualitative data analysis: MaxQDA, CATMA

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER WORK

Academic service

Member, Harvey Fellowship Selection Committee, 2015-2018
Anthropology Graduate Student Organization Treasurer, 2015-2016

Non-academic service

Board Member, Mustard Seed Foundation, 2014-present
Co-Director and English Teacher, Global Venture Community Development Association (Johannesburg, South Africa), 2012
Research Director, Volunteer Initiative for Social Development Organization (Kismayo/Afmadow, Somalia), 2013-2014.

Peer-review for academic journals

Journal of Planning Literature (2018)
International Journal of Comparative Sociology (2018)
International Migration (2017)
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (2016-2017)
Journal of Geography and Regional Planning (2015-2016)
Urban Geography (2013-2014)
Urban Studies (2014)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

African Studies Association

American Association of Geographers. Specialty groups: Africa, Development Geographies, Urban Geography

American Anthropological Association. Specialty groups: Society for Urban, National and Transnational Anthropology, Association for Africanist Anthropology.

REFERENCES

Peter D. Little (primary dissertation advisor)

Professor of Anthropology and Director, Global Development Studies Program,
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David Nugent (dissertation committee member)

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Richard Grant (M.A. advisor)

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