

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

Department of Anthropology  
& Asian Languages and Cultures  
University of Michigan  
202 S. Thayer St, 6163  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-615-8504  
anyabern@umich.edu

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**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

North Asia, Russia, Eurasia, transnational Tibetan Buddhism, Siberian and Mongolian shamanism, secularism, sovereignty, gender and sexuality, visual ethnography.

**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

PhD Thesis (2010): *Religious Bodies Politic: Rituals of Sovereignty in Buryat Buddhism*

MA Thesis (2005): *The Empire and the Mind: Buryat Shamanism From the 1900s to the Present*

MA Thesis (2001): *Tibetan Diaspora and Buddhist Revival in Buryatia*

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

2010 - Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Asian Languages and Cultures,  
University of Michigan  
2010 - Postdoctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows  
2010 - Faculty Associate, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies,  
University of Michigan

**HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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 (honorary)  
2009 NYU Humanities Initiative Fellowship (declined)  
2007 Fulbright IIE Fellowship for Field Research (India)  
2007 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (Russia/India)  
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  
2005 NYU Anthropology Summer Research and Travel Grant for research in India  
2004 SSRC Eurasia Pre-Dissertation Fellowship for research in Siberia  
2003-2008 Henry Mitchell McCracken Fellowship, New York University. PhD Fellowship.  
2002 Award for Outstanding Ethnographic Documentation, XVI Pärnu International  
Documentary and Anthropology Film Festival  
1999 Francis P. Dinneen Award for Distinction in Linguistics, Georgetown University  
1999 Phi Beta Kappa

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 “The Post-Soviet Treasure Hunt: Time, Space, and Necropolitics in Siberian Buddhism.” Upcoming in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 53(3).
- 2011 Review of Douglas Rogers’ *The Old Faith and the Russian Land: A Historical Ethnography of Ethics in the Urals*. *Canadian American Slavic Studies*. Upcoming Vol 45.
- 2009 “Pilgrims, Fieldworkers, and Secret Agents: Buryat Buddhologists and the History of a Eurasian Imaginary.” *Inner Asia* 11 (1): 23-45.
- 2008a “Remapping Sacred Landscapes: Shamanic Tourism and Cultural Production on Olkhon Island.” *Sibirica: Journal of Siberian Studies* 7 (2): 23–46.
- 2008b “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: istoriia s prodolzheniem* [Audiovisual Anthropology: The Story Continues], edited by E. D. Andreeva, Iu. B. Vinichenko, and I. V. Kondakov, 153-161. Moscow: Institut naslediiia (in Russian).
- 2002 “Buddhist Revival in Buryatia: Recent Perspectives.” *Mongolian Studies* 25: 1-11.

## INVITED LECTURES

- 2010 “More Alive Than All the Living: Sovereign Bodies and Cultural Politics in Buddhist Siberia,” Michigan Society of Fellows.
- 2010 “Religious Bodies Politic: Rituals of Sovereignty in Buryat Buddhism.” Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2009 “The Post-Soviet Treasure Hunt: New Sacred Geographies and Historiographies in Buryatia.” The Rubin Foundation Scholars Seminar, New York.
- 2008a “Buddhism and Shamanism in Buryatia,” Department of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg State University, Russia.
- 2008b “Theory and Methods in Visual Anthropology,” Visual Methods in Social Science Workshop, Department of Sociology, St. Petersburg State University, Russia.
- 2008c “Mediating Shamanism,” at the “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 “From Ethnographic Film to the Ethnography of Media,” 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

- 2010a Panel Organizer (with Robert Y. Chang), "Buddhisms in Motion," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans.  
Presenter, "Buddhism After Socialism: Money and Morality in the World of Samsara."
- 2010b 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, Russia.
- 2002b "Buddhist Revival in Buryatia" at the "Contemporary Mongol Groups" panel, Mongolia Society/Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Washington DC.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Courses Taught:**

- 2011 (Spring) Shamans, Nomads, and Commissars: Introduction to North Asia.
- 2011 (Fall) Anthropology of Death and the Afterlife
- 2012 (Spring) Anthropology of Buddhism

### **Teaching Assistantships:**

- 2004- 2007 New York University, Department of Anthropology.  
Designed and led two interactive discussion sections a week, graded papers and exams, advised students on research projects for the following courses:
- 2007 World Cultures: Russia Between East and West. Professor Eliot Borenstein.
- 2006 Anthropology of Religion. Professor T.O. Beidelman.
- 2006 Linguistic Anthropology. Professor Don Kulick.
- 2005 Human Society and Culture. Professor Lok Siu.
- 2005 Cultural Symbols. Professor T.O. Beidelman.
- 2004 Witchcraft: An Anthropological Approach. Professor T.O. Beidelman.

## **FIELDWORK**

- 2007-2008 Dissertation Fieldwork, India (Karnataka and Dharamsala), Russia (Buryatia and Chita region), Moscow, St. Petersburg, archival research.
- 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.

## **LANGUAGES**

Russian (native), English (near native), French (fluent), Italian (advanced), Spanish (intermediate), Tibetan (intermediate colloquial), Malayalam (basic), Latin (reading), Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian (reading).

## **SELECTED FILM SCREENINGS**

- 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.

## 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.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Peer-reviewer (journal articles): *Cultural Anthropology*; *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*; *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.  
 Peer-reviewer (proposals and applications): *Michigan Society of Fellows*, *Center for Global Change and Arctic Systems Research*, *University of Alaska*.

Member:

American Anthropological Association; 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