

Keith E. McNeal
CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Comparative Cultural Studies
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APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Senior Lecturer (2022-2025),
Department of Literary, Cultural, & Communication Studies,
University of the West Indies-St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago.

Associate Professor of Anthropology,
Department of Comparative Cultural Studies,
University of Houston (2012 - present), also affiliated with
Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, India Studies, and
African American Studies Programs.

Fulbright Scholar (2011 - 2012),
Institute for Gender and Development Studies,
University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology,
University of California at San Diego (2004 - 2011),
Affiliated Faculty with Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies
(CILAS) and Program for the Study of Religion

EDUCATION

graduate study
1994 - 2004

Emory University, Ph.D., Anthropology (2004),
incl. Certificate in Psychoanalytic Studies, Robert A. Paul (Advisor),
Dissertation: *Ecstasy in Exile: Divinity, Power, and Performance*
in Two Trinidadian Possession Religions

1996 - 1998

Emory Psychoanalytic Institute, Department of Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences, School of Medicine, Emory University

1999

Emory University, M.A., Anthropology

1994

Cornell University, Center for South Asian Studies
(Intensive Summer Program)

undergraduate study
1990 - 1994

Boston University, Department of Religion
B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

1992 (Fall)

Antioch College Buddhist Studies Abroad Program

Bodhgaya, Bihar, India

PRIMARY RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

sociocultural anthropology; comparative religion; ritual and performance; sexuality and citizenship; capitalism and political culture; energy, ecology, and the Anthropocene; psychoanalysis; person-centered ethnography; Caribbean ethnology and history; African and South Asian diasporas.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2011 *Trance and Modernity in the Southern Caribbean: African and Hindu Popular Religions in Trinidad and Tobago*, Gainesville: University Press of Florida – “New World Diasporas” Series. (Revised paperback published in 2015)

Articles

2019 “Confessions of an Ambivalent Country Expert: Queer Refugeeism in the United Kingdom and the Political Economy of (Im)Mobility In and Out of Trinidad and Tobago,” *Anthropological Theory*, 19(1): 191-215—“Politics in a Time of Post-Politics: Political Anthropology for the 21st Century,” eds. N. Postero & E. Elinoff.

2012 “Seeing the Eyes of God in Human Form: Iconography and Impersonation in African and Hindu Traditions of Trance Performance in the Southern Caribbean,” *Material Religion*, 8(4): 490-519.

1999 “Behind the Make-Up: Gender Ambivalence and the Double-Bind of Gay Selfhood in Drag Performance,” *Ethos* 27(3): 1-36. (1998 *Richard Condon Award* for best graduate student paper in Psychological Anthropology)

Book Chapters

2021 “Between Homonationalism and Islamophobia: Comparing Queer Caribbean and Muslim Asylum-Seeking in/to the Netherlands,” co-authored with Sarah French Brennan, in *Queer Migration, Diaspora and Asylum*, ed. R. Mole, University College of London Press, pp. 162-183.

2020 “Level 5: Betwixt-and-Between ‘Homophobia’ in Trinidad and Tobago,” in *Beyond Homophobia: Centring LGBT Experience in the Caribbean*, ed. M. Anderson & E. MacLeod, University of the West Indies Press, pp. 56-79.

2018 “Death and the Problem of Orthopraxy in Caribbean Hinduism: Reconsidering the Politics and Poetics of Indo-Trinidadian Mortuary Ritual,” in *Passages and Afterworlds: Anthropological Perspectives on Death in the Caribbean*, ed. Yanique Hume & Maarit Forde, Durham, NC: Duke Univ. Press, pp. 199-224.

2013 “Hindu Healing Traditions in the Southern Caribbean: History, Sociology, Praxis” (primary author – co-authored with Kumar Mahabir & Paul Younger), for *Caribbean Healing Traditions: Implications for Health and Mental Health*,

ed. P. Sutherland, R. Moodley, R. & B. Chevannes, New York: Routledge, pp. 176-187.

- 2010 “Pantheons as Mythistorical Archives: Pantheonization and Remodeled Iconographies in two Southern Caribbean Possession Religions,” in *Activating the Past: History and Memory in the Black Atlantic*, ed. Andrew Apter and Lauren Derby, Cambridge Scholars Press, pp. 185-244.
- 2003 “Doing the Mother's Caribbean Work: On *Shakti* and Society in Contemporary Trinidad,” in *Encountering Kali: In the Margins, At the Center, In the West*, ed. Rachel Fell McDermott and Jeffrey Kripal, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 223-248.
- 1999 “Affecting Experience: Toward a Biocultural Model of Human Emotion,” in *Biocultural Approaches to the Emotions*, ed. Alexander L. Hinton, Cambridge University Press, pp. 215-255.
- 1996 “Tongues Aflame: Pentecostal and Charismatic Georgians on Fire for Jesus,” in *Religions of Atlanta: Religious Diversity in the Centennial Olympic City*, ed. Gary Laderman, Scholars Press, pp. 139-155.

Reference Volumes

- 2016 “Iyalorisha Melvina Rodney,” in *Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Biography*, ed. Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Franklin Knight, Oxford University Press, pp. 334-335.
- 2013a “Firepass Ceremony – Trinidad” (pp. 285-289), in *Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions*, Vol. 1, ed. Patrick Taylor and Frederick Ivor Case, Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- 2013b “Shakti Puja (Kali Puja, Kali Ma Puja, Kali Mai Puja) – Trinidad” (pp. 953-960), in *Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions*, Vol. 2, ed. Patrick Taylor and Frederick Ivor Case, Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- 2004a “Sidney W. Mintz” (pp. 354-356), in *Biographical Dictionary of Anthropology*, ed. Vered Amit, London: Routledge.
- 2004b “Daniel A. Segal” (p. 454), in *Biographical Dictionary of Anthropology*, ed. Vered Amit, London: Routledge.

Works in Progress

- in progress “My Pedagogy of Death in an Era of Coronachaos,” in *I, Thou & Zoom*, ed. C. Eberhart, M. Bjelland Kartzow, & S. Borkataky-Varma, forthcoming.
- in progress “Cremating the Body Politic: Mapping the Materiality of the Indo-Caribbean Mortuary Ritual Corpus,” in *Folk Religions Reconsidered*, ed. S. Borkataky-Varma & A. Ullrey, forthcoming.

- in progress “The Doubly-Queer Erotics of Aging: Sex, Spirit, and the Changing Intimacies of Embodiment among Queer Men and Trans Women in Trinidad and Tobago and its Diaspora,” in *Later Life, Sex and Intimacy in the Majority World*, ed. K. Ghisyawan, D. Harley, S. Shah, & P. Simpson, forthcoming.
- in progress “Anthropologizing the Anthropocene: Revisiting Culture and the Problem of Human Nature after the End of Nature,” in *Innovations in Psychological Anthropology*, ed. R. Lester, forthcoming.
- in progress “Homo Sexualis: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Psychocultural Perspective,” in *Oxford Companion to Psychological Anthropology*, ed. E. Lowe, forthcoming.
- in progress “Lawfare and the Dialectics of Homophobia and Homonationalism in Global Trinidad & Tobago,” *Sexuality and Culture*—special issue on the Global Politics of Homosexuality, under review.
- in progress “Big Pride, Little Pride, and the Cunning of (In)Visibility in the Southern Caribbean: the Case of #Trinidad&TobagoPride,” *lambda nordica*—special issue on Global Prides, under review.
- in progress “Ambivalences, Ambiguities, and the Complexities of Sexualities Among Caribbean University Students,” co-authored with Rhoda Reddock, Tia Smith, Sandra Reid and Tisha Nickenig.
- in progress “Queering the Sacred in the Black Atlantic: Sexuality and Spirituality in Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian Religions in Comparative Perspective,” co-authored with Martin Tsang, for *Journal for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*.
- in progress Second book project, *Queering the: Dispatches from Trinidad and Tobago*, begun as Fulbright Scholar at the Univ. of the West Indies in 2011-2 with further fieldwork between 2013 and 2018 – currently completing the manuscript for submission to press in 2021.
- in progress Third book project, *The Lotus in the Oil Drum: Anthropocene Hinduism in a Caribbean Petro-State* – an historical anthropology of Hinduism in the southern Caribbean employing person-centered ethnographic methodology that is also the first to deal with the globalization of Hinduism in relation to the political economy of the oil and gas industries, therefore moral economy of diaspora and religion in the Anthropocene; research for two of six chapters complete.
- in progress Documentary film project, “Cremating the Body Politic,” concerning my research on the history of Indo-Trinbagonian mortuary ritual and the postcolonial revitalization of cremation (McNeal 2018)—collaboration with TT filmmakers Dion Samsouandar of *Southern Video* and Christopher Laird of *Banyan, Ltd.*

Other Contributions

- 2021 *Mapping the “Venezuelan” Crisis: Venezuela through the Looking Glass*: half-day international online symposium, coorganized with Dr. Soledad Álvarez Velasco and cohosted at the University of Houston—archived @ <https://uh.edu/class/ccs/events/live/>

- 2016 “Dear Dr. Ruth: a love letter,” contribution to Sexing Up Social Theory issue of *Pastelegram* (online) guest-curated by *Kegels for Hegel*, pp. 6-30.
<http://pastelegram.org/y/kegels-for-hegel/dear-dr-ruth>
- 2015 2013 Interview with the late *Melford E. Spiro* regarding his life and career transcribed and published online at the University of California-San Diego Library.
<http://library.ucsd.edu/dc/object/bb16058659>
- 2015 Inclusion of 19 hours and 30 seconds of my primary digital video footage of African and Hindu ritual performance and religious praxis in Trinidad and Tobago between 1999 and 2010 in the *Banyan Collection: Caribbean Culture Video Archive*, a digital archive initiative by Banyan, Ltd. and hosted by Alexander Street Press.
- 2012 Unpublished Report – Assessment of UNESCO-funded “Youth and Sexual Cultures” research project of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies-St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago.
- 2002 “Miracle Mother,” *Caribbean Beat* – in-flight magazine for Caribbean Airlines, March-April Issue, pp. 74-79. Trinidad: MEP.
- 2001 “Marginalized Religions in Trinidad,” in *Divali 2001 Souvenir Magazine*, Trinidad.
- 2000 “‘This is history that was handed down, we don’t know how true it is’: on the ambiguities of history in Trinidadian Kali Worship,” *Oral & Pictorial Records Programme Newsletter*, 39: 1-5, University of the West Indies-Trinidad.
- 1999 Editor, *Proceedings of the 6th World Congress of Orisha Tradition and Culture*, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, published by Government Printery.
- 1998 “Reflections on receiving the 1997 Condon Prize,” *Anthropology Newsletter* 39(1): 58-9.
- 1997 “Evolution of the Ontogeny of Enculturation” (co-authored with John Bing), *Anthropology Newsletter* 38(4): 14-5.

Book Reviews

- 2022 Review of J. Brent Crosson, Experiments with Power: Obeah and the Remaking of Religion in Trinidad (2020, University of Chicago Press) and Aisha Khan, The Deepest Dye: Obeah, Hosay, and the Making of Race in the Atlantic World (2021, Harvard University Press), *New West Indian Guide*, forthcoming.
- 2020 Review of Roberto Strongman (co-authored with Martin Tsang), Queering Black Atlantic Religions: Transcorporeality in Candomblé, Santería, and Vodou (2019, Duke University Press), *New West Indian Guide* 94(1&2): 200-202.
- 2019 Review of N. Fadeke Castor, Spiritual Citizenship: Transnational Pathways from Black Power to Ifá in Trinidad (2017, Duke University Press), *Journal of Anthropological Research* 75(3): 443-444.

- 2017 Review of Alexa S. Dietrich, The Drug Company Next Door: Pollution, Jobs, and Community Health in Puerto Rico (2013, New York University Press), *New West Indian Guide*, 91(1&2): 26-28.
- 2017 Transgressive Bodies, Caribbean Sexualities, and Queer Feminisms: Review Essay of Rosamond S. King, Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination (2014, University Press of Florida) and Angelique V. Nixon, Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture (2015, University of Mississippi Press), co-authored with Rachel Afi Quinn for special issue of *Social and Economic Studies* 65(4): 131-140, on Caribbean Sexualities guest-edited by Kamala Kempadoo.
- 2016 Review of Rebecca Seligman, Possessing Spirits and Healing Selves: Embodiment and Transformation in an Afro-Brazilian Religion (2014, Palgrave Macmillan), *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 30(2), published online: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/maq.12272/epdf>
- 2016 Review of Nalini Natarajan, Atlantic Gandhi: The Mahatma Overseas (2013, Sage Press India), *New West Indian Guide*, 90 (1&2): 173-174.
- 2015 Review of Nalini Natarajan, Gandhi Atlántico: El Mahatma en el Extranjero (2013, Sage Press India), *Sargasso* 2015-2016 (I & II): 182-184.
- 2014 Review of Edward E. Andrews, Native Apostles: Black and Indian Missionaries in the Black Atlantic World (2013, Harvard University Press), *Canadian Journal of History* 49(3): 341-343.
- 2014 Review of Christine Chivallon, The Black Diaspora of the Americas: Experiences and Theories out of the Caribbean (2011, Ian Randle), *New West Indian Guide*, 88 (1&2): 54-56.
- 2013 Review of Diana Paton and Maarit Forde (eds.), Obeah and Other Powers: the Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing (2012, Duke University Press), *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 93 (4): 691-692.
- 2010 Review of Tejaswini Niranjana, Mobilizing India: Women, Music, and Migration Between India and Trinidad (2006, Duke U. Press), *American Ethnologist* 37(2): 405-406.
- 2008 Review of Timothy Rommen, “Mek Some Noise”: Gospel Music and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad (2007, U. of California Press), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76(3): 699-703.
- 2007 Review of Frank J. Korom, Hosay Trinidad: Muharrum Performances in an Indo-Caribbean Diaspora (2003, U. of Pennsylvania Press), *Asian Folklore Studies* 66(1/2): 257-261.
- 2006 Review of David H. Brown, Santería Enthroned: Art, Ritual, and Innovation in an Afro-Cuban Religion (2003, U. Chicago Press), *Caribbean Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 31(61): 257-260.

2005 Review of Philip W. Scher, Carnival and the Formation of a Caribbean Transnation (2003, U. Press of Florida), *Caribbean Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 30(60): 249-252.

PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

- 2021 Discussant, Caribbean Culture Fund & Open Society Foundation Roundtable on Sexuality, Gender, and the Arts in the Caribbean, hosted online from Kingston, Jamaica (September).
- 2021 European Homonationalisms and the Problem of Islamophobia for Queer and Trans Asylum-Seeking in the Netherlands, for *World Pride 2021* “Breaking the Cultural Stereotypes of LGBTQIA+ Asylum-Seekers” event online (August).
- 2021 Invited Book Launch Remarks on *Decolonial Perspectives on Entangled Inequalities: Europe and the Caribbean*, edited by Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez & Rhoda Reddock (2021, Anthem Press) for the 2021 Caribbean Studies Association Meetings (June) and Anthem Press and Justus Liebig University (August), online.
- 2021 “Building a Caribbean Anthropocene Collaborative Commons,” Co-organizer (with Mimi Sheller) & Moderator, Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, online.
- 2020 “Globalizing Hinduism in the Caribbean: Comparing Shakti Worship and Pyreside Cremation Through Time and Space in Trinidad and Tobago,” Harvard University Divinity School Research Colloquium Series, online.
- 2020 “Trinidad and Tobago and the Global Dialectics of Homophobia and Homonationalism,” European Network for Queer Anthropology-sponsored panel on “Interrogating the Global Geopolitics of Homosexuality,” annual European Association for Social Anthropology conference, held online.
- 2019 “The Past, Present, and Future of Kali Worship in Trinidad & Tobago,” Invited Guest Lecture for *Kali Yatra* 2019 hosted by the National Council on Indian Culture, Divali Nagar, Trinidad & Tobago.
- 2019 “Queer Futurity and the ‘Problem’ of Arrested Development in Trinidad & Tobago,” paper presented on “Psyche and Desire: Psychological Ethnographies of Sexuality” panel (T. McCajor Hall, Organizer), Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2019 Invited Guest on Bhoolal Parampara Talk Show, hosted by Dr. Visham Bhimull of *Caribbean Hindustani*, IeTv (Indian Entertainment Television), Trinidad.
- 2019 “Cremating the Body Politic: Reconsidering the History of Indo-Trinidadian Mortuary Ritual,” Invited Guest Lecture for the National Council on Indian Culture, Divali Nagar, Trinidad & Tobago.

- 2018 Discussant for Panel on “Materializing Queerness” (Yifeng Cai, organizer), annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San José, California.
- 2017 “Between Homonationalism and Islamophobia: Comparing the Politics of Queer Asylum-Seeking to the Netherlands from the Caribbean, Middle East and Uganda” co-authored and -presented with Sarah French Brennan, Queer Migration, Diaspora and Asylum Conference, University College London.
- 2017 “Queer Futurity and the ‘Problem’ of Arrested Development in Trinidad & Tobago,” paper presented on “Queer Futures: Futures as Forces, Futures as Products” panel (Yifeng Cai, organizer), annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.
- 2017 “Between Homonationalism and Islamophobia: Comparing the Politics of Queer Asylum-Seeking to the Netherlands from the Caribbean, Middle East and Uganda” co-authored and -presented with Sarah French Brennan, European Network for Queer Anthropology Annual Conference, Budapest, Hungary.
- 2017 “Cremating the Body Politic: Caribbean Hinduism and the Cultural Politics of Mortuary Ritual in Trinidad and Tobago,” Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina-Charlotte Colloquium Series.
- 2017 “Spiro as Cautionary Tale: On the History and Future of Psychological Anthropology,” presented on “Spiro 2.0” panel (organized by K. McNeal) for biennial meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, New Orleans.
- 2017 “Confessions of an Ambivalent Country Expert: Queer Refugeeism and the Political Economy of (Im)Mobility In and Out of Trinidad and Tobago,” Anthropology Colloquium, Rice University, Houston, Texas.
- 2016 “A Tale of Two Cremations,” paper presented on “Passages, Pluralisms, Afterworlds” panel for annual meetings of the Caribbean Studies Association, Port au Prince, Haiti.
- 2016 “Queer Refugeeism and the Political Economy of (Im)Mobility in and out of Trinidad and Tobago,” presented on “Interrogating Political Economies of Caribbean Sexualities” panel (organized by K. McNeal) for annual meetings of the Caribbean Studies Association, Port au Prince, Haiti.
- 2015 Coorganizer and Chair, “Taboo Revisited: Reconsidering the Erotics of Fieldwork and Ethnography” panel at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association on which I also presented a paper on “The Epistemology of the Ethnographer’s Closet,” Denver, Colorado.
- 2015 “Confessions of an Ambivalent Country Expert,” paper presented at Wenner-Gren Workshop on “Politics in the Time of ‘Post-Politics’: Rethinking Anthropology’s Conception of the Political for the 21st Century,” University of California-San Diego.

- 2015 “Cell Phones, Coming Out Software, Surveillance Fetishism and the Politics of Pix in the Caribbean and Beyond,” University of California-Los Angeles Mind, Medicine and Culture Colloquium Series.
- 2015 “Sexual Diversity in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” Guest Lecture for Baylor School of Medicine, Houston, Texas, June.
- 2015 “Queering the Politics of Migration and Home,” paper presented at the annual meetings of the Caribbean Studies Association, New Orleans, LA.
- 2015 Organizer and Discussant, “Creolizing the Kala Pani: Comparing Kali Worship in the Trans-Caribbean,” annual meetings of the Caribbean Studies Association, New Orleans, LA.
- 2014 “Heteronationalism, Homonormativity and the Problem of Sexual Citizenship in Trinidad and Tobago,” paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.
- 2014 “Cell Phones, Coming Out Software, and the Politics of Pix: the Paradoxical Effects of Information Communication Technologies on Male Sexuality in Trinidad and Tobago,” poster presented at the International Academy of Sex Research Meetings, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- 2014 “Cell Phones, Coming Out Software, and the Politics of Pix: Reflections on the Influence of Digitalization on Male Sexuality in Trinidad and Tobago,” paper presented at the Caribbean Studies Association Meetings, Mérida, Mexico.
- 2014 “Death and the Problem of Caribbean Hindu Orthopraxy in the Black Atlantic: Reconsidering the Politics and Poetics of Indo-Trinidadian Mortuary Ritual,” Department of Religious Studies Colloquium Series, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2013 “Trance and the Problem of Charisma: Rethinking Weber (and Lindholm) on Ecstasy and Society by Way of the Caribbean,” paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Invited Panel in Honor of Charles Lindholm.
- 2013 “Caribbean Hinduism and the Problem of Orthopraxy in Indo-Caribbean Mortuary Ritual,” presentation for Univ. of Houston Anthropology Forum and India Studies Program.
- 2013 “Sexuality, Politics and Law in Postcolonial Trinidad and Tobago,” presentation for Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Colloquium, University of Houston.
- 2012 “False Exorcisms: Religion and the Alter-Nationalist Politics of Diaspora in Trinidad & Tobago’s Era of Postcolonial Multiculturalism,” Anthropology Colloquium Series, Department of Anthropology, Rice University.
- 2012 “Death and the Problem of Orthopraxy in Caribbean Hinduism: Reconsidering the Politics and Poetics of Indo-Trinidadian Mortuary Ritual,” Caribbean Studies Meetings, Guadeloupe, French West Indies.

- 2012 “Heteronationalism, Homonormativity, and the Problem of Sexual Citizenship in Trinidad & Tobago,” Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies-Trinidad. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wNuhG7MI1g>
- 2012 “Heteronationalism, Homonormativity, and the Problem of Sexual Citizenship in Trinidad & Tobago,” University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras.
- 2012 “Gender, Sexuality, Feminism, and Politics in the Commonwealth Caribbean,” two lectures presented for the Master’s in Social Work Program at the University of the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao.
- 2012 Featured Non-Fiction Writer in live discussion with Prof. Rhoda Reddock (UWI) for Invited Guest Panel at 2012 *Bocas Lit Fest*, Port of Spain, Trinidad.
- 2011 “The History and Cultural Politics of Death and Mortuary Ritual in Indo-Trinidadian Hinduism: the case of Kali Puja and Sanatanist Hinduism,” *Passage and Afterworlds* Symposium (Wenner Gren-funded), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados.
- 2010 Discussant, “Raced Religion: Neoliberalism and the Racialization of Religion” Panel, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans.
- 2010 “African and Hindu Mediumship and the Subaltern Spirit of Liberalism in the Southern Caribbean,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans.
- 2010 Talk and Workshop, “Religion, Politics, Diaspora, and the Problem of Multiculturalism in Postcolonial Trinidad & Tobago,” Religion and Politics Series, Humanities Center, University of California-Santa Cruz.
- 2010 Interdisciplinary Gallery Tour (along with Michael Trigilio, Visual Arts) of lauren woods, *M(Other)land* (Video Installation), University Gallery, UCSD.
- 2009 “Religion and the Politics of Diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago’s Era of Postcolonial Multiculturalism,” Colloquium for Max Planck Institute for the Study of Ethnic and Religious Diversity, Göttingen, Germany.
- 2009 “Trance, the Play of Ecstasy, and the Problem with Possession,” Workshop for UCSD Department of Anthropology Psychodynamic Seminar.
- 2008 “Spiritism and Christianity as Visible versus Invisible Interlocutors,” Center for the Humanities Seminar on Christianities and the Genealogies of Empire, UCSD
- 2008 “Religion and the Racial Politics of Diaspora: African and Hindu case studies from Trinidad and Tobago,” International Conference on Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, UCSD

- 2008 “Iconopraxis and dual-embodiment in two African and Hindu traditions of ecstatic mediumship in the southern Caribbean,” LIMB (Interdisciplinary Group for the study of Language, Interaction, Mind, and Body at UCSD) Colloquium
- 2008 Panelist for UCSD ArtPower!’s “Dear Laurie”: Laurie Anderson in Conversation (in conjunction with Anderson’s “Homeland” Tour, October).
- 2007 “Possession as play: spirits and self-objects in the Southern Caribbean,” paper presented at the biennial meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, Los Angeles.
- 2007 Discussant: “Scaling and Bridging: How Can Psychological Anthropology Intersect with ‘Big-Scale’ Questions?” organized by J. Friedman, biennial meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, Los Angeles.
- 2007 “Spirits and self-objects in the southern Caribbean,” Mind, Medicine, and Culture Seminar Series, UCLA Anthropology Department
- 2006 “Iconographies as mythistorical archives: comparing Afro-creole and Indo-creole spirit pantheons in the southern Caribbean,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose
- 2006 “Possession religion and the cultural politics of diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago: African and Hindu case studies, 1838 - 2005,” Annual History and Theory Conference, University of California at Irvine
- 2006 “Possession as play: case studies from Trinidad,” University of Chicago Program on Human Development Lecture Series
- 2005 Respondent for Mark Cravalho’s paper “Dynamic Candomblé and Health,” 4-site, 2-country videoconference, U.S.-Brazil Consortium on Cultural Diversity, Social Inequality, and the Pursuit of Health
- 2005 “Recasting creolization and syncretism from the perspective of Caribbean Hinduism: the case of ecstatic Shakti Puja in Trinidad,” *Activating the Past* Conference, UCLA
- 2005 “Mythology in motion,” paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2005 “Rethinking performance and the problem of performativity,” paper presented at the biennial meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, San Diego
- 2005 “Notes on the variability of the ecstatic body,” paper presented at the biennial meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, San Diego
- 2002 “Performing divinity with a difference: a glimpse from Trinidad,” presentation for Anthropology Colloquium Series, University of California, San Diego
- 2000 “The many faces of Mother Kali: Caribbean Hinduism and the moral politics of diaspora ritual performance in Trinidad,” paper presented at the International

Conference on Asian Migrations to the Americas, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

- 2000 "Researching diasporic Hinduism in the Caribbean: some methodological, theoretical and reflexive considerations," Annual Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 1998 "Religion and the cultural organization of self-objects," paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia
- 1997 "Queens in America: an exploration of cultural models, gay drag, and gender ambivalence," paper presented at the biennial meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, San Diego
- 1996 "Gay drag and gender ambivalence," paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2020 UH Provost 50-in-5 Faculty Research Initiative – \$5,000
- 2019 UH Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Faculty Summer Grant – \$4,000
- 2019 UH Global Faculty Development Fund Grant – \$3,000
- 2016 College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Development Grant, University of Houston – \$5,000
- 2015 Ruth Landes Memorial Foundation, in support of *Queering the Citizen in the Shadows of Globalization* book project – \$40,000.
- 2014 College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Development Grant, University of Houston – \$4,000.
- 2011-2 Fulbright Scholar Fellowship, \$50,000 – Research and Teaching Award – University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad – affiliated with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies.
- 2010 Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award, UCSD, Graduate Student Association.
- 2008-9 Wenner-Gren Richard Carley Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship - \$40,000 – Gr. 7877
- 2008 Hellman Fellowship, UCSD - \$6,000
- 2007-8 Faculty Fellowship, "Transborder Interventions, Transcontinental Archives," Center for the Humanities, UCSD - \$5,000
- 2006-7 Faculty Career Development Program Fellowship for Junior Faculty, UCSD, Winter Qtr. - \$5,500

2004-5;
2007-8 Faculty Fellowship, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at University of California, San Diego - \$6,000

2001 - 2002 Emory University Dean's Teaching Fellowship - \$15,000

1999 - 2000 Visiting Research Fellowship, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social & Economic Research, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

2001 - 2003;
1994 - 1995 Emory University Graduate Fellowship - \$12,500/year

2000 cost-shared Fulbright-Hays and Social Science Research Council (IDRF/SSRC) dissertation fieldwork funding awards - \$16,685

1999 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Grant for dissertation fieldwork - \$12,500 – Gr. 6386 (awarded Sept. 1998)

1997 Emory University Fund for Internationalization, Dissertation Research Award - \$1,000

1995 - 1998 National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship - \$42,500

1996 Andrew Mellon Foundation summer research grant award, administered through Department of Anthropology, Emory University - \$1,500

1994 Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), administered through Cornell University Center for South Asian Studies

1994 Honorary Fellowship, Cornell University Center for South Asian Studies - \$2,000

1997 1st Annual Richard G. Condon Student Paper Prize from the Society for Psychological Anthropology

1994 Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH & FIELDWORK

2019 *Trinidad & Tobago*: two months completing fieldwork for *Queering the Citizen* and one month working on “Cremating the Body Politic” documentary film

2018 *Trinidad & Tobago*: three months completing fieldwork for *Queering the Citizen*; *The Netherlands*: two months fieldwork for the book project and asylum papers

2017 *The Netherlands*: one month of fieldwork for queer TT book project and papers

2016 *Trinidad & Tobago*: six months of fieldwork toward completion of *Queering the Citizen* project; *UK & The Netherlands*: one month of fieldwork with Trinbagonian sexual and gender refugees and asylees

- 2015 *Trinidad & Tobago*: three months fieldwork for *Queering the Citizen* project; *UK & The Netherlands*: two weeks of fieldwork with Trinbagonian sexual and gender refugees and asylees
- 2014 *UK & The Netherlands*: two weeks of fieldwork with Trinbagonian sexual and gender refugees and asylees; *Trinidad & Tobago*: one month of fieldwork for sexuality and citizenship project.
- 2013 *Trinidad & Tobago*: two months: completed research for Indo-Trinidadian mortuary ritual project and fieldwork for sexuality and citizenship book project
- 2011 - 2012 *Trinidad & Tobago*: new fieldwork on sexuality and citizenship book project, as well as collaboration (with Prof. Rhoda Reddock) on the “Sexual Cultures” Research Project of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad; also research for Indo-Trinidadian mortuary ritual project.
- 2010 - 2011 *Trinidad & Tobago*: follow-up field research on African and Hindu religions while completing manuscript for *Trance and Modernity in the Southern Caribbean* – three months (mid-December 2010 - mid-March 2011)
- 2002 - 2005 *Trinidad & Tobago*: fieldwork and archival research on African and Hindu religions – approximately one month each summer
- 2001 *United Kingdom*: one month of archival research at the British Library and Public Records Office in London on materials relating to British colonialism in Trinidad and the Indian experience in the Caribbean (June)
- 1999 - 2000 *Trinidad and Tobago*: dissertation field research on African- and Hindu spirit religions; dissertation title: "Ecstasy in exile: divinity, power and performance in two Trinidadian possession religions"
- 1997 *Trinidad & Tobago*: preliminary field research on ethnopsychiatry and ritual performance in Trinidadian Orisha Worship (May – August)
- 1994 - 1996 *Atlanta, Georgia*: fieldwork on drag shows with an emphasis on expressive symbolism and the psychodynamics of ritual performance
- 1996 *Western Samoa*: assisted child health data collection project team from Brown University (June - July)
- 1995 *Atlanta and central Georgia*: fieldwork on Pentecostalism and Charismatic Christianities for Atlanta Religious Diversity Project, directed by Gary Laderman, Department of Religion, Emory University (May - August)
- 1993 *Boston, Massachusetts*: extensive interviewing research on identity and rhetorics of authenticity in gay male life stories and sexual narratives
- 1991 *Bodhgaya, Bihar, India*: research and study in a Burmese monastery on Buddhism and Hinduism and on pilgrimage to Bodhgaya (Aug. - Nov.);

Kathmandu Valley, Nepal: research on Tibetan Buddhist and Nepalese Hindu iconography and architecture (December)

TEACHING

- 2012 - present “Foundations of Anthropological Thought” (*Graduate*); “Theories of Culture,” “Black Atlantic Religions,” “Sex and Culture,” “Introduction to Globalization,” “Citizenship and Political Culture,” “Anthropology of Death and Mortuary Ritual,” “Caribbean Societies and Cultures,” “Caribbean Hinduism,” “Critical Issues in Gulf Coast History: Harvey’s Houston,” “Anthropology in/of the Anthropocene” (*Undergraduate*), **University of Houston**
- 2011 - 2012 “Research Design and Methods” (*Graduate*); “The Late Modern State and Political Culture in the Americas” (interdisciplinary *Faculty* workshop), **University of the West Indies**, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, St. Augustine, Trinidad
- 2003 - 2011 “Core Seminar in Psychological Anthropology,” “Psychodynamic Anthropology,” “Psychoanalysis and Religion” (*Graduate*); “Psychological Anthropology,” “Psychoanalysis and Culture,” “Ritual and Performance,” “Cultures and Societies of the Caribbean,” “Black Atlantic Religions,” “Digital Media and Human Experience” (*Undergraduate*), **University of California-San Diego**, Department of Anthropology
- 2001 - 2002 “Anthropology of Religion,” “Ritual and Performance,” and “Cultures of the Caribbean,” **Emory University**, Department of Anthropology, Dean’s Graduate Teaching Fellow

PROFESSIONAL & OTHER SERVICE

- 2021 - present Advisory Council, *Houston Climate Justice Museum*
- 2008 Society for Psychological Anthropology Program Committee Member for Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco
- 2005 - 2006 Affiliated Faculty with U.S.-Brazil Consortium on Cultural Diversity, Social Inequality, and the Pursuit of Health (UCSD, Fisk University, and Federal Universities of Brasil – funded by CAPES/FIPSE)
- 1997 - 1999 Student Representative, Society for Psychological Anthropology Board of Directors

UNIVERSITY SERVICE since 2011 (pre-2011 available upon request)

- 2020 - 2021 Faculty Mentor, Sunrise Movement UH
- 2020 - 2021 Chair, CCS Tenure & Promotion Review Committee (for R. A. Quinn)
- 2020 - 2021 Chair, CCS Tenure & Promotion Review Committee (for D. Sen)
- 2019 - 2021 CCS Assistant Professor Position Search Committee Chair
- 2019 - 2020 Faculty Organizer and Lead—Trinidad & Tobago Field School
- 2019 - 2020 Faculty Mentor for *Friends of Haiti* Student Service Organization
- 2019 - 2020 UH CITE Provost Advisory Board

2018 - 2021	CCS Department Colloquium Series Committee
2018 - 2019	UH Mellon Undergraduate Honors Program Faculty Mentor
2018 - 2019	CCS Department Review Committee for MA Program in Anthropology
2018 - 2019	Chair, CCS Tenure & Promotion Review Committee (for E. Farfàn-Santos)
2017 - 2018	CCS Department Chair Search Committee.
2017 - 2018	Chair, CCS Third-Year Review Committee (for R. A. Quinn).
2017 - 2018	CCS Tenure & Promotion Review Committee (for T. Behr).
2016 - present	CCS Department Annual Promotion Review Committee.
2016 - present	CCS Faculty Representative on UH College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Faculty Governance and Advisory Committee (FGAC).
2016 - 2017	CCS Department Tenure Standards Committee.
2015 - 2017	Assistant Director, Energy & Society Seminar Series, UH.
2015 - 2017	Tenure Standards Committee, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies.
2014 - 2015	Dean's Executive Search Committee for Chair of the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies; Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, UH.
2013 - 2015	UH College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Curriculum Committee – CCS Faculty Representative.
2013 - 2014	Religious Studies Major Task Force Committee, UH.
2013 - 2014	Religious Studies Search Committee, CCS, UH.
2013 - present	Department Graduate Program Selection Committee, CCS, UH.
2012 - present	Co-organizer, UH-Rice University Sexuality Studies Reading Group
2011 - present	Independent Reviewer for Master's and Doctoral Theses in Cultural Studies at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.
2011 - present	Cofounder and Faculty Mentor for the <i>Silver Lining Foundation</i> , a youth activist group in Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies.

REVIEWING *American Anthropologist* (Journal)
Current Anthropology (Journal)
Cultural Anthropology (Journal)
American Ethnologist (Journal)
Comparative Studies in Society and History (Journal)
Ethos (Journal for Psychological Anthropology)
Journal of the American Academy of Religion
Ethnography (Journal)
Plantation Society in the Americas (Americanist Journal)
Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Canadian Journal of History
Caribbean Review of Gender Studies (Journal)
New West Indian Guide (Americanist Journal)
Hispanic American Historical Review (Journal)
Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology
Medical Anthropology Quarterly (Journal)
Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies
Religions (Journal)
Anthropological Quarterly (Journal)
Gender & Society (Journal)
Journal of Hindu Studies
Journal of Anthropological Research
Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas (Journal)
Social and Economic Studies (Caribbeanist Journal)

Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
History of Religions (Journal)
Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute
Nordic Journal of Masculinity Studies
Anthropology of Consciousness (Journal)
International Journal of Latin American Religions
Middle Atlantic Review of Latin American Studies (Journal)
Journal of Africana Religions
Frontiers in Human Dynamics (Journal)
Ethnic and Racial Studies (Journal)
Journal for the Study of Indentureship and Its Legacies

Oxford University Press
Harvard University Press
University Press of Florida
University of California Press
Duke University Press
University of Chicago Press
University of North Carolina Press
University of the West Indies Press
Palgrave Macmillan
Brill Academic
Ian Randle Press (Jamaica)
Berghahn
Routledge

National Science Foundation
Social Science Research Council (SSRC), IDRf Dissertation Program, U.S.
Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada
Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research
University of the West Indies Graduate School
Prince Claus Fund (Netherlands)
African LGBTQI+ Migration Network (ALMN) (South Africa)
United Kingdom Home Office
University of Helsinki

NOTE ON ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN PSYCHOANALYSIS: Fall 1996 - Fall 1998

first Emory University graduate student invited to do coursework at Emory's Psychoanalytic Institute, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Emory Medical School – coursework on Freud's Psychoanalysis; Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy; Clinical Interpretation and Technique; Object Relations Theory

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE *Japanese* – two and a half years coursework
Sinhala – one summer of intensive language training
Spanish – basic reading, writing, and conversation
French – two years coursework in high school
Trinbagonian English Creole – 24 years fieldwork

REFEREES

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