

# TODD RAMÓN OCHOA

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## EDUCATION

- 2005 Ph.D. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology. Dissertation: *The Dead and the Living in a Cuban-Kongo Sacred Society* (awarded with distinction).
- 1998 M. Phil. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology.
- 1995 M.A. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology.
- 1992 B.A. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Department of Political Science, Concentration in Latin American Studies.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2014- Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- 2008-2014 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- 2007-2008 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2005-2007 President's Postdoctoral Fellow. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2005 Lecturer. Spelman College, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.
- 2005 Lecturer. Emory University, Department of Anthropology.
- 2002 Adjunct Assistant Professor, State University of New York at Old Westbury, Department of Humanities and Languages.
- 1996-1998 Teaching Assistant, Columbia University, Department of Anthropology.

## HONORS

- 2018-2019 UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Academic Leadership Program
- 2017-2018 National Humanities Center Fellowship
- 2013 UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship
- 2011 UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Support for Scholarship Award
- 2011 UNC Johnston Fellows Teaching Excellence Award
- 2010 UNC Office of the Provost Junior Faculty Development Award
- 2008 UNC Program in Latina/o Studies Course Development Award
- 2007-2008 University of California Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2005-2007 University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2002 Columbia University Frederic Zeller Memorial Fellowship
- 2001 Columbia University Minority Merit Fellowship
- 1999-2000 Fundación Fernando Ortíz, Havana, Cuba. Fellow in Residence
- 1999-2000 Columbia University Minority Merit Fellowship
- 1996 Sheldon Schepps Memorial Fellowship
- 1994-2000 Columbia University President's Fellowship

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Books (single-author monographs)

- 2020 *A Party for Lazarus: Exuberance and Affliction in a Cuban Town.*  
University of California Press (forthcoming May, 2020).
- 2010 *Society of the Dead: Quita Manaquita and Palo Praise in Cuba*, 310pp.  
University of California Press.

### Refereed Articles

- 2010 “Prendas-Ngangas-Enquisos: Turbulence and the Influence of the Dead in Cuban-Kongo Material Practice.” *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 387-420.
- 2007 “Versions of the Dead: *Kalunga*, Cuban-Kongo Materiality, and Ethnography.” *Cultural Anthropology* Vol. 22, No. 4, pp. 473-500.

### Refereed Chapters in Edited Volumes

- 2017 “Origami Conjecture for a Bembé” in *Crumpled Paper Boat*, Pandian, Anand and Stuart McLean, eds. Durham: Duke University Press.

### Reprinted Refereed Articles

- 2009 “Versions of the Dead: *Kalunga*, Cuban-Kongo Materiality, and Ethnography.” *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 1: *Moorings*. London: Sage Books.

### Un-refereed Works

- 2017 “One Currency,” in [Cuba as Dreamworld and Catastrophe](#), Brotherton, P. Sean ed. Hot Spots, *Cultural Anthropology* website, March 23.
- 2015 “Elke Marhöfer’s *prendas – ngangas – enquisos – machines {each part welcomes the other without saying}*.” *prendas – ngangas – enquisos – machines {each part welcomes the other without saying}*. Elke Marhöfer, ed. Berlin: Archive Books, 2015.
- 2013 Interview in *Revista Diaspora[s] Edición Fascimil (1997-2002) Literatura Cubana*. Jorge Cabezas, ed. Barcelona: Red Ediciones S.L., pp. 89-90.
- 2011 “Where is Anthropology Going.” *Kroeber Anthropological Society*, 100 (1):17.

### Short Story Fiction

- 2010 “Basurita Ndoki.” *Anthropology and Humanism*, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp.235-239.

### Translations

- 2013 “Discusión con Theodor W. Adorno,” “America,” “El Archivo: Cuestiones de herencia,” “Conferencia sobre algo,” in *Revista Diaspora[s] Edición Fascimil (1997-2002) Literatura Cubana*. Jorge Cabezas, ed. Barcelona: Red Ediciones S.L., pp. 421-431, 435-438, 466-471, 551-560.
- 2009 Branly, Roberto. “Evening Falls on San Anastasio” in *The Whole Island: Cuban Poetry 1900-2000*. Mark Weiss, ed. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- 2008 Aguilera, Carlos Alberto. "Mao" in *The Island of My Hunger: Cuban Poetry Today*. Francisco Morán, ed. San Francisco: City Lights Books.
- 2004 Aguilera, Carlos Alberto. "Mao" and "Typologies" in *Mandorla 7: Journal of New Writing from the Americas*: 62-70.

#### GRANTS

- 2019 UNC Mellon Humanities for the Public Good Grant for UndocuCarolina
- 2018 UNC Mellon Humanities for the Public Good Grant for UndocuCarolina
- 2018 UNC Institute for the Study of the American Working Group Grant
- 2011 UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Support for Scholarship
- 2010 UNC Office of the Provost Junior Faculty Development Award
- 2008 UNC Program in Latina/o Studies Course Development Award

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

##### To the Field

- 2018-2019 National Humanities Center Fellows Program Selection Committee
- 2012-2015 Book review editor for the journal *Cultural Anthropology*
- 2010-2014 Fiction editor for the journal *Anthropology and Humanism*

##### Within UNC-Chapel Hill

- 2019-2020 Chair, UNC DACA and Undocumented Students Resource Team
- 2019-2020 Steering Committee, UNC Critical Ethnic Studies Program
- 2019-2020 Steering Committee, UNC Mellon Humanities for the Public Good Program
- 2018-2019 Chair, Development Committee, Department of Religious Studies
- 2018-2019 Diversity Liaison, Department of Religious Studies
- 2018-present Member, Faculty Welfare Committee of the Faculty Council
- 2017-present Member (while on leave), DACA Resource Team, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
- 2016-2017 Member, Dean's Minority Faculty Advisory Committee
- 2015-2017 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies
- 2015-2017 Member, Faculty Welfare Committee of the Faculty Council
- 2013-2017 Associate Director for New Faculty Development, Institute for the Arts and Humanities
- 2013-2017 Diversity Liaison, Department of Religious Studies
- 2013-2014 Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Religious Studies
- 2013-2017 Advisory Board, Program in Cultural Studies
- 2013-present Book Chair, Institute for the Study of the Americas
- 2013 Presenter, CTOPS (Orientation for Incoming Students)
- 2011-2012 Faculty Search Committee, Department of Religious Studies
- 2010-2011 Faculty Search Committee, Department of Religious Studies
- 2010 Organizer, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of PhD Program, Department of Religious Studies
- 2009-2012 Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Religious Studies
- 2009-2012 Library Liaison, Department of Religious Studies
- 2009 Presenter, Tarheel Outreach Program
- 2008-2009 Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Religious Studies

**INVITED TALKS (LAST TEN YEARS)**

- 2016 "A Doll's Head." African Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison. April 15.
- 2016 "Three Propositions for Actualized Encounters with their Fieldwork Antecedents in Cuba." Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University. February 21.
- 2014 Lazarus at "The Curve": Transformation at an African-inspired *Bembé* Feast in Cuba." Department of Anthropology, Cornell University. November 14.
- 2014 "Healing Fate: A Feast for Lazarus-Babalú-Ayé in Contemporary Central Cuba." African Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison. March 26.
- 2012 "*Bembé* and the Outside." Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University. February 21.
- 2011 "*Bembé*: Creole Becoming and the Limits of Representation." Department of Anthropology. UC Santa Cruz. April 18.
- 2010 "*Bembé*: Notes Toward a New Project." Department of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, Colloquium Speaker Series, December 2.
- 2010 "*Bembé*: Creole Becoming and the Limits of Representation." Department of Anthropology, University of California Berkeley, November 22.
- 2009 "Positions in the Study of African-Inspired Praise in Cuba." Invited presentation for the panel "The Study of Cuban Religions 50 Years After the Cuban Revolution." Montreal, November 8.
- 2009 "Promises Made: Cuban-Kongo Praise of the Dead and the Overcoming of Fated Debt." Stanford University, Program in African and African American Studies. April 29.
- 2009 "Reading Granma." New York Academy of Science and the Wenner Gren Foundation. New York, January 26.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS, TALKS, AND WORKSHOPS (LAST TEN YEARS)**

- 2019 "Organizing Institutional Support for DACA and Undocumented Students at UNC-Chapel Hill in Precarious Times." North Carolina Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Conference. Chapel Hill, February 23.
- 2017 "Un Xiriki Wixárika en la Pirámide de Cuicuilco, México, D.F." Latin American Studies Association Meetings. Lima, Peru. May 2.
- 2015 "Sur-render: Animal Shudders, Open Verse." American Anthropological Association Meetings. Denver. November 20.
- 2015 "Black Atlantic Crowds of the Dead." Zombies: The Haitian and American Realities Behind the Myth Conference, Duke University. March 19-21.
- 2014 "Nine Propositions for Actualized Ethnographic Encounters." American Anthropological Association Meetings. Washington, DC. December 8.
- 2013 "Nine Propositions for Actualized Ethnographic Encounters." American Academy of Religion Meetings. Baltimore. November 22.
- 2013 "Bembé Lives." Advanced Seminar at the School for Advanced Research (SAR), Santa Fe, April 20-26.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS, TALKS, AND WORKSHOPS (CONT.)**

- 2011 “Bembé and the Limits of Representation.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Montreal, November 19.
- 2011 “*Bembé* and the Outside.” Passages and Afterworlds: Anthropological Perspectives on Death and Mortuary Rituals in the Caribbean. University of West Indies, Barbados, June 6.
- 2011 “Animality and Utility—a Sacrificial Reservoir in central Cuban *Bembé*.” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Meeting, Santa Fe, May 7.
- 2010 “Unraveling Ethnographic Limits in Lydia Cabrera.” XXIX Latin American Studies Association Congress, Toronto, October 8.
- 2010 “Building and Dissolving Bonds: Asymmetrical Synthesis in Cuban-Kongo Sorcery.” Society for Cultural Anthropology Spring Meeting, Santa Fe, May 7.
- 2009 “Cuban-Kongo Healing and Harming: The Dead Become Unlimited.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, December 5.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
American Anthropological Association  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion  
Society for Cultural Anthropology  
American Ethnological Society

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (native)  
French (reading)