

**Darren T. Byler**  
 Center for Asian Studies  
 University of Colorado, Boulder  
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### **POSITIONS HELD**

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Colorado, Boulder, Center for Asian Studies (specialization in surveillance technologies, urban infrastructure and ethno-racial minority populations in China and Southeast Asia). 2020.  
 Lecturer, University of Washington, Department of Anthropology. 2018-2019.

### **EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Washington, Department of Anthropology, 2011-2018. Dissertation: “Spirit Breaking: Uyghur Dispossession, Culture Work and Terror Capitalism in a Chinese Global City” Advisors: Sasha Su-Ling Welland (chair), Ann Anagnost, Stevan Harrell, and Danny Hoffman.  
 Master of Arts, Columbia University, East Asian Studies (specialization in Anthropology), 2007-2009. Thesis: “‘Discovering’ Xinjiang: Ecological Imagination and Civilizational Desire in Northwest China, 1828-1962.”  
 Bachelor of Arts with Distinction, Kent State University, History, East Asian Studies, Visual Journalism, 2001-2006. Senior Honor’s Thesis: “The Geography of Difference: Constructing Identity in the Ohio Amish Community.”

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Political and economic anthropology; Political economy of information; Biometric surveillance and digital media; Urban technologies and infrastructures; Migration and mobility; Critical studies of race, ethnicity and masculinity; Comparative state violence and critical terrorism studies; Culture, economics and politics of Muslim societies; China, United States, Southeast Asia and Central Asia.

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2019. Collaborative Learning and Interdisciplinary Pedagogy (CLIP) Fellowship, Comparative History of Ideas, University of Washington. A year-long teaching cluster and research conference that compared contemporary U.S. and Chinese empire and associated Indigenous refusals, with P. Joshua Griffin (\$32,000 *Declined*).  
 2019. Long-list, Dissertation in the Social Sciences, International Convention of Asia Scholars. One of ten dissertations chosen from Asian Studies Ph.D graduates around the world.  
 2018. Dean’s Medal for Distinguished Dissertation in the Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington.  
 2018. Finalist, University “Scholar Citizen” Medal for Distinguished Dissertation, University of Washington, 2018. One of three finalists from university-wide pool of Ph.D graduates.  
 2018. Silk Road Scholarship Award, Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington, 2017 (\$1,000).  
 2017. Dissertation Writing Fellowship 2017-2018, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, Taipei, Taiwan, 2017 (\$18,000).  
 2017. Society of Scholars Fellowship 2017-2018, Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington. One of four UW graduate students selected for year-long writing workshop (\$12,000).  
 2016. Graduate Student Paper of the Year, Central Eurasian Studies Society.  
 2016. Dissertation Writing (One Quarter) Fellowship, China Studies, University of Washington (\$6,000).

2016. Summer Digital Humanities Fellowship, Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington (\$8,000).
2014. International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, 2014-2015 (\$18,000).
2014. Summer Pre-Dissertation Grant, American Council of Learned Societies/Luce Foundation, 2014 (\$5,000).
2014. China Studies Program Small Grant, University of Washington, 2014 (\$5,000 *Declined*).
2014. The Graduate School Chester Fritz Fellowship, University of Washington, 2014 (\$5,000 *Declined*).
2013. Foreign Language Area Studies, Uyghur Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education (\$36,000).
2012. Foreign Language Area Studies, Uyghur Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education (\$36,000).
2011. Foreign Language Area Studies, Uyghur Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education (\$36,000).
2005. Kent State History Department Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship (\$500).

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

Under Contract. *Terror Capitalism: Uyghur Dispossession and Masculinity in a Chinese City*. Duke University Press. (Revised manuscript to be delivered by June 2020).

Under Contract. *Technologies of Reeducation: Contemporary Minority Surveillance and Global China*. Columbia University Global Reports (manuscript to be completed by October 2020).

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

Under Review. "Technologies of Terror Capitalism: The Turn to Counterinsurgent 'Reeducation' in China." *Cultural Anthropology*.

2019. "Ghost World." *Logic: A Magazine About Technology*, 07: 89-108.

2019. (with Amy Anderson) "Eating Hanness: Uyghur Musical Tradition in a Time of Reeducation." *China Perspectives*. 3: 13-22.

2019. "Spirit Breaking: Capitalism and Terror in Northwest China." *Chuang*, 2: 485-525.

2018. "Violent Paternalism: On the Banality of Uyghur Unfreedom." *The Asia Pacific Journal*. Volume 16, Issue 24, Number 4.

2018. "Claiming the Mystical Self in New Modernist Uyghur Poetry." *Contemporary Islam: Dynamics of Muslim Life*. 1-20.

2017. "Native rhythms in the city: embodied refusal among Uyghur male migrants in Ürümchi." *Central Asian Survey*. 1-17.

2017. "New Silk Road artworlds: The art of the hybrid and the marginal at the Xinjiang Contemporary Art Museum." *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*. 4, no. 1: 27-43.

### Refereed Book Chapters

Forthcoming. "The Traveler in the City: Homelessness and the Religious Economy of Uyghur Reformist Islam." In *Ethnography of Islam in China*. Rachel Harris, Guangtian Ha, Maria Jaschok eds. University of Hawaii Press.

2017. "Curious Images from Northwest China: Ethics and Poetics in Carolyn Drake's Travel Photography." In *Travel and Representation*. Edited by Garth Lean, Russell Staiff, and Emma Waterton. London: Berghahn Press.

2014. "The Affect of 'Disposable' Bodies on Film in Xu Xin's Karamay: Ritual and Embodiment in Chinese Central Asia." In *Transnational Chinese Cinema: Corporeality, Desire, and the Ethics of Failure*. Hong Kong: Bridge21/Transaction Press.

### Work in Progress

*The City of the Disappeared: Contemporary Uyghur Urban Fiction*. Draft book manuscript of collection of contemporary Uyghur fiction written by authors who have been disappeared by the Chinese state with introductory essay. To be submitted to Columbia University Press.

"Violent Paternalism: Surviving as an Uyghur in Xinjiang," *The Central Asian World*, Edited by Jeanne Féaux de la Croix and Madeleine Reeves, (2020) Routledge.

(with Sean Roberts, Rian Thum, Joanne Smith-Finley, Michael Clarke and Rachel Harris), Collaborator in the *Uyghur Scholars Working Group Policy Brief Series*, sponsored by the Center for Global Policy.

### Selected Encyclopedia Articles, Reviews and Non-Peer-Reviewed Essays in Academic Publications

- Forthcoming. "Review Essay: Cycles of Violence in *The Uyghur Community*." *Journal of Asian Studies*, 78.4.
2019. "I spent 8 years researching Uyghur society in China – here is how technology trapped them." *The Conversation*.
2018. "Xinjiang specialist Darren Byler for Synopsis: A project far more extreme than the Stanford Prison Experiment." *Synopsis*. (Republished in *China Digital Times* and in translation in Czech)
2018. "China's Government Has Ordered a Million Citizens to Occupy Uighur Homes. Here's What They Think They're Doing." *ChinaFile*. (Republished in *Foreign Policy* and in translation in Chinese, French, Italian, German and Turkish)
2018. "Navigating Xinjiang's security checkpoints." *EurasiaNet*. (Republished in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*)
2018. "Another Scene in the Fight Against Islamophobia." *Anthrodendum*.
2017. (with Leah Zani) "Collaboration Studio: *Cultural Anthropology* Responds to Trump." *Cultural Anthropology Online*.
2017. "Uyghur Names as Signal and Noise." *Milestones: Commentary on the Islamic World*.
2017. "Salvage Freedom: Anna Tsing's Bateson Prize Book Forum." *Cultural Anthropology Online*.
2017. "Imagining Re-Engineered Uyghurs in Northwest China." *Milestones: Commentary on the Islamic World*.
2016. (with Jenny Shaw) "Introduction: Curated Collection: Precarity." *Journal of the Society for Cultural Anthropology*, August 2016. Collected essays and interviews with six anthropologists (Anne Allison, Hayder Al-Mohammad, Kathleen Millar, Clara Han, Naisargi N. Dave, Kathleen Stewart, Bruce O'Neill).
2016. "Uyghur Cinema." In *Encyclopedia of Popular Culture in Asia and Oceania*. Santa Barbara CA: ABCCLIO, Greenwood Press.
2016. "Uyghur Internet and Social Media." In *Encyclopedia of Popular Culture in Asia and Oceania*. Santa Barbara CA: ABC-CLIO, Greenwood Press.
2016. (with Parhat Ablat). "Sports and Uyghur Masculinity." In *Encyclopedia of Popular Culture in Asia and Oceania*. Santa Barbara CA: ABC-CLIO, Greenwood Press.
2016. (with Elise Anderson). "Music and Uyghur Society." in *Encyclopedia of Popular Culture in Asia and Oceania*. Santa Barbara CA: ABC-CLIO, Greenwood Press.
2012. (with Shannon Dugan Iverson) "Introduction: Curated Collection: Literature, Writing and Anthropology." *Journal of the Society for Cultural Anthropology*. Collected essays and interviews on writing craft with five anthropologists (Ruth Behar, Vincent Crapanzano, Stuart McLean, S. Lachlann Jain and Elizabeth Enslin) and five fiction writers.

### Selected Public Scholarship

2019. "Erasing Xinjiang." *The Arts of Travel Podcast*.
2019. "Xinjiang and the Uyghurs with Darren Byler." *Foreign Exchanges Podcast*.
2019. "China's hi-tech war on its Muslim minority." *The Guardian: Long Read*.
2018. "Why Chinese civil servants are happy to occupy Uyghur homes in Xinjiang." *CNN Online*.
2018. (with Timothy Grose) "China's Surveillance Laboratory." *Dissent Magazine*.
2018. "The Disappearance of Rahile Dawut." *Los Angeles Review of Books*.
2018. "Muslim China and the "De-Extremification" Campaign: Interview with Darren Byler, Living Otherwise." *Voices on Central Asia*. (Republished in Russian translation)
- 2016-Present. "The Art of Life in Chinese Central Asia: A Repertoire of Emerging Forms of Uyghur, Han and Kazakh Art and Politics." Funded by The Simpson Center for the Humanities, UW. Hosted at [www.livingotherwise.com](http://www.livingotherwise.com).
2016. "Living Otherwise: Buddhist Photography on the New Silk Road." *Scalar*. Hosted at <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/living-otherwise/index>
2017. "Uyghur Biometric Data Collection in China: an Interview with Darren Byler." *The Diplomat*.
2014. "Charles Briggs on Epidemics, Psychoanalysis and the Work of Mourning." *AnthroPod*. Hosted at [culanth.org/fieldsights/621-charles-briggs-on-epidemics-psychoanalysis-and-the-work-ofmourning](http://culanth.org/fieldsights/621-charles-briggs-on-epidemics-psychoanalysis-and-the-work-ofmourning).
2013. "Field Notes: Affect." *Journal of the Society for Cultural Anthropology* (online). Hosted at [culanth.org/fieldsights/59-field-notes-affect](http://culanth.org/fieldsights/59-field-notes-affect). Facilitated a public discussion with four scholars (Danilyn Rutherford, Richard McGrail, Sareeta Amrute, Andrea Muehlebach) on the anthropology of affect.
2013. "Field Notes: Ethics." *Journal of the Society for Cultural Anthropology* (online). Hosted at [culanth.org/fieldsights/215-field-notes-ethics](http://culanth.org/fieldsights/215-field-notes-ethics). Facilitated a public discussion with four scholars (Hayder Al-Mohammad, P. Joshua Griffin, Peter Benson, Clara Han) on the anthropology of ethics.
- 2012-2014. Essay interviews with Anya Bernstein, May 2012; Hayder Al-Mohammad, November 2012; Erik Harms, May 2013; Didier Fassin, November 2013; Bruce O'Neil, February 2014; Liam Buckley, November 2014. <http://www.culanth.org/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=darren+byler>

### Selected Literary Translations

- Forthcoming. (Uyghur-English Translation with Mutellip Enwer) "Classmates," "There are no Cows in the City," "Plato's Shovel," by Memtimin Hoshur, Halide Israil, Perhat Tursun. *Anthology of Central Asian Literature in Translation, The Steppe and Beyond: Studies on Central Asia*. Palgrave.
2016. (Uyghur-English Translation with Dilmurat Mutellip) "Three Poems about the City" by Tahir Hamut, *Banango Street*. Hosted at <http://banangostreet.com/issue-11/tahir-hamut/>
2014. (Uyghur-English Translation with Mutellip Enwer) "Festival For the Pigs" by Memtimin Hoshur, *Guernica Magazine*. Hosted at <https://www.guernicamag.com/fiction/festival-for-the-pigs/>
2011. (Chinese-English Translation and English language editing with Li Dan, Chair, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Xinjiang University) *Pictorial Xinjiang from Ancient to Modern Times: a Geographical Survey of Natural Scenery*. Edited by Zhou Longqin and Tian Weiji. 2011. Xinjiang Fine Arts & Photography Publishing House. A 265-page book detailing the geographical and historical development of scenic spots throughout Xinjiang. Illustrated with full-color fine-art photography.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Instructor of Record

2019. "Surveillance Capitalism and the Attention Economy: Explorations in Biopower," University of Washington. Taught and graded 22 senior-level students.
2019. "'Smart' Cities, Infrastructures and New Racism: Ethnography in Urban Settings," University of Washington. Taught and graded 25 senior-level students.
2018. "Technologies of the Self: Introduction to Social Theory," University of Washington. Taught and graded 41 junior-level students.
2018. "Digital Expressive Culture: The Politics and Media of Everyday Life," University of Washington. Taught and graded 8 senior-level students.
2017. "Digital Culture Production: Anthropology Through Visual Media," University of Washington. Taught and graded 34 sophomore-level students.

### **Teaching Assistant**

2017. "Introduction to Medical Anthropology and Global Health," University of Washington. Taught and graded two sections of 35 sophomore-level students in course led by Dr. Seth Messinger.
2017. "Anthropology Through Visual Media," University of Washington. Taught and graded two sections of 35 sophomore-level students in course led by Dr. Daniel Hoffman.
2016. "Anthropology of Popular Music," University of Washington. Taught and graded three sections of 30 sophomore-level students in course led by Dr. Michael Perez.
2016. "The Culture Concept," University of Washington. Taught and graded two sections of 35 sophomore-level students in course led by Dr. Chris Brown.
2016. "Anthropology through Visual Media," University of Washington. Taught and graded two sections of 35 sophomore-level students in course led by Dr. Daniel Hoffman.
2014. "Identity: Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality," University of Washington. Taught and graded two sections of 35 sophomore-level students in course led by Dr. Michael Perez.
2013. "Introduction to Anthropology: Conflict," University of Washington. Taught and graded three sections of 30 freshman-level students in course led by Dr. Michael Perez.

## **SELECTED ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

### **Invited Lectures and Expert Testimony**

2019. Invited Lecture, "Uyghur 'Reeducation' and Terror Capitalism," China Studies Lecture Series, University of Ottawa.
2019. Invited Lecture, "Terror Capitalism and State-directed Gender Violence Toward Turkic Muslims," Gender Studies and Global Studies Lecture Series, Simon Fraser University.
2019. Invited Lecture, "Technologies of 'Reeducation': Global Implication of Turkic Muslim Surveillance, Internment and Coerced Labor," Asia Studies Institute, University of British Columbia.
2019. Invited Lecture, "Uyghur 'Reeducation' and the Chinese Security Industrial Complex," Engaged Citizenship Common Experience Speaker Series, University of Illinois, Springfield.
2019. Invited Lecture, "Technologies of Terror Capitalism: The Turn to Counterinsurgent 'Reeducation' in China," China Studies Lecture Series and Five College Faculty Seminar, Smith College.
2019. Invited Lecture, "Uyghur 'Reeducation' and the Chinese Security Industrial Complex," China Studies Lecture Series, Cornell University.
2018. Expert Testimony, "Uyghur Human Rights," Canadian House of Commons, Subcommittee on International Human Rights, Ottawa.
2018. Invited Lecture, "The Banality of Uyghur Unfreedom: Why are Han Civilians Occupying Uyghur Homes in Northwest China?" Turkic and Eurasian Studies Seminar, University of Washington.

2018. Invited Lecture, “Spirit Breaking: Uyghur Religious Practice and ‘Terror Capitalism’ in Northwest China.” Central Asian Platform Seminar Series 2018, Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague.
2018. Invited Lecture, “Uyghur Biodata and the Chinese State.” Washington State China Relations Council, 2018.
2018. Invited Lecture, “Life in a Police State: Artificial Intelligence, Predictive Policing and Uyghur Life.” Google, User Experience Division, Seattle Campus.
2018. Invited Lecture, “Uyghur Religious Practice and Securitization in Xinjiang.” Foreign Correspondents Club of China, Beijing.
2018. Invited Lecture, “Freedom and Precarity in the Uyghur Religious Economy.” Central Asian Studies Seminar, University of Washington.
2018. Invited Lecture, “Spirit Breaking: Capitalism and Terror in Northwest China.” Asian Studies Public Lecture, Seattle Pacific University.
2016. Invited Lecture, “Buddhist Photography and Uyghur Migrants along the New Silk Road,” Seattle Asian Art Museum.

### **Invited Presentations**

2019. Invited Presentation, “Uyghur Human Rights Crisis,” Islamic Studies Program and Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA.
2019. Invited Presentation, “Uyghur ‘Reeducation’ and the Chinese Security Industrial Complex,” China Studies Program, Stanford.
2019. Invited Presentation, “Contemporary Uyghur Society in a Time of ‘Reeducation’: Tradition and Transformation,” Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Stanford.
2019. Invited Presentation, “The Uyghur Emergency.” Australia National University.
2019. Invited Presentation, “Roundtable on Xinjiang: Perspectives from the Field on China’s Mass Incarceration of Turkic Muslims,” Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder.
2019. Invited Presentation, “The Uyghur Crisis,” Human Rights Center, Berkeley Law School.
2019. Invited Presentation, “The Uyghur Crisis,” MIT Department of International Relations and Harvard Fairbank Center.
2019. Invited Presentation, “The Mass Internment of Uyghurs,” Columbia Law School.
2018. Invited Presentation, “Mass Incarcerations: China’s Radical and Dangerous Policies.” Inner Asian-Uralic National Resource Center, Indiana University.
2018. Invited Presentation, “Face Changes: AI in Northwest China,” Global Summit: Tech Policy Lab, University of Washington (with support from Microsoft).
2018. Invited Presentation, “Uyghur ‘Reeducation’ and the Chinese Security Industrial Complex.” European Union Delegation to China, Beijing.
2018. Invited Presentation, “On Edge: China’s Frontiers in a Time of Change: An Interdisciplinary Social Science Workshop for Junior Faculty.” Kanderstag, Switzerland.

### **Conference Activities**

2019. Roundtable organizer and presentation, “Surveillance Capitalism in a Global World,” American Anthropological Association, Vancouver.
2019. Roundtable Presentation, “Indigeneity in China.” American Anthropological Association, Vancouver.
2019. Presentation, “Urban Authoritarianism: Social Control, Development, and Security in Xinjiang, China,” Association of Asian Studies, Denver.
2018. Panel Participant and Conference Social Media Coordinator, “Displacements.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Biannual Virtual Conference.

2017. Presentation and Panel Co-Organizer, “Dispossession: Uprooted Life in Contemporary China.” American Anthropological Association, Washington DC.
2016. Presentation and Panel Organizer, “Life Beyond Labor: Relations of Care in Precarious Times,” American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis.
2016. Paper Presenter, “Minor Transnationalism and Emerging Uyghur Cinema,” Western Conference Association for Asian Studies, Missoula.
2012. Paper Presenter, “Schizophrenic Vision in Late Socialist Northwest China” American Anthropological Association, San Francisco.
2008. Panel Organizer, “China, Central Asia and the Uyghurs: Exploring the Challenges of Cultural Hybridity” with Sean Roberts, Gardner Bovington, James Millward, Nabijan Tursan and Robert Barnett. Organization for the Advancement of Inner Eurasian Societies, Columbia University.
2008. Panel Co-Organizer, “Area Studies and the Mongol Legacy” with Morris Rossabi, Nicola Di Cosmo, Peter Golden and Ladan Akbarnia. Columbia University.
2008. Conference Co-Organizer. The first annual OASIES conference on Inner Eurasian Studies at Columbia University.
2008. Paper Presenter. “‘Discovering’ Xinjiang: Ecological Imagination and Civilizational Desire in Northwest China.” The first annual OASIES conference on Inner Eurasian Studies at Columbia University.
2008. Panel Co-Organizer, “Power, Knowledge and Kurdistan” with Gil Anidjar, Robert Olson, Janet Klein and Mahmud Ferhadi. Organization for the Advancement of Inner Eurasian Societies. Columbia University.

### **Public Events**

2018. Event Organizer, “The Distance: Tahir Hamut and Darren Byler.” Elliot Bay Book Company, Seattle.
2016. Event Organizer, “Four Chinese Poets: Lo Ch’ing, Yan Li, Li Li and Lv De’an.” Elliot Bay Book Company, Seattle.

### **LANGUAGES**

Chinese – Advanced, Uyghur - Advanced.

### **SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2019-present. Paid Consultant and Columnist, *SupChina*. A New York-based news, education, and business services platform that informs and connects a global audience of business, government, academic, and media professionals through newsletters, podcasts, videos, website, and professional services marketplace.
- 2018-present. Unpaid Consultant, *The Intercept*, *Financial Times*, *CNBC*, *National Public Radio*, *ABC*, *Australian Broadcasting Company*, *PBS*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *CNN*, *South China Morning Post*, *Bloomberg*, *BBC*, *The Economist*, *Globe and Mail*.
- 2016-present. Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Political Risk*, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, *Central Asian Survey*, *Territory*, *Politics*, *Governance*, *Area Development and Policy*, *Political Geography*.
- 2016-2018. Graduate Student Representative, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Executive Board.
2016. Graduate Student Representative, Diversity and Equity Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington.
- 2009-2014. Media Designer, Harriman Institute. Columbia University.
2006. Photo Editor, World Picture Network. New York, New York.

## References

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