

Geoffrey R. Owens

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Education:

Ph.D.	University of Wisconsin	2004	Anthropology
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Dissertation Title: *On the Edge of a City: An Historical Ethnography of Urban Identity in the Northwest Suburbs of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*, under the supervision of Professor Sharon Hutchinson.

B.A.	University of Rochester	1986	Anthropology, with Distinction & Highest Honors
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A.A.	Dutchess Community College	1984	Liberal Arts, Honors
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Professional Experience:

2016-	Wright State University	Professor
2024-	Semiotic Society of America	Associate Editor, <i>The American Journal of Semiotics</i>
2017-2021	Semiotic Society of America	Associate & Lead Editor, <i>Semiotics: Yearbook of the SSA</i>
2009-2016	Wright State University	Associate Professor
2006-2009	Wright State University	Assistant Professor
2005-2006	Miami University, Oxford Ohio	Visiting Assistant Professor
2004-2005	Drake University, Des Moines Iowa	Visiting Assistant Professor
2003	Northeast Illinois University, Chicago Illinois	Instructor, Peoples of Africa
1992-1993, 2000, 2004	University of Wisconsin	Teaching Assistant, Anthropology and Human Diversity
1997, 2000-2002	University of Wisconsin	Instructor, Rhetoric & Composition

Professional Associations:

SSA (Semiotic Society of America)
ASA (African Studies Association).
AAA (American Anthropological Association).

Teaching Awards:

2011 General Education Excellence in Teaching Award.
2010 Center for Teaching and Learning Faculty Teaching Development Award.

Courses:

ATH 2150	Comparative non-Western Cultures	ATH 4000/6000	Political Anthropology
ATH 3000	Peoples & Cultures of Native North America	ATH 4020	Anthropology of Religion
ATH 3010	Peoples & Cultures of Africa	ATH 4600	African Oral Traditions
ATH 3020	Peoples & Cultures of South Asia	ATH 4700/6700	Anthropological Theory
ATH 3030	Peoples & Cultures of the United States	ATH 4100	Oral Traditions/History
ATH 3710	Ethnographic Fieldwork	ATH 2000	Careers in Anthropology

Graduate Thesis Supervised:

Megan Werth- *Spirit Possession: Exploring the Textual Tradition in Islam*, MA Humanities, 2012.

Independent Studies:

Morgan Fuller “Two-Spiritedness among Native Americans.”
Dave Fuller “The Andaman Islanders.”
Jamie Honstad “Witchcraft in Africa”
Hilary Swinning “Hazing and Rites of Passage.”
Trenton Daugherty- “Medical Anthropology and Public Health.”
Robert Whittaker- “Martial Arts in China.” Undergraduate.
Michael Peters- “Conquest from the African Perspective” Undergraduate.
Megan Werth- “Islam and Spirit Possession.” Graduate.
“Anthropology and The Ulama Tradition” Graduate.
Renee Antoine- “Anthropology and Ethics” Graduate Level Summer.

Guest Lectures:

Summer 2024 “Human Origins” West Carrolton Branch, Dayton Public Library.
Spring 2023 “Finding Africa in Dayton Ohio.”

Spring 2022 “Colonial Redlining in Dar es Salaam, Africa”.

Winter 2013 “Whose Ethnography is Ethnography?: Reflexive Anthropology and the Contested Meanings of Past and Present” University of Edinburgh, Research in Africa graduate class.

Winter 2012 “The First Four Celebration” Interview with *Dayton Informer*.

Spring 2009 “The Context of Muslim-Christian Relations in Africa” St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Fall 2008 “Worldview and Spirit Possession in East Africa”, University of Dayton, introductory anthropology course.

Spring 2008 (with Dr. Jeremy Forbis) “The Nature of Human Nature,” St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Edited Books:

2020 (with Donna West) *Semiotics 2019: Semiotics of Borders*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center.

2019 (with Elvira Katić) *Semiotics 2018: Resilience in an Age of Relation*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center.

2018 (with Jamin Pelky and Sari Park) *Semiotics 2017: The Play of Musement*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center.

Peer Reviewed Articles:

In Preparation, “Feeling, Willing and Knowing: Wundt’s Theory of Mind and the Roots of Collective Consciousness.”

In Preparation, (with Marlese Durr) ““Black Town Development and African American Property Ownership, Church and Community Development in Dayton, Ohio, 1833-1841”.

2021 “Semiotics and the Suburbs: A Phenomenological Analysis of Urban Frontier Settlements.” *The American Journal of Semiotics* 37 (1-2): 71-98 (R).

2016 ““We are Not Farmers’: Dilemmas and Prospects of Suburban Cultivators in Contemporary Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” *Journal of Modern African Studies* 54 (3): 443-467 (R).

2015 “Recovering the Logic in Semiotics in Reflexive Anthropology” *Southern Semiotics Review* 7 (1):33-43 <http://www.southernsemioticreview.net/recovering-the-logic-in-semiotics-in-reflexive-anthropology-by-geoffrey-owens/> (R).

2014 “From Collective Villages to Private Ownership: *Ujamaa, Tamaa*, and the Postsocialist Transformation of Peri-Urban Dar es Salaam, 1970-1990” *Journal of Anthropological Research* 70 (2): 207-231, Summer (R).

2012 “The Kamba War: Foundation Narratives, Ethnogenesis, and the Invention of the Zaramo in Precolonial East Africa.” *Ethnohistory* 59 (2): 353-385, Spring (R).

- 2010 “Postcolonial Migration: Virtual Culture, Urban Farming, and New Peri-Urban Growth in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 1975-2000.” *Africa* 80 (2): 249-274, May (R).
- 2007 “Exploring the Articulation of Sovereignty and Governmentality: The Chwaka Road and the Bombardment of Zanzibar, 1895-1896.” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 8 (2), Fall (R).
- 2006 “The Shomvi: A Precursor to Global Ethnoscapes and Indigenization in Precolonial East Africa.” *Ethnohistory* 53 (4): 715-751, Fall (R).
- 2005 “The Secret History of TANU: Rumor, Historiography and Muslim Unrest in Contemporary Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.” *History and Anthropology* 16 (4): 441-463, December (R).
- 2003 “What! Me a Spy?: Intrigue and Reflexivity in Zanzibar.” *Ethnography* 4 (1):122-144, March (R).

Peer Reviewed Chapters:

- 2024, In Press, “Semiotics and Collective Consciousness: de Saussure and the Durkheimian Paradigm Shift in Social Sciences” Farouk Seif, ed. *Semiotics 2023: The yearbook of the Semiotic Society of America*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center
- 2018 “Metaphor or Metonym: The Relationship between Biological and Cultural Evolution” in Geoffrey Owens, Jamin Pelky and Sari Park, eds. *Semiotics 2017: The Play of Musement*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center, pp. 35-48. (R)
- 2017 “The Ever-Moving Signposts of Indigenesness” in Jamin Pelky, ed. *Semiotics 2016: Archaeology of Concepts*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center, pp. 135-147 (R).
- 2016 “Working One’s Life Away: Precarity, Personhood and the Dissolution of Identity in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania” in Jamin Pelky and Stephanie Walsh Matthews, eds. *Semiotics 2015: Visual Identities*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center, pp. 45-54 (R).
- 2014 “Recovering the Logic in Semiotics in Reflexive Anthropology” in Jamin Pelky and Leonard G. Sbrocchi, eds. *Semiotics 2013: Semiotics and the New Media*. Ottawa: Legas Publishing, pp. 57-66 (R).

Other Publications:

- 2020 (with Donna West) “Preface: New Frontiers in Semiotics” in *Semiotics 2019: New Frontiers in Semiotics*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center (N).
- 2019 (with Elvira Katić) “Preface: Resilience in an Age of Relation” in Geoffrey Owens, and Elvira Katić, eds. *Semiotics 2018: Resilience in an ‘Age of Relation’*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center (N).
- 2018 (with Jamin Pelky) “Preface: The Play of Musement” in Geoffrey Owens, Jamin Pelky and Sari Park, eds. *Semiotics 2017: The Play of Musement*. Charlottesville, NC: Philosophy Documentation Center, pp. v-viii (N).

Grants/Fellowships/Scholarships:

2010	\$14,700	Wenner-Gren Foundation Post-Ph.D. Research Grant
1998-1999	\$29,736	Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Grant
1995-1996	\$ 600	University of Wisconsin Graduate School Travel Grant
1992	\$ 3000	Fulbright-Hays Swahili Group Project Abroad
1991	\$ 3700	Title VI FLAS Fellowship, Michigan State University
1984-1986	\$ 4000	Rochester National Scholarship

Travel/Research:

2010	Tanzania	Field Research
2002	Tanzania	Conference “Dar es Salaam in the Twentieth Century”
1998-1999	Tanzania	Continuing Field Research
1995-1996	Zanzibar	Field Research
1992	Tanzania and Zanzibar	Fulbright-Hays Swahili Group Project Abroad

Exhibits:

Finding Africa Exhibit, Dunbar Library

Worked with graduate students to design and mount exhibit.

Undefine the Redline Exhibit, Dunbar Library

Responsible for docent hiring, scheduling and training

Service:

External

Reviewer for Ford Foundation Predissertation Fellowships 2023
Editorial Board, *American Journal of Semiotics* 2016-
Editorial Team, *Southern Semiotics Review* 2014-
Editor, *Semiotics: Yearbook of the Semiotic Society of America* 2016-2021
Editorial Review Board, *Semiotics* 2015-2017

State

OTM Social Science Review Panel for Ohio Board of Regents 2012-
Anthropology TAG Panel 2020-2022

University

Chair, Undergraduate Academic Policies Committee 2016-
AAUP Chapter Vice President 2016-2022

Co-Chair, Faculty Governance Committee 2019-2022
Undergraduate Academic Policies Committee 2015-
Ad hoc committee on Attendance for RT4. 2020-2021
Ad hoc Committee for test optional admissions. 2020-2021
Ad hoc Student-Centered Policy Development Committee 2021
Faculty Senate Working Group on CC+ 2019
Faculty Senate Working Group on At Risk Students 2019
Research Council 2016-2018
Acalog Implementation Committee 2015-2016
Prerequisite Check Committee 2015-2017
Parking Committee 2013-2014
General Education Area II Faculty Coordinator 2011-2012
Budget Priority Committee 2010-2011
Faculty Senate 2010
Full Graduate Faculty Member 2009-

College of Liberal Arts

Promotion and Tenure Committee 2018-2020
Senior Lecturer Promotion Committee 2018-2020
AAFS Committee 2014-
Department Chair Evaluation Committee 2013
Faculty Development Committee 2012-2013
Co-Chair, Undergraduate Symposium Committee 2009-2010
Committee on COLA Conversion to Semesters 2009-2012
Undergraduate Symposium Committee 2008-2010
COLA Senate 2007-2009
Faculty Affairs Committee 2008-2010
Faculty Mentor 2008-2009; 2015-2017

SOSSIS/Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Chair, SoSSIS Bylaws Committee, 2023-2024
Interim Coordinator, AAFS Committee 2020
Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee 2011-2013, 2014-2015; 2016-2017
Chair, Assistant Professor Search Committee 2011-2012; 2014-2015
Chair, Faculty Development Committee 2013-2015
Chair, *Ad hoc* committee on bylaws revision 2013-2017
Co-chair, Committee on Conversion to Semesters 2009-2010
Chair, Sociology Instructor Search Committee 2008
Anthropology Instructor Search Committee 2011, 2014
Sociology Search Committee 2007-2008; 2009; 2014-2015
Accreditation Committee 2014-2015
Awards Committee 2017-2019
Faculty Development Committee 2012-
Promotion and Tenure Committee 2009-
Anthropology Curriculum Committee 2006-
Student Affairs Committee 2007-2009
Website Committee 2011-2012
Student Anthropology Club Advisor 2008-2012

Other:

City of Oakwood Environmental/Beautification Committee 2014-2021
Dayton-Miami Valley AFL-CIO Executive Board, 2020-2022
Co-lead CTL Workshop on Productive Peer Participation within Lecture Structure 2009
Co-lead CTL Workshop on Midterm Student Evaluations 2008
Co-lead CTL Workshop on Teaching Portfolios 2008
Reviewer for *Semiotica: Journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies* 2020
Reviewer for *Housing and Society* 2019
Reviewer for *The American Journal of Semiotics* 2018
Reviewer for *Land Use Policy* 2018
Reviewer for *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* 2018
Reviewer for *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 2016
Reviewer for *International Journal of Housing Policy* 2016
Reviewer for Rowman and Littlefield 2016
Reviewer for *African Geographical Review* 2015
Reviewer for *Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies* 2015
Reviewer for McGraw Hill 2010
Reviewer for *Comparative Civilizations Review* 2008, 2009

Recent Professional Presentations:

October 2022	Semiotic Society of America	Wilhelm Wundt on Feeling, Willing and Knowing
March 2022	Imagining Community Symposium, UD (with Marlese Durr)	Community Development via Religious Location: Dayton's African American Religious Community
February 2022	Undefine the Redline Project, Wright State University.	Colonial Redlining: Cantonments, Labor Migration and Native Reserves in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
October 2019	Semiotic Society of America	Semiotics and the Suburbs
October 2018	Semiotic Society of America	The Remarkable Evolution of Stress and Vowel Inflection in Swahili
October 2017	Semiotic Society of America Puebla, Mexico	Cultural Evolution: Metaphor or Metonym?
October 2016	Semiotic Society of America Delray Beach FL	The Changing Face of Indigenusness
October 2015	Semiotic Society of America, Pittsburgh	Defining Work in Dar es Salaam Tanzania: A lesson in survey research
October 2014	Semiotic Society of America, Seattle (Panel Chair).	The Past in the Present and the Present in the Past: A semiotic view of ethnography and history
October 2013	Semiotic Society of America, Dayton Ohio (Panel Chair)	Recovering the Logic in Semiotics in Reflexive Anthropology
September 2013	A Suburban Revolution? York University, Toronto, Canada	Transgressing the Rural-Urban Divide: Peri-urban or Suburban Development in Dar es Salaam Tanzania?
February 2013	Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh, UK	Peri-urban Settlement versus Suburbanization in Dar es Salaam Tanzania
November 2012	American Anthropological Association, San Francisco	Transgressing the Rural-Urban Divide: Peri-Urban Farming in Dar es Salaam , Tanzania