



Tomasz Rakowski

Professor Tomasz Rakowski



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[Tomasz Rakowski](#) [1] (PhD, habilitated) is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw. He is especially interested in postsocialist transformations and vernacular forms of socio-economic developments. He also works on experimental and collaborative methodology in ethnography.

[Area of interest](#)

anthropology & social art, phenomenological anthropology, pre-textual ethnography, studies on poverty and social trauma, bottom-up development in Poland and Mongolia.

[Biography](#)

[Tomasz Rakowski](#) [1], PhD (habilitated), is an ethnologist and cultural anthropologist, an Associate Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw, a Lecturer at the Institute of Polish Culture, and a Fellow of Polish Council for Scientific Excellence; he is also a medical doctor, a specialist in Accident & Emergency medicine. He conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Poland and Mongolia. The author of two ethnographic monographs, multiple edited volumes, and peer-reviewed articles. Recently he published *Hunters, Gatherers, and Practitioners of Powerlessness: An Ethnography of the Degraded in Postsocialist Poland*, Berghahn Books, 2016, and *Przepływy, współdziałania, kręgi możliwości. Antropologia powodzenia* [Flows, Cooperations, and the Circles of Possibilities. Anthropology of Fortune-Prosperity], s?owo/obraz terytoria, 2019. He is also the



editor, with Helena Patzer, of *Pretextual Ethnographies: Challenging the Phenomenological Level of Anthropological Knowledge-Making*, Sean Kingston Publishing, 2018. He is especially interested in postsocialist transformation and vernacular forms of socio-economic development, and he works also on experimental methodologies in ethnography.

Selected publications

- Inside a sense. Mayer Kirshenblatt's Shtetl and the Economy of the Impossible. w: (post)Jewish. Shtetl Opatów Through the Eyes of Mayer Kirshenblatt. red. J. Koszarska-Szulc, N. Romik, B. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Warszawa, Wyd. Muzeum Historii Żydów Polskich Polin, 2024, pp. 207-227.
- Escape, Survival, "The Jump": On African Refugee Routes - Żbek, Bachelet, M'charek, Teksty Drugie: English Edition, 2024, 2, pp. 181-199.
- Social deeds, building, and cosmopolitan moment. An ethnographic view on affective labour in (late) socialist Poland, w: Cosmopolitan Method, Cosmopolitan Moment, red. N. Rapport, H. Wardle, Routledge, Londyn, 2023, pp. 138-1
- Generous Thrift. Post-Pastoral Cooperation and Fortune-Making Among the Torghuts of Mongolia, w: Thrift and i Paradoxes. From Domestic to Political Economy, red. C. Alexander, D. Sosna, Berghahn Books, Oxford, 2022, pp. 95-116.
- Przepływy, współdziałania, kręgi możliwości. Antropologia powodzenia [Flows, Cooperations, and the Circles of Possibilities. Anthropology of Fortune-Prosperity], s?owo/obraz terytoria, Gdańsk, 2019, pp. 358.
- Elements of the Country and the Space of the City: Artistic Experiments, in: *The Rural: Documents of Contemporary Art*, Cambridge/Massachusetts, London: MIT Press/Whitechapel Gallery, 2019, pp. 222-227.
- Hunters, Gatherers, and the Practicioners of Powerlessness. An Ethnography of the Degraded in Postsocialist Poland, New York & Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2019 (Pb).
- Ethnography, Art and a Societal Road to Nowhere. The Tear Dealer Project', *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 2019, vol. 36 (1), pp. 76-91.
- A Cultural Cyclotron. Ethnography, Art Experiments and a Challenge of Move Toward the Collaborative in Rural Poland in: *Experimental Collaborations. Ethnography Through Fieldwork Devices* (eds.) T. Sanchez Criado, A. Estalella, New York & Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2018.
- Ethnography and Art Experiments in Rural Poland. Beyond the Culture of Shaming: Coevalness, the Inward Turn, and Proto-sociology. *Second Texts Journal*, 2018, Special Issue: no. 1, pp. 91-110.
- Artisans, Alcoholics and Artists: In Search of Descriptions of Experimental Ethnographic Realities, "Visual Ethnography", 1, 2018, p. 52-65 (co-authored with Ewa Rossal).
- Pre-textual Ethnographies. Challenging the Phenomenological Level of Anthropological Knowledge-Making, [Tomasz Rakowski](#) [1], Helena Patzer (eds.), Canon Pyon: Sean Kingston Publishing 2018.
- Hunters, Gatherers, and the Practicioners of Powerlessness. An Ethnography of the Degraded in Postsocialist Poland, New York & Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2016 (Hb).
- Interior Spectacles. The Art of the Informal among Bootleg Miners in Wałbrzych, Poland, in N. Makovicky and D. Henig (eds.). *Economies of Favour after Socialism: A Comparative Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Creating Bottom-up Development. A Study of Self-Organization and the Buliding of Fortune-Prosperity among the Torghuts, Southwest Mongolia, „český lid-The Czech Ethnological Journal”, 2016, v. 103, no. 1, pp. 119-134.
- Etnografia/animacja/sztuka. Nierozpoznane wymiary rozwoju kulturalnego (Ethnography/Art/Animation. Unmet Dimensions of Cultural Development) (ed.) T. Rakowski, Warszawa: Narodowe Centrum Kultury, 2013.
- The Unrelenting Ability to Act. Nigel Rapport's Anthropology of Freedom, in A. Bentkowski and M. Buchowski (eds) *Colloquia Anthropologica. Issues in Contemporary Social Anthropology*. Poznań: Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje, 2014.
- Local Craft, Theory from Abroad: Jacek Olędzki's Phenomenology, in K. Pobórcki (ed.) *Worlding Europe – Anthropology at the Crossroads*, Special Issue of "Lud" (vol. 96, 2012). WCAA "Dejalu" On-line Journal, available at: http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/dejalu/feb_2014/rakowski.pdf [2]
- Les Verges Figes. Arboriculteurs et Paysans dans L'impasse Économique, "Ethnologie Francaise", 2010, 2.
- Źowcy, zbieracze, praktycy niemocy. Etnografia cz?owieka zdegradowanego (Hunters, Gatherers, and Practicioners of Powerlessness. An Ethnography of the Degraded in Postsocialist Poland) Gdańsk: s?owo



obraz/terytoria , 2009. The Józef Tischner Award (Award of the Znak Publishing House), the Jerzy Giedroyc Award (Marie-Curie University of Lublin), and the Award of the Poznań Review of Books. See a review in the Social Anthropology journal, vol. 19, May 2011, p. 230-231) The English-language translation will be published by Berhahn Books, in the series European Anthropology in Translation, 2016.

- The Voices of Collapse. Destructive and Self-Destructive Expressions among the Former Miners in Wałbrzych (Southwest Poland), in Luse, A. and I. Lazar (eds) *Cosmologies of Suffering. Post-communist Transformation, Sacral Communication, and Healing*, Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2007.
- Body and Fate. The Pension as a Practice of Social Remembering, "Anthropological Yearbook of European Cultures", 2007, 1.
- Gatherers of Central Poland. A Field Study, "Anthropology Matters On-Line Journal" (2, 2006). available at: http://www.anthropologymatters.com/index.php/anth_matters/ar... [3]

Research projects

Tomasz conducted fieldwork in Poland and Mongolia. Recently he has completed two Polish National Science Centre's grants: 1. "Local Dimensions of Development. A Research on New Forms of Bottom-Up Development and Self-Organization among the Torghuts from Bulgan sum in Western Mongolia" 2. "The Challenges of Creative Ethnography – Working Out of the <<Action Research>> Methodology Able to Perceive Peripheral Creative Activities that Combines Perspectives of Dense Anthropological Research, Community Arts, and Contemporary Art Projects"

Awards and Scholarships

Awards:

Nomination for Jan Długosz Prize, 2020

Nomination for Jerzy Giedroyc Award (Award of Marie-Curie University of Lublin), 2019

for the book *Przepływy, współdziałania, kręgi możliwości. Antropologia powodzenia* [Flows, Cooperations, and the Circles of Possibilities. Anthropology of Fortune-Prosperity], 2019.

Rector's Award for Outstanding Scholars, University of Warsaw, 2019.

Józef Tischner Award (Award of Znak Publishing House), 2010

Jerzy Giedroyc Award (Award of Marie-Curie University of Lublin), 2010

Award of the Poznań Review of Books, 2010

Nomination for Jan Długosz Prize, 2010

Clio Prize, University of Warsaw, 2010

for the book *Hunters, Gatherers, and Practicioners of Powerlessness. An Ethnography of the Degraded [in Postsocialist Poland]*, 2009.

Fellowships:

Józef Tischner Senior Visiting Fellowship, Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen/ Institute for Human

Sciences, Vienna, October - December 2020.

Visiting Fellowship, Imre Kertesz Kolleg Jenia, October 2019 - January 2020.

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- [2] http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/dejalu/feb_2014/rakowski.pdf
- [3] http://www.anthropologymatters.com/index.php/anth_matters/article/view/75