

# GREGORY GAN

## CURRICULUM VITAE

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow  
CRC 1171: "Affective Societies"  
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Berlin, 12459. Germany  
Country of residence: Germany  
Citizenship: Canada, Russian Federation

### EDUCATION

Conferral date:  
May 15, 2019

**PhD, Anthropology.** University of British Columbia. Vancouver, Canada.

*PhD Dissertation: Russia Outside Russia: Transnational Mobility and Imagination amongst Russian Migrants to Paris, Berlin, and New York.* Supplementary interactive media installation: *Still Life with a Suitcase* (2018, 82 minutes).

2010

**MA, Anthropology.** Memorial University of Newfoundland. St. John's, Canada.

MA Thesis: *To Our Hopeless Affair: A Visual Anthropology Study of Women of the Russian Intelligentsia in the Post-Soviet era.* Supplementary film: *Turning Back the Waves* (2010, 96 minutes).

2006

**HBA, Anthropology.** University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada.

Major in anthropology; minors in philosophy and music.

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Current position:  
May 2021 -  
April 2023

**Postdoctoral Fellow.** "Picturing Postsocialism: A Visual Anthropology Study on the Affective Dimensions of 'Renovation' of Five-Storey Panel Homes in Moscow and Berlin."

SSHRC-funded position hosted by *CRC 1171: Affective Societies*, Freie Universität, Berlin.

2017-2018

**Docent.** *CityLab: Berlin*, a satellite campus of Norwich University, US, in Berlin, Germany.

### PUBLICATIONS

Refereed articles:  
In press

"Panel block: Engineering dreams in three-dimensional space." Forthcoming in *Encyclopedia of Mobilities*. Peter Adey, Weiqiang Lin, Kaya Barry, eds. Edward Elgar: Cheltenham, UK.

2019

"'And with me, my Russia / I bring along in a traveling bag': Literary and ethnographic narratives of Russian exile and emigration, past and present." *Revolutionary Russia*. May 2019.

2015

"Soaring to dizzying heights: Christ the Saviour Cathedral as a historical arena for the persecution of Pussy Riot." *Critique of Anthropology*, Vol. 35(2), 166-186. May 2015.

Conference  
proceedings  
2017

"The trope of the suitcase: Narratives of mobile identities amongst transnational Russian migrants." *Heritages of Migration: Moving Stories, Objects and Home*. Buenos Aires, Argentina. July 6-10.

Film & Media: 2019

*Still Life with a Suitcase*. Photograph. *Brick: A Literary Journal*. Forthcoming, Winter.

2017

*Still Life with a Suitcase*. Interactive installation on transnational Russian migration. Variable duration. World premiere: *Digital Anthropologies Film Festival*, Paris, France.

2015

*Phantom Couriers: Ghost in the Machine*. 7 minutes. Short film on bicycle messengers in Vancouver, Canada. World premiere: *Filmed by Bike*. Portland, United States.

## **PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)**

Film & Media  
(cont.): 2014

*The Theory of Happiness*. 82 minutes. Ethnographic film on a radical Ukrainian mathematical sect. World premiere: *Hot Docs International Film Festival*, Toronto, Canada.

2008 *Turning Back the Waves*. 96 minutes. Ethnographic film on Soviet women's life histories. Library and Archives Canada/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada.

2011 *Make a Wise Wish Now*. 33 minutes. Ethnographic film on magic ritual and performance.

Translations: 2014 *Khudozhestvenniy Zhurnal (Moscow Art Magazine), 2007-2014*. Maier: Moscow (Russian to English).

2012 *Dmitry Tsvetkov: The State*. Maier: Moscow (Russian to English).

2012 *TOTART: Natalia Abalakova, Anatoly Zhigalov*. Maier: Moscow (Russian to English).

2011 *Impossible Community*. Moscow Museum of Modern Art: Moscow (Russian to English).

Non-refereed: 2010 "Sobachie schastie: Gorod solntsa v Kharkovskoy oblasti" ("A dog's happiness: A city of the sun in the Kharkov region." In Russian.). *Smena*, October, Vol. 1753(2): 66-71.

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

Panel Organiser: 2022 "Artist's Block: Collective collaborations on post-Soviet panel-block apartment aesthetics in virtual space." Virtual Otherwise: Joint SCA-SVA conference, June 2-4, 2022.

Film & Media: 2018 *Still Life with a Suitcase*. Variable duration. CASCA-Cuba: Contrapunteo-Counterpoints. Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. May 16-20.

Papers: 2022 "Horizontal Histories: Representing socialist panel-block apartments in art and scholarship in times of war." The City of Silence(ing) and Refusal; Warning the Cities, November 25-26, Berlin.

2022 "Great plans: paper architecture and utopian reconstruction projects in Moscow and Berlin circa 1955." Linking Art Worlds, Traveling Research Seminar: Budapest, September 13-18.

2017 "And with me, my Russia / I bring along in a traveling bag": Literary and ethnographic narratives of Russian exile and emigration, past and present." Young Researchers Conference: Centennial, Commemoration, Catastrophe: 1917-2017 as Past and Present in Russia and Beyond. Cuma, Italy. June 13-16.

2017 "Burning bridges: Ambivalent metaphors of Russian state power as seen through the symbolism of bridges as contentious political spaces." BRIDGE: The Heritages of Connecting Places and Cultures. Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, UK. July 6-10.

2017 "The Trope of the Suitcase: Narratives of Mobile Identities amongst Transnational Russian Migrants." Heritages of Migration: Moving Stories, Objects and Home. Buenos Aires, Argentina. April 6-10.

2013 "Soaring to dizzying heights: Christ the Saviour Cathedral as a historical arena for the persecution of Pussy Riot." Victoria, Canada. May 8-11.

2009 "Negotiating belonging: women of the Russian intelligentsia in post-Soviet Russia." American Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, United States. December 2-6.

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

- 2021 **Winner of the “Artwork on Mobility” Art Competition**, UBC Centre for Migration Studies.
- 2019 **Outstanding Graduating Anthropology Student Awards**, Canadian Anthropology Society.
- 2017 **Anthropology PhD Dissertation Writing Awards**, The University of British Columbia.
- 2016 **Public Scholars Initiative Award**, The University of British Columbia.
- 2015 **Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement**, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – Canada Graduate Scholarship (SSHRC – CGS).
- 2014 **Nominee for Best Canadian Documentary**, Hot Docs International Film Festival.
- 2014 **Arts Research Graduate Award**, The University of British Columbia.
- 2013 **Doctoral Fellowship**, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – Canada Graduate Scholarship (SSHRC – CGS).
- 2012 **Four-Year Doctoral Fellowship for PhD Students**, The University of British Columbia.
- 2011 **Professional Development Grant**, Salt Spring Island Art Council.
- 2010 **Professional Projects Grant**, Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council.
- 2008 **Master’s Fellowship**, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – Canada Graduate Scholarship (SSHRC – CGS).
- 2008 **Dean’s Award for Academic Excellence**, Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- 2007 **Master’s Fellowship and Merit Awards**, School of Graduate Studies, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

## **ARTIST RESIDENCIES**

- 2020 *Closer to Home: Dwelling Places as Social Entities*. Kunstnarhuset Messen. Ålvik, Norway. March - May.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

- Solo* – 2020 *A Brush with Nature: Hardangerfjord in Transparent Watercolor*. Hardangergalleri. Grimo, Norway. August 12 - September 12.
- 2019 *Still Life with a Suitcase: a multimedia installation and linoprints of imagined places*. Charles Street Video at the Toronto Media Arts Centre. Toronto. July 25 - August 9.
- Group* – 2020 *KHMessen Open Studio*. Ålvik, Norway. March 26.
- 2020 *KHMessen Open Studio*. Ålvik, Norway. May 30.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2022 We are where we dwell”: Experiences of home-making in an uncertain terrain.” Institute for Social Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin. Master’s and Undergraduate seminars. December 14.
- 2020 “Unsynced: How to start, reinvent, or finish your film in a time of unprecedented change.” Charles Street Video at the Toronto Media Arts Centre. May 25 and 29.
- 2015 “Visual anthropology: An interdisciplinary approach towards the interpretation of the structure of image, symbol, and imagination” (in Russian). Moscow University of Psychology and Sociology (MPSU). Briansk, Russia. December 6.
- 2012 Preview screening and discussion of *The Theory of Happiness*. Eurasia Research Group. The University of British Columbia (prior to admission). April 27.

## INVITED MEDIA SCREENINGS AND FILM FESTIVALS

- Installation*
- 2019 **Still Life with a Suitcase**. Variable duration. Video-mapping; “smart” ceramic objects; suitcase. 2017 Anthropology Graduate Student Association. The University of British Columbia. Vancouver. January 10.
- 2017 *CityLab: Berlin*. Norwich University. Berlin. December 1.
- 2017 *Digital Anthropologies/Anthropologies Numériques* (World Premiere). Paris. November 15-19.
- Feature film*
- 2019 **The Theory of Happiness**. 96 minutes. 2014. *Viscult-NAFA Ethnographic Documentary Film Festival*. Joensuu, Finland. October 25.
- 2019 *Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität*. Münster, Germany. April 11.
- 2019 *Days of Ethnographic Film*. Ljubljana, Slovenia. March 8.
- 2015 *Beursschowburg*. Brussels, Belgium. December 10.
- 2015 *PANDA Theater*. Berlin, Germany. October 7.
- 2015 *Dum Národnostníh Menšin* (House of Minorities). Prague, Czech Republic. September 30.
- 2014 *Hot Docs International Film Festival* (World Premiere). Toronto, Canada. April 26.
- Short film*
- 2019 **Phantom Couriers: Ghost in the Machine**. 7 minutes. 2015. *Filmed by Bike*. Portland. United States.
- 2015 *Main Film: Cinéma Expérimentale*. Montréal.
- Short film*
- 2007 **Negative Space**. 6 minutes. 2007. *Innis College Town Hall*. University of Toronto. Toronto.

Course  
development &  
instruction

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Writing the Thesis.** HMKW Hochschule für Medien, Kommunikation und Wirtschaft, Berlin. Graduate seminar for the M.A. Visual and Media Anthropology program. Summers 2022, 2021.

**(Dis)placed: Representing Ethnographic Field Sites.** Freie Universität, Berlin. M.A. Visual and Media Anthropology program. March, 2020.

**Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.** CityLab: Berlin, Norwich University, VT. Winter, 2017; Fall, 2018; Winter, 2018.

**Structures of Power: Germany 1500 to the Present.** CityLab: Berlin, Norwich University, VT. Winter, 2017; Fall, 2018; Winter, 2018.

**Introduction to Anthropology.** Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's. Summer, 2011.

**Anthropology of Media.** Teaching Assistant, The University of British Columbia. Fall, 2012.

**Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.** Teaching Assistant, The University of British Columbia. Winter, 2013.

**Greek Art and Architecture.** Teaching Assistant, Memorial University of Newfoundland. Fall, 2007.

**Intermediate Russian.** Teaching Assistant, Memorial University of Newfoundland. Winter, 2008.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

*International Migration into Russia.* Research Assistantship. A research project led by Dr. Alexia Bloch, Dept. of Anthropology, University of British Columbia. Summer, 2013.

*History of the Volga Germans in Russia.* Research Assistantship. A research project led by Dr. Erwin Warkentin. Dept. of German and Russian, Memorial University of Newfoundland. Winter, 2008.

*Archivist.* Translation and annotation of library holdings at the Dept. of German and Russian, Memorial University of Newfoundland. Spring, 2008.

## UNIVERSITY EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 "Moving Pictures: Representing Migration in Ethnographic Film." Paper presented as part of a roundtable, *Beyond Borders: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Migration*, organized by the Migration Network at the Liu Institute for Global Issues, The University of British Columbia. November 26.
- 2013 "The World in a Suitcase: Experience of Migration through Literature, Objects and Film," *Ethnography of Eurasia*. Dept. of Anthropology, The University of British Columbia. November 19.
- 2011 "Where do you place on the Pyramid of Happiness? Notes of a filmmaker/participant in a radical Ukrainian sect." Dept. of Anthropology, Memorial University of Newfoundland. February 15.

Teaching  
assistantships

- 2011 “‘The Theory of Happiness,’ or: How I learned to stop worrying about being a participant-observer in a radical Ukrainian sect.” *Cultural Geography*. Memorial University of Newfoundland. February 18.
- 2010 “Collaborative Filmmaking and Cinema as a Fascist Art.” *Visual Anthropology*. Memorial University of Newfoundland. March 19.
- 2010 Film Presentation and discussion, “Turning Back the Waves.” Inco Innovation Center. Memorial University of Newfoundland. March 5.
- 2009 Post-fieldwork presentation, “Turning Back the Waves: Women of the Russian Intelligentsia During Perestroika.” Dept. of Anthropology. Memorial University of Newfoundland. February 19.
- 2008 “Make a Wise Wish Now: an Ethnographic Exploration of Magic.” *Visual Anthropology Unit Film Screening*, Dept. of Anthropology, Memorial University of Newfoundland. April 20.

### **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

- 2021 **Drawing Nature, Science, and Culture: Natural History Illustration.** Certificate course, The University of Newcastle, Australia.
- 2019 **Programming Fundamentals using “C”.** Seneca College. Toronto, Canada.
- 2019 **Drawing Fundamentals.** George Brown College. Toronto, Canada.
- 2011 **Master Class in Ethnographic Filmmaking.** *SoundImageCulture*. Brussels, Belgium. Nine-month artistic training program in ethnographic filmmaking resulting in the production of a feature-length film, *The Theory of Happiness* (2014, 82 minutes).
- 2007 **Film Studies.** Ryerson University. Toronto, Canada. Courses in film production, directing, and editing.

### **PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS**

- 2020 **Co-organizer.** *Artist Support Network: Virtual Artist Support Seminars during the Coronavirus Crisis.*
- 2017-2020 **Co-founder.** *Fragile Matters: An International Media-Arts Collective.*
- 2016-2018 **Public Scholar.** *Public Scholars Initiative*, The University of British Columbia.
- 2014-2018 **Liu Scholar.** *Liu Institute for Global Issues*, University of British Columbia.
- 2018, 2013 **Student Member.** *Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA).*
- 2014 **Chair, Migration Network.** *Liu Institute for Global Issues*, University of British Columbia.
- 2009 **Student Member.** *American Anthropological Association (AAA).*

## **LANGUAGE AND DIGITAL MEDIA SKILLS**

Full fluency in English and Russian.

Excellent conversation and comprehension skills in French.

Intermediate conversation and comprehension skills in German and Spanish.

Proficiency in the use of digital- and film-based camera and sound recording equipment.

Proficiency in non-linear video-editing platforms, such as Final Cut Pro, Avid, and Premiere.

Proficiency in 3D animation (Blender) and video-mapping software (Resolume).

Understanding of website development tools (HTML; CSS) and coding languages (C; Python).

## **REFEREES**

2021-present *Current Postdoctoral Supervisor*

### **Dr. Prof. Dr. Birgitt Röttger-Rössler**

Institut für Social- und Kulturanthropologie

Freie Universität Berlin

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Birgitt.Roettger-Roessler@fu-berlin.de

2012-2018 *Doctoral Dissertation Supervisor*

### **Prof. Alexia Bloch**

Department of Anthropology

The University of British Columbia

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