

# Hayden S. Kantor

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Program in Writing and Rhetoric  
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## EDUCATION

2016	Ph.D.	Cornell University	Anthropology
2012	M.A.	Cornell University	Anthropology
2008	M.A.	University of Chicago	Social Sciences
2005	B.A.	Duke University	Political Science

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025–	Advanced Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford University
2019–2025	Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford University
2018–2019	Fellow, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Stanford University
2016–2018	Postdoctoral Associate for Global Engaged Learning, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal articles

Revise & resubmit	“Tenuous Livelihoods: Precarity and Resourcefulness in Bihar, India.” <i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> .
2020	“Locating the Farmer: Ideologies of Agricultural Labor in Bihar, India.” <i>Anthropology of Work Review</i> . 41 (2): 97–107.
2019	“A Body Set Between Hot and Cold: Everyday Sensory Labor and Attunement in an Indian Village.” <i>Food, Culture &amp; Society</i> . 22 (2): 237–252.
2018	“Building Beyond the Bypass Road: Urban Migration, Ritual Eating, and the Fate of the Joint Family in Patna, India.” <i>American Anthropologist</i> . 120 (2): 212–223.
2016	“‘A Dead Letter of the Statute Book:’ The Strange Bureaucratic Life of the Bihar Food Economy and Guest Control Order, 1950-1954.” <i>South Asian History and Culture</i> . 7 (3): 239–57.

### Book chapters

- 2021 “People and Food in Motion: Agricultural Dislocations and Culinary Remembrances in Bihar, India” in *Moveable Gardens: Itineraries and Sanctuaries of Memory*. Nazarea, Virginia D., and Terese Gagnon, eds. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 59–84.

### **Book reviews**

- 2020 Review of *Hungry Nation: Food, Famine, and the Making of Modern India* by Benjamin Robert Siegel (Cambridge University Press, 2018). *Global Food History*. 6 (3): 262–264.
- 2018 Review of *Metabolic Living: Food, Fat, and the Absorption of Illness in India* by Harris Solomon (Duke University Press, 2016). *American Ethnologist*. 45 (2): 303–304.
- 2013 “Impact of Marginalization.” Review of *Shadow Space: Suicides and the Predicament of Rural India* by A. R. Vasavi (Three Essays Collective, 2012). *The Book Review (India)*. 37 (5): 16–17.
- 2012 Review of *Shorelines: Space and Rights in South India* by Ajantha Subramanian (Stanford University Press, 2009). *Journal of Development Studies*. 48 (4): 582–583.

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

### **Writing prizes**

- 2016 Guilford Dissertation Prize, Cornell University
- 2015 Marleigh Grayer Ryan Graduate Prize, New York Conference on Asian Studies

### **Teaching awards**

- 2015 Information Literacy Prize, Cornell University, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines and Cornell University Library
- 2014 James F. Slevin Assignment Sequence Prize, Honorable Mention, Cornell University, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines

### **Fieldwork grants**

- 2013–2014 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, The Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2012–2013 Junior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies
- 2012 Society for the Humanities Graduate Travel Grant, Cornell University
- 2010–2011 Graduate School Research Travel Grant, Cornell University
- 2010–2011 Bernd Lambert Award, Anthropology Travel Grant, Cornell University

### **Fellowships**

- 2015–2016 Society for the Humanities Dissertation Writing Group, Cornell University
- 2011–2012 FLAS Fellowship (South Asia: Hindi), Cornell University
- 2011 NSF IGERT Associate (Food Systems & Poverty Reduction), Cornell University

2011	Critical Language Scholarship, Summer Language Program (Hindi)
2010–2011	FLAS Fellowship (South Asia: Hindi), Cornell University
2010	American Institute of Indian Studies, Summer Language Program (Hindi)
2009–2010	FLAS Fellowship (South Asia: Hindi), Cornell University

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited talks

2017	“Urban Migration in India: Food and Family Life in Transition.” SUNY Cortland, School of Education, Cortland, October 18.
2017	“Masculine Appetites: Class, Labor, and the Politics of Consumption in Bihar, India.” Syracuse University, South Asia Center, Syracuse, April 18.
2016	“Chhath Puja: Affiliation and Abundance in a Bihari Festival.” Cornell University, South Asia Program, Ithaca, May 2.
2014	“Feeding the Family: Food Dynamics in a Rural Bihari Joint Family.” Delhi University, Institute for Economic Growth, Delhi, February 24.

### Conference presentations

2018	“Crouched in a Potato Field: Reclaiming the Middle and Mundane in Anthropology.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, San Jose, November 14–18.
2018	“Locating the Farmer: Ideologies of Agricultural Work in Rural Bihar.” The Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 11–14.
2018	“Fields of Suspicion: Caste Conflict in Rural Bihar.” Princeton South Asia Conference, Princeton, April 6–7.
2018	“Alternatives Amid Neglect: Resourcefulness and the Repair of Infrastructures in Rural Bihar.” Association for Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., March 22–25.
2017	“The Sense of Strength: Agricultural Dislocations and Culinary Remembrances in Bihar, India.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 29–December 3.
2017	“Narratives of Exclusion: Articulating Nationalism and Citizenship in Bihar, India.” The Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 26–28.
2017	“Chai, Biscuits, and the First Taste of Coke: Consuming New Foods and Self-Making in Rural Bihar, India.” New York Conference on Asian Studies, Annual Meeting, Geneva, September 22–3.
2017	“This is Desi Technology:” Improvising Irrigation Infrastructures in Rural Bihar.” SOAS South Asia Institute Graduate Conference, London, June 12–13.
2017	“A Body Set Between Hot and Cold: Apprehending Sensations of Sustenance in Bihar, India.” Stop Making Sense, Philadelphia, March 10.
2016	“Refusing Scarcity: Affirming Bonds of Kinship and Care in Bihar, India.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, November 16–20.

- 2016 “A Warm Glass of Buffalo’s Milk: Caring for the Laboring Body in Precarious Bihar.” The Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 20–23.
- 2016 “Questionable Comportment: Aspiration, Wandering, and the Figure of the Badmash in Rural Bihar.” Association for Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Seattle, March 31–April 3.
- 2015 “An Auspicious Treat: Urbanization, Communal Feasting, and Ice Cream in Bihar, India.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Denver, November 18–22.
- 2015 “Cynical Citizens: Public Distrust and Private Resourcefulness in Rural Bihar.” The Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 22–25.
- 2015 “Growing Ambivalence: Shifting Cropping Strategies for Staple Crops in Bihar, India.” Agriculture Food Human Values Society/Association for the Study of Food and Society, Annual Meeting and Conference, Pittsburgh, June 24–28.
- 2015 “Temporary Schemes, Tenuous Livelihoods: Articulations of Precarity in Rural Bihar.” Yale Modern South Asia Workshop, New Haven, April 11–12.
- 2015 “Preferential Obligations: Corruption, Family Life, and Ethics in Bihar.” Association for Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Chicago, March 26–29.
- 2014 “Everyday Ethics in Rural Bihar, India: Rethinking Theorizations of Ethics in Anthropology.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 3–7.
- 2014 “Tenuous Livelihoods, Uncertain Futures: Improvisation as Necessity in a Bihari Village.” The Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 17–19.
- 2011 “Poisoned Futures: Pesticide Usage, Farmer Suicides, and the Limits of South Asia.” University of Chicago, South Asia Graduate Student Conference, Chicago, March 3–4.

#### **Panel discussant**

- 2017 “Positionality and Subjectivity.” Sri Lanka Graduate Student Conference, Ithaca, October 13–14.

#### **Panel organizer**

- 2021 “Cultures of Capitalism in South Asia.” Stanford University Center for South Asia, April 8.
- 2018 “Infrastructures of Agriculture in South Asia.” Association for Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., March 22–25. Co-organizer.
- 2017 “Consumption after Liberalization: Aspiration, Self-Making, and Place in Contemporary India.” New York Conference on Asian Studies, Annual Meeting, Geneva, September 22–23.
- 2016 “Care for the Body in South Asia” (two-part panel). The Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 20–23.
- 2016 “Aspiration, Mobility, and Temporality in India.” Association for Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Seattle, March 31–April 3.

- 2015 “New Foods, New Worlds: How Shifting Tastes Reflect Social Change” (two-part panel). American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Denver, November 18–22.
- 2015 “AIIS Showcase on New Research Presents: Corruption, State Violence, and Ethics in India.” Association for Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Chicago, March 26–29.

### **Outreach**

- 2025 Guest lecture. “EE 400/600: Environment and Development – A Political Ecology Approach.” Boston University, March 26.
- 2025 Guest lecture. “WRTG 3800: Everyday Rhetorics: Health, Food, and Environment.” University of Utah, March 24.
- 2023 “Helping Students Set Goals for Their Writing.” PWR September Sessions, Stanford, September 13.
- 2023 “ChatGPT and Teaching PWR: Results from Student Focus Groups.” PWR September Sessions, Stanford, September 13. Co-presenter.
- 2023 Faculty writing coach. Office of Faculty Development, Diversity & Engagement. Stanford, August 7–September 11.
- 2023 “OCT Training Practicum.” PWR, Stanford, May 10.
- 2022 “Developing and Writing an Effective Advanced Elective Course Proposal.” PWR September Sessions, Stanford, September 16.
- 2022 “Teaching Research Proposals: Structuring the RP & TiC.” PWR September Sessions, Stanford, September 15.
- 2022 Faculty writing coach. Office of Faculty Development, Diversity & Engagement. Stanford, June 20–July 25.
- 2022 “Conference Presentations and Panel Abstracts.” Hume Center for Writing and Speaking. Stanford, February 4.
- 2022 “Tutoring the PWR Assignments.” Hume Center for Writing and Speaking. Stanford, January 19.
- 2021 “Conferencing: Lessons from Remote Teaching.” PWR September Sessions, Stanford, September 9.
- 2021 “Designing Your Own Academic Conference Panel.” South Asia Working Group. Stanford, August 17.
- 2021 Faculty writing coach. Office of Faculty Development, Diversity & Engagement. Stanford, June 24–July 29.
- 2021 “Writing the Teaching Statement.” Hume Center for Writing and Speaking. Stanford, June 29.
- 2020 “Food Insecurity.” Stanford Japan Exchange Conference. Stanford, February 19.
- 2019 “Expanding on Source Management: Using Zotero in the Classroom.” PWR September Sessions, Stanford, September 13.
- 2017 “Ethnographic Encounters: Using Anthropological Methods for Intercultural Learning.” Global Voices in Education, Ithaca, September 13.
- 2017 “Cross-Cultural Interviews.” The History Center in Tompkins County Oral History Training, Ithaca, February 25.

2016 “Regional Identity in India: Food, Culture, Politics.” Educators for Teaching India and South Asia Annual Conference, Cambridge, May 13.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Food Values: The Rhetoric of What and How We Eat  
Think Global: The Rhetoric of Global Citizenship  
In the Moment: The Rhetoric of Time  
Farmer, Scientist, Activist, Chef: Communicating for Food Security and Food Justice  
Global Engagements: Living and Working in a Diverse World  
Going Global: Preparing for Engaged Learning Experiences  
Coming Home: Making the Most of Engaged Learning Experiences

## **REFEREE FOR JOURNALS, PRIZES, & GRANTS**

*American Ethnologist*  
*City and Society*  
*Contemporary South Asia*  
*Cultural Anthropology*  
*Food and Foodways*  
*Journal of Cultural Ecology*  
*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*  
National Science Foundation  
*PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review (PoLAR)*  
Society for Food and Nutrition, Christine Wilson Award

## **SERVICE TO THE PROGRAM**

Hume tutor (2019–2025)  
Septembrist (2019, 2020)  
Curriculum committee member (2018–2019, 2023–2025)  
TTP committee member (2019–2023)  
TTP committee chair (2021–2023)  
Boothe Prize first round judge (2018–2024)  
Boothe Prize final round judge (2021–2022)  
Hoefler Prize copyeditor (2018–2021)  
Hoefler Prize judge (2020–2021)  
Lunsford final round judge (2024–2025)  
Lunsford final round judge (2021–2022)

Notation in Science Communication evaluator (2023–2025)

## **NONACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

2008–2009	Conifer Research, LLC – Chicago, IL	Ethnographer
2008	Doblin, Inc. – Chicago, IL	User Researcher
2005–2006	GRAVIS – Jodhpur, India	Research Associate

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native speaker)  
Hindi (advanced)  
Magahi (proficient)  
Spanish (intermediate)  
Latin (advanced reading)

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

food, agriculture, care, ethics, capitalism, development, environment, migration, embodiment, kinship, urbanization, infrastructure, the state, bureaucracy, citizenship, India, South Asia

*Updated 2025-04*