

## COLA FACULTY MEMBER IN ANTHROPOLOGY

# Dr. Brian A. Hoey



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Brian Hoey received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Michigan (2002). He joined the Marshall University Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the Fall Term 2007.

Hoey's research encompasses a number of themes including personhood and place, migration, narrative identity and life-transition, community building, and negotiations between work, family, and self in different social, historical, and environmental contexts.

Before coming to Marshall, Hoey completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Ethnography of Everyday Life in Ann Arbor, Michigan, an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Center for the Study of Working Families. His longstanding interest in career change, personal identity and the moral meanings of work informs ongoing research on what he terms "New Work," unconventional arrangements of work, family and community life explored by so-called free-agents of the post-industrial economy. His dissertation research in Northwest Lower Michigan explored non-economic or "life-style" migration where downsized and downshifting corporate workers relocate as a means of starting over in geographic places they believe provide necessary refuge to rethink work, family and personal obligations.

In addition to domestic research, Hoey has worked extensively in the Republic of Indonesia. As a Fulbright Scholar, he studied the contested nature of constructing personally and culturally meaningful space within the process of creating imagined and intentional community. He worked in far-flung agrarian settlements built from the ground up as part of a government-sponsored migration program.

Now in its preliminary stages, Hoey's most recent project expresses an ongoing fascination with the anthropology of space and place and, in particular, therapeutic ideals attached to particular physical settings – including the case of purposive communities, ranging from the 19<sup>th</sup> century moral treatment asylum to today's new urbanist developments.

Hoey's active research agenda is an integral part of teaching where his goal is to work with students to find personally meaningful ways to apply anthropological knowledge and practice to real world problems. In addition to collaboration in print, radio, and TV coverage on his work, Dr. Hoey has published on these and other subjects in book chapters and journals such as the *American Ethnologist*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Journal for Contemporary Ethnography*, and *Ethnology*.