

Curriculum Vitae  
**Peter Graif**

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**Education**

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Sept 2003 – June 2014  
*PhD in Anthropology*

- Dissertation: “Talk/Intelligible: Language and Objecthood in Deaf Kathmandu”
- Committee: Dr. Judith Farquhar (chair), Dr. Michael Silverstein, Dr. John Kelly
- Awarded the Lichstern Prize for the best dissertation of the year

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK Sept 2009 – May 2013  
*MA in Linguistics*

- Thesis: “Citing signs: Towards a citational model of sign language phonology”
- Advisor: Dr. Juliette Blevins

AMHERST COLLEGE Sept 1998 – May 2002  
*BA in Anthropology*

- Thesis: “Dead and Reborn: Christianity among leprosy patients in Tauthali, Nepal”
- Advisor: Dr. Deborah Gewertz
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude with High Departmental Distinction

PITZER COLLEGE IN NEPAL Aug 2000 – June 2001  
*Ten month study abroad program, focusing on Nepali language and area studies*

- One month independent research project: “The construction of community in the Tauthali Leprosy Colony”
- Three month independent research project: “Caste and ethnic nationalism in Limbuan”

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY Jan 2001 – May 2001  
*Not-for-credit student in the intensive graduate program in Hindu and Buddhist philosophy*

**Publications**

*Being and Hearing: Making Worlds Intelligible in Deaf Kathmandu*  
2018, HAU and University of Chicago Press

**Administrative and Teaching Experience**

THE OPEN INSTITUTE, KATHMANDU June 2015 – Present  
*A research and teaching cooperative that aims to bridge the gap between classroom work and high-quality applied research in the social sciences*

- Executive Director, currently responsible for training fellows in ethnography and descriptive linguistics and supervising their research projects
- Other responsibilities include coordinating events with local colleges, mediating partnerships between Nepali and international scholars, and managing grants

CAMPION COLLEGE, KATHMANDU

Aug 2014 – May 2016

*MA program in Sociology*

- Head of Department of Sociology for 2015–2016 academic year
- Responsible for managing program of forty students and six faculty members, planning curricula, and coordinating public outreach and recruiting in tandem with other colleges

*BBA program in Sociology*

- Taught sociology for two semesters to BBA 3rd-year students, 2014-2015

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, BMCC CAMPUS

Sept 2012 – Jan 2013

*Department of Linguistics*

- Taught “Language and Culture”, a semester-long course introducing Theoretical Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, and Linguistic Anthropology

ADVANTAGE TESTING OF WESTCHESTER

Aug 2009 – June 2013

*A education consultancy focused on standardized test prep and college admissions counseling*

- Help students prepare and apply to college system, including tutoring for SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT, AP, IB, and A-level examinations

THE KATHMANDU DEAF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sept 2006 – May 2008

*A college preparation and tutoring program designed for deaf students*

- Helped design program and taught deaf students for two years in a diverse range of subjects, ranging from English and written Nepali to Math and Chemistry.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO – SOCIAL SCIENCES CORE

Sept 2005 – Mar 2006

*A “great books” program for college first years, intended to teach critical reading and writing skills*

- Intern in the course “Power, Identity, Resistance”, 2005–2006 (two semesters)
- Designed lectures and taught classes collaboratively with a senior faculty member
- Served as writing and reading tutor for a class of 20 students

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Sept 2003 – June 2005

*A year-long foreign language course for Bachelors-level students*

- Teaching assistant, 2003–2005 (six semesters)

EL ARCO IRIS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Sept 2000 – June 2002

*An after school program for at-risk 12-17 year olds in Holyoke, Massachusetts.*

- Tutor, 2000-2002

## **Courses and Workshops Designed with Open Institute**

- Introductory Data Analysis with SPSS (5 hour workshop)
- Statistics for Research (20 hour seminar)
- Advanced Quantitative Methods with R (45 hour seminar)
- Ethnographic Research Methods (12 hour workshop)
- Reading and Writing in the Social Sciences (45 hour seminar)
- Thesis Design (6 hour workshop)
- Evidence - a workshop for program leaders (12 hour workshop)

## **Fellowships**

- Endangered Language Research Grant, Graduate Center Dept. of Linguistics, 2011

- Univ. of Chicago South Asian Studies Dissertation Write-up Fellowship, 2008–2009
- Fulbright-Hayes DDRA in Nepal, 2007–2008
- University of Chicago Committee on South Asian Studies Research Grant, 2005
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant, Summer 2004
- Amherst College Memorial Fellowship, Fall 2004
- University of Chicago Century Fellowship, academic years 2003–2006
- Donald S. Pitkin Prize in Anthropology, Spring 2002
- Bevans Fellowship of Amherst College, Winter 2002

### **Academic Presentations**

- “Of bitcoin and goldbugs: New money in old Nepal”  
2017 meetings of the American Anthropology Association
- “Ethnography, Knowledge, and ‘Practical’ Research”  
2016 Social Research Seminar Series, Campion College
- “Words and Things in Deaf Kathmandu”  
2015 Martin Chautari seminar series
- “Towards a citational theory of NSL phonology”  
2014 meetings of the Linguistics Society of Nepal
- “On the difference of deaf sameness: sign language, Abraham Lincoln, and the implications of gibberish for the revolutionary proletariat”  
2013 meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- “Undeniable Statements: other minds and the intelligibility of deaf writing”  
2012 meetings of the American Anthropological Association  
(Panel organizer, “The Limits of Language”)
- “Of segments, signs, and sciences: looking for stuff in deaf Kathmandu”  
2011 meetings of the American Anthropological Association
- “Sign Language education and ways of Not Knowing the deaf”  
2009 meetings of the American Anthropological Association  
(Panel organizer, “Ways of not Knowing”)
- “Why should we count our members?: Statistics and advocacy in deaf Nepal”  
2008 meetings of the American Anthropological Association  
(Panel organizer)
- “Leprosy, Caste, and Schemes of Meaning in Nepal”  
2005 Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- “Why Hedge Funds Matter to Deaf Nepalis and Vice-Versa”  
2005 Michigan Linguistics Conference
- “Recognition at the Limits of Self-evidence: The political uptake of the deaf in Kathmandu”  
2004 meetings of the American Anthropological Association  
(Panel organizer)
- “Foucault and the Lepers”  
2004 Michigan Linguistics Conference

### **Language Background**

#### *Nepali (high proficiency)*

- Two semesters of intensive Nepali language with Pitzer College in Nepal
- One semester of literature study at Bishwa Bhaashaa Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Six years of immersion while living in Nepal

#### *Nepali Sign Language (high proficiency)*

- Two years of immersive use while conducting field work

- Three month long interpreter training program hosted by the Nepal National Federation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

*American Sign Language (proficiency)*

- Six quarters of advanced American Sign Language instruction at the Univ. of Chicago
- Teaching assistant for three academic quarters of ASL at the Univ. of Chicago

*Other Languages*

- Native English speaker
- Reading knowledge of French
- Competent in Indian Sign Language (Kolkata dialect)

## **Other Service**

*The British School of Kathmandu*

Board of Governors, chair; Legal committee, chair; Finance committee, member

*American Mission Association, US Embassy*

Board member