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EDUCATION

2012 Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Anthropology
2006 M.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Anthropology
2003 B.A., Connecticut College; New London, CT

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2015 - Charles Evans Hughes 1881 Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International and Public Affairs; Brown University, Providence, RI

Affiliated Faculty: Environmental Humanities; Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance; Science and Technology Studies; Center for Contemporary South Asia

2012 - 2015 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and School of Natural Resources and Environment; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

2012 - 2015 Postdoctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows

PUBLICATIONS***Single-Authored Books***

Forthcoming (2020). *Tasting Qualities: The Past and Future of Tea*. Oakland: University of California Press. Atelier: Ethnographic Inquiry for the Twenty-First Century.

2014. *The Darjeeling Distinction: Labor and Justice on Fair-Trade Tea Plantations in India*. Berkeley: University of California Press. California Studies in Food and Culture.

---- *Winner*, 2014 Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) Book Award

---- *Finalist*, 2015 Society for Anthropology of Work Book Award

---- 2018. Mandarin translation of *The Darjeeling Distinction* with new preface. Translated by Huaqing Huang. Tsinghua University Press.

Reviewed in: [Allegra Laboratory](#) (May 2015); *Asian Ethnology* 78(1); *American Anthropologist* 117:1; *American Ethnologist* 42:3; *Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal* 33; *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research* 52; *Food & Foodways* 25:1; *Gastronomica* 15:1; *Human Ecology* 43(3); *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 55:4; *International Sociology* 31:2; *Journal of Agrarian Change* 16:2; *Journal of Asian Studies* 71(1); *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 22(2); *Mountain Research and Development* 35:2; *Pacific Affairs* 88:2; *The Pangean* (February 2019); *Review of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Studies* 97:1 [reprinted on "[Culture and Capitalism](#)" Blog]; *Social Anthropology* 23(2); *Taiwan Journal of Anthropology* 12:1 (in Chinese); "[Tea for Me Please](#)" Blog (July 2014); *Work, Employment & Society* 30:5.

Edited Volumes

2019. *How Nature Works: Rethinking Labor on a Troubled Planet*. Sarah Besky and Alex Blanchette, editors. Santa Fe, NM: School for Advanced Research (SAR) Press.
2018. “The Naturalization of Work” collection for *Cultural Anthropology’s* “Theorizing the Contemporary” (co-edited with Alex Blanchette) [\[LINK\]](#)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2017. “Fixity: On the Inheritance and Maintenance of Tea Plantation Houses in Darjeeling, India.” *American Ethnologist* 44(4): 617-631.
2017. “The Land in Gorkhaland: On the Edges of Belonging in Darjeeling, India.” *Environmental Humanities* 9(1): 18-39.
2017. “Tea as ‘Hero Crop’? Embodied Algorithms and Industrial Reform in India.” *Science as Culture*. 26(1): 11-31.
2016. “Placing Plants in Territory” (co-authored with Jonathan Padwe). *Environment and Society: Advances in Research* 7: 9-28.
2016. “The Future of Price: Communicative Infrastructures and the Financialization of Indian Tea.” *Cultural Anthropology* 31(1): 4-29.
2015. “Agricultural Justice, Abnormal Justice? Fair Trade’s Plantation Problem.” *Antipode* 47(5): 1141-1160.
2015. “Looking for Work: Placing Labor in Food Studies” (co-authored with Sandy Brown). *Labor: Studies of Working-Class History of the Americas* 12(1-2): 19-43.
2014. “The Labor of *Terroir* and the *Terroir* of Labor: Geographical Indication on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” *Agriculture and Human Values* 31(1): 83-96.
---- Won the 2014 Anthropology & Environment Society Junior Scholar Award
2008. “Can a Plantation be Fair? Paradoxes and Possibilities in Fair Trade Darjeeling Tea Certification.” *Anthropology of Work Review* 29(1): 1-9.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- In press. “Can’t Get There from Here? Writing Place and Moving Narratives.” *Scholars and Writers: Writing Anthropology, Ethnography, and Beyond*, Carole McGranahan, editor. Durham: Duke University Press.
2019. “The Fragility of Work” (co-authored with Alex Blanchette). In *How Nature Works: Rethinking Labor on a Troubled Planet*, Besky and Blanchette, eds. Santa Fe: SAR Press.
2019. “Exhaustion and Endurance in Sick Landscapes.” In *How Nature Works: Rethinking Labor on a Troubled Planet*, Besky and Blanchette, eds. Santa Fe: SAR Press.

2019. "Monoculture." In *Anthropocene Unseen: A Lexicon*. Cymene Howe and Anand Pandian, editors. Santa Barbara, CA: Punctum Books.
2018. "Subnational Occupations: Managing Darjeeling Tea." Book chapter in *Darjeeling Reconsidered: Histories, Politics, and Environments*. Townsend Middleton and Sara Shneiderman, editors. New Delhi: Oxford University Press India.
2010. "Colonial Pasts and Fair Trade Futures: Changing Modes of Production and Regulation on Darjeeling Tea Plantations." In *Fair Trade and Social Justice: Global Ethnographies*. Sarah Lyon and Mark Moberg, editors. Pp. 97-122. New York: NYU Press.

Online Essays

2018. "Sickness" In "The Naturalization of Work," edited by Besky and Blanchette. Theorizing the Contemporary, *Cultural Anthropology* website. Posted July 26 [[LINK](#)]
2018. "Introduction: The Naturalization of Work." In "The Naturalization of Work," edited by Besky and Blanchette. Theorizing the Contemporary, *Cultural Anthropology* website. Posted July 26 [[LINK](#)]
2017. "Monoculture." In *Lexicon for an Anthropocene Yet Unseen*, edited by Cymene Howe and Anand Pandian. Theorizing the Contemporary, *Cultural Anthropology* website. Posted June 28. [[LINK](#)]
2017. Preface to the Mandarin language edition of *The Darjeeling Distinction*. Chapati Mystery. Posted May 16. [[LINK](#)]
2017. "Ten Questions with Sarah Besky." Chapati Mystery. Posted January 27 [[LINK](#)]
2016. (with Ned Dostaler) "The Materiality of Finance: An Interview with Sarah Besky." Dialogues, *Cultural Anthropology* website. Posted March 17. [[LINK](#)]
2016. Response to Daniel Münster's review of *The Darjeeling Distinction* on Allegra Laboratory. Posted January 25. [[LINK](#)]
2015. "Inheriting the Hill Station." Essay for "Edge Effects" Blog. Center for Culture, History, and Environment, University of Wisconsin-Madison (www.edgeeffects.net). Posted May 19. [[LINK](#)]
2015. "Can't Get There from Here? Writing Place and Moving Narratives." Essay in the "Writer's Workshop" Series on "Savage Minds" (www.savageminds.org). Posted March 26. [[LINK](#)]
2014. "The Promise of Fair Trade for Plantation Laborers." *For a Better World*. Fair World Project: Portland, Oregon. Issue 9 (Fall): 15-16. (<http://fairworldproject.org>) [[LINK](#)]

Invited Book Reviews

- Forthcoming. Review of Mythri Jegathesan. *Tea and Solidarity: Tamil Women and Work in Postwar Sri Lanka* (U. of Washington Press, 2019). In *Anthropology of Work Review*.
- Forthcoming. Review of Erika Rappaport. *Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* (Princeton U. Press, 2017). In *Journal of Asian Studies*.

2018. Review of Sarah Ives. *Steeped in Heritage: The Racial Politics of South African Rooibos Tea* (Duke U. Press, 2017). In *Environment and Society* 9: 175-176.
2017. Review of Townsend Middleton. *The Demands of Recognition: State Anthropology and Ethnopolitics in Darjeeling* (Stanford U. Press, 2015). In *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 23(2): 432-433.
2016. Review of Kamran Asdar Ali. *Communism in Pakistan: Politics and Class Activism, 1947-1972* (I.B. Tauris, 2015). For Chapati Mystery book forum. [\[LINK\]](#)
2016. Review of Jeffrey Witsoe. *Democracy against Development: Lower Caste Politics and Political Modernity in Postcolonial India* (U. of Chicago Press, 2013). In *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*. [\[LINK\]](#)
2016. Review of Andrew Willford. *Tamils and the Haunting of Justice: History and Recognition in Malaysia's Plantations* (U. of Hawaii Press, 2014). In *American Ethnologist* 43(1): 173-174.
2015. Review of *Empire of Tea: The Asian Leaf that Conquered the World* (Reaktion Books, 2015). In *Times Literary Supplement*. 7 October.
2015. Review of Jinghong Zhang. *Puer Tea: Ancient Caravans and Urban Chic* (U. of Washington Press, 2013). In *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 21(3): 696-697.
2015. Review of David Gellner, editor. *Borderland Lives in Northern South Asia* (Duke University Press, 2013). In *American Ethnologist* 42(1): 195-196.
2014. Review of Paige West. *From Modern Production to Imagined Primitive: The Social World of Coffee from Papua New Guinea* (Duke U. Press, 2012). In *Journal of Anthropological Research* 70(3): 457-458.
2013. Review of Jayeeta Sharma. *Empire's Garden: Assam and the Making of India* (Duke University Press, 2011). In *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture* 13(3): 81-82.
2013. Review of Neil White. *Company Towns: Corporate Order and Community*. (University of Toronto Press, 2012). In *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 55(4): 1021-1022.

Other Publications

2017. Darjeeling Studies Collective. 2017. "Op-Ed: What's Brewing in Darjeeling." *The Hindu*, July 25. (An international scholarly collaboration and co-written piece.) [\[LINK\]](#)
2013. "Fair for All? Plantations and the Future of Fair Trade." *Minpaku Anthropology Newsletter* (Issue Theme: "The Anthropological Study of Fair Trade"). Osaka, Japan: National Museum of Ethnology. No. 36. [Invited Essay]
2013. "Anthropology and Environment Society's Dissertation Workshop." *Anthropology News* 54 (2).

2012. "Kolkata, India." In *The Encyclopedia of Consumption and Waste: The Social Science of Garbage*, Bill Rathje and Geoffrey J. Golson, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
2012. "Dump Digging." In *The Encyclopedia of Consumption and Waste: The Social Science of Garbage*, Bill Rathje and Geoffrey J. Golson, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
2008. "Indian Labor Law and the Limits of Fair Trade in Darjeeling Tea Production." *Darjeeling Times* 1(8): 15-16.
2008. "Old Grievances." Letter to the Editor in response to "Unrest in India's Hill Country." *New York Times* (Sunday Travel Section). July 13.
2007. "Rural Vulnerability and Tea Plantation Migration in Nepal and Darjeeling." *Himalayan Research Papers*. Nepal Study Center, University of New Mexico [Research Report]

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

External Research Fellowships

- 2019 Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
- 2016 - 2017 School for Advanced Research (SAR) Advanced Seminar Grant for "How Nature Works." (co-organized with Alex Blanchette and Naisargi Dave)
- 2015 - 2017 European Commission Marie Curie Actions Fellowship [\$225,000] [Declined]
- 2012 - 2015 Michigan Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2011 - 2012 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2011 - 2012 American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowship [Declined]
- 2008 - 2009 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship
- 2007 - 2008 Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship – India
- 2007 - 2008 Fulbright Institute for International Education Fellowship – India [Declined]

Grants from Brown University

- 2019 Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Humanities Research Grant
- 2018 Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) Seed Grant
- 2018 Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Humanities Research Grant
- 2017 - 2018 Lectureship Award for "Cities and Toxicities" (w/ Bhrigupati Singh & Parsa Bastani)
- 2017 Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Humanities Research Grant
- 2016 Faculty Travel Grant (for conference travel)
- 2016 Watson Institute Collaboration Grant on "Land and Capital" (with Elizabeth Williams)
- 2016 Brown India Initiative Faculty Research Grant

- 2016 Undergraduate Teaching and Research Assistant (UTRA) Award
- 2016 Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Humanities Research Grant
- 2015 Faculty Travel Grant (for conference travel)

Grants from the University of Michigan

- 2014 Conference Travel Award, College of Letters and Sciences
- 2014 Office of Research and Sponsored Projects Book Publication Subvention
- 2014 International Travel Grant, Center for South Asian Studies
- 2012 & 2013 Faculty Research Top-up Grant, Center for South Asian Studies
- 2012 - 2014 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Faculty Funding

Grants from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

- 2011 Vilas Grant for Conference Travel, The Graduate School
- 2011 Center for Culture, History, and the Environment (CHE) Travel Award; Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
- 2010 Vilas Grant for Conference Travel, The Graduate School
- 2009 - 2010 Raymond J. Penn Fellowship, Nelson Institute Land Tenure Center
- 2009 Vilas Travel Grant for Dissertation Research, The Graduate School
- 2007 Academic Year Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Hindi
- 2007 Summer FLAS Fellowship, Nepali
- 2007 Travel Award, Department of Anthropology
- 2006 - 2007 Academic Year FLAS Fellowship, Hindi
- 2006 Summer FLAS Fellowship, Nepali
- 2006 Travel Award, Department of Anthropology
- 2006 Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Internship Grant; Global Studies Program
- 2005 - 2006 Academic Year FLAS Fellowship, Tibetan
- 2005 Summer FLAS Fellowship, Nepali

HONORS AND PRIZES

- 2014 Anthropology & Environment Society Junior Scholar Award
- 2014 Society for Economic Anthropology Book Award (awarded every 3 years)
- 2012 Miller-Hitchcock-Weinstein Award, Department of Anthropology, UW-Madison
- 2011 Dor Bahadur Bista Prize, Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies
- 2011 Finalist for the Early Excellence in Teaching Award, UW-Madison
- 2011 University Housing Honored Instructor Award, UW-Madison
- 2011 Honorable Mention, Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award for Outstanding Research in Social Studies, Office of the Secretary of the Faculty, UW-Madison
- 2010 Roy A. Rappaport Graduate Student Prize Winner, Anthropology and the Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association

2003 B. June Macklin Award for Anthropology, Connecticut College

INVITED LECTURES

2020 TBD. David A. Walsh Seminar, Clarkson University, April 24.

2019 TBD. International Development Group, MIT, November 5.

2019 TBD. Roundtable discussion and additional lecture for “Interrogating the Plantationocene” A.W. Mellon Sawyer Seminar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 10th and 11th.

2019 “Indian Tea, Postcolonial Governance, and the Uses of Transparency.” Transparency in Extractive Industries Workshop. Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland, June 1.

2019 “Fixity: On the Inheritance and Maintenance of Tea Plantation Houses in Darjeeling, India.” Himalayan Studies Centre, North Bengal University, May 29.

Also presented at:

Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University; May 12, 2019.

2019 Commentary on Amy Cohen’s “Negotiating the Value Chain: A Study of Surplus and Distribution in Indian Markets for Food.” Department of Urban and Regional Planning, MIT, April 18.

2019 “Can a Plantation be Fair?” Connecticut College, April 4.

2019 “The Quality of Cheap Tea: Industrial Reform in the Dooars, India.” Program in Organizational Behavior, Stanford Graduate School of Business, February 13.

Part of a one-week residency at the Stanford Center for Global Poverty and Development, co-sponsored by the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

2018 “Perenniality, Perishability, and Indian Tea.” Symposium on tea in Asia, Mario Einuadi Center. Cornell University, October 26.

2018 “Market Qualities: The Cost of Cheap Tea.” Centre for Diasporic and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto, October 2

2018 “Cheap Tea and the Problem of Quality: Mass-Markets and Industrial Reform in the Dooars.” Department of Anthropology, Emory University, March 19

2017 “Environmental Change and Landscapes of Digestion: Tea Tannins, Industrialization, and Human Health, 1900-1940.” CHE@10 Symposium. Center for Culture, History and Environment, University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 4

2017 “Can a Plantation Be Fair? Fair Trade in the Tea Industry.” World Tea Expo, Las Vegas, NV, June 15

- 2017 “Cheap Tea and the Endurance of Monoculture in the Dooars, India.” Annual Hunt Lecture in Economic Anthropology. Brandeis University, April 28
- 2017 “Exhaustion and Endurance in Sick Landscapes.” Department of Anthropology, Rice University, January 24
- 2016 “Can a Plantation Be Fair? Fair-Trade Certification in Darjeeling Tea.” Seattle Museum of Art’s Asian Art Museum, December 3
- 2016 “Spaces for Labor: Inheritance, Inequality, and Infrastructure on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Jackson School of International Studies, U. of Washington, December 2
- Also presented at:*
- Institute for Work and Employment Research. Sloan School of Management, MIT, November 1, 2016
 - Legal History Colloquium, Brown University, October 28
 - Department of Anthropology, University of Freiburg, April 22, 2016
 - Department of Geography, Dartmouth College, April 18, 2016
 - Center for Asian Studies, Southern Methodist University, April 12, 2016
 - Watson Institute; Brown University, April 7, 2016
 - Department of Anthropology; UW-Madison, March 7, 2016
- 2016 “Cheap Tea and the Work of Monoculture in India.” Advanced Seminar on “How Nature Works.” School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM, September 24-30
- 2016 Commentary on Research Program: “Moving Crops and the Scales of History.” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany, July 18-19
- 2016 “The Land in Gorkhaland: On the Edges of Belonging in India.” Department of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology; University of Chicago, March 14
- Also presented at:*
- South Asia Center; University of Heidelberg, April 26, 2016
 - Center for South Asia; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dec. 3, 2015
 - Brown-India Initiative; Brown University, October 16, 2015
 - Department of Geography; University of Zürich, March 3, 2015
 - Agrarian Studies Colloquium; Yale University, January 16, 2015
- 2016 Keynote roundtable participant at “E is for Environment” Symposium, Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE); University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 4-6
- 2015 “Financializability: On the Changing Nature of Numbers in Kolkata’s Tea Auction.” Invited Speaker at “Transformations in the Global South -- Taking Stock.” Global South Studies Center; University of Cologne, May 26-28
- Also presented at:*
- Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, NC State University, April 17, 2015
 - Environmental Studies Department; UC-Santa Cruz, January 21, 2015

- 2015 “Can a Plantation be Fair?” Ethics of Consumerism Symposium; University of New Hampshire, April 23
- 2015 “Agriculture and Ethical Standards.” Global Economic Geographies of Agriculture and Food Systems Seminar, Department of Geography; University of Zürich, March 4
- 2015 “Fair Trade, Subnational Politics, and Environmental Justice in Darjeeling, India.” Environmental Studies Program; University of Colorado, Boulder, January 25
- 2014 “Decolonizing Tea? Industrial Reform and the Governance of Price in India.” Watson Institute for International Studies and Department of Anthropology; Brown University; December 12
- 2014 Society for Economic Anthropology Book Prize Lecture, American Anthropological Association Meetings; Washington, D.C., December 4
- 2014 “Can a Plantation Be Fair? Fair Trade and Darjeeling Tea Production.” Peace & Justice Studies Program, Michigan State University, November 14
- 2014 “Sustainability at Industrial Scales?” Sustainable Food Initiative’s “Fast Food for Thought;” University of Michigan, October 21
- 2014 “Socially Responsible Tea: Labor Conditions, Corporate Branding, and Indian Tea Plantations.” Co-panelist with Max Bearak (*New York Times*), Ashwini Sukthankar (Columbia), and Phyllis Robison (Equal Exchange). Human Rights Institute; Columbia University Law School, March 24
- 2014 “‘Large Farms’ and the Limits of Fair Trade: Value-Added Relations on Indian Tea Plantations.” Department of Human Ecology; University of California, Davis, January 29
- 2013 “Composing Value: Brokerage and the Politics of Taste in the Indian Tea Auction.” Department of Anthropology; University of Michigan, November 25
- 2013 “Inheriting the Plantation: Tripartite Moral Economies and Gendered Understandings of Labor and Landscape in Darjeeling, India.” Department of Women’s Studies; University of Michigan, November 18
- 2012 “Gender, Affective Labor, and the Home/Work Paradox on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, September 28.
- 2012 “Fair for All? Fair Trade Plantations and the Implications of Hired Labor Standards in Indian Tea Production.” Presented at the “Global Ethical Consumption: New Dimensions of Fair Trade” Symposium. National Museum of Ethnology; Osaka, Japan, March 24-25
- 2012 “Nostalgia, Revitalization, and the Meaning of Justice on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Dept. of Environmental Science, Planning, and Management; UC-Berkeley, March 9

- 2012 “Labor, Tea, and Fair Trade in India.” Human Rights Institute; Columbia University Law School, New York, NY, February 29
- 2008 “Environmental Change and Tea Production in Darjeeling.” Environmental Science Department; St. Paul’s School; Darjeeling, India, August 5

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Panel Organization

- 2017 “How Nature Works:” a set of three panels co-organized with Alex Blanchette. American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Washington, DC, Nov. 29-Dec. 3.
- 2015 “Labor, Landscape, and (De)colonial Desires: Rethinking the Plantation as a Socio-Ecological Category.” [Co-organized with Mythri Jegathesan] American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Denver, CO, November 18-22.
- 2014 “Beyond the Material/Immaterial Divide: Aesthetics, Affects, and the End(s) of Work.” [Co-organized with Alex Nading] Society for Cultural Anthropology Meetings; Detroit, MI, May 9-10.
- 2014 “Categories, Difference, and In/Visibility.” [Co-organized with Reighan Gillam] American Ethnological Society Meetings; Boston, MA, April 10-12.
- 2014 “New Directions in Human-Environment Relations in the Himalayas.” [Co-organized with Shaila Seshia Galvin] Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS) Conference; New Haven, CT, March 14-16
- 2013 “Doing Justice?” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Chicago, IL, November 20-24
- 2012 “Enumerating Environments: Ethnographies of Brokers, Middlemen, and Analysts.” [Co-organized with Nicholas D’Avella] American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; San Francisco, CA, November 14-18
- 2011 “People, Plants, and Practice: Garden Variety Investigations of Domesticated Nature.” [Co-organized with Jonathan Padwe] American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Montreal, QC, November 16-20
- 2011 “The Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalaya: Interfaces and Interrogations.” Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS) Conference; St. Paul, MN, October 28-30

Paper Presentations (selected)

- 2019 “Market Qualities: Perenniality, Perishability, and the Persistence of the Plantation.” To be presented on the panel “The Nature of Capitalist Time.” American Anthropological Association Meetings, Vancouver, BC, November 20-24.
- 2019 Discussant for “Creative and Tenacious Farmwork: Rethinking Resistance and Resilience

in Agriculture.” American Anthropological Association Meetings, Vancouver, BC, November 20-24.

- 2018 “Perenniality, Perishability, and Aging in the Indian Tea Industry.” To be presented on the panel “Time and Power in Agrarian Environments.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; San Jose, CA, November 14-18, 2018.
- 2018 Discussant for “Fixing Territory: Place-based Products out of Place.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; San Jose, CA, November 14-18, 2018.
- 2018 Discussant for “Between Work and Labor: Valuing Productive Action in South Asia.” Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 11-14.
- 2018 Roundtable presenter on “‘The Fix’ in South Asia.” Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 11-14.
- 2018 Discussant for “Land Questions: Agrarian and Material South Asia.” Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 11-14.
- 2017 “Exhaustion and Endurance in Sick Landscapes.” Presented on panel: “How Nature Works 2.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Washington, DC, November 29-December 3
- 2017 Discussant for “How Nature Works 1.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Washington, DC, November 29-30
- 2017 “Environmental Change and Landscapes of Digestion: Tea Tannins, Industrialization, and Human Health, 1900-1940.” Presented on the panel “Climate of Imagination in South Asia.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 27-29.
- 2016 “The Land in Gorkhaland.” Presented on the panel: “Sovereignty and the Environment.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 16-20
- 2016 “Plantation Landscapes and the Work of Abandonment.” Presented on the panel: “Reincarnation after Ruination: The Afterlives of Technologies, Industries and Labor in South Asia.” Annual Conference on South Asia, October 20-22
- 2016 “Spaces for Labor.” Presented on the panel: “Making up Anthropology, Part One: Objects.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Meeting; Ithaca, NY, May 13-15
- 2015 “Transparent Futures? Digitization, Documentation, and Tea Auction Reform in Kolkata, India.” Presented on the panel: “The Paper Life of Politics: Documents as Mediators in Political Struggles.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Denver, CO, November 18-22
- 2015 Discussant for “Labor, Landscape, and (De)colonial Desires: Rethinking the Plantation as a Socio-Ecological Category.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Denver, CO, November 18-22

- 2015 “Tea, Territory, and Tacit Knowledge: Managing Darjeeling Tea.” Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 22-25
- 2015 “The Land in Gorkhaland.” Land and Water: A Long-Term Perspective; Brown University, September 4-5
- 2015 “Postcolonial Pricing: On the Changing Nature of Numbers in Kolkata’s Tea Auction.” Society for Economic Anthropology Meeting; Lexington KY, April 9-11
Also presented on the panel: “The Pursuit of Quality: Distinction and Fungibility in Emergent Agro-food Regimes.” American Ethnological Society Meeting; San Diego, CA, March 12-14, 2015
- 2014 “Analog Relations, Digital Transparency: Taste, Price, and Value in the Indian Tea Auction.” Presented on the panel: “Sensory Politics.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Washington D.C., December 3-7
- 2014 “Houses as Imperial Ruins: Infrastructure and Inheritance on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Presented on the panel: “Building South Asia.” Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 17-19
- 2014 “Rootedness and Circulation: Tea’s Place in the Gorkhaland Agitation in Darjeeling, India.” Presented as part of “Animal, Mineral, Vegetable: Feminist Provocations.” Feminist Studies South Asia Pre-Conference; Madison, WI, October 16
- 2014 “Narrative or Scenario: Nature and Price in the Indian Tea Auction.” Presented at the “Anthropology for Sale” workshop. University of Edinburgh, September 19
- 2014 “The Future in Ruins: Aesthetic Legacies and Practices of Care in Darjeeling’s Tea Plantation Landscape.” Presented on the panel: “After Development: Critical Aesthetics of Past Futures.” Association of Social Anthropologists; Edinburgh, UK, June 19-22
- 2014 “The Labor of Taste.” Presented on the panel: “Beyond the Material/Immaterial Divide: Aesthetics, Affects, and the End(s) of Work.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Meetings; Detroit, MI, May 9-10
- 2014 “On Rootedness and Circulation: Tea’s Invisibility and the Gorkhaland Agitation in Darjeeling, India.” Presented on the panel: “Categories, Difference, and In/Visibility.” American Ethnological Society Meetings; Boston, MA, April 10-12
- 2014 “Brokering Taste: Meanings and Metrologies in the Indian Tea Auction.” Presented at the symposium: “When Nature and Numbers (Don’t) Meet.” Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, UW-Madison, April 4-6
- 2014 “The Buds and Roots of Subnationalism in Darjeeling.” Presented on the panel “New Directions in Human-Environment Relations in the Himalayas.” Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies Conference; New Haven, CT, March 14-16

- 2013 “In the Market for Justice.” Presented on the panel: “Doing Justice.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Chicago, IL, November 20-24
- 2013 Roundtable Participant for “Nongovernmental Politics.” Future of NGO Studies Conference; Chicago, IL, November 19-20
- 2013 Discussant for the panel “Manifestations of Power through Identity: Case Studies from South, Southeast, and East Asia.” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs; East Lansing, MI, October 25-27
- 2013 “Bureaucrats, Brokers, and the Politics of Taste: Debating the ‘Middleman’ in the Indian Tea Auction.” Society of Fellows, University of Michigan, October 8
- 2013 “‘Essentially Attributable’: Geographical Indication and the Place of Labor in the *Terroir* of Darjeeling Tea.” Presented on the panel “Value Chains, Neoliberal Regulation, and Global Restructuring.” Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting; Los Angeles, CA, April 9-13
- 2013 “The Politics of Routine Events: The Indian Tea Auction and Technologies of Taste.” Anthro-History Symposium: “What is an Event?” University of Michigan, February 8
- 2012 “Brokering Taste: Middlemen in the Indian Tea Auction.” Presented on the panel “Enumerating Environments: Ethnographies of Brokers, Middlemen, and Analysts.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; San Francisco, CA, November 14-18
- 2012 “Analog Relations, Digital Transparency? Indian Tea Auction Reform and the Question of the ‘Middleman.’” Presented on the panel “The State’s Relations: Emergent Forms of Technology and Transparency in South Asia.” Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 11-14
- 2012 “Crossings and Cultivations: Tea Production and Identity Politics in Darjeeling.” Presented at “Foodways: Diasporic Dinners, Transnational Tables, and Culinary Connections.” Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto; October 4-7
- 2012 “Imperialist Nostalgia, Agrarian Imaginaries, and the Meaning of Justice on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Dimensions of Political Ecology: Conference on Nature and Society; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, April 13-15
- 2011 “Gardening the Tea Plantation: Human-Plant Relationships in Darjeeling, India.” Presented on the panel “People, Plants, and Practice: Garden Variety Investigations of Domesticated Nature.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Montreal, QC, November 16-20
- 2011 “Land, Belonging, and Justice on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Presented on the panel

- “The Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalaya: Interfaces and Interrogations.” Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies Conference; St. Paul, MN, October 28-30
- 2010 “Garden Variety Kinship: Shifting Moral Economies, Nostalgia, and Relationships of Care on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Presented on the Roy A. Rappaport Graduate Student Prize Panel, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; New Orleans, LA, November 17-21
- 2010 “Darjeeling after Fair Trade: Moral Economies of Land, Labor, and Ownership.” Presented on the panel: “Natural Circuits: The Political Ecology of Environmental Commodities.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; New Orleans, LA, November 17-21
- 2007 “Can a Plantation be Fair? Paradoxes and Possibilities in Fair Trade Darjeeling Tea Production.” Presented on the panel: “What’s Fair: Environmental and Social Justice Through Markets.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Washington D.C. November 28-December 2
- 2007 “Indian Labor Law and the Limits of Fair Trade in Indian Tea Production.” Presented on the panel: “Diverse Responses to Economic Globalization.” Conference on South Asia; Madison, Wisconsin, October 12-14

Other Public and Guest Lectures (selected)

- 2019 Commentator for Concepts Workshop on “Virtue” with Ajantha Subramanian. Department of Anthropology, Brown University, March 15.
- 2019 Guest Lecture on food and labor in “Anthropology of Food” (Leinaweaver and Scherer), February 25.
- 2018 Commentator and Moderator for a “Book Adda” on Radhika Govindrajan’s *Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India’s Central Himalayas*. Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University, September 28.
- 2017 Discussion of David Mosse’s O.P. Jindal Lecture “Is Caste a Development Issue?” Center for Contemporary South Asia; Brown University, November 1
- 2017 Presentation on anthropological research for Presidential Scholars Program (first-generation students interested in conducting research), Brown University, October 4
- 2017 Commentator for Concepts Workshop on “Mana” with William Mazzarella. Department of Anthropology, Brown University, September 22.
- 2016 “Anthropology and Development.” In “Theory and Research in Development.” Brown University, November 3
- 2016 Discussion for Mellon Sawyer Seminar “Displacement and the Making of the Modern World IV: Development-Induced Displacement,” Brown University

- 2016 “Making the Most of a Postdoctoral Fellowship.” Michigan Society of Fellows, September 16
Also presented at:
- Watson Institute, Brown University, October 24, 2016
- 2016 “Applying for Postdoctoral Fellowships.” Brown Dept. of Anthropology, September 9
Also presented at:
- Department of Anthropology, Brown University, September 28, 2015
- 2016 “Ethnography.” RISD Continuing Education “Design and Public Policy Institute” for state of Rhode Island officials, August 4
Also presented at:
- RISD Design and Public Policy Institute (for State of Rhode Island), June 6, 2016
- RISD Design and Public Policy Institute (for federal employees), August 4, 2015
- 2016 “Slow Violence in Shadow Places.” Guest lecture for graduate seminar in environmental anthropology, University of Heidelberg, April 25
- 2016 “The Future of Price,” in “Anthropology and Political Economy,” Southern Methodist University, April 12.
- 2015 “How to Write a Journal Article.” Brown Dept. of Anthropology, December 14
- 2015 “The Death of the Indian Tea Auction.” Brown Club of New Hampshire and Vermont; Claremont, NH, November 18
Also presented at:
- Brown Club of Wisconsin; Madison, WI, Oct. 23, 2015

Invited Discussions of The Darjeeling Distinction in Colleagues’ Classes:

- 2018 In “Indigeneity, Sustainability and Resistance in Food Politics,” Brown U., March 6
- 2017 In “Big Food Systems,” Tufts University (Skype); November 20
- 2017 In “Environmental Anthropology,” University of Hawaii (Skype); October 2
- 2017 In “Anthropological Theory,” Rice University; January 24
- 2016 In “Anthropology of Natural Wealth,” Amherst College (Skype), October 5
- 2016 In “Political Ecology,” University of Texas, Austin (Skype); April 22
- 2016 In “Moral Economies of Development,” Dartmouth College; April 19
- 2016 In “Environmental Anthropology,” University of Hawaii (Skype); January 23
- 2015 In “Anthropology of Food,” Connecticut College; November 5
- 2015 In “The Anthropology of Good Intentions,” Oberlin College; April 21
- 2015 In “The Global Intimate,” Dartmouth College (Skype); January 28
- 2014 In “Sociology of Food and Agriculture,” NC State (Skype); November 5
- 2014 In “Environmental Anthropology,” U. Michigan; October 30
- 2014 In “Environmental Anthropology,” Florida International U. (Skype); March 20
- 2014 In “Culture and Global Environment,” U. of Oklahoma (Skype); February 19

2013 In “Global Environmental Justice,” U. of Oklahoma (via Skype); October 10
2012 In “Environmental Anthropology,” U. of Michigan; October 13

COURSES TAUGHT

At Brown University

“Anthropology and Global Social Problems.” [introductory undergraduate class]
“Anthropology of the Himalayas.” [undergraduate seminar]
“Research Design and Methods in Anthropology.” [graduate seminar]
“Labor and Social Life.” [graduate seminar]

At the University of Michigan

“Food, Politics, and Environment.” [combined graduate and undergraduate seminar]
“Social and Environmental Justice in South Asia.” [combined graduate and undergraduate seminar]

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Introduction to East Asian Civilizations.” [introductory undergraduate class]

ACADEMIC SERVICE (selected)

Service to the Profession

Grant Reviewer for:

National Science Foundation, Cultural Anthropology Program (2014, 2017)

Manuscript Reviewer for:

Agriculture and Human Values; American Ethnologist; Anthropological Quarterly; Anthropology of Work Review; Antipode; Comparative Studies in Society and History; Culture, Agriculture, Food, and Environment (Culture & Agriculture); Current Anthropology; Economic Anthropology; Economy and Society; Gender and Society; Gastronomica; Global Networks: A Journal of Transnational Affairs; Himalaya: Journal of Cultural Economy; Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies; Journal of Peasant Studies; Human Organization; Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute; Political and Legal Anthropology Review; Studies in Nepali History and Society; University of Washington Press

2019-2022 President, Society for the Anthropology of Work
2018-2019 President-elect, Society for the Anthropology of Work
2018-2021 Advisory Board Member. “Sustainability’s Infrastructure” Danish Social Science Foundation (Sapere Aude). PI: Martin Skrydstrup (Copenhagen Business School)
2017 Christine Wilson Award Panel, Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition
2016 Rappaport Prize Panel; Anthropology and Environment Society
2016 Junior Scholar Award Reviewer; Anthropology and Environment Society
2016 Co-Chair, Society for Economic Anthropology Book Prize Committee
2015 - 2018 Board Member; Society for Economic Anthropology
2014 Faculty Mentor, Anthropology and Environment Society Dissertation Workshop
2011 - 2013 Board Member, Anthropology and Environment Society
2011 - 2013 Organizer, Anthropology and Environment Society Dissertation Workshop

At Brown University

2018- Associate Director, Center for Contemporary South Asia
2019- Faculty Advisory Board, Rhodes Institute for International Economics, Watson Institute
2018- Environmental Humanities Initiative, Cogut Center for the Humanities
2017- Affiliated Faculty, Program in Science and Technology Studies
2017- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Center for Contemporary South Asia
2017- Steering Committee Member, Center for Contemporary South Asia
2017-2018 Brown Human Research Advisory Group
2017-2020 Brown University Community Committee
2017-2018 Watson Institute Postdoc Review Committee
2017-2018 Art@Watson Committee, Watson Institute
2016, 2017 Graduate Fulbright Committee
2016- Food Studies Working Group
2016 Watson-Smith Prize Committee Member, Department of Anthropology
2016 Co-convener, Article Writing Workshop (for grad students), Dept. of Anthropology

Graduate Student Supervision at Brown:

Annabelle Sutor (Anthropology Ph.D. co-chair, 2017-)
Dee Walls (Integrative Studies M.A., supervisor, 2018-2020)

Current Graduate Student Committees at Brown:

Yifeng (Troy) Cai (Anthropology, Ph.D.)
Bethany Whitlock (Anthropology, Ph.D.)
Katyayni Seth (Anthropology, M.A.)
Sertac Sen (Anthropology Ph.D.)
Ahona Palchoudhuri (Anthropology Ph.D.)

Past Graduate Student Committees at Brown:

Hannah Marshall (Anthropology M.A., 2016)

Past External Ph.D. Committees

Emma McDonnell (Ph.D., Anthropology, Indiana University, 2019)

Undergraduate Committees and Supervision at Brown:

Kudrat Wadhwa (Anthropology, honors thesis supervisor, 2018-2019)
Rachel McMahan (Development Studies, honors thesis supervisor, 2018-2019)
Casey Lingelbach (Development Studies, honors thesis supervisor, 2018-2019)
Elizabeth Hampson (Anthropology, thesis supervisor, 2017-2018)
Brian Yang (Anthropology, thesis second reader, 2017-2018)
Isabelle Thenor-Louis (Anthropology, honors thesis second reader, 2016)
Laura Durand (Development Studies, honors thesis second reader, 2016)
Divya Mehta (UTRA Fellow, Summer 2009)
Arundhati Ponnappa (UTRA Fellow, Summer 2009)

MEDIA, INTERVIEWS, AND CONSULTATIONS (archived online at www.sarahbesky.com)

My research has been covered in Indian print media: *The Times of India* (2014), *The Economic Times* (2014), *The Business Standard* (2014), *The Darjeeling Times* (2014), News18 (2019)

- 2017 World101x: University of Queensland MOOC module, posted July 13 [[LINK](#)]
- 2017 Interviewed for Right to Food report. Peace Research Institute; Oslo, Sweden, April 28
- 2016 - 2019 Consultant for tea sector study, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (Berlin, Germany)
- 2016 Commentator on Al Jazeera's "The Stream." December 14 [[LINK](#)]
- 2016 Interviewed for *Rhein Neckar Zeitung* (Heidelberg, Germany), April 27
- 2016 Interviewed for Asia Experts Forum (Claremont McKenna College), April 6
- 2016 Interviewed for CNN Freedom Project. April 7
- 2016 Interviewed on Edge Effects Blog [[LINK](#)] and podcast [[LINK](#)]. Posted March 29
- 2015 Interviewed for a BBC article on labor conditions in Indian tea, August 19
- 2015 Interviewed for the "New Books in South Asia" podcast series. January 14 [[LINK](#)]
- 2014 Interviewed on BBC Radio 4 "Thinking Allowed." Airdate: October 22
- 2014 Interviewed for an article in *The Guardian* on smallholder tea. August 9
- 2014 Interviewed for documentary on fair trade for BBC Dispatches
- 2014 Interviewed on "The Farm Report." Heritage Radio News. Airdate: May 22
- 2014 Interviewed on "It's Hot in Here." WCBN Ann Arbor. Airdate: January 17
- 2013 Interviewed for Friends of the Earth UK "Make it Better Campaign." October 17
- 2010 Interviewed on "Against the Grain," on "Fair Trade's Impact." KPFA Berkeley, CA.
Airdate: November 22
- 2010 Consultant for International Union of Foodworkers (IUF) for a study on the effects of fair trade certification on unionization; Darjeeling, India
- 2009 Consultant on Plantation Social Welfare, Community Health and Advancement in India (CHAI) Project, Mercy Corps (US NGO); Darjeeling, India

LANGUAGES

Nepali: Excellent (speaking, writing, and reading) *See above for interpreting experience*

Hindi: Proficient (speaking, writing, and reading)

Tibetan: Elementary (speaking, reading, and writing)