

OGNJEN KOJANIĆ

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EDUCATION

- 2020 **University of Pittsburgh;** Pittsburgh, PA, United States
PhD in Anthropology
- 2014 **Central European University;** Budapest, Hungary
MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology
- 2013 **University of Belgrade;** Belgrade, Serbia
BA in Ethnology and Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2025 – **Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology**
Researcher
- 2024 – 2025 **University of Belgrade, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory**
RECAS Fellow
- 2024 **University of Vienna**
RECET Fellow
- 2023 – 2024 **Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg**
Visiting Lecturer
- 2022 – 2023 **University of Cologne**
Humboldt Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- 2020 – 2021 **United Steelworkers**
Project Field Organizer

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Environmental Studies

infrastructure, urban environmental politics, environmental justice

Political Economy

class and labor politics in capitalism and socialism

Eastern Europe

Croatia, Serbia

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2024 “Micron Engagements, Macro Histories: Machines and the Agency of Labor in a Worker-Owned Company.” *History and Anthropology* 35 (4): 827–47. [DOI](#).
- 2024 “Estimations of Value in ‘Belgrade’s Amazonia.’” *Economic Anthropology* 11 (1): 112–21. [DOI](#).

- 2023 “Anthropology of the Balkans.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Oxford University Press. Article published November 22. [DOI](#).
- 2023 “On Redefining Boundaries and Opening New Terrains in a Peripheral Anthropological Tradition.” *Anthropological Quarterly*, 96 (3): 567–81. [DOI](#).
- 2022 “Rethinking the Failure of Waste Infrastructures with Jackals.” *Roadsides*, 8: 58–64. [DOI](#).
- 2021 “‘We’re All Here for the Money’: Solidarity and Divisions in a Worker-Owned Company.” *Dialectical Anthropology*, 45 (2): 151–168. [DOI](#).
- 2020 “Theory from the Peripheries: What Can the Anthropology of Postsocialism Offer to European Anthropology?” *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*, 29 (2): 49–66. [DOI](#).
- 2017 “‘You Can’t Weed Out Corruption’: Railway Workers’ Assessments of the State in Post-Socialist Serbia.” *Glasnik Etnografskog instituta SANU*, 65 (1): 47–63. [DOI](#).
- 2015 “‘Language Policing’ and the Fight against Social Inequality in an Anti-Capitalist Organization.” *Sinteza*, 7 (1): 1–19.
- 2015 “Nostalgia as a Practice of the Self in Post-Socialist Serbia.” *Canadian Slavonic Papers : Revue Canadienne des Slavistes*, 57 (3–4): 195–212. [DOI](#).

Chapters in an Edited Volume

- 2024 “Countering Post-Industrial Capitalism in the Former Yugoslavia through Art: The Example of the Mural Factories to the Workers.” *Visual Culture of Post-Industrial Europe*, edited by Frances Guerin and Magda Szczesniak, 101–20. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- Forthcoming “Uneven Development: Approaching Alternative Capitalist Practices in the Former Yugoslavia.” *Re-Turns, Entanglements and Collaborations: Anthropology in/of Europe*, edited by Jelena Tošić, Sabine Strasser, and Annika Lems. New York: Berghahn Books.

Book Reviews

- 2022 Forging Transnational Belonging through Informal Trade: Thriving Markets in Times of Crisis, by Sandra King-Savic. *Economic Anthropology*, 9 (1): 185–186.
- 2020 Frontiers of Civil Society: Government and Hegemony in Serbia, by Marek Mikuš. *Glasnik Etnografskog instituta SANU*, 68 (2): 497–500. (In Serbian)
- 2019 Activist Citizenship in Southeast Europe, ed. by Adam Fagan and Indraneel Sircar. *Südosteuropa. Journal of Politics and Society*, 67 (4): 559–562.
- 2012 “What can economic scholarship learn from feminism?” (Book review essay on “The End of Capitalism [As We Knew It]” and “A Postcapitalist Politics” by J.K. Gibson-Graham). *Genero*, 16: 177–186. (In Serbian)

Translation

2024. “Теория с периферии: что может предложить антропология постсоциализма европейской антропологии?” *Периферия. Журнал исследования нестоличных пространств*, no. 4, 25–40. [DOI](#).

Public Scholarship

- 2021 [Ruins and Precarity in European Peripheries](#). *AJEC Blog*, May 14.
- 2020 [Introduction: Creative Destruction, Destructive Creation](#) (co-authored with Ana Flavia Badue). *Anthropological Theory Commons*, February 21.
- 2020 [Creative Destruction in Fits and Starts: Machinery Replacement in a Worker-Owned Company](#). *Anthropological Theory Commons*, February 21.
- 2019 [AE Interviews Heath Cabot](#). *American Ethnologist* website, October 22.
- 2018 [Flipping the Transition Script](#). *Anthropology News*, April 13.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

External Research Grants and Fellowships

2023–2024	University of Vienna Research Platform for the Study of Transformations and Eastern Europe Fellowship
2022–2023	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Humboldt Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
2021–2022	Wenner-Gren Foundation Post-PhD Research Grant
2017–2018	National Science Foundation Cultural Anthropology Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
2017–2018	Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship

University Grants

2017	University of Pittsburgh European Studies Center Klinzing Grant for Dissertation Research
2016	University of Pittsburgh European Studies Center Klinzing Grant for Pre-Dissertation Research
2016	University of Pittsburgh Department of Anthropology Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Grant (declined)
2015	University of Pittsburgh Department of Anthropology, Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Grant
2014	Central European University Foundation M.A. Research Grant

University Fellowships

2019–2020	University of Pittsburgh College of General Studies Teaching Fellowship
2019	University of Pittsburgh Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
2016	University of Pittsburgh Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship
2015	University of Pittsburgh Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Teaching Fellowship
2014	University of Pittsburgh Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship
2013	Central European University Full CEU Fellowship for Master's Students

Awards

2018	Social Science Research Council IDRF Photo Competition, Photo Essay Prize (Staff Pick)
2016	Society for the Anthropology of Europe Graduate Student Paper Prize
2016	Midwest Slavic Association Midwest Slavic Graduate Student Essay Prize
2012–2018	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Serbia Young Talents Fund “Dositeja” Award
2013	University of Belgrade Top Student in the Department of Ethnology and Anthropology

2011–2012 **Open Society Foundations**
Undergraduate Exchange Program

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Master's Course

2023 Anthropology of Infrastructure (University of Freiburg)

Undergraduate Courses

2023 Anthropology of Class and Labor in Eastern Europe (University of Freiburg)

2020 Anthropology of Food (University of Pittsburgh)

2019 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (University of Pittsburgh)

Teaching Assistantships

2016 The Archaeologist Looks at Death (Instructor: Marc Bermann, University of Pittsburgh)

2015 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Instructor: Laura Brown, University of Pittsburgh)

Mentorship

2020 “Hot Metal Bridge” Mentor (University of Pittsburgh)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2025 “Micron Engagements, Macro Histories: Machines and the Agency of Labor in a Worker-Owned Company.” SIEF Young Scholars Prize keynote for 2025. *17th international SIEF Congress*. University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK; June 5.

2025 “Managing Volumes in Belgrade’s Wetland Areas: Towards an Analysis of Voluminal Politics in Environmental Studies.” Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences; January 15.

2022 “To Build or Not to Build a Port in ‘Belgrade’s Amazonia’: Infrastructure and Human-Wetland Relations in Belgrade, Serbia.” University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany; April 20.

2022 “Mastering ‘Expanded Reproduction’: Self-Managed Socialism in Yugoslavia and Its Legacy.” Carnegie Mellon University and University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA; February 11.

2021 “‘This Machine Should Be in a Museum’: Managing Unevenness in a Worker-Owned Company.” Online, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK; June 2.

2018 “ITAS i promjene geografije proizvodnje u (post-)jugoslovenskom prostoru” [“ITAS and the Changes of the Geography of Production in the (Post-) Yugoslav Space”]. Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, Croatia; November 6.

Presentations at Academic Conferences, Workshops, and Roundtables (Selection)

2025 “Environment and Socialist Planning in a Yugoslav Periurban Area: the Case of the Agricultural Combine Belgrade.” *17th international SIEF Congress*. University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK; June 3–6.

2025 “Grassroots Relations to Infrastructures and Environmental Issues in Serbia: Towards a Green Commons?” *Capitalist Transformations in Eastern and Central Europe*. Babeş-Bolyai University; Cluj-Napoca, Romania; May 19-22, 2025

- 2024 “New Enclosures of the Riverbanks: Negotiating Infrastructural Gaps, the Commons, and Dispossession in Belgrade, Serbia.” *Polycrisis Across Divides: Historical Materialism Cluj-Napoca 2024*. Babeş-Bolyai University; Cluj-Napoca, Romania; August 29–31.
- 2023 “Geopolitical positioning of environmentalists in Belgrade, Serbia: Environmental politics between imaginative geographies and material constraints.” *BISA 2023 Conference*. British International Studies Association; Glasgow, UK; June 20–23.
- 2023 “From Alluvial Mud to Anthropogenic Sludge: Infrastructural Challenges in Pančevački Rit, Serbia.” *Shifty Muds: Land, Water and Life in a ‘Patchy Anthropocene.’* Romanian Academy and New Europe College; Bucharest, Romania; June 8–10.
- 2023 “Concrete Dreams in a Marshy Landscape: Environment, Socialist Planning, and Human Behavior in a Yugoslav Periurban Area.” *Concrete Dreams: Urban Infrastructure and the Regulation of Human Behavior in the Global Twentieth Century*. University of Southern California; Los Angeles, CA; May 14–15.
- 2022 “Urban environmental activists and the state’s “last-mile” problem in Belgrade, Serbia.” *Transformation, Hope and the Commons*. EASA Biennial Conference 2022, Queen’s University Belfast; Hybrid, Belfast, UK; July 26–29.
- 2022 “Chasing Economic Value and Articulating Non-Economic Values in ‘Belgrade’s Amazonia.’” *Value and Change, Value in Crisis*. SEA Annual Meeting. Copenhagen, Denmark; June 1–3.
- 2021 “The Specters of (In)Complete Infrastructure and the Paradoxes of Defending ‘Belgrade’s Amazonia.’” *Truth and Responsibility*. AAA Annual Meeting. Hybrid, Baltimore, MD; November 17–21.
- 2021 Roundtable “Socialist Anthropology.” *Truth and Responsibility*. AAA Annual Meeting. Hybrid, Baltimore, MD; November 17–21.
- 2021 “‘It Belongs to Someone on Paper, But It’s Nobody’s’: Small Shareholding and Its Discontents in a Croatian Worker-Owned Company.” *Thirty Years of Capitalist Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe: Inequalities and Social Resistance*, Institute for Social Solidarity and Babeş-Bolyai University; Online, hosted in Cluj-Napoca, Romania; May 20–22.
- 2020 Roundtable “Anthropology as Work: Interacademic Labor Solidarities.” *Raising Our Voices 2020*, AAA; Online; November 5–14.
- 2019 “Countering Dispossession, Articulating Worker-Ownership: Challenges for Alternative Property Forms in Post-socialist Capitalism.” *Changing Climates*. AAA Annual Meeting; Vancouver, BC, Canada; November 20–24.
- 2019 “Creative Destruction in Fits and Starts: Technology Upgrades in a Worker-Owned Company.” *Ethnographic Futures*, Spring meeting of AES, ALLA, and ABA; Washington University in St. Louis; St. Louis, MO; March 14–16.
- 2018 “‘This Machine Is as Old as I Am’: Technological Resilience and Adaptation in a Worker-Owned Company.” *Change in the Anthropological Imagination: Resistance, Resilience, and Adaptation*. AAA Annual Meeting; San Jose, CA; November 14–18.
- 2018 “Interests all the way down: Class differences in a worker-owned company.” *Staying, Moving, Settling*, EASA Biennial Conference 2018, Stockholm University; Stockholm, Sweden; August 14–17.
- 2018 “What Does ‘Elite’ and ‘From Below’ Mean in a Worker-Owned Company?” *Shipyards as transforming workplaces: methods of grasping shop-floor experiences ‘from below’*, University of Vienna Institute for East European History, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, and Gdynia City Museum; Gdynia, Poland; June 28–30.
- 2018 “‘We’re All Here for the Salary’: The Legacy of Socialist Labor and Debates Regarding Wages in a Worker-Owned Company in Post-socialist Croatia.” *Workers beyond Socialist Glorification and Post-Socialist Disavowal: New Perspectives on Eastern European Labour History*, University of Vienna; Vienna, Austria; May 24–27.

- 2017 “Post-colonial Theory, Post-socialist Theory—and Theory from the Peripheries?” *Dialoguing ‘Between the Posts:’ Post-socialist and post-/decolonial perspectives on domination, hierarchy and resistance in South-Eastern Europe*, Singidunum University; Belgrade, Serbia; September 22–23.
- 2017 “What can the Anthropology of Postsocialism offer to the Anthropology of European Peripheries?” *Embracing Confusion and Questioning Clarity: on Matters of Method in Postsocialist Studies*, Annual Soyuz Symposium, Russian and East European Institute, Indiana University; Bloomington, IN; March 3–4.
- 2016 “Railway Workers' Memories of Geographical and Social Mobility in Socialist Yugoslavia.” *2016 ASEES Convention*, Washington, DC; November, 17–20.
- 2016 “Countering Dispossession with Worker-Ownership: The Case of ITAS in Neoliberal Croatia.” *Anthropological Legacies and Human Futures*, EASA Biennial Conference 2016, University of Milano-Bicocca; Milan, Italy; July 20–23.
- 2015 “‘I’d Like to Buy a Small Train and Rent It’: Restoration of Capitalism and Memories of Socialism among the Railway Workers in Serbia.” *Shifting Territories: Historical Legacies and Social Change*, Annual Soyuz Symposium, University of Washington; Seattle, WA; February 28–March 1.
- 2014 “Nostalgia as a Negative Blueprint: Practices of the Self in Post-Self-Management Serbia.” *Paradise Found, or Paradise Lost? Nostalgia, Culture and Identity in Central and Eastern Europe*, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense; Paris, France; May 29–30.

PANELS AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- In Progress Panel “Ageing of Environmental and Ecological Anthropologies” (planned in collaboration with Daniel Sosna of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and Markéta Zandlová and André Thiemann of the Charles University at the 8th Biennial Conference of the Czech Association for Social Anthropology; Pardubice, Czechia).
- In Progress Workshop “Economic Shifts and New Ideologies in Green Transitions in Europe and Beyond” (planned by the EASA European Anthropology and Anthropology of Economy Networks in Halle, Germany).
- 2025 Workshop “Political Ecologies of Southeastern Europe” (co-convened with Katarina Kušić of the University of Vienna and Dženeta Hodžić of the Institute for Social-Ecological Research in Vienna, Austria).
- 2024 Panel “Doing and Undoing (with) the Anthropology of Infrastructure” (co-convened with Uri Ansenberg of the Open University of Israel and Elias Strand of the University of Oslo at the 2024 EASA Biennial Meeting; Barcelona, Spain)
- 2023 Workshop “Capitalism, Fascism, and the Environment” (co-convened by the EASA Anthropology of Fascisms and Anthropology of Economy Networks in Cologne, Germany).
- 2019 Panel “Making Property: Ownership, Dispossession, and Imagining Equivalence” (co-organized with Julia Sizek of UC Berkeley at the 2019 AAA Annual Meeting; Vancouver, BC, Canada).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

November 2022 – July 2023

EASA Network Workshop, Cologne, Germany

Worked on organizing the workshop “Capitalism, Fascism, and the Environment,” co-organized by the EASA Anthropology of Fascisms and Anthropology of Economy Networks. Primary task is liaising with the University of Cologne Global South Studies Center, which is a co-sponsor and host of the workshop.

December 2018 – ongoing

Anthropology of Economy Network Newsletter

Tasked with designing and typesetting the AoE Network Newsletter.

March 2019 – January 2021

American Ethnologist Website

Part of a group of editorial interns tasked with writing and editing features for the AE website and maintaining AE social media accounts.

August 2018 – October 2018

Museum of Yugoslavia, Belgrade, Serbia

Expert consultant for the section “Self-management” within the new Museum of Yugoslavia permanent exhibition. Wrote an article on self-management for the companion to the exhibition and helped the curator who oversaw designing that section of the exhibition.

July 2013 – July 2019

Petnica Science Center, Valjevo, Serbia

Senior Associate at Petnica in the anthropology and social science seminars and Petnica International summer school. Led workshops on various social science topics and supervised high-school students' anthropology research projects. Gave lectures on the anthropology of political economy, post-socialist nostalgia, linguistic anthropology, the anthropology of race and racism, ethnographic methods, and cultural studies.

January 2010 – June 2013

Petnica Science Center, Valjevo, Serbia

Student Assistant at Petnica in the anthropology and social science seminars for high-school students. Tutored anthropology students, helped in the organization and running of the anthropology seminar.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH

July 2021 – ongoing

Serbia

Research on infrastructure and human-environment relations in Belgrade.

June 2017 – December 2018

Croatia

Research with ITAS workers in Ivanec and the activists from the Organization for Workers' Initiative and Democratization in Zagreb on worker ownership.

June – July 2016

Croatia

Pilot research with ITAS workers in Ivanec and the activists from the Organization for Workers' Initiative and Democratization in Zagreb on worker-ownership and left-wing political activism in Croatia.

May – July 2015

Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Pilot research with workers from three companies (Jugoprevoz in Kruševac, Serbia; ITAS in Ivanec, Croatia; Dita in Tuzla, Bosnia & Herzegovina) on the experience of post-socialist property transformation and the workers' struggle for collective ownership over their companies.

April 2014

Serbia

Research with railway workers in Zaječar on post-socialist nostalgia and apathy.

September 2011 – April 2012

USA

Research with the Athens, GA, “Food Not Bombs” group on alternative economic

practices (including organizing “Really Really Free Markets”), the production of urban space, and ethical subjectivity.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- 2019–20 **Graduate Studies Committee**
Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh
- 2019 **Grad Expo Peer Judge**
University of Pittsburgh

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2022– Co-convenor of the EASA Anthropology of Economy Network
- 2022-2024 Member at Large of the AAA Society for the Anthropology of Europe Board
- Journal articles manuscript review: *Social Anthropology*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Anthropologica*, *Economic Anthropology*, *Balkanologie*, *Social Inclusion*, *Ethnologia Polona*, *Studia Ethnologica Croatica*, *Local Environment*
- Book proposal evaluation: *Routledge*
- Project evaluation: *EUTOPIA-SIF*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Serbian / BCMS (native)
English (fluent)
French (reading)
German (reading)

OTHER WRITING

- 2024 [The Limits of Kin in Belgrade: Fighting Against Air Pollution in the Slipstream of Racial Capitalism](#). Berliner Gazette. April 3.
- 2022 [Environmental Issues Spark Large-Scale Protests in Serbia](#). LeftEast. January 31.
- 2018 [Pobjeda prosvjetnih radnika u Zapadnoj Virginiji](#). Radnička prava. March 07.
- 2017 [Sindikalno organizovanje studenata u SAD-u](#). Radnička prava. June 12.
- 2017 [CEU crisis in Budapest: Attacks on universities are tactics used by regimes in 'illiberal democracies'](#). Firstpost. April 11.
- 2017 [International Women's Day 2017: Activists are reclaiming feminism, resistance, politics from 'pantsuit nation' reps](#). Firstpost. March 09.
- 2016 [Brexit: Xenophobic parties not dominant but their politics will go on](#). Firstpost. June 25.
- 2014 [Kako sam prestao da brinem i zavoleo neoliberalizam](#). Peščanik. January 29.

INTERVIEWS

- 2023 [Worker Management at ITAS Represents a Great Success](#). LeftEast. September 8.
2023 [ITAS je zaista jedan veliki uspeh](#). Radnička prava. July 10.