

Curriculum Vitae
Dr. Alex K. Gearin
 Assistant Professor
 Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit
 LKS Faculty of Medicine
 The University of Hong Kong
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. The University of Queensland (QS #43), School of Social Science: Anthropology, 2011-2015, Brisbane, QLD, Australia.

Dissertation: *An Amazonian shamanic brew in Australia: Ayahuasca healing and individualism* Committee: Sally Babidge (University of Queensland), Fernanda Claudio (University of Queensland), and Yancey Orr (University of Queensland).

Thesis examiners: Michael Scott (London School of Economics) Robin Wright (University of Florida) who both accepted the thesis with “no revisions required”.

B.A. Anthropology (Honours), La Trobe University, 2007-2011, Melbourne, VIC, Australia. Supervisor: Professor John Morton

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021-current **Assistant Professor**, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine. The University of Hong Kong, SAR, China.

2022 **Acting Director**, (August-September) Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine. The University of Hong Kong.

2022-current **Core Committee Member**, The Hong Kong Anthropological Society, Hong Kong

2017-current **Fellow**, School of Social Science, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

- 2022-current **Fellow**, Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
- 2022-current **Fellow**, Centre for Criminology, Faculty of Social Science, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
- 2017-2021 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China.
- 2020-21 **Guest Editor** for special journal issue on the social aspects of medicine in *Frontiers in Pharmacology* <https://bit.ly/32v4dm9>
- 2017-19 **International Coordinator**, World Humanities Conference 2018 and 2019, Xiamen University, China. (Part of the XMU-CIPSH Collaboration Office).
- 2014-18 **Assistant Editor**, HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory.
- 2016-17 **Lecturer**, ANTH1030 (Anthropology of Current World Issues, Summer Semester), University of Queensland. Brisbane, QLD, Australia.
- 2016 **Research Assistant** to Professor Monique Skidmore, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The University of Queensland. Brisbane, Australia
- 2015-16 **Lecturer**, ANTH1030 (Anthropology of Current World Issues), The University of Queensland: School of Social Sciences. Brisbane, QLD, Australia.

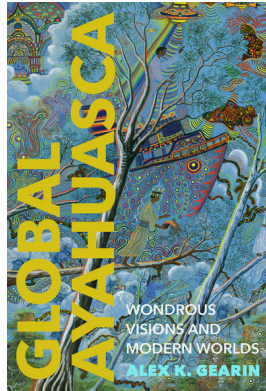
PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH ARTICLES

1. 2023. **Gearin, A. K.** 2023. “Moving beyond a figurative psychedelic literacy: Metaphors of psychiatric symptoms in ayahuasca narratives”. *Social Science & Medicine*. 334:1-9
2. 2023. **Gearin, A. K.** “Becoming modern in China with an indigenous Amazonian healing brew”. In Erika Dyck and Chris Elcock (Eds.) *Expanded Mindscapes: A Global History of Psychedelics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press
3. 2023. **Gearin, A. K.** “On the Ambiguity of Psychedelic Awe in China”. *Anthropology Today* (forthcoming, December issue)
4. 2022. **Gearin, A. K.** “Primitivist medicine and capitalist anxieties in ayahuasca tourism Peru”. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. 28(2):496-515

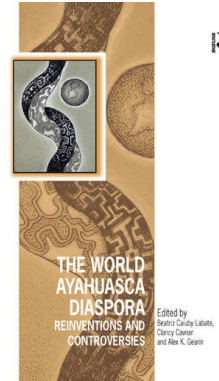
5. 2021. **Gearin, A. K.** & Calavia Saez, O. “Altered vision: sensory individualism and ayahuasca shamanism”. *Current Anthropology*. 62(2):138-163
 6. 2021. **Gearin, A. K.**, et al. and Polito, M. “Editorial: Beyond the Pharmacology of Psychoactive Plant Medicines and Drugs: Pros and Cons of the Role of Rituals and Set and Setting”. *Frontiers in Pharmacology* 12:1-3
 7. 2021. **Gearin, A. K.** and Devenot, N. “Psychedelic medicalization, public discourse, and the morality of ego dissolution”. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*. 24(6): 917-935
 8. 2021. **Gearin, A. K.** “Xiangsi: Acacia confusa”. In *The Mind of Plants* (eds.) John Ryan, Monica Gagliano, and Patricia Vieira. Santa Fe: Synergetic Press
 9. 2019. Fotiou, E. and **Gearin, A. K.** “Purging and the body in the therapeutic use of ayahuasca”. *Social Science and Medicine*. 239:1-9
 10. 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
 11. 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.
 12. 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
 13. 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
 14. 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
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BOOKS

Gearin, A. K. 2024. *Global Ayahuasca: Wondrous Visions and Modern Worlds*. Stanford University Press (forthcoming)



Labate, B., Cavnar C, **Gearin, A. K.** 2017. (Eds) *The world ayahuasca diaspora: Controversies and reinventions*. New York: Routledge.



RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2022-2024 Principal Investigator. General Research Fund (UGC) (\$377,756 HKD) Project title: “Healing in the Forest: A Study of Nature Therapies in Hong Kong”. This is for the main competitive Hong Kong University Grants Council scheme (GRF, 20-30% success rate) that is open to all faculties and disciplines in the region.
- 2021-2024 Principal Investigator. Enhanced New Staff Start-Up Research Package. LKS Faculty of Medicine. The University of Hong Kong. (\$380,000 HKD). Project title: “Ecosystems of Wellness: A VR Study of Hong Kong’s Nature-related Therapies”.
- 2018-2020 Xiamen University Faculty of Social Sciences Research Grant (100,000 RMB). Project titled: “The Globalization of an Amazonian shamanic medicine”.
- 2017-2021 Fujian Attracting Foreign Talent Grant (1,000,000 RMB)
- 2011-2015 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, Melbourne, Australia.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & TALKS

- 2023 “Speaking the Unspeakable: Metaphor and Narrative in Psychedelic Medicine Experiences” presented at the Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong.
- 2023 “Wonder and Healing at an Ayahuasca Tourism Centre, Peru”. Paper given at Psychedelic Science conference, Denver, CO. USA.
- 2023 “Opening the blackbox of clinical psychedelic therapies”, presentation delivered with Dr Nicolas Langlitz for the Contemporary Issues in Bioethics and Health Humanities Series, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, The University of Hong Kong.
- 2022 “Indigenous Amazonian Medicine in a Capitalist World” Presented a public talk jointly hosted by HKU Centre for Humanities and Medicine and Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit. Discussant: Dr Glenn Shepard (American Museum of Natural History) and was convened by Dr Laura Meek (Centre for the Humanities and Medicine).
- 2022 “Beyond the Substance: Psychedelics and the Challenge of Medical Research and Drug Policy” – I was discussant on Dr Ido Hartogsohn’s talk. Global Health and Humanities Book Talk Series. CHM. The University of Hong Kong.
- 2022 Lecture on the globalization of Indigenous Amazonian healing practices for a class in the Masters of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, The New School, New York.
- 2022 Lecture on Medical Anthropology at German Swiss High School
- 2022 Lecture on “Indigenous Australian Health and the Environment” to undergraduates at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong.
- 2019 “Valuing otherness as a potent medicine: examining bodies and health in a Shipibo ayahuasca tourist lodge, Peru”, Australian Anthropological Society. Australian National University, Canberra.
- 2019 “From jaguars to ego-death: thoughts on the medicalization of ayahuasca” – World Ayahuasca Conference, Girona, Spain, June.
- 2019 “Amazonian purgatives and the social body” - World Humanities Forum, Xiamen, China, April

- 2018 “Ayahuasca Australiana and sensory individualism” - World Humanities Forum, Xiamen, China, April
- 2015 “Organic and the inorganic in ayahuasca visions”. EGA. Royal Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Australia
- 2014 “Ayahuasca neoshamanism as cultural critique”. World Ayahuasca Conference, Ibiza, Spain.
- 2013 “Purity and individualism in Australian ayahuasca practice”. Australian Anthropological Society (AAS), ANU, Canberra, ACT, Australia.
- 2013 “A Dumontian analysis of ayahuasca healing in Australia”. Postgraduate conference, The University of Queensland, School of Social Science, Brisbane, QLD, Australia.
- 2013 “Cosmological metamorphosis and the individual’s universe”. Post-Human World: Rethinking Anthropology, Sydney University, NSW, Australia.