

YVAN SCHULZ

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Current: waste and recycling; science and technology; industrialisation; pollution and environmentalism; public policy; developmental state; modernity and progress; globalisation; material culture; commodity trading; copper; financialisation; valuation; China.

Past: unskilled labour; migration; schooling and education; Christianity and evangelism; neoliberalism; the Malay Archipelago.

EDUCATION

- 2013-2018 **PhD Anthropology** *summa cum laude*, University of Neuchâtel
Thesis title: *Modern Waste: The Political Ecology of E-scrap Recycling in China*
Supervisor: Prof. Ellen Hertz
- 2008-12 **MA Anthropology** *summa cum laude*, University of Neuchâtel
Thesis title: *Saving poor children, making good Christians: an ethnography of church schools for children of migrant workers in Sabah (Malaysia)*
Supervisor: Prof. Ellen Hertz
- 2000-04 **MA Law** with a focus on human rights, international public law and environmental law, University of Geneva
Thesis title: *Le Tribunal International du Droit de la Mer et l'affaire du thon à nageoire bleue [The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the southern bluefin tuna case]*
Supervisor: Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017-present **Postdoctoral researcher**, China Centre, University of Oxford
- Conducting field research on e-waste recycling in China.
 - Analysing data and publishing research results and findings in leading academic journals as well as in a book co-authored by myself and colleagues Prof. Anna Lora-Wainwright and Dr. Peter W. Kirby.
 - Presenting research results during academic conferences.
 - Liaising with other researchers working on similar topics.
 - Applying for additional funding.
- 2017-2018 **Researcher**, Department of Social Sciences, University of Basel (5 months in total)
- Conducting research on the role of Chinese enterprises and exchanges on the global market for copper.
 - Analysing data and presenting results in internal meetings.
 - Writing internal fact sheets and reports.
 - Publishing research results and findings in academic journals.
 - Liaising with NGOs engaged in monitoring global extractivism.
- 2013-2018 **Doctoral student**, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel

- Reviewing the social scientific literature on waste and recycling; pollution and environmentalism; industrialisation and urbanisation in China; the social life of commodities; multi-sited ethnography; and actor-network theory (ANT).
 - Writing a thesis project, two grant applications and a final report.
 - Conducting fieldwork in China among recyclers, repairers, scrap traders, environmentalists, scientists, government officials and company representatives.
 - Mapping flows of e-waste; identifying the main actors involved in recycling and charting relevant networks; documenting material transformations and trade practices.
- 2012-13 **Independent visual anthropologist**
- Conducting background research on the techniques used, and challenges faced, by small-scale beekeepers in affluent countries.
 - Writing a script for a filmic portrait of a beekeeper living in the Swiss Alps.
 - Performing all necessary filmmaking tasks (pre-production, production and post-production), including recording images and sound solo.
- 2010-12 **Graduate student**, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel
- Reviewing the literature on religious interventions in development; Pentecostal-charismatic movements; education in Malaysia; and neoliberal governmentality.
 - Conducting an ethnography of two Christian schools run by Malaysian and foreign missionaries.
 - Investigating the broader educational landscape for children of migrant workers living in Sabah (Malaysia).
 - Writing a final “mission report” for the partner organisation.
- 2010 **Graduate student**, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel
- Getting in touch with and following amateur tango dancers based in Switzerland.
 - Representing body techniques in Argentine tango through film.
 - Showing scenes of dancers in action and asking them to comment.
- TEACHING EXPERIENCE** (academic only)
- 18.05.2018 **Guest speaker:** giving a talk on “The political ecology of e-waste recycling in China” for the BA seminar “Waste economies” (invitation by Dr. Luisa Piart), University of Fribourg.
- 17.05.2018 **Guest speaker:** giving a talk on “Innovation and environment: a political ecology approach to e-waste management and sustainability in China” for a BA seminar on contemporary China (invitation by Dr. Hervé Munz), University of Geneva.
- 2015-16 **Supervisor:** supervising a MA thesis on the management of household waste in rural areas of Senegal. University of Neuchâtel.
- 2015-16 **Lecturer:** designing and conducting a seminar on methodology for twenty BA students in anthropology; following up on their individual

- research and evaluating it. Seminar title: *L'approche par les déchets* (approaching ethnography through waste). University of Neuchâtel.
- 26.04.2016 **Guest speaker:** giving a talk on “China’s shifting waste regime”, for a MA seminar on “Globalization in Asia” (invitation by Prof. Florence Graezer-Bideau), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne.
- 05.04.2016 **Guest speaker:** giving a talk on “Discours écologiques, modèles technico-commerciaux et enjeux de pouvoir. Le cas des ‘déchets’ électriques et électroniques en Chine du sud” for a BA seminar on contemporary China (invitation by Prof. Marylène Lieber), University of Geneva.
- 26.03.2015 **Guest speaker** during a research trip organised in China for the Master in Intercultural Studies (invitation by Dr. Ole J. Kaland), NLA University College, Beijing. Talk title: “Green and greed: critical reflections on China’s shifting market for discarded electrical and electronic devices”.
- 2013 **Teaching assistant:** marking essays written by thirty BA and MA students. Course title: *Les Chines contemporaines* (Contemporary Chinas), Prof. Ellen Hertz. University of Neuchâtel.
- 05.12.2012 **Guest speaker** in a BA seminar on the sociology and anthropology of development (invitation by Prof. Marion Fresia), University of Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel. Talk title: “Religion, education and development”.

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 25.09.2018 **Invited expert**, brainstorming session on Guiyu and China’s circular economy organised by Chinadialogue.com. London.
- 21.09.2018 **Panel convenor** (w. Prof. Anna Lora-Wainwright and Dr Peter W. Kirby), “Closed loops, loopholes, and profit: Interpreting geographical imaginaries of material conversion”, *Annual Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA)*, Oxford.
<https://nomadit.co.uk/asa/asa2018/conferencesuite.php/panels/6847>
- 2017-2019 **Committee member and communications manager**, *China's Health Environment and Welfare (CHEW) Research Group*: inviting speakers, organising events (incl. annual conference), publicising group activity.
- 2016-2018 **Main student representative**, *Conférence Universitaire de Suisse Occidentale (CUSO)*, www.cuso.ch): representing Western Switzerland’s 3000+ PhD students.
- 2016 **Peer reviewer** of an article on Beijing’s “informal waste markets” for *Resource, Conservation & Recycling* (Elsevier).
- 10-12.03.2016 **Workshop organiser**, “Anthropology and the environment(s)”, Swiss Graduate Program in Anthropology (CUSO), Bevaix (Switzerland).
[http://anthropology.cuso.ch/index.php?id=1112&L=0&no_cache=1&tx_displaycontroller\[showUid\]=2935](http://anthropology.cuso.ch/index.php?id=1112&L=0&no_cache=1&tx_displaycontroller[showUid]=2935)
- 03.03.2016 **Invited expert**, roundtable on e-waste management in the Global North and its repercussions in the Global South. Organisers: University of Liège, Haute Ecole Libre Mosane and UniverSud, Liège.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/588652114622412/>

- 08.12.2015 **Invited expert**, VIPOMAR workshop on “the political life of commodities” at the Camargo Foundation, Cassis. <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/?Projet=ANR-14-CE29-0006>
- 14.11.2015 **Panel coordinator and organiser**, “Dirty business: economies of the used, the used up and the useless”, annual meeting of the Swiss Ethnological Society. <https://discardstudies.com/2015/06/15/cfp-dirty-business-economies-of-the-used-the-used-up-and-the-useless-2015/>
- 11.11.2015 **Talk coordinator and organiser**, “The black sun of globalization: aesthetics, economics and politics of global waste flows” by Prof. Mike Crang (Durham University), University of Neuchâtel. <http://www.s-n-g.ch/spip.php?article442>
- 2009-10 **Student delegate**, Council of the Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel.
- 2002-04 **Chief editor**, Journal of the Association of Law Students, Geneva.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (non-academic and not exhaustive)

- 2011 (10 months) **Teacher**, Mission 21 and Basel Christian Church of Malaysia, Kota Kinabalu and Keningau: teaching English to children of migrant workers.
- 2008-10 (8 months) **Journalist and translator**, AG für Wirtschafts-Publikationen, Zurich: translating, writing and publishing financial news reports.
- 2007-08 (13 months) **Editor**, Cornelsen Verlag, Berlin: creating educational materials for learning French.
- 2006 (6 months) **Project manager**, Bureau Export de la Musique Française, Berlin: conceiving a new method for learning French using pop music; analysing the German music market.
- 2005 (6 months) **Legal counselor**, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva: analysing cases and writing reports on issues of humanitarian law
- 2004-05 (3 months) **Journalist**, Le Courier, Geneva: writing press articles on culture and local politics.
- 2002-04 (part-time) **Teacher**, Département de l’Instruction Publique, Geneva: teaching German to pupils aged 12 to 16.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS & PRIZES

- 2018 **Nexans Prize** for young academics (PhD) with an exemplary career, recognised academic competences and great human qualities, Fonds Culturel de Nexans Suisse and University of Neuchâtel, 5,000 CHF.
- 2016 **Mobility fund**, Swiss National Science Foundation, 30,000 CHF.
- 2013-16 **Research fund**, Swiss National Science Foundation. Project title: *Circuits of value, streams of stuff: living off the global trade and treatment of “e-waste”* (main applicant: Prof. Ellen Hertz), 140,000 CHF (total 428,254 CHF).
- 2013 **Overhead fund**, Swiss National Science Foundation, approx. 12,000 CHF.
- 2012 **Werner Günther Prize** for best MA of the year, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of Neuchâtel, 2,500 CHF.
- 2010 **Grant**, chancellor’s Schlatter Fund, University of Neuchâtel, 1,800 CHF.

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS (peer reviewed)

- (with Anna Lora-Wainwright as second author) “In the name circularity: Business slowdown and environmental betterment in a Chinese recycling hub”, *Worldwide Waste* (2019, forthcoming).
- “Scrapping ‘irregulars’: China’s recycling policies, development ethos and peasants turned entrepreneurs, *Journal für Entwicklungspolitik* (2019, forthcoming).
- “The great value of poor migrants: state policies, Christian morality and primary education in Sabah (Malaysia)”, [South East Asia Research](#) 25(3) (2017): 301-318.
- “Réassemblages marginaux au cœur de la ‘Mecque du hardware’” [“Marginal reassembly in the centre of the ‘hardware Mecca’”], [Techniques&Culture](#) 67 (2017): 84-99.
- (with Benjamin Steuer as second author) “Dealing with discarded e-devices” in Eva Sternfeld (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Policy in China*, London: Routledge (2017): 314-327.
- “‘Fin de vie’ et renaissance clandestine en Chine du Sud. Quand des ‘déchets’ redeviennent des écrans plats” [“‘End of life’ and clandestine rebirth in South China: On ‘waste’ that transforms back into flat screens”], [Techniques & Culture](#) 65-66 (2016): 158-161 [full article in French and abstract in English available online].
- “Towards a new waste regime? Critical reflections on China’s shifting market for high-tech discards”, [China Perspectives](#) 2015/3 (2015): 43-50. Also available in French: “Vers un nouveau régime en matière de déchets ? Réflexions critiques sur l’évolution du marché chinois des appareils high-tech d’occasion”, [Perspectives Chinoises](#) 2015/3 (2015): 47-56.
- “Time representations in social science”, [Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience](#) 14 4 (2012): 381-387.

BLOG POSTS & MAGAZINE OR ONLINE ARTICLES

- “Plastic China: Beyond waste imports”, [Made in China](#) 3 4 (2018): 97-101.
- “Working on progress: unauthorized recyclers keep out”, [Anthropology News \(Sections News: Society for East Asian Anthropology\)](#), 14.08.2016. Reblogged on [La deuxième vie des objets. Anthropologie et sociologie des pratiques de récupération](#), 20.09.2016.
- “Toxic e-waste, oriented science”, [Toxic News](#), 03.08.2016.
- (with Joshua Goldstein as first author) “Criminal negligence? (Part 2)”, [Discard Studies: Social Studies of Waste, Pollution and Externalities](#), 27.11.2015.
- (with Josh Lepawsky and Joshua Goldstein as first authors) “Criminal negligence?” [Discard Studies: Social Studies of Waste, Pollution and Externalities](#), 24.06.2015.

BOOK REVIEW

- Joshua Reno. *Waste away: Working and living with a North American landfill*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2016. Review published in [Environment & Society: Advances in Research](#) 8 (2017): 218-220.

WORKING PAPER

- (with Rita Kesselring and Stefan Leins) “Valueworks: Effects of financialization along the copper value chain”. Geneva: Swiss Network of International Studies, February 2019.

REPORT

- (with Rita Kesselring and Stefan Leins) “Valueworks: executive summary”. Geneva: Swiss Network of International Studies, February 2019.

UNPUBLISHED PAPERS

- “Chinese Involvement in copper, commodity trading and financialization: An essential two-pager”, 29.05.2017
- (with Yifan Cai 蔡一帆) “作为公共问题的旧电子电器设备的社会建构——关于公共话语、非政府组织行动主义和国家政策的分析” [The social construction of discarded electrical and electronic equipment as a public problem: An analysis of public discourse, NGO activism and state policies] (2015).

DOCUMENTARIES

- (with Ciril Schulz) *Ciril, apiculteur*, Switzerland, 2013, 25 min.
- (with Cristina Tavares de Bastos) *Conexión*, Switzerland, 2010, 20 min.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “All Eyes on China: The Commodity Giant’s Role in a Globalized Copper Market”, “Valueworks” Final Symposium, United Nations, Geneva, 11.12.2018.
- (with Anna Lora-Wainwright) “In the name of circularity: Business slowdown in a Chinese recycling hub”, Annual Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA), University of Oxford, 21.09.2018.
- “Financialisation, futures and confusion: On the role of China’s main exchange for copper”, Third “Valueworks” Workshop, University of Zurich, 25.05.2018.
- “La Chine ferme ses frontières et c’est la panique à bord. Retour sur les origines d’un déséquilibre dans la gestion mondialisée des déchets recyclables”, Séminaire: *La Deuxième Vie des Objets*, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, 01.02.2018.
- “Turning the ‘3Rs’ principle on its head: Electronics reuse in the face of China’s circular economy project”, Annual Meeting, American Anthropological Association (AAA), Washington, 03.12.2017.
- “Chinese traders of copper: A panorama”, Second “Valueworks” Workshop, Lusaka, 07.09.2017.
- “Where is copper going? And where does it come from?”, Second “Valueworks” Workshop, Lusaka, 06.09.2017.
- “Le puzzle comme métaphore méthodologique”, Séminaire “*La vie politique des marchandises: ethnographies des circulations transnationales*” (VIPOMAR), École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Marseille, 28.03.2017.
- “China, financialisation and the copper trade”, First “Valueworks” Workshop, University of Basel, 07.03.2017
- “Financialisation in the Chinese copper trade: global commodity markets and daily practices”, Annual Conference of the Swiss Ethnological Society (SES), University of Lausanne, 12.11.2016.
- “When excess trumps efficiency: recycling networks, public policies and the growth imperative in contemporary China”, Annual Conference of the Association of Social

Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA), University of Durham, 04.07.2016.

- “(In)visible toxics and the politics of pollution in a Chinese ‘e-waste’ processing hub”, *China’s Health, Environment and Welfare (CHEW) Conference*, University of Oxford, 21.05.2016.
- “Green is the new red: on some of the political origins and implications of China’s green craze”, *International Conference of the European Network of Political Ecology (ENTITLE)*, Stockholm, 23.03.2016.
- “Green is the new red: on the political implications of China’s craze for eco-blah-blah”, *CUSO module Anthropology and Environment(s)*, Bevaix, 11.03.2016.
- “Discarded electrical and electronic devices and the politics of recycling in China”, *Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)*, Denver, 21.11.2015.
- “看电器，看见垃圾——社会建构主义视域下的中国电子废弃物管理体系分析”中山大学中国公益慈善研究院, 转型中国学术沙龙, 2014年12月19日。“Looking at devices, seeing waste: an analysis of the management system for discarded electronics using the perspective of the social construction of public problems”, *Academic Salon on “Changing China”*, School of Philanthropy, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, 19.12.2014.
- “Une vie clandestine après la mort programmée. Remarques sur la visibilité des ‘déchets’ électroniques en Chine du sud”, *international symposium “Réparer le monde – excès, reste et innovation” (Fixing the World – Excess, Rest and Innovation)*, Marseille, 21.11.2014.
- “Is ‘formalization’ of the ‘informal sector’ really the way to go? A view from the field in China”, *Going Green / Care Innovation 2014*, Vienna, 18.11.2014.
- “La gestion des appareils électriques et électroniques d’occasion en Chine”, *Rencontres MAPS*, Neuchâtel, 14.10.2014.
- “A tale of David and Goliath: mapping the Chinese market for discarded electrical and electronic appliances”, *20th Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS)*, Braga and Coimbra, 23.07.2014.
- “Competing for high-tech trash”, *New European Research on Contemporary China*, Beijing, 03.07.2014.
- “Social scientific insights on e-waste management in China”, *E-waste Academy 2013*, Geneva and St-Gallen, 06.12.2013.
- “An anthropological perspective on e-waste management in China”, *PROWEL doctoral school*, Flamatt, 29.11.2013.
- “An anthropological perspective on e-waste management in China”, *Annual Meeting of the Swiss Ethnological Society*, Sierre, 09.11.2013.
- “La gestion des déchets électriques et électroniques en République Populaire de Chine”, *doctoral school of the Confucius Institute*, Geneva, 03.10.2013.
- (with Ellen Hertz and Marylène Lieber) “Becoming a problem in electronics: how overtime has succeeded where occupational health and safety has failed”, *workshop on Mapping Environmental Cultures: Approaches to Waste in China*, University of Oxford, 16.09.2013.
- “The great value of poor migrants: state policies, Christian morality and primary education in Sabah (Malaysia)”, *Annual Conference of the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies 2013*, Lisbon, 03.07.2013.

- “Mission at the doorstep: the role of Christian organizations in the education of migrants’ children in Sabah, Malaysia”, *Work in progress: Religion in Southeast Asia*, Berlin, 03.02.2012.
- (with Cristina Tavares de Bastos) “L’emploi du film dans la recherche anthropologique sur le tango (danse)”, *Colloque Tango: Créations / Identifications / Circulations*, Paris, 28.10.2011.
- “Über das Visuelle hinaus: Unsichtbare Aspekte des argentinischen Tangos filmen und darstellen”, *Science et Cité Cinéma*, Bern, 15.10.2010.
- “Tango und Film”, *Seminar on Musicology and Tango*, University of Bern, 07.10.2010.

SCREENING

“Conexión”, [Science et Cité Cinéma](#) [film festival], Bern, 21.10.2011 [selected and screened].

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 16.12.2018 | “Chercheur de l’Université de Neuchâtel primé: ‘Recycler ne suffit pas, il faut produire et consommer autrement’”, by Luc-Olivier Erard, ArclInfo . |
| 11-12.2018 | “Jeter, trier, réparer... Le paradoxe chinois”, by Catherine Tondu, En Direct no. 279. |
| 01.04.2018 | “En Chine, l’obsolescence fait recette”, by Ivan Radja, Le Matin Dimanche . |
| 28.02.2018 | “L’e-waste et le paradoxe de la politique chinoise” by Jennifer Keller, communique by the University of Neuchâtel . |
| 19.02.2018 | “Circulation des richesses. La ruée vers l’e-waste” by Jennifer Keller, UniNews 49 . |
| 18.01.2017 | “La gestion des déchets électroniques : un nouvel enjeu Nord-Sud ?” by Claire Wiliquet from UniverSud, Voix Solidaires . |
| 03.07.2015 | “UNEP report on electronic scrap has serious flaws, says researchers” by Paul Ploumis, Scrap Monster . |
| 10.10.2013 | “E-waste: The real ‘master narrative’” by Anna Leijonhufvud, Pro Journo . |

REFEREES

- Prof. Ellen Hertz, Anthropology Institute, University of Neuchâtel, ellen.hertz@unine.ch
- Prof. Anna Lora-Wainwright, School of Geography and the Environment and School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, University of Oxford, anna.lora-wainwright@ouce.ox.ac.uk
- Prof. Josh Lepawsky, Department of Geography, Memorial University, jlepawsky@mun.ca
- Prof. Joshua Goldstein, US-China Institute, University of Southern California, jgoldst@usc.edu

VOLUNTEERING

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|---------|---|
| 2010-15 | Argentine tango instructor (Neuchâtel, Geneva, Guangzhou) |
| 2006-08 | Volunteer in prisons (Berlin) |

LANGUAGES**French:** mother tongue**English, German:** fluent**Mandarin, Bahasa Malaysia, Spanish:** proficient**Portuguese:** beginning**COMPUTER SKILLS** Skilled in Mac and Windows environments, Microsoft Office, iWork, Zotero and EndNote, DEVONThink Pro, Final Cut Pro X, Lightroom and Photoshop.**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2016-present **Member**, Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA)
- 2014-2017 **Member**, Society for Social Studies of Sciences (4S)
- 2013-2016 **Member**, Swiss Academic Society for Environmental Research and Ecology (SAGUF)
- 2013-present **Member**, American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2008-present **Member**, Swiss Ethnological Society (SSE-SEG-SAA)