
Curriculum Vitae

Alex K. Gearin, PhD

Assistant Professor

Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. The University of Queensland (QS World Rank #47), School of Social Science: Anthropology, 2011-2015, Brisbane, QLD, Australia.
Dissertation: *An Amazonian shamanic brew in Australia: Ayahuasca healing and individualism.*
Thesis examiners: Michael Scott (London School of Economics) Robin Wright (University of Florida).
- B.A. La Trobe University, Anthropology (Honours), 2007-2011, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-current **Assistant Professor**, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China
- 2017-2021 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China.
- 2017-current **Research Fellow**, School of Social Science, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.
- 2020-21 **Guest Editor** for special journal issue on the social aspects of medicine in *Frontiers in Pharmacology* <https://bit.ly/32v4dm9>
- 2018-19 **International Coordinator**, World Humanities Conference 2018 and 2019, Xiamen University, China. (Part of the XMU-CIPSH Collaboration Office.)
- 2017-19 **International Coordinator**, International Center for Medical Anthropology, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China.
- 2014-18 **Assistant Editor**, HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory.
- 2015-17 **Lecturer**, ANTH1030 (Anthropology of Current World Issues, Summer Semester), University of Queensland. Brisbane, QLD, Australia.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2023. **Gearin, A. K.** "Becoming modern in China with an indigenous Amazonian healing brew". In Erika Dyck and Chris Elcock (Eds.) *A Global History of Psychedelics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press (forthcoming)
2022. **Gearin, A. K.** "Primitivist medicine and capitalist anxieties in ayahuasca tourism Peru". *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. 28(2) (forthcoming)
2021. **Gearin, A. K.** & Calavia Saez, O. "Altered vision: sensory individualism and ayahuasca shamanism". *Current Anthropology*. 62(2):138-163

4. 2021 **Gearin, A. K.**, et al. and Polito, M. “Editorial: Beyond the Pharmacology of Psychoactive Plant Medicines and Drugs: Pros and Cons of the Role of Rituals and Set and Setting”. *Frontiers in Pharmacology* (forthcoming)
5. 2021. **Gearin, A. K.** and Devenot, N. “Psychedelic medicalization, public discourse, and the morality of ego dissolution”. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*. June 21 (available in early view)
6. 2021. **Gearin, A. K.** “Xiangsi: Acacia confusa”. In *The Mind of Plants* (eds.) John Ryan, Monica Gagliano, and Patricia Vieira. Santa Fe: Synergetic Press
7. 2019. Fotiou, E. and **Gearin, A. K.** “Purging and the body in the therapeutic use of ayahuasca”. *Social Science and Medicine*. 239:1-9
8. 2018. **Gearin, A. K.** & Labate, B. “La Dieta: Ayahuasca and the reinvention of Indigenous Amazonian food shamanism”. In *The world ayahuasca diaspora: Controversies and reinventions*. (eds) Labate, B., Cavnar C, Gearin, A. New York: Routledge p.177-196
9. 2017. **Gearin, A. K.** “Ayahuasca neoshamanism as cultural critique in Australia”. In *The world ayahuasca diaspora: Controversies and reinventions*. (eds) Labate, B., Cavnar C, Gearin, A. New York: Routledge.p.123-41.
10. 2017. Labate, B. & Cavnar C. & **Gearin, A. K.** “Introduction: The shifting journey of ayahuasca in diaspora”. In *The world ayahuasca diaspora: Controversies and reinventions*. (eds) Labate, B., Cavnar C, Gearin, A. New York: Routledge pp.1-16
11. 2017. Labate, B., Cavnar C, **Gearin, A. K.** *The world ayahuasca diaspora: Controversies and reinventions*. New York: Routledge
12. 2017. **Gearin, A. K.** “Dividual Visions of the Individual. Ayahuasca Neoshamanism and the New Age Individualism Orthodoxy”. *International Journal for the Study of New Religions* Vol. 7 No. 2 p.203-224
13. 2015. **Gearin, A. K.** “‘Whatever you want to believe’ Kaleidoscopic individualism and ayahuasca healing in Australia”, *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*. Vol. 26 No.3 p.442-455

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARD

2021-2024	Enhanced New Staff Start-Up Research Grant. LKS Faculty of Medicine. The University of Hong Kong. (\$380,000 HKD) Project title: “Ecosystems of Wellness: A Study of Hong Kong’s Nature-related Therapies”.
2017-2021	Fujian Top Talent Recruitment Grant, Tier B (1,000,000 RMB) Project title: “Indigenous Medicine Globalization: Peru, Spain, and China”.
2019-20	Fujian Young Foreign Expert Grant (100,000 RMB) Project title: “The Economics of Indigenous Amazonian Medicine Globalization”.
2017-20	Xiamen University Start-Up Research Fund (100,000 RMB)
2011-15	APA (Australian Postgraduate Award, 75,000 AUD). The University of Queensland, School of Social Science, Brisbane, QLD, Australia
2009	Dean’s Honours Selection, Anthropology. La Trobe University, Australia.