Richard Kernaghan

Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

My work as a cultural anthropologist (PhD, Columbia 2006) explores the enduring effects of political conflict and illicit worlds in historically-charged landscapes, where transnational narco-economies, revolutionary movements, police interdictions and military campaigns converge. My first book, *Coca's Gone* (Stanford UP 2009), analyzed how the law-making violence of guerrilla and counter-insurgency warfare animated Peru's Upper Huallaga Valley, leaving traces on stories people told to make sense of an abrupt downfall in the cocaine trade. I have examined the role coca leaves play in guiding the clandestine journeys of Peruvian cocaine traders—a line of research that contributes to histories of drug trafficking by linking the transportation of illicit substances to the ways presentiment, luck, and other magical attributes become resources for contending with the frenzied pace and risks of narco-capitalism. My new monograph, *Semblance in Terrain* (under contract with Stanford UP), draws on fieldwork photography and video to track how the countryside of the Upper Huallaga has been re-configured in the aftermath of war through new modes of rural transit as well as the Peruvian state's own infrastructural attempts at territorial expansion. As a 2017 Global Fellow, I am designing a multi-year collaborative project on the ethnography of rivers, transit infrastructure and frontier law in the Peru-Colombia-Brazil "triple border" region of lowland Amazonia.

Global Research Interests

- Ethnography of rivers & roads
- Transportation infrastructure
- Material & aesthetic force of terrains
- Frontier law & territoriality
- Ordinary death, dying and the dead
- Legal & visual anthropology
- Ethnographic writing

Countries of Focus

- Peru
- Colombia
- Brazil

Mentor: Christopher McCarty

Professor, Department Chair, Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

ufchris@ufl.edu

Connect

- kernaghan@ufl.edu
- +1 352-294-7585

UF | **Global Fellows Program**
International Center
UNIVERSITY *of* **FLORIDA**