

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Grit Wesser

Education and Qualifications

- 09/2011 – 06/2016 **University of Edinburgh**, Scotland, UK
School for Social and Political Science
PhD Social Anthropology (Passed without corrections)
Thesis title: ‘Kinship, state, ritual: *Jugendweihe* – A secular coming-of-age ritual in socialist and post-socialist Eastern Germany.’
Supervisors: Prof Janet Carsten, Dr Magnus Course, Dr Lotte Hoek.
External Examiner: Dr Frances Pine (Goldsmiths, University of London)
- 09/2007 – 07/2011 **University of Edinburgh**, Scotland, UK
School for Social and Political Science
MA (Hons) Social Anthropology and Politics (First Class)
- 01/2006 – 08/2007 **University of Edinburgh**, Scotland, UK
Office for Lifelong Learning (part-time)
Credit for Entry (university entrance qualification)
- 09/1996 – 01/1999 **Industrie-und Handelskammer (IHK) Ostthüringen**, Germany
Geprüfter Bilanzbuchhalter, IHK (Certified Management Accountant)
- 09/1989 – 07/1992 **Industrie-und Handelskammer (IHK) Ostthüringen**, Germany
Industriekauffrau, IHK (Industrial Clerk; Chamber of Commerce)

Academic Appointments

- 04/2023 – 09/2023 **International College Dundee, University of Dundee**, Scotland, UK
Lecturer in Sociology (part-time)
- 06/2022 – 07/2022 **Newcastle University**, England, UK
Research Associate at School of Geography, Politics and Sociology.
- 12/2018 – 05/2022 **Newcastle University**, England, UK
Research Associate on the AHRC-funded research project ‘Knowing the Secret Police: Secrecy and Knowledge in East German Society’,
School of Geography, Politics and Sociology.
- 08/2016 – 11/2018 **University of Edinburgh**, Scotland, UK.
Career Development Fellow in Social Anthropology (Lecturer)
School of Social and Political Science.
- 12/2015 – 02/2016 **University of Edinburgh**, Scotland, UK.
DTP Academic Assistant as part of the working group for the Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) ESRC Funding Proposal for the Social Science in Scotland 2017-2021 (part-time).
Scottish Graduate School of Social Science.

01/2012 – 12/2015 **University of Edinburgh**, Scotland, UK.
Postgraduate Tutor/Graduate Teaching Assistant (part-time)
in Social Anthropology and Politics.
School of Social and Political Science.

Conference Panels

08/2018 ‘New Urban Food Practices and the Senses in the City’
[Anthropology of Food] with Roos Gerritsen (University of
Heidelberg) and Ferne Edwards (Trinity College Dublin) at EASA
2018 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Conference Papers and Invited Talks

07/2022 ‘Learning how to trust your gut: Suspicion, Stasi, and socialisation in
the former East Germany’ at the EASA 2022, Belfast, UK.

05/2022 *Oral History und Lebensgeschichtliches Interview: Herausforderungen an Methodik und Analyse des Erinnerens an die Staatsicherheit im DDR-Alltag, ‘Erinnern und Vergessen - ein interdisziplinärer Workshop’* at University of Erfurt, Germany.

11/2021 ‘Learning how to trust your gut: Suspicion, Stasi, and socialisation in
the former East Germany’, Sociology Research Café, Newcastle
University.

12/2020 ‘Secrecy, Sex, Speculation: Dangerous Liaisons at the workplace and
the Stasi’, Sociology Research Cluster, Newcastle University.

11/2019 ‘Knowing the Secret Police: Secrecy and Knowledge in East German
Society – Research Design’ at Max-Planck-Institute for Social
Anthropology in Halle, Germany.

08/2018 ‘Food, Place, and Personhood: Changes and Continuities in Coming-
of-age in Eastern Germany’ at the European Association for Social
Anthropologist (EASA) 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden.

12/2017 ‘The Senses of Ritual: Emotions and Power’ at the
AAS/ASA/ASAANZ 2017 ‘Shifting States’ Conference, University
of Adelaide, Australia.

09/2017 ‘Inculcating Collectivity: Continuities and Changes in Moral
Education of Adolescents in East Germany.’ Workshop ‘Educated
People and Disciplined Bodies: Self-governance(s) and Local Re-
appropriations of Schooling’ at the University of St Andrews, UK.

11/2016 ‘Socialist biography and Post-socialist Ethnography: On the Ethical
Dilemmas of Trust and Intimacy during Fieldwork’, Departmental
Anthropology Seminar at the University of Edinburgh, UK.

06/2014 ‘Socialist biography and post-socialist ethnography: doing
anthropology at home’ at Association of Social Anthropologists
(ASA) 2014 Decennial Conference, University of Edinburgh, UK.

- 02/2013 'Nostalgia in post-socialist eastern Germany: Yearning for what kind of past?' at Social Anthropology, Chittagong University, Bangladesh.
- 11/2012 'Nostalgia in post-socialist eastern Germany: Yearning for what kind of past?' at Max-Planck-Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany.
- 09/2011 '*Jugendweihe*: A non-religious coming-of-age ritual in Eastern Germany?' (with R. Aechtner) at European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) 10th Annual Conference Budapest, Hungary.

Funding and Awards

- 12/2023 **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)** for a guest lectureship at Johannes Gutenberg Universität, KAEE, Mainz, summer semester 2024 (in collaboration with KAEE).
- 05/2022 **Newcastle University**
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
Bid Preparation Fund award for conducting a pilot study to hone ESRC New Investigator Grant funding proposal.
- 03/2017 **University of Edinburgh**
Innovative Initiative Grant – Global Justice Academy & Global Development Academy; Citizens, Nations and Migration Network (CNaM), Social Anthropology and Centre for South Asian Studies for 'Asylum Monologues' performance and panel discussion.
- 05/2013 **Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust**
Grant for postgraduate study.
- 05/2012 **Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust**
Grant for postgraduate study.
- 11/2012 **University of Edinburgh**
Sue Grant Service Award (2011/12), School of Social and Political Science
For services in reviving the Social Anthropology Society and editorial work for the anthropological student journal *The Unfamiliar*.
- 08/2012 **University of Edinburgh**
Graduate School Scholarship (2 years), School of Social and Political Science.
- 06/2011 **University of Edinburgh**
Shaw Macfie Lang Scholarship (3 years), School of Social and Political Science.

Other (Relevant) Voluntary Work and Work Experience

- 12/2015 – 11/2018 **University of Edinburgh**
‘Third Space’ collaborative project to equip exchange students with skills to seek and enjoy new intercultural experiences.
- 07/2011 – 12/2011 **University of Edinburgh**
Research Assistant for Dr Claire Duncanson’s British Military Masculinities research project (part-time), Politics & IR.
- 03/2005 – 05/2007 **Stevenson College, Edinburgh**
ESOL tutor (part-time) with the Home Learning Scheme: Tutoring English with adults from ethnic minorities.

Academic Citizenship

- 11/2016 – 11/2018 Mentoring postgraduates for the Edinburgh Teaching Award to achieve accreditation as an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
- 11/2011 – 01-2014 Co-Executive Editor (with Jona Fras) for the anthropological student journal *The Unfamiliar*.

I have reviewed manuscripts for the following journals:
Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI)
Social Anthropology
Europe-Asia Studies
Anthropology Matters.

Memberships of Professional Associations and Research Networks

- Since 2023 Member of the EASA’s Anthropology of Surveillance Network (ANSUR)
- Since 2022 Member of the EASA’s *Network of the Anthropology of History* (NAoH)
- Since 2018 Member of Newcastle University’s research cluster *Imagining Pasts & Futures*
- Since 2015 Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) Accreditation through Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh (Jan-Jun/15)
- Since 2013 Member of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)