

Mag.^a phil. Claudia Caterina Aufschnaiter, PhD

Email claudia.aufschnaiter@oeaw.ac.at Nationality Austrian
Tel +43 1 51581 6468 Place of birth Kitzbühel
Address Hollandstraße 11-13, 2nd floor
1020 Vienna



Personal profile

Trained at the University of Vienna, SOAS, Durham University, and Sacré Coeur Pressbaum, I work as a social anthropologist at the interfaces of development, organisations, economics, and education. From 2015 to 2021 I was also an IT administrator. My publications reflect my research experience in India, the UK, and Austria. My central concern is to connect academic and applied research and work communities. My professional experience in ethnographic organisational research, project management, IT, and public research communication stems from my work in international development, human rights, tourism, science administration, organisation of scientific conferences, and fundraising. My interdisciplinary research interests are in digital anthropology, Adivasis (India's indigenous peoples), indigeneity, social movements and activism, economy for the common good, fair trade, political ecology, qualitative research methodology, and storytelling. My strengths include my diligence, my professionalism, and my resilience. I am a multilingual intercultural communicator who grew up bilingually German/English (British mother) and thrives in international teams. Currently I am involved in a research project on the Tibet researcher Peter Aufschnaiter's legacy.

Work experience (selection)

- 01/2022-12/2026** **Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Social Anthropology** **Vienna**
Post-Doc, FWF P 35249 The scientific Tibet legacy of Peter Aufschnaiter, part-time
Redaction of the German- and English-language archival material of Peter Aufschnaiter with a view to their publication and partial translation into English. Preparation of studies on modernisation and agriculture in Tibet. Contribution to the editing and editorial work of the planned publications as co-editor. Establishment and administration of a project website and maintenance of a research materials database. Minor involvement in the institute's administrative agendas.
<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/isa/the-scientific-tibet-legacy-of-peter-aufschnaiter>
- 07/2015-07/2021** **Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Social Anthropology** **Vienna**
Academic staff (Postdoc), full-time
Academic management (50%): IT administration and technical assistance (PC hard- and software, telephones, printers, projectors). Third party funding management and controlling (Prevero). Staff training coordination and organisation. Steering team meeting organisation, chairing and minutes. Staff onboarding and supervision of the staff info folder. Preparation of the institute's annual report. Editing, proofreading, and translation of institute publications and other institute texts. Homepage maintenance. Organisation of the ISA guest lectures. Fire safety officer. General office tasks.
Researcher (50%): social anthropological research, publishing, conference and lecture activities on early childhood development, preschool multilingualism, migration and indigeneity on the Andaman Islands, and economic self-reliance, indigenous peoples, and narrativity in South India.
- 11/2014-05/2015** **Eurotours International, incoming-outgoing travel operator** **Kitzbühel**
Team International Sales, full-time
Marketing and sales of tailor-made holiday products. Management of the contract database of international tour operators and holiday providers. Incoming markets: Scandinavia, CEE, CIS, West Asia and North Africa, South Asia.

- 05/2011-09/2014** **Durham Food Coop**, food cooperative **Durham, UK**
Co-founder and manager
 Sustainable food initiative and buying group aimed at improving access to organic and ethical food for Durham residents. Stock management to meet demand, online marketing, payment collection before delivery, quality control, volunteer coordination for repackaging and delivery, introduction of new products from local producers, funding applications.
- 10/2010-09/2014** **Just Change Durham**, fair trading organisation **Durham, UK**
Founder and manager
 Managed the business activities of a regional branch of Just Change India, a mutually beneficial, international, community-led trade network that linked producer communities in India with consumer communities in the UK and Germany. Introduced the JC concept and JC products (tea, coffee, and spices) to County Durham and marketed them online, at cafés, schools, and enterprises. Stock management, invoicing, quality control, reporting.
- 10-12/2011** **Survival International**, human rights organisation **London**
Consultant
 Advised the campaign manager on indigenous issues in India.
- 07/2009-06/2010** **AMS/ACCORD, NGO and Vidyodaya Adivasi Study Centre**, school **Gudalur, India**
Researcher and consultant
 Set up the “Interactive Centre and Museum for Indigenous Cultures”: researched exhibition materials, documented local indigenous cultures, created a library, liaised with other indigenous organisations, devised teaching materials for a curriculum on indigenous peoples, developed a sustainable tourism project, applied for funding, conducted the “Adivasi World Music Choir”.
- 01-03/2008** **Kitzbühel Ski Club** **Kitzbühel**
Translator of media briefings from German to English.
- 07-09/2006, 2007 & 2008** **Royal Collection Trust** **London**
Buckingham Palace, Queen’s Gallery, Royal Mews, Clarence House, Windsor Castle
Visitor warden, full-time
 Deployed to different visitor zones according to demand: Visitor Entrance, Security, Audio/Baggage, State Rooms, Garden, Access (visitors with special mobility needs). Assisted at and provided German translation at the private evening tours of Buckingham Palace.
- 10-12/2005** **Society for Threatened Peoples** **Vienna**
Human rights intern, full-time
 Correspondence with project partners, organisations and government agencies. Proofreading and translation work. Graphic design work, writing, and editing articles for the magazine “Bedrohte Völker” (Threatened Peoples). Maintenance of the homepage and the membership database. Research for human rights dossiers. Marketing (email and telephone advertising). Courier services. Order management for the society’s calendar “Lebenszeichen”.

Education

- 09/2019-07/2020** **Sacré Coeur Pressbaum** **Pressbaum**
Elementary education teaching degree
- 10/2008-10/2014** **Durham University** **Durham, UK**
PhD Social Anthropology
 Thesis: *Chai for Change? Stories of Adivasi Indigenities, Self-Reliance, and Activism*
 A narrative-focused ethnography of an international fair-trading network with roots in a South Indian NGO.
- 10/2002-01/2008** **University of Vienna** **Vienna**

MA (Diplomstudium) in Cultural and Social Anthropology, with distinction

Thesis: *The Land Rights Struggle of the Adivasi Peoples in South India – Indigenous Strategies and the (Inter)national Law Context*

A comparative analysis of the provisions for indigenous peoples in international law with the legal situation of India's indigenous peoples with reference to their land rights. Fields of study: legal anthropology, human rights, international relations, conflict management, development anthropology, India, theatre-, media-, digital and visual anthropology, Arabic.

- 01-06/2006** **School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)** **London**
Study abroad and archival research for master's thesis at SOAS library, British Museum, and British Library.
- 09/1994-06/2002** **Grammar school** (Bundesgymnasium) **St. Johann in Tirol**
A-levels with distinction. Written exams in maths, German, French, and English. Oral exams in English literature, history, and IT.

Research & fieldwork experience

- 07/2015-07/2021** *Postdoc research projects: „The Role of Narrative in Multilingual Early Childhood Learning on the Andaman Islands“, „Contested Landscapes: Mainland and Island Imaginaries of the Andaman Islands“, „Chai for Change? Narratives of Adivasi Indigeneities, Self-Reliance and Activism in South India“.*
- 07/2009-07/2011** *PhD fieldwork* in an Adivasi activist NGO in India (Tamil Nadu) and a network of fair-trading community groups and development organisations in the UK and Germany.
- 02-03/2007** *MA fieldwork* with NGOs and Adivasis in India (Karnataka, Kerala, Mumbai, Tamil Nadu).
- 06/2005** *Fieldwork trip*, Moscow and St. Petersburg. Comparative analysis of Russian anthropological research and archival research.
- 10/2004-06/2005** *Co-investigator*, research project “Being Muslim in Vienna – religious self-conceptions. A qualitative analysis of the construction of multiple religious identities among second-generation Muslim migrants with socialisation in Vienna”.
- 07-08/2003** *Fieldwork*, India (Karnataka, Kerala, Mumbai, Tamil Nadu), with the development NGO “Empezamos” and indigenous peoples, factory workers, and women's micro-credit groups. Paper: “The Struggle for Survival and the Resistance Movements of Adivasi Women in India”.
- 03-06/2003** *Principal investigator*, research project “Socio-intercultural comparison of brand awareness among school and university students in Vienna”.
- 10/2002-01/2003** *Co-investigator*, research project “The world shops in Austria – the fair-trade concept put into practice”.

Conference and seminar presentations (selection)

- 07/2019** “Contested Flows – Migration and Regularisation on the Andaman Islands”, International Convention of Asia Scholars 11, Leiden University.
- 09/2018** “Fieldwork is Not What it Used to Be: Negotiating Narratives in Ethnographic Research”, Vienna Anthropology Days, Vienna University.
- 06/2018** “Contested Landscapes: Mainland and Island Imaginaries and Historiographies of the Andaman Islands”, Anthropological Atelier, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague.
- 05/2011** “Just Change – Directly Linking Communities”, The Ustinov Seminar, Durham.
- 04/2011** “Just Change – From Poverty to Power-Tea”, Poster, Durham Anthropology Postgraduate Conference (DAPC).
- 04/2009** “The Cosmopolitan Adivasi: Forest Rights, Indigeneity, and Tea”, DAPC.
- 05/2007** “Das Straßenkinderprojekt Tejaswi in Mumbai”, Soroptimist Club Vienna.

Languages

German, English – native speaker.

French – good reading, writing, and speaking.

Latin – intermediate reading.

Hindi, Tamil, Italian, Arabic – basic reading and listening.

Technical skills

IT: ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence for MS-Office), Endnote, Adobe Creative Suite/Cloud, image, video and audio editing in various programmes, social media, Zoom, Teams, Typo3, Sage DPW, basic knowledge SAP. Operating systems: Windows, Mac.

Photography: technical and black-and-white developing skills.

Full driving licence.

Leadership roles

- 01-09/2018** Co-organiser of conference panel “Engaging with Homo Narrans: Storytelling and the Imagination in Ethnographic Research”, Vienna Anthropology Days (VANANDA).
- 07/2015-11/2016** Co-organiser of “Anthropology in Austria Day” of the Royal Anthropological Institute, British Academy, London.
- 10/2011-05/2012** Co-organiser, Durham Anthropology Senior Seminar Series.
- 10/2008-04/2009** Co-organiser, Anthropology Postgraduate Conference, Durham University.
- 04-09/2008** Co-organiser, fundraising event “Bollywood Masala”, Vienna, for the Tejaswi project for street children in Mumbai.
- 01-04/2008** Co-organiser, workshop “India – Strategies against Violence and Oppression”, 4th Days of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna.
- 11/2006** Delegate for Sri Lanka in the UN ECOSOC, Oxford International Model United Nations.
- 08/2005** Delegate for India in the UN CHR, Vienna International Model United Nations.

Courses & certificates

- 03/2012** “Writing across Boundaries”, workshop on academic writing, Durham University.
- 04/2011** “Durham Enterprise School”, course on entrepreneurship, Durham University.
- 02/2010** “Emergency First Aid at Work” and “Outdoor First Aid”, Durham.
- 09/2009** Tamil language course, Institute of Asian Studies, Sholinganallur, Chennai, India.
- 07-08/2009** “Development from the Inside”, course on international development, Mysore, India.
- 09/2004** Modern Standard Arabic language course, Arabic Language Institute, Fez, Morocco.
- 09/2002** Advanced French language course, Jardin des Cultures, CEILA, Avignon, France.
- 12/2001** Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (Grade A).

Awards and scholarships

- 2011** Best poster by popular vote at the Durham Anthropology Postgraduate Conference.
- 2008-11** Durham Doctoral Fellowship, Durham University.
- 2007** Research Grant, University of Vienna.
- 2006** Grant for Short Scientific Research Abroad, University of Vienna.
- 2005 & 2006** Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement, University of Vienna.
- 2005** Michael von Zoller Trust Scholarship.
- 2003** Dr. Josef Rieger Trust Scholarship.
- 2002** Winner of the Tyrolean Foreign Language Competition for Grammar Schools in French.

Volunteering (selection)

- 2011-14** Volunteer at Fruitful Durham (social enterprise): assisted in the production and sale of a seasonal range of products from local fruit and vegetables.
- 2011-14** Volunteer at FoodCycle Durham: created and served meals at a community centre from surplus food donated by shops.