

Elise Berman

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EMPLOYMENT

2012-present *Assistant Professor*
Department of Anthropology
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Spring 2017 Family Leave (paused tenure clock)

Spring 2015 Family Leave (paused tenure clock)

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

2012 Ph.D.

Department of Comparative Human Development

- Specialization in linguistic and sociocultural anthropology
- Dissertation: *Children Have Nothing to Hide: Deception, Age, and Avoiding Giving in the Marshall Islands*
- Winner of William Henry Award
- Committee: John Lucy, Jennifer Cole, Don Kulick, Richard Shweder

2008 M.A.

Department of Comparative Human Development

- Thesis: *It's a Heart Biter: K'iche' Maya Children as Buffers of Malicious Adult Interactions*

Dartmouth College

2003 B.A.

Anthropology

- Thesis: *Why Try to Change Others? Missionizing as an Act of Identity Formation*
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Magna cum laude

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2019 *Talking Like Children: Language and the Production of Age in the Marshall Islands.*
Oxford University Press. Oxford Studies in the Anthropology of Language.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Forthcoming *Avoiding Sharing: How People Help Each Other Get Out of Giving.* *Current Anthropology.*

- 2018 Force Signs: Ideologies of Corporal Discipline in Academia and the Marshall Islands. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. 28 (1): 22-42.
- 2014 Negotiating Age: Direct Speech and the Sociolinguistic Production of Childhood in the Marshall Islands. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 24(2):109-132.
Selected by the editors as the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology's 2014 contribution to *Déjà Lu* (2016, issue 4), the e-journal of the World Council of Anthropological Associations.
- 2014 Holding on: Adoption, Kinship Tensions, and Pregnancy in the Marshall Islands. *American Anthropologist* 116(3):578-590.
- 2011 The Irony of Immaturity: K'iche' Children as Mediators and Buffers in Adult Social Interactions. *Childhood* 18(2):274-288.
- 2009 Voices of Outreach: The Construction of Identity and Maintenance of Social Ties among Chabad-Lubavitch Emissaries. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48(1):69-85.

Additional Publications

- 2016 Aged Culture. *Life Course Blog*. Life Course Collaborative Research Network, February 8. <http://acyig.americananthro.org/2016/02/08/aged-culture/>
- 2013 Passive First-Person Recordings: A New Way to Study Children. *Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group (ACYIG) Newsletter*, February 15. [peer-reviewed]

FUNDING

External Funding

- 2015-2016 Wenner-Gren Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship (7% acceptance rate; \$40,000)
- 2013 Distinguished Guest Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame (\$60,000; half declined)
- 2009-2010 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$17,792)
- 2009-2010 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$15,000)
- 2009-2010 Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Grant (declined)
- 2008 Lemelson Fellowship, Society for Psychological Anthropology (\$5,000)

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2018 Faculty Research Grant, UNC Charlotte (\$6,000)
- 2013 Faculty Research Grant, UNC Charlotte (\$6,000)
- 2013 William Henry Award for best dissertation in the Department of Comparative Human Development in 2012, University of Chicago (\$1,000)
- 2011-2012 Provost Dissertation-Year Fellowship, University of Chicago (\$23,000)
Awarded to top Markovitz Dissertation-Year Fellowship candidate
Co-designated honorary Michael and Ling Markovitz Fellow
- 2011 Bernice Neugarten Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago (\$5,000)
- 2011 Bernice Neugarten Prize (Research), University of Chicago (\$2,000)

- 2011 Research Travel Grant (Orin Williams Fund), University of Chicago (\$1,000)
- 2005-2009 Century Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago (\$200,000 including tuition)
- 2006 Title IV FLAS summer language fellowship (Guatemala), University of Chicago (\$5,000)
- 2002 Claire Garber Goodman Grant for Anthropological Research, Dartmouth College (\$6,000)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2014 The Road to Liklob: Avoiding Giving in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Department of Anthropology colloquium series, University of South Carolina, February 20.
- 2013 Avoiding Giving: Language, Deception, and Exchange in the Marshall Islands. Talk given to the Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, May 20.

Conference Presentations

- 2018 Language Socialization as the Production of Differences: Lessons from the Marshall Islands. Paper to be presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, San Jose, November 13-18.
- 2017 Aged Subjectivities. Roundtable organized at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington D.C., November 29-December 3.
- 2016 Ignoring the Signs of Possession: Collaborative Acts of Avoiding Giving in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN, November 16-20.
- 2016 Avoiding Giving to Give. Presented at the Association for Social Anthropology of Oceania annual meeting, San Diego, CA, February 6-9.
- 2015 Affective Responsibility: Giving and Material Space in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Denver, CO, November 18-22.
- 2015 "I Am Going to Punch Your Face": Violent Speech and Hierarchy Among Children in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Society for Psychological Anthropology biennial meeting, Boston, MA, April 9-12.
- 2014 Sociolinguistic Negotiation of Age: Aggressive and Direct Speech Among Children in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the 6th International Symposium on Intercultural, Cognitive, and Social Pragmatics (EPICS VI): Pragmatic Perspectives on Language Aggression and Conflict, University of Seville, Spain, May 12-14.
- 2014 Producing Childhood: Aggressive Speech in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the joint meeting of the Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group, the

Society for Cross-Cultural Research, and the Division of International Psychology, Charleston, SC, February 12-15.

- 2013 The Insights of Age: New Perspectives on Economics and Socialization. Presented at the joint meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology and the Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group, San Diego, CA, April 4-7.
- 2013 Adoption and Kinship in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania annual meeting, San Antonio, TX, February 6-9.
- 2012 Performing Difference: The Socialization and Construction of Aged Selves in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, San Francisco, November 14-18.
- 2012 Avoiding Giving to Give: Deception, Age, and Power in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania annual meeting, Portland, OR, February 7-12.
- 2011 Performing Immaturity: Transparency, Economics, and the Socialization of Self in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Montreal, November 16-20.
- 2011 It's Okay To Be Greedy: Avoiding Giving Between Children and Adults in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Society for Psychological Anthropology biennial meeting, Santa Monica, CA, March 31-April 3.
- 2011 Avoiding Giving: The Linguistic Construction of Goods. Presented at the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania annual meeting, Honolulu, HI, February 9-12.
- 2010 Marshallese Children: Alienable Goods. Presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 17-21.
- 2009 The Social Efficacy of Immaturity: Implications for our Understanding of Religion. Presented at the joint meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology and the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Asilomar, CA, March 27-29.
- 2008 How to Avoid a 'Bitten Heart': K'iche' Maya Children as Buffers of Malicious Adult Interactions. Presenting at the joint meeting of the Society for Anthropological Sciences and the Society for Cross-Cultural Research, New Orleans, LA, February 20-23.

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Introduction to Anthropology [four-field]
Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology
Anthropology of Childhood
Intercultural Communication
Self, Culture, and Society

Graduate Courses Taught

Language and Culture: Foundational Issues in Linguistic Anthropology
Intercultural Communication

Graduate Committees

Ashley McDermott, MA (chair)
Michelle Gray, MA (chair)
James Birkett, MA (committee member)

Other Teaching Employment

2004-2005 Anthropology and Ancient Civilizations, Middle School Teacher
Ethical Culture Fieldston School, Bronx, New York
The seventh-grade social studies curriculum at Fieldston is anthropology. I taught units on biological, archaeological, linguistic, and sociocultural anthropology.

2003-2004 English and Math, Elementary School Teacher
Kili Elementary School, Kili Island, Marshall Islands

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2018-2019 AAA Liaison and Board Member, Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group

2015-2017 Stirling Prize Selection Committee, Society for Psychological Anthropology

2016 Chair and Organizer, American Anthropological Association annual conference paper session

2015-2018 Organizer, UNCC Anthropology Department Colloquium Series

2016-2017 Referee, *American Ethnologist*, *Current Anthropology*

2016 Informal session organizer, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania

2015-2016 Co-organizer of the joint Anthropology and Global, International, and Area Studies colloquium, UNC Charlotte

2015 Session Co-organizer, Society for Psychological Anthropology biennial conference

- “Violent Talk: The Production of Social Experience and Subjectivity.”

2015 Referee, *American Ethnologist*

2012-2015 Referee, Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group (ACYIG) Newsletter

2012 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Research Committee Member, Anthropology Representative, UNC Charlotte

2013-2014 Committee member, Anthropology Department search committee for new chair

2013-2014 Referee, *Ethos*

2013 Session organizer, Society for Psychological Anthropology and Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group Joint Meeting

- “From Childhood and Youth to Age: New Directions in Psychological Anthropology”

2012 Working session organizer, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania annual meeting

- “Avoiding Giving in Oceania”

2011 Session organizer, American Anthropological Association annual meeting

- “Constructing Age Differences: Language Ideology and Language Socialization”
- 2011 Session organizer (with Allison Fasoli), Society for Psychological Anthropology biennial meeting
- “Children, Adolescents, and the Semiotics of Giving”
- 2011 Informal session organizer, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania annual meeting
- “Avoiding Giving in Oceania”
- 2011 Referee, *Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education*
- 2009 Referee, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*
- 2005-2008 Human Development Student Association (HDSA), University of Chicago
- 2007 Member of Annual Allocations Committee, student government, University of Chicago
- 2006 Member of organizing committee, ‘Michicagoan’ Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Chicago

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association

Sections: American Ethnological Society, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Society for Psychological Anthropology, Anthropology of Children and Childhood Interest Group, Council on Anthropology and Education, Society for Linguistic Anthropology Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania

LANGUAGES

Marshallese (Excellent), Spanish (Intermediate/Advanced), K’iche’ Maya (Beginner)