

**CLAUDIA STRAUSS**  
Jean M. Pitzer Professor of Anthropology  
Pitzer College

Email: [claudia\\_strauss@pitzer.edu](mailto:claudia_strauss@pitzer.edu)  
Address: 1050 North Mills Ave., Claremont, CA 91711  
Office phone: (909) 607-3063  
Fax: (909) 621-8481  
Webpage: <https://www.pitzer.edu/academics/faculty/claudia-strauss/>  
<https://claudiastrauss.org/>  
Twitter (X): @ClaudiaRStrauss

**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)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Psychological anthropology; anthropology of work; anthropology of the U.S.; anthropology of policy; political opinions; language and culture; discourse analysis; qualitative research methods; social theory and culture theory

## HONORS

Lifetime Achievement Award, Society for Psychological Anthropology (2025)

Jean M. Pitzer endowed chair, Pitzer College (2024-2029)

The Faculty Member of the Year Award (2017), from 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: Cambridge University Press, 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

## BOOKS

C. Strauss, *What Work Means: Beyond the Puritan Work Ethic*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2024.

C. Strauss and J. Friedman, eds., *Political Sentiments and Social Movements: The Person in Politics and Culture*. NY: Palgrave, 2018.

C. Strauss, *Making Sense of Public Opinion: American Discourses about Immigration and Social Programs*. NY: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

C Strauss and N. Quinn, *A Cognitive Theory of Cultural Meaning*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

R. D'Andrade and C. Strauss, eds., *Human Motives and Cultural Models*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

C. Strauss and E. Lowe, "Studies of material hardship in psychological anthropology," In *The Cambridge Handbook of Psychological Anthropology*, E. Lowe, ed. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, *forthcoming*.

C. Strauss, "Language and culture in cognitive anthropology," In *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Culture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, G. Wolf & F. Polzenhagen, eds. London: Routledge, *forthcoming*.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS (CONTINUED)

C. Strauss, "What is (and is not) a cultural model," In *Cognition In and Out of the Mind: Advances in Cultural Model Theory*, G. Bennardo, V. de Munck, S. Chrisomalis, eds., NY: Palgrave, 2024.

C. Strauss, "Small work pleasures and two types of well-being," *Economic Anthropology*, 11, no. 2 (2024): 1-10. <http://doi.org/10.1002/sea2.12314>

C. Strauss, "Seeking attachment in the fissured workplace: External workers in the United States," in *Beyond the Wage: Ordinary Work in Diverse Economies*, W. Monteith, D. Vicol, and P. Williams, eds., 71-92. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press, 2021.

C. Strauss, "'It feels so alien' or the same old s---: Attachment to divergent cultural models in insecure times," *Ethos*, 46, no. 3 (2018): 351-372. <https://doi.org/10.1111/etho.12204>

E. Lowe and C. Strauss, "Introduction: Person-centered approaches in the study of culture and poverty," *Ethos*, 46, no. 3 (2018): 299-310.

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

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

J. Friedman and C. Strauss, "Introduction: The person in politics and culture," In *Political Sentiments and Social Movements: The Person in Politics and Culture*, C. Strauss and J. Friedman, eds. NY: Palgrave, 2018.

C. Strauss, "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.

C. Strauss, "Language and culture in cognitive anthropology," In *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Culture*, Farzad Sharifian, ed. London: Routledge, 2015.

C. Strauss, "How are language constructions constitutive? Strategic uses of conventional discourses about immigration," *Journal of International Relations and Development*, 16, no. 2 (2013): 262-293.

C. Strauss, "Blaming for Columbine: Conceptions of agency in the contemporary United States," *Current Anthropology* 48, no. 6 (2007): 807-822, and "Reply," *Current Anthropology* 48, no. 6 (2007): 827-832.

C. Strauss, "The imaginary," *Anthropological Theory* 6, no 3 (2006): 322-344.

N. Quinn and C. Strauss, "Introduction to special issue on the missing psychology in cultural anthropology's key words," *Anthropological Theory* 6, no 3 (2006): 267-279.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS (CONTINUED)

C. Strauss, "Analyzing discourse for cultural complexity," In *Finding Culture in Talk: A Collection of Methods*, Naomi Quinn, ed. NY: Palgrave, 2005.

C. Strauss, "Cultural standing in expression of opinion," *Language in Society* 33, no. 2 (2004):161-194.

C. Strauss, "Is empathy gendered and if so, why? An approach from feminist psychological anthropology," *Ethos* 32, no. 4 (2004):432-457.

C. Strauss, "Diversity and homogeneity in American culture: Teaching and theory," *FOSAP Newsletter* 11, no. 2 (2004):4-6.

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

C. Strauss, "The culture concept and the individualism/collectivism debate: Dominant and alternative attributions for class in the United States," In *Culture, Thought, and Development*, Larry Nucci, Geoffrey Saxe, and Elliot Turiel, eds. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2000.

C. Strauss, "Partly fragmented, partly integrated: An anthropological examination of 'postmodern fragmented subjects,'" *Cultural Anthropology* 12, no. 3 (1997):362-404.

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

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

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

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

C. Strauss, "Who gets ahead? Cognitive responses to heteroglossia in American political culture," *American Ethnologist* 17, no. 2 (1990):312-328.

C. Strauss, "Beyond 'formal' vs. 'informal' education: Uses of psychological theory in anthropological research," *Ethos* 12, no. 3 (1984):195-222. (1983 Stirling Prize Essay)

## 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, 1999: 568-570.

## REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

Review of E. Carpenter-Song, *Families on the Edge: Experiences of Homelessness and Care in Rural New England*. 2023. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (2024).  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/maq.12844>

Review of N. Leite, *Unorthodox Kin: Portuguese Marranos and the Global Search for Belonging*. 2017. Oakland: University of California Press.” *Ethos* 49, no. 4 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1111/etho.12333>.

Comment on V. de Munck and G. Bennardo, “Disciplining Culture: A Socio-Cognitive Approach,” (2019) *Current Anthropology* 60(2): 188-189.

Review of R. A. LeVine, ed., *Psychological Anthropology: A Reader on Self in Culture*. 2010. John Wiley & Sons. *Ethos* 40 (2): 1-3 (2012).

“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 C. W. Nuckolls, *The Cultural Dialectics of Knowledge and Desire*. 1996. U. of Wisconsin Press. *American Ethnologist* 26(3):773-774 (1999).

Review of M. Turner, *The Literary Mind*. 1996. Oxford University Press. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 7(2):235-236 (1997).

Review of P. Boyer, *Tradition as Truth and Communication*. 1990. Cambridge U. Press. *Ethnohistory* 39(4): 565-566 (1992).

Review of J. Lave, *Cognition in Practice*. 1988. Cambridge U. Press. *Contemporary Sociology* 19(1): 150-151 (1990).

## 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).

## PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Podcast interviews about *What Work Means*

--This Anthro Life podcast, September 2024

--New Books Network podcast (NBN Book of the Day), August 2024,

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/what-work-means>

--1869 podcast, June 2024, <https://soundcloud.com/1869thecuppodcast/1869-ep-150-claudia-strauss>

Radio interviews about *What Work Means*

--What's the 411 with Sharon Kay, WFSK, September 2024,

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EzYA1N8960Rcc4F3FdeONA8MIMUOGr7J/view>

--Counterpoint radio, September 2024, <https://btionline.org/author-asks-do-we-work-to-live-or-live-to-work/>

--It's the Economy, KGNU, September 2024

--Wharton Business Daily, Sirius XM, September 2024

Published discussion with Carrie Lane about *What Work Means*, *CaMP Anthropology*, August 26, 2024,

<https://campanthropology.org/2024/08/>

"The Myth of the Obsessive American Work Ethic is Harmful to Workers and Worker Power," *Power at Work*, August 25, 2024, <https://poweratwork.us/the-myth-of-the-obsessive-american-work>

"What Weber's Protestant Work Ethic Misses About Americans' Attitudes About Work," Cornell University Press Blog, June 4, 2024, <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/protestant-work-ethic-max-weber-what-work-means-claudia-strauss-06-06-2024/>

“Good Jobs vs. a Post-work Society: Diverse Meanings of Work in a Good Life,” Claremont Discourse Lectures, March 22, 2023, <https://ccdl.claremont.edu/digital/collection/cdl/id/77/rec/5>

“What if we could truly love our jobs?” *Futures of Work*, Issue 2 (2018)  
(<https://futuresofwork.co.uk/2018/10/16/what-if-we-could-truly-love-our-jobs/>)

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

“Echoing Voters, Candidates Express Complex Opinions on Immigration,” *Footnote*, 2 November 2012  
(<http://footnote.co/echoing-voters-candidates-express-complex-opinions-on-immigration/> )

“Beyond Left & Right: Exploring America’s Political Divide,” *Footnote*, 30 August 2012  
(<http://footnote.co/beyond-left-and-right-exploring-americas-political-divide/>)

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

“Hidden Work and Future Directions in Critical Cognitive Anthropology,” (with Mohaddeseh Ziyachi), for panel, “Critical Cognitive Anthropology: Past, Present, and Future,” Society for Psychological Anthropology meeting, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, April 4, 2025.

“What is New, What Is Not in Work-Life Boundaries in the US,” for panel, “Work in the Wake of the Pandemic,” Society for the Anthropology of North America/Society for Applied Anthropology meeting, Portland, OR, March 29, 2025.

“Are Work Meanings Changing in the US? Culture, Metaculture, Political Economy and Subjectivities,” Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University, March 21, 2025.

“Positive Affects of Precarious Workers,” Society for Economic Anthropology annual meeting, “Wellbeing and the Common Good,” Northwestern University, May 18-20, 2023.

“Outline of a Critical Cognitive Anthropology,” (with Mohaddeseh Ziyachi), for panel, “Culture, Knowledge, And Social Justice: Generating an Informed Dialogue Between Policymakers and Local Communities,” Conference of the Society of Anthropological Sciences and the Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies at Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania, June 16-18, 2022.

“What is (and is not) a Prototypical Cultural Model,” For Wenner-Gren workshop, “Cultural Model Theory: Shaping a New Anthropology,” Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, May 19-21, 2022.

“Populist Conventional Discourses,” For “Fracturing Democracy: The Erosion of Civil Society in a Shifting Communication Ecology,” Center for Communication and Civic Renewal at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 27-28, 2020.

“Stories about the Future,” for panel, “Narrative: Theory and Practice,” Society for Psychological Anthropology meeting, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, April 2019.

“Contemporary American Work Ethics and the Journey of Unemployment,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, October 2018.

“Toward emic 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **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

## **OTHER RESEARCH**

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

## **SELECTED OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Chair, Planning for 2025 biennial meeting, Society for the Anthropology of North America  
*Ethos*, Editorial Board (2017- )

Executive Board, Society for the Anthropology of Work (2017-2019)

President, Society for Psychological Anthropology (2011-2013)

President-Elect, Society for Psychological Anthropology (2009-2011)

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)

## REVIEWS OF MANUSCRIPTS AND GRANTS

Referee for articles submitted to *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *American Sociological Review*, *Anthropological Theory*, *Anthropology of Work Review*, *Cognitive Linguistics*, *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*, *Culture Unbound*, *Current Anthropology*, *Emotion Review*, *Ethos*, *Human Ecology*, *Human Organization*, *Humor*, *International Studies Review*, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, *Journal of Cultural Cognitive Science*, *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*, *Social Anthropology*, *Social Movement Studies*, and *Work and Occupations*.

Referee for book manuscripts and proposals submitted to MIT Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, University of Chicago Press, Palgrave, Routledge, Rutgers University Press, 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 the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

Referee on McArthur prize nomination.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

On linguistic anthropology: "Language, Culture, and Society"; "Language and Power"; "Media Discourse"; "Culture and Language Acquisition"; "Culture and Discourse"

On psychological anthropology: "Culture and the Self"/"Psychological Anthropology"; "Life Stories"; "Cognitive Anthropology"; "Theorizing in Cognitive Science"; "Linguistic Methods in Psychological Anthropology"

On ethnographic methods: "Field Methods in Anthropology"; "Research Seminar in Cultural Anthropology"; "Hidden Meanings of Speech"/ "Methods of Discourse Analysis"

On the United States: "Anthropology of the United States"; "Introduction to American Culture"; "U.S. Social and Immigration Discourses"; "Public Policy and U.S. Cultures"; senior seminar in American Studies

On social theory and cultural theory: "Culture and Consciousness"; "The Actor in Social Theory"; "Marxism and Anthropology"; "Theories in Cultural Anthropology: 1960's to the Present"; "Foundations of Cultural Anthropology"

Other anthropology courses: "Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology"; "Anthropology and Public Policy"; "The City: An Anthropological Examination"; "Anthropology of Religion"; "The Anthropologist as Public Intellectual"; "Senior Thesis Seminar"

Interdisciplinary First-Year Seminars: "The Future"/"Understanding Change/Envisioning the Future"; "Justice and Morality in Cross-Cultural Perspective"; "American Political Discourse"/ "American Political Cultures"; "Culture and the Brain"

Updated June 2025