

Susan C. Lepselter, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Departments of Communication and Culture/Program in American Studies (joint appointment)
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Education

Ph.D.: May 2005.
Americo Paredes Center for Cultural Studies, Department of Cultural Anthropology,
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.
Departmental Nominee for Best Dissertation at the University, 2004-2005.
Title of Dissertation: *The Flight of the Ordinary: Narrative, Poetics, Power and UFOs in the American Uncanny*
Areas of interest: Social theory, America, ethnography of popular culture and media, semiotics, narrative, poetics, Native American studies, the uncanny in global contexts.

M.A.: May 1994.
Department of Social Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.

B.A. with Honors in English: May 1983.
Department of English, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

Academic Positions (full time)

Assistant Professor
Departments of Communication and Culture/Program in American Studies (joint appointment)
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Began August, 2007

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities
Penn Humanities Forum
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
2006-2007

Teaching History (part time)

Lecturer
“American Narrative Cultures: Captivity and Release” (Designed concept and syllabus.)
Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, New York, NY.
Spring 2006 (Upper- Level undergraduate course.)

Adjunct Professor

“Ethnophenomenologies: The Senses in Anthropology” (Designed concept and syllabus.)
Master’s Program in the Philosophy of the Arts, SUNY Stonybrook/ Manhattan, New York, NY.
Spring 2006 (Graduate seminar.)

Instructor

“Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality”(Designed syllabus.)
Department of Anthropology, New York University, New York.
Fall 2005 (Upper-level undergraduate lecture course.)

Instructor

“Magic, Witchcraft and Religion” (Designed syllabus.)
Department of Anthropology, Hunter College CUNY, New York, NY
Fall 2005 (Upper-level undergraduate course).

Instructor

“Feminist Texts II”
Center for Study of Women and Gender, Columbia University, New York, NY.
Spring 2000 (Advanced undergraduate seminar for women’s studies majors.)

Instructor

“Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” (Designed syllabus.)
Department of Anthropology, New York University, New York, NY.
Fall 2000 (Undergraduate lecture course.)

Instructor

“Introduction to Four-Field Anthropology” (Designed syllabus.)
Department of Anthropology, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY.
Fall 1999 (Undergraduate course.)

Instructor

“Cultural Anthropology”
“Four-Field Anthropology” (Designed syllabi.)
Department of Anthropology, Tacoma Community College, Tacoma, WA.
Spring 1997 (Undergraduate course and undergraduate lecture course.)

Teaching Assistant

Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin, 1992- 1995.
Competitive Fellowship position.

Publications

“UFOs: 1947-2006.” Invited Review Article. *International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences*, 2007.

“The License.” In *Writing Outer Spaces*, ed. Debbora Battaglia. Duke University Press, 2005.

"Why Rachel Isn't Buried in her Grave." In *Histories of the Future*, eds. Susan Harding and Daniel Rosenberg. Duke University Press, 2005.

Book Review of *Auto/biography*, Deborah Reed-Danahay, ed. *Biography* (22.4), 1999.

"The Politics and Poetics of Folklore: The Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society, 1937-1947." *Roma* (44-45), 1998.

"From the Earth Native's Point of View: The Earth, The Extraterrestrial and the Natural Ground of Home." *Public Culture* 9(2): 197-208, 1997.

"Genre and Competence in Discourse." *SALSA I: Texas Linguistic Forum* vol. 33:13-20, 1993.

"Topic of Transformation: Some Aspects of Myth and Metaphor." *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, vol. 10: 148-160, 1993.

Invited Papers

"Strange Containments." Invited Speaker, The Workshop on US Locations and the American Cultures Workshop, University of Chicago, May 2008.

Keynote Speaker. Ethnographic Dreamworlds Conference, Sponsored by Department of Sociology, Buffalo State University, Buffalo, NY. April 2007.

"Captivity Narratives." Featured Speaker, invited by Penn Undergrad Forum in the Penn Humanities Center, December 2006.

"You Can't Repair History." Invited Paper, Ethnographic Dreamworlds Conference, Sponsored by Department of Sociology, Buffalo State University, Buffalo, NY. April 2006.

"The Abduction of Memory: UFOs, Indians and Captivity." Invited Speaker, Lecture Series in Nature and Culture, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, March 2006.

Panel Discussant. *E.T. Cultures*. Labyrinth Bookstore, New York, NY, March 2006.

"Writing Ethnography." Invited Paper for the Ethnography Panel of *International Writing Lives* Conference, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, October 2001.

"The Flight of the Ordinary: The Uncanny, Women and Class." Invited paper delivered to the Speaker Series of the Institutes for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 2000.

Invited Workshop Leader, "Millennial Futures," Society for Cultural Anthropology, San Francisco, CA, 1997.

"Is This For Real?" Folklore talk given as Featured Panelist, *They Came Here First*, National Exhibit of UFO artwork, Center for Contemporary Art, Seattle, WA, 1997.

Conference Papers

Discussant for Upcoming Panel, Emblematic Religious Politics, chaired by Matt Tomlinson, Monash University and Susanna Trinkland, University of Auckland. Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA, Fall 2008.

“Confabulating the Real: Psychiatry, UFOs and Uncanny (Dis)connections.” Paper delivered at the Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, Fall 2007.

“Poetic License.” Paper delivered at the Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, Fall 2003.

"Pioneers at Area 51." Paper delivered at the Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, 1999.

“The Drifter, The Desert, The Stealth and the UFO." Paper delivered at the Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA, 1998. Also Chair and Organizer of Panel, "Stereotypes: Playing the Surface of Cultural Practice."

"The Transparent Eyeball." Paper delivered at the Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, California, 1996. Also panel co-chair.

"Hybridity and Nostalgia." Commentary delivered as Discussant for Conference on Hybridity, Austin, TX, 1996.

"I'm Not at Home on Earth: The Hometown, The Earth and the Natural in UFO Stories." Paper delivered at Meetings of the American Folklore Society, Milwaukee, WI, 1994. Also panel chair.

"From the Earth Native's Point of View: The Earth, the Extraterrestrial, and the Natural Ground of the Self." Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Atlanta, GA, Fall 1994.

"Genre and Competence: Telling Stories." Meetings of the Annual Symposium About Language and Society, Austin, Texas, Spring, 1993.

"When Words Collide." Paper delivered at the Society for Anthropology of Consciousness Meetings, Santa Barbara, California, Spring 1993.

Selected Awards

Best Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas, 2004-2005.

Nominee, Best University Dissertation at University of Texas, 2004-2005.

Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Award, 1998.

Rhonda L. Andrews Memorial Award, 1998.

Professional Development Awards, by The University of Texas, 1994 and 1996.