

TODD RAMÓN OCHOA

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology (degree 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.

EMPLOYMENT

- 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.
- 1996-1998 Teaching Assistant, Columbia University, Department of Anthropology.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 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

FIELDWORK AND LANGUAGE STUDY

- 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.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2007 "Versions of the Dead: *Kalunga* in Cuban Kongo Materiality." Forthcoming, *Cultural Anthropology* Vol. 22, No. 4, November 2007.
- 2006 *Society of the Dead: Nkita Mana Nkita and Palo Praise in Cuba*. Manuscript, 404pp. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. Under review at the University of California Press.
- 2005 "Aspects of the Dead in Cuban-Kongo Religion." Accepted for publication in the proceedings of the conference "Cuba Today: Continuity and Change Since the 'Periodo Especial'." Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, CUNY Graduate Center, New York.
<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/dept/bildn/publications/cubatodaybook.pdf>.

INVITED TALKS

- 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.
- 2006 "The Materiality of Cuban-Kongo Healing: Complex Sculpture and Collective Praise." California College for the Arts. San Francisco, March 8.

INVITED TALKS, CONT.

- 2005 “Versions of the Dead: Turns and Returns in Cuban-Kongo Materiality.” University of California, Berkeley, Department of Anthropology 290 Guest Lecture Series. Berkeley, November 14.
- 2005 “Cuban-Kongo Religion.” Agnes Scott College, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Atlanta, February 16, 2005.
- 2003 “The Living and the Dead in a Cuban-Kongo Sacred Society.” University of California, Berkeley, Department of Anthropology. Berkeley, January 22.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS

- 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.
- 2005 “The Dead, Sorcery, and the Transgression of the Divine in Post-1990s Cuba, or, On the Question of Negation in the Constitution of the Sacred.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C., December 2.
- 2004 “Cuban-Kongo Religion in Cuba Today.” Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, October 5.
- 2004 “Anticipation: Nomadic Sensation in Cuban-Kongo Sorcery.” American Ethnological Society Meetings, Atlanta, April 23.
- 2003 “Ethnography, Intuition and Sense: The Dead in Cuban Kongo Inspiration.” American Ethnological Society Meetings, Providence, April 26.
- 2002 “*Eggun*: Discrete and Ambient Dead.” Columbia University Department of Anthropology Dissertation Writer’s Series, Columbia University, New York, March 21.
- 2000 “*Buenas noches la buena noche*: Cuban-Kongo Praise for the Night.” 3rd Cuban Research Institute Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies, Florida International University, Miami, October 18-21.
- 2000 “Apuntes sobre la religiosidad afro-cubana en la provincia de Las Villas.” Fundación Fernando Ortíz, Havana, May 22.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS, CONT.

- 1999 “Strategies of Representation in Ortiz’s Early Ethnography *Los Negros Brujos*.” Conferencia Internacional Fernando Ortiz: Transculturación, Vanguarria y Diversidad Cultural, Havana, November 24-27.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2006 “Writing Practice.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Jose, November 16.
2004 “Transgression, Politics, and the Sacred.” American Anthropological Association annual meetings, San Francisco, November 18-22.
1998 *Poetry as Ethnography*. Columbia University. April 18-19.
1997 *From Field to Text: An Ethnographer’s Forum*. Columbia University Department of Anthropology. Fall Semester.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association
American Ethnological Society
Latin American Studies Association
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
Society of Applied Anthropology

PUBLISHED TRANSLATIONS

- 2007 Aguilera, Carlos Alberto. “Mao.” *The Island of My Hunger: Cuban Poetry Today*. Francisco Morán, ed. San Francisco: City Lights Books.
2004 Aguilera, Carlos Alberto. “BC-E.” *Mandorla 7: Journal of New Writing from the Americas* (2004): 62-70.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native)
French (reading)