

Caterina Scaramelli

Department of Anthropology, Boston University
232 Bay State Road
Boston, MA, 02215
scaramel@bu.edu
<http://www.caterinascaramelli.com>

Education

- Ph.D., History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016
- B.A. (first class honours), Social Anthropology, London School of Economics 2010

Professional Appointments

- Research Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and Department of Earth &
Environment, Boston University 2019-present
- Post-Doctoral Associate, Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University 2018-2019
- Robert E. Keiter '57 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Humanistic Inquiry
and Department of Anthropology, Amherst College 2016-2018

Publications

Book

How to Make a Wetland: Water and Moral Ecology in Turkey, Stanford University Press, 2021

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "The Lost Wetlands of Turkey," *Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)*, Fall 2020
- "'The Delta is Dead': Moral Ecologies of Infrastructure in Turkey," *Cultural Anthropology* volume
34, issue 3 (2019), pp. 388-416
- "'The Wetland Is Disappearing': Conservation and Care on Turkey's Kızılırmak Delta,"
International Journal of Middle East Studies, volume 50, issue 3 (2018), pp. 405-425
- "Making Sense of Water Quality: Multispecies Encounters on the Mystic River," *Worldviews*,
volume 17, issue 2 (2013), pp. 150-160

Book Chapters

- "Lived Histories of Flows and Sediments in a Turkish Delta," in *Delta Life: New Approaches to More-Than-Human Dynamics at Water's Edge*, eds. Franz Krause and Mark Harris (Oxford: Berghahn Books, June 2021)
- "Swamps and Dragons," in *Swamps and the New Imagination: On the Future of Cohabitation in Art, Architecture, and Philosophy*, eds. Nomeda Urbonas, Gediminas Urbonas, and Kristupas Sabolius (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2020)
- "Toprağa Dokunmak: Kızılırmak Deltasına Antropolojik bir Yaklaşım" [Touching the Soil: An Anthropological Approach to the Kızılırmak Delta]," in *Kızılırmak Deltası*, ed. Ali Kemal Ayan (Samsun: Ondokuz Mayıs Üniversitesi, 2018)
- "Suyun Antropolojisi: Anlamı, Yeri ve Önemi" [Anthropology of Water: Its Meaning, Place, and Materiality]," in *Sudan Sebepler: Türkiye'de Su ve Enerji Politikaları* [Reasons from Water: Water and Energy Politics in Turkey], eds. Sinan Erensu, Cemil Aksu, and Erdem Evren (Istanbul: İletişim Publications, 2016), pp. 155-167

Book Reviews

- "Hotels and Highways: the Construction of Modernization Theory in Turkey, by Begüm Adalet," *The History Teacher* volume 52, issue 2 (2020), pp. 377-378
- "Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene, by Donna J. Haraway," *American Ethnologist* volume 44, issue 4 (2017), pp. 700-701

Other Publications

- "Waterworld: Nature and Culture in the Kızılırmak Delta," *Cornucopia* magazine, June 2018, pp. 72-75
- "Fish, Flows, and Desire in the Delta," *Anthropology News* volume 59, issue 2 (2018), pp. 3-5
- "The Wateriness of Everyday Life in a Turkish Delta," in *Voices From Around the World*, issue 3 (2017), <http://voices.uni-koeln.de/2017-3/thewaterinessofeverydaylifeinaturkishdelta>
- "Seeds, Salt, and Flamingos: On the Politics of Infrastructural Ecology in Turkey," *Environment and Society Blog*, August 23 (2017),
- "Sulak Alanlarında bir Halk Laboratuvarı [A Public Laboratory in the Wetlands]," in *III Ulusal Sulak Alan Kongresi 23-25 Ekim 2013 Samsun* [Third National Wetland Conference 23-25 October 2013 Samsun], eds. Ali Kemal Ayan et al., Samsun: Ondokuz Mayıs University (2014), pp. 231-232

Fellowships and Awards

Research Fellowships

- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG),
National Science Foundation, Science, Technology and Society (STS) division 2014
- Dissertation Fieldwork Grant and Osmundsen Initiative Grant,
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research 2013
- Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (DPDF) in Ecological History,
Social Science Research Council (SSRC) 2012
- Research Grant, Center for International Studies, MIT 2011
- Fellowship in "Environmental Conflict and Change,"
Program in Environmental Governance and Sustainability (PEGS), MIT 2010-2011

Awards

- Finalist, Rappaport Paper Prize, Anthropology and Environment Society (AES),
American Anthropological Association annual conference, Denver, CO 2015

Talks and Presentations

Invited Talks

- "Living with Buffaloes: Animal Practices and Environmental Change in a Turkish Delta," Agrarian
Studies Seminar, Yale University, April 5, 2019
- "Living in Watery Places: an Ethnography of Turkish Nature in the Making," Department of
Anthropology, Boston University, December 14, 2017
- "Making Livable Natures: Caring for Wetlands in Turkey," STS circle, Kennedy School of
Government, Harvard University, February 13, 2017

Campus Talks

- "Seeds of Change in Turkey," MacMillan Center for international and Area Studies, Yale
University, October 25, 2018
- "The Social Life of Seeds," Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, April 4, 2018
- "Living in Water Places: An Ethnography of Animals and People in Turkey," Center for
Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, April 12, 2017

Conference Presentations

"A Seed's Story: Resilient Agricultural Varieties and the Remaking of Locality Under Illiberal Agricultural Regimes in Turkey," in the panel "Living Precariously in Illiberal Times" (organizer: Tessa Farmer), Middle East Studies Association (MESA), October 5-17, 2020

"Elided Ecologies of Displacement in a Black Sea Delta," in the panel "When Things Fall Apart: Navigating Socio-ecological Disintegration" (organizers: Franz Krause and Clemens Greiner), American Anthropological Association annual conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 20 - 24, 2019

"In the Shadow of the Bridge: Ecological Dissent in the New Turkey," in the panel "Quo Vadis, 'New Turkey'? Taking Stock of Ethnographic Knowledge on Health Care, Ecology and Bureaucracy," American Anthropological Association annual conference, San Jose, California, November 14 - 18, 2018

"'The Delta has Many Owners, and No One Takes Responsibility': the Everyday Life of Wetland Conservation in Turkey," in the panel "Ambivalent Stewards, Part 2: Actors, Technologies and Logics of the Conservation-Extraction Nexus," American Anthropological Association annual conference, Washington DC, November 29 - December 3, 2017

"National Flows: The Making of a Turkish Delta," in the panel "River Deltas as Living Landscapes: Movement, Management, and the Critique of a Commonplace" (organizers: Franz Krause and Tanya Richardson), CASCA/IUAES conference, Ottawa, May 3 - 7, 2017

"Infrastructural Matters in Turkey's Wetlands," American Anthropological Association annual conference, Minneapolis, MN, November 16 - 20, 2016

"Emergent Wetland Wild in The Making and Unmaking of Wetlands' Livable Nature" in the panel "Science and Technology in the Middle East," joint meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), Barcelona, Spain, August 31 - September 3, 2016

"Elusive and Charismatic Animals in the Making and Unmaking of Turkish Wetlands' Livable Nature" in the panel "The Return of the Wild: Fears - Hopes - Strategies. Ethnographic Encounters in Wildlife Management in Europe," European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA) conference, Milan, July 20 - 23, 2016

"Mud, Water, Sediment: The Infrastructure of Wetlands," in the panel "Muddy Footsteps and Hydrosocial Futures: Understanding Relationality With, Through And About Water" (co-organized with Franz Krause) Annual Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth, Durham, UK, July 3 - 6, 2016

"Practicing Wetlands: Multiple Waters, Species, and Environmentalisms in Turkey," in the Rappaport Paper Prize panel (organizer: Anthropology and Environment section), American Anthropological Association annual conference, Denver, CO, October 18 - 22, 2015

"Moral Ecosystems, Absent Services: Multispecies Politics in Turkish Coastal Wetlands," in the panel "Contested Renditions of Ecological Realities I: Environmental Services (organizers: Raoni Rajão and Claire Waterton), Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, November 11 - 17, 2015

"Reinscribing Turkish Wetlands: Communities of Practice and Shifting Waterscapes on the Black Sea," in the panel "Imagining Wetlands," (organizer: Franz Krause), Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM), "Geographical Imagination: Interpretations of Nature, Art and Politics," Tallinn and Tartu, Estonia, June 15 - 19, 2015

"How to Make a Biocultural Wetland: Water Infrastructure and Multispecies Struggles in Turkey," in the panel "Aqueous Infrastructures" (co-organizer with Jessica Barnes), American Anthropological Association annual conference, Washington DC, December 3 - 7, 2014

"Sulak Alanlarında bir Halk Laboratuvarı" [A Public Laboratory in the Wetlands], in the roundtable "Wetlands, Civil Society and Media," Third National Wetland Conference, Ondokuz Mayıs University, Samsun, Turkey, October 23 - 25, 2013

"Wetland (as) Infrastructure: Field Reflections from Turkey," in the panel "Environmental infrastructures: STS's anthropology of nature-cultures - II: Water," Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting and European Society for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), Copenhagen, Denmark, October 17 - 20, 2012

"Making Water Quality on the Mystic: a Multispecies Ethnography of Advocacy Science," in the panel: "Living Water" (organizers: Franz Krause and Veronica Strang) Annual Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth, Lampeter, Wales, UK, September 13 - 16, 2011

"ALB006: The Quality of Water," screening and panel discussion at "Sensing the Unseen," Sawyer Seminar on the Comparative Study of Cultures, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, sponsored by MIT Anthropology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 6, 2011

Public Presentations

"Anthropology of Water: Tales of an Urban River," at *Doğa Derneği* / Bird Life International Turkey, Izmir, Turkey, October 9, 2013

"Experiencing the Quality of Water" presentation and screening of "ALB006: The Quality of Water" film, at Sprouts, Somerville, MA (theme: "The Phenomenology of Sewerage"), February 20, 2012

Workshops

"Three Seed Stories," at the Ecological History Workshop, August 16-17, 2020

"Water's Sediments," at the Middle East Ecology Workshop, University of South Carolina, February 20-22, 2020

"Emergent Wetland Animals in Turkey," at the Middle Eastern Animals Workshop, funded by Instiut für Orientalistik and Yale MacMillan Center, University of Vienna, June 27-28, 2019

"Beyond Living with Animals: Water Buffalo Kinship and Biopolitics," at the Emergent Ecologies of the Middle East Workshop, Amherst College, April 21, 2018

"How Wetlands Became Infrastructural: The Making of a Global Ecology," Political Ecology Working Group, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, November 17, 2017

"Middle East Environmental Worlds" digital workshop, November 10 - 11, 2017

"Lived Histories of Flows and Sediments in a Turkish Wetland," Ecological History in Asia and the World, funded by the Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University, October 27 - 28, 2017 (invited participant)

"Emergent Wetland Wild," The Biosphere in the Middle East and North Africa: Global Currents in Place, funded by the Global Studies Program, University of Virginia, April 28 - 29, 2017 (invited participant)

Animal Studies, Faculty Research Group, Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, spring semester, 2017

"The Wetland Is Disappearing': Conservation, Care and Livable Natures on Turkey's Kızılırmak Delta," Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, December 10, 2016

"Rethinking Middle East Environments" digital workshop, October 28 - 29, 2016

"Swamps into Wetlands," DPDF Ecological History fellowship group meeting, Seattle, WA, April 2, 2016

"Practicing Wetlands: Ethics of Care In The Kızılırmak Delta," Political Ecology Working Group (PEWG), Harvard University Anthropology Department, March 11, 2016

"Water Buffaloes, Feral Horses, and Waterbirds in the Making and Unmaking of Wetlands' Livable Nature," Environmental History Working Group, Harvard University Center for the Environment, December 9, 2015

"Bovine Biopolitics and Bio-Objectification in the Kızılırmak Delta, Turkey," in the workshop "Bio-Objects Meet Multispecies Ethnography," Sponsored by the MIT Anthropology department and the Bio-Objects network, MIT, October 30, 2015

"Digital Ecologies: Codesigning Data Narratives" Digital STS Workshop, organized by Harvard metaLAB and the Harvard Arboretum, Boston, MA, June 27 - 28, 2013

"Swamps to Wetlands: Research Prospectus," Workshop on Water and Sustainability, (organizers: Steve Caton and Ben Orlove), Harvard Anthropology Department, partially funded by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge, MA, April 26 - 29, 2013

"Making Water Quality on the Mystic River," Workshop on Water and Sustainability, (organizers: Steve Caton and Ben Orlove), Harvard Anthropology Department, partially funded by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge, MA, April 30 - May 1, 2011

Panel and Conference Leadership

Ecological History Workshop, August 2020

"Quo Vadis, 'New Turkey'? Taking Stock of Ethnographic Knowledge on Minorities, Penal Policy, International Politics, and Neonationalism Inside/Out," panel chair, American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual conference, San Jose, California, November 14 - 18, 2018

"Emergent Ecologies of the Middle East," workshop and event organizer, Amherst College, April 20-21 2018

"Seeds, Culture, Power: A Conversation on the Art and Politics of Cultivation," panel organizer, Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, March 21, 2018

"Intimate Exposures," panel chair and co-organizer (with Stefanie Greater), American Anthropological Association annual conference, Washington DC, November 29 - December 5, 2017

"The Politics and Poetics of Conservation," conference co-organizer, Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, February 18, 2017

"Heritage in Biology, Biology as Heritage," panel co-organizer (with Grace Kim and Cristina Grasseni), 4S/EASSTS, Barcelona, August 31 - September 1, 2016

"Muddy Footsteps and Hydrosocial Futures: Understanding Relationality With, Through and About Water," panel co-organizer and chair (with Franz Krause), Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth, University of Durham, July 4 - 7, 2016

"Toxic Natures: Senses and Sediment," panel chair and co-organizer (with Timothy Choy), American Anthropological Association annual conference, Denver, CO, November 16 - 20, 2015

"Aqueous Infrastructures," panel chair and co-organizer (with Jessica Barnes), American Anthropological Association annual conference, Washington DC, December 3 - 7, 2014

Discussant

"Modern Forestry Regimes: Colony and Nation," panel discussant, *The Wood Age in Asia: Connection and Comparison in Forest History*, Yale University, September 21 - 23, 2018

"Care and Decay," at *The Politics and Poetics of Conservation* sponsored by the Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, February 18, 2017

"Substances that Specify," at *Navigating a Multispecies World: A Graduate Student Conference on the Species Turn*, sponsored by the Harvard Program on Science, Technology, and Society (STS), the Harvard Department of Anthropology, the MIT Department of Anthropology, Harvard Political Ecology Working Group (PEWG), and Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, April 25 - 26, 2013

Teaching

Teaching Areas

Environmental anthropology; socio-cultural anthropology; anthropology of science, technology, and infrastructure; anthropology of water; social theory; Turkey, Middle East, and the Mediterranean

Coverage of Teaching Innovations

"How One Class Is Adapting to BU's Learn from Anywhere Model" (dir. Devin Hahn), *BU Today*, <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2020/students-and-teachers-reflect-on-bu-learn-from-anywhere-model>

Courses at Boston University

"Introduction to Cultural Anthropology," Anthropology Department, 2020 and 2021

"Water Resources and the Environment," Department of Earth and Environment, 2020 (selected lectures online at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUb2f0mu0vWuZIr_47oZhVMNfVHIFufba)

"Culture and the Environment," Anthropology Department, 2020 (selected lectures online at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUb2f0mu0vWsxF2zTN5wtsC2uXmQjJBFE>)

"Food and Water," Anthropology Department, 2019

Courses at Amherst College

"Living with Animals," Anthropology Department, 2017 and 2018

"Environmental Anthropology," Anthropology Department, 2016 and 2017

Courses at MIT (Teaching Assistant)

"DV Lab: Documenting Science through Film and New Media," Anthropology Department, 2016

"What is Capitalism?" Anthropology Department, 2015

"Environmental History," History Department, 2012

"How Culture Works," Anthropology Department, 2011

Service

Peer Reviewing

American Anthropologist

American Ethnologist

Case Studies in the Environment

Catalyst

Cultural Anthropology

Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment
International Journal of Middle East Studies
Political and Legal Anthropology Review (PoLAR)
Social Anthropology

Thesis Advising

BA thesis reader for Yushi Shao, Amherst College Anthropology	2018
BA thesis reader for Brock Parent, UMass Amherst Anthropology and Political Economy and Social Thought	2018
BA Thesis reader for Melissa Sheth, Amherst College Anthropology	2017

Working Groups

Middle East Environmental Worlds Working Group, co-founder	2015 - present
--	----------------

Committees

History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS) program, MIT, graduate admissions committee	2012
---	------

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

American Anthropological Association (AAA) — Anthropology and Environment Society
European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
Society for the Social Study of Science (4S)

Video Documentaries

<i>Kitemappers</i> , 10 min.	2014
<i>Playformed</i> , 10 min.	2013
<i>ALB006: The Quality of Water</i> , 10 min.	2011

Languages

Italian: native
Turkish: fluent

References

Stefan Helmreich Elting E. Morison Professor of Anthropology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sgh2@mit.edu

Christine Walley Professor of Anthropology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, cwalley@mit.edu

Deborah Gewertz G. Henry Whitcomb Professor of Anthropology, Amherst College, dbgewertz@amherst.edu

Harriet Ritvo Arthur J. Conner Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ritvo@mit.edu

Last Updated: October 4, 2020