

June 2010

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**EDUCATION**

**Columbia University**, New York, NY

**Ph.D.** in Anthropology, May 2001

Dissertation: "Questions of Voice: On the Subject of 'Classical' Music in South India"

Honors: Dissertation passed with distinction

**University of Washington**, Seattle, WA

**M.A.** in Anthropology, June 1995

**Bryn Mawr College**, Bryn Mawr, PA

**B.A.** with honors in Anthropology, May 1992

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book:**

*Singing the Classical, Voicing the Modern: The Postcolonial Politics of Music in South India.*  
Duke University Press (2006) (Awarded Honorable Mention, Ananda Coomaraswamy Book Prize 2008)

**Articles:**

"The Ethnographer as Apprentice: Embodying Socio-Musical Knowledge" under review for the journal *Ethnomusicology*

"Sound and the City: Mimicry and Media in South India." Accepted by the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*

"Can the Subaltern Sing? Music, Language, and the Politics of Voice in Early Twentieth-Century South India." *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 42(4): 485-511 (December 2005)

"Guru and Gramophone: Fantasies of Fidelity and Modern Technologies of the Real." *Public Culture*, 15 (3): 453-476 (October 2003)

"Gender and the Politics of Voice: Colonial Modernity and Classical Music in South India." *Cultural Anthropology* 18(2): 194-232 (May 2003)

**Chapters in edited volumes:**

"Stage Goddesses and Studio Divas: Agency and the Politics of Voice" in *Words, Worlds, and Material Girls: Essays on Language, Gender, Globalization*. Ed. Bonnie McElhinny, Mouton de Gruyter press, 2007, pp 131-156.

“In Search of the Guru: Technology and Authenticity in Karnatak Music” in *Performing Pasts: Reinventing the Arts in Modern South India*. Ed. Indira Peterson and Davesh Soneji. Oxford University Press, 2008. pp 225-251.

“Listening to the Violin in South Indian Music” in *Theorizing the Local: Music, Practice in South Asia and Beyond*. Ed. Richard Wolf. Oxford University Press.

“Musical Genres and National Identity” in *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Indian Culture*, eds. Vasudha Dalmia and Rashmi Sadana. Cambridge University Press, under contract.

### **Review Essays:**

"The Tragedy of Comedy: Staging Gender in South India." New Releases review, *Anthropological Quarterly*, 78 (3): 751-764 (July 2005)

“Beyond Honor and Shame: Performing Gender in the Mediterranean.” New Releases review, *Anthropological Quarterly*, 76 (3): 519-530 (July 2003)

### **Book Reviews:**

Review of Lakshmi Subramanian’s *From the Tanjore Court to the Madras Music Academy: A Social History of Music in South India*. *Economic and Political Weekly* (fall 2006).

Review of Richard Wolf’s *The Black Cow’s Footprint: Time, Space and Music in the Lives of the Kotas of South India*. *Yearbook for Traditional Music* 38 (2006).

Review of *Culture and the Making of Identity in Contemporary India*, ed. Kamala Ganesh and Usha Thakkar, *Pacific Affairs* 79(2): 343-344 (summer 2006).

Review of Lalita du Perron’s *Hindi Poetry in a Musical Genre: Thumri Lyrics*. *Asian Music*

Review of Lisa Mitchell’s *The Making of a Mother Tongue: Language, Emotion, and Politics in South India*. *Anthropological Quarterly*

Review of Susan Reed’s *Dance and the Nation: Performance, Ritual and Politics in Sri Lanka*. *Anthropological Quarterly*

### **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION**

“Anthropology and the Voice.” Review essay to be submitted to *Annual Review of Anthropology*.

“Playback and Performance: The Female Voice and Public Femininity in South India.” to be submitted to *American Ethnologist*.

### **CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**

**Bryn Mawr College**, Bryn Mawr, PA  
*Assistant Professor*, Fall 2005- present  
Department of Anthropology

Courses Taught: South Asian Ethnography: the Politics of Gender in South Asia (new, fall 2005); Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (new, spring 2006) ; Senior Conference in Anthropology; Language in the Social Context (new, spring 2006); Cultures of Technology: Aesthetics, the Body, and the Senses (new, fall 2006); Ragas to Rap: Music and Performance in

South Asia and its Diaspora (new, fall 2007); Gender in South Asia: Media, Politics, and Performance (new, fall 2010)

Service: Institutional Diversity Departmental Liaison (2005-06); Steering Committee for Gender and Sexuality Studies (2005-present); Hanna Holborn Gray Fellowship committee (2006-07); Organizer, Mellon Tri-College Faculty Forum interest group for music and social/historical perspectives (2007); Graduate Council (2007-08)

Events organized: Screening of documentary film “Brown Like Dat: South Asians and Hip Hop” and discussion with filmmaker, faculty, students (April 19, 2006); Screening of two documentary films on South Asia and discussion with filmmakers Anjali Monteiro and K. P. Jayashankar (April 2, 2007); Residency of musician/composer V.S. Narasimhan at Haverford College, with coordinated visits to Bryn Mawr and University of Pennsylvania, September 2007; Anthropology guest speaker Susan Seizer, March 31, 2009

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**George Washington University, Washington, D.C.**

*Visiting Assistant Professor, Spring 2003- Spring 2005*

Department of Anthropology

Courses Taught: Language, Culture and Society; Graduate seminar in linguistic anthropology; Language, Culture and Cognition; South Asian Ethnography

**Columbia University, New York, NY**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor, Music, Fall 2002*

Course taught: Music of South and West Asia

*Teaching Assistant, Anthropology, 1999-2000*

Advisor to anthropology majors conducting ethnographic research

**New York University, New York, NY**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Fall 2001, Fall 2002*

Courses taught: World Cultures: Asia; Language and Culture

*Teaching Assistant, Anthropology, Spring 2002*

Course: Modern South Asia

**York College, City University of New York, Jamaica, NY**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Fall 2001*

Course taught: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

**State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY**

*Adjunct Instructor, Anthropology, summer 1997*

Course taught: Ethnography of South Asia

**University of Washington, Seattle, WA**

*Teaching Assistant, Anthropology, 1996-1997*

Courses: Introduction to Anthropology, Reading Ethnography

## **PREVIOUS GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Penn Humanities Forum Mellon Regional Faculty Research Fellowship, \$3000 (2007-08)

School of American Research, Santa Fe, NM. funding to conduct a two-day seminar in April 2008, entitled "Modernity and the Voice: Histories from Beyond the Metropole."

Bryn Mawr College Faculty Grant, \$2373 (2006-07) for research on historic South Indian sound recordings

Bryn Mawr College Faculty Grant, \$2500 (2005-06) for publication subvention

American Dissertation Fellowship, American Association of University Women, 2000-2001

Columbia University, President's Fellowship, 2000-2001

Columbia University, Faculty Fellowship, 1999-2000

American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Performing Arts Fellowship, 1997-98

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, summer 1996

American Institute of Indian Studies Language Study Fellowship, 1995-96

National Science Foundation pre-dissertation fieldwork grant, 1994

National Science Foundation Graduate Study Fellowship, 1992-1995

## **CURRENT GRANT**

American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Research Fellowship: "Female Voices in the Public Sphere: Playback Singing as Cultural Phenomenon in South India." Supports 6 months of research in Chennai, India in 2009-10.

## **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

Tamil: Semi-fluent reading, writing, and speaking

Telugu: Basic speaking and writing competence

Sanskrit: Basic reading competence

## **FIELD RESEARCH**

Research for playback singers project, Chennai, India Oct 2009-Jan 2010

Follow-up fieldwork for book, Madras, India, June-July 2002; Dec.-Jan 2003-2004

Dissertation fieldwork in Madras and Madurai, India, September 1997-December 1998

Language study in Madurai, India, September 1995-May 1996

Pre-dissertation fieldwork in Madras, India, July-Sept. 1993 and Sept. 1994-Jan. 1995

Fieldwork in South Asian diaspora community, Philadelphia, PA, Oct. 1991-June 1992

## **PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Colloquium Presentations:**

"The Changing Sound and Image of Female Playback Singers in South India." Presentation given at Columbia University Center for Ethnomusicology, March 2009; University of Virginia Department of Music, April 2009; Indiana University Department of Culture and Communication, April 2009.

"Research Methodology in Anthropology and Ethnomusicology." Seminar presentation given to PhD students at the Centre For the Study of Society and Culture, Bangalore, India, November 2009.

“The Female Voice in Tamil Cinema.” Presentation given at the Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, January 22, 2008, and for the Music Department Colloquium, New York University, January 24, 2008.

Invited Speaker, Ethnomusicology Working Group, Duke University, March 30, 2007

“Behind the Scenes: Playback Singing and the Female Voice in South India.” Presentation given at the South Asian Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Sept 28, 2006.

“Modernity’s Voices: Music and its Subjects in South India.” Colloquium presentation given at the University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology, January 2002.

**Forthcoming Conference Participation:**

“Playback and Performance: The Circulation and Remediation of Tamil film songs.” To be presented in the panel “Sound Circulations.” American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, Nov 17-21, 2010

Discussant for the panel “Give Voice a Voice: Anthropologies of the Voice.” American Anthropological Association, Nov 17-21, 2010

“Female Voices in the Public Sphere: Playback Singing and Ideologies of Gender in Tamil Cinema.” To be presented in the panel “Tamil Mediations.” South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI Oct 14-18, 2010

Discussant, roundtable on “Women Performers as Agents of Change.” South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI Oct 14-18, 2010

**Conference Panels and Seminars Organized:**

“Modernity and the Voice: Histories from beyond the Metropole.” 2-day seminar at the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM, April 22-23, 2008.

“Voicing Modernity: Anthropological Histories of the Voice in South and East Asia,” Association of Asian Studies, San Francisco, April 6-9, 2006.

“Travels of the Disembodied Voice,” Society for Ethnomusicology, Estes Park, Colorado, October 2002.

**Conference papers:**

“Sound and the City: Mimicry and Phonography in South India.” Presented in the panel “Authority and Authenticity in Discourse: Linguistic and other Mediatic Dimensions.” American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA, Dec 2-4, 2009.

“Female Voices in the Public Sphere: Playback Singing as Cultural Phenomenon in South India.” Feminist Theory and Music 10 Conference, Greensboro, NC, May 27-31, 2009.

Invited Speaker, Sound Works: Musicians and Media in South Asian Cities. Symposium held at University of Chicago, May 14-15, 2009.

“Sound and the City: Contextualizing Historic South Indian Recordings.” Social Science Center Third Friday Presentation, Bryn Mawr College, March 20, 2009.

“Sound and the City: Mimicry and Phonography in South India.” Invited paper, Listening In, Feeding Back. Conference held at Columbia University, Feb 14-15, 2009.

“Mediating Voices: Mimicry and the Phonograph in South India.” Presented in the panel “Media Ideologies,” American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA, Nov 22, 2008.

Discussant for the panel “Remediation and Appropriation” at the Society for Ethnomusicology, Middletown, CT, Oct 27, 2008.

“Voicing the City: Mimicry and the Phonograph in South India.” Presented in the invited panel, “Media and Voice: Papers in Honor of Richard Bauman,” American Anthropological Association, Nov 28-Dec 2, 2007.

Discussant, roundtable on Women in Indian Music. University of Pennsylvania, Sept 28, 2007.

Discussant, Vernacular Public Spheres in South Asia. Conference held at Yale University, April 6-7, 2007.

“Well Done, Sabha Secretary!’ Staging Classical Music in South India.” presented in the panel “Sabhas: Changing the Landscape of Chennai’s Music, Dance, and Drama.” Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA, March 22-25, 2007.

“Echo and Anthem: Aurality and the Listening Subject of Colonial Modernity.” for the panel “Listening In: Spatial and Discursive Approaches to an Anthropology of Sound.” American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, Nov. 2006.

“Is it Live or Is it Playback? Ideologies of Voice in 20<sup>th</sup>-century South India.” for the panel “Voicing Modernity: Anthropological Histories of the Voice in South and East Asia,” Association of Asian Studies, San Francisco, April 6-9, 2006.

“Technological Mediation, Playback Singing, and the Limits of Female Respectability in South India.” for the panel “Liveness and Mediation,” International Association for the Study of Popular Music, US Branch, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Feb 16-19, 2006.

Invited participant, workshop on “Cultures of Circulation,” organized by Elizabeth Povinelli and Michael Warner and the Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, Nov 12, 2005.

Invited Participant, conference on “Language, Genre, and the Historical Imagination in South India,” Yale University, Feb 20-23, 2004. Paper presented: “Can the Subaltern Sing? Music, Language, and the Politics of Voice in South India.”

Invited Participant, conference on “Local Theory, Local Practice: Musical Culture in South Asia,” Harvard University, Feb 27-March 2, 2004. Paper presented: “Gone Native: (Post)Colonial Travels of the Violin in South India”

Invited Participant, “Words, Worlds, and Material Girls: A Workshop on Language, Gender, and Political Economy,” Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, October 2003. Paper presented: “The Politics of Voice: Gender, Colonial Modernity, and Classical Music in South India”

“Guru and Gramophone: Fantasies of Fidelity in South India.” for the panel “At Home in Technology: Aesthetics, Affect, Poesis,” American Anthropological Association Meetings, New Orleans, LA, November 2002.

“Female Voices and the Gramophone in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century India.” for the panel “Travels of the Disembodied Voice,” Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference, Estes Park, Colorado, October 2002.

“The Politics of the Tamil Music Movement.” Lecture given in Tamil at Department of Tamil, Madura College, Madurai, India, July 2002.

“Gender, Classical Music, and the Politics of Voice in South India.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington, DC, November 2001.

“Sounding the Classical in Tamil Film Music: The Production of a Popular Music Aesthetic in 20th-Century South India.” Paper presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference, Detroit, MI, October 2001.

“Gender and the Politics of Classical Music in South India.” Paper presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, November 2000.

“In Search of the Guru: Technology and Authenticity in Karnatic Music.” Paper presented at the South Asia Conference, Madison, WI, October 2000.

“Inner Voices and Colonial Pasts: A History of the South Indian Violin.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association meetings, Chicago, IL, November 1999.

“Voicing/Ventriloquizing: The Violin in South India.” Paper presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference, Austin, TX, November 1999.

“Music, Subjectivity, and Language Politics in South India.” Paper presented at the South Asia Conference, Madison, WI, October 1999.

“Why Study the Tamil Music Movement?” Presentation in Tamil to the Madras University Tamil Dept., Madras, India, September 1998.

“Echoes of the Canon: Making Karnatic Music Classical.” Paper presented at the American Ethnological Society, Seattle, WA, March 1997.

“The Guru-Sisya System and the Female Teacher: A Story of Musical Politics from South India.” Paper presented at University of Washington Anthropology Colloquium, Seattle, WA, May 1995.

“The Orphaned Text: Narrative and Desire in a (Post)Colonial Courtesan Novel.” Paper presented at University of Washington Graduate Student Conference, Seattle, WA, April 1994.

## **MUSICAL PERFORMANCES AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Performances on South Indian Violin**

Soloist and accompanist in about 20 concerts in India and the United States (1995-present)

### **Invited lecture-demonstrations on Karnatic music**

University of Washington (1997), Columbia University (1999, 2001), George Washington University (2003)

### **Private music instructor**

Gave private instruction in Karnatic violin to 7 students ranging from beginning to advanced levels (Seattle, WA 1996-97 and Washington, D.C. 2004-05)

### **Member of amateur chamber music groups and orchestras**

Philadelphia, PA, Seattle, WA, New York, NY, Washington, D.C., 1988-present

Member of several amateur chamber music groups and orchestras as a violinist and bassoonist

Member of Amateur Chamber Music Players of North America (ACMP)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Anthropological Association  
Association of Asian Studies  
Society for Ethnomusicology  
International Association for the Study of Popular Music

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Manuscript Reviewer (2005-present)**

Reviewed book manuscripts for Oxford University Press, Indiana University Press, and Routledge and articles submitted for publication in *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, *Ethnomusicology*, *Ethnomusicology Forum*, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*

### **Member of Merriam Prize committee, Society for Ethnomusicology (2009)**

### **Consultant**

World Music Institute, New York, NY (2005-06)  
Wrote letters of reference for South Indian musicians traveling to the U.S.

## **OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE**

### **Literacy tutor**

Washington D.C. Sept. 2003-May 2004  
Worked with adults on basic literacy skills, through Literacy Volunteers of America

### **Research Assistant**

Kashtanka, Siberia (Russia), June-August 1991  
Research assistant to Professor Richard Davis, Bryn Mawr College, at Upper Paleolithic archaeological site in Central Siberia. Bryn Mawr -ANSSSR expedition.

### **Concert organizer**

Organized and solicited sponsorship for several concerts of Karnatic music on Columbia University's campus, 1999-2001, George Washington University campus, 2002-2003, and at Haverford College, 2007.