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Teaching Award

Concordia Council Student Life Award for
Outstanding Contribution to Student Life
in the Area of Teaching

http://cjournal.concordia.ca/archives/20080403/contributing_to_student_success.php

“Best Professor Award”

The Sociology and Anthropology Student Union (SASU)

1. ACADEMIC DEGREES

- ◆ Ph.D. Anthropology. The University of Adelaide, Australia. 2002.
- ◆ M.A. Cultural Anthropology. State University of New York at Binghamton. 1996.
- ◆ Graduate Diploma in International Relations. *With Distinction*. Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago. 1991
- ◆ Hons. B.A., Double-Major (Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Spanish). *Summa cum Laude*. York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 1990.

2. SUMMARY OF RESEARCH AREAS

Indigenous Translocalism and Transnationalism in the Caribbean

Place does not vanish into the thin air of high-altitude globalization. The power of place remains an indelible presence in relations between indigenous peoples based in separate territories. Territories, and the communities, symbolic investments and social relations attached to them, continue to constitute powerful anchors of indigenous self-definition. This study is about how indigenous attachment to place impacts on the development of transnational relations between indigenous peoples, whether it reshapes or even resists attempts at transnationalization. I will thus examine how and why the contemporary cultural and political resurgence among

the proximate Carib communities of Trinidad, Dominica and St. Vincent has spawned regional (Caribbean) relationships between these communities that are maintained primarily on the bases of the particularities of place, of everyday intimacy and affectivity. At the same time, I will investigate the depth and extent of the impact and presence of delegations of Canadian First Nations in helping to foster some of the organizational forms for Carib regional and extra-regional linkages, some of which seem to have created little in the way of a lasting legacy. My question is: Why is it that in this globalized world some transnational ways of linking indigenous peoples are maintained and developed, while others seemingly founder on the shoals of local indifference and neglect? In undertaking a multi-sited ethnographic approach to this question I hope to bring to light local indigenous intentions, initiatives and agendas that make some indigenous groups willing innovators of their own translocal engagements.

Funded by a Standard Research Grant, SSHRC, 2006-2009, \$47,346

“Indian Rose Went Dancing”: The Cultural Politics of Catholic Hegemony and Carib Indigeneity in Arima, Trinidad and Tobago

While the Roman Catholic Church in Trinidad has historically been a force of social, cultural and evangelical westernization, seemingly erasing indigenous culture, paradoxically the church affords a vehicle for the continued expression of Carib Indian cultural difference, maintenance as a distinct community, and as a catalyst for further cultural resurgence. Carib leaders in Arima, Trinidad, explain that one of their “retained” traditions is the annual celebration of the funerary feast in honour of their patron, St. Rose of Lima. My study is about the cultural politics of indigeneity focusing on the indigenized assimilation of a Roman Catholic festival to the local particularities of Carib experience. By studying the indigenous political practice of the formally named Santa Rosa Carib Community (SRCC) in connection with the patronal feast of St. Rose, I intend to bring to light the communal actions and individual understandings brought to bear by the Caribs in reconstructing a non-syncretic Catholic ritual form as one that is both the historical and symbolic property of the Caribs. This entails investigating the tension that has resulted between the SRCC and the Roman Catholic Church over both the heterodox and orthodox meanings and the proprietary control of this annual festival. In some respects, the early colonial contact situation is being revisited, revised and reenacted. I will examine the possibility that the growing divergence between Carib and Catholic interests and meanings may be giving rise to a neo-traditional Carib theology and praxis resulting in either a new “fusion” or separation from institutional Catholicism.

Funded by the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture--Établissement de nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs (FQRSC), 2007-2010, \$38,777

“Who is an Indian?” Race, Place, and the Politics of Indigeneity in the Americas

The purpose of this project is to compare and theorize contemporary policies, ideologies, and technologies for regulating, certifying, and administering indigenous identifications, and the alternatives for indigeneity beyond biologized determinants. There are three main aims, presented here in ascending order of importance. The first involves recognition of the need to move beyond the telling of local stories of calculations of indigenous identity, toward a more comprehensive analytical methodology embracing the Americas, thereby promising fertile ground for conceptualizations of what are often striking similarities coupled with theoretically fruitful analysis of differences. Thus one aim is to produce a transnational way of talking about race and indigeneity in the Americas. The second aim is the theoretical development of a unified, Americas-wide, problematic which can be termed the bio-politics of indigeneity, focused on race (phenotype), blood, and DNA analysis. The third aim involves theorizing the current practices and future possibilities of indigeneity beyond the restrictions of bodily markers, and even beyond Indianness.

Funded by an Aid to Research Workshops Grant, SSHRC, 2007, \$18,000

Advance contract for an edited collection: University of Toronto Press

For details on the project and the participants, please see:

<http://www.centrelink.org/seminar/index.htm>

Nationalism and Indigeneity in the Anglophone Caribbean

Over a period of four years (including 19 months spent in the field, post-dissertation), I have been examining the political and economic relationships between nation-states in the Caribbean and Island Carib communities in conjunction with an analysis of the historical development of nationalist ideologies in the Anglophone Caribbean. One purpose has been to explain why political elites in the Caribbean have embraced symbols, motifs and histories of indigeneity in ways that have not been previously examined or even acknowledged in the social scientific literature on the region. A second purpose involves describing and theorizing the select ways in which some Island Carib communities produce rituals and narratives that integrate and indigenize cultural elements derived from the wider national society, helping to produce a national indigeneity. Thirdly, the intent of this research is to understand and explain citizenship and nationality in a post-colonial Caribbean with pronounced external orientations and internal ethnic divisions.

Visual Ethnography

I am currently working on the completion of four films:

- (1) *Carib, Amerindian, First Nation: Three Faces of Indigenous Tradition in Trinidad*
- (2) *“In This Place, Where I Was Chief”: Carib Resurgence in Trinidad and Tobago*
- (3) *“Indian Rosa Went Dancing”: The Caribs’ Santa Rosa Festival in Arima, Trinidad*
- (4) *Communion of Blood: Indigenous Translocalism in the Caribbean*

3. FINANCIAL AWARDS

1. Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture--Établissement de nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs (FQRSC). Title of Project: “ ‘Indian Rose Went Dancing’: The Cultural Politics of Catholic Hegemony and Carib Indigeneity in Arima, Trinidad and Tobago”—2007-2010, \$38,777
1. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Aid to Research Workshops. Title of Project: “Who Is An Indian? Sighting and Certifying Indigeneity in the Americas”—2007, \$18,000
2. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Standard Research Grant. Title of Project: “Indigenous translocals in the Caribbean: place, and the quotidian dimensions of the regionalized Carib resurgence”—2006-2009, \$47,346
3. Research Policy Grant, University College of Cape Breton. Title of Project: “Global Aboriginality: Trinidad’s Caribs and Networks of Indigenous Resurgence”—2004, \$4,100 CDN
4. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Doctoral Fellowship—1997-2000, \$46,500 CDN
5. Research Abroad Scholarship (University of Adelaide)—1998, \$4,900 AUD
6. University of Adelaide Post-Graduate Scholarship—1997-2000, \$45,000 AUD
7. International Post-Graduate Research Scholarship (Australia) —1997-2000, \$36,000 AUD
8. University of Adelaide, Department of Anthropology, Fieldwork Support—1998-1999, \$2,100 AUD
9. Organization of American States Two-Year Fellowship—1994-1996, \$42,000 USD

4. PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

(Edited volume) *Who Is An Indian? Race, Place, and the Politics of Indigeneity in the Americas*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Forthcoming, 2008, advance contract awarded and signed.

(Edited volume) *Indigenous Cosmopolitanism: Transnational and Transcultural Indigeneity in the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing. Forthcoming, 2008, advance contract awarded and signed.

Indigenous Resurgence in the Contemporary Caribbean: Amerindian Survival and Revival. New York: Peter Lang USA, 2006. (Edited volume)

Ruins of Absence, Presence of Caribs: (Post) Colonial Representations of Aboriginity in Trinidad and Tobago. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2005.

Against the Trinity: An Insurgent Imam Tells His Story. Binghamton, NY: Ahead/Tamjidi Foundation, 1996.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

“Indigenous Cosmopolitanism: Caribbean Pathways of Being and Becoming Indigenous in the World.” In Maximilian C. Forte, ed. *Indigenous Cosmopolitanism: Transnational and Transcultural Indigeneity in the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing. Forthcoming, 2008.

“Introduction: Indigenous Cosmopolitanism, Transnationalism, and Transculturation.” In Maximilian C. Forte, ed. *Indigenous Cosmopolitanism: Transnational and Transcultural Indigeneity in the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing. Forthcoming, 2008

“The Race on Your Face and the Blood in Your Veins: Conventions and Transformations of Carib Indigeneity in Trinidad.” In Maximilian C. Forte, ed. *Who Is An Indian? Race, Blood, DNA, and the Politics of Indigeneity in the Americas*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Forthcoming, 2008.

“Introduction: The Politics of a Question.” In Maximilian C. Forte, ed. *Who Is An Indian? Race, Blood, DNA, and the Politics of Indigeneity in the Americas*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Forthcoming, 2008.

Lead writer, with Ricardo Bharath Hernandez: “ ‘In This Place Where I Was Chief:

History and Ritual in the Maintenance and Retrieval of Traditions in the Santa Rosa Carib Community of Arima, Trinidad”. In Maximilian C. Forte, ed. *Indigenous Resurgence in the Contemporary Caribbean: Amerindian Survival and Revival*. New York: Peter Lang, 2006: 107-131.

“Searching for a Centre in the Digital Ether: Notes on the Indigenous Caribbean Resurgence on the Internet”. In Maximilian C. Forte, ed. *Indigenous Resurgence in the Contemporary Caribbean: Amerindian Survival and Revival*. New York: Peter Lang, 2006: 253-269.

“Introduction: The Dual Absences of Extinction and Marginality: What Difference Does an Indigenous Presence Make?” In Maximilian C. Forte, ed. *Indigenous Resurgence in the Contemporary Caribbean: Amerindian Survival and Revival*. New York: Peter Lang, 2006: 1-17.

“Centering the Links: Understanding Cybernetic Patterns of Co-production, Circulation and Consumption.” In Christine Hine, ed. *Virtual Methods: Issues in Social Research on the Internet*. Oxford: Berg, 2005. Pps. 93-106.

“Co-Construction and Field Creation: Website Development as both an Instrument and Relationship in Action Research.” In Elizabeth Buchanan, ed., *Virtual Research Ethics: Issues and Controversies*. Hershey, PA: Idea Group, 2004. Pps. 222-248.

ARTICLES IN ENCYCLOPEDIAS

“Ethnography.” *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2nd ed. Editor-in-Chief, William A. Darty. Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA. 2007. 99-101.

“Indigenous People of the Caribbean since 1945.” Era 9. *World History Encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. In press.

“The Caribbean and Postcolonialism.” Era 9. *World History Encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. In press.

“Amerindian Slavery: Colonial Control over Carib Labor.” Era 6. *World History Encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. In press.

“Website Development as Both an Instrument and Relationship in Action Research.” In *The Encyclopedia of Developing Regional Communities with Information and Communication Technology*. Edited by Stewart Marshall, Wal Taylor, Xinghuo Yu. Hershey, PA: Idea Group Reference, 2005. 729-734.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS AND ANNUALS

- “Report on the Carib Community of Trinidad and Tobago.” In *The Indigenous World, 2006*, Edited by Sille Stidsen (IWGIA, Copenhagen). Pps. 131-136.
- “Extinction: Ideologies Against Indigeneity in the Caribbean.” *The Southern Quarterly*, Vol. 43, No. 4, Summer 2006: 46-69.
- “The Political Economy of Tradition: Sponsoring and Incorporating the Caribs of Trinidad and Tobago”. *Research in Economic Anthropology*, Vol. 24, 2006: 329-358.
- “Report on the Carib Community of Trinidad and Tobago.” *The Indigenous World, 2003-2004*, (IWGIA, Copenhagen). Pps. 114-118.
- “Long-Term Field Research in Anthropology.” *Historical Social Research (Historische Sozialforschung)*. Vol. 29, No. 2, 2004: 133-141.
- “Caribbean Aborigines Online: Digitized Culture, Networked Representation.” *Indigenous Affairs: Special Issue on Indigenous Peoples and Information Technology*, Issue 2, 2003: 32-37.
- “Report on the Carib Community of Trinidad and Tobago: History, Politics, Legislation.” *The Indigenous World, 2002-2003* (IWGIA, Copenhagen). Pps. 106-109.
- “The Contemporary Context of Carib ‘Revival’ in Trinidad and Tobago: Creolization, Developmentalism and the State.” *KACIKE: Journal of Caribbean Amerindian History and Anthropology*. Vol. 1, No. 1, 2000: 18-33. (<http://www.kacike.org/>)
- “Reviving Caribs: Recognition, Patronage and Ceremonial Indigeneity in Trinidad and Tobago.” *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, Vol. 23, No. 4, Winter 1999: 35-41.
- “Globalization and World-Systems Analysis: Toward New Paradigms of a Geo-Historical Social Anthropology (A Research Review).” *Review (Journal of the Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems and Civilizations)*. Vol. 21, No.1, Winter 1998: 29-99.
- “The Crisis in Creolization in Trinidad and Tobago? Globalized Revitalizations, Systemic Ethno-Politics, and Alter-Nationalisms.” *The International Third World Studies Journal and Review*. October 1995, Vol. 7, 41-54.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Lawrence, Bonita. *“Real” Indians and Others: Mixed-Blood Urban Native Peoples and Indigenous Nationhood*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004. For the *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*. July, 2006.

<http://www.csa.ca/CRSA/BookReview/Reviews/200607/200607LAWRENCE.htm>

Review of San Miguel, Pedro L. *The Imagined Island: History, Identity, and Utopia in Hispaniola*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina press, 2005. For the *Hispanic American Historical Review*.

Review of Postero, Nancy Grey and Zamosc, Leon, eds. *The Struggle for Indigenous Rights in Latin America*. Brighton and Portland: Sussex Academic Press, 2005. For the *Journal of Latin American Anthropology*, Vol. 11, No. 1, April 2006: 208-210.

Review of Baker, David P., and Gerald K. LeTendre, *National Differences, Global Similarities: World Culture and the Future of Schooling*. Palo Alto, California: Stanford University Press, 2005. For *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 4, March, 2006. [online]

Review of Suarez-Orozco, Marcelo M., and Desiree Baolian Qin-Hilliard, eds. *Globalization: Culture and Education in the New Millennium*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. For *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*, Vol. 36, No. 4, December, 2005. [online]

Review of De Barros, Juanita. *Order and Place in a Colonial City: Patterns of Struggle and Resistance in Georgetown, British Guiana, 1889-1924*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. 2002. For the *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*. 2004. See:

<http://www.csa.ca/BookReview/Reviews/AUGUST2004DEBARROS.htm>

Review of *Avatara*, (a “virtual ethnographic” film). In *Visual Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 1, 2004, pps. 116-118.

Review of Lal Balkaran (2002) *Dictionary of the Guyanese Amerindians and other South American Native Terms: An A-Z Guide To Their Anthropology, Cosmology, Culture, Exploration, History, Geography, Legend, Folklore and Myth*. In *Kacike: The Journal of Caribbean Amerindian History and Anthropology* [Online Journal]. Available at: <http://www.kacike.org/BalkaranReview.html>

(2002, November). Is it Real? Problems and Prospects of Research in "the Real

World." Review Essay: Colin Robson (2002). *Real World Research. A Resource for Social Scientists and Practitioner-Researchers*. (Second Edition) [42 paragraphs]. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research* [Online Journal], 3(4). Available at: <http://www.qualitative-research.net/fqs/fqs-eng.htm>

Review of *Capturing Globalization*, Edited by James Mittelman and Norani Othman. *The Asia-Pacific Journal of Anthropology*. Vol 3 (1) April 2002: pp. 148-150.

Review of *Taíno Revival: Critical Perspectives on Puerto Rican Identity and Cultural Politics* Edited by Gabriel Haslip-Viera. *Plantation Society and Culture*. 6 (2-3) Fall, 1999. Pps. 327-330.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

"Another Revolution Missed? Anthropology and Cyberspace" *Anthropology News*. Vol. 43, No. 9, December 2002: 20-21

"Anthropology Uncanned." *Anthropology News*. Vol.41, No.3, March 2000: 9-10

"Trinidad's Caribs and the Globalization of Caribbean Aboriginality." *Boletín Informativo de la Nación Taína de las Antillas*. Vol. VII, No. 2, Mar-Apr 1999: 1-3.

INVITED SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

"Internet Indigeneity and Anthropological Advocacy: Practicing Anti-Extinctionism, Diffusing Indigeneity, and Web Development as Action Research." Invited lecture, Trevor W. Purcell Memorial Speaker Series, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, 19 March 2008. (all travel and lodging expenses and honorarium)

Address to the 5th International Ethnographic Film Festival of Quebec, Saturday, 26 January, 2008, Concordia University.

Introduction and discussion of *Turcisce Carnival* at the Montreal Ethnographic Film Festival, Sunday January 28, 2007, Concordia University.

"Partnerships, Co-Constructions, and Network-Building: The Case of Caribbean Amerindian Website Development." Invited presentation at the Seminar on *Research Relationships and Online Relationships* at the Centre for Research

into Innovation, Culture and Technology (CRICT) Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UK, 19 April, 2002. (all travel and lodging expenses)

“Amerindian@Caribbean: The Modes and Meanings of Electronic Solidarity in the Revival of Carib and Taino Identities.” Invited presentation at the *Indigenous Uses of the Internet* Symposium, Gothenburg University, Sweden, 07-10 June, 2001. (all travel and lodging expenses)

CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND SEMINARS ORGANIZED

1. “Who Is An Indian? Race, Blood, DNA, and the Politics of Indigeneity in the Americas.” A seminar with 14 participants, hosted at the Clarion Hotel, Montreal, August 2-5, 2007, with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
2. “Transnational Indigeneity: Beyond the Hype of the Global and the Stereotype of the Local,” a symposium for the joint meetings of the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) and the American Ethnological Society (AES), University of Toronto, 8-12 May, 2007. [two sessions, nine papers]
3. “Indigeneity and Race: ‘Blood Politics’ and the ‘Nature’ of Indigenous Identity,” a symposium at the CASCA annual conference, Concordia University, 13 May, 2006. [two sessions, eight papers]
4. “Anthropologists on the Internet: Observations by the Participants,” a double session organized for the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, 17-21 November, 1999. [two sessions, eight papers]

COMMISSIONED REPORTS

“How The Amerindians of Arima Lost Their Lands: Notes from Primary and Other Historical Sources, 1802-1880.” A Report prepared at the request of the Santa Rosa Carib Community of Arima, Trinidad. 2003. <http://www.kacike.org/srcc/landreport.html>

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

One hour interview on “Indigenous Resurgence in the Caribbean,” on *The Nightwolf Show*, hosted by Jay Winter Nightwolf, WPFW Pacifica Radio, 89.3 FM, Washington DC; Sunday, 06 August, 2006, 8:00-9:00pm.

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Cuming Museum, Southwark, London, UK: “**Untold Origins, Caribbean Heritage and Identity**,” 19 October, 2004, to 26 February, 2005. (Photographs from my field research for public exhibition and for inclusion in a CD. From Bryn Hyacinth, curator: “The object will be to show how cassava production, the tools and processes, are a key cultural practice that links the Caribbean with the South American mainland both historically and today”).

AWARDS

1. The Concordia Council Student Life Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life, in the field of teaching (awarded 28 March 2008)
2. The Sociology and Anthropology Student Union (SASU) “Best Professor Award” (April 2008)
3. Nominated by students for the Award for Teaching Excellence by the Dean of Arts and Science, Concordia University (February 2008)

Research Assistantships:

The following is a list of research assistants that have been recently available and/or are being made available currently:

1. Video editing (see *Visual Ethnography* above)
2. Indigenous Transnational Organization
3. The Media and Indigeneity in Trinidad and Tobago
4. *Fiestas* and *Cofradías* in Latin America

KEYWORDS: indigenous peoples, Caribbean, media, Internet, visual anthropology, representation, ethnographic film, virtual methods, resurgence, colonialism, nationalism, globalization, diaspora, ethnicity, ritual and tradition, community, political economy, political anthropology, ethnohistory, historical anthropology, anthropology, ethnology, ethnography, field methods.