

Amy A. O'Brien

Curriculum Vitae

Email: obriena@email.sc.edu

Address: Department of Anthropology
1512 Pendleton Street
Hamilton College, Room 317
Columbia, SC 29208



EDUCATION:

University of South Carolina August 2009 – Present	Ph.D. (ABD, April 2011) Graduate Certificate	Cultural Anthropology Women's and Gender Studies
Georgia State University January 2007 – December 2008	M.A.	Anthropology
Kennesaw State University August 2002 – December 2005	B.A.	History

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Popular culture, identity, gender, qualitative methods, virtual ethnography, social networks

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Instructor (University of South Carolina)

- ◆ Fall Session 2011: Understanding Other Cultures (ANTH 102)
- ◆ May Session 2011: Understanding Other Cultures (ANTH 102M)
- ◆ Spring Session 2011: Understanding Other Cultures (ANTH 102)
- ◆ May Session 2010: Comparing Cultures through Film (ANTH 300M)

Instructor (Georgia State University)

- ◆ Summer Session 2008: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2020)

ASSISTANTSHIPS:

Teaching Assistant (University of South Carolina)

- ◆ Fall 2010: Dr. Kim Simmons (ANTH 102: Understanding Other Cultures)
- ◆ Spring 2010: Dr. Jennifer Reynolds (ANTH 301: Latin American Cultures) and Dr. Maimuna Huq (ANTH 310: Cultures of Islam)
- ◆ Fall 2009: Dr. Marc Moskowitz (ANTH 391: Anthropology of Sex and ANTH 308: Japanese Cultures)

Research Assistant (Georgia State University)

- ◆ Spring and Fall 2008: Dr. Jennifer Patico

Graduate Student Assistant (Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia)

- ◆ Fall 2007, Spring 2008, and Fall 2008: Office of the Chancellor

Teaching Assistant (Georgia State University)

- ◆ Spring 2007: Dr. Gregory Gullette (ANTH 1102: Introduction to Anthropology)
- ◆ Fall 2007: Dr. Despina Margomenou (ANTH 1102: Introduction to Anthropology)

PUBLICATIONS:

American Anthropologist (Volume 113, No. 3 September 2011), *A Japanese Funeral* and *Bethel: Community and Schizophrenia in Northern Japan* combined film review.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

SCASC Annual Meeting, April 2011
Women in Popular Culture, October 2010
SCASC Annual Meeting, April 2010 – Moderator
East Asian Dialogues, February 2010
AAA Annual Meeting, November 2007

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED:

SCASC Annual Meeting, April 2011

RESEARCH AWARDS:

Department of Anthropology Travel Award, University of South Carolina, 2011
Department of Anthropology Travel Award, University of South Carolina, 2010
Women's and Gender Studies Travel Award, University of South Carolina, 2010

PRESENTATIONS:

Women in Popular Culture Conference (South Carolina State University)
October 2010 – Paper Title: “Imagined Boundaries and Forged Connections: Exploring Sociality within the *Twilight* Fan Community”

Anthropology Graduate Student Reading Day Presentations (University of South Carolina)
April 2010 – Presentation Title: “Imagined Boundaries and Forged Connections: Exploring Sociality and Identity in the ‘Virtual’ and ‘Real’ Contexts”

Anthropology Student Research Symposium (Georgia State University)
October 2008 – Presentation Title: “Consuming Boys' Love: The Appropriation and Consumption of Yaoi”

Guest Lecturer (Georgia State University)

March 2008: Dr. Jeffrey Glover, Introduction to Anthropology
Lecture Title: “Gender” and “The Subculture of Conventions: Yaoi as a Contemporary Method of Negotiating Identity and Facilitating Social Cohesion”

Guest Lecturer (Georgia State University)

November 2007: Dr. Despina Margomenou, Introduction to Anthropology
Lecture Title: “Gender” and “Yaoi After Dark: The Romance and Meaning Behind the Explicit Content”

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Anthropological Association

EXTRACURRICULAR/LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES:

Co-President, Anthropology Graduate Organization for Research, Action, and Ethics, August 2010 – July 2011.
President, Anthropology Club at Georgia State University, January 2008 – December 2008.

DISSERTATION TITLE:

“Social Interactions in a Digitally Mediated World: Negotiating Interconnected Methods of Sociability and Identity in the *Twilight* Community”

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE:

Dr. Marc Moskowitz (Chair) – University of South Carolina-Columbia
Dr. Jennifer Reynolds – University of South Carolina-Columbia
Dr. Kimberly Simmons – University of South Carolina-Columbia
Dr. Katherine Adams – University of South Carolina-Columbia

DISSERTATION PLANS:

Computer-mediated communication is an important aspect of daily life in contemporary U.S. culture and the need to understand this new method of sociality is now being examined by scholars from a wide range of disciplines. The connections forged in the virtual realm are not limited to a diffused and ethereal space, but are present in the “real” and offline world as well. The concept of an “online community” is shifting as the boundaries between the online and offline breakdown as people find new ways to intersect the two methods of sociality. My interest focuses on how people who meet in online communities communicate with each other, in both the virtual world and the “real” world. Maintaining a dichotomy between the online and offline reproduces a boundary that is imagined and created. I intend to research the ways in which people are living their lives in a fractured and disjunctive world that consists of constantly shifting boundaries through an exploration of both online and offline contexts.

M.A. THESIS TITLE:

“Boys' Love and Female Friendships: The Subculture of Yaoi as a Social Bond between Women”

M.A. THESIS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Jennifer Patino (Chair) – Georgia State University
Dr. Emanuela Guano – Georgia State University
Dr. Megan Sinnott – Georgia State University

M.A. THESIS ABSTRACT:

In my thesis, I argue that the yaoi community addresses a gap in subculture studies through the ways in which women use the genre to socialize. Yaoi is a genre of Japanese animation and comics which focuses on romantic relationships between two men and is directly geared towards women. Through ethnographic research, I analyze the ways in which the women I interviewed conceptualize their participation within the community and what yaoi means to them. The women within the yaoi community are not opposing the mainstream genre or perspective as many subcultural theories suggest, but are instead carving out a social space for themselves and others who have a distinct taste for the yaoi genre.