

MISTY LUMINAIS

Case Western Reserve University
Social Justice Institute
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EDUCATION

Washington State University, Pullman, Washington

Ph.D. in Anthropology, 2012; “In the Habit of Being Kinky: Practice and Resistance in a BDSM Community, Texas, USA.”

M.A. in Anthropology, 2006; “Local Ideals of Beauty under Global Pressure: Gender Identity and Formation in Dangriga, Belize”

University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana

B.A. in Anthropology, 2003

APPLIED EXPERIENCE

2016 – Present, Begun Center for Violence Prevention Education and Research, Case Western Reserve University

As a qualitative data analyst for the Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Initiative grant, analyze interviews, perform literature reviews and co-author research briefs. As an investigator on a research and training development grant from the Mandel School for Applied Social Sciences for a Process Evaluation and Impact Assessment for the Cuyahoga County Safe Harbor Project, conduct and analyze interviews with youth and adults and engage in participant observation.

2012 – Present, Social Justice Institute, Case Western Reserve University

As the Senior Research Associate/Project Coordinator for the Voicing & Action Project, organize a team of fourteen community researchers to collect narrative histories on film from residents and stakeholders in the municipality of East Cleveland in order to locate structures of oppression due to racism and inequality. Analyze data using qualitative data analysis software (AtlasTI and MAXQDA) to determine correlations of challenges and strengths in the community. Facilitate community events used to engage residents in dialogue about the results of the study to collaboratively design community-driven projects supported by the Social Justice Institute. Disseminate findings through academic articles, white papers, and presentations to academic and lay audiences.

2011 – 2012, City of Austin, Office of the City Clerk

Coordinated local elections. Performed research on municipal history and codification. Archived and managed city records. Evaluated corporate policies. Acted as liaison between government officials and the public.

2010 – 2011, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

Employed with Communities Putting Prevention to Work (\$7.4 million), a federally funded initiative to bring about policy and environmental changes in the area of tobacco control

and prevention. Worked as qualitative researcher and analyst. Monitored contracts of grant subrecipients. Supervised sections of the budget. Participated in health education component.

2008 – 2010 City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department

Researched environmental policies on endangered species protection and water management strategies. Utilized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to map natural and built features, including the Stormwater Marking Program. Worked on Water Quality Education program materials and K-8 outreach. Implemented new, corporate-wide records management strategies.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Summer 2016 – Summer 2017, Research Training and Development Grant

Acting as qualitative researcher as part of a team performing a process evaluation and impact assessment of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Safe Harbor Project, primarily responsible for conducting interviews with impacted youth and their families and then transcription, coding, and analysis of qualitative data. Collaborating with Rachel Lovell, PhD, the Project Director/Methodologist to engage in mixed methodology.

Fall 2012, Community Transformation Grant

Studied the perceptions of the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community members using qualitative methods, including interviews and participant observation, resulting in a report on recommendations on how to increase the department's cultural competency and accessibility.

Summer 2009 – Spring 2011, Ph.D. fieldwork

Using ethnographic methodology, worked in Texas to study how members of the kinky community resist and reinforce hegemonic ideals of gender and sexuality by modifying their habitus through changing embodied practices, specifically reinforced in liminal moments of crisis (painful and pleasurable). Studied ritual interactions through participant observation. Focused on the cultural construction and experience of violence. Used semi-structured interviews to investigate relationships and beliefs about power and sexuality. Employed grounded theory analysis to analyze texts.

Summer 2005, M.A. fieldwork

In Dangriga, Belize, explored how globalizing forces, especially the compression of time and space through advancing technologies, such as media and tourism, influence how women construct gendered identities. Employed participant observation, interviewing, and focus groups to solicit information regarding beauty practices and economic strategies.

Fall 2003, undergraduate work

Worked with a New Orleans Voudon priestess to explore how shamanism occurs in an urban setting and how her spiritual healing practices complimented Western allopathic medicine.

Spring 2002, undergraduate work

Worked with an evangelical Christian motorcycle club to analyze how the construction of a single male deity reflected the value system of the group.

FURTHER EDUCATION

2014 Qualitative Methodology – Florida State University, USA

2013 Sexuality and Morality – Lisbon University Institute, Lisbon, Portugal

RESEARCH AREAS

United States (Midwest and Southern), Central America, Virtual Communities, Social Justice, Gender, Urban Studies, Public Policy, Sexuality, Violence, Religion, Public Health, Feminist Marxism, Queer Theory

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington State University

- 2011-2012 Gender in Cross Cultural Perspective, TA, Distance Degree Program
Summer 2008 Gender and Culture in America, Instructor
Developed and taught seminar class focused on gender and sexuality in the contemporary United States for mid to upper level undergraduates.
2007-2008 Art and Society, Freshman Focus, Instructor
Developed and taught Art and Society for a Freshman Focus group, which is a program that focuses on creating a learning community for incoming freshman. Three semesters.
2004-2007 TA in Anthropology and General Education – World Civilizations; Gender and Society; Sex, Evolution, and Human Nature; Art and Society

PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Luminais, Misty and Rhonda Y. Williams. Marching Towards Justice: Lessons Learned from the Shaw High School Mighty Cardinals Marching Band in East Cleveland. *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*. (in press)
2016 Luminais, Misty and Daphne Weidner. BDSM through the Voices of Queer Women: Structures that Support a Consent-Positive Culture. In *Asking for It: Discussions of Consent and Sexual Violence*. Joshua Stein, Ed. (in press)
2016 Book Review – Sex Tourism in Bahia: Ambiguous Entanglements. *Anthropology & Humanism*. (in press)
2015 Book Review – Walking in the European City: Quotidian Mobility and Urban Ethnography. *International Social Science Review* 91(1): Article 23.
2015 Book Review – The Ground Between: Anthropologists Engage Philosophy. *International Social Science Review* 90(2): Article 8.
2014 Stating Desire: Sexuality, the State, and Social Control. In *Selves, Symbols and Sexualities: Contemporary Readings*. Staci Newmahr and Thomas Weinberg, eds. Los Angeles: SAGE.
2014 Book Review – Orgasmology. *International Social Science Review*. 89 (1):12.
2013 Book Review – Putting Universal Human Rights to Work: Policy Actions in the Struggle for Social Justice. *International Social Science Review* 88 (3 & 4):19.
2012 Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Community Members' Perceptions of the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department. White paper. Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department.
2012 Book Review – Techniques of Pleasure: BDSM and the Circuits of Sexuality. *International Social Science Review* 87(3 & 4):176.
2011 Book Review – Utopic Dreams and Apocalyptic Fantasies: Critical Approaches to Researching Video Game Play. *International Social Science Review* 86(1):89.
2011 Book Review – Theater in a Crowded Fire: Ritual and Spirituality at Burning Man. *Anthropology and Humanism* 36(2):275.
Under Review
2015 Lovell, Rachel and Misty Luminais. Structural Misgendering of Transgender Sex Workers in Chicago: Unintended Consequences of Shaming “Johns” via Online Mug Shots. *Reviewing: DiGeSt: Journal of Diversity and Gender Studies*.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 How to Really Use ATLAS.ti: Qualitative Methods & Computer Assisted QDA. Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland, OH. September 14.
- 2016 (with Rachel Lovell) Sexual Assault Kits: Changing What We Know about Rape. Social Justice Institute's Research Luncheon. Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland, OH. September 13.
- 2016 Ritual Stripped of Religion, Infused with Spirituality: The Bricolage of Women's Erotic Spirituality in a BDSM Community. Feminisms Beyond the Secular: Emerging Epistemologies and Politics in the 21st Century. Lehigh University. Bethlehem, PA. March 21-23.
- 2016 Unintended Consequences of "End Demand" Policies to Combat Human Trafficking. Case Western Reserve University Law Clinic. Cleveland, OH. March 11.
- 2014 Activism through (Campus) Social Justice Centers. Association of Humanist Sociology. Cleveland, OH. October 8-12.
- 2014 Erotic Practices: Using BDSM to (re)Inscribe Gender. European Association for Social Anthropologists. Tallinn, Estonia. July 31-August 3.
- 2013 Inviting Tylor, Freud, and Marx to Bed: Sex Toys as Polyvalent Fetishes. American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL. November 20-24.
- 2013 Rein in the Rhetoric: How Panic about Sexuality Obscures Social Justice Issues. In(queer)ies Series. Case Western Reserve University. November 8.
- 2013 Consent as the Measure of Morality: Reimagining Social Mores in the BDSM Community. Summer School on Sexuality and Morality. Lisbon University Institute, Portugal. September 16-21.
- 2012 Fluid Bonded: Response to Biomedical Models of Sexuality in a BDSM Community. American Anthropological Association. San Francisco, CA. November 14-18.
- 2012 Playing at the State's Mercy: Subjective Experiences of Fieldwork in a BDSM Community. Eastern Sociological Society. New York, NY. February 23-26.
- 2010 Language of Play, Language of Power: An Analysis of Discourse in the Kinky Community. American Anthropological Association. New Orleans, LA. November 17-20.
- 2010 Sex Work in Perspective. Invited lecture. St. Edward's University. Austin, TX. November 4.
- 2009 Methods and Ethics in Sensitive Issue Research. Society for Applied Anthropology. Santa Fe, NM. March 17-21.
- 2008 Teasing Out Self-Worth: Garifuna Women Resisting Global Pressures. Society for Cross-Cultural Research. New Orleans, LA. February 20-23.
- 2007 Hair, Here and There: A Comparison of Hairstyling Practices in the United States and Belize. Northwest Anthropological Conference. Pullman, WA. March 14-17.
- 2006 "Doing Hair" in Dangriga, Belize: An Analysis of the Physical Act of Hairstyling. American Anthropological Association Meeting. San Jose. November 16-20.
- 2005 Local Ideals of Beauty under Global Pressure: Gender Identity and Formation in Dangriga, Belize. American Anthropological Association Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 29 - December 3.
- 2003 Claiming a Steak: Gender and the Working Lunch. Southern Anthropological Society Meeting. Baton Rouge, LA. February 17-18.

Conference Session Chair

- 2013 Sexing Desire, Performing Sex. American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL. November 20-24.
- 2012 Queer Sexualities, Queer Subjectivities. American Anthropological Association.

San Francisco, CA. November 14-18.
2010 Rethinking Dualisms, Oppositions, and Contradictions in Conversations.
American Anthropological Association. New Orleans, LA. November 17-20.

AWARDS & HONORS

2016 Ohio Humanities. Quarterly Grant. Voicing & Action Project: Continuing the Conversations.
2012 Community Transformation Grant. LGBTQ Perceptions of the Health Department.
2008 Eric W. Bell and Susanne L. Spangler Learning Community Excellence Award.
2007 Phyllis and Richard Daugherty Scholarship for Graduate Student Excellence.
2006 WSU Graduate School Fellowship Award.
2005 WSU Graduate Student Travel Grant.
2005 WSU Graduate and Professional Student Association Registration Grant.
2005 WSU Graduate School Fellowship Award.
2003 Randall E. Primm Memorial Award.

SERVICE

2016 – Advisory Board – ANTSC: Center for Healing and Creative Leadership
2015 – “Our Alleys Revitalized” - Detroit Shoreway CDO/Graffiti HeArt
2014 to present Volunteer Escort – Preterm (Cleveland)
2014-2015 Advisory Board – Sistah Sinema
2012 – Mentor/ Tutor, Austin Partners in Education and Communities in Schools
2004-2012 Member of the Anthropology Graduate Organization
2006-2008 Volunteer WSU Writing Center
2005-2006 Socio-Cultural Graduate Student Faculty Representative
2004-2005 Anthropology Graduate Organization Visiting Scholar committee

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association
Association for Feminist Anthropology
Society for Queer Anthropology
European Association of Social Anthropologists

REFERENCES

Rachel Lovell
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