

# NICHOLAS C. KAWA

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Dept. of Anthropology  
The Ohio State University  
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## EDUCATION

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<b>PhD</b>	University of Florida, Anthropology	2011
<b>MA</b>	University of Florida, Anthropology	2008
<b>BA</b>	University of Arizona, Anthropology and Spanish <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	2002

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Environmental anthropology, the Anthropocene, human-plant relations, agrobiodiversity, anthropogenic soils, human waste management, climate change, social network analysis. *Areas of interest:* Amazonia, United States.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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<b>Assistant Professor</b> The Ohio State University, Dept. of Anthropology	2016-Present
<b>Assistant Professor</b> Ball State University, Dept. of Anthropology	2013-2015
<b>Visiting Assistant Professor</b> Ball State University, Dept. of Anthropology	2012-2013
<b>Visiting College Lecturer</b> University of Akron, Dept. of Anthropology and Classical Studies	2011-2012

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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<b>InFACT Linkage and Leverage Grant</b> “How can soil health indicators inform farmers’ soil conservation practices and climate adaptation strategies?” The Ohio State University; Role: co-PI; \$34,153	2020
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<b>Wenner-Gren Post-PhD Research Grant</b>	2019
“Waste or Resource? The Contested Use of Human Excreta in Midwestern Agriculture.” Wenner-Gren Foundation; Role: PI; \$16,700	
<b>InFACT Linkage and Leverage Grant</b>	2018
“Transforming Human Waste into Agricultural Resource in Central Ohio” The Ohio State University; Role: PI; \$32,790	
<b>Sustainable and Resilient Economy Seed Grant</b>	2017
“Restoring Ecosystems with bio-based wastes for BLended Soils (REBLS)” The Ohio State University; Role: Co-PI; \$50,000	
<b>InFACT Linkage and Leverage Grant</b>	2017
“Making Maya Milpa: Maize Farming, Agroecological Research, and Food Security in Belize and Ohio State” The Ohio State University; Role: Project Member; \$32,000	
<b>Programa de Apoio a Jovens Professores Doutores (MCTIC–Brazil)</b>	2016
“Governança Ambiental em Rede: Coordenação da Política Pública e Uso de Recursos Naturais em Unidades de Conservação” Universidade Federal do Amazonas; Role: Project Member; \$18,924	
<b>InFACT Linkage and Leverage Grant</b>	2016
“Ohio’s Food and AgriCulture Vision for the Future: A Collective Impact Strategy and Research Agenda for InFACT and Ohio Food System Partners” The Ohio State University; Role: Project Member; \$30,496	
<b>Ball Brothers Foundation Rapid Grant</b>	2015
“The Old West End Community Garden-Park” Ball Brothers Foundation; Role: PI; \$5,000	
<b>ASPiRE Junior Faculty Research Award</b>	2014
“No-Till Farming and the Culture of Soil Conservation in Indiana” Ball State University; Role: PI; \$7,000	
<b>Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award</b>	2009-2010
U.S. Dept. of Education; Role: PI; \$23,550	
<b>Tropical Conservation and Development Field Research Grant</b>	2009
University of Florida; \$3,000 (Declined)	
<b>Graduate Student Council Travel Award</b>	2008
University of Florida; \$250	
<b>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Travel Award</b>	2007
University of Florida; \$700	
<b>Charles Wagley Research Fellowship</b>	2007
University of Florida, Latin American Studies Program; \$2,000	

<b>Grinter Fellowship</b> University of Florida, Dept. of Anthropology; \$6,000	2006-2008
<b>Florida Graduate Grant</b> University of Florida; \$2,000	2006
<b>SAHRA Water Harvesting Grant</b> University of Arizona; \$2,000	2002

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Books*

Kawa, N.C. 2016. *Amazonia in the Anthropocene: People, Soils, Plants, Forests*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

### *Journal Publications (peer reviewed)*

Kawa, N.C. *Forthcoming*. A “Win-Win” for Soil Conservation? How Indiana Row-Crop Farmers Perceive the Benefits (and Trade-offs) of No-Till. *Agriculture, Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment*. doi:10.1111/cuag.12264

Barboza, M., Kawa, N.C., Junqueira, A.B., Oyuela-Caycedo, A. 2021. Open Air Laboratories: Amazonian Home Gardens as Sites of Experimentation, Collaboration, and Negotiation across Time. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaa.2021.101302>

Hoelle, J.A., and Kawa, N.C. 2021. Placing the Anthropos in the Anthropocene. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 111(3): 655-662.

Kawa, N.C. 2020. Plants that Keep the Bad Vibes Away: Boundary Maintenance and Phyto-Communicability in Urban Amazonia. *Ethnos* <https://doi.org/10.1080/00141844.2020.1765830>

Kawa, N.C., Ding, Y., Kingsbury, J., Goldberg, K., Lipschitz, F., Scherer, M., and Bonkiye, F. 2019. Night Soil: Origins, Discontinuities, and Possibilities for Bridging the Metabolic Rift. *Ethnobiology Letters* 10(1): 40-49.

Amazonas, I.T., Kawa, N.C., Zanetti, V., Linke, I., and Sinisgalli, P. 2019. Using Rich Pictures to Model the ‘Good Life’ in Indigenous Communities of the Tumucumaque Complex in Brazilian Amazonia. *Human Ecology* 47(3): 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10745-019-0076-5>

Crews, D.E., Kawa, N.C., Cohen, J.H., Ulmer, G.L., and Edes, A.N. 2019. Climate Change, Uncertainty, and Allostatic Load. *Annals of Human Biology* 46(1): 3-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03014460.2019.1584243>

Kawa, N.C., Clavijo Michelangeli, J.A., Clark, J.L., Ginsberg, D., and McCarty, C. 2019. The Social Network of U.S. Academic Anthropology and Its Inequalities. *American Anthropologist* 121(1): 14-29. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13158>. [Reprinted in the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *Déjà Lu* by the World Council of Anthropological Associations]

Kawa, N.C., Ulmer, G.L., and Silverstein, S.M. 2018. A Pretext for Plunder? Environmental Change and State-Led Redevelopment in the Peruvian Amazon. *Anthropology Today* 34(2): 13-16.

Kawa, N.C. 2016. How Religion, Race, and the Weedy Agency of Plants Shape Amazonian Home Gardens. *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment* 38(2): 84-93.

Kawa, N.C. 2016. What Happens When We Flush? *Anthropology Now* 8(2): 34-43.

Kawa, N.C., Painter, B., and Murray, C.E. 2015. Trail Trees: Living Artifacts (Vivifacts) of Eastern North America. *Ethnobiology Letters* 6(1): 183-188.

Kawa, N.C., Clavijo Michelangeli, J.A., and Clement, C.R. 2015. Household Agrobiodiversity Management on Amazonian Dark Earths, Oxisols, and Floodplain Soils on the Lower Madeira River, Brazil. *Human Ecology* 43(2): 339-353.

Kawa, N.C. 2014. 'Saving the Amazon': Conservation, International Covetousness, and the Politics of Research. *Anthropology Today* 30(2): 21-24.

Kawa, N.C., McCarty, C., and Clement, C.R. 2013. Manioc Varietal Diversity, Social Networks, and Distribution Constraints in Rural Amazonia. *Current Anthropology* 54(6): 764-770.

Kawa, N.C. 2012. Magic Plants of Amazonia and Their Contribution to Agrobiodiversity. *Human Organization* 71(3): 225-233.

Kawa, N.C., Rodrigues, D., and Clement, C.R. 2011. Useful Species Richness, Proportion of Exotic Species, and Market Orientation on Amazonian Dark Earths and Oxisols. *Economic Botany* 65(2): 169-177.

Fraser, J.A., Junqueira, A.B., Kawa, N.C., Moraes, C.P., and Clement, C.R. 2011. Crop Diversity on Anthropogenic Dark Earths in Central Amazonia. *Human Ecology* 39(4): 395-406.

Kawa, N.C., and Oyuela-Caycedo, A. 2008. Amazonian Dark Earth: A Model of Sustainable Agriculture of the Past and Future? *The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic, and Social Sustainability* 4(3): 9-16.

### ***Book Chapters (editor reviewed)***

Kawa, N.C. 2020. A Mend to the Metabolic Rift? The Promises (and Potential Pitfalls) of Biosolids Application on American Soils. In *Thinking with Soils*; Juan F. Salazar, Céline Granjou, Anna Krzywoszyńska, Matthew Kearns, Manuel Tironi, eds. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Kawa, N.C. 2020. Shit. In *Anthropocene Unseen: A Lexicon*; Cymene Howe and Anand Pandian, eds. Brooklyn, NY: Punctum Books.

Kawa, N.C. 2019. Pflanzenmagie. Über die Macht macher Pflanzen. In *Von Pflanzen und Menschen*; Kathrin Meyer and Judith Elisabeth Weiss, eds. Göttingen, Germany: Wallstein Verlag.

Oyuela-Caycedo, A., and Kawa, N.C. 2015. A Deep History of Tobacco in Lowland South America. In *Master Plant: Tobacco in Lowland South America*; Andrew Russell and Elizabeth Rahman, eds. Pp. 27-44. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Junqueira, A.B., Kawa, N.C., Fraser, J.A., and Clement, C.R. 2010. Explorando a relação entre agrobiodiversidade e Terra Preta de Índio no médio Rio Madeira, Amazonas, Brasil. In *Agrobiodiversidade no Brasil: Experiências e Caminhos da Pesquisa*; L.C. Ming, M.C.M. Amorozo, and C.W. Kffuri, eds. Recife: NUPEEA.

***Journal Publications and Online Essays (editor reviewed)***

Kawa, N.C. 2020. Reflexiones sobre la salud ambiental y la salud humana en el Antropoceno. [\*Diálogos Transdisciplinarios Ancestrales\* 2: 9-15](#)

Kawa, N.C. 2019. [Amazônia Urbana](#). *Amazônia Latitude*. May 2.

Caporrino, B., Kawa, N.C., and Zille, T. 2019. [A virada ontológica e a Amazônia: um diálogo](#). *Amazônia Latitude*. March 26.

Kawa, N.C. 2018. [How Academic Hierarchy Shapes the Distribution of Precarity](#). *Cultural Anthropology* website. 21 March.

Tumi Desi, R.D., Kawa, N.C., and Silverstein, S.M. 2017. [Primer Viaje de Regreso a Casa](#). *Amazônica: Revista de Antropologia*. 9(1): 524-536.

Veteto, J., and Kawa, N.C. 2017. [The Fermentological Turn: Multi-Yeasties Ethnography](#). *Anthropology News* (website), September 22. doi:10.1111/AN.624

Kawa, N.C. 2017. El tunchi en la casa de Sandra. *Anthropology and Humanism* 42(1): 27-28. (*Nominated for a 2017 Pushcart Prize*)

Kawa, N.C. 2016. [American Confederates and the Birth of Archaeology in the Amazon Basin](#). *SAPIENS*. 7 Nov.

Kawa, N.C. 2016. [The Irony of the Anthropocene: Humans Dominate a Planet Beyond Our Control](#). *The Conversation*. 4 Oct.

Kawa, N.C. 2016. [Shit](#). Theorizing the Contemporary, *Cultural Anthropology* website. 6 April.

Kawa, N.C. 2015. [Cobra Grande: An Amazonian Vision of Human-Environmental Relations](#). *Engagement* (Anthropology and Environment Society Blog). 10 Nov.

Kawa, N.C. 2015. [Gas Leaks Can't Be Tamed](#). *The Atlantic*. 18 Sept.

Kawa, N.C. 2014. Managing Uncertainty in Rural Amazonia: Climate Change, Crop Diversity, and Social Networks. *Anthropology News* 55(4): e33-34.

Kawa, N.C. 2012. [My Uncle Sandy](#). *Tipiti: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America* 9(2): Article 10.

Kawa, N.C. 2008. Playing by the Rules: The Politics of Research in the Brazilian Amazon. *Anthropology News* 49(6): 27-28.

### ***Book Reviews***

Rissing, A.L., and Kawa, N.C. 2021. Porkopolis: A Conversation. *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment*.

Kawa, N.C. 2014. Na Primeira Margem do Rio: Território e Ecologia do Povo Xavante de Wedezé by James R. Welch, Ricardo Ventura Santos, Nancy M. Flowers, and Carlos E.A. Coimbra Jr. *Ethnobiology Letters* 5: 40-41.

Kawa, N.C. 2010. Tropical Root and Tuber Crops: Cassava, Sweet Potato, Yams and Aroids by Vicent Lebot. *Economic Botany* 64(1): 86-87.

Kawa, N.C. 2008. The Chocolate Tree: A Natural History of Cacao by Allen M. Young. *Culture and Agriculture* 30(1&2): 63-64.

### ***Technical Reports***

Kawa, N.C. 2008. Uso e Manejo Contemporâneo de Terra Preta do Índio (TPI) em Borba, Amazonas, Brasil. Report submitted to the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq).

Breuer, N.E., Adhikari, S., Brown-Salazar, R., Clavijo, J.A., HansPetersen, N.N., Kawa, N.C., Patarasuk, R., and Hildebrand, P.E. 2008. Extension Agent Perspectives of Climate Forecasts and the AgClimate Decision Support System. Southeast Climate Consortium Technical Report Series: SECC-08-01, Gainesville, FL.

### ***Papers under Review and Revision***

Kawa, N.C. Anthropocene. *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*. John L. Jackson, Jr., ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Kawa, N.C. Beyond Ethnographic Show & Tell. *American Ethnologist*.

Kawa, N.C. et al. Training Wicking Scientists for a World of Wicked Problems. *Humanities & Social Science Communications*.

## **CREATIVE WORKS & INSTALLATIONS**

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Kawa, N.C., Lipschitz, F., and Diles, J. 2019. [Privy2: Biosolids & You](#). Public Installation and Demonstration Garden. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

Kawa, N.C., Lipschitz, F., Chen, C., Haugh, S., Normas Yakin, S., Rance, L. Tsitouris, L. 2019. [Infrastructural Digest \(Issue #2\)](#). Companion booklet to “Privy2” Installation.

Tanis, J., Veteto, J., Williams, M., Turtlington, T., Hey, M., Farr, E., and Kawa, N.C. 2017. [Margaret’s Mead: Anthropological Inquiries into the Making and Sharing of Honey Wine](#). A Zine by Culture & Agriculture and Friends.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Principal Investigator**, Ohio & Illinois, USA 2019-21  
**Project:** Waste or Resource? The Contested Use of Human Excreta in Midwestern Agriculture
- Principal Investigator**, Ohio, USA 2018-19  
**Project:** Transforming Human Waste into Agricultural Resource in Central Ohio
- Principal Investigator**, Iquitos, Loreto, Peru 2016  
**Project:** Climate Change and Perceptions of Its Threat in Urban Amazonia
- Principal Investigator**, Indiana, USA 2014  
**Project:** No-Till Farming and the New Culture of Soil Conservation in Indiana
- Researcher**, Borba, AM, Brazil 2009-2010  
**Project:** Social, Economic, and Historical Dimensions of Agrobiodiversity Management in the Central Amazon (dissertation project)
- Research Assistant**, Borba, AM, Brazil 2010  
**Project:** Lower Madeira River Archaeological Project  
Principal Investigator: Claide de Paula Moraes, Universidade de São Paulo
- Researcher**, Iquitos, Loreto, Peru 2009  
**Project:** Conservation and Socio-Economic Development in Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo, Peru: A Brief Survey at the Community of El Chino.
- Research Assistant**, Southwest Florida 2008  
**Project:** Extension Agents Perceptions of Seasonal Climate Forecasts and the AgClimate Decision Support System. Principal Investigators: Norman Breuer and Peter E. Hildebrand
- Researcher**, Borba, AM, Brazil 2007  
**Project:** Uso e manejo de terra preta do índio para agricultura de subsistência e produção para o mercado (Master's project)  
Supervisors: Charles R. Clement, Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo, and Newton Falcão.  
*Expedição Científica* (Proc. EXC 007/07-C) CNPq – Brazil. Charles R. Clement, P.I.
- Research Assistant**, INPA; Manaus, AM, Brazil 2003  
**Project:** Terra Preta Nova Project  
Principal Investigator: Newton Falcão, P.I.
- Researcher**, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico 2001-2003  
**Project:** Ambos Nogales Revegetation Partnership  
Principal Investigator: Diane Austin

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- The Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH 2016-Present

**Assistant Professor**, Dept. of Anthropology

- Peoples and Cultures: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2016, 2017)
- History of Anthropological Theory (Fall 2016–21)
- Environmental Anthropology (Spring 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021)
- Latin American Peoples and Cultures (Spring 2018, Fall 2019)
- Ethnobotany (Spring 2020, 2021)

**Ball State University**, Muncie, IN

2012-2015

**Assistant Professor**, Dept. of Anthropology

- Anthropology, Culture, and Globalization (Summer 2013–Fall 2015)
- Ecological Dimensions of Culture (Fall 2012; Spring 2014; Fall 2014)
- Ethnographic Research Methods (Spring 2013)
- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2012; Spring 2013)
- Latin American Cultures (Spring 2015)

**University of Akron**, Akron, OH

2011-2012

**Visiting Lecturer**, Dept. of Anthropology and Classical Studies

- Human Cultures (Fall 2011; Spring 2012)
- Anthropological Theory (Fall 2011)
- Amazonia: People and the Environment (Spring 2012)
- Magic, Myth, and Religion (Summer Intersession)

**University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL

2011

**Teaching Assistant**, Dept. of Anthropology

- Language and Culture (Spring 2011)

**University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL

2008-2011

**Teaching Associate**, Dept. of Anthropology

- Introduction to General Anthropology  
(Summer 2008, Spring 2010; Summer 2010, 2011)

**La Universidad Nacional de la Amazonia Peruana**, Iquitos, Peru

2009

**Visiting Instructor**, Master's Program in Protected Areas Mgmt.

- Social Dimensions of Natural Resource Management in Protected Areas

**University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL

2007-2008

**Teaching Assistant**, Teaching Center

- Introduction to Soils in the Environment  
(Spring 2007; Fall 2008; Fall 2009)
- Plants, Plagues, and People (Spring 2008)

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**PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

**Invited Lecture**, “Wasted: An Inquiry into the Use of Human Excrement.” Marjorie Helen Stuart Lecture Series, Dept. of Anthropology, SUNY-Brockport. 22 April 2021.

**Invited Speaker**, “Soylandia Book Conference.” Cornell University. 26 March 2021.



**Invited Speaker**, “Amazonia in the Anthropocene: A Discussion.” SUNY-New Paltz. 15 March 2021.

**Invited Speaker**, “Reflexiones sobre la salud ambiental y la salud humana en el Antropoceno.” Ciclo de Conversaciones – Memoria y Salud Andino Amazónica. Organizado por El Foro Permanente de Estudios, Investigación y Saberes Transdisciplinarios Ancestrales (Cochabamba, Bolivia) y la Organización Estudiantil Abya Yala. 18 July 2020.

**Video Presentation**, “Toward a Tactical Anthropology: Creating Space for Reckoning with Ecologies of Waste” (in collaboration with Luke Stettner). The Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Meeting. 5 May 2020. <https://distribute.utoronto.ca>

**Invited Lecture**, “The Other Side of Our Food System: The Use of Human Waste as an Agricultural Resource,” Dept. of Anthropology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, 24 Feb. 2020.

**Invited Lecture**, “Privy2: Biosolids and You” (co-authored with Forbes Lipschitz and Justin Diles), Loose Talk Series, Knowlton School of Architecture, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 7 Feb. 2020.

**Invited Speaker**, “The Social Network of Anthropology and the Academic Job Market,” (co-author: Daniel Ginsberg), Department Chair’s Breakfast, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 23 Nov. 2019.

**Invited Speaker**, “Trash or Treasure: Wastewater, Plastics, and Spent Brewing Grains,” (co-authors: Forbes Lipschitz and Justin Diles), Anthropology Public Outreach Program (APOP) Speaker Series, Seventh Son Brewing, Columbus, OH, 19 Nov. 2019.

**Paper Presentation**, “Challenging the Poo Taboo: Use of Treated Human Waste as an Agricultural Resource,” (co-authored with Forbes Lipschitz and Justin Diles), World Food Day at Thompson Library, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 17 Oct. 2019.

**Invited Lecture**, “In the Shit: A Metabolic Manifesto,” Dept. of Anthropology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, 11 April 2019.

**Paper Presentation**, “Collaborative Design for Teaching about the Use of Human ‘Waste’ as an Agricultural Resource in the American Midwest,” (co-authored with Forbes Lipschitz and Logan Rance), Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, 23 March 2019.

**Paper Presentation**, “Training Wicked Scientists for a World of Wicked Problems,” Socio-Ecological Systems Working Group, Dept. of Anthropology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 22 Feb. 2019.

**Invited Speaker**, “From Waste to Resource: Biosolids Use in Central Ohio” (co-presented with Forbes Lipschitz), InFACT Biweekly Seminar, Columbus, OH, 5 Feb. 2019.

**Paper Presentation**, “Urban Amazonian Show & Tell,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, 15 Nov. 2018.

**Invited Lecture**, “What Happens When We Flush?” The Anthropology Public Outreach Program (APOP) Lecture Series, Whetstone Public Library, Columbus, OH, 27 October 2018.

**Invited Speaker**, “The Ohio State Student Farm Fermentation Workshop,” Waterman Farm, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 29 September 2018.

**Invited Speaker**, “Close Encounters of the Fecal Kind,” Exploratory Seminar at the Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 24 August 2018.

**Invited Lecture**, “Amazonía en el Antropoceno,” Diálogos Antropológicos, Universidad Nacional de la Amazonía Peruana (UNAP), Iquitos, Loreto, Peru, 13 July 2018.

**Invited Speaker**, “From Waste to Resource: The Transformation of Human Excreta into Agricultural Fertilizer in the American Midwest,” Soil and Human Culture Dynamics During the Holocene Epoch: An International, Interdisciplinary Workshop in Anthropology, Archaeology, and Soil Science; The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 25 June 2018.

**Keynote Lecture**, “Changing Environments, Uncertainty, and Allostatic Load,” (lead author: Douglas E. Crews), 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Evolutionary Medicine: Health and Diseases in Changing Environments, Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania, 7 June 2018.

**Invited Lecture**, “Cultures of Swidden Agriculture,” Making Maya Milpa Workshop, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 11 May 2018.

**Keynote Lecture**, “Can Our Waste Help Us Fight Hunger?” Ohio Youth Institute, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 16 April 2018.

**Invited Lecture**, “What Does It Mean to Be Human?” Town Hall Speaker Series, Mifflin Middle School, Columbus, OH, 8 Dec. 2017.

**Roundtable Co-Organizer**, “Cultures of Fermentation,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 2 Dec. 2017.

**Panel Co-Organizer**, “Excrement, Sanitation, and the Looming Ecological Crisis,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 30 Nov. 2017.

**Paper Presentation**, “Pure Shit: Human Excrement as Agricultural Fertilizer and Ethnographic Object,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 30 Nov. 2017.

**Discussant**, “Sedimentation: Soil, Extraction, Memory,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 29 Nov. 2017.

**Invited Speaker**, Ohio Food Policy Summit, The Ohio State University, 6 Nov. 2017

**Paper Presentation**, “Troubling Ecologies and Creative Adaptations: Living with Floods in Urban Amazonia,” Ohio Latin American Conference, The Ohio State University, 20 Oct. 2017.

**Invited Lecture**, “Amazônia no antropoceno: Observações, questões e desafios,” Universidade Federal do Amazonas (UFAM), Manaus, AM, Brazil, 4 July 2017.

**Invited Lecture**, “Plants that Keep Bad Vibes Away (& Other Stories of Ecosemiotic Interplay in the Urban Amazon),” The Semiotics of Human-Plant Sociality Workshop, Rutgers University, 24 Feb. 2017.

**Invited Lecture**, “Amazonia in the Anthropocene,” Taft Center Lecture Series, University of Cincinnati, 16 Feb. 2017.

**Paper Presentation**, “Resident Resettlement and State-Led Redevelopment of an Urban Amazonian Floodplain Community,” Socio-Ecological Systems Working Group, Dept. of Anthropology, The Ohio State University, 8 Feb. 2017.

**Paper Presentation**, “The Social Network of US Academic Anthropology,” co-authored with Chris McCarty and Jessica Clark, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 20 Nov. 2016.

**Panel Co-Organizer**, “Challenging Anthropology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Reflections on Method, Theory, and Practice,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 20 Nov. 2016.

**Invited Lecture**, “Magico-Medicinal Plants of the Rural Amazon,” Ohio Historical Society, Bexley, OH, 3 Oct. 2016.

**Invited Lecture**, “Amazonia in the Anthropocene: People, Soils, Plants, Forests,” Continuity and Change in the Andes and Amazonia Working Group, The Ohio State University, 2 March 2016.

**Paper Presentation**, “What Happens When We Flush?” Dimensions of Political Ecology Working Group Conference, Lexington, KY, 27 Feb. 2016.

**Panel Co-organizer**, “Wastes, Residuals, and Ruins: A Political Ecology of Excess,” Dimensions of Political Ecology Working Group Conference, Lexington, KY, 27 Feb. 2016.

**Paper Presentation**, “Floodplain Farms, Floating Gardens, and the Amphibious Expansion of Urban Amazonia,” co-authored with Sydney Silverstein, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, Nov. 2015.

**Invited Lecture**, “Why We Might Need Myth More than Ever,” Ball State Society for Earth-Based Religions, 19 Oct. 2015.

**Invited Lecture**, “The HUB and the Circle: Two ‘Green’ Community Projects for a Post-Industrial Muncie,” Ball State Department of Anthropology Colloquium, 2 Oct. 2015.

**Paper Presentation**, “Forests and Favelas: Situating Urban Amazonia in the Anthropology of Brazil,” The Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, Oaxaca City, Oaxaca, Mexico, March 2015.

**Invited Lecture**, “Magico-Medicinal Plant Use in Rural Amazonia,” Ball State Society for Earth-Based Religions, 16 March 2015.

**Paper Presentation**, “Race, Religion, and Magico-Medicinal Plant Use in Rural Amazonia,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Dec. 2014.

**Invited Lecture**, “The Problems with the Anthropocene: A View from Amazonia,” The Anthropocene: Views from the Humanities Seminar Series, University of California–Santa Barbara, 21 Nov. 2014.

**Invited Lecture**, “Into the Bowels of the Anthropocene: Excrement and the Current Ecological Crisis,” The Anthropocene: Views from the Humanities Seminar Series, University of California–Santa Barbara, 20 Nov. 2014.

**Paper Presentation**, “Ethnobiology and the Anthropocene: A View from Amazonia,” Society of Ethnobiology Annual Meeting, Cherokee, NC, May 2014.

**Invited Lecture**, “Amazonia in the Anthropocene: Soils, Forests, Plants, People,” Department of Geography Colloquium Series, Indiana University, 18 April 2014.

**Invited Lecture**, “Manioc Varietal Diversity, Selection, and Social Distribution in Rural Amazonia,” Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Seminar Series, Purdue University, Feb. 2014.

**Paper Presentation**, “The Big Snake: An Amazonian Vision of Human-Environmental Relations,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Nov. 2013.

**Plenary Panel Presentation**, “Climate Change and Crop Diversity: Manioc Varietal Management in the Rural Amazon,” Society of Ethnobiology Annual Meeting, University of North Texas, Denton, TX, May 2013.

**Invited Lecture**, “The Big Snake: An Amazonian Vision of Human-Environmental Relations,” Minority Languages and Cultures Program Spring Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, May 2013.

**Paper Presentation**, “Managing Uncertainty in Rural Amazonia: Climate Change, Crop Diversity, and Social Networks,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, Nov. 2012.

**Invited Panel Co-Organizer**, “Climate Change, Agriculture, and Agrobiodiversity: Anthropological Prospects for Engagement,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, Nov. 2012.

**Paper Presentation**, “Agrobiodiversity and the Burgeoning Barge Economy in Rural Amazonia,” Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD, March 2012.

**Panel Co-Organizer**, “Developing the Amazon: Local Responses to Global Demands,” Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD, March 2012.

**Paper Presentation**, “Magic Plants of Amazonia: Symbolic Contributions to Agrobiodiversity,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Nov. 2011.

**Invited Lecture**, “Agrobiodiversity on Amazonian Dark Earths: Interactions Through Time,” co-authored with Clement, C.R., Major, J., Kluppel, M., Junqueira, A.B., Fraser, J.A., and Salomão, J.A., First International Workshop of the Terra Preta Program. University of Wageningen, Netherlands, 2011.

**Invited Lecture**, “Magic Plants of Amazonia and Their Contribution to Agrobiodiversity,” Tropical Conservation and Development Program’s “Tropilunch,” University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, Feb. 2011.

**Paper Presentation**, “The Influence of Socio-Economic Factors on Cultivated Plant Diversity on Smallholder in Farms in Central Amazonia,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, Nov. 2010.

**Invited Lecture**, “Amazonian Dark Earth and the Historical Ecology of Central Amazonia,” Country Day School. Escazú, Costa Rica, Oct. 2010.

**Paper Presentation**, “The Influence of Socio-Economic Factors on Agrobiodiversity on Smallholder Farms in Central Amazonia,” Southeast Conference on Amazonian and Andean Studies. Gainesville, FL, 2010.

**Poster Presentation**, “Measuring Collaborative Research Networks among University of Florida’s Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program Participants,” co-authored with Timothy E. Podkul and Deborah J. Wojcik, Tropical Conservation and Development Conference. Gainesville, FL, 2010.

**Poster Presentation**, “The Real Dirt on Amazonian Dark Earth: Use and Management in Borba, AM, Brazil,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, Nov. 2008.

**Paper Presentation**, “Amazonian Dark Earth: A Model of Sustainable Agriculture in the Tropics?,” Southeast Conference on Amazonian and Andean Studies. Boca Raton, FL, 2008.

**Paper Presentation**, “Amazonian Dark Earth: A Model of Sustainable Agriculture of the Past and Future(?),” Fourth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability. Terengganu, Malaysia, 2008

**Invited Lecture**, “An Anthropology of Soil: Use and Management of Amazonian Dark Earth in Borba, AM, Brazil,” Florida Anthropological Student Association Colloquium. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 2008.

**Poster Presentation**, “Use and Management of Amazonian Dark Earth in Borba, Amazonas, Brazil,” Graduate Student Council Research Forum. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 2008.

**Poster Presentation**, “The Real Dirt on Amazonian Dark Earth: Use and Management in Borba, AM, Brazil,” Center for Latin American Studies Field Research Clinic. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 2008.

**Paper Presentation**, “Terra Preta do Índio: Um Modelo de Agricultura Sustentável do Passado e Futuro(?),” co-presented with Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo, Brasil – Vanguardas: Imagem e palavra/Fogo–Terra–Ar–Água. Heinrich Boll Stiftung, Berlin, Germany, 2007.

**Poster Presentation**, Colonia Jardines del Bosque: A Case Study of Urban Community-Based Conservation in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico,” University Biology Research Project Conference. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 2003.

**Poster Presentation**, “Ambos Nogales Revegetation Project,” University Biology Research Project Conference. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 2002.

## INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

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Interviewed for NPR Shortwave Podcast story [“What Is the Age of Humans?”](#) 12 April 2021.

Interviewed by Rebecca Hersher of *National Public Radio* for the story [“Drawing a Line in the Mud: Scientist Debate When ‘Age of Humans’ Began”](#) featured on NPR’s Morning Edition. 17 March 2021.

Interviewed by Sarah Wessler of *Yale Climate Connections* for the article [“As the planet warms, can we afford to treat poop as waste?”](#) 8 April 2020.

Interview with Emma Lagan for *A Story of Us* Podcast. [“Interview with Dr. Kawa \(Cultural Anthropology\).”](#) 7 March 2019.

Interview with Daniel Kolitz for *Giz Asks* series in *Gizmodo*. [“How Far Can You Get Away from Technology?”](#) 2 July 2018.

Interview with Nivedita Kar for *New Books in Anthropology* Podcast. [“Amazonia in the Anthropocene: People, Soils, Plants, Forests.”](#) 5 Sept. 2017.

Interview with Colleen Leonardi for *Edible Columbus*. [“From the Amazon to Ohio.”](#) 14 July 2017.

Interview with Cymene Howe and Dominic Boyer on the *Cultures of Energy* Podcast. [Episode 51 – Nicholas Kawa](#). 5 Jan. 2017.

Interview with Matt DeMello for the *SpareMin* Podcast. [“Will Humans Survive the Challenges of the Anthropocene Era?”](#) 6 Oct. 2016.

Interview with University of Texas Press, [Q&A on ‘Amazonia in the Anthropocene’](#) 23 May 2016.

Interview with Ball State University Graduate Program [“Meet Nick, an Anthropology Professor with a Green Thumb.”](#) 2 Feb. 2015.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Honorary Member**, El Foro Permanente de Estudios, Investigación y Saberes Transdisciplinarios Ancestrales (Cochabamba, Bolivia), 2020-Present

**Editorial Board Member**, *Ethnobiology Letters*, 2020-Present

**Editorial Board Member**, *Amazônia Latitude* (digital magazine), 2019-Present

**Editorial Board Member**, *Anthropology of Work Review*, 2016-2019

**President**, Culture and Agriculture Section of the American Anthropological Association, 2016-2018

**President-Elect**, Culture and Agriculture Section of the American Anthropological Association, 2015-2016

**Secretary-Treasurer**, Culture and Agriculture Section of the American Anthropological Association, 2012-2015

**Student Representative and Webmaster**, Culture and Agriculture Section of the American Anthropological Association, 2009-2011

**Treasurer**, University of Florida Ethnoecology Club, 2009

**Secretary**, Florida Anthropological Student Association, 2007

**Secretary**, University of Florida Ethnoecology Club, 2007

**Ad-Hoc Peer Reviewer:** *American Anthropologist; American Ethnologist; Anthropological Quarterly; Anthropology Today; Cultural Anthropology; Culture, Agriculture, Food and the Environment; Current Anthropology; Ecology and Society; Economic Botany; Environment and Society: Advances in Research; Environmental Science & Technology; Ethnobiology Letters; Ethnos; Geographical Review; Human Organization; Human Ecology; Imaginations; Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture; Journal of Ethnobiology; Journal of Political Ecology; Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute; World Development*

#### **UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

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**Abya Yala Student Organization**, Faculty Advisor, The Ohio State University, 2020-Present

**Socio-Ecological Systems Working Group**, Faculty Convener, Dept. of Anthropology, The Ohio State University, 2018-2019

**Speakers Committee**, Faculty Member, Department of Anthropology, The Ohio State University, 2017-2019

**Ohio State Student/Farmworker Alliance**, Faculty Advisor, 2018-2019

**The Ohio State University Panel on Food Sustainability**, Panel Member, 2017

**A Story of Us Podcast**, Faculty Liaison, The Ohio State University, 2016-Present

**Undergraduate Anthropology Club**, Faculty Co-Advisor, The Ohio State University, 2016-Present

**Anthropology Club**, Faculty Advisor, Ball State University, 2013-2015

**Yu-Gi-Oh Club**, Faculty Advisor, Ball State University, 2013-2014

**Committee Member of PhD Students:**

Tannya Forcone, The Ohio State University  
Chelsea Hunter, The Ohio State University  
Ryan Goeckner, The Ohio State University  
Steven Rhue, The Ohio State University  
Butch Wright, The Ohio State University

Alex Tuggle, The Ohio State University  
Frances Sutton, The Ohio State University  
Mark Anthony Arceño, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Fall 2020)  
Elizabeth Gardiner, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Summer 2020)  
Nicole Weiss, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2020)  
Iuri Amazonas, Universidade de São Paulo (degree completed; Summer 2019)  
Gordon Ulmer, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2018)

**Committee Chair of Master's Degree Students:**

Prabhjot Singh, The Ohio State University, Environmental Studies  
Logan Rance, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2020)

**Committee Member of Master's Degree Students:**

Ben Mertus, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2020)  
Julianne Stamer, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Summer 2019)  
Tannya Forcone, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2018)  
Jacob Hibbard, Ball State University (degree completed; Spring 2016)  
Eric Olson, Ball State University (degree completed; Spring 2016)  
Erin Steinwachs, Ball State University (degree completed; Spring 2015)  
Bradley Painter, Ball State University (degree completed; Spring 2015)  
Aaron Pape, Purdue University (degree completed; Spring 2015)

**Undergraduate Honors Theses (Primary Advisor):**

Cella Masso-Rivetti, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2020)  
Syamil Normas Yakin, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Fall 2019)  
Amber Horton, Ball State University (degree completed; Spring 2014)

**Undergraduate Honors Theses (Committee Member):**

Emily Nothnagle, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2021)  
Hannah Nelson, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2020)  
Nadia Debick, The Ohio State University (degree completed; Spring 2019)

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MENTORSHIP**

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**Mentor**, Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), Columbus, OH, 2017-2018

**Ohio Food Policy Network (OFPN) Governance Council Member**, 2016-2017

**Co-Founder and Volunteer**, Community Circle Park, Muncie, IN, 2015-2016

**Co-Founder and Volunteer**, The HUB Community Garden, Muncie, IN, 2014-2016

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Anthropological Association  
Society for Applied Anthropology



## **LANGUAGES**

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**English:** Native Language

**Portuguese:** Fluent Speaker, Advanced Reading and Writing

**Spanish:** Fluent Speaker, Advanced Reading, Intermediate Writing