

# Jonathan Eaton, PhD

Socio-cultural Anthropologist

Disaster Resilience Research Network  
University of British Columbia  
6250 Applied Science Lane  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4 Canada

—  
jonathan.eaton@ubc.ca  
—

+1-360-477-9048

## CURRENT POSITION

2025 - Executive Director, Disaster Resilience Research Network, and Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Department of Civil Engineering, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

## EDUCATION

- 2025 **PhD in Anthropology, University of British Columbia (UBC)**  
*Dissertation title:* Anticipating disaster: Uncertainty, heritage, and place-making in  
Vancouver, Canada (<https://doi.org/10.14288/1.0447124>)  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Sara Shneiderman
- 2011 **Master of Arts in Anthropology, University of Toronto**  
*MRP title:* Trauma and Recovery: Re-Signifying Communist-era Sites of Memory in  
Contemporary Albania  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Lena Mortensen
- 2009 **Bachelor of Arts in History, summa cum laude, Valparaiso University**  
Valparaiso, Indiana  
Minors in Humanities and Classical Languages  
Christ College Scholar (interdisciplinary honors program)  
International Studies Program in Cambridge, UK

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am a socio-cultural anthropologist with a focus on heritage, the anthropology of space and place, and the anthropology of disaster. In my current work, I am seeking to understand the affective connections among people, heritage, and hazards within the multilayered temporalities of disaster planning in Vancouver. I ask how a bit of care and cultivation of place can help people preserve what they value in the face of the unpredictability of earthquakes in this region. My past experience as a Fulbright scholar and heritage practitioner in Albania with the organization Cultural Heritage without Borders taught me to appreciate the importance of everyday moments connecting people and place.

**Keywords:** Heritage, space and place, values, urban/disaster planning, disaster recovery, uncertainty, futures, natural hazards, human-nonhuman relations, Vancouver, Canada

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Peer-reviewed articles**

- 2024            The state of disaster and resilience literature in British Columbia, Canada. A systematic scoping review. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 113. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2024.104848> (with C. Milne, T. Legere, S. Shneiderman, C. Molina Hutt)
- 2022            Heritage Languages and Language as Heritage: The Language of Heritage in Canada and Beyond. *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 28(7). <https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2022.2077805> (with M. Turin)
- 2014            Chiseling away at a concrete legacy: Engaging with Communist-era heritage and memory in Albania. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 39(3), 312-319. <https://doi.org/10.1179/0093469014Z.00000000084> (with E. Roshi)

### **Book chapters**

- 2022            Austrian Economics on Mushrooms: A Mycelial Approach to Understanding Market Processes in Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning in Vancouver, Canada. In *Market Process and Market Order: Key Contributions*. Eds. Christopher Coyne, Rosolino Candela and Kristen Collins. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- 2022            Acting Out the Future of the Albanian National Theatre: New Heritage at the Intersection of Resistance and New Media. In *Theorizing Heritage through Non-Violent Resistance*. Eds. Evren Uzer and Feras Hammami. London: Palgrave, 41-69. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77708-1\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77708-1_3) (with K. Rocker)
- 2017            Rebuilding the Broken: Regional Restoration Camps as a Meeting Platform in the Western Balkans. In *Heritage and Peacebuilding*. Eds. Diana Walters, Daniel Laven and Peter Davis. Suffolk, UK: Boydell & Brewer, 205-219. (with L. Hadžić)

### **Reviews**

- 2021            Living with Earthquakes, Past and Future. Review of *Shake Up* and *A Future for Memory*, Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia. *Visual Anthropology Review* 37(2), 463-469. <https://doi.org/10.1111/var.12252>

### **Conference proceedings**

- 2018            Heritage-making and Democratic Ideals in Albania: Spaç Prison as a Site of Dialogue. New Delhi, India. *Proceedings of the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium*. (with M. Bllaci, N. Petri, L. Hadžić, and E. Mamani)

- 2018 Hands-on Cooperation: The Regional Restoration Camps Experience in the Balkans. New Delhi, India. *Proceedings of the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium*. (with L. Hadžić, E. Mamani, M. Bllaci, and R. Eppich)
- 2014 Restoration, Reconciliation, Hopes for the Future: Cultural Heritage without Borders – 17 years in the Western Balkans. In *The Politics of Heritage and Memory*. Zagreb: University of Zagreb. (with L. Hadžić)

### Other publications

- 2023 As we fight the Alberta and B.C. wildfires, we must also plan for future disasters. *The Conversation*. May 19. <https://theconversation.com/as-we-fight-the-alberta-and-b-c-wildfires-we-must-also-plan-for-future-disasters-205818> (with S. Shneiderman)
- 2016 The Consequences of Neglect: Confronting Neglected Heritage as an Integral Part of Emergency Preparedness and Response. *e-dialogos* 5, 42-51.
- 2016 A Dialogue Toolkit: Tips and Techniques from the Dialogues for Spaç Project. Cultural Heritage without Borders-Albania and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. Available at: <https://www.sitesofconscience.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Spac-Toolkit-2017-Final.pdf> (with M. Bllaci, N. Petri, and K. Rocker)
- 2015 Guide for First Aid on Built Heritage in Kosovo. Prishtina, Kosovo: SAS. (with Gj. Hoxha, I. Mejzini, F. Caka, Y. Vokshi, S. Boshtrakaj, V. Aliu, A. Tandon, R. Jigyasu and M. Jaramillo Contreras)
- 2015 Overview Report of the Nepal Cultural Emergency Crowdmap Initiative. Available at: <https://www.iccrom.org/news/nepal-cultural-emergency-report> (with colleagues from ICCROM and ICOMOS-ICORP)
- 2015 Tirana: Life After Demolition. *Clog: Landmark*. (with S. Battisti)
- 2010 Voice of the Western Balkans, Voice of Europe. *Tirana Times*, 7. (with T. Hashimoto and M. Dulaku)

### Museum/heritage exhibitions

- 2018 Project lead. Interpretation of the Castle of Gjirokastra. Gjirokastra, Albania.
- 2009 Curator. Exhibition of Jordanian pottery. Brauer Museum of Art. Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 UBC Department of Anthropology Dissertation Writing Award

2019 - 2022	Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
2019 - 2022	UBC Public Scholars Initiative
2018 - 2023	UBC PhD Four-Year Fellowship
2020 - 2021	UBC President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award
2019	UBC Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Research Award
2018 - 2019	UBC Faculty of Arts Graduate Award
2011 - 2012	American Councils Title VIII Southeast European Language and Research Fellowship
2010 - 2011	University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Sciences Graduate Studies Fellowship
2009 - 2010	J. William Fulbright Award, Albania
2009	Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master's (declined)
2009	Marvel Stockwell Scholarship from Pi Gamma Mu

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

2025	Erve Chambers Heritage & Tourism Student Paper Award - Honorable Mention
2014	European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award in the category of "Education, Training and Awareness-raising" (with CHwB-Albania)
2011	Best graduate student paper. World Archaeological Congress, Inter-Congress. June 22 - 25. Indianapolis, IN, USA
2009	Phi Beta Kappa, academic honor society, Valparaiso University, USA
2008	Dean's Choice Award, Valparaiso University Celebration of Undergraduate Scholarship
2008	Pi Gamma Mu, international social sciences honor society, Valparaiso University, USA
2008	Phi Alpha Theta, national history honor society, Valparaiso University, USA
2008	Eta Sigma Phi, national classics honor society, Valparaiso University, USA
2005	National Merit Scholar

## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

### Conferences organized

- 2021 Organizer and session chair. Un/Predictable Environments: Politics, Ecology, Agency. International virtual conference. May 20-21. Vancouver, Canada. Supervised 4 staff.
- 2014 - 2017 Organizer and facilitator. Balkan Museum Network Annual Conference "Meet, See, Do." Multi-day international conference. Tirana, Albania (2014); Novi Sad, Serbia (2015); Shkodra, Albania (2016); Prishtina, Kosovo (2017).

### Workshops and seminars organized

- 2024 Two-week Regional Restoration Camp on oral history and interpretive trails. Cultural Heritage without Borders, Gjirokastra, Albania.
- 2022 - 2024 UBC Disaster Resilience Research Network organizational planning workshops. December 2022, September 2023, April 2024. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.
- 2021 Emergency Response and Salvage for Cultural Institutions. BC Heritage Emergency Response Network (BC HERN). April 18 - 19. Virtual workshop.
- 2018 Connecting South Asian and Himalayan Research Communities Across Cascadia. November 2 - 3. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.
- 2018 Beyond the Grave: A Symposium on the Politics of Dead Bodies in (Post)Socialist Albania. Tirana, Albania.
- 2016 - 2018 CHwB Regional Restoration Camps. Two-week intensive hands-on heritage training. July 2016, July 2017, June 2018. Shkodra, Albania.
- 2016 International Course on Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage. Balkan Cultural Aid Response for Emergencies (B+CARE). November 7 - 27. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Prishtina, Kosovo; Gjirokastra, Albania.
- 2016 Volunteer Training on First Aid for Cultural Heritage. Balkan Cultural Aid Response for Emergencies (B+CARE). March 14 - 18. Gjirokastra, Albania.
- 2014 Dialogues for Spaç. Series of multi-day workshops. Documenting and understanding (June), Visioning (October), Planning (December)

### Invited research talks

- 2022 Culture and Disasters: A View from Anthropology. November 16. Dunbar Earthquake and Emergency Preparedness (DEEP). Vancouver, Canada.
- 2021 Research presentation to City of Vancouver Sustainability Group. October 26. Vancouver, Canada.

**Invited professional talks (for CHwB-Albania)**

- 2018 Living communities, living heritage. Presentation and workshop. UNESCO World Heritage Youth Forum. June 18. Bahrain.
- 2018 From Mines to Mind-maps: A Dialogue-based Approach to Museum Planning at Spaç Prison. Network of European Museum Organizations (NEMO) Webinar. June 25. Tirana, Albania.
- 2018 Heritage-making for the Future: Unlocking Dialogue and Action at Spaç Prison. Widening the Debate on the Cultural Heritage of the Dictatorship in Albania. May 25. Tirana, Albania.
- 2016 Restoring and Building Relations: Heritage for Building Peace. International course on Building National Capacities in First Aid and Risk Management for Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict. October 30. ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Center, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.
- 2016 Taking Action: First Aiders After FAC and Restoring and Building Relations: Planning for Post-Conflict Recovery. International course on First Aid for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis. June 24. Washington, DC.
- 2016 Public debate: Heritage and Identity Politics in Wars and Conflicts. April 18. Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 2016 Lessons Learned from the Balkan Experience: Our Approach to Cultural Tourism. Regional Ecotourism Initiative. Community Ecotourism Training. March 3. Lotan, Israel.
- 2015 Heritage, Cross-cultural Conflict and Development: Lessons Learned from the Balkan Experience. Regional Ecotourism Initiative, Expert Meeting. February 13. Madaba, Jordan.

**Conference presentations**

- 2025 Heritage in Recovery: Shifting perspectives on making place amidst disaster potentiality in Vancouver, Canada. Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Annual Meeting. March 25 - 29. Portland, OR.
- 2023 Converging Crises and Diverging Temporalities in Vancouver, Canada. Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Annual Meeting. March 28-April 1. Cincinnati, OH.
- 2022 What is the greenest building? Imagining Housing, Heritage, and the Future of the Built Landscape in Vancouver, Canada. American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting. November 9-13. Seattle, WA.

- 2021 Rebuilding the Future: Disaster Anticipation and Recovery Planning in Vancouver, Canada. The Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies (NEEDS). September 21-23. Östersund, Sweden.
- 2021 Converging Crises and Seismic Uncertainty in Vancouver, Canada. Un/Predictable Environments: Politics, Ecology, Agency. May 20-21. Vancouver, Canada.
- 2019 Projecting dystopia: Art and the right to the city. American Anthropological Association (AAA) / Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCAS). November 20 - 24. Vancouver, Canada.
- 2017 Balkan Cultural Aid Response for Emergencies (B+CARE). First Aid for Culture Design Workshop. October 16 - 20. ICCROM, Rome, Italy.
- 2017 Heritage-making and Democratic Ideals in Albania: Spaç Prison as a Site of Dialogue. 19<sup>th</sup> ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium. December 11 - 15. New Delhi, India.
- 2013 Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Cultural Heritage Regeneration in a Post-Conflict Kosovo. Annual conference of the International National Trust Organization. September 29 - October 3. Entebbe, Uganda.
- 2013 Restoration, Reconciliation, Hopes for the Future: Cultural Heritage without Borders: 17 Years in the Western Balkans. The Politics of Heritage & Memory. October 9. Zadar, Croatia.
- 2011 Museums, Indigeneity and Crises of Identity in the Western Balkans. World Archaeological Congress, Inter-Congress. June 22 - 25. Indianapolis, IN, USA.
- 2009 Understanding History: Interpreting the Past through the Interpretations of Others. National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). April 16 - 18. LaCrosse, WI, USA.
- 2008 Receptive Agnosticism and the Scientific Method: Reconciling Faith and Science within Biblical Archaeology. National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). April 10 - 12. Salisbury, MD, USA.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025 ANTH110: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Instructor of Record, Department of Anthropology, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI
- 2022 ANTH100: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Graduate Teaching Assistant (planning, leading, and grading for 3 seminar-style tutorials, weekly), Department of Anthropology, University of British Columbia

2010 - 2011     ANT204: Anthropology in the Contemporary World, Graduate Teaching Assistant (planning and leading tutorials, grading), Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto

## SERVICE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2018 -            Double blind peer review for *International Journal of Heritage Studies* (2), *Irish Journal of Anthropology* (2), *East European Politics and Societies* (1) and *Politics, Religion and Ideology* (1)

2018 -            Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA), University of British Columbia; Vice President (2020-2021); produced study and report on COVID-19 impacts on current graduate students; represented graduate students on task force to resolve role of students on tenure-track faculty hiring committees; mentored incoming graduate students, including 3 winners of the Vanier CGS and 1 winner of the Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship

2023              Co-organized a series of public “Reading Room” seminars on heritage and disasters with Heritage Vancouver Society

2022              Desk review and commentary on risk preparedness for UNESCO World Heritage nomination on behalf of ICOMOS-ICORP

2021 - 2022      General Volunteer, Emergency Support Services, Vancouver, BC

2019 - 2021      Reviewer of nominations for World Monument Fund Watch List

2018              Participant, “International Leadership Course on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis,” Brabant, Netherlands, 24-31 August, organized by ICCROM, Prince Claus Fund, Smithsonian Institution, and UNESCO Netherlands

2018              Participant in developmental evaluation of the Regional Restoration Camps, the flagship program of Cultural Heritage without Borders - Albania

2015              Participant, International Course “First Aid for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis,” Amsterdam, Netherlands, 30 March - 24 April, organized by ICCROM, Prince Claus Fund, Smithsonian Institution, and UNESCO Netherlands

2012              External Reviewer, Fulbright/Humphrey Award Selection Committee, US Embassy in Albania

2010 - 2011      Volunteer, World Cultures Department, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

2007              Volunteer, Coins and Medals Department, Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK



## MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2022 - Facilitated media engagement with members of UBC Disaster Resilience Research Network
- 2023 Published article in *The Conversation* (see 'Other publications') on disaster planning; republished by local independent news source *The Tyee*
- 2023 Interviewed on live radio on QR Calgary
- 2023 Quoted in *Modern Farmer* article, titled "Canada's Wildfires Threaten Its Farmers From All Sides"

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2024 - Emergency preparedness survey, focus groups, and analysis in partnership with the City of Vancouver Emergency Management Agency
- 2020 - 2021 Ethnographic dissertation fieldwork in Vancouver, Canada, "Anticipating disaster: Uncertainty, heritage, and place-making in Vancouver"
- 2019 - 2020 Research Assistant, "Expertise, Labour and Mobility in Nepal's Post-Conflict, Post-Disaster Reconstruction," University of British Columbia
- 2018 - 2020 Research Assistant, "From Nepal to Vancouver: An Ethnographic Scoping Exercise & Knowledge Exchange Event about Earthquakes, Heritage & Governance," University of British Columbia
- 2019 Pre-dissertation scoping fieldwork in Nepal and Louisiana
- 2018 Research Assistant, "Connecting South Asian & Himalayan Research Communities Across Cascadia," University of British Columbia
- 2009 - 2010 Fulbright Scholar (Albania), MA fieldwork on communist-era heritage
- 2008 Library Research Assistant / Smithsonian Institution Katzenberger Intern, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, NY

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2025 - Executive Director, Disaster Resilience Research Network, and Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Civil Engineering, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- 2024 - 2025 Consulting for the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR) program

2022 - 2024	Coordinator, Disaster Resilience Research Network (DRRN), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
2023 - 2024	Consulting for Cultural Heritage without Borders - Albania (CHWB-Albania) on "The Drino Valley Monasteries Cultural Routes: Connecting Rural Communities"
2012 - 2018	Program Officer, Cultural Heritage without Borders - Albania (CHWB), Tirana, Albania
2011 - 2012	Museum Consultant, Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Organization, Gjirokastra, Albania

## LANGUAGES

**English** (native) | **Albanian** (working fluency) | **Spanish** (intermediate)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2022 -	Member, American Anthropological Association (AAA)
2022 -	Member, Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)
2016 -	Associate Member, ICOMOS International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP)
2015 -	Member, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

## REFERENCES

Professional and academic references available upon request.