

Cara Kerven

PhD Candidate, Division of Social Anthropology

University of Cambridge

Profile

I have a long-standing interest in working with pastoral peoples in Central Asia and parts of East Africa. I am currently undertaking doctoral research on livestock owners in the arid regions of Turkmenistan. Alongside ethnographic research I have consistently sought to illustrate, through photography, the immeasurable skills required for the daily management of family livestock.

Experience

Research partner, Cambridge Central Asia Forum, University of Cambridge 2014

Organized and hosted academics from Turkmenistan to meet with regional specialists at the University of Cambridge, University College London and Imperial College London.

Visiting Researcher, Division of Ecology and Evolution at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine; London, UK 2011-Present

Primary data collector on a Leverhulme Trust funded project assessing rangeland governance in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Employed as Coordinator of two International Fibres Workshops, for Odessa Centre; Oxford, UK 2012

Organized international air travel and visa support for 45 participants, managed the practical aspects of the workshops in Kyrgyzstan and Bolivia, designed publication materials, and prepared final expenditure accounts for auditing to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Rome.

Intern and Data Collector, FAO funded project; Tajikistan 2010

Interviewed producers, traders and local government officials on the emerging cashmere trade between Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and China.

Employed intern, Save the Children USA, Ethiopia 2010

Research and report on the activities on livestock marketing undertaken by SAVE in Southern Ethiopia. Intensive field research in two pastoral areas of Ethiopia, presented findings in a 10-page report.

Website design, University of Cambridge, UK 2009

Part of a project to re-design the Department of Social Anthropology website at the University of Cambridge. Helped in reformatting files, creating database and technical coding.

Internship with Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI), Aberdeen, Scotland 2007-2009

Intern as part of the European Commission-funded project, *Range Enclosure on the Tibetan Plateau of China*. As a field researcher, designed a set of research questions, involving distributing cameras to Tibetan pastoralists and then discussing their resulting images.

Photo-ready formatter and copy editor, Odessa Centre, Oxford, UK 2007

R. Behnke, ed., 2008, *The Socio-Economic Causes and Consequences of Desertification in Central Asia*, Springer, Dordrecht.

E d u c a t i o n

PhD Candidate, Division of Social Anthropology, Darwin College, University of Cambridge.

Masters of Research, Social Anthropology, University College London.

Final grade: Distinction

Completed dissertation based on fieldwork in mountainous regions of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, investigating the social network that forms the basis for the trade in cashmere fibre.

Bachelor of Arts, Archaeology and Anthropology, Girton College, University of Cambridge

Final grade: 2.1

Completed dissertation based on fieldwork in Qinghai and Gansu, Western China, exploring issues of identity and ethnicity for pastoral Tibetans.

S k i l l s

I have been working to develop my abilities in design and photography and have been fortunate to publish several photographs I've taken whilst working aboard, including designing and providing the illustrations for cover of the journal *Pastoralism – Research, Policy and Practice*. In 2008 I wrote a book review for the journal *Nomadic Peoples*, whilst in 2007 I wrote an illustrated article on the role of Turkmen women in ecological management, published in a booklet by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. During my Masters degree at University College London, I won a Graduate Research photography competition and early in my undergraduate education at the University of Cambridge I came first in the Bernie Lee photography competition.

R e f e r r a l s

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