

## **CHRISTINE JESKE**

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### **EDUCATION**

**PhD, Cultural Anthropology**, May 2016. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Title: This is Not Working: South African Unemployment and Competing Narratives of a Good Life.

**MBA, International Economic Development**, 2004. Eastern University.

**BA, English and Piano**, with distinction, 1999. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2020-present **Associate Professor of Anthropology**. Wheaton College. Wheaton, IL.

2017-2020 **Assistant Professor of Anthropology**. Wheaton College. Wheaton, IL.

2015-2017 **Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology**. Wheaton College. Wheaton, IL.

2009-2015 **Adjunct Faculty. Eastern University School of Leadership and Development**.  
St. Davids, Pennsylvania and various locations in Africa.

2013-2014 **Teaching Assistant. University of Wisconsin-Madison**.

2008-2009 **Professor of Anthropology and Intercultural Communication. ESSA Seminary**.  
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Race and whiteness studies

Vocation and labor

Theories of the good life

Diversity and spirituality in American agriculture

South Africa and the United States

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Wheaton College:

Cultural Anthropology. ANTH 116.

Poverty, Justice, and Transformation. HNGR 114.

Food, Farms, and Culture. ANTH 310.

What is Money Good for? COR 322.

Culture Theory. ANTH 376.

Culture and Difference. ANTH 353.

Medical Anthropology. ANTH 361.

Meanings of Work and Labor. ANTH 412.

Hope and Whiteness. ANTH 420.

African Cultural Anthropology. ANTH 451.

Social Science Writing for Public Engagement. ANTH 480.

Anthropological Writing. ANTH 481.

University of Wisconsin-Madison:

Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity. ANTH 104. T.A.

Eastern University Graduate School of Leadership and Development:

Economic Development of Developing Countries. ECON 513.

### **PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS**

2024. "Unlearning Hope: White Christian Encounters with Grace as a Logic of Exchange." *Economic Anthropology*. 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sea2.12321>.
2024. "Overturning for the Common Good: Membership and Mutuality in a World of Markets and Meritocracy." In *Called Beyond Ourselves: Vocation and the Common Good*, edited by Erin VanLaningham, 63–81. Oxford University Press.
2023. "Re-Enchanting Meat: How Sacred Meaning-Making Strengthens the Ethical Meat Movement." *Agriculture and Human Values* 70: 1-12.
2022. "Hopes of and for Whiteness." *Journal for the Anthropology of North America* 25 (2): 54–73.
2020. "People Refusing to Be Wealth: What Happens When South African Workers Are Denied Access to 'Belonging In.'" *Economic Anthropology* 7: 253–66.
2020. "Are We Underthinking Underemployment?: Toward a More Inclusive Theology of Vocation." *Christian Scholar's Review*, XLIX, no. 3: 231–48.
2019. "Contesting moral wellbeing: Two narratives among Zulu South Africans." *Science, Religion, and Culture*. 9(1):59-66.
2018. "Why work? Do we understand what motivates work-related decisions in South Africa?" *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 44(1):27-42.
2016. "Are Cars the New Cows?: Changing wealth goods and moral economies in South Africa." *American Anthropologist* 119(3): 483-494.

### **BOOKS**

- The Laziness Myth: Narratives of Work and the Good Life in South Africa*. Dec. 2020. Cornell University Press.
- Jeske, Christine and Adam Jeske. 2012. *This Ordinary Adventure: Settling Down Without Settling*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Jeske, Christine. 2010. *Into the Mud: Inspiration for Everyday Activists: True Stories from Africa*. Chicago: Moody.

### **PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS**

Book on ethnographic research of how White Christians develop long-term commitments to racial justice. Contracted with IVP Academic.

### **SAMPLE OF OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

2021. "What is a Crisis?" in *When the Universe Cracks: Living As God's People in Times of Crisis*. NavPress. Fall 2021.
2020. "Why White Kids Need Hamilton More Than Ever." *Sapiens: Anthropology Magazine*.
2020. "Stop Looking Away: What an Obscure Bible Character Shows Us about George Floyd's Death." Catechesia Institute (blog), July 1, 2020. <https://catechesia.com/2020/07/01/stop-looking-away-what-an-obscure-bible-character-shows-us-about-george-floyds-death/>.
2020. "This Pandemic Hits Americans Where We're Spiritually Weak." *ChristianityToday.com*, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/may-web-only/coronavirus-pandemic-hits-americans-spiritually-weak.html>.
2019. "We need to work harder to think about laziness." *Christianity Today*.
2018. "Why do people work? Respect trumps money in South Africa case study." *The Conversation: Academic rigour, journalistic flair*. <https://theconversation.com/why-do-people-work-respect-trumps-money-in-south-africa-case-study-103408> Republished at: *The Nerve Africa*, <https://thenerveafrica.com/22805/why-do-people-work-respect-trumps-money-in-south-africa-case-study/>, *Phys.org*. <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-people-respect-trumps-money-south.html>, and *AllAfrica* <https://allafrica.com/stories/201810010002.html>.
2016. Book review. *Give a Man a Fish. Anthropology of Work*. Dec. 2016.

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

2024. Guest lecturer in Anthropology of Identities. University of Nevada, Las Vegas. October 2024.
2024. New Student Welcome Address. Wheaton College. August 2024.
2023. Overturning for the Common Good: Membership and Mutuality in a World of Markets and Meritocracy. Baylor University Symposium on Faith and Culture. October 2023.
2023. Chapel speaker. Wheaton College. October 2023.
- 2024, 2023. Kingdom Justice Summit plenary speaker and workshop facilitator. Collaboration Project, Madison, Wisconsin. March 2023 and 2024.
2023. Christian Engagement in Racial Justice. Upper House Christian Study Center. Madison, Wisconsin. March 2023.
2022. Vocation as overturning: From merits and markets to mutuality and membership. Carthage College. February 2022.
- 2020-22. Annual invited lecturer in Anthropology of Africa. Central Oregon Community College.

- 2020-21. Encountering Cultural Difference. Office of Christian Outreach, Wheaton College. March 2021 and 2022.
2021. When work doesn't work: What does the good life mean now? Upper House Christian Learning Center. Feb. 2021.
2020. The Context of Calling: Where is Privilege in Vocation Conversations? Workshop at Dayton University. Nov. 2020.
2020. Where is Privilege in the Vocation Conversation? Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education Conference. Feb. 2020.
2019. Chapel speaker. Wheaton College.
2018. Do you deserve your life? University of Wisconsin InterVarsity Graduate Chapter. Feb, 2018.
2017. Pay Doesn't Matter: Work-readiness Training Messages in South Africa. University of Wisconsin-Madison Colloquium Series. Jan. 2017.
2016. Why the Global Church Needs to Talk About Economic Moralities as Much as Jesus Did. Evangelical Missiological Society, invited speaker. Oct. 2016.
2016. Living Daily Lives of Justice. Kingdom Justice Summit, Madison, WI. Feb. 2016.
2014. Is Laziness the Problem?: Unemployment and the Good Life Among Zulu South Africans. University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Oct. 2014.
2015. Conflicting messages in church and culture on how work makes a good life. University of KwaZulu-Natal Theology Roundtable Seminar. Mar. 2015.
2013. The Tragedy of a Wasted Life. Collyde conference, World Vision representative on microfinance and unemployment.
2011. Remember us: Positive international connections from mundane America. Trinity Christian College, WorldView lecture series.
2011. Literature as a response to poverty. Wheaton HNGR Symposium, An Urban Majority: Responses to Deepening Hunger and Poverty in the World's Burgeoning Cities.
2010. International Development Student Brownbag Seminar, Eastern University.
2010. Human Rights Week, Gordon College, Convocation plenary speaker.
2010. Race and freedom in South Africa. Guest lecture at Bethel University, Interdisciplinary Course on International Development and Poverty.
2010. Interviewing for creative non-fiction. Guest lecture at Spring Arbor University, Writing Course.

2010. Interviewing as a gift: Stories from South Africa. Guest lecture at Covenant College, Interdisciplinary Course on Ethnography and Intercultural Communication.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

2024. Forgiveness, Justice, and Reconciliation. Moderator of interview with Miroslav Volf. Upper House Christian Study Center. Madison, Wisconsin. February 2024.

2024. What ethical butchers and antiracist Christians have in common: enchanted transformations. Society for Applied Anthropology. March 2024.

2023. How to hope without commensurability: White Christians entering the long-term struggle for racial justice. Society for Economic Anthropology. May 2023.

2021. What makes a good job? Center for Vocation and Career, Wheaton College. Nov. 2021.

2021. Whites in Black Neighborhoods. Talk and organizer of panel titled Whiteness and Hope. American Anthropological Association. Nov. 2021

2021. "The Place of the White People": White People Living in South Africa's Black Neighborhoods. Society of Economic Anthropology. March 2021.

2021. Ecologies of Whites in Black Neighborhoods. Society for Applied Anthropology. March 2021.

2019. Writing for undergraduates. Panel organizer. American Anthropological Association.

2019. "I'm just a laborer": Withholding work loyalties as a South African resistance strategy." Society of Economic Anthropology. March 2019.

2019. "When we talk about vocation, do we mean privilege?" Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) Conference. March 2019.

2018. A Theology of Work for the Under-employed: Rethinking Vocation Narratives. Opus Luncheon. Wheaton College.

2018. Eliciting good life narratives: What I wish I knew as a sustainable development practitioner. Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Annual Meeting. March 6, 2018.

2018. Trust upheavals: Cultural dimensions. Roundtable organizer, participant, and chair. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Nov. 2016.

2016. Hustling: Moral Economies of a Good Life Among South African Young Men. American Anthropological Association. Nov. 2016.

2016. Moral Economy and the Good Life in Africa. Panel organizer and chair. American Anthropological Association. Nov. 2016.

2015. "Although you've got more powers:" Moralities of respect among low-income Zulu people. American Anthropological Association. Nov. 2015.

2015. South African narratives of a good life: insights into work, church, and prejudice. Eastern University On Knowing Humanity Conference. May 2015.
2013. Pentecostalism as a Door into the World of Work. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Nov. 2013.
2013. Social conceptualizations of work, unemployment, and blame in KwaZulu-Natal. University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa, Centre for Civil Society Seminar.
2013. "Take me home in your suitcase": Examining the boundaries of truth and intervention in anthropological subjects' imaginary futures. Johns Hopkins University Anthropology Graduate Conference, Reclaiming Truth: Obligations, Methodologies, and Implications.

### **RADIO AND PODCAST INTERVIEWS**

2024. Mergers and Acquisitions, podcast of the Society for Economic Anthropology. Narratives about work and the good life.
2023. Upwords Podcast. White Christians and racial justice
2022. Upwords Podcast. What is a crisis?
2021. Upwords Podcast. When work doesn't work: grappling with vocation and the good life.
- 2019-2021. WORD-FM, Pittsburgh. Monthly or quarterly guest.
2018. The Talking Point. SAfm. <https://iono.fm/e/612607>. October 10, 2018.
2018. The Early Breakfast Show. Cape Talk Radio. Capetalk.co.za. October 5, 2018.

### **AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS**

2023. G. W. Aldeen Memorial Grant for book writing.
- 2022 and 2023. John Stott Human Needs and Global Resources Grant. For ethnographic research.
2020. Globalization of the Curriculum Grant. For seminar to become a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory.
2019. John Stott Faculty Research Award. For research on voluntary downward class mobility in South Africa.
2018. G. W. Aldeen Memorial Grant for book writing and new course development.
2018. Globalization of the Curriculum Grant. For course development, "Food, Farms, and Culture."
2017. Research Fellowship at Biola University on Suffering and the Good Life (declined)
2013. Scott Kloock-Jenson Summer Research Fellowship
- 2012-2013. FLAS Fellowship, Zulu
- 2011-2012. FLAS Fellowship, Zulu

2011. Hawkinson Foundation for Peace and Justice (for demonstration of long-term commitment to peace and justice work)
2010. Distinguished Alumna University of Wisconsin Rewind Award (presented lecture and honored during homecoming events)
- 2008 Forward Under Forty Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison (for outstanding achievement as an alumna under 40 years of age)

### **OTHER EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

- 2006-2007 **Co-Director of Microfinance Organization. Youth Empowerment Business Organization.** Winterton, South Africa.
- 2008 **Director, founder, and instructor of computer training center.** Winterton, South Africa.
- 2003-2005 **Faculty.** Lanzhou Teachers College, with English Language Institute, China. Lanzhou, China.
- 2001-2002 **Spanish Adult Education Instructor. Madison College.** Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2000-2001 **Business Training and Community Development Practitioner.** El Porvenir, Nicaragua.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

- Faculty Development Committee chair (2020-2021)
- Faculty co-advisor for Solidarity Cabinet, anti-racism student organization (2020)
- Faculty Development Committee member (2018-present)
- Human Needs and Global Resources (HNGR) committee member. Wheaton College (2015-2024)
- Reviewer, *American Anthropologist* and other journals
- College communications and school magazine oversight. ESSA seminary (2008-9)

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

2020. "Faith and Finances" and "Race, Ethnicity, and the Church." Adult education classes taught, Geneva Campus Church.
2020. Church Council President. Geneva Campus Church, Madison, Wisconsin.
2020. Advisory committee member: Upper House Fellows Program. Madison, Wisconsin (Christian scholarship learning community).
2018. Lead deacon. Geneva Campus Church.
2018. "What every Christian should know about race," adult education class taught, Geneva Campus Church.
- 2009, 2015. "More than Money: Understanding Poverty" workshop taught at South African NGOs
- 2010-2011. Circle of Support volunteer with formerly incarcerated women. Madison-Area Urban Ministry, Madison, Wisconsin.
2011. Research writing consultant. SIL International, Ethiopia, one-month position.
- 1999, 2005. English as a Second Language Instructor and Refugee Host. Jubilee Partners, Comer, Georgia.

### **LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE AND PROFICIENCY**

- Zulu: highly proficient
- Spanish: highly proficient
- Mandarin Chinese: elementary level