

Charis Boke

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Education

- 2018 Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
Dissertation Title: “Ecologies of Friendship: Learning North American Practices of Care with Western Herbalists.”
- 2009 M.A., Social Sciences: Anthropology, University of Chicago
M.A. Thesis Title: “Fluid Boundaries and the Chronotopic Instability of Divine Substance or, How Long Does God Stay in my Apple Core?”
- 2008 Fulbright Research Fellow, The Fulbright Commission, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2006 B.A., Department of English, Mills College

Research Interests

Broadly, I examine how to live a good life on a politically and ecologically troubled planet. My scholarly work is situated at the intersection of medical anthropology, political ecology, and science and technology studies in the context of the United States. My commitments in anthropology are entwined with my work as a social justice activist. My ongoing work in both areas considers on the intersections of climate change, critical race and settler-colonial studies, environmental justice, and multispecies relations in the United States.

Appointments and Affiliations

- 2018- Member, Plant Studies Collaboratory, York University, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2020-2022 Adjunct Faculty, St Michael’s College, Colchester, VT
- 2019-2022 Visiting Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH
- 2020-2021 Consulting Scholar, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2020 Program Leader, Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice
- 2020 Pearce Fellow, Clendening Historical Medical Library of the University of Kansas Medical Center
- 2020 Global Educator, Where There Be Dragons
- 2019 Wood Fellow, F.C. Wood Institute at the Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia
- 2019 Instructor, Community College of Vermont
- 2018 Wood Fellow, F.C. Wood Institute at the Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia
- 2018 Faculty of Record, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University
- 2017 Wood Fellow, F.C. Wood Institute at the Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia
- 2017- Faculty and Curriculum Design, Where There Be Dragons Global Education
- 2019-2020 Visiting Scholar, Dartmouth College
- 2016 Faculty of Record; Teaching Assistant, Cornell University
- 2016 Instructor, Community College of Vermont
- 2015 Teaching Assistant, Cornell University
- 2014 Sage Research Fellow, Cornell University

- 2013 Rural Resilience Research Fellow, Oxfam International/David Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell University
- 2013 Graduate Research Fellow, Land Theme Project, Institute for Social Sciences
- 2010-2013 Graduate Researcher, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University

Fellowships and Awards

- 2021-2022 Keith S. Thomson Research Fellowship at the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine. Philadelphia, PA and London, England.
- 2020 Eugene W. J. Pearce, MD and Lunetta A. Pearce, MD Fellowship, Clendening Historical Medical Library of the University of Kansas Medical Center
- 2019 Wood Fellow at the Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Research on the settler-colonization and enslavement's impacts on plant medicine
- 2018 Wood Fellow at the Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Research on the concept of poison
- 2017 Wood Fellow at the Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Research on the history of plant-based medicine
- 2017 Graduate Research Grantee. American Studies Program, Cornell University
- 2016 Allan Holmberg Award for Graduate Conference Travel. Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
- 2016 Curriculum Development Grantee. Engaged Cornell & Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
- 2015 Graduate Student Writing Grant, "Writing Place." Society for the Humanities, Cornell University
- 2015 Berndt Lambert Award, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University (also 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
- 2015 Graduate Research Travel Grant. Cornell University Graduate School (also 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
- 2013 Rural Resilience Research Fellow: Oxfam and Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell University
- 2013 Graduate Research Fellow, Land Theme Project, Institute for the Social Sciences, Cornell University
- 2013 Sustainability and the Humanities Graduate Fellow, Society for the Humanities & the David Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell University
- 2013 PAGE (Publicly Active Graduate Education) Fellow, Center for Engaged Learning and Research, Cornell University and Imagining America
- 2012 Graduate Research Fellow, American Studies Program, Cornell University
- 2010-2014 Sage Graduate Fellow, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
- 2011 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (declined)
- 2010 Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation
- 2007-2008 Fulbright Research Fellow, USEF-Nepal. Kathmandu, Nepal

Peer Reviewed Publications

- 2019 "Listening So They Can Speak: How to Pay Attention to Plant Communication." *Anthropology Today*. Vol. 35, No. 2, April 2019. (pp. 23-27)
- 2018 "PlantTime." In *Loanwords to Live With*. Eds. Bellamy, B. R.; Bilodeau, C. and M.

- Schneider-Mayerson. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- 2016 “An Ethic of Care for Resilience: Addressing Resilience’s Problem of the Present in the ‘Transition Towns’ model.” In the *Routledge Handbook of International Resilience*. Eds. Chandler, D. and J. Coaffee.
- 2015 “Resilience's Problem of the Present: Reconciling Social Justice and Future-Oriented Resilience Planning in the Transition Town Movement.” In *Resilience: International Policies, Practices & Discourses*. Vol. 3, No. 3, October 2015. (pp. 207-220).
- 2008 “Aniconic Worship in the Kathmandu Valley: A Brief Typology” *Contributions to Nepalese Studies Journal*. Vol. 34, No. 2, July 2008. (pp. 235-250)

Other Publications

- 2020 “Unsettling Herbalism.” *The Ethnobotanical Assembly*, www.tea-assembly.com.
- 2020 “Care.” In *Lexicon for an Anthropocene Yet Unseen*, eds. Howe, C. and A. Pandian. Expected publication 2020. Punctum Press. Forthcoming.
- 2016 “Care.” in *Cultural Anthropology: Lexicon for an Anthropocene Yet Unseen*. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/913-care>
- 2014 “Going Native at Home: Explorations in Method- and Note-ology.” Allegra Laboratory, June 17, 2014. <http://allegralaboratory.net>

Invited Talks

- 2020 “Poison: Evidence and the Production of Boundaries in Medicine,” Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine, University of Kansas at Kansas City
- 2019 “Poison: Substance and Act,” The College of Physicians of Philadelphia.
- 2018 “Body as World: Practices of Herbalism in Contemporary North America.” F.C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.
- 2017 “Plants, People, Care: Troubling the Scale of the Planet in Contemporary Western Herbalism.” STIGMA Speaker Series “The Healing Forest in the Anthropocene.” School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University
- 2013 “Care and Social Change: Some Problems and Practices.” *Social Change* course, Prof. Alicia Swords. Ithaca College, Ithaca NY
- 2012 Cornell Roundtable on Environmental and Sustainability Topics (CREST), Cornell University

Conference Panels Organized

- 2019 Collaborating Creator, Medical Assemblages Roundtable, American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Vancouver, BC. Canada.
- 2017 “The Scales on our Eyes: Climate Change and the Shifting Landscape of Risk.” Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 2016 “Lessons for Care in the Anthropocene,” American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2015 “A Familiar Stranger at the Hearth: Feminisms, Commitment, and Ethnography at Home.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 2015 “Scholarship from Witness to Actor: Committed Anthropology at Home.” Society for the Anthropology of North America, New York City

Selected Conference Papers Presented

- 2020 “Body/World/Care,” at University of Vermont’s EcoCultures Lab conference, *When Corona Met Climate Change... What Changed?*
- 2020 “Plants and solidarity: herbalist mutual aid practices in a time of COVID-19.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Late-breaking session
- 2019 “Wellness Solidarity: A Model for Rural Access to Complementary and Alternative Medicine.” New England Rural Health Association Annual Meeting
- 2019 “Awkward/Healing: Herbalist Practices for Building Relations in Resistance to the Racist Settler-Colony.” Medical Assemblages Roundtable Participant. American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
- 2019 “Friendship: Settler Herbalism in Occupied Territory.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
- 2017 “Plants, People, Care: Troubling the Scale of the Planet in Contemporary Western Herbalism.” Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 2016 “Listening So They Can Speak: How to Pay Attention to Plant Communication.” For Executive Session: *Becoming Like a Plant? New Methodologies in Studying Plant-People Relationships*. American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2016 “Life with Plants.” Society for Cultural Anthropology, Ithaca, New York
- 2015 “Home as hybrid, home as multiple: affect, ethnographer experience, and research at home.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 2015 “Will There Be Food When the Trucks Stop Running?: An Exploration of Affective Landscapes of Preparation in Vermont.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2013 “Resilience/Resistance: or, The Aestheticization of Farming for a Collapsing Future. At *New Forms of Agriculture: Ordinary practices, public debate and social critique* Conference, Dijon, France
- 2013 “Embodiment and motion: Critical Mass as Assembling Possibilities” at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting, Los Angeles, California
- 2012 “Risky Business: Ethics and Methods in Fieldwork” at UNC-Chapel Hill, 19th Annual Critical Geography Conference
- 2012 “Infiltrating the Academy With Permaculture;” Northeast Permaculture Convergence, Greenfield, Massachusetts
- 2012 “On Commitment: Ethics, Embodiment and Activist Materialities.” at Public Ethnography Conference, Victoria, Canada
- 2011 “The Material Divine: Photographs and Souvenirs as Material Traces of Desire in Pilgrimage Practice in Nepal,” at the Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biannual Conference

Teaching

Engaged & Public Education

- 2021 Cultural Competency Training. Co-developed with Derek Johnson and Gabriela Baruch-Mayo. Invited by Vermont Works for Women, Winooski, VT
- 2020-2022 Unsettling Settler Colonialism: Practicing Sovereignty, Building Relationship. Webinar series developed in collaboration with members of Nüümü, Hupa, and Tolowa Nations in California. Invited by Green New Deal Network; Sierra Club; multiple community groups.

- 2021 Practicing Solidarity with Indigenous Water Protectors: one week program created for Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- 2021 Water is Life: Upholding Indigenous Sovereignty. Youth program developed for Where There Be Dragons in collaboration with Kin-sin-ta Joseph, Kris Hohag, and Nüümü/Newe community members
- 2021 Unsettling Settler Colonialism: Practicing Sovereignty, Building Relationship, webinar developed in collaboration with Kin-sin-ta Joseph, Sii~xuutesna Jones, Djaloki Rousseau, for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.
- 2020 Social Innovation in Nepal Partnership Program, University of Virginia and Where There Be Dragons
- 2020 Activate! Borderlinks Immigration Justice Program. Tucson, Arizona
- 2019 Exploring Global Justice: Social Justice Curricula for Experiential Education in collaboration with este Orantes Migoya
- 2017-2018 Independent Study Research Design Course: Himalayan Studies Gap Semester, Where There Be Dragons
- 2015 India: Human Rights Witness, with Holdeen India and the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice. Mumbai, India
- 2015-2017 Mentor, UUCSJ Internship Programs
- 2014 Learning Circle Guidelines. Open Access Online Core Study Guide Curriculum, Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice: Boston
- 2014 National Youth Justice Training Program, Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice: Boston
- 2010 Nepal: Arts and Culture, Summer Youth Program, Where There Be Dragons, Boulder, CO.

Courses Developed and Led for University Settings

Instructor of Record

- 2021-2022 Junior Seminar: Medicine, Environment, and the Body, St. Michael's College
Anthropology of Food, St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vt
- 2021 Environmental Justice, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
- 2020 Introduction to Anthropology, St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT.
- 2019 Bioethics, Liberal Studies Program, Community College of Vermont: Brattleboro
- 2018 Ecologies of Medicine: Anthropology Where Body Meets World. First Year Writing Seminar in Anthropology
- 2016 Healing Plants and The People Who Use Them, Integrated Plant Sciences Department, Horticulture Program, Cornell University
- 2016 Zombie Apocalypse! Ideas of Collapse in American Culture, First Year Writing Seminar in Anthropology
- 2016 Introduction to Geography, Liberal Studies Program, Community College of Vermont: Newport
- 2010 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Liberal Studies Program, Community College of Vermont: Brattleboro

Teaching Assistant

- 2015 Bodies and Bodiliness (graduate course), Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
- 2013 Introduction to American Studies, American Studies Program, Cornell University
- 2012 Medicine, Culture and Society, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
- 2011 Myth, Ritual and Symbol, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University

Service

- Peer Reviewer for *Annals of Anthropological Practice*; *Medical Anthropology*; *Annals of Cultural Anthropology*; *Journal of Ethnobiology*, *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*
- 2019-2020 Guest Editor, “Plant Medicine in Settler Colonial Contexts” *The Ethnobotanical Assembly* blog
- 2019-2020 Exhibition Consultant, Benjamin Rush Medicinal Plant Garden of the Mutter Museum at The College of Physicians of Philadelphia
- 2019 President, Board of Directors. Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism, Montpelier
- 2018 Podcast Interview: “Healing, Cooperation, and Critiquing the Anthropocene,” on *Healing Culture Podcast* with Eric Garza
- Podcast Interview: “Transition Towns, Settler Colonialism, and the Need for Cultural Healing,” on *Healing Culture Podcast* with Eric Garza
- 2016-2017 Senior Mentor, CASTAC Junior-Senior Mentor Program
- 2015-2016 Founding Editor, *Anthropos*. Cornell University Department of Anthropology’s online review journal
- 2015-2018 Workshop facilitation:
- Community conversations at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Springfield, Vermont; First Universalist Parish of Chester, Vermont
 - Anti-Racism Working Group, Chester, Vermont
 - Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism
 - Springfield Town Library, Springfield, Vermont
 - Springfield Food Co-op, Springfield Vermont
- 2012-2013 Graduate Student Representative, Department of Anthropology Curriculum Committee
- 2011-2012 President, Anthropology Graduate Student Association, Cornell University
- 2011-2012 Sustainability Task Force, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
- 2011 Graduate Student Rep to the Graduate Affairs Committee; Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
- 2010-2016 Officer, Cornell Participatory Action Research Network

Ongoing Professional Development

- 2017-2020 Annual Where There Be Dragons Educator Retreat and Experiential Education Training
- 2016 Graduate Teaching Experience, School of Integrated Plant Sciences, Cornell University
- 2015 Writing in the Majors Seminar: Teaching Writing II, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University
- 2011 Writing in the Majors Seminar: Teaching Writing, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University

Languages

- Nepali: conversationally fluent spoken; can read with dictionary
- French: conversationally fluent spoken, good skill with reading
- Spanish: elementary skill spoken, can read with dictionary

Affiliations

American Anthropological Association
Society for Cultural Anthropology
Association of American Geographers
American Ethnological Society
Society for Applied Anthropology
Society for the Anthropology of North America
