

## Geoffrey Karim Gowlland

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Born 29 April 1977 in Geneva Switzerland, dual national British/Swiss

### Academic Affiliations

2012-13 Visiting Researcher, Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo, Norway

2012- Research Associate, SOAS, University of London, UK

2011 Course Convenor and Lecturer for the module 'Anthropology of Education and Learning' MSc Anthropology of Childhood, Youth and Education, Brunel University, London

2010-11 Visiting Researcher, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo, Norway

2008-12 Research Associate, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, UK

2007-8 ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, UK. Award n. PTA-026-27-1691, value £82096.

### Higher Education

2002-7 PhD in Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge. Dissertation entitled *The making of an exclusive craft: skill, style and personhood in a Chinese craft community* (70,000 words).

2000-1 MPhil in Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge: 'High Pass'.

1996-9 BA in Social Anthropology, London School of Economics (LSE): 2:1

### Research and Awards

2013 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan), Taiwan Fellowship (NT\$300,000), covering a 5-month research stay in Taiwan. Project entitled 'Learning crafts in indigenous Taiwan: youth, skills, and the development of indigenous identities'.

2012-13 Research Council of Norway, Yggdrasil Postdoctoral Research Grant (NOK 162000, grant n. 220083/F11). Project entitled 'Clay in conversation: materials and artisan subjectivities.'

Through an exploration of visual and object-based methodological approaches, this project addresses a question of method in the anthropological scholarship on craft and materiality: how can we properly represent the embodied and tacit experiences of artisans without resorting to the limiting medium of language and linguistic rationalisations of experiences?

2011 British Academy Small Grants Scheme (grant n. SG-SG111389), £3700 towards fieldwork expenses in Taiwan. Project entitled 'Vocational learning and the definition of artisan identities in Taiwan'

Through three months of ethnographic fieldwork, this project explored the relationship between work and ethnic identities in contemporary Taiwan, focussing on apprentices in ceramics, and among indigenous groups.

2010 Research Council of Norway, Yggdrasil Postdoctoral Research Grant (NOK 160000, grant n. 202789/V11). Project entitled 'Biodiversity as heritage: the practice and politics of heritage seed saving in Norway'.

The project, based at the University of Oslo, involved fieldwork in Norway on knowledge practices relating to the conservation of heritage plants. The research pursues my interests in the relation between knowledge-practices and heritage, and invites a re-evaluation of the concept of 'heritage'.

2009 British Academy Small Grants Scheme (grant n. SG-54098), £6200 towards fieldwork expenses in Taiwan. Project entitled 'Emotions, economic skills and producer identities'

Through six months of fieldwork in Taiwan, the study addressed Taiwanese ceramics artisans' ideas about life-long learning and self-development.

2006 Sutasoma Award (Royal Anthropological Institute), in recognition of the potentially outstanding merit of the doctoral research.

2003-4 Doctoral fieldwork in the Jiangsu Province of China.

## Publications

### Monograph

(manuscript under peer-review) *Reappropriating craft after Mao: authenticity and legitimacy in China's 'Capital of Pottery'*. Hawaii University Press.

How does a craft reinvent itself as 'traditional' following times of heightened cultural, social and political transformations? This ethnographic study explores China's modernization projects – collectivization and industrialization in the 1950s, and privatization as of the 1980s – and their impact on the lives of artisans and on processes of transmission of craft-related knowledge.

### Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

*Finalising for resubmission.* Creativity as editing: mastery and authority in a Chinese craft. *JRAI*.

The article proposes a rethinking of creativity in anthropological theory. In the context of an ethnographic case study of the relations between masters and their followers, it proposes that the creativity of the master artisan is derived from charismatic authority. *JRAI* has accepted to consider a resubmission of the revised article.

2012. Learning craft skills in China: apprenticeship and social capital in a ceramics artisan community. In P. Froerer and A. Portisch (eds) *Learning, Livelihoods and Social Mobility*, Special Issue of *Anthropology of Education Quarterly* 43(4).

The article explores the consequences for present-day artisans of collectivisation of craft during the early years of Communism in China. The Special Issue explores distinct learning pathways and educational strategies, and how these articulate with livelihood options and changing macro-economic and political conditions. My contribution reflects on the consequences of the socialist state appropriation of the production of craft on apprenticeship and present-day social mobility.

2011. [Review essay] The 'Matière à Penser' approach to material culture: objects, subjects and the materiality of the self. *Journal of Material Culture* 16(3).

2009. Learning to see value: exchange and the politics of vision in a Chinese craft. *Ethnos* 74(3): 229-50.

This article proposes a reflection on the sense of vision in negotiations of value and authenticity, and more broadly on the place of embodiment in anthropological theories of economic value, through a case study of interactions between Chinese ceramics artisans and their customers.

2009. Skill, style and modernity in the zisha pottery of China. *Journal of Modern Craft* 2(2): 129-41.

This article addresses the theme of modernity in craft production in China, by looking at the changed relation between tools, clay and the body of the ceramics artisan after the recent introduction of 'modern' tools, and consequences for the definition of authenticity and tradition.

### Book chapters

*Forthcoming.* Discussion chapter on Francophone approaches to practice. In Billett and Fillietaz (eds) *Francophone perspectives of learning through work*. Springer.

*Forthcoming.* Craft materials, the self and the nation in Taiwan. In Wilkinson-Weber (ed.) *Taking Stock: Anthropology, Craft and Artisans in the 21st Century* (publisher tbc)

The article explores experiences of working with different materials among Taiwanese ceramic artisans, and explores its repercussions on the formation of subjectivities and shaping of ideas about the Taiwanese nation.

*In press* 'Apprenticeship as a model for learning in and through professional practice'. In S. Billett, C. Harteis and H. Gruber (eds) *Springer International Handbook of research in professional and practice-based learning*.

The chapter provides an authoritative account of the study of apprenticeship as model of learning in the social sciences, reflects on central and emerging concepts in the literature, and provides recommendations for optimising practice-based learning in the workplace.

Geoffrey Gowlland

2009. Narratives of mastery in the zisha ceramics tradition of China. In J. Nolan and G. Whiteley (eds) *Telling stories: visual practices, theories & narrative*. Cambridge Scholars Press.

**Journal articles (non-peer reviewed)**

2004. The uses of modernity in a Chinese craft tradition. *Asiatische Studien/Etudes Asiatiques* 58(4):849-877

**Book reviews**

2010. [Book review] The anatomy of meaning: speech, gesture, and composite utterances, by NJ Enfield. *JRAI* 16: 934-5.
2007. [Book review] Made in China: women factory workers in a global workplace, by Pun Ngai. *Cambridge Anthropology* 27: 94-6.

**Selected Conference And Seminar Papers**

- 2014 (*forthcoming*) Discussant for the workshop *Francophone approaches to the theory of practice*, University of Geneva, February
- 2013 Seminar paper 'Skill, sequence and time: thoughts on temporality in craft practice', Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo
- 2012 Workshop paper 'The situated time of enskilment', *La notion de situation en anthropologie culturelle et sociale*, Université de Strasbourg, November
- Workshop paper 'The politics of materials in a Taiwanese craft-industry', *Taking Stock: Anthropology, Craft and Artisans in the 21st Century*, Washington State University Vancouver, July.
- Workshop paper 'From worker to artisan: tools and modernity in the Yixing zisha ceramics tradition', *From artisan to worker: the changing meaning of work in 20th century China*, Princeton University, April.
- 2011 Seminar paper 'Materials, the nation and the self: division of labour in a Taiwanese craft community', Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo, April.
- Workshop paper 'Negotiating values and skills: interactions and embodied learning in Taiwanese craft workshops', *Cultures of Learning in Asia*, University of Oslo, January.
- 2010 Seminar paper 'Why Seeds? A conversation' (with Prof. Sarah Lund), Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo, October.
- Seminar paper 'Creativity and authority: becoming a master in a Chinese craft community', Department of Social Anthropology, National Taiwan University, April.
- 2009 Seminar paper 'Creativity as editing: mastery and authority in a Chinese craft community', Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo, November.
- Workshop paper 'Learning a craft tradition in post-Mao China', *Learning, Livelihoods and Social Mobility*, Brunel University, May.
- 2008 Conference paper 'From industry to craft: zisha pottery in post-Reforms China', International Art Anthropology Symposium, Beijing, November.
- Seminar paper 'Emotion, cognition and authority in a Chinese craft community', *Anthropology of Learning and Cognition*, LSE, June.
- Seminar paper 'Apprenticeship and the learning of craft skills in post-Reforms China', Institute of Nationalities Studies, Yunnan University, China, April.

Geoffrey Gowlland

**Other dissemination activities**

I am organising an international workshop 'Documenting craft making' at the Kulturhistorisk Museum, University of Oslo, February 8 2013.

**Teaching experience**

- 2012 Guest lecture 'Apprenticeship as research method in anthropological research', Masters course 'Ethnographic Methods,' SOAS, November.
- 2011 Course Convenor and Lecturer for the module 'Anthropology of Education and Learning' (8 out of 10 lectures and seminars), MSc Anthropology of Childhood, Youth and Education, Brunel University. Lectures included 'Cognition and culture', 'Learning and embodiment', 'Learning, identity and social difference', 'Apprenticeship and vocational learning', and 'Education, nation-building and development'.
- 2010 Guest Lecturer, Anthropological and Psychological Perspectives on learning, MSc Anthropology of Education, Brunel University, January. Two lectures: 'Apprenticeship and vocational learning', and 'Embodiment and learning'.
- 2009 Guest Lecturer, MSc in Anthropology of Learning and Cognition, LSE, May. 1 lecture: 'Apprenticeship and the acquisition of skills'.
- 2005-7 Undergraduate Supervisor, Anthropology, University of Cambridge. Total of over 70 contact hours. Courses supervised included: 'Anthropology, communication and the arts'; 'Theory, methods and enquiry'; 'Thought, belief and ethics'; 'Kinship and economics'; 'Human societies: the comparative perspective' (first-year introductory course).

**Public engagement**

- fi Exhibition 'A perfectionist craft? Precision and spontaneity in the zisha ceramics of China', Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge (January 2008). The exhibition presented to a wider audience themes from my research on craft in China. Artefact collection and setting up of exhibition were funded by two grants obtained from the Crowther-Beynon Fund of the Museum (2002 and 2007).
- fi Recipient of a grant from the Rivers Video Project (University of Cambridge, 2003), for filmed documentation during doctoral field research. Films have been made available publicly on the digital anthropology website Digitalorient.

**Esteem Indicators**

- fi Consultant for the preparation of a grant application to the Norwegian Centres of Excellence, on 'Cultures of Learning in Asia' (CLAS) (Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), University of Oslo), 2011.
- fi Peer Reviewer for two major research ESRC funding applications relating to crafts and to material culture (2008 and 2009). Peer Reviewer for two US National Science Foundation funding applications: a multi-million project relating to Chinese material culture (2009), and a project on anthropology and contemporary crafts (2011).
- fi I am a core member of the China in Comparative Perspective Network, based at LSE.

**Organisational/Skills**

- fi 2010-12: Editor of *Bijāo: China in Comparative Perspective Book Review*, an online journal and initiative of the Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics.
- fi I was co-ordinator of the Anthropology of East and Inner Asia seminar series at the Department of Anthropology, LSE, during the academic year 2008-9.
- fi 2001-5 (various periods, total of 12 months) Office collaborator and academic assistant, Summer University on Human Rights (NGO), Geneva. Tasks included co-ordination of

Geoffrey Gowlland

- academic activities for NGO representatives at the United Nations.
- fi Languages: English and French – native | Chinese (Mandarin) – working knowledge |  
Norwegian: intermediate (level 2) | Italian – working knowledge | German – basic.