Ben Chappell

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Appointments

Professor	American Studies	University of Kansas	2022-	
Associate Professor	American Studies	University of Kansas	2013-2022	
Assistant Professor	American Studies	University of Kansas	2007-2013	
Assistant Professor	Sociology/Cultural Studies	Bridgewater College	2003-2007	
Affiliated and Courtesy Appointments				
Anthropology		University of Kansas		

Anthopology	University of Kalisas
Latin American and Caribbean Studies	University of Kansas
Latina/o/x Studies	University of Kansas
Museum Studies	University of Kansas
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	University of Kansas

Degrees			
PhD	Anthropology	University of Texas	2003
MA	Anthropology	University of Texas	1998
BA	Music/Peace Studies	Bethel College, Kansas	1993

Research

Areas of Focus

Mexican America, vernacular performance and cultural production, materiality and space, cultural theory, U.S. ethnography, cultural studies, neoliberalism, critical university studies.

Books

- Mexican American Fastpitch: Identity at Play in Vernacular Sport. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2021.
- Mexican American Baseball in Kansas City, co-authored with Richard Santillán, Gene T. Chávez, Rod Martínez, and Raymond Olais. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Press, 2018.
- Lowrider Space: Aesthetics and Politics of Mexican American Custom Cars. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012.

Articles and Chapters

Preface to Slow and Low: Chicago Community Lowrider Festival. Chicago: Candor, 2021.

- "Traditions of the Oppressed: Popular Aesthetics and Layered Barrio Space Against the Erasure of Gentrification in Austin." In *The Everyday Life of Urban Inequality: Ethnographic Case Studies of Global Cities,* Angela D. Storey, Megan Sheehan, and Jessica Bodoh-Creed, eds. Pp. 87-104. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020.
- "Mexican American Fastpitch." In *Latinos and Latinas in American Sport: Stories Beyond Peloteros,* Jorge Iber, ed. Pp. 127-147. Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2019.
- "The Borders that Cross Us: Ethnographic Sensibilities for Transnational American Studies." *Approaching Transnational America in Performance*. Birgit M. Bauridl and Pia Wiegmink, eds. Pp. 35-56. Frankfurt am Main, Germany: Peter Lang, 2016.

"Lowrider Publics: Aesthetics and Contested Communities." In *The Routledge Companion to Latina/o Pop Culture.* Frederick Aldama, ed. Pp. 267-278. New York: Routledge, 2016.

- "The Nature and Meaning of Research in American Studies." An American Studies Association White Paper, 2015. http://www.theasa.net/about/page/white_papers/
- "Barrio Metaxis: Ambivalent Aesthetics in Mexican American Custom Cars." In *Vehicles: Cars, Canoes and Planes as Metaphors of the Moral Imagination.* David Lipset and Richard Handler, eds. Pp. 166-187. New York: Berghahn books, 2014.
- "Lowriders." In Oxford Bibliographies in Latino Studies. Ilan Stavans, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- "Custom Contestations: Lowriders and Urban Space." City and Society 22:1 (2010): 25-47.
- "Ordinary Exceptions: The Violence of Threat Governmentality." In *Shifting Positionalities: The Local and International Geo-Politics of Surveillance and Policing.* María Amelia Viteri and Aaron Tobler, eds. Pp. 124-136. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009.
- "Lowrider Style: Cultural Poetics and the Politics of Scale." In *Cultural Studies: An Anthology.* Michael Ryan, ed. Pp. 634-645. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008.
- "Rehearsals of the Sovereign: States of Exception and Threat Governmentality." *Cultural Dynamics* 18:3 (2006): 313-334.
- "Lowrider Cruising Spaces." In *Mobile Crossings: Representations of Chicana/o Cultures*. Anja Bandau and Marc Priewe, eds. Pp. 51-62. Trier, Germany: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2006.
- "Bakhtin's Barbershop: Film as Folklorist." Western Folklore 64:3/4 (2005): 209-229.
- "What Youth Culture? Race, Rubric, and Identified Performance." *Politics and Culture* 2 (2003). http://aspen.conncoll.edu/politicsandculture.
- "Mexican American Lowriders: Postmodernism as Popular Practice." In *Postmodern Practices: Beiträge zu einer Vergehenden Epoche.* Thomas Doerfler and Claudia Globisch, eds. Pp. 229-245. Hamburg, Germany: LIT, 2002.
- "Take a Little Trip with Me': Lowriding and the Poetics of Scale." In *Technicolor: Race, Technology, and Daily Life.* Alondra Nelson and Thuy Linh N. Tu, eds., with Alicia Headlam Hines. Pp. 100-120. New York: New York University Press, 2001.

"Folklore Semiotic: Charles Peirce and the Experience of Signs." Folklore Forum 30:1-2 (1999): 73-94.

"Is a Lowrider Postmodern? Critique, Politics and Ambivalence in Hybrid Performance." *Text, Practice, Performance* 1 (1999): 35-52.

Invited Lectures

University of Regensburg, Germany, Center for International and Transnational Area Studies, 2022. Texas State University, Center for the Study of the Southwest, 2021.

San Diego State University, 2020.

- University of Regensburg, Germany, Plenary lecture at the 10th anniversary conference, Regensburg European American Forum, 2018.
- University of Stuttgart, Germany, 2018.
- Free University, Berlin, Germany, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, 2018.
- Kansas City Museum, Smithsonian Institution collecting event, 2016.
- University of Regensburg, Germany, Keynote lecture at the "Interdisciplinary Crossroads: Performance Studies in Transnational American Studies," 2015.
- Kauffman Museum, Kansas, 2015.
- Bethel College, 2008, 2012, 2015.
- University of Kansas Latino Faculty and Staff Council, 2014.
- University of Missouri, Kansas City Gallery of Fine Arts alt-lecture with artist Davin Watne, 2014.
- University of Regensburg, Germany, 2014.
- Hesston College, 2012.
- University of Arkansas, 2011.

University of Kansas, Center for Latin American Studies, Waggoner Symposium, 2009. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2008. Eastern Mennonite University, Colloquium: The City, 2006.

Media Coverage of Research

Phoenix New Times, "Slow & Low," 2021. Introducing Urban Anthropology, Jaffe & De Koning, Routledge, 2015. The Newton Kansan, "Explore Mexican American Fastpitch," 2015. Harvey County Now, "Events to Explore Mexican-American Fast-pitch as Cultural Resource," 2015. Central Standard on KCUR 89.3 FM, Kansas City, MO, 2013. KC Currents on KCUR 89.3 FM, Kansas City, MO, 2013. Americanethnography.com blog, 2013. Creative Loafing Charlotte blog, "Custom Car Fans Steer Vehicles for Change," 2013. Lawrence Journal-World, "Professor Immerses Himself in Lowrider Culture," 2013. New York Daily News, 2013. *Vice.com*, "Lowriders in the Post-War Era: A Chat with Ben Chappell," 2012. New York Times "Wheels" blog, "Lowriding: This Culture is about More than Cars," 2012. Topeka Capitol-Journal, "Professor spent time with lowriders in Texas," 2012. Designers & Books blog, "Phil Patton's Notable Books for 2012." Choice, "Significant books for undergraduates," 2012. Texas Books in Review, 2012.

Funding and Awards

Leibniz ScienceCampus visiting fellow, University of Regensburg, Germany, 2022.

University of Kansas Keeler Intra-university Professorship, 2022.

University of Kansas Public Scholars Group, 2022.

Humanities General Research Fund grant, University of Kansas, 2014, 2022.

- Lowrider Studies Scholar-Activist of the Year, Save the Kids organization (shared with presenters at the inaugural International Lowrider Studies conference), 2021.
- Fulbright teaching award in American Studies to Regensburg, Germany, 2018.

Hall Center for the Humanities Resident Fellow, 2015.

KU Men of Merit, named by the Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center, 2012.

Big XII Faculty Fellowship, University of Kansas and University of Texas, 2011.

- Castro Concrete Jokers Tournament Sportsmanship Award, for bringing academic and public attention to Mexican American fastpitch, Austin, Texas, 2011.
- Spencer and Teagle Foundation, Strategic Improvement of Undergraduate Education at the University of Kansas faculty fellow, 2009.

Mednick Fellowship, Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, 2005.

- Second Prize, international essay competition for young authors on Urban and Regional Themes, Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies, 2004.
- First Prize, national Student Essay Competition, Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology, 2002.

Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, predoctoral grant, 2001.

Reviewed and Invited Presentations

First annual International Lowrider Studies Conference. University of Utah, 2021.

Western History Association, Albuquerque, NM, 2020.

University of Regensburg, Germany, Center for International and Transnational Area Studies video talk series "Transnational Perspectives on the Pandemic," 2020.

Latino Studies Association, South Bend, IN, 2020. [postponed due to COVID-19]

American Ethnological Society, Austin, TX, 2020. [canceled due to COVID-19] American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, Canada, 2019. American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI, 2019, Cultural Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, 2019. Yale University, "Re-enchanting Anthropology" symposium participant, 2018. American Anthropological Association, San José, CA, 2018 American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA 2018. Cultural Performance in Transnational American Studies research network conference, Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, 2018. University of Kansas, Anthropology graduate seminar, 2018. University of Kansas, Hall Center for the Humanities Race, Place, and Space Seminar, 2017. University of Kansas, Honors Program panelist, 2017. American Studies Association, Chicago, IL, 2017. 12th Annual International Ethnography Symposium: Politics and Ethnography in an Age of Uncertainty, Manchester, UK, 2017. Mapping Latino Research: Sixth Biennial Inter-University Program for Latino Research, Siglo XXI Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2017. Mid-America American Studies Association, Lawrence, KS, 2016. University of New Mexico, Borderlands Ethnography graduate seminar, 2016. University of Kansas, Department of Communication Studies, 2016. University of Kansas, Psychology field methods graduate seminar, 2015. University of Kansas Hall Center for the Humanities Resident Fellow lecture, 2015. American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, 2015. American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 2014. American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, 2014. Mid-America American Studies Association, Lincoln, NE, 2014. University of New Mexico, Folklore and Cultural Studies graduate seminar, 2014. University of Central Arkansas Honors College, 2006, 2014. Tucson Festival of Books panelist, 2014. University of Kansas, America's Latinos undergraduate course, 2014. American Ethnological Society, Chicago, IL, 2013. American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA, 2012. American Anthropological Association, Montreal, Canada 2011. American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, 2011. Performing Ethnicities Through Sport Symposium, University of Iowa, 2011. University of Kansas, American studies circle, 2011. University of Kansas, Introduction to American Studies undergraduate course, 2010. University of Kansas, Center for Latin American Studies teacher training, 2010. American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, 2010. Mid-America American Studies Association, Lawrence, KS, 2010. American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2009. Mid-America American Studies Association, Iowa City, IA, 2009. Cultural Studies Association, Kansas City, MO, 2009. University of Kansas, Hall Center for the Humanities American seminar, 2008, 2009. American Studies Association, Albuquergue, NM, 2008. Nuestra América in the U.S. conference, University of Kansas, 2008. 17th annual Cultural Studies Conference, Kansas State University, 2008. National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies, Austin, TX, 2008. Cultural Studies Association, New York, NY, 2008. University of Kansas, Center for Latin American Studies merienda, 2003, 2008.

American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 2007.

Interrogating Diversity conference, American University, 2007.

Haskell Indian Nations University, research methods undergraduate course, 2007.

Eastern Mennonite University, literary theory undergraduate course, 2007.

Cultural Studies Association, Arlington, VA, 2006.

American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 2005.

American Studies Association, Washington, DC, 2005.

Eastern Mennonite University, cross-cultural understanding, degree completion course, 2005.

Virginia Humanities Conference, Bridgewater College, 2004.

Rhetoric Society of America, Austin, TX, 2004.

Annual Modern Languages & Literatures Colloquium, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 2004.

Eastern Mennonite University, intercultural communication undergraduate course, 2004.

American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, 2003.

Cultural Studies Association, Pittsburgh, PA, 2003.

Bethel College, cultural anthropology undergraduate course, 2003.

American Studies Association, Houston, TX, 2002.

Representing Chicano/a Cultures Conference, University of Potsdam, Germany, 2002.

University of Texas at Austin, American Public Sphere undergraduate course, 2002.

University of Texas at Austin, Introduction to Expressive Culture undergraduate course, 2000, 2002.

Fourth International Graduate Conference, University of Erlangen/Nuremberg, Germany, 2001.

American Cultures Conference, Austin, TX, 2001.

American Studies Association, Detroit, MI, 2000.

American Ethnological Society, Tampa, FL, 2000.

American Folklore Society, Memphis, TN, 1999.

American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, 1999.

Third Annual Conference on Holidays, Ritual, Festival, Celebration, and Public Display, Bowling Green, OH, 1999.

American Ethnological Society, Portland, OR, 1999.

University of Texas at Austin, Rhetoric of the Southwest undergraduate course, 1999.

University of Texas at Austin, Mexican American Popular Culture undergraduate course, 1998. American Folklore Society, Austin, TX, 1997.

Teaching

Guest Appointments

University of Regensburg, Germany, Guest Professor in American Studies, 2015, 2018. Eastern Mennonite University, Adjunct Professor, Adult Degree Completion Program, 2006. Bethel College, Visiting Instructor of English, 2003.

Undergraduate Courses

Large lecture	AMS/SOC 110 American Identities: Unequal States*
First-year cores	ENG 103 Critical Writing PDP 150 Personal Development & the Liberal Arts HNRS 190 Honors Seminar: Critical University Studies and Student Activism
Surveys	SOC 101 Principles of Sociology SOC 205 Cultural Diversity in American Music SOC/PSCI 215 Global Identities

	SOC 236 Cultural Anthropology ENG 241 Studies in Popular Culture SOC 340 Cultural Theory at the Movies AMS 345 Cultural Studies
Seminars	AMS/SOC 332 The United States in a Global Context* AMS 344 Latino/as and the Politics of Space SOC 335 Immigrants to the Shenandoah Valley SOC 345 Organizations in American Life (Theme: High Tech) SOC 405 The Community AMS 550 Current Issues and Theory in American Studies AMS 550 Research Seminar: Urban Expressive Culture AMS 696 Class and Labor in American Film AMS 696 Cultural Logics of Fascism

*Delivered in asynchronous online version as well as in-person.

Graduate Courses and Mentoring

Seminars	AMS 802 Theorizing America: Theory for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies AMS 803 Research Methods in American Studies AMS 808 Neoliberalism and the University AMS 900 Teaching Seminar AMS 998 U.S. Ethnography AMS 998 Intellectuals in Public AMS 998 Neoliberalism and Power AMS 998 Cultural Logics of Fascism
PhD Advisees	 Ora McWilliams (co-chair with Elizabeth Esch), 2019. "Yes, But What Have You Done for Me Lately?" Intersections of Intellectual Property, Work-for-Hire, and the Struggle of the Creative Precariat in the American Comic Book Industry. Jon Burrow-Branine, 2017 (honors). Gay Christians in the American Midwest: Christianity, Secularism, Sexuality. Revised and published as Come Now, Let Us Argue It Out: Counter-Conduct and LGBTQ Evangelical Activism, University of Nebraska Press, 2021. Steven Marston, 2016. Motors in Midway, U.S.A.: Dirt-track Auto Racing in Kansas. Under contract with University of Nebraska Press. Rebekah Aycock (candidate). Burglary in U.S. Culture, 1860-1941. Shannon Ryall (candidate). Minor League Baseball as Labor and Cruel Optimism.
MA Advisees	 Shannon Ryall, 2021. The One Constant: Baseball, The American Dream and Nostalgia in 1980s Film. Andrea Clark, 2017. Embodiment and Space in Kansas City Transportation. Cory Schmidt, 2014. Destabilizing Stability: Social Inequality and Military Recruitment. Jon Burrow-Branine, 2013. Blogging While Gay and Christian: Andrew Sullivan and the Production of the Religious, Secular, and Sexual. Published in Culture and Religion, 2015. Avery Dame, 2012. "I'm Your Hero? Like Me?": The Role of "Expert" in the Trans Male Vlog. Published in the Journal of Language and Sexuality, 2012.

	 Sean Malone, 2012. "Game Loving People as We Are": Harry Wright, Baseball, and Anglo-Saxonism. Jordan Wade, 2012. Bikram Backlash: Authenticity and Function as Narrative in Modern Postural Yoga.
Other Committees	University of New Mexico, Anthropology University of Regensburg, Germany, American Studies University of Texas at San Antonio, Culture, Literacy, and Language University of Kansas, American Studies, Anthropology, Communication Studies, English, Film & Media Studies, History, Museum Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Spanish & Portuguese, Theatre, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Service

Professional

Association Service

Journal for the Anthropology of North America Editorial Board, 2017-pres.

American Studies Association, Ethnography Caucus founder and convener, 2016-pres.; Task Force for American Studies Programs and Departments, 2014-15; Committee on Graduate Education, 2013-16. Chair. 2015-16.

Mid-America American Studies Association Executive Board, 2008-11, 2017-21, Vice President 2021. Cultural Studies Association Advisory Board, 2003-08.

Conference Sessions Organized

- Authors' Roundtable on New Ethnographies: Let Anthropology Burn? American Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, 2022.
- Latina/o Cultural Studies on the Scale of the Vernacular. Latina/o Studies Association, South Bend, IN, 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19).
- Locating Ethnography and Anthropologists II: Critical Homework and the Interdisciplines. American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, Canada, 2019..
- Is Ethnography Really a Method? American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI, 2019.
- *Teaching U.S. Ethnography: A Roundtable and Syllabus Exchange.* American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, 2018.
- Ethnography in the Age of Trump. American Studies Association, Chicago, IL, 2017.
- Anthropology at Home/Not Home in American Studies II. American Studies Association, Denver, CO, 2016.
- *Keywords for a Counter-Neoliberal Anthropology.* American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, 2015.
- Precarious Resistance to the University of Austerity. American Studies Association, Toronto, Canada, 2015.
- The Core of the Field: Required Courses in American Studies Doctoral Education. American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, 2014.
- *Going Deep in the Middle: Emergent "Midwestern" Ethnographies.* Mid-America American Studies Association, Tulsa, OK, 2012.
- Occupy 101: Social Movements in the Classroom. Mid-America Humanities Conference, University of Kansas, 2012 (co-organizer).
- Practice Fields: New Ethnographies of Sport, American Anthropological Association, Montreal, Canada, 2011.

Ethnographies of Mexican Texas. American Studies Association, San Antonio, TX, 2010 (not accepted).

Urban Crossings: Interethnic Encounters in Cultural Practice. American Studies Association, Albuquerque, NM, 2008.

Space in Motion I & II, American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 2005.

Peer Reviews

Anthropology and Humanism, 2021. American Studies, 2008, 2016, 2017, 2020. City & Society, 2010, 2020. University of Nebraska Press, 2017, 2018. American Anthropologist, 2018. National Endowment for the Humanities. 2017. Men and Masculinities, 2016. New York University Press, 2015. Political and Legal Anthropology Review 2013. Cultural Geographies, 2012. Sage Publications, 2011. Aztlán, 2010. Transfers, 2010. University of New Mexico Press, 2008. Blackwell, 2004, 2006. Allyn & Bacon, 2004, 2005. Text, Practice, Performance, 1998-2000.

Book Reviews

Folklore of the Freeway: Race and Revolt in the Modernist City by Eric Avila. Journal of Transport History 37:1 (2016): 98-100.

Creating Aztlán: Chicano Art, Indigenous Sovereignty, and Lowriding Across Turtle Island by Dylan Miner. Museum Anthropology Review 9:2 (2015): 14-16.

Homegirls: Language and Cultural Practice Among Latina Youth Gangs by Norma Mendoza-Denton. American Studies 50:1-2 (2009): 256-257.

Sueños Americanos: Barrio Youth Negotiating Social and Cultural Identities by Julio Cammarota. American Studies 49:3-4 (2009): 305-306.

Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles by Lisa García Bedolla. Southern California Quarterly 90:3 (2008): 343-345.

¡Raza Si! ¡Guerra No! Chicano Protest and Patriotism During the Viet Nam War Era by Lorena Oropeza. Southern California Quarterly 88:2 (2006): 255-258.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich and Gig: Americans Talk about their Jobs, edited by John Bowe, Marisa Bowe, and Sabin Streeter. Text, Practice, Performance 4 (2002): 3-9.

Wallbangin': Graffiti and Gangs in L.A. by Susan Phillips. Text, Practice, Performance 2 (2000): 103-5.

University of Kansas

Leadership and Governance

Faculty and University Senate, 2016-19, 2021-24.

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty, 2013-16.

Department of American Studies, Tenure & Promotion Internal Review Committee, Chair, 2018, 2020.

Department of American Studies, Director of Graduate Studies, 2012-16, 2020 (acting).

Department of Theatre and Dance, Interim Chair, 2019.

School of the Arts, Interim Co-director, 2019.

Hall Center for the Humanities, Co-director, Modernities Seminar, 2010-13; Director, Faculty Colloquium *The Cultural Lives of Neoliberalism*, 2016.

Department of American Studies, scheduling officer, 2007-12.

Committees

New Faculty Research Development Grants review committee, 2022.

Film and Media Studies internal program review committee, 2021.

Special Working Group on Recruitment of Underrepresented Graduate Students, 2015-17.

Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities, seed grant review panel, 2013.

Department of History, search committee for Chair, outside member, 2012.

Hall Center for the Humanities, travel award review committee, 2012; focus group on collaborative research and immigration studies, 2011; advisory panel on immigration for the Hall Center Scholars, 2010.

Center for Teaching Excellence GTA training workshop, 2009; self-study focus group, 2008. *Nuestra América* in the U.S. conference program committee, 2007-08.

Advising and Mentoring

Honors Program University Scholars mentor, 2021-22.

Student organization faculty advisor, Jayhawk Liberation Front, 2020-21; Students for Bernie, 2019-20; Young Democratic Socialists of America, 2018-19; SPQR Student Senate campaign, 2012-13;

Occupy KU, 2012-13; Local Lawrence, 2011-12.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences mentor, 2016-17.

Graduate Student Research Competition, Judge, 2012.

Department of American Studies, Teaching Assistant mentor, 2008-11.

Public Engagement

Smithsonian Institution, consulting scholar on a lowrider traveling exhibition project, 2018. Chicago Urban Art Society, consulting scholar for Slow and Low: Chicago Lowrider Festival, 2016. Kansas Humanities Council/Smithsonian Institution "Hometown Teams" initiative, public discussion

moderator for the Newton Mexican American Athletic Association Fourth of July softball tournament, 2015.

El Centro, Inc., Kansas City, KS, consulting scholar for a Kansas Humanities Council grant, 2014. Bethel College, KS, consulting scholar for "Root for the Home Team: Building Community Through

Sport," a Kansas Humanities Council Grant, 2014.

Lawrence Immigration Speakers Network, 2008-09.