**Zachary Sheldon, Ph.D.**

1714 Jane Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15203 | (917) 238-1904 | zds23@pitt.edu

**EDUCATION**

2020 Ph.D., Sociocultural and Linguistic AnthropologyThe University of Chicago   
Dissertation Title: “Waiting on Embers: Duration, Dispossession and Everyday  
Life among Iraqi Migrants in Jordan.”   
Committee: Hussein Agrama (Chair), Orit Bashkin, Julie Chu, John Kelly

2014 M.A., AnthropologyThe University of Chicago

2011 B.A., AnthropologyTufts University, with Highest Thesis Honors.

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

2022-2025 Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, The University of Pittsburgh

2020-2022 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in the Social Sciences, The University of Chicago

**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**Peer Reviewed**

2023 “The Malicious Game: Friendship, Foresight, and Philosophy at an Iraqi Teahouse in Jordan.” In *Cultural Anthropology* 38(4): 467-401.

2022 “How to Play *Logistics Command*: An Archaeology of the Ludic Imagination.” In *Roadsides* 7:15-20, co-authored with Jack Mullee.

2021 “Managing the Humanitarian Workplace: Capitalist Social Time and Iraqi Refugees in the United States.” In *The Anthropology of Work Review* 42(1): 35-46

2017 “Refuge, Market, and Garden: Tropes of Jordanian Stability among Amman’s Iraqi Residents.” In *POMEPS Studies* 25:66-69

**Public Engagement**

2022 “Teaching Time and Labor, from the Factory Act to Prop 22.” Exertions: The Web Publication of the Society for the Anthropology of Work (https://saw.americananthro.org/exertions).

2018 “Nationality, Class, and Iraqi Migrants in Jordan.” The Blog of the American Center of Research (acorjordan.org).

2017 “The World in the City and the City in the World: Reading the Janet Abu-Lughod  
 Library.” *Jadaliyya* (jadaliyya.com).

**Invited Talks**

2024 “Coding the Ecumenical Frame: Popular Cryptography and Indigenous Coexistence in the Tawfiq Canaan Palestinian Amulet Collection.”   
University of Pittsburgh Department of Anthropology.

2023 “The Malicious Game”. Tufts University Department of Anthropology.

2017 “Safe but not Settled: Iraqi Refugees in Jordan” American Center of Research, Amman, Jordan.

2016 “Reading the Janet Abu-Lughod Library” The Sijal Institute, Amman Jordan

2015“Rethinking Migration & Hospitality” The Center for British Research Libraries, Amman, Jordan.

**Conference Presentations**

2024 “Economic Anthropology in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence.” Poster presentation co-authored with Peeyush Kumar. Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

2024 “Technologies of Repair: Rethinking Agency, Power, and Social Change”, Discussant, American Ethnological Association Annual Meeting. Pittsburgh, PA.

2023 “A Double-Edged Sword: Migrant Intersections with Modern Technologies” Roundtable, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Toronto, Canada.

2023 “The Labor of ‘Loveliness’: Racializing Christian Workers at an Iraqi Restaurant in Jordan.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.

2020 (accepted but unable to attend) “The Cosmopolitan National Status Group: Applying Hanna Batatu’s Theory of Classes to the Contemporary Iraqi Diaspora.” Conference: Iraq Studies: Past, Present and Future. Columbia University.

2019 (Panel Organizer & Chair) “Transits and Transformations of the Iraqi Carp.” Conference: Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

2019 “‘What are Classes?’: Hanna Batatu’s Historical Sociology”, Conference: Beyond Turmoil and Conflict: Iraq Since 2003, New York University Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies.

2018 “Urban Spaces of National Politics: The Iraqi Elections in Amman”, Conference: Contemporary Amman and the Right to the City, Columbia University Global Center, Amman, Jordan

2018(Panel Chair), “The Dilemma of Embodying Nationality for Iraqis in Amman”, Conference: Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. San Jose, California.

2017 “Tropes of Jordanian Stability among Iraqis” Workshop: Project on Middle East Political Science, University of Southern California.

2016 “On the Uses of Disorder in Amman: Young Iraqis and the Urban ‘Garden.’” Conference: Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. Boston, Massachusetts.

2015 (coauthored with Eleonore C. Rimbault), “Kafka in the Attic.” Conference: Walter Benjamin in Palestine: On the Place and Non-Place of Radical Thought. Ramallah, Palestine.

2013 “After Freedom: Iraqi Refugee Resettlement in the United States.” Conference: Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Chicago, Illinois.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*The University of Pittsburgh*

2023-2024 The Anthropology of Games: Theory, Design, and Experience (Spring; 200-level Methods-focused seminar)

2022-2023 Language, Culture, and Society (Fall; 200-level lecture)

2023 Linguistic Anthropology Core Seminar (Spring; Graduate seminar)

2022-4 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Fall & Spring; 100-level lecture)

*The University of Chicago*

2020-2022 Self, Culture, and Society (Three quarter sequence; core curriculum seminar)

2021-2022 Games: Theory, Practice, Experience (Winter & Spring; 100-level lecture)

2016, 2018 Power, Identity, and Resistance (Three quarter sequence; core curriculum seminar)

*Columbia University Global Center – Amman*

2015 Reading the Janet Abu-Lughod Library (Summer; seminar)

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

2020 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship, The University of Chicago.

2019 Social Sciences Division Doctoral Completion Grant, The University of Chicago.

2018 Urban Doctoral Fellowship, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation.

2016 Predoctoral Research Fellowship, Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

2014 Student Research Fellowship and Critical Language Enhancement Award, Fulbright Foundation.

2014 Department Prize for Best M.A. Thesis, The University of Chicago

2013 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation.

2012 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education.

**SERVICE**

*The University of Pittsburgh*

2023-2024 Graduate Student Affairs Committee Member.

2022-2023 Colloquium Committee Member.

*The University of Chicago*

2020-2022 Union Steward for Teaching Fellows and Bargaining Team Member.

2018-2019 Social Science Dean’s Council on Doctoral Education Member.

2018 Co-Organizer of “You are Here: A Panel on Social Justice at Uchicago.”

2013-2014 Department Coordinator, Social Science Student Activities Fund.

*Other*

2023-present Article and Book Reviewer, *American Ethnologist*.

2022-present Microsoft Research, Seattle, Washington.

2019 Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Amman, Jordan.

2018 Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, Amman, Jordan.

2017-2018 *ma’aan li faa’il al-khayr*, Amman, Jordan.

# LANGUAGES

English, Arabic (Ammani & Baghdadi dialects), French.