

# MRINALINI TANKHA

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## EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D. Anthropology, Brandeis University
- 2004 M.A. Sociology, University of Delhi  
(Gold Medalist - Highest Rank)
- 2002 B.A. (Honors) Economics, University of Delhi

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Money and Exchange; Debt; Political Economy; Infrastructure; Sovereignty; International Development; Digital Finance; Design; 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
- 2014-2015 Research Consultant, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
- 2012-2014 Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University  
Courses: Anthropology of International Development; Business, Culture and Society
- 2013-2014 Lecturer, International Business School, Brandeis University  
Course: Conducting Business in Emerging Markets: Cuba (Hassenfeld Overseas Immersion Program)
- 2009-2010 Visiting Research Scholar, Instituto Cubano de Investigación Cultural Juan Marinello, Havana, Cuba
- 2005-2012 Teaching Fellow, Brandeis University and Tufts University  
Departments of Anthropology; Fine Arts; Women's and Gender Studies; South Asian Studies.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

- 2020 "Detained settlements: The infrastructures and temporalities of digital financial transactions between the United States and Cuba." *Economic Anthropology*. [published online – early view]

- 2020 "Mapping the Intermediate: lived technologies of money and value" (with Ursula Dalinghaus) Journal of Cultural Economy. 13(4): 345-352.  
[Themed section 'Mapping the Intermediate' co-edited with Ursula Dahlinghaus]

#### Book Chapters

- 2018 "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 V. Small Eds. New York and Oxford: Berghahn.

#### 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 Pertierra, Coconut Creek, FL: Caribbean Studies Press, 2011. New West Indian Guide. 88 (1-2): 123-125.

#### Commentaries/Publicly Engaged Writing

- 2019 "[Loy Loy: The Financial Education Board Game for Everyone](#)" Notes from the Field, Consortium of Practicing & Applied Anthropologists.
- 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.
- 2014-2017 Co-Editor, [Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion Working Paper Series](#).
- 2011-2012 Cuba Correspondent, Pulsamérica: The Latin American News Link.

#### In Preparation

- n.d. Currency Faultlines: Money and Sovereignty in Cuba (book manuscript).

### FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2018 Faculty Development Award. Faculty Development Committee, Portland State University.
- 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

- 2018 John Eliot Allen Outstanding Teaching Award. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Portland State University.
- 2018 Feminist of Color Award. Women's Resource Center, Portland State University.
- 2008 Paper, "Touring Money: Uses of Currencies in 21<sup>st</sup> 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

- 2020 "From Economic Resilience to Economic Justice" Resilience Series, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO).
- 2018 "The Heads and Tails of Cuba's Dual Economy" Anthropology Department Colloquium Series, Reed College.
- 2018 "Currency Conversions: Foreshadowing the End of Cuba's Dual Economy" Cuba Research Institute, Florida International University.
- 2018 "Money and Morality in Cuba's Dual Economy" Anthropology Department Lecture Series, Oregon State University.
- 2018 "Money and Power in Cuba" Anthropology Student Association, Portland State University.
- 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 "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 "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.
- 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.
- 2011 "Cubanos Convertibles: Meanings of Multiple Currency Exchange in Havana" 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

- 2019 "Digital Payment Infrastructures and Precarity in Cuba" American Anthropological Association Conference, Vancouver, BC.
- 2018 "Is Market Socialism on the Money?" Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2017 "Currency Unification and the Role of the Socialist State in Cuba" American Anthropological Association Conference, Washington, DC.
- 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cuba," Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, New York, NY.
- 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 "Currency Contours: Informal Microfinance in 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cuba." Metamorphosis Graduate Student Conference, Brandeis University.
- 2008 "Touring Money: Uses of Currencies in 21<sup>st</sup> century Cuba." Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Conference.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ORGANIZATION

- 2020 Co-editor (with Ursula Dalinghaus) of "Mapping the Intermediate" Themed Section of *Journal of Cultural Economy*. 13(4).
- 2019 Chair and Co-organizer, Panel on "Constituting Cuba in a Post-Castro World" American Anthropological Association Conference, Vancouver, BC.
- 2019 Organizer, Installation on "Loy Loy: The Financial Education Board Game for Everyone" American Anthropological Association Conference, Vancouver, BC.
- 2019 Editorial Board, *Interversar*, University of California Irvine.

- 2019 Organizer and Participant, Roundtable on "Negotiating the Boundaries of Anthropological Expertise in Portland's Tech Sector" Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Portland, OR.
- 2019 Organizer and Participant, Roundtable on "Business Anthropologists: From Researchers to Corporate Strategists" Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Portland, OR.
- 2018 Ad hoc Peer-Reviewer, *American Anthropologist*.
- 2018 Discussant, Panel on "Sociotechnical Infrastructures of Value and Flow" American Anthropological Association Conference, San Jose, CA
- 2018 Organizer, Panel on "The Age of Market Socialism: Beyond the Capitalist/Socialist Divide in Cuba Today" Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 Discussant, Panel on "Academics as Organizational and Management Consultants: Creating Sustainable Social Change" Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 Discussant, UC-Cuba Academic Initiative Conference, University of California Irvine, CA.
- 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

- 2018 Mini-MBA for Applied Social Scientists, Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference (EPIC)
- 2016 Visiting Guest Lecturer, ArtCenter College of Design, Pasadena  
Course: Design Matters: Fresh Eyes on Cuba Studio
- 2013-2014 Program Coordinator for Emerging Markets, International Business School, Brandeis University
- 2011-2013 Assistant Director, International and Global Studies Program, Brandeis University
- 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); Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA); Latin American Studies Association (LASA); Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA); Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA); Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Community (EPIC)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:wmmaurer@uci.edu)

Raúl Fernandez, Professor Emeritus School of Social Sciences and Department of Chicano/Latino Studies, University of California, Irvine, [rafernan@uci.edu](mailto:rafernan@uci.edu)