

Robert Phillips

Department of Anthropology, Ball State University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2014- Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Ball State University
- 2016- Affiliated Professor, University of Haifa
- 2013- Adjunct Professor, Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, University of Manitoba
- 2012- Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Manitoba
- 2013 Instructor, Program in Women's and Gender Studies, University of Manitoba
- 2011 Instructor, Department of Anthropology, University of Manitoba
- 2011 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Saint Francis Xavier University
- 2010 - Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh
- 2009 Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS), University of Wollongong, Australia

EDUCATION

- 2008 Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Irvine
Dissertation: *Queering Online: Transnational Sexual Citizenship in Singapore*
- 2002 M.A., Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh
Thesis: *Classicization Through Folk Festival: The Bonalu Festival in Hyderabad*
- 1991 B.S., Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

- 2020 *Virtual Activism: Sexuality, the Internet, and a Social Movement in Singapore*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2014 Abjection. Short essay commissioned for inaugural issue of *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, "Postposttranssexual: Key Concepts for a Twenty- First-Century Transgender Studies," 1(1-2): 19-21.
- 2014 "And I am also gay": Illiberal Pragmatics, Homonormativity, and LGBT Activism in Singapore. Manuscript solicited for special issue of *Anthropologica* - "Queer Anthropology/Panthropologie queer" 56(1): 45-54.

- 2013 "We aren't really that different" Globe-hopping discourse and queer rights in Singapore. *Journal of Language and Sexuality* 2(1): 122-144.

Book Chapters and Other Publications

- 2020 A Higher Level of Immersion: A Contemporary Freshwater Mikvah Pool in Israel *Sacred Waters: A Cross-Cultural Compendium of Hallowed Springs and Holy Wells*. Celeste Ray, ed. Pp. 213-218. London: Routledge.
- 2019 An Ambivalent Jewishness: Half Shabbos, the Shabbos App, and Modern Orthodoxy. Invited submission for inclusion in *Anthropological Perspectives on the Religious Uses of Mobile Apps*. Jacqueline Fewkes, Editor. London: Palgrave Macmillan (under contract).
- 2019 Anti-Semitism in the Heartland, *Anthropology News* website (forthcoming).
- 2018 Im/possibilities in the Field: Lessons from Jerusalem. In *Sex: Ethnographic Encounters*. Richard Martin and Dieter Haller, eds. London: Bloomsbury.
- 2016 Review of Gay Voluntary Associations in New York: Public Sharing and Private Lives. *Anthropological Quarterly* 89(1): 341-344.
- 2012 "Singaporean by birth, Singaporean by faith": Queer Indians, Internet Technology, and the Reconfiguration of Sexual and National Identity. In *Queer Singapore: Illiberal Citizenship and Mediated Cultures*. Audrey Yue and Jun Zubillaga-Pow, editors. Pp. 187-196. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- 2012 Review of Falling into the Lesbi World: Desire and Difference in Indonesia. *American Ethnologist* 39(1): 218-219.
- 2010 Review of Queer Voices from Japan: First-Person Narratives from Japan's Sexual Minorities. *Asian Studies Review* 35(1): 130-132.
- 2009 Gay and Lesbian Anthropology and Sex and Sexuality, Invited Entries. In *Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology*. Alan Barnard and Jonathan Spencer, Editors. London: Routledge.
- 2007 Sanskrit Glossary and photographs. In *Religion in India: A Historical Introduction*. Fred W. Clothey. London: Routledge.
- 2006 Trikone, Invited Entry. *GLBT History Project*. Lillian Faderman, General Editor. Pasadena: Salem Press.

WORK SUBMITTED BUT NOT YET ACCEPTED

- 2021 "A Corpus-Assisted Analysis of the Discursive Construction of LGBTQ Singaporeans in Media Coverage of Pink Dot." Under review at *Journal of Language and Sexuality*.

ACADEMIC GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- 2018- Research Fellow, Digital Research Laboratory, Ball State University
- 2019
- 2016 Ball State University, Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Fellowship Fund, Travel Grant
- 2015 Ball State University, Aspire Junior Faculty Research Award for project "Gay Jews, Social Media, and the Production of Embodied Orthodoxy"

2013 Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) (Ranked 4A - proposal worthy of funding but not funded due to insufficient agency funds) “Mediating desire: technology, sexuality, and nation in Malaysia and Singapore”

- 2013 University of Manitoba, Excellence in Teaching First-year Students Award (nominated)
- 2012 University of Manitoba - Faculty of Arts Teaching Excellence Award
- 2008 University of California Regents Dissertation Fellowship
- 2008 James J. Harvey Dissertation Fellowship
- 2007 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 2007 Center for Asian Studies (University of California, Irvine) Research Grant
- 2006 Intel Research Digital Home Group Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2005 Center for Asian Studies (University of California, Irvine) Travel Grant
- 2004 Preliminary Dissertation Research funded by the University of California, School of Social Sciences, Department of Anthropology, and Center for Ethnography (3 years)
- 2002 University of Pittsburgh Dean's Tuition Remission Fellowship (3 years)
- 1999 American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Language Fellowship

PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS

Invited Talks

- 2018 Contemporary Movements in Judaism. Invited lecture to undergraduate course on "Western World Religions," Taylor University, January 8.
- 2016 The Impact of the Internet on Gay Male Subjectivity: Three Ethnographic Case Studies. Invited lecture to the University of Hyderabad Department of Sociology, August 4.
- 2010 Making Sense and Making Do: Transnational Rights Discourse, Digital Activism, and the Queering of Citizenship in Singapore. Invited lecture to the University of Pittsburgh Department of Anthropology, November 12.
- 2009 "And I am also gay": Non-normative Sexualities, Internet Technology, and the Reconfiguration of the Singaporean Public Sphere. Paper presented at the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS) Seminar Series. University of Wollongong, June 3.
- 2009 Queering Online: Transnational Sexual Citizenship in Singapore. Paper presented at the Australian National University Gender, Sexuality, and Culture Seminar Series. Australian National University, May 11.
- 2009 Homosexuality, Internet Technology, and the Reconfiguration of the Singaporean Public Sphere. Paper presented at the Cultural Research Network and Innovations in Cultural Research Group Workshop "Self, Place, and Broadband Connectivity: Making and Making Do," University of Wollongong, February 13.
- 2006 Virtually Queer: Observations on Emerging Same-sex Communities in Urban India. Invited presentation at *IndigNation 2006*, Singapore, August 6.

Workshop Presented

- 2018 Revisiting Sketching as Ethnographic Method, presented at the 97th annual meeting of the Central States Anthropology Society, Bloomington, IN, April 20.

Invited Workshop Participation

- 2017 Invited Participant, Op-Ed Writing Project, Academic Engagement Network Conference, Chicago, May 18.

- 2017 Invited Participant, Academic Engagement Network Second National Conference, Chicago, May 15-17.
- 2017 Invited Participant, Jewish Studies Course Development Summer Workshop, "Christian Judaism/Islamic Judaism: Medieval Jewish Culture in Two Civilizations." Ball State University, May 8-12.
- 2016 Invited Participant, Jewish Studies Course Development Summer Workshop, "Israel in a Changing Middle East." Ball State University, May 9-11.
- 2015 Invited Participant, Jewish Studies Course Development Summer Workshop, "From Expulsion to Dispossession: The 500-years-long Journey of Sephardic Jews." Ball State University, May 4-8.
- 2010 Invited Participant, Methodologies: Researching Media as Practice (facilitated by Nick Couldry, London School of Economics), University of Technology, Sydney, February 18.
- 2009 Invited Participant, Asia Pacific Transculturalisms: New Theoretical Perspectives, Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS), University of Wollongong, June 8-9.
- 2009 Invited Participant, Glocalising Sex & Gender: Consumption, Culture, Practice. Department of Gender & Cultural Studies, The University of Sydney, February 26-27.
- 2007 Invited Participant, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Graduate Student Workshop on Social Movements. Washington, D.C., November 30.
- 2006 Invited Participant, Association for Asian Studies Dissertation Workshop, Rethinking Space and Place in Asia. San Francisco, April 9-12.
- 2006 Invited Participant, Second Annual California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (CalIT2) Conference and Graduate Student Forum, University of California, Irvine, March 10.

Invited Discussant

- 2019 New Histories of the Holocaust. Panel presented at the 22nd Annual Student History Conference, Ball State University, February 22.
- 2018 Faculty Moderator. Cross Cultural Conversation: A Night with the Islamic Center, Ball Honors College, November 1.
- 2017 From Symbols to Action: The Role of "Gender" in Health. Panel presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Anthropology Society, Lincoln, NE, April 8.

Panels Organized

- 2017 Language, Sexuality, and National Belonging. Panel organized with Tommaso Milani (The University of the Witwatersrand) for the 24th annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, The University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, April 23-28.
- 2017 Judaism and Posthumanism. Panel organized with Danny Jones (Missouri State) for the 2017 Midwest Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Ball State University, March 2.

- 2016 Language, Sexuality, and National Belonging. Panel organized with Eric Russell (UC Davis) for the 23rd annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, American University, Washington, D.C., February 13
- 2015 Belief Systems, Sexualities, Queer Subjectivities. Panel organized with Brian Adams-Thies for the 114th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO. November 21.
- 2015 Sexualities, Identities, and Enregisterment. Panel organized for the 22nd annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, American University, Washington, D.C., February 14.
- 2014 Producing Queer Anthropologies of Embodiment. Panel organized with Brian Adams-Thies for the 113th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., December 5.
- 2014 Erotic/Porn Socialites. Panel organized with Brian Adams-Thies for the 21st annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, American University, Washington, D.C., February 16.
- 2013 The Queer Normal?: Engaging the Activist Record. Panel organized with Michael Connors-Jackman (Memorial University of Newfoundland) for the annual meeting of the Canadian Anthropology Society, Victoria B.C., May 9.

Papers Presented

- 2019 “Could you pass the challah?”: online Jewish narratives of “coming out.” Paper to be presented at the 26th annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, May 3.
- 2017 An Ambivalent Jewishness: Half Shabbos, the Shabbos App, and Modern Orthodoxy. Paper presented at the 96th annual meeting of the Central States Anthropology Society, Lincoln, NE, April 7.
- 2017 The Baalei Teshuvah Movement and the Making of a Post-Humanist Judaism. Paper presented at the 2017 Midwest Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Ball State University, March 3.
- 2016 An Ambivalent Jewishness: Half Shabbos the Shabbos App, and Modern Orthodoxy. Paper presented at the 115th annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 18 (Invited Panel - Digital Anthropologies Interest Group).
- 2016 Sacred Texts: Half Shabbos, the Shabbos App, and the Modern Orthodox Movement. Paper presented at the Midwest Jewish Studies Association 2016 Conference, Missouri State University, September 11.
- 2016 Being Gay *and* Orthodox: Evolving Sexual Subjectivities of Newly Religious Jewish Men. Paper presented at the 2016 Midwest Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Ball State University, April 1.
- 2016 The Linguistic Construction of the Other in the Aftermath of Jerusalem Pride. Paper presented at the 23rd annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, American University, Washington, D.C., February 13.
- 2015 Trembling in the Open: Gay Jews, Social Media, and the Return to Orthodox Judaism. Paper

- presented at the 114th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, November 21.
- 2015 *Becoming Teshuvah: Gay Jews and the Language of Embodied Redemption*. Paper presented at the 22nd annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, American University, Washington, D.C., February 14.
- 2014 “It Means That You Really Have to *Choose* Judaism”: Gay Jews and the Production of Embodied Orthodoxy. Paper presented at the 113th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., December 6.
- 2013 Abjection is dead. Long live abjection. Paper presented at the 112th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 21.
- 2013 Saying “No” to Equality: Normalisation and the Queer Archive. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Anthropology Society, Victoria, B.C., May 9.
- 2013 Thinking the Unthinkable: HIV, “unsafe” Sex, Gay Male Subjectivity. Paper presented at the 20th annual Lavender Languages & Linguistics Conference, American University, Washington, D.C., February 17.
- 2012 The Pleasures of Post-gay Porn: Transgressive Sex and Abjection on *Treasure Island*. Paper presented at the 111th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 14.
- 2011 “We need another Stonewall!”: The Historical (Re)Production of an Imagined Past in the Singaporean Cybersphere. Paper presented at the 110th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montréal, November 17.
- 2010 Tongzhi Discourse and the Reconfiguration of National and Sexual Identity in Singapore. Paper presented at the 109th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 18.
- 2009 “And I am also gay”: Sexual Citizenship, Internet Technology, and the Reconfiguration of the Singaporean Public Sphere. Paper presented at the 108th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 2.
- 2008 “The furthest things from all that (Chinese) Singaporeans consider good”: Gay and Lesbian Indians and the Queering of Diaspora. Paper presented at the 107th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 21.
- 2007 Queering Online: Transnational Sexual Citizenship in Singapore. Paper presented at Queer Asian Sites Conference, University of Technology, Sydney, February 23.
- 2006 Queering Online: Nation, Technology, and Sexuality in Singapore. Paper presented at the 105th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 17.
- 2006 “Contrary to Public Interest:” Nation, Technology, and Sexuality in Singapore. Paper presented at the Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference, Brisbane, September 29.
- 2006 “Contrary to Public Interest:” Transnational Sexual Citizenship in Singapore. Paper presented at Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asia Studies ASEAN Graduate Forum, Asia Research

Institute, National University of Singapore, July 28.

- 2005 (Web)sites of Transgression: Homo-patriotism, State Authority, and the Internet in Singapore. Paper presented at the First Annual California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (CalIT2) Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Irvine, April 15.
- 2002 The Bonalu Festival. University of Pittsburgh Center for International Studies Asia Pacific Seminar Series, February 9.
- 2001 A Rural Temple in Urban Andhra: Classicization through Folk Festival. Paper presented at the 30th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 19.

Campus Talks

- 2013 "We aren't really that different:" globe-hopping discourse and queer rights in Singapore. Invited lecture to the Department of Linguistics, University of Manitoba, April 12.
- 2013 Invited Participant, Heterosexuality...the sex that 'just is'? Roundtable Discussion presented by the Program in Women's and Gender Studies, University of Manitoba, April 4.
- 2011 Making Sense and Making Do: Transnational Rights Discourse, Digital Activism, and the Queering of Citizenship in Singapore. Invited lecture to the St. Francis Xavier University Department of Anthropology, March 29.

TEACHING

Ball State University (2014-)

Anthropology and Architecture
Anthropology, Culture, and Globalization
Anthropology, Technology, and Security Studies
Digital Anthropology
Ethnographic Field School: Ritual and Belief in India
Ethnographic Research Methods
History of Method and Theory in Anthropology
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion
Readings in Virtual Anthropology
Virtual Anthropology

University of Manitoba (2011-2014)

Graduate Seminar: Nation, Race, and Gender
Graduate Seminar: Anthropology of Religion
Graduate Reading Course: Belief Systems
Graduate Reading Course: Social Technology and the Self

Sex and Sexualities

Culture and the Individual: A Feminist Anthropology of Self-Making
Cultural Anthropology
Art, Symbol, Culture: An Anthropology of Art and Architecture
Culture, Society, and Power
Anthropology of Belief Systems
Ethnographic Research Methods
Ethnography of Southeast Asia

Women and Education

Saint Francis Xavier University (2011)

Physical Anthropology and Archaeology

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

- 2014- Conducting research for project looking at Jewish men in the United States and Israel who have embraced a Torah observant lifestyle. Preliminary research conducted in Jerusalem, July-August 2015, October 2016.
- 2009- Ongoing ethnographic research examining the impact of the Internet on sexual, national, and ethnic identity in Singapore.
- 2006- Dissertation fieldwork, Singapore (14 months). Conducted ethnographic research examining the impact of the Internet on sexual, national, and ethnic identity in Singapore. Conducted short-term comparative studies (1 month) in Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong.
- 2007
- 2004- Preliminary dissertation research (5 months), Singapore. Began ethnographic research on gay and lesbian rights and civil society organizations in Singapore.
- 2005
- 1999- MA thesis fieldwork, Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam (Vizag), India (12 months). Conducted ethnographic research on a regional folk festival that was being transformed by competing global religious and political ideologies.
- 2002

ACADEMIC ADVISING (BALL STATE UNIVERSITY)

Degrees Awarded

M.A. Thesis Completed (Chair)

2017 Katie Bush

“Over My Dead Modem: Death Memorialization and Technology in 21st Century United States”

2017 Mandira Chattopadhyay

“The Sari in Its Ongoing Glory”

2016 Emily Butcher

“Brushes, Blood, and Fangs: Social and Cultural Perspectives on Vampire Makeup”

M.A. Anthropology Non-Thesis Completed (Chair)

2017 Bryan Mitchell

“Looking Back & Moving Forward: Perspectives on Development in Guatemala”

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Awarded

2016 Primary Supervisor, Joshua Sullivan

“Living Vicariously Through Yourself: An Ethnography of LARPing”

Degrees in Progress

M.A. Anthropology Thesis option

Chair, Jordan Keck

Chair, Brittany Short

Member, Chelsea Locke

M.A. Anthropology Non-thesis option

Chair, Ben Ollestad

Member, Whitney Lingle

M.A. Emerging Media and Design Development

Member, Rebecca Rudolph

PhD. Counseling Psychology

Committee Member, Nathan Walters

ACADEMIC ADVISING (UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA)

Theses Completed (Committee Member)

2013 Palak Dhiman, M.A., Sociology

“Multiculturalism and Identity Formation Among Second Generation Canadian Women of South Asian Origin Through Indian Classical Dance”

2013 Jenna Jones, M.A., Sociology

“Models as Cultural Intermediaries: A Discourse Analysis of the Program *“Britain and Ireland’s Next Top Model”*”

Degrees in Progress

Committee Member, Nitasha Ali, Ph.D. Candidate - Department of Anthropology

Committee Member, Marion Kiprop, Ph.D. Candidate - Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Conflict

Committee Member, Deirdre Oram O’Donnell. M.A. Candidate - Department of Anthropology

AFFILIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018- Secretary, Indiana Jewish Historical Society

2018- Executive Board Member - Central States Anthropological Society

2018- Chair, Lambda Alpha Founder’s Student Paper Competition

2016 Manuscript reviewer - Pearson Canada

2015- Member, Jewish Studies Program, Ball State University

2014- Proposal Reviewer, National Science Foundation Cultural Anthropology Program

2014- Member, Program Committee, Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference

2013- Chair, Payne Prize Committee, Association of Queer Anthropologists

2016

2013- Member, Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, Winnipeg Gay Men’s Health Clinic

2014

2012- Undergraduate and Graduate Student Mentor, Association of Queer Anthropologists

2012 Member, Association of Queer Anthropologists Journal Planning Committee

2011- Member, Payne Prize Committee, Association of Queer Anthropologists

2016

2009- Ongoing Manuscript Reviewer: *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Asian Women*, *City & Society*, *Bloomsbury Publishing*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, *Journal of Language and Sexuality*, *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*, *Sociological Quarterly*

2008- Editorial Intern *American Anthropologist*

2009

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Academic Engagement Network
International Gender and Language Association (IGALA)
Society for Anthropological Sciences
Society for Applied Anthropology

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Hebrew	Basic (reading and writing)
Hindi/Urdu	Basic (reading, writing, and speaking)
Sanskrit	Fluent (reading and writing)

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

2011- Project Consultant, “Evaluating the Acceptability of Cell Phone-based Sexual Health
2012 Communication Among Young African American and Latino Men who Have Sex with Men in
Los Angeles.” Charles Drew Medical University and AIDS Project Los Angeles.
1999- Coordinator, Pitt-in-India Study Abroad Program, Pittsburgh, PA and Hyderabad, India
2002

