

TODD RAMÓN OCHOA

Department of Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology (awarded with distinction). Dissertation: *The Dead and the Living in a Cuban-Kongo Sacred Society*. Dissertation Committee: Michael Taussig (Advisor), Steven Gregory, Neni Panourgia, John Szwed (Yale), Mauricio Font (CUNY), 2005.
- M. Phil. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, 1998.
- M.A. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, 1995.
- B.A. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Department of Political Science, Concentration in Latin American Studies, 1992.

POSITIONS HELD

- 2014- Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- 2008-2014 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- 2007-2008 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2005-2007 President's Postdoctoral Fellow. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2005 Lecturer. Spelman College, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.
- 2005 Lecturer. Emory University, Department of Anthropology.
- 2002 Adjunct Assistant Professor, State University of New York at Old Westbury, Department of Humanities and Languages.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2013 UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship
- 2011 UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Support for Scholarship Award
- 2011 UNC Johnston Fellows Teaching Excellence Award
- 2010 UNC Office of the Provost Junior Faculty Development Award
- 2008 UNC Program in Latina/o Studies Course Development Award
- 2007-2008 University of California Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2005-2007 University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2002 Columbia University Frederic Zeller Memorial Fellowship
- 2001 Columbia University Minority Merit Fellowship
- 1999-2000 Fundación Fernando Ortíz, Havana, Cuba. Fellow in Residence
- 1999-2000 Columbia University Minority Merit Fellowship
- 1996 Sheldon Schepps Memorial Fellowship
- 1994-2000 Columbia University President's Fellowship

MONOGRAPHS

- 2010 *Society of the Dead: Quita Manaquita and Palo Praise in Cuba.*
Manuscript, 310pp. University of California Press.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2010 “Prendas-Ngangan-Enquisos: Turbulence and the Influence of the Dead in Cuban-Kongo Material Practice.” *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 25, No. 3, August.
- 2007 “Versions of the Dead: *Kalunga*, Cuban-Kongo Materiality, and Ethnography.” *Cultural Anthropology* Vol. 22, No. 4, November.

ARTICLES

- 2011 “Where is Anthropology Going.” *Kroeber Anthropological Society*, 100 (1):3-25.

REPRINTED ARTICLES

- 2009 “Versions of the Dead: *Kalunga*, Cuban-Kongo Materiality, and Ethnography.” *Cultural Anthropology, Vol. 1: Moorings*. London: Sage Books.

LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

Short Story Fiction

- 2010 “Tormenta Ndoki.” *Anthropology and Humanism*, Vol. 35, No. 2, December.
- 2007 “His Illness.” *Stimulus-Respond*. London.

Poetry Translation

- 2009 Branly, Roberto. “Evening Falls on San Anastasio” in *The Whole Island: Cuban Poetry 1900-2000*. Mark Weiss, ed. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 2008 Aguilera, Carlos Alberto. “Mao” in *The Island of My Hunger: Cuban Poetry Today*. Francisco Morán, ed. San Francisco: City Lights Books.
- 2004 Aguilera, Carlos Alberto. “Mao” and “Typologies” in *Mandorla 7: Journal of New Writing from the Americas*: 62-70.

FIELDWORK AND LANGUAGE STUDY

- 2012 Havana and Las Villas, Cuba. Fieldwork for forthcoming manuscript on rural Cuban *Bembé*. December.
- 2011 Havana and Las Villas, Cuba. Fieldwork for forthcoming manuscript on rural Cuban *Bembé*. June.
- 2010 Havana and Las Villas, Cuba. Fieldwork for forthcoming manuscript on rural Cuban *Bembé*. May.
- 2009 Havana and Las Villas, Cuba. Fieldwork for forthcoming manuscript on rural Cuban *Bembé*. December.
- 2009 Havana, Cuba. July.

FIELDWORK AND LANGUAGE STUDY, CONT.

- 2006 Las Villas, Cuba. Fieldwork for forthcoming manuscript on rural Cuban *Bembé*. December.
- 2005-2006 Las Villas, Cuba. Fieldwork for forthcoming manuscript on rural Cuban *Bembé*. December 2005 and January 2006.
- 2001 Havana, Cuba. Three months follow-up dissertation research. Funded by a Frederic Zeller Memorial Fellowship.
- 1999-2000 Havana and Las Villas Province, Cuba. Eighteen months dissertation fieldwork. Funded by a Columbia University Minority Merit Fellowship.
- 1998 Paris, France. Four months independent language study.
- 1997 Havana, Cuba. Four months field research on Cuban Kongo ritual forms.
- 1996 Havana, Cuba. Four months preliminary dissertation field research on Cuban Kongo ritual forms. Funded by a Sheldon Schepps Memorial Fellowship.
- 1992, 1993 Havana, Cuba. Eight months independent research on black markets in Cuba's post-Soviet command economy.

INVITED TALKS (LAST FIVE YEARS)

- 2012 "*Bembé* and the Outside." Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University. February 21.
- 2011 "*Bembé*: Creole Becoming and the Limits of Representation." Department of Anthropology. UC Santa Cruz. April 18.
- 2010 "*Bembé*: Notes Toward a New Project." Department of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, Colloquium Speaker Series, December 2.
- 2010 "*Bembé*: Creole Becoming and the Limits of Representation." Department of Anthropology, University of California Berkeley, November 22.
- 2009 "Positions in the Study of African-Inspired Praise in Cuba." Invited presentation for the panel "The Study of Cuban Religions 50 Years After the Cuban Revolution." Montreal, November 8.
- 2009 "Promises Made: Cuban-Kongo Praise of the Dead and the Overcoming of Fated Debt." Stanford University, Program in African and African American Studies. April 29.
- 2009 "Reading Granma." New York Academy of Science and the Wenner Gren Foundation. New York, January 26.
- 2008 "Cuban-Kongo Praise for the Dead: Thinking about Healing, Materiality, and Emerging Religious Formations in a Complex Creole-American Context." UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies. February 5.
- 2007 "Cuban-Kongo Material Culture." Purdue University, African and African American Studies and Research Center. December 3.
- 2007 "The Craft of Influence: Force and Fated Debt in Cuban-Kongo Praise." Indiana University, Department of Religious Studies. October 31.
- 2007 "Debt and Trust: Overcoming Fate in Cuban-Kongo Healing." UCLA, Department of History. May 11.
- 2007 "Latin America and the Black Atlantic: Hybridity and Transformation through Cuban-Kongo Practice." Wheaton College, Norton, MA, Department of Anthropology. February 26.

- 2007 “Overcoming Fated Debt: The Dead and the Value of Life in Cuban-Kongo Material Culture. University of California, Riverside. Department of Anthropology. January 22.
Department of History. May 11.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, TALKS, AND WORKSHOPS (LAST FIVE YEARS)

- 2013 “Bembé Lives.” Advanced Seminar at the School for Advanced Research (SAR), Santa Fe, April 20-26.
- 2011 “Bembé and the Limits of Representation.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Montreal, November 19.
- 2011 “*Bembé* and the Outside.” Passages and Afterworlds: Anthropological Perspectives on Death and Mortuary Rituals in the Caribbean. University of West Indies, Barbados, June 6.
- 2011 “Animality and Utility—a Sacrificial Reservoir in central Cuban *Bembé*.” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meeting, Santa Fe, May 7.
- 2010 “Unraveling Ethnographic Limits in Lydia Cabrera.” XXIX Latin American Studies Association Congress, Toronto, October 8.
- 2010 “Building and Dissolving Bonds: Asymmetrical Synthesis in Cuban-Kongo Sorcery.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Spring Meeting, Santa Fe, May 7.
- 2009 “Cuban-Kongo Healing and Harming: The Dead Become Unlimited.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, December 5.
- 2007 “*Nzambi, Zombi, Zombie*: Modernity, Authority, and Authorship in Black Atlantic Ethnography and Philosophy of Mind.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C., December 1.
- 2007 “Influence and Substance in Cuban-Kongo Healing.” University of California Office of the President Annual Spring Meeting of Fellows, Berkeley, April 28.
- 2006 “Sierra Morena Hills: On the Mutual Becoming of Character, Landscape, and Ethnographer.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Jose, November 16.
- 2006 “Economic and Moral Valuation in Cuban-Kongo Material Culture.” University of California Office of the President Annual Spring Meeting of Fellows, Los Angeles, April 29.
- 2006 “Cuts and Ashes: Versions of Cuban-Kongo Life.” Society for Applied Anthropology and Society for Medical Anthropology Meetings, Vancouver, BC, April 1.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editor

Book review editor for the journal *Cultural Anthropology*
Fiction editor for the journal *Anthropology and Humanism*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
American Anthropological Association
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
Society for Cultural Anthropology
American Ethnological Society

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native)
French (reading)