Stanford



Matthew Kohrman

Associate Professor of Anthropology, and by courtesy, of Medicine (Stanford Prevention and Research Center) and Senior Fellow, by courtesy, at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Bio

BIO

Matthew Kohrman's research and writing bring anthropological methods to bear on the ways health, culture, and politics are interrelated. Focusing on the People's Republic of China, he engages various intellectual terrains such as governmentality, gender theory, political economy, critical science studies, narrativity, and embodiment. His first monograph, Bodies of Difference: Experiences of Disability and Institutional Advocacy in the Making of Modern China, raises questions about how embodied aspects of human existence, such as our gender, such as our ability to propel ourselves through space as walkers, cyclists and workers, become founts for the building of new state apparatuses of social provision, in particular, disability-advocacy organizations. Over the last decade, Prof. Kohrman has been involved in research aimed at analyzing and intervening in the biopolitics of cigarette smoking among Chinese citizens. This work, as seen in his recently edited volume--Poisonous Pandas: Chinese Cigarette Manufacturing in Critical Historical Perspectives--expands upon heuristic themes of his earlier disability research and engages in novel ways techniques of public health, political philosophy, and spatial history. More recently, he has begun projects linking ongoing interests at the intersection of phenomenology and political economy with questions regarding environmental attunement and the arts.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Anthropology
- Senior Fellow (By courtesy), Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
- Associate Professor (By courtesy), Medicine
- Member, Stanford Cancer Institute

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Faculty Fellow, Center for Innovation in Global Health, Stanford University School of Medicine, (2015- present)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE)
- Center for East Asian Studies
- Modern Thought and Literature

LINKS

- Anthro Dept: https://web.stanford.edu/dept/anthropology/cgi-bin/web/?q=node/95
- FSI Page: http://fsi.stanford.edu/people/matthew_kohrman/
- My Autumn 2026 Student Office Hours: https://calendly.com/kohrman-2/new-meeting

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Dissertation Writers Workshop: ANTHRO 400 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- From Biopolitics to Necropolitics and Beyond: ANTHRO 322 (Aut)
- How to Cheat in College with AI: An Anthropological Study: ANTHRO 61 (Aut)
- Medical Anthropology: ANTHRO 282, ANTHRO 82, HUMBIO 176A (Win)

2025-26

- Dissertation Writers Workshop: ANTHRO 400 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Masculinity: Technologies and Cultures of Gender in the Age of AI: ANTHRO 133, ANTHRO 233, FEMGEN 133M (Spr)
- Medical Anthropology: ANTHRO 282, ANTHRO 82, HUMBIO 176A (Aut)

2024-25

- A Hands-On Anthropological Introduction: Health, Politics, and Culture of Contemporary China: OSPBEIJ 55 (Spr)
- Medical Anthropology: ANTHRO 282, ANTHRO 82, HUMBIO 176A (Aut)
- Reading Theory Through Ethnography: ANTHRO 300 (Win)

2023-24

- From Biopolitics to Necropolitics and Beyond: ANTHRO 322 (Win)
- Health, Politics, and Culture of Modern China: ANTHRO 148, ANTHRO 248, CHINA 155A, CHINA 255A (Spr)
- Reading Theory Through Ethnography: ANTHRO 300 (Spr)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Filtered Life: Air Purification, Gender, and Cigarettes in the People's Republic of China** *PUBLIC CULTURE*
  Kohrman, M.
  2021; 33 (2): 161-191

- **Scholars' Plea: U.S. and China, Work Together on the Pandemic**
  Kohrman, M., et al
  New York Times. New York, New York.
  2020

- **Tobacco Reconsidered: Ongoing Omissions, Original Outlooks in the Slipstreams of Experience, Global Health and Critical Industry Studies** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Kohrman, M., Benson, P.
  2020; 49

- **Unmasking a Gendered Materialism: Air Filtration, Cigarettes, and Domestic Discord in Urban China** *Can Science and Technology Save China? Utopian Dreams, Dystopian Realities*
  Kohrman, M.
  edited by Greenhalgh, S., Zhang, L.
  Cornell University Press.2020

- **The Chinese Cigarette Industry during the Great Leap Forward** *Poisonous Pandas*
  Huangfu, Q., Kohrman, M.
  Stanford University Press.2018

- **“Filtered” Cigarettes and the Low-Tar Lie in China** *Poisonous Pandas*
  Kohrman, M., et al
  Stanford University Press.2018
- **Wrangling the Cash Cow: Reforming Tobacco Taxation since Mao** *Poisonous Pandas*
  Kohrman, M., et al
  Stanford University Press.2018
- **Curating Employee Ethics: Self-Glory Amidst Slow Violence at The China Tobacco Museum** *MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Kohrman, M.
  2017; 36 (1): 47-60
- **Cloaks and Veils: Countervisualizing Cigarette Factories In and Outside of China** *ANTHROPOLOGICAL QUARTERLY*
  Kohrman, M.
  2015; 88 (4): 907-939
- **Smoking intensity among male factory workers in Kunming, China.** *Asia-Pacific journal of public health*
  Cheng, K., Tsoh, J. Y., Cui, W., Li, X., Kohrman, M.
  2015; 27 (2): NP606-15
- **Tobacco** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY, VOL 40*
  Kohrman, M., Benson, P.
  2011; 40: 329-344
- **Anthropology in China's health promotion and tobacco** *LANCET*
  Xiao, S., Kohrman, M.
  2008; 372 (9650): 1617-1618
- **Smoking among doctors: Governmentality, embodiment, and the diversion of blame in contemporary China** *MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Kohrman, M.
  2008; 27 (1): 9-42
- **Depoliticizing tobacco's exceptionality: Male sociality, death and memory-making among Chinese cigarette smokers** *CHINA JOURNAL*
  Kohrman, M.
  2007; 58: 85-109
- **Why am I not disabled? Making state subjects, making statistics in post-mao China** *MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY QUARTERLY*
  Kohrman, M.
  2003; 17 (1): 5-24
- **Authorizing a disability agency in post-Mao China: Deng Pufang's story as biomythography** *CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Kohrman, M.
  2003; 18 (1): 99-131
- **Grooming Que Zi: Marriage Exclusion and Identity Formation among Disabled Men in Contemporary China** *AMERICAN ETHNOLOGIST*
  Kohrman, M.
  2000; 26: 890-909
- **Motorcycles for the disabled: Mobility, modernity and the transformation of experience in urban China** *CULTURE MEDICINE AND PSYCHIATRY*
  Kohrman, M.
  1999; 23 (1): 133-155