

**DR. LISA MITCHELL**

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Department of South Asia Studies  
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**CURRENT POSITION:** Assistant Professor, History and Anthropology of Southern India, Department of South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania, July 2006 to present.

**CURRENT RESEARCH:** Public Space and Political Protest in the History of Indian Democracy; Social and Political History of the Indian Railway Station as Public Space; The City in South Asia

**OTHER RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS:** Public culture and public space; history of emotion; technology, media and discourse networks; colonialism and empire; language and linguistic politics; nationalism; history and anthropology; printing, knowledge production, and intellectual history; Telugu language and literature; area specialization in South Asia with focus on southern India.

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. with distinction (2004)**, Sociocultural Anthropology, Columbia University.

**M.Phil. (1999)**, Sociocultural Anthropology, Columbia University.

**M.A. with distinction (1993)**, Research Track, TESL (Sociolinguistics), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**B.A. (1988)**, Government and Third World Studies, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.

**PUBLICATIONS**

2009. *Language, Emotion, and Politics in South India: The Making of a Mother Tongue*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Recipient of the Edward Cameron Dimock, Jr. Prize in the Indian Humanities, American Institute of Indian Studies.

2009. "Knowing the Deccan: Enquires, Points, and Poets in the Construction of Knowledge and Power in Early Nineteenth-Century Southern India," *The Madras School of Orientalism*, Thomas R. Trautmann, ed., Delhi: Oxford University Press, 151-182.

Forthcoming 2009. "Knowledge at the Edge of Empire: Experiencing Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge," *Fringes of Empire*, Elizabeth Kolsky & Sameeta Agha, eds., Delhi: Oxford University Press, 236-256.

2006. "Making the Local Foreign: Shared Language and History in Southern India," *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, Vol. 16, No. 2: 229-248.

2005. "Parallel Languages, Parallel Cultures: Language as the Foundation for the Reorganization of Knowledge and Practice in Nineteenth Century Southern India," *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, special issue on "Language, Genre, and Historical Imagination in South India," Vol. 42, No. 4: 443-465.

2003. "An Attachment to Language: Biographical Narratives and the Telugu Language in Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Southern India," in *Space, Sexuality and Postcolonial Cultures*, Manas Ray, Ed., ENRECA Occasional Papers Series, Calcutta: Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, 73-96.

1995. Review of *Second Language Acquisition: Socio-cultural and Linguistic Aspects of English in India*, edited by R. K. Agnihotri and A. L. Khanna (1994), in *Journal of Asian Studies* 54: 1112-13.

1991. "English Placement Testing: Recognizing the Sociolinguistic Context," *World Englishes* 10: 75-82.

#### TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2009. "The Making of a Mother Tongue," Departments of English and Telugu, School of Humanities, Hyderabad Central University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, April 18.

2009. "The Making of a Mother Tongue: Rethinking Histories of Language and Ethnicity in Southern India," and lecture/discussion with post-graduate students on "Publics Addressed and Publics Invoked: Masses and their Mediums in the Practice of Indian Democracy," Department of Cultural Studies, English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, April 2-3.

2009. "The Performance of Memory and the Making of a Vernacular Public: Language as a New Foundation for the Reorganization of Knowledge and Practice in Southern India," Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India, March 4.

2009. "Rethinking Histories of Language and Ethnicity" (in Telugu and English), Prabhava, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India, January 17.

2008. "The Making of a Mother Tongue: Rethinking Histories of Language and Ethnicity in Southern India," India International Centre/American Institute of Indian Studies Lecture Series, India International Center, New Delhi, India, December 1.

2008. "Translating the Voice: Writing and the 'Spoken' Telugu Controversy in Twentieth-Century Southern India," *Modernity and the Voice: Anthropological Histories from beyond the Metropole*, School for American Research Short Seminar, Sante Fe, New Mexico, April 22-23.

2008. "Origins and Identities: Making the Local Foreign, or Why We Need to Historicize Historical Linguistic Ideology," Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, February 26.

2007. "Language Politics and the Body: Death and the Public Performance of Affect in Claiming Injustice and Inequality in Modern South Asia," panel on *Language and Affectivity in Local Projects of Modernity*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 1.

2007. "Publics Addressed and Publics Invoked: Masses and their Mediums in the Practice of Indian Democracy," invited lecture, Anthropology Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, October 22.

2007. "Mapping the Geographical Imaginations and Perambulations of Indian Intellectuals: Kavali Venkata Ramaswamy," *The Madras School of Orientalism Conference*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, May 11-12.

2007. "The Mediums of Monolingual Publics: The Production of a Telugu Linguistic Sphere and its Channels of Circulation," *Vernacular Public Spheres in South Asia*, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 6-7.

2007. "Crowds on the Platform: Political Society and the Mediation of the Masses," 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual South Asia Conference, Berkeley, CA, February 16.

2007. "The Appearance of Affect: Death and the Making of Linguistic Passion," invited lecture, Department of Anthropology and Center for Asian Studies, University of California at Irvine, February 13.

2006. "The Performance of Memory and the Making of a Vernacular Public: Language as a New Foundation for the Reorganization of Knowledge and Practice in Southern India," invited lecture, Seminar on South Asia, Columbia University, New York, November 13.

2006. "Translating the Voice: Writing, Sound, and Substance in the "Spoken" Telugu Controversy in Early 20th Century Southern India," panel on *Voicing Modernity: Genealogies of the Voice in South and East Asia*, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April 8.

2006. "The Making of a Mother Tongue: Emotional Attachments to Language in Southern India," invited lecture, Scholarly Lecture Series, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 3.

2005. "Conjuring 'the Masses': Passions, Publics, and Platforms in Southern India," conference on *Mediums and Motorways: The Social Lives of Transit Networks*, University of Washington, Seattle, May 23. Conference website: [http://staff.washington.edu/xtoph/transit\\_systems/marvels.shtml](http://staff.washington.edu/xtoph/transit_systems/marvels.shtml). I was also the conference chair and organizer.

2005. "An Attachment to Language: Rethinking Histories of Language and Ethnicity in South Asia," Department of History, University of Washington, Seattle, February 2.

2005. "Printing, Memory, and Collective Identity: Language and History in Nineteenth-Century Southern India," Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, January 17.

2004. "Parallel Languages, Parallel Cultures: Language as a New Foundation for the Reorganization of Knowledge and Practice in Southern India," Department of Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Minnesota, November 23.

2004. "Passions, Publics, and the Production of a Telugu 'People': Death and the Birth of a New State," invited paper for the symposium on *Ethnographies of the Political*, Columbia University, November 12-13.

2004. "Using Journals to Enhance Classroom Participation and Intellectual Engagement of Students," *Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative Monthly Seminar*, University of Washington, November 10.

2004. "Telugu Language, 'Telugu' History? Narrative and the Shaping of Collective Memory," panel on *Historical Memory, Historiographic Practices: Regional Perspective on 19<sup>th</sup>-Century India*, 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 15-17.

2004. "The Appearance of Affect: Death and the Re-Making of Sovereignty in Telugu South India," conference on *Sovereignty* held by the Society for Cultural Anthropology, Portland, OR, April 30-May 1.

2004. "From Language of the Land to Language of the People," symposium on *Regions and Regional Consciousness in India*, Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona, March 7-9.

2004. "The Subjects of 'Charitra': History, Biography, Genre, and the New Role of Language in Late Nineteenth-Century Southern India," symposium on *Language, Genre, and the Historical Imagination in South India*, Council on South Asian Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, February 20.

2003. "Printing and the Art of Memory in Nineteenth-Century Southern India," Colby, Bates, Bowdoin Historians Dinner, Colby College, November 7.

2003. "Biography of a Language: Telugu 'Charitras' and the Foundations of Twentieth Century Politico-Cultural Formations," presented as part of a panel on *Language, Genre, and Identity in Colonial South India*, Association of Asian Studies Meeting, New York, March 28.

2003. "Martyrs in the Name of Language? Death and the Making of Linguistic Passion," Department of Anthropology, University of Texas, Austin, February 10.

2002. "Progress Narratives and Language in Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century South India," paper presented at the VII All-India Cultural Studies Workshop organized by the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Santiniketan, Birbhum, West Bengal (India), January 25-31.

2001. "Halting the 'Progress' of Language? The Paradox of Cinnaya Suri and the Emergence of Telugu Linguistic Identity," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., Dec. 2.

2001. "Identities Lost (or Never Gained): Language and the Making of Borders in Contemporary South India," Association of Asian Studies Meeting, Chicago, March 24.

2001. "Geographical Imagination and Incipient Regionalisms: The Making of a Space for Linguistic Identity in South India," Conference on South Asia: Histories of the Present, U. of Michigan, March 17.

2000. "Linguistic Identification and the Emergence of a Telugu 'Geo-body'," lecture sponsored by Interface (Central Institute for English and Foreign Languages) and Vivechana, held at Telugu University, Hyderabad, Oct. 25.

2000. "1850/1950: Some Reflections on History, Geography, and Telugu Linguistic Identity," talk given at Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Oct. 23.

2000. "'Experience' and the Emergence of New Identities: The Emergence of Telugu Linguistic Identity," lecture given as part of the Forum of Cultural Studies (FOCUS) Seminar, Central University, Hyderabad, Sept. 13.

1998. "The Making of a Telugu Reading Public: Kandukuri Viresalingam's *Rajasekhara Charitramu*," paper presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, October 16-18.

1998. "The First Telugu Novel and the Making of a Reading Public"(in Telugu), Conference on Contributions of Andhras to the Indian National Movement, Telugu University, Hyderabad, Aug. 5-6.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND COURSES TAUGHT**

**Assistant Professor**, Department of South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2006- present

*Historical Anthropology* (Fall 2007). Graduate seminar; cross-listed with Anthropology and History.

*Debating Colonialism and its Aftermath in South Asia* (Fall 2007). First year critical writing seminar and introduction to South Asia historiography.

*The City in South Asia* (Spring 2007; Spring 2008). Introductory level interdisciplinary course.

*Language, Race, and Ethnicity in South Asia* (Spring 2007). Upper-level undergrad & grad seminar.

*Society and Public Culture in South Asia* (Fall 2006). Graduate seminar; cross-listed with Anthropology.

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, 2005-2006.

*Perspectives in Anthropological Analysis* (Spring 2006, two sections). Upper-level required theory course for majors.

*Societies and Cultures of South Asia* (Fall 2005). Introductory South Asian anthropology course.

*Introduction to Anthropology* (Fall 2005). Introduction to four-field anthropology.

**Declined:** Tenure-track job offer, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 2005.

**Postdoctoral Fellow**, Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative, Department of History, University of Washington, 2004-2005.

*South Asian History, Pre-History to the Present* (Fall 2004). Introductory survey of ancient, medieval, and modern South Asian history.

*Language, Race, and Ethnicity in South Asia: History and the Politics of Culture* (Spring 2005). Cross-listed with Anthropology.

**Visiting Assistant Professor**, Departments of History and Asian Studies, Bowdoin College, 2003-2004.

*Non-violence, Nukes, and Nationalism* (Fall 2003). First-year interdisciplinary seminar on South Asia.

*Modern South Asia* (Fall 2003). Introductory survey of Modern South Asian history.

*Media, Technology, Nation* (on South and Southeast Asia, Spring 2004). Cross-listed in Anthropology, History, and Asian Studies.

*Debating Colonialism and Its Aftermath in South Asia* (Spring 2004).

**Instructor**, Queens College, Department of History, Spring 2003 (Full-time replacement position).

*Debating Colonialism and Its Aftermath in South Asia* (Spring 2003). Two of my students were awarded prizes for the best papers dealing with revisions in historical perspective for papers they wrote in my seminar, and one student's paper has been selected for publication as part of a project on African feminisms at the CUNY Graduate Center.

*History of the Indian Subcontinent* (Spring 2003, two sections).

**Course Instructor and Monitor**, University of Wisconsin, College Year in India Program, Hyderabad, 1996-97.

*Field Methods and Problems* (Fall 1996). Introduction to social science research methodologies.

*Histories of Identity in Contemporary South India* (Fall 1996). Historical and anthropological approaches to issues of identity in contemporary southern India.

**Assistant Program Director**, South India Term Abroad Program (Bowdoin College), Madurai, Fall semester, 1991. Supervised homestays, academic program, educational excursions and immersion experiences for 18 American undergraduate students.

### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- Mellon Cross-Cultural Studies Cultural Diversity Course to Book Grant, 2009.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2009.
- American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Research Fellowship, 2008.
- Faculty Mellon Research Fellow, Penn Humanities Forum, 2007-2008.
- Edward Cameron Dimock, Jr. Prize in the Indian Humanities, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2006.
- Bowdoin College Faculty Fellowship, British Library, London, June 2004.
- Freeman Foundation Asia Faculty Fellowship, India, Winter Break, 2003-2004.
- Bowdoin College Faculty Fellowship, India, Winter Break, 2003-2004 (declined).
- American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship, India, 2002.
- Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University, Spring and Fall 2001; Spring 2003.
- Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, India, 1999-2000.
- American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship, 1999-2000 (declined).
- Wenner-Gren Predoctoral Grant, India and London 1999-2000, 2001.
- President's Fellowship, Columbia University, 1998-1999;
- Scheps Summer Pre-dissertation Research Grant, Hyderabad, Madras, London, Summer 1998.
- Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University, 1997-1998.
- National Science Foundation Summer Research Training Grant, Hyderabad, Summer 1996.
- American Institute of Indian Studies Language Fellow in Telugu, Hyderabad, 1995-96.
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, 1993-94; 1994-95; Summer 1995..
- M.A. thesis awarded distinction, Research Track, TESL, University of Illinois, 1993.
- Named to "List of T.A.s Ranked as Excellent by their Students," University of Illinois, 3 semesters.
- University of Illinois Research Grant for M.A. research in India, 1990-91.

### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

- American Anthropological Association

- Society for Cultural Anthropology
- American Historical Association
- Association of Asian Studies
- Executive Committee, South Asia Microfilm Project, Center for Research Libraries, Chicago, 2004-2006