

JON SCHUBERT

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

SNF Eccellenza Professor, University of Basel Division of Urban Studies, Department of Social Sciences PI on the PRECURBICA project, teaching and supervision in urban studies and social anthropology	04/2022 -
Senior lecturer, University of Konstanz Department of History and Sociology; Working Group "Social and Political Anthropology": teaching, supervision and research.	04/2021 – 03/2023
Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Brunel University London. Anthropology Department; PI for: 'The Afterlives of Oil-Backed Infrastructures in the Port of Lobito, Angola.	05/2018 – 03/2021
Senior research fellow, University of Geneva. Global Studies Institute; researcher on the project 'war and state formation' (one-year fixed-term appointment).	07/2017 – 03/2018
Senior research fellow, University of Leipzig Centre for Area Studies; researcher on the project 'changing stateness' research project (DFG SPP 1448).	04/2015 – 03/2017
Senior Africa Analyst, Lusophone and Central Africa, IHS. Commercial risk forecasting; political and violent risk briefs, country assessments, bespoke client reports.	05/2010 – 03/2015

ACADEMIC

PhD, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh. Thesis: 'Working the System: Amnesia, Affect, and the Aesthetics of Power in the "New Angola"'	09/2010 – 07/2014
MPhil-Student, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Doctoral training, Department of Anthropology, upgrade and transfer to Edinburgh in Sep. 2010.	09/2009 – 08/2010
Master of Arts in African Studies, University of Basel Option social anthropology and history, <i>magna cum laude</i>	04/2005 – 12/2007
BA Equivalent, Sociology, University of Basel Minors: contemporary history and media studies	10/2001 – 03/2005

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

2017: *Working the System: A Political Ethnography of the New Angola*, Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press.

Reviewed in: *American Ethnologist*, *Africa*, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, *H-Net Luso*, *Allegrolaboratory*, and *Lusotopie*, and forthcoming reviews in *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale* and *Revue française de sciences politiques*.

[Portuguese translation forthcoming 2022 with Mercado de Letras]

Edited volume / Special issue

In preparation: 'Engineering the middle classes: state institutions and the aspirations of citizenship', guest eds. Maxim Bolt and Jon Schubert, submission invited by *Critique of Anthropology*.

2018: *Extractive Industries and Changing State Dynamics in Africa. Beyond the Resource Curse*, J. Schubert, U. Engel, and E. Macamo, eds. Routledge Studies in African Development. New York, London: Routledge.

Journal articles

Submitted: A Vision for the Future: Professional Ethos as Boundary Work in Mozambique's Public Sector, for special issue in *Critique of Anthropology*

Submitted: Bolt M. and J. Schubert, Engineering the Middle Classes. State Institutions and the Aspirations of Citizenship. Introduction to special issue in *Critique of Anthropology*.

Forthcoming: Disrupted Dreams of Development: Neoliberal Efficiency and Crisis in the Angolan Port of Lobito, accepted for publication in *Africa*.

2022: Fear and Fainting in Luanda: Paranoid Politics and the Problem of Interpretative Authority in Angola, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 28.1, 1-18.

2021: The Work-Intensive Fiction of Frictionless Trade in the Angolan Port of Lobito, for a theme section on 'Container Economies', *Focaal* 89, 64-78

2020: Colonial Resonances: Extractive Capitalism in Urban Design in Lobito, Angola, *Roadsides* 004, Architecture as Infrastructure, 24-31.

2019: Les « glorieuses familles » : parenté situationnelle, stratégie agentielle et critique du pouvoir en Angola, *Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines* 234, 515-542.

2018: Wilful Entanglements: extractive industries and the co-production of sovereignty in Mozambique, *Ethnography* 0.0, 1-22 (online first).

2018: Seeing is believing: symbolic politics and the opportunities of non-democratic transition in Angola, *Anthropology Today* 34.2, 18-21.

2018: 'A Culture of Immediatism': Co-Optation and Complicity in Post-War Angola, *Ethnos*, 83.1, 1-19 (online first in 2016).

- 2015: 2002, Year Zero: History as Anti-Politics in the New Angola, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 41.4, 835-852.
- 2013: A partidariação: 'democratização' e consolidação do poder político em Angola, *Relações Internacionais*, 37, 79-98 (updated Portuguese version of 2010 JSAS article).
- 2010: 'Democratisation' and the Consolidation of Political Authority in Post-War Angola, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 36.3, 657-672.

Book chapters

- Forthcoming: Dreams of Extractive Development — Reviving the Benguela Railway in Central Angola, in *Imagining the Unseen: 20 Pictures of Debt's Empire, Then and Now*, Clea Bourne, Paul Gilbert, Max Haiven and Johnna Montgomerie, eds., Manchester University Press.
- 2020: Angola, in *Africa Yearbook, Politics, Economy and Society South of the Sahara in 2019*, vol. 16, A. Awedoba, B. Kamski, A. Mehler and D. Sebudubudu (eds.) Leiden, Boston: Brill. (see also AYB 2008-2018)
- 2018: J. Schubert, U. Engel and E. Macamo, Boom and Bust: Extractive Industries and African States in the 21st Century, in *Extractive Industries and State Capacities in Africa*, J. Schubert, U. Engel, E. Macamo, eds. New York, London: Routledge.
- 2018: E. Macamo, J. Schubert, and U. Engel, Conclusion: the political ecology of the state, in *Extractive Industries and State Capacities in Africa*.
- 2016: Emerging middle-class political subjectivities in post-war Angola, in Melber H. (ed.), *The Rise of Africa's Middle Class*, London, New York: Zed Books.

Book Reviews (selected)

- 2019: Jörg Wiegratz, 'Neoliberal Moral Economy: Capitalism, socio-cultural change and Fraud in Uganda, *African Affairs* 118 (470), 214-215.
- 2018: Julie Soleil Archambault, 'Mobile Secrets: Youth, Intimacy, and the Politics of Pretense in Mozambique. Julie Soleil Archambault. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017. 224 pp.', *American Ethnologist*, 45.3.
- 2018: Antina von Schnitzler, 'Democracy's Infrastructure: Techno-Politics and Protest after Apartheid', Princeton Univ. Press 2016, *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale* 26.1.
- 2018: Bjørn Enge Bertelsen, 'Violent Becomings. State Formation, Sociality, and Power in Mozambique', Berghahn Books 2016, *American Ethnologist* 45.2.
- 2017: Justin Pearce, 'Political Identity and Conflict in Central Angola, 1975–2002', Cambridge University Press 2015, *Politique Africaine* 2016/4 (n° 144).

Working papers and outreach/think pieces (selected)

- 2021: Invited commentary on Sumich and Bertelsen, 'Just out of reach', *Current Anthropology* 62 (3).

- 2020: Pia, A. E., Batterbury, S., Joniak-Lüthi, A., LaFlamme, M., Wielander, G., Zerilli, F. M., Nolas, M., Schubert, J., Loubere, N., Franceschini, I., Walsh, C., Mora, A., and Varvantakis, C. (2020). Labour of Love: An Open Access Manifesto for Freedom, Integrity, and Creativity in the Humanities and Interpretive Social Sciences. *Commonplace*. <https://doi.org/10.21428/6ffd8432.a7503356>.
- 2020: Angola unter Lourenço: Zwischen Wandel und Krise, *AfrikaBulletin* 177 (Feb. 2020).
- 2019: *Civil Wars and State Formation. Violence and the Politics of Legitimacy in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire and South Sudan*, by Didier Péclard, Martina Santschi, Jon Schubert, Gilson Lázaro, Leben Moro, Ousmane Zina, Swiss Network for International Studies Working Paper, July 2019.
- 2019: Angolans feel let down two years into new presidency, *The Conversation*, 26.11.2019.
- 2018: Dos Santos abgelöst. Angola zwischen Wandel und Konsolidierung, *WeltTrends. Das außenpolitische Journal*, 144 (Oktober 2018), 46–50.
- 2017: Seeing is Believing: reassessing Angola's 'implacable exonerator', *Africa is a Country*, 1.12.2017.
- 2017: Election unlikely to herald the change Angolans have been clamouring for", *The Conversation*, 27.08.2017
- 2016: #Evidence for the future: time and proof in commercial risk forecasting, *allegralaboratory.net*, November 2016.
- 2005: *Political Ecology in Development Research. An Introductory Overview and Annotated Bibliography*. Bern: NCCR North-South.

PRESENTATIONS

Keynote speeches

- 2022: 20 anos de pós-guerra em Angola: novos desafios e aberturas para a pesquisa, Segundo congresso internacional de Angolanística, [National Library of Portugal](#), 17 June.
- 2018: The joys and perils of comparison. Lusophoning Southern African Studies conference, Centre of African Studies, [University of Copenhagen](#), 10-11 Dec.

Invited presentations (selected)

- 2020: Fear and Fainting in Luanda. Anthropology research seminar, [LSE](#), 29 May (online); also presented online at the anthropology seminars at Sussex (27 Oct) and The Graduate Institute, Geneva (10 Nov).
- 2019: Disaggregating the commodity crisis: towards an ethnography of an import-dependent oil economy at the port of Lobito (Angola), Social Anthropology Research Seminar, ISCA, [University of Oxford](#), 8 Mar.
- 2018: Disaggregating the Commodity Crisis: Towards an Ethnography of the Port of Lobito, Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien, [Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz](#), 27 Nov.

- 2018: João Lourenço: catalyst for reforms or recipe for regime survival? [IFRI](#), Paris, 26 Apr.
- 2018: Working the System: A Political Ethnography of the New Angola (book presentation), Centre of African Studies, [University of Edinburgh](#), 24 Jan.
- 2017: Working the System: A Political Ethnography of the New Angola (book presentation), Africa House, [NYU](#), New York, 6 Dec.
- 2017: O sistema. Etnografia política da Nova Angola (book pre-launch), Centro de Estudos Africanos, [Universidade Católica de Angola](#), Luanda, 9 Nov.
- 2016: Interrogating the 'New African Middle Class' — urbanity and aspiration in post-war Angola, Centre for African Studies, [University of Edinburgh](#), 25 Feb.
- 2016: Angolanidade: Race and Class in Postwar Luanda, African History & Politics Seminar, [Oxford University](#), 26 Jan.
- 2015: Angolanidade: Negotiating Political Authority Through the Idiom of Race in Contemporary Luanda, Afrika-Kolloquium, Institut für Ethnologie, [Goethe-Universität Frankfurt a.M.](#), 7 May.
- 2015: Urban Upgrading and Spatial Nostalgia: Exploring Affective Spaces in Post-War Luanda, Roundtable on 'Nostalgias in Angola after the War', [Stanford Humanities Center](#), 16. Nov.

Panels organised (selected)

- 2022: Paper dreams: traces of unrealised projects as archeology of collective futures (w. Luisa Arango), EASA 2022, Belfast.
- 2017: Engineering the Middle Classes: State Institutions, Wealth, and Aspirations of Citizenship, AAA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 27 Nov – 3 Dec (with Maxim Bolt).
- 2016: Political legitimacy and hegemony in Dominant-Party Regimes, ASA UK, Cambridge, 7-9 Sept (with Chloé Buire and Justin Pearce).
- 2014: Political subjectivities in resource-rich, neo-authoritarian countries, ASA14 Decennial: Anthropology and Enlightenment, University of Edinburgh, 19-22 June (with Tristram Barrett).

Conference presentations (selected)

- 2019: Disrupted Dreams of Development: The Port of Lobito in the Time of Crisis, ECAS2019, Edinburgh, 12 Jun.
- 2019: Efficiency and Austerity: implementing neoliberal visions in Lobito in a time of crisis, IV Jornadas Científicas do ISP Lusíada de Benguela, Lobito, 23-24 Apr.
- 2019: Rethinking resource-dependent economies through maritime commerce: the case of the port of Lobito (Angola), Life Cycle of Container Ships workshop, University of Oslo and National Maritime Museum of Norway, 14-15 Jan.
- 2018: A brief micro-history of UNITA's northern front in the Angolan conflict, ASA UK, Birmingham 11-13 Sep.

- 2018: O resgate dos valores tradicionais: crítica popular e estratégia situacional, III jornadas científicas do ISP Lusíada de Benguela, Lobito, 6-7 June.
- 2017: A middle class of experts: ethics and professionalism in Mozambique's mining sector reforms, AAA, Washington, DC, 28 Nov – 3 Dec.
- 2016: 'Traffic-as-life' in Luanda: collective taxis as heuristic tool in urban ethnography, ASA UK, Cambridge, 7-9 Sept.
- 2015: Numbers by divination: the production of evidence in commercial risk forecasting, AAA Annual Conference, Denver CO, 18-22 Nov.

Discussant (selected)

- 2019: Roundtable and workshop 'Academic Freedom, Academic Integrity and Open Access in the Social Sciences', LSE Anthropology, 9 Sep.
- 2016: Roundtable 'Peace and conflict in Africa', SPP1448 Final Conference, Potsdam 29 Sept.-2 Oct.
- 2014: Political culture in resource rich countries: the case of Angola, presentation and invited discussant at DFG- funded workshop "Political Culture in Africa – the Narrative Foundations of Authority and Leadership", Point Sud, Bamako, 4-10 Oct.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2022 - Associated senior researcher, political anthropology working group, Univ. of Konstanz
- 2020/21: Visiting Professor, The Graduate Institute, Geneva (IHEID), Department of Anthropology and Sociology.
- 2019/21: Visiting Research Fellow, University of Sussex, School of Global Studies, anthropology and international development.
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Swiss Society of African Studies (SGAS/SSEA), African Studies Association UK (ASA UK)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2021: SNF PCEFP1_203511, Eccellenza grant, c. CHF, 1.8m
- 2021: Publication grant, Zentrum für Kulturelle Forschung, Konstanz
- 2018: SNF IZSEZO_183347, grant for WSF conference (co-applicant).
- 2017: Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (3 years), c. £351,758
- 2016: Publications Award, SPP 1448, for Ethnos article and monograph.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Since 2019: Series co-editor, Politics and Development in Contemporary Africa series, International Africa Institute / Hurst

Advisory board member of multidisciplinary research journal of the research centre at ISP Jean Piaget de Benguela, Angola (*Revista Multidisciplinar Centro de Estudos e Pesquisa*)

Since 2017: Member of the editorial collective, Allegralaboratory.net

Since 2011: Peer reviews for journals: *American Ethnologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Current Anthropology*, *PoLAR*, *Anthropologie et société*, *Focaal*, *Etnográfica*, *African Affairs*, *Extractive Industries and Society*, *African Studies Review*, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, *Critical African Studies*, *Revue Canadienne d'Etudes Africaines*; publishers/books: Cornell University Press, James Currey; funding bodies: Swedish Research Council.

Since 2010: Expert reports to the court on Angola in various asylum applications in the UK and the US.

SUPERVISION AND EXAMINATION

PhD external examiner: Carolina Valente Cardoso, University of Gothenburg.
PhD thesis, dept. of anthropology, opponent at mock defence, 16 Jan 2019

PhD examiner: Paulo Inglês, ISCTE-IUL (Lisbon).
PhD thesis: member of the thesis examination board (*júri de tese*), Jun-Nov 2016.

MA Co-supervisor: Violetta Kane; Josephine Schmidt, Uni Konstanz (Oct 2021)

MA Second reader: Nikola Stojisavljevic, The Graduate Institute Geneva
MA thesis in anthropology (Jan-Aug 2021).

MA external examiner: Alexandra Czeglédi, University of Cape Town.
MA dissertation in political studies (Jun 2018).

LANGUAGES

Professional fluency: English, French, German, Portuguese

Basic: Italian, Spanish

TEACHING

Full courses (design, delivery, course admin, assessment):

- 2022/23 MA Seminar 'Urban climate change' (Urban Studies)
BA Seminar 'Introduction to political anthropology' (soc. anth.), Univ. of Basel
- 2021/22 BA seminar 'key texts in anthropology';
MA seminar 'politics, violence, and crime', Univ. of Konstanz.
- 2020/21 BA seminar 'introduction to political anthropology'
MA seminar 'urban ethnography', Univ. of Konstanz, Sociology and Anthropology
- 2020/21 MA Course, 'Concrete Politics', The Graduate Institute, Anthropology and
Sociology, Geneva (winter term, Sep-Jan).
- 2019/20: 2nd year undergraduate module (lecture and seminars), 'Political and Economic
Issues in Anthropology', Brunel University London (anthropology).
- 2017/18: 'UNICEF Angola induction course', Course organiser and principal lecturer for
the Rift Valley Institute, held at the University of Johannesburg, 5-7 October.
- 2015/16: MA-Seminar, 'Violence, Development, and Statebuilding in Africa', University of
Leipzig, African Studies and Global Studies.
- 2014/15: BA-seminar, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Institute of Social
Anthropology, 'Einführung in die politische Ethnologie'.