

# ELI THORKELSON

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[github.com/decasia](https://github.com/decasia)

## TL:DR

I'm a full-stack web programmer with a doctorate in cultural anthropology. I've designed, built, tested and maintained more than a dozen Ruby on Rails applications for the University of Chicago's Humanities Division. I maintained our web server software stack, relational and NoSQL databases, and integrations with external systems, and I improved our user experiences by integrating Javascript front-end UI frameworks. I've just done a stint in academic teaching and research, and I'm looking to return to full-time software development in the Atlanta area.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

*Languages:* Ruby, PHP, Python, SQL; HTML, CSS, Javascript (ES6); undergrad coursework in Java and C++.

*Web development frameworks:* Ruby on Rails (~6 years), Drupal 6/7/8, Node.js, WordPress.

*Databases:* PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQLite, Mongo, Redis.

*Web front end:* Ember.js, jQuery, d3.js, Freeboard, MobileDoc, jPlayer, PanoJS, Bootstrap; SASS, CoffeeScript.

*Web server software:* Apache, Nginx, Phusion Passenger, Apache Solr, Nagios, Ansible.

*Development software:* Cucumber,RSpec, qUnit; GitHub/GitLab/BitBucket; Asana.

## EMPLOYMENT

Aug 2018– **Research Fellow/Web Developer**, Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University

*Led web projects for a new scholarly society (gathered requirements, managed scope and timelines, surveyed end users).*

*Wrote Ruby scripts to facilitate academic research and scholarly communication.*

*Maintained a Linux webserver for scholarly research projects (Nginx, MySQL, Mailgun integration for email).*

*Maintained server configuration management in Ansible.*

*Deployed website content and configuration from Git.*

*Developed web projects in PHP (Drupal 8 and WordPress, with CSS theming and custom module development).*

*Published research papers on the politics of higher education.*

Sep 2017– **Lecturer/Web Administrator**, Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University

Jul 2018

*Taught undergraduate and graduate classes.*

*Maintained a Linux webserver for research projects (Nginx, MySQL).*

*Managed content and graphic design for an academic departmental website (WordPress).*

*Supervised student workers.*

*Published research papers on the politics of higher education.*

Jan 2016– **Postdoctoral Fellow/Applications Developer**, Digital Liberal Arts Center, Whittier College

Jul 2017

*Designed and implemented web applications to support student learning.*

*Developed Javascript-based front end interfaces in Ember.js.*

*Implemented custom text editing interface using MobileDoc, with Bootstrap for user interface elements.*

*Designed and built Ruby on Rails applications with JSON API interfaces, backed by Mongo and MySQL.*

*Managed web projects for internal clients; managed requirements and IT resources; researched technical options.*

*Taught undergraduate classes, such as Anthropology of Digital Cultures.*

Jan 2012– **Web Applications Programmer**, Humanities Computing, University of Chicago

Dec 2015

*Lead developer for a suite of 16 in-house administrative applications built in Ruby on Rails.*

*Introduced Ember.js for user interfaces and PostgreSQL (replacing MySQL).*

*Designed and built realtime monitoring system with app performance metrics (stored in Redis, displayed with Freeboard, and powered by Ruby on Rails and Node.js).*  
*Maintained web stack on application servers using Apache, Phusion Passenger, Solr (search), and Shibboleth SP (authn).*  
*Introduced Cucumber for full-stack integration testing and qUnit for front-end testing.*  
*Implemented configuration management with Ansible for application servers.*  
*Coordinated with internal clients, held testing and training sessions.*  
*Introduced issue tracking with GitLab, used Asana for team-based task management.*  
*Built and maintained interfaces with external systems (LDAP, Workday, XLS/CSV feeds, legacy campus systems).*  
*Built public web projects (primarily Drupal-based), such as [dma.uchicago.edu](http://dma.uchicago.edu) (a rare languages media archive).*  
*Supervised and mentored web development assistants.*

*July 2011–  
May 2012*

**Web Development Assistant**, Humanities Computing, University of Chicago

*Built and maintained Drupal 7–based websites.*  
*Standardized Drupal themes and modules across a range of sites.*  
*Primary developer for public sites such as [scrolls.uchicago.edu](http://scrolls.uchicago.edu) or [humanitiesday2011.uchicago.edu](http://humanitiesday2011.uchicago.edu).*  
*Assisted in maintaining Rails applications, WordPress and static HTML sites.*

*Jan 2001–  
May 2005*

**Web Programmer**, Language Resource Center, Cornell University

*Built and maintained custom web software for classroom learning and digital media distribution.*  
*Integrated MySQL relational data storage into an object-oriented software environment (Python/Zope 2.x).*  
*Assisted with systems administration for Red Hat web servers.*

## EDUCATION

2014 Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Chicago  
2007 M.A. Anthropology, University of Chicago  
2004 B.A. Anthropology, Cornell University