

MRINALINI TANKHA, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- 2013** **Ph.D. Anthropology**, Brandeis University
Dissertation title: *Conditional Currencies: Supervision, Innovation and Conversion in Cuba's Dual Economy*
Dissertation committee: Elizabeth Emma Ferry, Mark Auslander, David Jacobson, Katherine Gordy
- 2004** **M.A. Sociology**, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
(Gold Medalist - Highest Rank)
- 2002** **B.A. (Honors) Economics**, Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Economic Anthropology; Money and Exchange; Political Economy; Globalization; International Development; Urban Social Networks; Informal Economies; Technology and Digital Finance; Business Anthropology; Human Centered Design; Transition Societies; Cuba; Latin America and the Caribbean.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2017- **Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology, Portland State University
- 2014-2017 **Postdoctoral Scholar**, The Institute for Money Technology & Financial Inclusion (IMTFI), Department of Anthropology, University of California Irvine.
- 2016 **Visiting Guest Lecturer**, ArtCenter College of Design, Pasadena.
Course: *Design Matters: Fresh Eyes on Cuba Studio*
- 2014-2015 **Research Consultant**, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University.
- 2012-2014 **Lecturer**, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University.
Courses: *Business, Culture and Society* and *Anthropology of International Development*
- 2013-2014 **Lecturer**, International Business School, Brandeis University.
Course: *Conducting Business in Emerging Markets: Cuba* (Hassenfeld Overseas Immersion Program)
- 2013-2014 **Program Coordinator for Emerging Markets**, International Business School, Brandeis University.
- 2011-2013 **Assistant Director**, International and Global Studies Program, Brandeis University.
- 2009-2010 **Visiting Research Scholar**, *Instituto Cubano de Investigación Cultural Juan Marinello*, Havana, Cuba.
- 2005-2012 **Teaching Fellow**
Brandeis University: Anthropology; Fine Arts; Women's and Gender Studies; South Asian Studies.
Tufts University: Anthropology.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles/Edited Volumes

- forthcoming* “Chiastic Currency Spheres: Postsocialist “Conversions” in Cuba’s Dual Economy” In *Money at the Margins: Global Perspectives on Technology, Financial Inclusion & Design*. Bill Maurer, Smoki Musaraj and Ivan Small Eds. New York and Oxford: Berghahn.
- n.d. “*Tener FE: Remitting Faith, Money and Debt in 21st Century Cuba*” *New West Indian Guide* (Submitted - Under Review).
- n.d. “Dismembering *El Caballo*: Everyday Terrains of Informal Economy Exchange in Havana” *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* (Submitted - Under Review).
- 2014-2017 Co-Editor, [Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion Working Paper Series](#).

Book Reviews

- 2017 *After Love: Queer Intimacy and Erotic Economies in Post-Soviet Cuba* by Noelle M. Stout, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2014. *American Anthropologist*. 119: 171-172
- 2014 *Cuba: A Struggle for Consumption* by Anna Cristina Petriera, Coconut Creek, FL: Caribbean Studies Press, 2011. *New West Indian Guide*. 88 (1-2): 123-125.

Commentaries/Publicly Engaged Writing

- 2016 [“The Heads and Tails of Monetary Duality”](#) *Cuba Counterpoints: Public Scholarship about a Changing Cuba* (Webzine).
- 2016 [“The Mobile Money Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from the IMTFI”](#) *The African Technopolitan Magazine* (Issue on “The Poverty of Development Strategy in Africa), Vol. 5, January. Pp. 96-105.
- 2011-2012 [Cuba Correspondent](#) *Pulsamérica: The Impartial Latin American News Link*.

In Preparation

- n.d. “Comparative Ethnographic Approaches to Mediation and Intermediaries.” Special Issue for the *Journal of Cultural Economy*. Co-edited with Ursula Dalinghaus.
- n.d. *The New Cuban Counterpoint: Money, Value and Sovereignty in Post-Soviet Havana*. (book manuscript).
- n.d. “Currency Counterpoints: Money and Transculturation in 21st Century Cuba” (*Cultural Anthropology*)

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2013 Professional Development Scholarship, The Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion, University of California, Irvine, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 2012 Dissertation Write-Up Award, Research Circle on Democracy and Cultural Pluralism, Brandeis University.
- 2009-2010 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council.

- 2009-2010 Research Fellowship, The Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion, University of California, Irvine, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 2009-2010 Mellon Dissertation Research Grant, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University.
- 2008, 2010 Jane's Travel Grant, Latin American and Latino Studies Program, Brandeis University.
- 2008, 2010 Graduate Travel Research Scholarship, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University.
- 2007, 2009 Abraham L. Sachar Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Brandeis University.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2008 Paper, "Touring Money: Uses of Currencies in 21st century Cuba." Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Conference.
- 2004 National Merit Scholarship, The Center for Advanced Studies, Delhi.
- 2004 Kunda Datar Gold Medal for highest rank in M.A. Sociology, University of Delhi.
- 2004 Sanwal Memorial Prize for highest rank in MA Sociology, University of Delhi.
- 2004 Professor M.S.A Rao Memorial Gold Medal for highest marks in M.A. Sociology course on Methods of Sociological Research, University of Delhi.

INVITED TALKS / ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- 2017 "Money, Power and Sovereignty in Cuba and the Caribbean," Latin American Institute, University of California Los Angeles.
- 2017 "Fowler Outspoken Conversation: State of Affairs: Cuba Today," Panel Discussion in conjunction with *Nkame: A Retrospective of Cuban Printmaker Belkis Ayón* Exhibit, Fowler Museum at the University of California Los Angeles.
- 2017 "The New Cuban Counterpoint: Money and Power in Post-Soviet Cuba," Department of Anthropology, Portland State University.
- 2017 "Currency Counterpoints: Money and Transculturation in Cuba's Dual Economy," Culture, Power and Social Change Lecture Series, Department of Anthropology, University of California Los Angeles.
- 2016 "Money and the Politics of Duality in Contemporary Cuban Art," Carmen Morton Christensen Lecture, Department of Art and Art History, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City.
- 2016 "Currency Counterpoints: Money and Power in Post-Soviet Cuba," Panel on Political and Economic Changes in Cuba, Conference on *Cuba Transitions: What's Left Out?* Brown University.
- 2016 "De-nominating Conversions: The Rise and Imminent Fall of Cuba's Dual Currency System," Department of Anthropology Colloquium, University of California, Irvine.
- 2016 "Money and Power in Post-Soviet Cuba," Department of Anthropology, Humboldt State University.

- 2016 “Currency Unification and its Implications for Everyday Financial Practices in Cuba.” Social Sciences Expert Speaker Series, *Cuba and the U.S.: Making Up is Hard to Do*, University of California Irvine.
- 2016 “The New Cuban Economy: Global Integration and Local Solidarities” A Roundtable Conversation with Rafael J. Betancourt and Raul Fernandez. University of California, Irvine.
- 2015 “Money, Currency and Art in Postsocialist Cuba.” Roski School of Art and Design, University of Southern California.
- 2015 “Money and Everyday Economic Life in Contemporary Cuba.” UC-Cuba Academic Initiative Lecture Series, University of California, Irvine.
- 2015 Financial Services for the Poor Workshop: Sharpening the Research Agenda with Insights from Advocacy and Policy. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 “Economic Development and Informality in Cuba.” Department of Planning, Policy and Design, University of California, Irvine.
- 2014 Closing Remarks. Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion Annual Conference, University of California Irvine.
- 2014 “Informality, Risk and Trust in Havana’s Underground Economy.” Department of Anthropology, Tufts University.
- 2013 “The New Cuban Counterpoint: Perspectives on Race and Sex Tourism.” In conjunction with *Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons: My Mother Told Me* and *Cuban Virtualities: New Media Art from the Island* Exhibits, Tufts University Art Gallery.
- 2013 “Urban Economic Development and Scalar Politics in Havana.” Department of Anthropology, Tufts University.
- 2011 Social Science Research Council Interdisciplinary Workshop for IDRF Fellows, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2011 “Urban Social Networks in Havana’s Informal Economy.” Department of Anthropology, Tufts University.
- 2010 “Havana: A Global City?” *El Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)*, Havana, Cuba.
- 2009 “Capturing Capital in the City: Case Study – Havana, Cuba.” Department of Anthropology, Tufts University.
- 2008 “Urban Segregation: Enclave Tourism in Havana.” Department of Anthropology, Tufts University.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS (Selection)

- 2016 “A New Politics of Monetary Denomination: Foretelling the End of Cuba’s Dual Currency System,” American Anthropological Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2016 “*Tener FE*: Remitting Faith, Money and Debt in 21st Century Cuba,” Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, New York, NY.
- 2015 “Converting Dualisms in Contemporary Cuban Art,” Symposium on “Doing Money, Artfully” Institute for Money Technology & Financial Inclusion and Claire Trevor School of the Arts, University of California Irvine.

- 2015 “The New Cuban Counterpoint: Ruptures and Continuities in Havana’s Dual Economy.” American Anthropological Society Conference, Denver, CO.
- 2015 “Palimpsests of Money and Currency Exchange in Cuba.” American Ethnological Society Conference, San Diego, CA
- 2014 “*La Bolita*: Money and Medi(t)ated Speculation in Havana’s Informal Economy.” American Anthropological Association Conference, Washington, DC.
- 2014 “I Don’t Have the Face of a Hustler: Postsocialist Conversions in Cuba’s Dual Economy.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Meeting, Detroit, MI.
- 2014 “*El Estado* and the Social Management of Risk in Cuba’s Informal Economy.” American Ethnological Society Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2013 “*Tener Fe*: Salvage Money in Postsocialist Cuba.” American Anthropological Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Dismembering *El Caballo*: Symbolic and Economic Meanings of Multiple Currency Exchange in Cuba.” American Anthropological Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- 2012 “Representations of the Informal Economy in Cuban Film.” Panel on “Contemporary Cuban Cinema,” Boston Latino International Film Festival. Boston, MA.
- 2012 “Culture and Entrepreneurship in Havana’s Second Economy.” Panel on “Business in Latin America: Spotlight Cuba,” Brandeis University International Business School, Waltham, MA.
- 2012 “Currency Contours: Informal Microfinance in 21st Century Cuba.” Panel on “Finance/Financialization,” American Ethnological Society Conference, New York, NY.
- 2009 “*Cubanos Convertibles*: Meanings of Multiple Currencies in Cuba.” The Institute of Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion Conference for Funded Researchers, University of California, Irvine.
- 2009 “Currency Counterpoints: Social Practices of Money in 21st Century Cuba.” Measure of a Revolution: Cuba, 1959-2009 Conference, Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada.
- 2008 “Multiple Currencies, Remittances and the Family in Cuba.” Department of Sociology Transnational Families Colloquium, Brandeis University.
- 2008 “Touring Money: Uses of Currencies in 21st Century Cuba.” Metamorphosis Graduate Student Conference, Brandeis University.
- 2008 “Touring Money: Uses of Currencies in 21st century Cuba.” Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Conference.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ORGANIZATION

- 2016 Chair, Panel on “Evidentiary Impulse: Shape Shifting Between Evidence as Ethnographic Object and In-The-World Engagement, American Anthropological Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN

- 2016 Co-organizer, Workshop on “Experimenting with Money Objects and Repertoires Lab,” The University of California Collaboratory for Ethnographic Design (CoLED) Conference on *Ethnography & Design: Mutual Provocations*, San Diego, CA.
- 2016 Co-organizer, Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion Fellows’ Workshop on Research Methods, University of California Irvine.
- 2016 Ad hoc Peer-Reviewer, *Journal of Cultural Economy*.
- 2016 Ad hoc Peer-Reviewer, *Journal of International and Global Studies*.
- 2016 Participant, Workshop on “alt.economy: Ethnographic Reflections on Remaking Economy and Finance,” University of California Irvine.
- 2015 Organizer, Symposium on “Doing Money, Artfully,” Institute for Money Technology & Financial Inclusion and Claire Trevor School of the Arts, University of California Irvine.
- 2015 Co-Organizer, Panel on “On Binary Politics and Generative Re-castings,” American Anthropological Society Conference, Denver, CO.
- 2015 Organizing and Selection Committee, “*¡Qué Bolón!* New Directions for a New Era in Cuban Studies,” UC-Cuba Academic Initiative Conference, University of California Irvine.
- 2015 Discussant, Panel on “The Public Sphere and Civil Society in Cuba” for “*Qué Bolón!* New Directions for a New Era in Cuban Studies,” UC-Cuba Academic Initiative Conference, University of California Irvine.
- 2015 Ad hoc Peer-Reviewer, *Human-Computer Interaction*.
- 2015 Chair and Organizer, Panel on “Money Movements: Emergent Forms of Currency, Payment and Value Circulation,” American Ethnological Society Conference, San Diego, CA.
- 2015 Production Team, “[Introduction: The Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion](#)” (Video).
- 2014 Co-organizer, Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion Fellows’ Workshop on Qualitative Research Methods, University of California Irvine.
- 2014 Respondent, “Disentangling Cuban Publics,” UC-Cuba Academic Initiative Conference, University of California Irvine.
- 2014 Chair and Co-Organizer, Panel on “Labor in Specie? Realizing Multiple Lives of Work,” Society For Cultural Anthropology Biennial Meeting, Detroit, MI.
- 2013-2014 Boston Area Chapter Coordinator and Selection Committee Member, *Circumnavigators Club Foundation Travel-Study Grant Program*, International Business School, Brandeis University.
- 2012 Chair and Co-Organizer, Panel on "Coining Currencies: (Re)Negotiating Money and Value in Transition Economies," American Anthropological Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2012 Research Fellow, *Resource Conflicts in Latin America*
Supervisor: Elizabeth Ferry Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University
- 2011, 2012 Assistant Media Relations Coordinator, Boston Latino International Film Festival.
- 2005 Research Fellow, *Aging Across Worlds: Ambivalent Modernities in India*
Supervisor: Sarah Lamb, Women's Studies Research Centre, Brandeis University
- 2005-2011 Writing Consultant, University Writing Program, Brandeis University
- 2009 Multimedia Technology and Student Affairs Specialist, International and Global Studies Program, Brandeis University.
- 2005-2009 Student Assistant, Harvard Film Archive, Carpenter Centre, Harvard University.
- 2003 Microfinance Intern, Trickle Up, New York.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association (AAA); American Ethnological Society (AES); Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA); Latin American Studies Association (LASA); Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA); Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Community (EPIC); Society for Urban, National and Transnational/Global Anthropology (SUNTA); Research Network for Postsocialist Studies (SOYUZ)

LANGUAGES

English: Native

Hindi: Native

Spanish: Fluent

French: Proficient

REFERENCES

Elizabeth Emma Ferry (Doctoral Committee Chair), Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology and Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, Brandeis University, ferry@brandeis.edu

Bill Maurer (Postdoctoral Advisor), Dean, School of Social Sciences; Professor of Anthropology, Law, and Criminology, Law and Society; Director, Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion, University of California, Irvine, wmmaurer@uci.edu

Raul Fernandez, Professor Emeritus School of Social Sciences and Department of Chicano/Latino Studies, University of California, Irvine, raferman@uci.edu

Mark Auslander, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Museum Director, Central Washington University, auslanderm@cwu.edu

David Jacobson, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University, jacobson@brandeis.edu