

Kyle Bikowski

The University of Iowa
Department of Anthropology
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EDUCATION

The University of Iowa (UI), Iowa City, IA August 2020 -Present
Ph.D. in Anthropology

Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, LA 2018-2020
M.A. in Anthropology

Thesis: *Not All Fun and Gaymes: Technology, Transgression and Representation Among Gaymers*

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC), Appleton, WI 2015-2018
A.A.S. in Business Management
Emphasis: Global Business

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (UWO), Oshkosh, WI 2012-2013
B.A. in International Studies
Emphases: Asian Studies, Religious Studies

University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH), Honolulu, HI 2009-2011
B.A. in Anthropology
Minor: Asian Studies

CERTIFICATES

The University of Iowa

- Graduate Certificate in College Teaching May 2026
- Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies May 2024

Fox Valley Technical College 2018

- Intercultural Relations
- Spanish
- Teaching English as a Second Language

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Video Game Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Geek Culture, Masculinities, LGBTQ+ Studies, Virtual Spaces, Techno-Religion, Latin America, The United States

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters in Edited Books

Bikowski, Kyle. 2025. "Más Allá de La Diversidad y La Representación: Cuatro Recomendaciones Para Crear Una Inclusión Queer Significativa En Los Videojuegos." In *El Juego Como Transformado Social*, edited by Mauricio Rangel Jiménez, Blanca Estela López Pérez, and Edgar Meritano Corrales, 145–76. Mexico City, Mexico: Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana.

Peer Reviewed Articles

Bikowski, Kyle. 2023. “‘There’s Power in That Y’: How Gaymers Manage Imbricated Stigma through an Equipollent Identity.” *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking* 10 (1): 25–47. <https://doi.org/10.14321/qed.10.1.0025>.

Bikowski, Kyle. 2021. “Holy Problematics Fabman!: How Current Representations Create a Missed Opportunity for Superhero Comics to Aid in Gay Youth Identity Development.” *Journal of Gender Studies* 30 (3): 282–91. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2020.1838889>.

Book Reviews

Bikowski, Kyle. 2020. Marketing to Potential Soldiers Through Video Games. Review of *America’s Digital Army: Games at Work and War* by Robertson Allen. *Anthropology News*. <https://www.anthropology-news.org/?book-review=marketing-to-potential-soldiers-through-video-games>

Bikowski, Kyle. 2019. Doing Archaeology in “Meatspace” and “Metaspace.” Review of *Archaeogaming: An Introduction to Archaeology in and of Video Games* by Andrew Reinhard. *Anthropology News*. <http://www.anthropology-news.org/?book-review=doing-archaeology-in-meatspace-andmetaspace>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Gayming Beyond Games: Play as a Foundational Component to Community Building Among Gaymers in Mexico

Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, November 21, 2025

Tilting the Joystick Forward: Fun, Play, and Identity Work Amongst Mexican Gaymers

Digital Games Research Association Annual Conference, Guadalajara, Mexico. July 1, 2024

Inverting “Fag Discourse”: How Gaymers in Mexico Use Memes About “Los FIFAs” to Critique Chauvinistic Masculinity

Iowa State University Women’s and Gender Studies Conference, Ames, IA. April 15, 2023

Not All Fun and Gaymes: Technology, Transgression and Representation Among Gaymers

Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference, Providence, RI. November 9, 2019

Merging Servers: The Fusion of Gay and Gamer in to Gaymer

Annual Meeting of the Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers, Ft. Worth, TX. October 11, 2019

Super Gay!: When Gay Superheroes Follow a Heteronormative Framework, Things Get Weird

Louisiana Queer Conference, Baton Rouge, LA. March 30, 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Fieldwork: Department of Anthropology, UI Summer 2024- Summer 2025

- Spent one year in Querétaro, Mexico working with the same group of Gaymers from Spring 2024
- Conducting participant observation during group hangouts, geek conventions, cultural holidays, and individually
- Conducting group and individual interviews in Spanish with Gaymers

Preliminary Dissertation Fieldwork: Department of Anthropology, UI Spring 2024

- Spent three months in Querétaro, Mexico working with a second group of 25 Gaymers

- Conducted participant observation during board game nights, group hangouts, and with individuals
- Conducted interviews in Spanish with Gaymers

Preliminary Dissertation Fieldwork: Department of Anthropology, UI Summer 2023

- Spent six weeks in Querétaro, Mexico working with a group of 30 Gaymers
- Conducted participant observation during group events
- Conducted interviews in Spanish with Gaymers

Preliminary Dissertation Fieldwork: Department of Anthropology, UI Summer 2022

- Spent two weeks each in Mexico City, Querétaro, and Guadalajara, Mexico interviewing Gaymers about their experiences
- Conducted participant observation during group events

Digital Ethnographic Fieldwork: Department of Anthropology, UI Summer 2021

- Spent three months analyzing member posts and memes in two 5000+ member Facebook Groups for Mexican Gaymers
- Conducted Zoom interviews in Spanish
- Analyzed data with Qualitative and Quantitative Software

Master's Thesis Project: Department of Geography and Anthropology, LSU Spring 2019- Spring 2020

- Combined actual and virtual ethnographic methods with digital archival research and autoethnography to examine how the interplay of actual and virtual worlds helped form the Gaymer identity
- Examined issues of gender and gender performance, representation, technology, and community

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, UI, Iowa City, IA

ANTH 1101: Cultural Anthropology (On Zoom) Summer 2024

Supervised Instruction, UI, Iowa City, IA

ANTH 2165: Native Peoples of North America Discussion Sections Spring 2026

ANTH 1101: Cultural Anthropology Discussion Sections Fall 2025

ANTH 2100: Anth & Contemporary World Problems Discussion Sections Fall 2023

ANTH 1101: Cultural Anthropology Discussion Sections Spring 2022-Spring 2023

ANTH 1401: Language, Communication, and Culture Discussion Sections Fall 2021

ANTH 1101: Cultural Anthropology Discussion Sections Fall 2020-Spring 2021

- Led three discussion sections per week throughout the semester
- Held regular office hours and graded assignments

Teaching Assistant, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA

GEOG 2050: Physical Geography: The Atmosphere Spring 2020

- Held Regular Office hours and graded papers for Instructor

ANTH 1003: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology Fall 2018- Fall 2019

- Taught guest lectures
- Held regular office hours and graded papers for Instructor

Guest Lecturer

ANTH 2051: Introduction to World Ethnography, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA Nov. 20, 2019

HSS 1000: Introduction to Research, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA Nov. 14, 2019

Teaching English as a Second Language Practicum, FVTC, Appleton, WI Fall 2017

- Taught an English as a Second Language lecture
- Participated in classroom observations
- Designed syllabi, lectures, homework, and assessments for ESL classes

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$24,998) 2024
100,000 Strong in the Americas Grant Student Recipient 2016

Internal

T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$5,000) 2024
June Helm Graduate Student Scholarship (\$2,851) 2024
June Helm Graduate Student Scholarship (\$3,167) 2023
June Helm Graduate Student Scholarship (\$2,819) 2022
UI Stanley Fellowship for International Research (\$2,400) 2021
LSU Student Technology Fee Grant (\$11,440) 2019
LSU Graduate Student Association Travel Grant (\$250) 2019
Robert C. West Graduate Student Grant (\$300) 2019

AWARDS AND HONORS

LSU Anthropology Department William G. Haag Student Conference Paper Award,
Awarded for "Not all Fun and Gaymes" presented at 2019 EPIC conference (\$250) 2020
Lambda Alpha, National Anthropology Honor Society 2019
Phi Theta Kappa, International Honor Society 2017

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Peer Reviewer

Social Media + Society 1 Article
Journal of Gender Studies 1 Article

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Senator, Graduate Student Senate, UI Aug. 2023- Dec. 2023
President, ANTHGRAD, UI May 2022- May 2023
New Student Liaison, ANTHGRAD, UI May 2021- May 2022
Co-President, Geography and Anthropology Society, LSU Jan. 2019-Jan. 2020
English Tutor for English Language Learning Students, FVTC Jan. 2017-May 2017
Community Desk Coordinator, UH Aug. 2009-May 2011
Resident Adviser, UH Aug. 2009- May 2010

LANGUAGES

English, *fluent*
Spanish, *conversational*