

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**Dr. Grit Wesser**

## **Education and Qualifications**

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- 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)

## **Academic Appointments**

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- 04/2024 – 07/2024    **Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz**, Germany  
DAAD Guest Lecturer
- 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 for the 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

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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

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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 Erinnerns an die Staatssicherheit 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) 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Budapest, Hungary.

## **Funding and Awards**

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12/2023 **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)** for guest lectureship at Johannes Gutenberg University, 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

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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**

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- 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**

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- 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**

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- From 2026     *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Empirische Kulturwissenschaft (DGEKW)*
- Since 2025     Association for Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
- Since 2023     EASA’s Anthropology of Surveillance Network (ANSUR)
- Since 2022     EASA’s Network of the Anthropology of History (NAoH)
- Since 2018     Newcastle University’s research cluster ‘Imagining Pasts & Futures’
- Since 2015     Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA)
- Since 2013     European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)