CHARLINE KOPF



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EDUCATION

2022 **Ph.D. – Dept. of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo (UiO) and Dept. of Social Anthropology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven)**
Anthropology of Human Security Programme (ANTHUSIA) funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement.
Title: *Dakar-Bamako: Waiting for a Train back to the Future* with fieldwork in Senegal, France, Mali.
Supervisors: Dr. Wenzel Geissler (UiO) and Dr. Filip de Boeck (KU Leuven)
Short Course *Archives in Non-Fiction Cinema*, University College London, UK (2021)
Summer School *Ethnographic & Documentary Filmmaking*, University of Manchester (2022)

2018 **MPhil in Social Anthropology – School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford**
Thesis: *Dakar's Museum of Black Civilisations: Towards an imaginary of a post-postcolonial world order* with Fieldwork in Senegal, 2017. St Antony's College.
Supervisor: Dr. Dace Dzenovska. Grade: First class A+

2016 **BA (Hons) European Studies – Dept. of European Studies and International Studies, King's College London** (One-year exchange at the Humboldt Berlin, 2014).
Thesis: *The Aesthetics of Securitisation and Desecuritisation : Artistic Practices challenging the EU Security Discourse on Migrants around the Mediterranean*.
Supervisor: Dr. Holger Stritzel. Grade: First class A+

POSITIONS

2022 - 2026 **Postdoctoral fellow – Dept. of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo (UiO).**
Epidemic Traces project funded by FRIPRO (NRC): *Epidemic traces. Remains of infectious disease control in Africa, and how they shape future health and landscapes.*

Project leader of *Atmospheres of Dust: Particles, Pollution and Protests in Senegal.*
Researching the geosocial life of dust, tracing how particles mediate meteorology, pollution, and struggles for environmental justice across West Africa and the Mediterranean.

Member of the *Eco-Citizen Observatory of Pollution and Urbanization*
A participatory research initiative on pollution and rapid urban change in the Dakar region, supported by the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

Affiliated Researcher (2025-2026), University of Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Dakar
Collaboration with the International Research Laboratory *Environment, Health, Societies* (IRL ESS), an international research unit operating across Senegal, Mali, and Burkina Faso.

FUNDING AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025 Wenner Gren Post-PhD Fieldwork Grant
2025 Multimodal artistic collaboration, Aslaug Johanne og Johannes Falkenbergs Stiftelse
2025 Environment and Energy Funding for International Collaborations, University of Oslo
2018 AFR Individual PhD grant, awarded by the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)
2017 Carr and Stahl Fund, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford
2017 Godfrey Lienhardt Fieldwork Grant, Dept. of Social Anthropology, University of Oxford

AWARDS AND PRIZES

2022 Proposed for the H.M. Kongens gullmedalje, Social Sciences Faculty, University of Oslo
2016 Jelf Medal Nomination, King's College London, Faculty of Arts and Humanities

TRACK RECORD

Books

2026 Kopf, Charline. *Afterplace: The work of Waiting on the Dakar-Bamako line*, University of California Press. Selected as part of the series *Atelier: Ethnographic Inquiry into the 21st Century.* October 2026.

2026 Kopf, Charline; Wenzel Geissler; Aïssatou Mbodj-Pouye and Lotte Meinert eds. *Mending and Repairing across Africa.* Intellect, University of Chicago Press.

Articles published in peer-reviewed journals

Under review Kopf, Charline & Hakimah Abdul-Fattah, "The Sound of Return – Sonic Reparations and the Work of Justice" (visual essay), accepted as part of the *Etnofoor* Issue on Justice.

R & R Kopf, Charline. "Contentious Atmospheres: Dust, Sand and the Politics of Attribution along the Senegalese Shoreline", *Environment and Planning: E*, for the Special Issue "Thinking geosocial transformation with sand: convergence on the shore" coordinated by Lukas Ley and Kate Dawson.

2026 Kopf, Charline. "Rust and Reparation: Memory, Labour, and the Politics of Repair in Senegal's Railways", *Cultural Anthropology* (Spring 2026)

2025 Alexander, Catherine, Ståle Wig and Charline Kopf. "Introduction: Thinking with Absurdity", Special Issue, *Social Anthropology/ Anthropologie Sociale*, 33(4), 1-20.

2025 Kopf, Charline. "Working in Absurd Times: Speculation and Uncertain Futures amongst Mali's railway workers", *Social Anthropology,* 33(4), 57-76.

2024 Kopf, Charline, & Phelan, Sarah-Jane. (2024). "The work of being stuck: Caring masculinities in Mali and Burkina Faso", *Journal of Material Culture*, *29*(4), 479-502.

2024 Kopf, Charline. (2024). "Anxious Atmospheres: Living in the Shadows of Coal", *Roadsides,* 12. 10.26034/roadsides-202401203.

2023 Kopf, Charline. “Performing (In)securities in West Africa: Territorial meshing and local participation in the securitisation of borders”, *Anthropologie & développement, 54,* 125–144.

2020 Kopf, Charline. “Le TER nous met à terre. Le Sénégal sur les rails de l'émergence?”, *Critique Internationale* 4 (89), 115-139.

2020 Kopf, Charline. “The dynamics of toxic dust”, *Anthropology Today* 36(6), 17-20.

2018 Kopf, Charline. “Dakar’s Museum of Black Civilisations: Towards a new imaginary of a postcolonial museum?” *Martor: The Museum of the Peasant Anthropology Review* 23, 37-55.

Multimodal and web-based output (peer-reviewed)

2024 Kopf, Charline. “Of Rails And Rubbish: Critique And The Absurdity Of Cleaning Days.” *Allegra Lab.* ISSN 2343-0168.

2024 Wig, Ståle; Catherine Alexander and Charline Kopf. “Anthropology and Absurdity: Introduction.” *Allegra Lab.* ISSN 2343-0168.

In preparation Kopf, Charline. “Ruinous rails”. Podcast episode for *Material Crimes* by *Surviving Society* (in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London).

Invited lectures, conferences and workshops (selection)

2026 (accepted) ‘Windstories: thinking with air beyond the now', in the upcoming EASTT conference 2026 with Lucy Sabin, Krakow, Poland.

2026 (accepted) ‘Disfigured Ecologies, Between Parameters and Para-matters’ [Collaboratory for Ethnographic Experimentation (#Colleex)], in the upcoming EASA conference with Sana Chavoshian and Nasima Selim, Poznań, Poland.

2026 ‘Contested Ecologies’ citizen-research participatory workshop over two days with 70 participants in Bargny, Senegal, financed by the Environment and Energy fund, University of Oslo, and in collaboration with the International Research Lab, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal.

2025 ‘Unmissable Absences: Negative Space as Method, Memory, and Possibility’, panel at the Norsk Antropologisk Forenings konferanse (NAF), University of Oslo.

2025 ‘Aerologies: Dust, Atmosphere, and Meteorological Infrastructures’, presentation at COAST Contemporary (Norway), an interdisciplinary residency bringing together artists, curators, and scholars around the theme of *MUTANT PROSPECTS*.

2025 ‘Governing Dust: Legibility, Toxicity, and Resistance in Senegal’, Panel: *Forms, flows and flux: Sedimentary politics across sub-Saharan Africa*, European Conference on African Studies, Prague, Czech Republic.

2025 ‘Fragments of the Ocean: Fishing Nets, Pirogues, and the Coastal Politics of Persistence in Senegal’, ASAUK, Birmingham, UK.

2025	‘Tracer l’histoire dans la poussière : Particules, pollution et mobilisations à Bargny’, Launch of Eco-citizen Observatory, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal.
2024	‘Breathless environments: Tracing Dust, Air, and Industrial History in Bargny, Senegal’, African Anthropology Seminar, Department of Social Anthropology, UiO.
2024	‘Atmospheres of contention: particles and protests in coastal Senegal’. Panel: *Undoing the Shore: Thinking Geosocial transformation with Sand*. European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA), Barcelona, Spain.
2023	‘The Speculative Realms of Railway Suspensions: making sense through conspiracies, gambling and improvisations’. NAF Norsk antropologisk forening (NAF), Antropologikonferansen, NTNU, Trondheim.
2022	‘States of the Absurd.’ Panel convenor and paper, EASA 2022, Queen’s University. Belfast, Northern Ireland.
2022	‘Maintaining railway lives and lines: Working bodies and toxic dust in a Senegalese railway depot.’ *Trains & Tracks in Africa — A Dialogue on Infrastructures and Mobilities in Africa*. Europalia Arts Festival, Tervuren Museum, Brussels, Belgium.
2020	‘Geopoetics of Care and Repair in the Postcolony’ (panel convenor) and ‘Care and repair in derelict railway landscapes’ (paper), Association of African Studies (ASA)
2018	‘A tale of an empty museum and the imaginaries contained therein: China’s contribution to Dakar's Museum of Black Civilisations’. CA/AC Conference (Chinese in Africa – Africans in China Research Network), Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2025	Opponent at PhD midway evaluation, Department of Social Anthropology, UiO
2025	Member of hiring committee for postdoctoral position (RURALEX project), UiO
2021 – 2025	Examiner for BA and MA exams and theses, SAI, UiO
2021 – 2025	Co-Convenor of African Anthropology Seminar (monthly seminar series), UiO
2022 – 2023	Co-convenor of Cinema SAI (biweekly screening of ethnographic films), SAI, UiO
2022 – 2023	Convenor of the Lunch Seminars (monthly seminar), SAI, UiO
2022 – 2023	Temporary Staff Representative, SAI, UiO

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PhD level (lectures and workshops), University of Oslo
Writing and Method (2024 and 2025)
AnthEM: Medical and Environmental Anthropology for East Africa (seminars & fieldschool, 2022)

MA level (lectures and seminars), University of Oslo
Advanced Anthropological Theory (2023)
Deep Reading Seminar (2021)

BA level (lectures and seminars), University of Oslo
Anthropology of Infrastructure (2023 and 2024)
Regional Ethnography: Africa (2023 and 2025)
Medical Anthropology (2021)