

Department of Anthropology
Fall Virtual Colloquium Series

FRIDAY
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12 pm

Virtual via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/97365469989>

*Animating Grievances: Theorizing
Populism from the Ground Up (A
Venezuelan Case Study)*

Dr. Robert Samet, *Union College*

Abstract: Two decades into the twenty first century and the global rise of populism shows no signs of abating or with it the boom in populism studies. Although the topic of populism seems tailor-made for anthropology's conceptual and methodological toolkit, anthropologists have steered clear of the subject until quite recently. This talk draws on my research in Venezuela to illustrate how anthropology can give us a more complete picture of populist mobilization. Specifically, I want to focus on the injuries and grievances that propel populist movements forward and the way that these injuries and grievances are channeled through the specific practices of journalists, their sources, and their audiences. More broadly, I want to argue that ethnographers are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between the empirical and theoretical literature on populism in a way that is intelligible to a wide range of audiences.

Bio: Robert Samet works on media, law, and politics in the Americas. Since 2006, he has been conducting research in and on Venezuela. Robert's fieldwork alongside crime reporters in Caracas is the subject of an award-winning first book, *Deadline: Populism and the Press in Venezuela* (Chicago 2019) and a series of articles that have featured in *American Ethnologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, and *Journal of Latin American Studies*.

