

Jack David Eller

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Education and Employment

Education:

Postgraduate coursework, American Indian Studies Program, University of Denver, 1997

Ph.D., Anthropology, Boston University, 1991

B.A., Individual Major (Patterns of Human Experience), Hobart College, Geneva, NY, 1981

Academic Positions:

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Woxsen University, Hyderabad, India, 2023-present

Head of Global Anthropology of Religion, Global Center for Religious Research, 2020-24

Instructor of Anthropology, University of Northern Colorado, 2004-8 and 2013-15

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Community College of Denver, 2008-13

Instructor of Anthropology, Metropolitan State College of Denver; and Community Colleges of Denver and Aurora, Colorado, 2002-8

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Colorado-Denver/Teikyo Loretto Heights University, 1991-98

Instructor of Social Science, State University of New York, Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, NY, 1988-91

Mentor-Coordinator, State University of New York, Empire State College, Utica, NY, 1988-90

Courses Taught:

Cultural Anthropology

Physical Anthropology

Social Science and Historical Perspectives

Violence and Culture

Anthropology of Religion

Sex, Gender, and Culture

Psychological Anthropology

Anthropological Film and Fiction

Introduction to Sociology

Sociology of Religion

Urban Sociology

Sociology of Diversity/Cultural Diversity in the Modern World/Multiculturalism in the U.S.

Peace Studies

American Popular Culture

Comparative Cultures

Economic Development and Culture

World History I and II

Introduction to Philosophy

Ethics

Scholarship

Books:

Anything but Orthodox: Anthropological Observations of Islam in the 21st Century (editor). In progress. London: Routledge.

Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives, 5th ed. In progress. London: Routledge.

Anthropology—History, Theory, Practice, and Engagement (editor). In progress. London: IntechOpen.

Apisteology: The Study of Not-Believing. 2025. London: Routledge.

Culture and Diversity in the United States: So Many Ways to be American, 2nd ed. 2024: London: Routledge.

Beyond Liminality: Ontologies of Abundant Betweenness. 2024. New York and London: Routledge.

Nonbelievers, Apostates, and Atheists in the Muslim World (co-editor with Natalie Khazaal). 2024. London: Routledge.

Gun Violence and Prevention: Connections, Cultures, and Consequences (editor). 2024. London: IntechOpen.

Introducing Anthropology of Religion: Culture to the Ultimate, 3rd ed. 2022. London: Routledge.

The Anthropology of Donald Trump: Culture and the Exceptional Moment (editor). 2022. London: Routledge.

Trump and Political Theology: Unmaking Truth and Democracy. 2020. Denver, CO: Global Center for Religious Research Press.

Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives, 4th ed. 2020. London: Routledge.

Inventing American Traditions: From the Mayflower to Cinco de Mayo. 2018. London: Reaktion Books.

Psychological Anthropology for the 21st Century. 2018. London: Routledge.

Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives, Chinese edition. 2018. Beijing: Routledge.

Social Science and Historical Perspectives: Society, Science, and Ways of Knowing. 2016. London: Routledge.

Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives, 3rd ed. 2016. London: Routledge.

Culture and Diversity in the United States: So Many Ways to be American. 2015. London: Routledge.

Cultural Anthropology 101. 2015. London: Routledge.

Introducing Anthropology of Religion: Culture to the Ultimate, 2nd ed. 2014. London: Routledge.

Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives, 2nd ed. 2012. London: Routledge.

Antropologia Kulturowa : Globalne Siły, Lokalne Światy (Polish translation of *Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives*). 2012. Anna Gąsior-Niemiec, trans. Kraków : Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego.

Social Systems, Social Lives: Introduction to Sociology SOC 102. 2012. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Cruel Creeds, Virtuous Violence: Religious Violence Across Culture and History. 2010. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.

Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives. 2009. London: Routledge.

Introducing Anthropology of Religion: Culture to the Ultimate. 2007. London: Routledge.

Violence and Culture: A Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Approach. 2005. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.

From Culture to Ethnicity to Conflict: An Anthropological Perspective on International Ethnic Conflict. 1999. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Culture and Subjectivity: On the Theory of the Individual in Culture. 1991. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Boston University.

Books in “Anthropology of Now” Series (as series editor)

Anthropology and Artificial Intelligence (title TBD). Lora Koycheva, Angela K. VandenBroek, and Matt Artz, eds. In production.

What Brexit Means: Polarization and Cultural Change in Britain, Maxwell Horder, 2024.

Anthropology of an Ascendant China, Mayfair Yang, ed., 2024.

Gun Rights Activists and the US Culture War: Embodied Fantasies of the Ethical Warrior in Contemporary Gun Culture, Joe Anderson, 2024.

Dispossession: Imperial Legacies and Russia’s War on Ukraine, Catherine Wanner, ed., 2023.

Love and Technology: An Ethnography of Dating App Users in Berlin, Fabian Broeker, 2023.

Articles and Chapters:

“Guns as Meaning and Material Object: An Anthropological Perspective.” In Anne Wagner, ed. *International Handbook of Legal Language and Communication: From Text to Semiotics*. In progress. Springer Nature.

---- and Dariyoush Davari. “Becoming Nonreligious in Iran: A Qualitative Study of Irreligious Socialization.” *Secular Studies*, forthcoming.

“Introductory Chapter: The Many Lives of Anthropology.” In Jack David Eller, ed. *Anthropology—History, Theory, Practice, and Engagement*. In progress. London: IntechOpen.

“If Anthropology is Not Ethnography, Then What is It?” In Jack David Eller, ed. *Anthropology—History, Theory, Practice, and Engagement*. In progress. London: IntechOpen.

“America: Republic or Democracy?” 2025. Free Voice. <https://shuddhashar.com/america-republic-or-democracy>.

- “Agnocracy: Rule by Ignorance.” 2025. *Current Research Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* 8 (1): 25-36.
- “Psychological Anthropology.” 2025. Reference Module in Social Sciences. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780443266294000034> (preview of chapter in *Encyclopedia of Measurement in Social Sciences*, 2nd ed.): 1-11.
- Davari-Torshizi, Mehdi and -----, “Representing Religion and Resisting Secularism in English Language Textbooks: A Qualitative Study of Iranian Locally-Produced Textbooks.” 2024. *Current Research Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* 7 (2): 103-13.
- “Informulacra and Information: Fake News, Truth Substitution, and Other Sovereign Acts.” 2023. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: C Sociology & Culture* 23 (7): 1-10.
- “God, Owner, Master: Why Most Entities We Call ‘God(s)’ are Not God(s) at All.” 2023. *Secular Studies* 5 (2): 99-119. DOI 10.1163/25892525-bja10049.
- “‘Religion is Anti-Me’: Becoming and Being a Nonbeliever in the Muslim World.” *Freevoice* August 1, 2023. <https://shuddhashar.com/religion-is-anti-me-becoming-and-being-a-nonbeliever-in-the-muslim-world>.
- “Digital Man or Jocko Homo: Rush, Devo, and Competing Visions of the Technofuture.” 2023. *Popular Music and Society* (online). DOI 10.1080/03007766.2023.2217342.
- “The Trickster: A Political Theology for Our Time.” 2023. *Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry* 5 (1): 44-67.
- “Apisteology: A Program for the Study of Nonbelief.” 2022. *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism* 30: 1-12, <https://americanhumanist.org/what-we-do/publications/eph/journals/volume30/eller>.
- “A Quiet Tsunami: Nonreligion and Atheism in the Muslim World.” 2022. *Secular Studies* 4 (2): 117-39.
- “Space Colonization and Exonationalism: On the Future of Humanity and Anthropology.” 2022. *Humans* 2 (3): 148-60.
- “Race and Rage: Mourning Loss in Right-Wing Populism and Ethnonationalism.” 2021. *Reviews in Anthropology* (online): 1-17.
- “The Science of Unknowable and Imaginary Things.” 2019. *Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry* 1 (2): 178-201.
- “Varieties of Secular Experience.” In Phil Zuckerman and John Shook, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Secularism*. 2017. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 499-515.
- “Studying Religion Anthropologically.” 2012. In Pamela Moro, ed. *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion*, 9th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 6-13.
- “Christianity Evolving: On the Origin of Religious Species.” 2011. In John Loftus, ed. *The End of Christianity*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 23-51.
- “The Anthropology Review Database.” 2010. *Visual Anthropology*. 23 (5): 464-5.
- “The Case Against the Case Against Religious Violence.” 2010. *Secular Nation* (October-December), 5-10.

“What is Atheism?” 2010. In Philip Zuckerman, ed. *Atheism and Secularity, Volume 1: Issues, Concepts, and Definitions*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1-18.

“Atheism and Secularity in the Arab World.” 2010. In Philip Zuckerman, ed. *Atheism and Secularity, Volume 2: Global Expressions*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 113-37.

“Wadsworth’s Interactive Maps for Cultural Anthropology.” 2004. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.

“Friendship in Cross-Cultural Perspective.” 2003. In Douglas Hawkins, ed. *Journey to Yourself*. Denver: Deeper Insights Publishing Group, 221-38.

“Macroevolution and Microcreationism: Another Flaw in Intelligent Design Creationism.” 2003. *Skeptic* 10 (3): 70-74.

“La Culture au Coeur du Conflit: L’Anthropologie, La Difference Culturelle, at L’Argument ‘Ethnique.’” (“From Culture to Conflict: Anthropology, Cultural Difference, and the ‘Ethnic’ Argument.”) 2002. In Isabelle Schulte-Tenckhoff, ed *Alterité et Droit: Contributions a L’Étude du Rapport entre Droit et Culture*. Brussels: Bruylant, 51-87.

“Anti Anti Multiculturalism.” 1997. *American Anthropologist* 99 (2): 249-60.

“Ethnicity, Culture, and ‘The Past.’” 1997. *Michigan Quarterly Review* 36: 552-600.

“Affect, Identity, and Ethnicity: Towards a Social-Psychological Model of Ethnic Attachment.” 1996. *Ethnic Studies Review* 19 (2-3): 141-154.

“The Poverty of Primordialism: The Demystification of Ethnic Attachments” (with Reed Coughlan). 1993. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 16 (1): 183-202.

Anthologized in a new collection published by Sociologické Nakladatelství SLON, in Czech. 2013

Anthologized in John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith, eds. *Nationalism: Critical Concepts in Political Science*. 2000. London: Routledge, 161-179

Anthologized in John Hutchinson and Anthony Smith, eds. *Oxford Reader: Ethnicity*. 1996. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 45-51.

“Pentecostalism and its Relation to Traditional and Contemporary Social Organization in Warlpiri Society.” 1992. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Warlpiri Place Names Map. 1982. Copy held at Yuendumu Community Council and Warlpiri Literature Production Centre

Papers Presented:

“The Surprising Surge of Nonbelief and Atheism in the Muslim World.” Paper presented to International eConference on Atheism, Global Center for Religious Research, Denver, CO, March 4-5, 2023.

“The Truth Hurts: An Anthropological Perspective on Religion and Suffering.” Paper presented to second annual international e-conference on atheism: “God and Suffering,” Global Center for Religious Research, Denver, CO, December 11-12, 2021.

“Disbelieving in America: Toward an Anthropology of Atheist Culture.” Paper presented to the annual conference of the Society for the Anthropology of North America, Denver, CO, April 15-7, 2010.

“Beyond the New Atheism: From Critique to Community to Culture.” Paper presented to the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO, October 23-25, 2009.

“The Economy of Life: A New Theory of Sacrifice.” Paper presented to the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO, October 23-25, 2009.

“Religious ‘Belief’ and the Colonization of Experience.” Paper presented to Mensa annual conference, Denver, CO, July 2, 2008.

“Morality is Not What You Believe: Anthropology and the Evolution of Ethics and Religion.” Paper presented to University of Colorado-Denver conference “Intersections: Religion, Science, and Ethics,” Denver, CO, April 6, 2007.

“Anti Anti Multiculturalism.” Paper presented to the University of Massachusetts-Lowell Conference on Ethnicity and Multiculturalism, Lowell, MA, 1995.

“Affect, Identity, and Ethnicity: Towards a Social-Psychological Model of Ethnic Attachment.” Paper presented to the 13th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Mexico City, Mexico, July 1993.

Selected Book and Film Reviews:

Approximately 1,200 book and film reviews for the Anthropology Review Database 2005-18.

Review of Thimm, Viola *Shopping with Allah: Muslim Pilgrimage in a Globalised World*. *Anthropology of Work Review*. 2024. <https://saw.americananthro.org/pub/6h0uz4fk/release/1>.

Review of Testa, Alessandro *Ritualising Cultural Heritage and Re-enchanting Rituals in Europe*. *Religio*. 2024. 32 (1): 238-40.

Review of Beekers, Daan and David Kloos, eds. *Straying from the Straight Path: How Senses of Failure Invigorate Lived Religion*. *Ethos*. 2021. 49 (2).

Review of Torri, Davide *Landscape, Ritual and Identity among the Hyolmo of Nepal*. <https://readingreligion.org/books/landscape-ritual-and-identity-among-hyolmo-nepal>, 2021

Review of Nagarajan, Vijaya *Feeding a Thousand Souls: Women, Ritual, and Ecology in India—An Exploration of the Kolam*. <https://readingreligion.org/books/feeding-thousand-souls>, 2020.

Review of Swancutt, Katherine and Mireille Mazard, eds. *Animism Beyond the Soul: Ontology, Reflexivity, and the Making of Anthropological Knowledge*, <https://readingreligion.org/books/animism-beyond-soul>, 2020.

Review of Ugur, Etga *Faith and Politics in the Public Sphere: The Gülen Movement and the Mormon Church*, <https://readingreligion.org/books/faith-and-politics-public-sphere>, 2020.

Review of Kenney, Michael *The Islamic State in Britain: Radicalization and Resilience in an Activist Network*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/islamic-state-britain>, 2019.

Review of Aly, Ramy M. K. *Becoming Arab in London: Performativity and the Undoing of Identity*, <http://www.anthropology-news.org/?book-review=to-be-or-not-to-be-arab-in-london>, 2019.

Review of Canals, Roger *A Goddess in Motion: Visual Creativity in the Cult of María Lionza*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/goddess-motion>, 2019.

Review of Ball, Christopher *Exchanging Words: Language, Ritual and Relationality in Brazil's Xingu Indigenous Park*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/exchanging-words>, 2019.

Review of Bunt, Gary R. *Hashtag Islam: How Cyber-Islamic Environments are Transforming Religious Authority*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/hashtag-islam>, 2019.

Review of Srinivas, Tulasi *The Cow in the Elevator: An Anthropology of Wonder*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/cow-elevator>, 2018.

Review of Palmisano, Stefania and Nicola Pannolino, eds. *Invention of Tradition and Syncretism in Contemporary Religions*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/invention-tradition-and-syncretism-contemporary-religions>, 2018.

Review of Nolte, Insa, Olukoya Ogen, and Rebecca Jones *Beyond Religious Tolerance: Muslim, Christian and Traditionalist Encounters in an African Town*. Reading Religion/American Academy of Religion, <http://readingreligion.org/books/beyond-religious-tolerance>, 2017.

Review of Wilson, Tamar *Economic Life of Mexican Beach Vendors: Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas*. *Anthropology of Work Review* 2015. 36 (2): 104-6.

Review of Usunier, Jean-Claude and Jörg Stolz, eds. *Religions as Brands: New Perspectives on the Marketization of Religion and Spirituality*. *Religious Studies Review* 2015. 41 (3): 103.

Review of Turner, Edith *Communitas: The Anthropology of Joy*. *The Journal of Religion* 2013. 93 (3): 410-2.

Review of Aoláin, Fionnuala Ní, Dina Francesca Haynes, and Naomi Cahn *On the Frontlines: Gender, War, and the Post-Conflict Process*. *Journal of Peace Research* 2012. 49 (4): 619.

Review of Brenneman, Robert *Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America*. *Journal of Peace Research* 2012. 49 (3): 494.

Review of Adelman, Howard and Elazar Barkan *No Return, No Refuge: Rites and Rights in Minority Repatriation*. *Journal of Peace Research*. 2012. 49 (2): 375.

Review of Toft, Monica Duffy; Daniel Philpott, and Timothy Samuel Shah *God's Century: Resurgent Religion and Global Politics*. *Journal of Peace Research*. 2012. 49 (1): 267.

Review of DeFronzo, James *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*, 4th ed. *Journal of Peace Research*. 2011. 48 (4): 558.

Review of Beck, Ulrich *A God of One's Own: Religion's Capacity for Peace and Potential for Violence*. *Journal of Peace Research*. 2011. 48 (3): 413.

Review of Hewitt, J. Joseph, Jonathan Wilkenfeld, and Ted Robert Gurr, eds. *Peace and Conflict 2010*. *Journal of Peace Research*. 2011. 48 (2): 264.

Review of Al-Rasheed, Madawi and Marat Shterin, eds. *Dying for Faith: Religiously Motivated Violence in the Contemporary World*. *Journal of Peace Research*. 2010. 48 (1): 127.

Review of Edis, Taner *The Ghost in the Universe*, "Reports of the National Center for Science Education." 2003. 23 (Jan/Feb): 29-30.

Professional Activities:

Managing editor, *Current Research Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 2024-present

Editorial board member, *Cultural Conflict and Resolution*, 2024-present

Editorial board member (review editor), *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2023-present

Editorial board member, *Social Sciences*, 2021-present

Book series editor, "Anthropology of Now," Routledge, 2021-present

Head of Global Anthropology of Religion and Secretary, Global Center for Religious Research, 2020-present

Advisory board, *Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry*, 2018-present

Editorial board member, *Secularism and Nonreligion*, 2010-present

Editor for Visual Anthropology and Ethnographic Film, Anthropology Review Database, 2009-18

Research Grants:

National Science Foundation grant, 1998: "Native Nets: Technology in American Indian Societies"

Fulbright-Hayes Dissertation fellowship, 1987-8: "Religious Change in Warlpiri Society"

Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies fellowship, 1987-8: "Religious Change in Warlpiri Society"

Thomas J. Watson fellowship, 1981-2: "Comparative Study of Coastal and Desert Aboriginal Cultures"