

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**ANYA BERNSTEIN**

*Last updated January 3, 2014*

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**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Russia, Eurasia, North Asia, religion, transnational processes, indigeneity, body politics, secularism, sovereignty, anthropology of death, media, materiality, and visual culture.

**EDUCATION**

2010            Ph.D., Anthropology, New York University  
2005            M.A., Anthropology, New York University  
2001            M.A., Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester  
1999            B.S., Linguistics, Georgetown University, *summa cum laude*  
1995-1997      Moscow State University, Faculty of Philology, two years of coursework

**APPOINTMENTS**

2012-           Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Social Studies, Harvard University  
2013-           Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University  
2013-           Faculty Associate, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University  
2013-           Member, Social Studies Standing Committee, Harvard University  
2010 - 2012    Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Asian Languages and Cultures,  
University of Michigan  
2010 - 2012    Faculty Associate, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University  
of Michigan  
2010 - 2012    Postdoctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows

**HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION**

2012            SSRC Postdoctoral Fellowship for Transregional Research  
2010            Michigan Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellowship  
2010            Mellon/ACLS Recent Doctoral Recipients Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)  
2010            Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)  
2009            Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship  
2009            Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (declined)  
2007            Fulbright IIE Fellowship for Field Research  
2007            Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant  
2007            "Audience Award" and the Second Prize of the Institute of Ethnology and  
Cultural Anthropology, Eyes and Lenses IV, Poland  
2006            SSRC Eurasia Dissertation Development Workshop Fellowship  
2006            Summer FLAS Title VI Fellowship for Tibetan Language Study  
2004            SSRC Eurasia Pre-Dissertation Fellowship

- 2002 Award for Outstanding Ethnographic Documentation, XVI Pärnu International Documentary and Anthropology Film Festival
- 1999 Phi Beta Kappa

#### UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMPETITION

- 2014-2015 Medium Faculty Grant, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
- 2013 The Harvard Academy Junior Faculty Development Grant
- 2009 Humanities Initiative Research Fellowship, New York University (declined)
- 2005 Anthropology Summer Research and Travel Grant, New York University
- 2003 Henry Mitchell McCracken Fellowship, New York University
- 1999 Francis P. Dinneen Award for Distinction in Linguistics, Georgetown University

#### BOOK

- 2013 Religious Bodies Politic: Rituals of Sovereignty in Buryat Buddhism  
(University of Chicago Press)

#### REFERRED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2014 Forthcoming Fall 2014. "The Post-Soviet Art Wars: Blasphemy, Iconoclasm, and the Secular in Contemporary Russia," *Public Culture* 26(3).
- 2013a "An Inadvertent Sacrifice: Body Politics and Sovereign Power in the Pussy Riot Affair," *Critical Inquiry* 40 (Autumn 2013): 220-241.
- 2013b "L'Asie du nord au sud: genre, pouvoir et position sociale dans la topographie bouddhique post-soviétique," *Slavica occitania* 36: 257-285.
- 2012a "On Body-Crossing: Interbody Movement in Eurasian Buddhism." *Ab Imperio*. 2/2012: 168-195.
- 2012b "More Alive Than All the Living: Sovereign Bodies and Cosmic Politics in Buddhist Siberia." *Cultural Anthropology* 27(2): 261-285.
- 2011 "The Post-Soviet Treasure Hunt: Time, Space, and Necropolitics in Siberian Buddhism." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 53(3): 623-653.
- 2009 "Pilgrims, Fieldworkers, and Secret Agents: Buryat Buddhologists and the History of a Eurasian Imaginary." *Inner Asia* 11(1): 23-45.
- 2008 "Remapping Sacred Landscapes: Shamanic Tourism and Cultural Production on Olkhon Island." *Sibirica: Journal of Siberian Studies* 7(2): 23-46.
- 2002 "Buddhist Revival in Buryatia: Recent Perspectives." *Mongolian Studies* 25: 1-11.

## INVITED BOOK CHAPTERS, REVIEWS, ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

- 2014 “Forgiveness as a Sovereign Exception: Pussy Riot, Winter Olympics, and the New Russian Biopolitics,” *Critical Inquiry* blog.
- 2014 Forthcoming. “Buddhist Body Politics: Life, Death, and Reincarnation in Transnational Eurasia,” in *Reincarnation in Tibetan Buddhism: Birth-Narratives, Institutional Innovation, and Embodiment of Divine Power*, edited by Derek Maher and Tsering Wangchuk. Wisdom Publications: Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism.
- 2014 Forthcoming. “Transtelesnaia mobil’nost’ v buddizme vnutrennei Azii,” In *Tibetskii buddizm i buriatskaia religioznaia kul’tura*, edited by I.P. Garri. [Russian Translation of 2012a].
- 2013 “Post-Soviet Body Politics: Crime and Punishment in the Pussy Riot Affair,” *Somatosphere: Science, Medicine, and Anthropology*
- 2013 Review of Douglas Rogers’ *The Old Faith and the Russian Land: A Historical Ethnography of Ethics in the Urals*. *Canadian American Slavic Studies*. Vol 47.
- 2012 Review of Morten Axel Pedersen’s *Not Quite Shamans: Spirit Worlds and Political Lives in Northern Mongolia*. *Religious Studies Review* 38: 3, 196. September 2012.
- 2008 “Po tu storonu realizma: k probleme raskrytiia religioznogo opyta v etnograficheskom kino” [“Beyond Realism: Representation of Religious Experience in Ethnographic Film”] in *Audiovizual’naia antropologiya: istoriii s prodolzheniem* [*Audiovisual Anthropology: The Story Continues*], edited by E. D. Andreeva, Iu. B. Vinichenko, and I. V. Kondakov, 153-161. Moscow: Institut nasledia (in Russian).

## INVITED LECTURES

- 2014 Forthcoming. Numata Lecture Series, University of Toronto and McMaster University.
- 2012 Third New Directions in Buddhist Studies Lecture, Smith College.
- 2012 Anthropology and History Workshop, University of Michigan.
- 2012 Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.
- 2012 Department of Anthropology, Scripps College.
- 2011 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University.
- 2010 Michigan Society of Fellows.
- 2010 Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2009 The Rubin Foundation Scholars Seminar, New York.
- 2008a Department of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg State University, Russia.
- 2008b “Visual Methods in Social Science” Workshop, Department of Sociology, St. Petersburg State University, Russia.
- 2008c “Anthropology and Film: Evolution of the Visual Text” 41<sup>st</sup> Seminar, Center for Social Anthropology, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia.

2008d Center for Historical Anthropology, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia.

## VISUAL ETHNOGRAPHIES / DOCUMENTARY FILMS

- 2006 *In Pursuit of the Siberian Shaman* (75 min). A feature-length ethnographic documentary on contemporary Buryat shamanism based on field research on Olkhon Island. [Distributed by Documentary Educational Resources, [www.der.org](http://www.der.org)].  
*The Shaman Show* (2008, 40 min) - short classroom version.
- 2002 *Join Me in Shambhala* (30 min). A film on Tibetan diaspora's role in the Buddhist revival in Buryatia based on MA field research [Distributed by Documentary Educational Resources, [www.der.org](http://www.der.org)].
- 2001 *Dharma Kid* (20 min). An ethnographic study of Tibetan identity in India.

## CONFERENCES

- 2014 Forthcoming. "The Invisible Object: Relics, Property, and the Secular in Post-Soviet Russia" for the panel "Theorizing the Invisible," American Ethnological Society Annual Meeting, Boston.
- 2014 Forthcoming. "Post-Soviet Body Politics: Crime and Punishment in the Pussy Riot Affair," at "Sexing Sound: a Symposium on Music Cultures, Audio Practices, and Contemporary Art" symposium, The Graduate Center, CUNY
- 2013a "Spirituality, Secularism, and Sovereignty: Forging New Religious Publics in Asia." Roundtable Presenter and Discussant. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.
- 2013b "Caution, Religion!: Iconoclasm, Secularism, and Ways of Seeing in Post-Soviet Art Wars," Global Secularisms Conference, New York University.
- 2013c "Trials and Triangulations: Blasphemy and Moral Injury in the Russian Art Wars." Conference: "Complaints: Cultures of Grievance in Eastern Europe and Eurasia," Program in Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University.
- 2013d "Mobility, Authority, and Buddhist Learning in Postsocialist Eurasia," SSRC Inter-Asia Fellows Workshop, San Diego.
- 2013e "Cosmopolitanism Re-incarnate: Crossing Bodies in Inter-Asia." Panel: Buddhism and Inter-Asian History, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego.
- 2013f "Buddhist Body Politics: Life, Death, and Reincarnation in Transnational Eurasia," Invited paper for the symposium, "The Tulku Institution in Tibetan Buddhism: Past, Present, and Future Prospects of the Reincarnation System," University of San Francisco.
- 2012a "Isolation As the Politics of Time: Cultural Sovereignty In Buddhist Siberia," AAA Executive Panel "The Refusal of Relation," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2012b "Gendered Cosmopolitanisms: Networks of Buddhist Learning in Postsocialist Eurasia," SSRC Inter-Asian Connections II. Panel: Networks of Religious Learning and the Dissemination of Religious Knowledge across Asia. Hong Kong.
- 2011 "Tibetan Bodies, Buryat "Roots": Negotiating Relatedness in the Transnational Terrain," Panel "Intimate Cosmologies of Kinship: Tracking Spiritual and Affective

- Relatedness in Inner Asian Societies.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal.
- 2010a Panel Organizer (with Robert Y. Chang), “Buddhisms in Motion,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans.
- 2010b Presenter, “Buddhism After Socialism: Money and Morality in the World of Samsara.” Discussant, “The Modern Shaman,” Roundtable, American Museum of Natural History, New York.
- 2010c “Mobile Bodies: Death, Reincarnation, and Border Crossing in Buddhist Eurasia.” Panel: “Migration and Transnationalism,” Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, Michigan State University.
- 2010d “The Body as Gift: Gender, the Dead, and Exchange in the Chöd Ritual Economy,” Panel: “The State of Tibetan Anthropology,” 12<sup>th</sup> Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Vancouver, BC.
- 2010e “Sovereign Bodies: Religion and Cultural Politics in Buryatia,” Panel: “Rossiiski but not russkii: Russian Indigenous Minorities,” Russian Futures: Contexts, Challenges, Trends, Duke University.
- 2009 “Bodies in Flux: Reincarnation and Apprenticeship as Transnational Ties in Buryat Buddhism,” at the “Global Socialisms and Postsocialisms” Annual Soyuz Symposium, Yale University.
- 2008a “The Revival of Chöd (*gcod*) in the Gelug school as a Cultural Link Between Mongolian and Tibetan Worlds.” Buddhism and the Third Millennium Conference, Ulan-Ude, Russia.
- 2008b “North Asia Meets South Asia: Buryat Buddhists in India” at the Annual Fulbright Conference, Jaipur, India.
- 2007 “Pilgrims, Fieldworkers, and Secret Agents: Buryat Buddhologists and Eurasian Imaginary.” Annual Soyuz Symposium: “Locating “Eurasia” in Post-Socialist Studies: The Geopolitics of Naming,” Princeton University.
- 2006a “From Wild Men to Businessmen: Shamanic Transformations in Buryatia.” Workshop “Reassessing Religion in Siberia and Neighboring Regions,” Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany.
- 2006b “Remapping Sacred Landscapes: Tourism and National Identity in Olkhon Island,” Panel: “Sacred Landscapes and Shamans in North Asia,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose.
- 2006c “Food for the Gods: The Matter of Sacrifice among the Shamans and Buddhists of Buryatia,” Panel: “Powerful Objects: Materiality and Metonymy in Four Asian Religious Communities,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington DC.
- 2006d “Is Siberian Buddhism Really Tibetan?” Presented at the SSRC Eurasia Program/Princeton University Institute for International and Regional Studies Dissertation Development Workshop, “Russia and Eurasia in World Context: A Dialogue with East Asian Studies.”
- 2004 “Navajo Religion,” Conference “Cultural Links Between Ancient America and Siberia,” Buryatia, Russia.
- 2002a “Beyond Realism: Representation of Religious Experience in Ethnographic Film,” at the “Audiovisual Recordings of Traditional Culture” panel, International Methodological Seminar, Salekhard, Russia.

2002b “Buddhist Revival in Buryatia” at the “Contemporary Mongol Groups” panel, Mongolia Society/Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Washington DC.

### **TEACHING:**

2014 Religion and Secularism in a Global World (junior tutorial in Social Studies)  
2014 Anthropology of Death and the Afterlife (seminar in Anthropology)  
2013 Anthropology of Religion (Anthropology, undergraduate survey)  
2011 Shamans, Nomads, and Commissars: Introduction to North Asia (freshman seminar in Asian Studies)  
2011 Anthropology of Death and the Afterlife (senior seminar in Anthropology)  
2007 World Cultures: Russia Between East and West. Graduate Student Instructor.  
2006 Anthropology of Religion. Graduate Student Instructor.  
2006 Linguistic Anthropology. Graduate Student Instructor.  
2005 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Graduate Student Instructor.  
2005 Cultural Symbols. Graduate Student Instructor.  
2004 Witchcraft: An Anthropological Approach. Graduate Student Instructor.

### **FIELDWORK**

Summer 2013 Moscow, Russia, research for the “Post-Soviet Culture Wars” project  
2007-2008 Dissertation Fieldwork, India (Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh), Russia (Buryatia and Chita region), Moscow, St. Petersburg, archival research. (Bernstein 2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2012a, 2012b, 2011, 2009).  
Summer 2004 Pre-dissertation field and archival research, Moscow, Buryatia (Bernstein 2008a).  
Summer 2001 MA Fieldwork. Tibetan Diaspora and Buddhist Revival in Buryatia (Bernstein 2002).  
March 2001 Pilot Research for MA. Tibetan Monastic Education, Dharamsala, India.

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Russian: native  
English: near native  
French: fluent reading, writing, speaking  
Italian: advanced reading and speaking, intermediate writing  
Spanish: intermediate reading and speaking  
Tibetan: modern colloquial, intermediate reading and speaking  
Latin: basic reading  
Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian: basic reading

### **SELECTED FILM SCREENINGS**

2012 Australian Anthropological Society Annual Conference, Univ. of Queensland  
2009 Centre d'études mongoles et sibériennes, EPHE, Sorbonne, Paris.  
2009 State Ethnographic Museum, Warsaw, Poland.  
2009 Linden State Museum of Ethnology, Stuttgart, Germany.  
2009 International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, China.  
2009 11<sup>th</sup> RAI Ethnographic Film Festival, Leeds, UK.

- 2008 Delhi International Ethnographic Festival, India.  
 2008 Nordic Anthropological Film Festival, Iceland.  
 2008 Dialektus Film Festival, Hungary.  
 2007 Viscult, Festival of Visual Culture, Finland.  
 2007 Globians Film Festival, Potsdam, Germany.  
 2007 The International Society for Shamanistic Research, Budapest, Hungary.  
 2007 Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention, Columbia University.  
 2007 Eyes and Lenses IV, Ethnographic Film Festival, Warsaw, Poland.  
 2007 Ethnographic Film Festival of Montréal, Canada.  
 2006 Festival de Filme Documentario e Etnografico, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.  
 2006 XV International Festival of Ethnological Film, Belgrade, Serbia.  
 2006 SVA Film and Video Festival, AAA Meeting, San Jose, CA.  
 2006 Moscow Festival of Visual Anthropology, Russia.  
 2006 Sardinia Ethnographic Film Festival, Italy.  
 2006 Göttingen International Film Festival, Germany.  
 2006 XV Bilan du Film Ethnographique, Paris.  
 2006 Tibet House, New York.  
 2005 Regards Comparés: Mongolie, Musée de l'Homme, Paris.  
 2005 Buddhist Film Festival, San Francisco.  
 2004 Asia Film Festival, Finland.  
 2004 Heard Museum Indigenous Film Festival, Phoenix, Arizona.  
 2004 North American Interfaith Network Film Festival, New York.  
 2003 Religion Today, 6th International Festival of Cinema and Religion. Trento, Italy.  
 2003 8th Royal Anthropological Institute Festival of Ethnographic Film, UK.  
 2003 Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, New York.  
 2003 DC Independent Film Festival, Washington DC.  
 2002 XVI Pärnu International Documentary and Anthropology Film Festival, Estonia.  
 2002 XXI Bilan du Film Ethnographique, Musée de l'Homme, Paris, France.  
 2002 American Anthropological Association Film and Video Festival, New Orleans.  
 2002 III Russian Festival of Anthropological Films, Salekhard, Russia.

## ACADEMIC TRANSLATION

- 2002-2006 *Anthropology and Archeology of Eurasia, Journal of Translations*  
 Translated anthropological manuscripts, articles, and parts of books, which best reflect developments in anthropology and archeology in Russia and the former Soviet Union, from Russian to English.

## SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

### Peer-reviewer (journal articles):

*Cultural Anthropology*  
*American Ethnologist*  
*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI)*  
*Comparative Studies in Society and History*  
*Social Anthropology*

*Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*

*Inner Asia*

*Sibirica: Journal of Siberian Studies*

*Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research*

*Critical Asian Studies* (formerly *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*)

*Meditsinskaia antropologiia i bioetika* (*Medical Anthropology and Bioethics*, Russia)

**Peer-reviewer (other):**

- 2014 The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (pre- and mid-dissertation grant applications)
- 2013 Social Anthropology Funding Committee, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University (dissertation research fellowships)
- 2013 National Collegiate Research Conference, Harvard College Undergraduate Research Association (abstracts)
- 2013 Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants, National Science Foundation
- 2012 Annual Postsocialist Cultural Studies (SOYUZ) Symposium (abstracts)
- 2011 Center for Global Change and Arctic Systems Research, University of Alaska (research grants)
- 2010-2011 Michigan Society of Fellows (applications for postdoctoral fellowships)

**Conference/panel organizing:**

- 2012 Organizing committee member: Annual SOYUZ Symposium, University of Michigan
- 2010 Co-organizer (with Robert Y. Chang): Buddhism in Motion panel, American Anthropological Association

**Editorial Board:**

- 2012- Medical Anthropology and Bioethics (Russia)

**Member:**

American Anthropological Association

AAA Interest Groups: Society for Cultural Anthropology, Society for Visual Anthropology

American Academy of Religion

Central Eurasian Studies Society

SOYUZ – Network of Postsocialist Anthropologists

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies