

JAMES FERGUSON

Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
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Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2034
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jgfergus@stanford.edu

EDUCATION

B.A. Cultural Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara (1979)
M.A. Social Anthropology, Harvard University (1981)
Ph.D. Social Anthropology, Harvard University (1985)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

2011 -- present Susan S. and William H. Hindle Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University

2017 -- present Ford Dorsey Director of African Studies, Stanford University

2007 -- 2013, 2016-17 Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University

2005 -- 2007 Chair, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University

2003 -- 2007 Professor, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Stanford University

1999 - 2003 Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine.

2001 -- 2003 Director, Critical Theory Institute, University of California,

Irvine

1992 -1999 Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine.

1986 -1992 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine.

1987 - 1988 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University.

1990 - 1991 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.

AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

1976-78 UCSB Chancellor's Scholarship

1979 Graduated UCSB "Highest Honors"

1980, 1981, 1984 NSF Graduate Fellowship

1981 Harvard University, Department of Anthropology Travel Grant (for research June-August 1981)

1982 SSRC Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for research in Lesotho (Sept. 1982 - Dec. 1983) on "An Anthropological Study of a Rural Development Project"

1982 Fulbright Grant (USICA) for research in Lesotho (Sept. 1982 - June 1983) on "An Anthropological Study of a Rural Development Project"

1985 SSRC Post-doctoral Fellowship for research in Zambia (Oct. 1985 - Sept. 1986) on "Rural Options on the Zambian Copperbelt: A Study of an African Working Class in Crisis"

1987 UCI School of Social Sciences "Faculty Fellowship," for archival research in London and Brussels on "Social History of the African Copperbelt," June 1987.

1989 SSRC Post-doctoral Fellowship for research in Zambia (July - Sept. 1989) on "Socio-economic foundations of cultural localism on the

Zambian Copperbelt"

- 1989 ACLS Grant-in-aid for research in Zambia on (July - Sept. 1989) on "Socio-economic foundations of cultural localism on the Zambian Copperbelt" (declined).
- 1998 Honorary Simon Visiting Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Manchester.
- 2000/01 Residential fellowship, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford.
- 2008-10 International Fellow, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- 2009 Lewis Henry Morgan Memorial Lectures, University of Rochester.
- 2009 Appointed "Professor Extraordinaire", University of Stellenbosch.
- 2010-11 Ellen Andrew Wright Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University.
- 2010 Appointed "Honorary Professor", University of Cape Town
- 2011 Appointed as the Susan S. and William H. Hindle Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University
- 2016 Elliott P. Skinner Book Prize, for Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution, awarded by the Association for Africanist Anthropology.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Anti-politics Machine: "Development," Depoliticization and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho. Cambridge University Press, 1990.

----- Southern Africa edition (paperback). Cambridge University Press and David Philip, Cape Town, 1990.

----- Second edition (paperback). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1994.

Culture, Power, Place: Explorations in Critical Anthropology (co-edited with Akhil Gupta). Duke University Press, 1997.

Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science (co-edited with Akhil Gupta). University of California Press, 1997.

Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt. University of California Press, 1999.

Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order. Duke University Press, 2006.

Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution. Duke University Press. 2015.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"The bovine mystique: power, property, and livestock in rural Lesotho." Man (n.s.) 20, 647-74, 1985.

"Cultural exchange: new developments in the anthropology of commodities," Cultural Anthropology 3(4): 488-513, 1988.

"Mobile workers, modernist narratives: a critique of the historiography of transition on the Zambian Copperbelt, Part One", Journal of Southern African Studies 16(3):385-412, 1990.

"Mobile workers, modernist narratives: a critique of the historiography of transition on the Zambian Copperbelt, Part Two", Journal of Southern African Studies 16(4):603-621, 1990.

Special issue on "Space and Place in Anthropology", co-edited with Akhil Gupta, Cultural Anthropology 7(1), 1992.

"Beyond 'culture': space, identity and the politics of difference" (co-authored with Akhil Gupta), Cultural Anthropology 7(1):6-23, 1992.

"The country and the city on the Copperbelt", Cultural Anthropology 7(1):80-92, 1992.

"The cultural topography of wealth: commodity paths and the structure of property in rural Lesotho", American Anthropologist 94(1):55-73, 1992.

"Reply to comments on The Anti-politics Machine," in "The Anti-politics Machine: a

panel review of James Ferguson's book with a rejoinder by the author," National University of Lesotho Working Paper Number 2. Reprinted in The Journal of Research 2:141-159, 1992.

"De-moralizing economies: African socialism, scientific capitalism, and the moral politics of 'structural adjustment'", in Sally Falk Moore (ed.), Moralizing States: The Ethnography of the Present, AES Monograph Series, American Ethnological Society, 1993.

"Reply to Shanafelt", American Anthropologist 94(4):935-937. 1992.

"Mobile workers, modernist narratives, and colonial liberalism: reply to a straw man", Journal of Southern African Studies 20(4):633-640, 1994.

"The anti-politics machine: 'development' and bureaucratic power in Lesotho" (with Larry Lohmann), The Ecologist 24(5):176-181, September/October 1994.

"Power or complexity?", Transition, No. 64, pp. 132-138, 1994.

"From African socialism to scientific capitalism: reflections on the legitimation crisis in IMF-ruled Africa", in David B. Moore and Gerald R. Schmitz (eds.), Debating Development Discourse: Institutional and Popular Perspectives. St. Martin's Press, 1995.

"Urban trends on the Zambian Copperbelt: a short bibliographic note", Journal of Southern African Studies 22(2):313. 1996.

"Paradoxes of sovereignty and independence: 'real' and 'pseudo-' nation-states and the depoliticization of poverty", in Karen Fog Olwig and Kirsten Hastrup (eds.), Siting Culture: The Shifting Anthropological Object. Routledge, 1996.

"Development", in Jonathan Spencer and Alan Barnard (eds.), Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Routledge, 1996.

"Culture, power, place: ethnography at the end of an era" (co-authored with Akhil Gupta), in Akhil Gupta and James Ferguson (eds.), Culture, Power, Place: Explorations in Critical Anthropology. Duke University Press, 1997.

"Anthropology and its evil twin: development in the constitution of a discipline," in Frederick Cooper and Randall Packard (eds.), International Development and the Social Sciences. University of California Press, 1997.

"Discipline and practice: 'the field' as site, method, and location in anthropology" (co-authored with Akhil Gupta), in Akhil Gupta and James Ferguson (eds.), Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science. University of

California Press, 1997.

"Economics and barbarism: an anthropological comment on Pearson's 'Homo Economicus'," History of Political Economy 32:4:991-998. 2000.

"Global disconnect: abjection and the aftermath of modernism," in Jonathan X. Inda and Renato Rosaldo (eds.), The Anthropology of Globalization, Blackwell, 2001. (An adaptation into the form of a stand-alone article of the conclusion of Expectations of Modernity).

"La réponse au critiques de James Ferguson," Politique Africaine No. 81, March 2001. (Part of a forum on the book, Expectations of Modernity).

"Spatializing states: toward an ethnography of neoliberal governmentality" (co-authored with Akhil Gupta) American Ethnologist 29(4):981-1002. 2002.

"Of mimicry and membership: Africans and the 'new world society'," Cultural Anthropology 17(4): 551-569. 2002.

"Stillborn chrysalis: reflections on the fate of national culture in neoliberal Zambia," Global Networks 3(3):271-298. 2003.

"Power topographies: beyond the state and civil society in the study of African politics," in David Nugent and Joan Vincent (eds.), A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics, Blackwell, 2004.

"Seeing like an oil company: space, security, and global capital in neoliberal Africa," American Anthropologist, 107(3):377-382, 2005.

"Decomposing modernity: history and hierarchy after development," in Ania Loomba, Suvir Kaul, Matti Bunzl, Antoinette Burton, and Jed Esty (eds.), Postcolonial Studies and Beyond, Duke University Press, 2005.

"Development after neoliberalism." Codesria Bulletin, no. 3-4., pp. 44-45. 2005

"Transnational topographies of power: beyond the state and civil society in the study of African politics," in Bill Maurer and Gabriele Schwab (eds.), Accelerating Possession: Global Futures of Property and Personhood. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006.

"Formalities of poverty: Thinking about social assistance in neoliberal South Africa," African Studies Review, 50(2):71-86, 2007.

"Reply to the comments on Global Shadows," Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 29:270-273, 2008.

Interview (by Peter Schouten), 'Theory Talk #34: James Ferguson on Modernity, Development, and Reading Foucault in Lesotho', Theory Talks, <http://www.theory-talks.org/2009/11/theory-talk-34.html> (22-11-2009).

"The uses of neoliberalism." Antipode, volume 41, supplement 1, 2010.

"Novelty and method: Reflections on global fieldwork." In Simon Coleman and Pauline von Hellermann (eds.), Multi-sited Ethnography: Problems and Possibilities in the Translocation of Research Methods. Routledge, 2011.

"Toward a left art of government: From 'Foucauldian critique' to Foucauldian politics." History of the Human Sciences 24(4):61-68, 2011.

"Cosmologies of welfare: Two conceptions of social assistance in contemporary South Africa." Forthcoming, in Felicity Aulino, Miriam Goheen, and Stanley J. Tambiah (eds.), Radical Egalitarianism: Local Realities, Global Relations. Fordham University Press, 2012.

"Theory from the Comaroffs, or How to know the world up, down, backwards and forwards." The Johannesburg Salon, Volume 5, 2012. (Also published as Fieldsights - Theorizing the Contemporary, Cultural Anthropology Online, February 25, 2012, <http://culanth.org/fieldsights/271-theory-from-the-comaroffs-or-how-to-know-the-world-up-down-backwards-and-forwards>)

"Structures of responsibility". Ethnography 13: 558-562, 2012.

"What comes after the social? Historicizing the future of social assistance and identity registration in Africa." In Keith Breckenridge and Simon Szreter (eds.), Registration and Recognition: Documenting the Person in World History. Oxford: Oxford University Press for the British Academy, 2012.

"How to do things with land: A distributive perspective on rural livelihoods in southern Africa". Journal of Agrarian Change 13(1):166-174, 2013.

"Declarations of dependence: Labor, personhood, and welfare in southern Africa". Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 19:223-242, 2013.

"Reply to comments on 'Declarations of Dependence'". Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 19:258-260, 2013.

“Invisible humanism: An African 1968 and its aftermaths,” in The Long 1968: Revisions and New Perspectives, Jasmine Alinder, Aneesh Aneesh, Daniel J. Sherman, and Ruud van Dijk (eds.), Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2013.

“The social life of ‘cash payment’: Money, markets, and the mutualities of poverty.” In Edward F. Fischer and Peter Benson (eds.), Cash on the Table: Markets, Values, and Moral Economies. Santa Fe, NM: SAR Press, 2013.

“Comment on Harri Englund, ‘Zambia at 50: The Rediscovery of Liberalism.’” Africa 84(4). 2014.

“From antipolitics to post-neoliberalism: A conversation with James Ferguson.” Humanity 5(2):247-260. 2014.

“Foreword.” In Ismael Vaccaro, Krista Harper, and Seth Murray (eds), The Anthropology of Postindustrialism: Ethnographies of Disconnection. New York: Routledge, 2016.

“La réponse de James Ferguson,” in Autour d’un Livre (special review section on Give a Man a Fish), edited by Boris Samuels, Politique Africaine No. 145 (2017), pp. 213-218.

“Author’s Response,” Book Review Symposium on Give a Man a Fish, edited by Jenny Cameron, AntipodeFoundation.org, 2017.

“Beyond the ‘Proper Job’: Political-economic Analysis after the Century of Labouring Man” (co-authored with Tania Murray Li), Working Paper 51. Institute for Poverty, Land, and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of the Western Cape: Cape Town, 2018.

“Proletarian Politics Today: On the Perils and Possibilities of Historical Analogy.” Comparative Studies in Society and History 61(1):1-19. 2019 [in press].

BOOK REVIEWS

Michael Adas, Machines as the Measure of Man, in American Anthropologist 93 (1): 229-30, 1991.

Parker Shipton, Bitter Money, in American Ethnologist 18(3): 620-21, 1991.

Johan Pottier, Migrants No More, in Africa 61(3):429-431, 1992.

Laurel L. Rose, The Politics of Harmony: Land Dispute Strategies in Swaziland, in American Anthropologist 95(1):234-35. 1993.

Donald L. Donham, History, Power, Ideology: Central Issues in Marxism and Anthropology, in Anthropological Quarterly 66(1):52-54. 1993.

Wim van Binsbergen, Tears of Rain: Ethnicity and History in Central Western Zambia, in Africa 63(2): 269-272. 1993.

Deborah James, Songs of the Women Migrants: Performance and Identity in South Africa, in Journal of Southern African Studies 27(4):875-877, 2001.

INVITED LECTURES (last 10 years)

Columbia University, Seminar on Politics, Development, Environment, and Society, 2008

University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Politics, 2008

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Keynote address to EIDOS conference, "The Ends of Development." June 2008

University of Leiden, Department of Cultural Anthropology, 2008

University of the Western Cape, Keynote address to the annual meeting of Anthropology Southern Africa. August 2008

Killam Lecture, Dalhousie University, 2008

New School for Social Research, Department of Anthropology, 2008

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Center for 21st Century Studies. Keynote address at the conference, "Since 1968". 2008

UC Berkeley, Department of City and Regional Planning, 2008

Cambridge University, Department of Social Anthropology and African Studies Centre,

2009

Vrije Universiteit, Department of Cultural Anthropology, 2009

London School of Economics, Department of Social Anthropology, 2009

UCLA, Center for African Studies, 2009

Washington University, Department of Anthropology and Center for African Studies, 2009

UC Santa Barbara, Department of History and Department of Anthropology, 2009

UC Berkeley, Department of Anthropology, 2009

Lewis Henry Morgan Memorial Lectures, University of Rochester, 2009.

Carnegie Mellon University, Humanities Center, 2009

Michigan State University, African Studies Center, 2009

Vrije Universiteit, keynote address at the conference, "Anthropology and the Global Economic Crisis," 2009

University of Kentucky, Department of Anthropology, "Distinguished Lecture", 2010

University of Toronto, Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, 2010

Stanford University, Dept. of Anthropology, 2010

Emory University, Department of Anthropology and Colonial and Post-colonial Studies Workshop, 2010

UFF, Niteroi, Brazil. Department of Anthropology, 2010

Plenary address, ANPOCS conference, Caxambu, Brazil, 2010

University of Oslo, Department of Social Anthropology, 2010

Valedictory Lecture, Vrije Universiteit, Department of Cultural Anthropology, 2011

Keynote address, Meetings of the International Union of Ethnological and Anthropological Sciences, Perth, Australia, 2011

University of Michigan, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, 2011

Reed College, Department of Anthropology, 2012

Franz Boas Lecture, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, 2012

Beijing Agricultural University, College of Humanities and Development Studies, 2012

Columbia University, Institute for African Studies, 2012

Yonsei University, Department of Cultural Anthropology, 2012

Keynote address, annual meeting of the Korean Society for Cultural Anthropology, Seoul, South Korea, 2012

Northwestern University, Department of Anthropology, 2013

Brown University, Watson Institute for International Studies, 2013

Keynote address, Conference on "Extractive Economies and the State in Contemporary Africa," Harvard University, 2013

Lecture to China International Development Research Network, Beijing, 2013

Koc University, Turkey, Department of International Relations, 2014

Bard College, Department of Anthropology, 2014

Keynote address, Meetings of the International Union of Ethnological and Anthropological Sciences and the Japanese Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Chiba, Japan, 2014

University of Cologne, Global South Studies Center, 2014

University of Göttingen, Centre of Modern Indian Studies and Centre for Modern East Asian Studies, 2014

Washington University (St. Louis), Department of History, 2014

UC Davis, Department of Anthropology, 2014

UC Santa Cruz, Department of Anthropology, 2014

UC San Francisco, Department of Anthropology, History & Social Medicine, 2014

University of Michigan, Department of Anthropology, 2015

Audrey Richards Memorial Lecture, Center for African Studies, University of Cambridge, 2015

Keynote address, Conference on “Contingency and Commitment (Anthropology in Transit)”, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine, 2015

Keynote address: Development Studies Association (U.K.), Bath, UK, 2015

York University, Department of Anthropology annual lecture, 2015

University of Toronto, Development Seminar, 2015

New York University, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, 2015

Keynote address, “Neoliberalism in Motion” conference. Sophia University, Tokyo, 2015.

Johns Hopkins University, Department of Anthropology, 2015

UCLA, Center for African Studies, 2016

Distinguished Africanist Lecture, Committee on African Studies, University of Chicago, 2016

Roger Allen Moore Lecture on Values and Medicine, Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Harvard University, 2016

Inaugural Annual Lecture, Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex, 2016.

Keynote address, conference on “Poverty's Causes and Consequences in the Urban Developing World,” University of Jyväskylä, Finland, 2016.

New York University, Oikos Group, 2016.

University of Minnesota, Department of Anthropology, 2017.

Distinguished Annual Lecture, Center for Space, Place, and Society, Wageningen University, 2017.

Olaf Palme Lecture, Oxford University, 2017.

Cologne University, Global South Studies Center, 2017.

Dahrendorf Lecture, Konstanz University, 2017.

Harvard University, Center for African Studies, 2017.

Princeton University, Center for African Studies. 2017.

Yonsei University, Department of Cultural Anthropology, 2017.

Keynote address, annual meeting of the Korean Society for Cultural Anthropology, Jeju, South Korea, 2017.

University of Oklahoma, Joe C. and Carole Kerr McClendon Honors College, 2017.

Distinguished Lecture, Association for Africanist Anthropology, AAA, 2017.

UC Santa Barbara, Student Housing Coop Speaker Series, 2018.

Keynote Lecture, Conference on "The Role of Law in the Production in Inequality," Institute for Global Law and Policy at Harvard Law School and the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at the University of Texas, Austin, 2018.

Aarhus University, Aarhus Research on the Anthropocene (AURA) Group, 2018.

University of Helsinki, Department of Anthropology, 2018.

University of Melbourne. Lecture to open the two-day conference, "From the Anti-politics Machine to the New Politics of Distribution: A Workshop with James Ferguson". School of Social and Political Sciences ("On Culture, Power, and Practice" Research Cluster), 2018.

Duke University, Department of Cultural Anthropology, 2018.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political economy, "development", systems of discourse and knowledge, culture and power, labor migration, poverty and social assistance, theory and politics of ethnography.

AREA INTERESTS

Zambia, Lesotho, South Africa, Namibia

LANGUAGES

English (native), Sesotho (dormant), French (reading), some knowledge of Lozi, Bemba, Finnish.

COURSES TAUGHT

Political Anthropology
Approaches to the Analysis of Systems of Thought
South Africa
Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology
Ethnography of Africa
Social Theory
History of Anthropological Theory
Revolution and Social Change
Economic and Political Anthropology
Anthropology and Cultural Studies
Ethnography and Politics in Southern Africa
The Politics of Ethnography
The Anthropology of Commodities
Structuralism and Post-structuralism
Contemporary Ethnography
Classical Ethnography
Filth and Social Theory
The Anthropology of Cities
Foucault: The Question of Method
The State in Africa
The Anthropology of Neoliberalism
Anthropological Approaches to Rights
The Anthropology of Globalization
Introduction to the Humanities: Encounters and Identities
Anthropology of Development
Method and Evidence in Sociocultural Anthropology
Economic Anthropology
Thinking Through Africa
Foundations of Social Theory

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, Graduate Committee supervising the graduate program in Social Relations, 1987.

Member, School of Social Sciences Student Honors Papers Committee, 1987.

Member, Graduate Committee supervising the graduate program in Social Relations, 1988-89, 1989/90

Member, Honors Program Curriculum Committee, 1988-89. Taught Honors Course, Winter 1990.

Member, University Affirmative Action Committee, 10/89 - 6/90.

Chair, Ad-hoc Committee on the Ph.D. in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, 1992/93.

Chair, Anthropology Graduate Committee, 1993/94, 1994/95.

Member, International Studies Major Committee, School of Social Sciences, 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98.

Member, University Committee for Affirmative Action and Diversity, 1996/97, 1997/98.

Member, Editorial board, University of California Press, 1996 - 2001

Acting Chair, Dept. of Anthropology, Winter 1998.

Member, Anthropology Graduate Committee, 1997/98.

Chair, UCI Dept. of Anthropology, 1999 – 2003.

Director, UCI Critical Theory Institute, 2001 – 2003

Editorial Committee, California International and Area Studies (CIAS) Electronic Publication Program, University of California Press, 2000 – 2003

Member, University Curriculum Committee, 2004/05.

Chair, Dept. of Cultural and Social Anthropology, 2005 – 2007

Member, Appointments & Promotions Committee (Soc. Sci.), 2007 – 2013, 2016/17

Member, Dept. Chairs Steering Committee, 2007 – 2009

Chair, Department of Anthropology, 2007 – 2013, 2016-17

Susan Ford Dorsey Director of African Studies, Center for African Studies, 2017 - present

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES, SERVICE ON EDITORIAL BOARDS, ETC.

American Anthropological Association (Fellow)

American Ethnological Society

African Studies Association

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

Association for Africanist Anthropology

Oxford Development Studies International Advisory Board

Progress in Development Studies Advisory Board

Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute Editorial Board

Cultural Anthropology Editorial Board

Editorial Committee, California International and Area Studies (CIAS) Electronic Publications Program, University of California Press

African Development Editorial Board

Political and Legal Anthropology Review, Editorial Board

Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, International Advisory Board

Social Dynamics, International Advisory Board

Critical African Studies, Editorial Board

Humanity, Editorial Board

Journal of Modern African Studies, Editorial Board

School of Advanced Research, Santa Fe, Board of Managers

Anthropology Southern Africa, Editorial Board

China International Development Research Network, International Advisory Board

