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Professor of Anthropology
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Harvard University, Social Anthropology, June 1988

A.M., Harvard University, Social Anthropology, 1979

A.B., Brown University, Independent Concentration: World Views and Forces That Shape Them, 1976

EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Anthropology, Pitzer College (2007- present)

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Pitzer College (2002-2007)

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Pitzer College (2000-2002)

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Duke University (1990-1997)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Anthropology of work; U.S. political culture; psychological anthropology; discourse analysis; qualitative research methods; social theory and culture theory

BOOKS

Political Sentiments and Social Movements: The Person in Politics and Culture. (Co-edited with Jack Friedman) NY: Palgrave. (2018)

Making Sense of Public Opinion: American Discourses about Immigration and Social Programs. NY: Cambridge University Press. (2012) (Finalist, Society for Psychological Anthropology Stirling Award, 2014)

A Cognitive Theory of Cultural Meaning. (Co-authored with Naomi Quinn) Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (1997)

Human Motives and Cultural Models. (Co-edited with Roy D'Andrade) Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (1992)

BOOK IN PROGRESS

Work, Unemployment and "American Culture"

Precis: It is often said that Americans are addicted to working, that it is not in Americans' "genetic code" to take help from other people or the government if they can work and be independent, that Americans believe their economic fate is up to them, that Americans are happy to forgo vacations to afford the lifestyles of the wealthy. This book probes these cultural generalizations by examining the meanings of work and unemployment for American women and men from different backgrounds who were unemployed for months or years in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. The diverse ways they understood and coped with their situation show the multiple cultural resources that mediate current ways of thinking about work and unemployment in the U.S. in the 21st century. The book draws out the implications for the future of work given challenges created by automation, precarious work, and life projects shaped by changing religious and spiritual beliefs, gender roles, parenting ideals, values about wellness, and discourses opposed to living for work.

JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

"It feels so alien' or the same old s---: Attachment to divergent cultural models in insecure times," *Ethos*, special issue, "Culture and Economic Adversity," E. Lowe and C. Strauss, special issue editors. (2018)

"Poverty and personhood: Person-centered approaches in the study of culture and poverty." (Co-authored with Edward Lowe). *Ethos*, special issue, "Culture and Economic Adversity," E. Lowe and C. Strauss, special issue editors. (2018)

"The complexity of culture in persons," in N. Quinn, ed., *Advances in Culture Theory from Psychological Anthropology*. NY: Palgrave (2018)

"Engaged by the spectacle of protest: How bystanders became invested in Occupy Wall Street." In C. Strauss and J. Friedman, eds., *Political Sentiments and Social Movements: The Person in Politics and Culture*. NY: Palgrave. (2018)

JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS (CONTINUED)

“Introduction: The Person in Politics and Culture.” (Co-authored with Jack Friedman) In C. Strauss and J. Friedman, eds., *Political Sentiments and Social Movements: The Person in Politics and Culture*. NY: Palgrave. (2018)

“Positive thinking about being out of work in Southern California following the Great Recession.” In *Anthropologies of Unemployment: The Changing Study of Work and Its Absence*, Jong Bum Kwon and Carrie M. Lane, Eds. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. (2016)

“Language and culture in cognitive anthropology.” *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Culture*, Farzad Sharifian, ed. London: Routledge. (2015)

“Unemployment and divine plans,” *Anthropology News* 55 (8). DOI: 10.1111/j.1556-3502.2014.55801.x.pdf. (2014)

“How are language constructions constitutive? Strategic uses of conventional discourses about immigration.” *Journal of International Relations and Development*, special issue, “Linguistic approaches to analyzing policies and the political,” Dvora Yanow and Alan Cienki, eds. 16(2): 262-293. (2013)

“Blaming for Columbine: Conceptions of agency in the contemporary United States.” *Current Anthropology* 48(6): 807-822, and “Reply,” *Current Anthropology* 48(6): 827-832. (2007)

“The imaginary.” *Anthropological Theory* 6(3): 322-344. (2006)

“Introduction to Special Issue on the Missing Psychology in Cultural Anthropology’s Key Words,” Naomi Quinn and Claudia Strauss. *Anthropological Theory* 6(3):267-279. (2006)

“Analyzing discourse for cultural complexity.” In Naomi Quinn, ed. *Finding Culture in Talk: A Collection of Methods*. NY: Palgrave. (2005)

“Cultural standing in expression of opinion.” *Language in Society* 33(2):161-194. (2004)

“Is empathy gendered and if so, why? An approach from feminist psychological anthropology.” *Ethos* 32(4):432-457. (2004)

“Diversity and homogeneity in American culture: Teaching and theory.” *FOSAP Newsletter* 11(2):4-6. (2004)

“Not-so rugged individualists: U.S. Americans’ conflicting ideas about poverty.” In Frances Fox Piven, Joan Acker, Margaret Hallock, and Sandra Morgen, eds., *Work, Welfare, and Politics: Confronting Poverty in the Wake of Welfare Reform*. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon Press. (2002)

“The culture concept and the individualism/collectivism debate: Dominant and alternative attributions for class in the United States.” In Larry Nucci, Geoffrey Saxe, and Elliot Turiel, eds., *Culture, Thought, and Development*. Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. (2000)

JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS (CONTINUED)

"Partly fragmented, partly integrated: An anthropological examination of 'postmodern fragmented subjects.'" *Cultural Anthropology* 12(3):362-404. (1997)

"A cognitive/cultural anthropology." Claudia Strauss and Naomi Quinn. In Robert Borofsky, ed. *Assessing Cultural Anthropology*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Pp. 284- 300. Excerpt reprinted in David Hicks and Margaret A. Gwynne, eds. (1996), *Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. New York: HarperCollins. (1994)

"Preliminaries to a theory of culture acquisition." Claudia Strauss and Naomi Quinn. In Herbert L. Pick, Paulus Van Den Broek, and David C. Knill, eds., *Cognition: Conceptual and Methodological Issues*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. Pp. 267-294. (1992)

"Models and motives." In Roy D'Andrade and Claudia Strauss, eds., *Human Motives and Cultural Models*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-20. (1992)

"What makes Tony run? Schemas as motives reconsidered." In Roy D'Andrade and Claudia Strauss, eds., *Human Motives and Cultural Models*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 197-224. (1992)
Reprinted in R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms, eds. (2004) *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*, 3rd ed., Mountain View, CA: Mayfield.

"Who gets ahead? Cognitive responses to heteroglossia in American political culture." *American Ethnologist* 17(2):312-328. (1990)

"Beyond 'formal' vs. 'informal' education: Uses of psychological theory in anthropological research." *Ethos* 12(3):195-222. (1983 Stirling Prize Essay) (1984)

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

"Psychological anthropology." *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd Edition. Oxford, UK: Elsevier. (2015)

"Wallace, Anthony F. C." *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology*, R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (2013)

"Cognitive anthropology." *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd ed., Keith Brown, ed. Oxford, UK: Elsevier. (2005)

"Motivation and culture." *The MIT Encyclopedia of the Cognitive Sciences*, Robert A. Wilson and Frank C. Keil, eds. Cambridge: MIT Press. Pp. 568-570. (1999)

REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

Comment on V. de Munck and G. Bennardo, "Disciplining Culture: A Socio-Cognitive Approach," (forthcoming) *Current Anthropology*.

Review of *Psychological Anthropology: A Reader on Self in Culture*, edited by Robert A. LeVine. (2012) *Ethos* 40 (2): 1-3.

"Lost in NSM translation," Comment on A. Wierzbicka, "Language and metalanguage: Key issues in emotion research." (2009) *Emotion Review* 1(1):15.

"Borders as Sites of Pain," Comment on V. Walkerdine, "Workers on the new economy: Transformation as border crossing." (2006) *Ethos* 34(1): 42-47.

Comment on J. Wilce, "Magical laments and anthropological reflections." (2006) *Current Anthropology* 47(6):907-8.

Review of *The Cultural Dialectics of Knowledge and Desire*, by Charles W. Nuckolls. (1999) *American Ethnologist* 26(3):773-774.

Review of *The Literary Mind*, by Mark Turner. (1997) *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 7(2):235-236.

Review of *Tradition as Truth and Communication*, by Pascal Boyer. (1992) *Ethnohistory* 39(4): 565-566.

Review of *Cognition in Practice*, by Jean Lave. (1990) *Contemporary Sociology* 19(1): 150-151.

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES

Ethos special issue. (2018). "Culture and Economic Adversity," E. Lowe and C. Strauss, guest editors.

Anthropological Theory special issue. (2006) *The Missing Psychology in Cultural Anthropology's Key Words*. Naomi Quinn and Claudia Strauss, guest eds. 6(3).

Ethos special issue. (2004) *Contributions to a Feminist Psychological Anthropology*. Katherine Frank, Wendy Luttrell, Ernestine McHugh, Naomi Quinn, Susan Seymour, and Claudia Strauss, guest eds. 32(4).

HONORS

The Faculty Member of the of the Year Award (2017), awarded by the Pitzer Student Senate.

Finalist, Society for Psychological Anthropology Stirling Award (2014) for *Making Sense of Public Opinion: American Discourses about Immigration and Social Programs*. NY: Palgrave (2012)

Stirling Award for Contributions to Psychological Anthropology (1983) for "Beyond 'formal' vs. 'informal' education: Uses of psychological theory in anthropological research."

Phi Beta Kappa

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Lemelson/Society for Psychological Anthropology 2014 Conference Award, *Culture and Political Subjectivities*. \$17,700.

National Science Foundation Senior Award (2012-2014), *Stories About Self and Society Under Strain: A Longitudinal Study of Unemployed Southern Californians*. Federal Award ID: 1230534. \$76,464

Wenner-Gren Foundation Post-Ph.D. Award (2012), *Narratives and Discourses of the Unemployed in Southern California*. Grant 8511. \$19,042.

Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar (Fall 2003)

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (1999-2000)

Postdoctoral research fellow, Cognitive Science Program, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Spring and Summer 1991)

Ford curriculum development project participant ("Incorporating Women of Color Into the Undergraduate Curriculum") (Fall 1990)

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship

SELECTED OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Program Committee, Society for the Anthropology of Work (2017-2018)

President, Society for Psychological Anthropology (2011-2013)

Fellow, Frameworks Institute (2008-)

Stirling prize committee, Society for Psychological Anthropology (2008-2010)

Secretary-Treasurer, Society for Psychological Anthropology (2002-2006)

NSF Senior Advisory Panel member (2002-2004)

Workshop co-chair, New Developments in Schema Theory, Institut für Ethnologie, University of Hamburg (June 2002)

Member of the Editorial Board, Society for Psychological Anthropology series, Cambridge University Press (1994-2000)
Instructor, NSF Summer Institute in Anthropological Methods (August 1999)
Instructor, First International Summer Institute in Cognitive Science (July 1994)
Member of the Board, Society for Psychological Anthropology (1991-93)
Consultant, McArthur Foundation Research Network on Mind-Body Interactions (September 1992)

OTHER RESEARCH

Customary Incidents of Landholding in 18th Century Tamilnad. Harvard University, Master's Thesis, 1980.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

“Toward emic 21st century understandings of work,” for the workshop, “The Post-Wage Economy: Re-Theorising ‘Work’ Across the Global North-South Divide,” School of Geography and the Centre on Labour and Global Production (CLGP) at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), June 28-29, 2018.

“Achieving the American Dream or Not: Immigrants’ Narratives Following the Great Recession,” University of Maryland, Baltimore County, March 2018.

“De-homogenizing cultural models: Conventional discourses about the disappearing middle-class and why they matter for cognitive anthropology,” American Anthropological Association 116th annual meeting, Washington, DC, November 2017.

“Will the American public save democracy?” For the forum, *Flirting with Fascism? Trump and the Challenge to Democracy*, The American Institute for Progressive Democracy, Pomona College, November 2017.

“The native’s point of view in a complex world,” American Anthropological Association 115th annual meeting, Minneapolis, November 2016.

“Angry about immigrants and the 1%: Understanding populist views in the U.S.” Society for the Anthropology of North America/CASCA Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 2016.

“De-homogenizing cultural models (of immigration or anything else),” Society for Applied Anthropology/SAS Annual Meeting, Vancouver, March 2016.

“Standing: An unnoticed constraint on commitment in an utterance,” Philosophy Department, Sun Yat Sen University, Guangzhou, China, June 2015.

“Vernacular discourses and personal meanings in the example of economic populism in post-recession California,” Anthropology Department, Sun Yat Sen University, Guangzhou, China, June 2015.

“Political messages, vernacular discourses, and personal meanings: The reception of economic populism in post-recession California,” Culture and Political Subjectivities workshop, New York, May 2015.

“The “real culture problem” about poverty in the United States,” Society for Psychological Anthropology biennial meeting, Boston, April 2015.

“The ‘real culture problem’ about poverty and work in the United States,” American Anthropological Association 113th annual meeting, Washington, DC, December 2014.

“The multiple meanings of nativist discourses in the U.S.,” Keynote address, Nordic Migration Research Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 2014.

Guest speaker, Cultural Sociology brown bag, Duke University, November 2013.

“Positive thinking about being out of work: Southern California in the Great Recession,” American Ethnological Society-Association for Political and Legal Anthropology joint meeting, April 2013.

“Methods in Research about Cultural Models: Analysis of Conventional Discourses and Other Methods,” Department of Anthropology and Cognitive Studies Initiative lecture, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, March 2013.

REVIEWS OF MANUSCRIPTS AND GRANTS

Referee for articles submitted to *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *American Sociological Review*, *Anthropological Theory*, *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies*, *Current Anthropology*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*, *Culture Unbound*, *Emotion Review*, *Ethos*, *Human Ecology*, *Human Organization*, *Humor*, *International Studies Review*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Law and Society Review*, *Language in Society*, *Medical Anthropology*, *PLOS ONE*, *PoLAR*, *Politics, Groups & Identities*, *Signs*, and *Social Anthropology*.

Referee for book manuscripts and proposals submitted to MIT Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, University of Chicago Press, Palgrave, Routledge, S.A.R. Press, Rowman & Littlefield, and Blackwell.

Referee for grant/fellowship proposals submitted to the Russell Sage Foundation, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, National Science Foundation, German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development, The Leverhulme Trust, European Research Council, and Wenner-Gren Foundation.

Referee on McArthur prize nomination.

COURSES TAUGHT

"Language, Culture, and Society"
"Life Stories"
"Field Methods in Anthropology"
"Hidden Meanings of Speech"/"Methods of Discourse Analysis"
"Language and Power"
"Anthropology of the United States"
"Media Discourse"
"Culture and Language Acquisition"
"Justice and Morality in Cross-Cultural Perspective"
"American Political Discourse"/ "American Political Cultures"
"U.S. Social and Immigration Discourses"
"Anthropology and Public Policy"
"The City: An Anthropological Examination"
"Culture and the Self" / "Psychological Anthropology"
"Culture and the Brain"
"Anthropology of Religion"
"Cognitive Anthropology"
"Culture and Discourse"
"Culture and Consciousness"
"The Actor in Social Theory"
"Marxism and Anthropology"
"Research Seminar in Cultural Anthropology"
"Theories in Cultural Anthropology: 1960's to the Present"
"Theorizing in Cognitive Science"
"A Kinder and Gentler U.S. in the 1990's?"
"The Anthropologist as Public Intellectual"
"Public Policy and U.S. Cultures"
"Linguistic Methods in Psychological Anthropology"
"Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology"
"Foundations of Cultural Anthropology"
"Senior Thesis Seminar"