

Dr. Adam Kaul
Professor of Anthropology
Chair of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Augustana College

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Augustana College
639 38th Street Rock Island, Illinois 61201
office: +01.309.794.7284, mobile: +01.309.558.7062
adamkaul@augustana.edu

Education

Ph.D., 2005 Durham University
Field: Social Anthropology
Dissertation: “An Ethnography of Tourism and Traditional Irish Music in Doolin, Ireland”
Doctoral Advisor: Dr. Tamara Kohn
Viva voce examiners: Dr. Robert Layton (Durham University), Dr. Sean Williams (Evergreen State College)

M.A., 1998 Northern Illinois University
Field: Cultural Anthropology
Thesis: “Vikings in Minnesota in 1362: A Study in Regional Folklore”
M.A. Advisor: Dr. Ron Provencher
Honors: *1998 Outstanding Graduate Student Award*

B.A., 1996 Minnesota State University at Moorhead
Major: Anthropology
Minor: Native American studies
Honors: *Magnum Cum Laude*

Research Interests

critical tourism studies, heritage, ethnomusicology, busking, death & dying, sustainability, Irish studies, Scandinavian studies

Scholarship

Books

- 2026 Farrar, Margaret and Adam Kaul *Becoming Utopia: History, Heritage, and Sustainability in the American Midwest*. University of Nebraska Press.
- 2026 4th edition, Gmelch, Sharon Bohn and Adam Kaul (eds.) *Tourists and Tourism*. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press.
- 2018 Kaul, Adam and Jonathan Skinner (eds.) *Leisure and Death: An Anthropological Tour of Risk, Death, & Dying*. Denver: University Press of Colorado.
* * * * Winner of the 2020 “Ed Bruner Prize” from Anthropology of Tourism Interest Group
- 2009 *Turning the Tune: Traditional Music, Tourism, and Social Change in an Irish Village* New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books.

Peer-reviewed journal articles and edited book chapters

- 2024 Celia Tuchman-Rosta and Adam Kaul, guest editors, *Tourist Studies*, special edition on “Precarity and Hope,” 24(4).
- 2024 Adam Kaul and Celia Tuchman-Rosta, “Introduction to Precarity and Hope,” *Tourist Studies*, special edition on “Precarity and Hope,” 24(4).
- 2024 Adam Hjorthén & Adam Kaul. 2024. "Refracting Roots: White Ethnic Heritage and Political Identification in the Contemporary United States". *Democracy and Autocracy* Vol. 22(1) August [“Polarization and the Past”](#), University of Michigan: Center for Emerging Democracies.
- 2023 Adam Kaul, “Speaking in Tunes: Traditional Irish Music Sessions as a ‘Conversation’” in McCurdy, David W., Dianna Shandy, and James Spradley (eds.) *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 16th edition.
- 2022 Adam Kaul, “Critical Pedagogies of Hope: Teaching an ‘Anthropological Imagination’ in an Era of Unfolding Crises” in Weis, Jennifer R. and Hillary J. Haldane (eds.) *Transforming and Reshaping General Education in Higher Education*. Routledge.
- 2021 Farrar, Margaret and Adam Kaul. “History and Heritage in Bishop Hill, Illinois: Preservation, Representation, and Tourism in a Swedish-American Borderland” in Blanck, Dag and Adam Hjorthén (eds.) *Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- 2021 Hough, Carolyn and Adam Kaul, “Symbiosis or Entrepreneurialism?: Ambivalent Anthropologies in the Age of the (neo)Liberal Arts” in *Collaborations: Disciplinary Collaboration in a Neoliberal Age*, Heffernan, Emma, Fiona Murphy, and Jonathan Skinner (eds.) London: Bloomsbury.
- 2019 Adam Kaul, “Pedestrian Performances: Cosmopolitanism and Busking in Ireland” *Éire-Ireland*, 54:1 & 2, pp. 251-274, special issue on music and Ireland edited by Méabh Ní Fhuartháin and Vereena Commins.
- 2018 Adam Kaul “A Cosmopolitanism Sense of Place?: Busking, Tourism, and Performance in ‘The City of Strangers’” in Robert Shepherd (ed.) *Cosmopolitanism and Tourism: Rethinking Theory and Practice*. Lexington: Boulder, New York, London.
- 2018 Adam Kaul and Jonathan Skinner, “Introduction” in Kaul, Adam and Jonathan Skinner (eds.), *Leisure and Death: An Anthropological Tour of Risk, Death, and Dying*, Denver: University Press of Colorado.
- 2018 Adam Kaul “That Awful Margin: Risk, Death, and Dying at the Cliffs of Moher” in Kaul, Adam and Jonathan Skinner (eds.), *Leisure and Death: An Anthropological Tour of Risk, Death, and Dying*, Denver: University Press of Colorado.
- 2015 Adam Kaul “Touring Ethnicity, Race, and Multiculturalism in Urban Contexts” *Journal of Urban Cultural Studies* 2:3, 317-323.
- 2014 Adam Kaul “Music on the Edge: Busking at the Cliffs of Moher and the Commodification of a Musical Landscape”, *Tourist Studies*, 14(1), pp. 30-47.
- 2011 Adam Kaul “The Village That Wasn’t There: Appropriation, Domination, and Resistance” in Veronica Strang and Mark Busse (eds.) *Ownership and Appropriation* Oxford: Berg, 239-259.
- 2007 Adam Kaul “The Limits of Commodification in Traditional Irish Music Sessions”, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 13:3, pp. 703-719.
- 2006/7 Adam Kaul “On ‘Tradition’: Between the Local and the Global in a Traditional Irish Music Scene”, *Folk Life: the Journal of Ethnological Studies*, 45, pp. 49-59.
- 2004 Adam Kaul “At Work in the Field: Problems and Opportunities Associated with Employment During Fieldwork”, *Anthropology Matters*, 6:2.

Non-peer-reviewed articles (open-source, popular, newsletters)

- 2018 Carolyn Hough and Adam Kaul “Ambivalent Spaces in the (Neo)liberal Arts” *Anthropology News* 59:4, 22-23.

- 2012 Kaul, Adam "Tourism in the West of Ireland: Economic Solution or Part of the Problem?" *Practicing Anthropology*, special edition on tourism edited by Sharon Gmelch, 34:3, 10-13.
- 2010 Kaul, Adam, Tamara Kohn and Hazel Tucker, "Appropriating Creative Practices and Spaces of Leisure", an introduction to the special edition of *iNtergraph: the Journal of Dialogical Anthropology*.
- 2006 Layton, Robert and Adam Kaul. "American Cultural Anthropology and British Social Anthropology: Connections and Differences" *Anthropology News* 47:1, 14.
- 2005 Kaul, Adam "Between Tradition and Innovation: Fiddling in Pub Sessions in a Western Irish Village", *Strings Magazine*, Nov., 133, 85-93.

Grants and awards received

- 2024, Student-Faculty Fellows On-Site Undergraduate Research Grant (\$12,500), with Paige Meyer and Allison McPeak, to fund research in Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK, June 2024.
- 2020, Anthropology of Tourism Interest Group Ed Bruner Prize for *Leisure & Death: An Anthropological Tour of Risk, Death, & Dying*. Denver: University Press of Colorado.
- 2019, Wallenberg travel grant for Scandinavian Studies, Augustana College
- 2018, Freistat Center for Peace Studies Travel Grant, Augustana College
- 2017, travel funding to attend the Swedish-American Borderlands conference in Sigtuna, Sweden
- 2017, Freistat Center for Peace Studies Travel Grant, Augustana College
- 2014, Moore Institute Visiting Research Fellow, National University of Ireland, Galway
- 2014, Freistat Center for Peace Studies Travel Grant, Augustana College, for research in Galway, Ireland
- 2012, Presidential Research Fellowship, Augustana College
- 2010, New Faculty Research Award, Augustana College
- 2009, Presidential Research Fellowship, Augustana College
- 2008, New Faculty Research Award, Augustana College
- 2007, Faculty Research and Creative Work Award, Medaille College
- 2004, Photo Award, Context-Based Research Group
- 2004, Radcliffe-Brown Trust Award, Association of Social Anthropologists/ Royal Anthropological Institute
- 2003, College Travel Fund Award, Ustinov College, University of Durham
- 2001-2004, Overseas Research Studentship, UK Committee of Vice Chancellors
- 1995-1996, American Linen Supply Company Scholarship, Minnesota State University at Moorhead
- 1995, Partners Internship Program Grant, Plains Art Museum, Fargo, North Dakota

Teaching Experience

2007-present, AUGUSTANA COLLEGE (Rock Island, Illinois), Professor of Anthropology

Courses taught:

- LSFY102: *Mythology, Archaeology, and Fraud in American Prehistory*
- HONR125: *Anthropology of Science*
- FLOGOS: *Certainty/Uncertainty*
- ANTH100: *Introduction to Anthropology*
- ANTH210: *Popular Culture*
- ANTH250: *Ethnography*
- ANTH320: *Native North America*
- ANTH330: *Special Topics Seminar: "The Anthropology of Ireland"*
- ANTH360: *Anthropological Theory*
- ANTH371: *Consuming Cultural Heritage*
- ANTH380: *Global Connections*
- ANTH420: *Senior Capstone*

In 2019, Augustana College transitioned to a semester calendar, and the department of Sociology & Anthropology combined curricula into a single major designation, SOAN. Courses taught thereafter include:

- SOAN102: *Introduction to Anthropology*
- SOAN231: *Culture Through Film*
- SOAN302: *A History of Anthropological Theory*
- SOAN321: *Native North America*
- SOAN325: *Global Connections*
- SOAN306: *Anthropology of Art*
- SOAN450: *Senior Inquiry Capstone*

2005-2007, MEDAILLE COLLEGE (Buffalo, New York), Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies Department

Interdisciplinary general education courses taught:

- GEN110: *Introduction to Critical Thought and Expression*
- GEN230: *Creative Expression* (focusing on ethnomusicology and folklore)
- GEN410: *Baccalaureate Capstone 1* (interdisciplinary seminar)
- GEN411: *Baccalaureate Capstone 2* (senior capstone thesis seminar)

2004-2005, DURHAM UNIVERSITY (Durham, England), Lecturer of Anthropology (1-year post)

- Course leader for *Socio-Cultural Anthropology 1: Economic and Political Anthropology*.
- Sole lecturer for *Economic Anthropology*.
- Participated lectures for several team-taught courses including *Peoples and Cultures, Change and Development*, and *Current Issues in Socio-Cultural Anthropology*.
- Supervised eleven undergraduate students writing senior anthropology capstone dissertations.
- Led several graduate seminars in a course called *Methods and Interpretation*, a course concentrates on fieldwork methodology for M.A. and Ph.D. students.

1999-2001, CONCORDIA COLLEGE (Moorhead, Minnesota)

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Social Work.

- Regularly taught an introductory course entitled *Cultural Anthropology*.

1998-2000, MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY AT MOORHEAD (Minnesota)

Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology and Earth Science.

- Independently taught several undergraduate courses including *Culture and Symbols, Evolution and Prehistory, Fossil Humans*

1996-1998, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY (DeKalb, Illinois)

Teaching Assistant for *Cultural Anthropology* and *Physical Anthropology*

Service and Advising

2007-present, AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

- International and Off-Campus Programming Committee, co-chair, 2023-2026
- Department chair, Sociology & Anthropology, 2022-present
- International and Off-Campus Programs Committee, 2023-2026

- Augustana College representative for the Memorandum of Agreement with Uppsala University, Sweden, 2022
- Board member for the Swensen Swedish Immigration Research Center, 2011-2022
- Wallenberg Grant Advisory Committee, 2018-2020
- Thomas Tredway Library Director search committee, 2018
- Honors Committee, 2015-2017
- Mike Kirn Book Award review committee, 2015
- Acting chair, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Social Welfare, Fall Term 2016
- Chair, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Social Welfare 2011-2015
- Augustana College 2020 Strategic Plan Steering Committee, 2013-2014
- Board member for the Augustana College Art Museum, 2011-2015
- Liberal Arts Representative for Augustana College at the Aspen Institute conference for Business programs at Liberal Arts Colleges, Washington D.C., March, 2012
- European Advisor for the Friestat Center for Peace Studies, 2008-2012
- 6/35 Curricular Realignment Task Force, 2010-2011
- Budget Committee, 2010-2011
- First-year Advisor, 2010-2012, 2015-2016, 2016-2017
- Faculty Advisor for the student groups Circle K, 2010-2011; Sociology, Anthropology Student Society Club; Augustana Crew Club, 2016-2018, Heywire Improv club, 2018-2019.
- Faculty Senator, 2008-2011, 2012-2013
- Educational Policies Committee, 2008-2010
- Augie Reads Committee, 2008-2010
- Faculty Research Forum co-organizer, co-convener, 2007-2008
- Co-created the Anthropology Program with Dr. Carrie Hough, 2007-2008
- External search committee member for various departments including Business Administration, Geography, Communication Studies, Environmental Studies, Library

2005-2007, MEDAILLE COLLEGE

- Interdisciplinary Studies Department curriculum program review, 2005-2006
- Chair, curriculum review committee for *Creative Expression*, 2006-2007
- Faculty Council, 2006-2007
- Educational Policies Committee, 2005-2006
- Student Research Committee
- Speech Assessment Across the Curriculum Committee, 2005-2006

2003-2005, DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY, DURHAM UNIVERSITY

- Teaching and Learning Committee, 2004-2005
- Board of Studies, 2004-2005
- Staff/Student Consultative Committee, 2004-2005
- Secretary, Board of Examiners, 2004-2005
- Student Representative, Staff/Student Consultative Committee, 2003-2004

2003, DOOLIN, Co. CLARE, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

- Secretary, Doolin Village Development Plan Committee

1997-1998, DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

- Head Teaching Assistant
- Museum Assistant

Ethnographic Fieldwork

Southwest Minnesota, June 2023, June 2025 (topic: Swedish-Americans and political polarization in America)

Dublin, Ireland, June 2017 (topic: street performers)

Bishop Hill, Illinois, 2010-2025 (topic: heritage tourism, historic preservation, clean energy economics)

Galway City, Ireland, June and July, 2014 (topic: street performers)

Doolin, and northwest County Clare, Ireland Doctoral fieldwork: 2002-2003 (fourteen months); follow-up fieldtrips in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2022 (topics: tourism, traditional music, and social change)

West-central Minnesota (Alexandria, Kensington and surrounding communities; topic: The Kensington Runestone) M.A. fieldwork: December 1997-January 1998

Fargo, North Dakota, applied ethnographer for The Plains Art Museum

June-August, 1995 (topic: resettled refugees and the arts in Moorhead, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota. Groups studied included Iraqi Kurds, Nuer and Dinka, Bosnian Muslims, Iraqis, and Vietnamese).

Archaeological fieldworker, Rustad Site (32RI775), Sheyene River, North Dakota

June 1994: Archaeological fieldworker for Dr. Michael Michlovic, Department of Anthropology and Earth Science, Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

Research Affiliations and Service

- Research Associate, Swedish Institute for North American Studies, University of Uppsala, Sweden, 2022-present
- Board member and secretary, Anthropology of Tourism Interest Group, 2018-2022
- Executive Board member and assistant secretary-treasurer, Central States Anthropological Society, 2015-2020
- Moore Institute Visiting Research Fellow, National University of Ireland, Galway, June-July 2014
- American Anthropological Association
- Society for the Anthropology of Europe
- Music and Sound Interest Group
- (Former) Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute
- (Former) Fellow of the Association of Social Anthropologists
- Honorary Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, Durham University, 2005-2008

References

Dr. Peter Kivisto

Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Augustana College

639 38th Street, Rock Island, Illinois 61201

peterkivisto@augustana.edu

(309) 794-7296

Dr. Tamara Kohn

School of Anthropology, Geography, and Environmental Studies
University of Melbourne
SEECs Building, 221 Bouverie Street, Victoria 3010, Australia
+61 3 8344 932/9311
tkohn@unimelb.edu.au

Dr. Sharon Gmelch

Kalmanovitz Hall 237
University of San Francisco
2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, California 94117-1080
sbgmelch@usfca.edu
(415) 422-4453