

SONIA N. DAS

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Linguistic Anthropology; Language Contact (Ethnographic and Historical Perspectives); Language Ideology; Urban Multilingualism; Heritage Language; Mobility and Migration; South Asian Migrants; Francophone Québec

EDUCATION

2008	Ph.D. Linguistic Anthropology	University of Michigan
2007	Graduate Certificate in South Asian Studies	University of Michigan
2003	M.A. Anthropology	University of Michigan
1999	B.A. Anthropology with Honors	Stanford University
1999	B.S. Biological Sciences	Stanford University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015	Visiting Professor, South Asian Studies/Linguistics	École des Hautes Études, Paris
2014-15	Affiliated Assistant Professor, Linguistics	New York University
2011-15	Assistant Professor, Anthropology	New York University
2010-11	Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, Anthropology	New York University
2008-10	Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Fellow, Anthropology	University of British Columbia

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2008	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award for Biological Anthropology: An Overview, University of Michigan
2007	Rackham Humanities Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
2004	Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award, National Science Foundation
2004	Canadian Studies Graduate Student Research Grant, ACSUS
2003	Summer FLAS, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan

- 2002-03 Academic FLAS, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan
- 2001-02 LSA Regents' Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- 1999 Nancy Ortiz Memorial Prize for Outstanding Performance in "Theory in Social Anthropology," Stanford University
- 1998 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Grant, Stanford University

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Under review *Linguistic Rivalries: Tamil Migrants and Franco-Anglo Conflicts*. Oxford University Press.

ARTICLES

- In progress Language and Liberal Rivalries: Education, Publishing, and Trade in Tamil Books in Mid-Nineteenth Century French and British Colonial India. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.
- 2015 A Sociolinguistic Division of Labor: Teaching Tamil as a Heritage Language in Montréal, Québec. *Anthropologie et Sociétés*.
- 2012 *La Francophonie* and Other Contact Zones: Revisiting the Comparative Study of Linguistic Minorities. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 22(3):220-236.
- 2011 Rewriting the Past and Reimagining the Future: The Social Life of a Tamil Heritage Language Industry. *American Ethnologist* 38(4):774-789.
- 2008 Between Convergence and Divergence: Reformatting Language Purism in the Montreal Tamil Diasporas. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 18(1):1-23.
- 2008 The Talk of Tamils in Multilingual Montreal: A Study of Intersecting Language Ideologies in Nationalist Quebec. *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 8(2):230-247.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2009 Little India: Diaspora, Time, and Ethnolinguistic Belonging in Hindu Mauritius. P. Eisenlohr. 2006. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 19(2):328-330.

PROFESSIONAL TALKS

INVITED LECTURES

- 2015 "La Francophonie: Revisiting the comparative study of linguistic minorities," "The Social Life of a Tamil Heritage Language Industry (Montreal)," "Research in progress on the 19th century circulation of bilingual French-Tamil books exported from Pondicherry," and "Language purism in the Montreal Tamil diasporas," École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, May 15-June 15.
- 2014 New York Academy of Sciences, Discussant for Becky Schulthies, February 10.
"Language Contact in Urban Settings: A Case Study of South Asian Immigrants in Montreal," League of Linguistics Students, New York University, November 3.

- 2012 “You Speak ‘Written Tamil’ and I Write ‘Spoken Tamil’: Trans/National Ideologies and Multilingual Practices,” Department of Linguistics, CUNY-Graduate Center, February 24.
 “You Speak ‘Written Tamil’ and I Write ‘Spoken Tamil’: Trans/National Ideologies and Multilingual Practices,” League of Linguistics Students, New York University, March 26.
- 2011 “Inscriptions of the Montreal Tamil *ur*,” Department of Anthropology, Yale University, March 21.
 “Différences Idéologiques entre la langue des tamouls indiens et celle des sri lankais à Montréal,” Department of Anthropology, Université Laval, November 21.
- 2010 “You Speak ‘Written’ and I Write ‘Spoken’: Ethnonational Divisions and Generational Disjunctures in Montreal’s Tamil Diaspora,” Department of Anthropology and Center for South Asian Studies, University of Colorado-Boulder, April 10.
 “De-centering Site: Metapragmatic Landscapes of Montreal’s Tamil Heritage Language Industry,” Department of Anthropology, New York University, February 25.
- 2009 “Sociolinguistic Scales of the Montreal Tamil Diaspora,” Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University, February 12.
 “Sociolinguistic Scales of the Montreal Tamil Diaspora,” Departments of Anthropology and Linguistics, California State University Long Beach, February 6.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 “‘For the Good of the Colonies’: Experiments in Tamil Education and Publishing in Mid-19th Century French India,” Language and Colonialism, Center for International Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, New York University, New York
 “Languages of the Seas: Navigating Multilingualism in Asian Port Cities,” Merchants of Innovation: The Languages of Traders, University of Cambridge, Cambridge
- 2013 “Standardizing Languages and the Virtual Globalism of Tamil Sociolinguistic Worlds,” American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Chicago
 “Polycentricity and the Diaspora: The Case of Tamil Speakers in Montréal, Québec,” Language and Super-Diversity: Explorations and Interrogations, University of Jyväskylä
- 2012 “Politics and Practices of Heritage Language Education: A Case Study of Tamil Speakers in Quebec,” International Linguistics Association Conference, New York
- 2011 “‘*Que Signifie Tamoul?*’ Policies and Practices of Ethnolinguistic Identification in Québec and Beyond,” American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Montreal
- 2010 “Playing Around with Talk and Text: Institutional Routines of Tamil Heritage Language Learning in Montreal, Quebec,” American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, New Orleans
 “Mapping a Heritage Language Industry: A Genealogy of Transnational Circulations with French-Tamil Societies,” Annual Tamil Studies Conference, University of Toronto, Toronto
- 2009 Discussant. “Global Cities in South Asia,” Canadian Anthropological Society/American Ethnological Society Conference. University of British Columbia, Vancouver
 “Parochialization and Globalization of Tamil Language Curriculum in Montreal, Quebec,” Canadian Anthropological Society/American Ethnological Society Conference. University of British Columbia, Vancouver
 “(De)Standardizing Language and Curriculum in the Montreal Tamil Diaspora,” South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison

- 2008 “Regimenting Space-Time in the Montreal Tamil Diasporas,” Michigan Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Chicago
 “Negotiating Expertise and Moral Intent: Language and Ethnography in Quebec and its Tamil Diasporas,” Canadian Anthropological Society Conference, Carleton University, Ottawa
 “Sociolinguistic Diversification of the Montreal Tamil Diasporas,” American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco
- 2007 “The ‘Classics’ and the ‘Moderns’: Rethinking Diglossia and Staging Rank in Montreal Tamil Populations,” Michigan Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
 “Between Convergence and Divergence: Reformatting Linguistic Purism in the Montreal Tamil Diasporas,” Language and Mediation in South Asian Societies, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2006 “‘*Viens pO*, thanks!’ Sri Lankan Tamil Children as Quebec’s Linguistic Ambassadors,” Annual Conference on Asian-Indian Communities, Connecticut College, New London
 “‘Mother Tongue’ Linguistic Experts in the Quebec Tamil Diaspora,” South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2005 “Montreal Tamils, the Quebec state, and the ‘Homelands’: A Transnational Study of Linguistic Practice and Ideology,” Anthropology/Sociology Graduate Student Conference, Concordia University, Montreal
 “The Talk of Tamils and the Response of the Quebec State: An Anthropological Analysis of Montreal’s Language Politics,” Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, St. Louis
- 2003 “The Teaching of Heritage Languages in Montreal: The Politics and Semiotics of Emerging Language Ideologies,” Michigan Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 1999 “Politics of Resistance: Sanitation and Corruption in Malda, West Bengal,” Western Anthropology and Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference, Santa Clara

CONFERENCES AND PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2013 “Scaling Linguistic Diversity: Language Standardization as a Scale-Making Project” Panel, American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Chicago
- 2011 “Legacies of Difference: Comparing Minority Language Policies in Canada and the United States” Panel, American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Montreal
- 2009 “Teaching Difference: Tamil Ethnic Minorities and School Curriculum,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2007 “Language and Mediation in South Asian Societies” Conference, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan

STUDENTS SUPERVISED

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Chair Nathan Madson, Ph.D. Student, Anthropology, New York University

Committee Shannon Ward, Ph.D. Student, Anthropology, New York University
 Jessica Lopéz-Espino, Ph.D. Student, Anthropology, New York University
 Marie-Eve Bouchard, Ph.D. Student, Linguistics, New York University
 Isabel Kentegenian, Ph.D. Candidate, International Education, New York University

Reader Hyejin Nah, Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology, New York University
 Chantal White, Ph.D., Anthropology, Université Sainte-Anne
 Luiza Newlin-Lukowicz, Ph.D., Linguistics, New York University
 Carina Bauman, Ph.D. Candidate, Linguistics, New York University

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

2014-15 Lynn Shin, Class of 2016, Anthropology/Linguistics, NYU, Advisor for Honors Thesis
 Sheila Blair, Class of 2015, Anthropology, NYU, Advisor for Honors Thesis

2013-14 Corrina Kroeker, Class of 2014, Anthropology, NYU, Advisor for Honors Thesis
 Will Koessler, Class of 2014, Anthropology, NYU, Second Reader for Honors Thesis

2011-12 Hannah Carlan, Class of 2012, Anthropology/Linguistics, NYU, Advisor for Honors Thesis
 Hannah Oppenheimer, Class of 2012, Anthropology, NYU, Advisor for Honors Thesis
 Carlo Maria Ampil, Class of 2012, Anthropology, NYU, Second Reader for Honors Thesis
 Lauren Sumida, Class of 2012, Anthropology, NYU, Second Reader for Honors Thesis
 Emma Young, Class of 2012, Gallatin, NYU, Advisor for Honors Thesis, Directed Reading Course

2010-11 Karen Kuhn, Class of 2011, Anthropology/Linguistics, NYU, Second Reader for Honors Thesis
 Maanasi Mistry, Class of 2011, Anthropology, NYU, Second Reader for Honors Thesis
 Michelle Dugan, Class of 2011, Anthropology, NYU, Second Reader for Honors Thesis
 Lindsay Kelley, Class of 2011, Anthropology/Linguistics, Second Reader for Honors Thesis
 Sabrina Rosenberg, Class of 2011, Gallatin, NYU, Colloquium Committee

COURSES TAUGHT

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

2011-15 Anthropology of Language, New York University
 Introductory lecture course on human language and its use across diverse social and cultural contexts

2010-14 Language, Power, and Identity, New York University
 Advanced seminar on the linguistic practices contributing to identity formation and social exclusion

2012 Linguistic Anthropology of Storytelling, directed reading course, Gallatin, New York University
 Advanced course on narrative analysis, ethno-poetics, and language contact in the Caribbean

- 2010 Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology, University of British Columbia
Introductory seminar on human language and its use across diverse social and cultural contexts
- 2008-10 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, University of British Columbia
Introductory lecture course on sociocultural, economic, and political organization of human groups
- 2008 Global Cities and Diasporas, University of British Columbia
Advanced seminar compares the formation of global cities and diasporas in the past and present
- 2007 Language, Migration, and Globalization, University of Michigan
Advanced seminar on the linguistic and cultural practices of modern diaspora populations

GRADUATE COURSES

- 2011-15 Linguistic Anthropology, New York University
Required class on theories, methods, and substantive issues in anthropological studies of language
- 2013 Language and Globalization, New York University
Advanced seminar on theories and ethnographies pertaining to communication in global contexts
- 2010 Culture, Meaning, and Society, New York University
Advanced seminar for non-anthropology graduate students on symbolic systems across cultures

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

PEER REVIEW

- 2014 ' *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*
- 2013 *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*
Applied Linguistics
Routledge Press
University of Toronto Press
- 2012 *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*
Routledge Press
University of Toronto Press
- 2011 *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*
American Anthropologist
Journal of Linguistic Anthropology
- 2010 *Anthropological Quarterly*
Journal of Linguistic Anthropology
- 2009 *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2014-15 Colloquium Co-Organizer, Anthropology, New York University
Graduate Admissions Committee, Anthropology, New York University
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Anthropology, New York University
Diversity Initiative Committee, Anthropology, New York University
Dean's Diversity Initiative Undergraduate Working Group, New York University
- 2013-14 Colloquium Co-Organizer, Anthropology, New York University
Graduate Admissions Committee, Anthropology, New York University
Dean's Diversity Initiative Undergraduate Working Group, New York University
- 2012-13 Faculty Advisor, -ISM Project, NYU Center for Multicultural Education and Programs
- 2011-12 Colloquium Co-Organizer, Anthropology, New York University
Core Member, Committee for Human Rights and Society for Linguistic Anthropology Joint Task Force on Language and Social Justice
- 2010-11 Core Member, Committee for Human Rights and Society for Linguistic Anthropology Joint Task Force on Language and Social Justice

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2007-2014 American Anthropological Association
- 2010-2014 Committee for Human Rights and Society for Linguistic Anthropology Joint Task Force on Language and Social Justice
- 2007-2014 Society for Linguistic Anthropology

FIELD AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

- 2004, 2009 Aix-en-Provence, France (post-doctoral research on colonial French India)
- 2004-06 Québec, Canada (dissertation research)
- 2002 Québec, Canada (pre-field work)
- 1998 West Bengal, India (funded by Stanford University)