

Bronwyn Alison Isaacs

Curriculum Vitae | PhD Candidate in Social Anthropology |
Department of Anthropology | Harvard University | bronwynisaacs@fas.harvard.edu

Education:

Bachelor of Arts (Advanced, Geography, 1st Class Honours)

University of Sydney, November, 2008.

Thesis Title: Supermarket Ships and Traditional Rips: Changing Cultures of Consumption in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Master of Science (Social and Cultural Anthropology, Distinction)

University College London, September, 2012.

Thesis Title: Theorising an Anthropology of Well-being: Culture, Morality and their Politics in Thailand.

Master of Arts (Social Anthropology)

Harvard University, May 2016.

Continuing Degree towards the PhD.

PhD (Social Anthropology)

Harvard University, Defense Date: September 16, 2019.

Dissertation Title: Gloss and Dirt: The International Advertising Industry, Thai Labor and Global Value.

Grants & Scholarships (External):

- Cora Du Bois Fellowship for Advanced Degree Candidates in Anthropology, 2018.
- Chulalongkorn Thai Studies Scholarship, August 2017 (Declined).
- Royal Anthropological Institute, London, Esmile Horinman Scholarship, 2015.
- Mustard Seed Foundation, Harvey Fellows Award 2015-2018.

Grants & Scholarships (Internal):

- Harvard Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2018-2019.
- Graduate Student Associate & Research Funding, The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2017-2018.
- Harvard University, Critical Media Practice Mellon Grant, 2015.
- Harvard Asia Center Grants for Summer Research, 2013-2016.
- Eleanor Sophia Wood Postgraduate Fellowship, University of Sydney, 2011.
- Commonwealth Scholarship, University of Sydney, 2008.

Awards:

- Harvard Bok Center Award for Teaching Excellence, Awarded in Spring 2015, Fall 2015 & Fall 2017.
- Placed on Dean's List of High Achievers, University of Sydney, 2007.
- Walter Reid Prize for High Achievement in the Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney, 2007.

Articles in Preparation:

Isaacs "Color-Correction: Ideologies of Race from Asia at Work in the International Advertising Market" in preparation for a journal such as *The Journal of Asian Studies*

Isaacs "A National Funeral: Censorship, Colour and Bodies on the Streets of Bangkok". In preparation for a journal such as the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI)*

Isaacs "Hidden Attraction: Political Contingencies of Mobile Labor in the International Advertising Industry". In preparation for a journal such as *Economic Anthropology*

Articles:

Isaacs, B. "Husbands, Lovers, Gods; Unrequited Images in Thai Media", Multimodal section on the *American Anthropologist* website, April 2019.

Hall, G. Rothwell, A. Grant, T. Isaacs, B. Ford, L. Dixon, J. Kirk, M. and Friel, S. "Potential Environmental and Population Health Impacts of Local Urban Food Systems Under Climate Change: A Life Cycle Analysis Case Study of Lettuce and Chicken." *Agriculture & Food Security* 3, no. 1 (March 2014): 1-13.

Dixon, J. & Isaacs, B. "Why Sustainable and 'Nutritionally Correct' Food is not on the Local Agenda: Western Sydney and the Moral Acts of Everyday Life and Inadequate Government Food and Nutrition Policies." *Food Policy* (2014) 43 (201): 67-76.

Dixon, J & Isaacs, B. "There's Certainly a Lot of Hurting out There: Navigating the Trolley of Progress Down the Supermarket Aisle." *Agriculture & Human Values*, 30, no. 2 (2013): 283-297.

Hattersley, L. Isaacs, B. & Burch, D. "Supermarket Power, Own-Labels and Manufacture Counterstrategies: International Relations of Cooperation and Completion in the Fruit Canning Industry." *Agriculture and Human Values* 30, no. 20 (2013): 225-233.

Isaacs, B. Dixon, J. Banwell, C. Seubsman, S. Kelly, M. Pangsap, S. "Imitation, Adaptation and Substitution: Fresh Market and Supermarket Conventions in Thailand." *Journal of Sociology* 46, no. 4 (December 2010): 413-436.

Isaacs, B. Dixon, J. & Banwell, C. "Fresh Market to Supermarket: Nutrition Transition Insights from Chiang Mai, Thailand." *Public Health Nutrition* 13, no. 6 (June 2010): 893-897.

Isaacs, B. "Imagining Thailand in European Hypermarkets Middle Class Consumption in Chiang Mai's Cruise Ships." *Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 10, no. 4 (December 2009): 348-363.

Book Chapters:

- Isaacs, B. "Supermarkets", Article in *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, 2019.
- Isaacs, B. & Dixon, J. "Making it Local: The Rural Consumer, The Supermarket and Competing Pedagogical Authority," in *Food Pedagogies*, ed. R. Flowers & E. Swan, 149-158. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2015.
- Isaacs, B. "The Tastiest Food is in the Small Streets: The Politics of Flavor and Nostalgia in Bangkok," in *Street Food: Culture, Economy, Health & Policy*, ed. R. de Cassia Vieira Cardosa, M. Companion & S. Marras, 195-213. New York: Routledge, 2014.
- Dixon, J. Hattersley, L. & Isaacs, B. "Transgressing Retail: Supermarkets, Liminoid Power and the Metabolic Rift," in *Food Transgressions: Making Sense of Contemporary Food Politics*, ed. M. Goodman and C. Sage, 131-154. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2013.

Other Publications & Editing:

- 2016-2017: Journal Reviewer for: *Appetite* (Elsevier), *Space and Culture* (SAGE).
- 2015-2016: Co-editor of 16 article series "Refugees in Crisis: South East Asia" for *The Diplomat*. <http://thediplomat.com/authors/refugees-in-crisis/>

Invited Presentations:

- February 2018: "Margaret Mead: An Anthropological Approach to Food & Religion", Invited Lecture for students in Religious Studies, Department of History students at the American University Cairo, Egypt.
- October 2017: "Color Correction: The Politics of Desirable Labor & Race in the International Advertising Industry", Scheduled talk for the Graduate Student Associates Forum of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University.
- May 2017: "Straight White Lies: Fictional Bodies in Thai Advertising Production." Invited Talk for the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology and Egyptology, The American University Cairo, Egypt.
- April 2017: "Monks, Markets and Morality; Food, Religion, Commercialism, and Consumerism in Modern Thailand", seminar, Dept. of History and Comparative Religions, The American University Cairo, Egypt.
- April 2016: "Your Research Proposal Must be Interesting to Others" (โครงการวิจัยที่เสนอต้องเป็นโครงการที่คนอื่นสนใจ: เรื่องเล่าเกี่ยวกับสิ่งที่ดิฉันเรียนในการเขียนนำโครงการวิจัย), Lecture in Thai on Research Design for MA students, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Thammasat University.
- December 2014: "The Politics of Creativity in Thai Advertising Production," Harvard Thai Studies Seminar Series, Harvard Yenching Building, Harvard University.

- November 2013: “Spirits and Spirituality in Thailand: Screening of *Nang Nak*,” Southeast 17 CEAsia film series hosted by Harvard University Asia Center. CE Discussant.
- July 2013: “From Idea to Proposal to Fieldwork to Finished Report and then to Journal Publication: How I did my Undergraduate Honours Project on Peoples' Opinions of Fresh Markets and Supermarkets in Chiangmai Province in the Year 2008,” Graduate Seminars in Asian Studies, Walailak University, Thailand.
- January 2009: “Thai Fresh Markets to Tai Hypermarkets: New Class Based Consumption in Chiang Mai, Thailand”, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific Seminars, Australian National University.

Other Presentations:

- November 2018: “All the King’s Men: Censorship of Color, Image and Body on the Streets of Bangkok” in the Politics of Urban Aesthetics Panel, *The 117th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association*, San Jose, USA. Nov 2018.
- April 2018: “Grief in Excess: The Death of King Bhumibol of Thailand”, Displacements, Society for Visual Anthropology Online Meeting. April 19-21, 2018.
- March 2018: The Prime-Minister resembles as super-hero; the King appears as a god: The blurring of image and meaning in Thai popular media. *American Ethnological Society and Society for Visual Anthropology joint meeting*, Philadelphia March 22-24, 2018.
- November 2017: “Hidden Attractions: The Contingent Politics of Desirable Labor in the International Advertising Industry”, *The 116th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association*, Washington, DC, Nov 29-Dec 3, 2017.
- July 2017: “Mixing Work with Pleasure : Intimacy and Kinship in the Thai Creative Economy”, *13th International Conference on Thai Studies: Globalized Thailand? Connectivity, Conflict, and Conundrums of Thai Studies*, Chiang Mai, July 15-18, 2017.
- July 2017: “The Expanding Liminality of Sanam Luang: The Remaking of Thailand’s Future Polity”, with Trude Renwick, *13th International Conference on Thai Studies: Globalized Thailand? Connectivity, Conflict, and Conundrums of Thai Studies*, Chiang Mai, July 15-18, 2017.
- December 2016: “Straight White Lies: Fictional and Fluid Bodies in Advertising Production, Thailand”, *Australian Anthropological Association Annual Conference 2016*, University of Sydney.

- September 2016: “Photoshop Bangkok: Bangkok's Advertising Production workers, Labor and Value,” *Thailand in Comparative Perspective, An International Symposium*, University of Sydney.
- December 2010: “An Apple to stay? The Economic and Social Health of Sydney’s Apple Orchardists,” by Bronwyn Isaacs, Peter Malcolm and Jane Dixon, *Australia and New Zealand XVII, Conference of the Agri-food Network*, Monash University, Gippsland Campus.
- December 2010: “It Started in a Small Town called Shepparton’: Local Perspectives of the SPC-Ardmona Network from Thailand and South Africa,” by Libby Hattersley, Bronwyn Isaacs and David Burch, *Australia and New Zealand XVII, Conference of the Agri-food Network*, Monash University, Gippsland Campus.
- November 2009: “We’re Not as Small as we Like to Think we are: Locating the Powerful Consumer in the Goulburn Valley,” *Australia and New Zealand XVI Conference of the Agri-food Network*, Auckland University.
- November 2009: “Out of Shepparton: SPC Ardmona and the Building of a Global Brand,” by David Burch, Jane Dixon, Libby Hattersley, Bronwyn Isaacs, *Australia and New Zealand XVI Conference of the Agri-food Network*, Auckland University.
- November 2008: “Changing Consumption in Chiang Mai: Is there Room for Culture inside a (super)Marketed Thailand?,” *Australia and New Zealand XV Conference of the Agri-food Network*, University of Sydney.

Film Projects:

- Grief in Excess: The Death of King Bhumibol of Thailand* (2018), 12 minutes. Video Essay about public grief in Bangkok following the death of King Rama IX.
- Making Miss Millions* (2015): Behind the scenes of Thai Soap Opera. 7 minutes. Longer version in production.
- Set for Play* (2014): Work and play for country to city migrants living in Bangkok. 12 minutes.
- Wet Market* (2013): A sensory ethnographic exploration life as it is lived in one of Bangkok’s busiest produce markets. 17 minutes.
- Songkran at Wat Boston* (2013): Thai water throwing festival in snow-covered Massachusetts.

Visiting Academic Appointments:

- International Visiting Scholar, Department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology, American University in Cairo, Fall 2018- Spring 2019.
- Visiting Research Student, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 2016-2017.
- Visiting Academic Researcher, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, May-Aug 2013.
- Visiting Academic Researcher, School of Science and Health, Western Sydney University, 2010-2011.

- ANU Summer Scholar, the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, Dec 2008-Jan 2009.

Professional Memberships:

- American Anthropology Association
- Visual Society for Anthropology
- American Ethnological Society
- Royal Anthropological Institute for Great Britain and Ireland
- Australian Network of Student Anthropologists

Employment in Universities (Selected):

Harvard University

Teaching Fellow

- Senior Thesis Tutorial, Anthropology, Fall 2017. *For this course I was the primary instructor & designed course syllabi, working under supervision of Prof Phil Kao.
- Exploring Culture through Film, Anthropology, Prof Lucien Casting Taylor, Fall 2015. *For this course I presented two lectures in addition to teaching tutorials and grading.
- Sophomore Tutorial in Social Theory, Anthropology. Prof Asad Ahmed, Spring 2015. * For this course, I taught a weekly two hour seminar on Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Foucault in parallel with Prof Asad's lectures.
- Grounding the Global: Introduction to Anthropology; Prof Michal Herzfeld, Fall 2014. *For this course I designed and lead classes in ethnographic methodology and presented a lecture in addition to my work in leading tutorials and grading papers.

Bok Center Writing Fellow for the Department of Anthropology

- Appointed for the 2017-2018 academic year. Responsibilities involve running writing workshops for senior students and meeting with students in all anthropology classes to mentor students and teach writing skills that will help them to master the genre of anthropological writing.

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor

- Senior Tutorial in Thesis Writing, Fall 2017 (seven students).
- Junior Tutorial in Thesis Research, Anthropology; Spring 2015 (one student).
- Undergraduate Senior Thesis Advisor, Harvard College, Thesis in East Asian Studies, Spring 2014 (one student).

Thai studies Newsletter Associate Editor & Events Coordinator, 2013-2015.

Assisted Prof Michael Herzfeld to create a network of scholars and community interested in the new Thai studies program at Harvard, helped to invite and facilitate academics giving special lectures and presentations, designed and distributed Thai studies newsletter, wrote articles for the newsletter, promoted Thai studies events and courses in the Harvard and wider Boston community.

Australian National University

Research Officer

National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health, ANU: Original qualitative research, ongoing ethnography and report writing investigating the impacts of climate change on cultural dimensions, economic & ecological sustainability of food systems in Western Sydney. (May 2010 - Sept 2011).

Research Officer

National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU: Ethnographic fieldwork among rural consumers and community leaders in Shepparton, Victoria, Australia. (June-Aug 2009).

Griffith University, Australia

Senior Research Assistant

School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences, Griffith University : Investigating trade in tinned fruit between Australia and Thailand including 8 weeks fieldwork in rural and urban Thailand. (Feb– April 2010).

Languages & Skills:

- Native English Speaker
- Thai (Advanced)
- French (Beginner)
- Film: Camera, sound recording and film editing.

Other Interests:

- Cooking, especially Thai cuisine
- Swimming, running, cycling, hiking, basketball and triathlons
- Advocating rights of free speech, religious tolerance and safe asylum
- Ethnographic & Foreign Film

References:

- **Prof. Michael Herzfeld.** Email: herzfeld@fas.harvard.edu Phone: +1 617 496-5190
Ernest E. Monrad Research Professor of the Social Sciences, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University
IIAS Visiting Professor of Critical Heritage Studies, Leiden University
Chang Jiang Scholar and Visting Professor, Shanghai International Studies University
Professorial Fellow, Faculty of Humanities, University of Melbourne
- **Prof. Ajantha Subramanian** Email: subram@fas.harvard.edu Phone: +1 617 496-9647
Professor of Anthropology and of South Asian Studies
Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.
- **Prof Ieva Jusionyte** Email: jusionyte@fas.harvard.edu Phone: +1 617 9985280
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.