

## TODD RAMÓN OCHOA

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### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology (degree awarded with distinction). Dissertation: *The Dead and the Living in a Cuban-Kongo Sacred Society*. Dissertation Committee: Michael Taussig (Advisor), Steven Gregory, Neni Panourgia, John Szwed (Yale), Mauricio Font (CUNY), 2005.
- M. Phil. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, 1998.
- M.A. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, 1995.
- B.A. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Department of Political Science, Concentration in Latin American Studies, 1992.

### EMPLOYMENT

- 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.

### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 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

## AREAS OF INTEREST

Black Atlantic culture; African-inspired religion in Cuba; Cuban-Kongo materiality, ritual and practice; critical theory and contemporary philosophy, theory of religion; the dead; prohibition and power, race and class; writing and ethnographic practice; history of materialism.

Geographic areas: Atlantic Rim; Latin America and the Caribbean; Cuba; Congo.

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2006        *Society of the Dead: Nkita Mana Nkita and Palo Praise in Cuba.* Manuscript, 400pp. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. Under review at the University of Chicago Press.
- 2006        “Versions of the Dead: *Kalunga* in Cuban Kongo Materiality.” Under review at *Cultural Anthropology*.
- 2005        *The Dead and the Living in a Cuban-Kongo Sacred Society.* Doctoral Dissertation, Columbia University. 400pp. Ann Arbor: Proquest Information Learning Company.
- 2005        “Aspects of the Dead in Cuban-Kongo Religion.” Accepted for publication in the proceedings of the conference “Cuba Today: Continuity and Change Since the ‘Periodo Especial’.” Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, October 4-5, 2004.
- 2000        “*Buenas noches la buena noche: Cuban-Kongo Praise for the Night.*” Archived at the University of Miami Otto G. Richter Library, Cuban Heritage Collection.

## FIELDWORK AND LANGUAGE STUDY

- 2005 Las Villas, Cuba. Fieldwork for forthcoming manuscript on rural Cuban *Bembé*. Two months.
- 2001 Havana, Cuba. Three months follow-up dissertation research. Funded by a Frederic Zeller Memorial Fellowship.
- 1999-2000 Havana and Las Villas Province, Cuba. Eighteen months dissertation fieldwork. Funded by a Columbia University Minority Merit Fellowship.
- 1998 Paris, France. Four months independent language study.
- 1997 Havana, Cuba. Four months field research on Cuban Kongo ritual forms.
- 1996 Havana, Cuba. Four months preliminary dissertation field research on Cuban Kongo ritual forms. Funded by a Sheldon Schepps Memorial Fellowship.
- 1992, 1993 Havana, Cuba. Eight months independent research on black markets in Cuba's post-Soviet command economy.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2006 "The Materiality of Cuban-Kongo Healing: Complex Sculpture and Collective Praise." California College for the Arts. San Francisco, March 8.
- 2005 "Versions of the Dead: Turns and Returns in Cuban-Kongo Materiality." University of California, Berkeley, Department of Anthropology 290 Guest Lecture Series. Berkeley, November 14.
- 2005 "Cuban-Kongo Religion." Agnes Scott College, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Atlanta, February 16, 2005.
- 2003 "The Living and the Dead in a Cuban-Kongo Sacred Society." University of California, Berkeley, Department of Anthropology. Berkeley, January 22.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS

- 2006 "Economic and Moral Valuation in Cuban-Kongo Material Culture." University of California Office of the President Annual Spring Meeting of Fellows, Los Angeles, April 29.
- 2006 "Cuts and Ashes: Versions of Cuban-Kongo Life." Society for Applied Anthropology and Society for Medical Anthropology Meetings, Vancouver, BC, April 1.
- 2005 "The Dead, Sorcery, and the Transgression of the Divine in Post-1990s Cuba, or, On the Question of Negation in the Constitution of the Sacred." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 2.
- 2004 "Cuban-Kongo Religion in Cuba Today." Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, October 5.
- 2004 "Anticipation: Nomadic Sensation in Cuban-Kongo Sorcery." American Ethnological Society Meetings, Atlanta, April 23.

- 2003 “Ethnography, Intuition and Sense: The Dead in Cuban Kongo Inspiration.” American Ethnological Society Meetings, Providence, April 26.
- 2002 “*Eggun*: Discrete and Ambient Dead.” Columbia University Department of Anthropology Dissertation Writer’s Series, Columbia University, New York, March 21.
- 2000 “*Buenas noches la buena noche*: Cuban-Kongo Praise for the Night.” 3<sup>rd</sup> Cuban Research Institute Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies, Florida International University, Miami, October 18-21.
- 2000 “Apuntes sobre la religiosidad afro-cubana en la provincia de Las Villas.” Fundación Fernando Ortíz, Havana, May 22.
- 1999 “Strategies of Representation in Ortiz’s Early Ethnography *Los Negros Brujos*.” Conferencia Internacional Fernando Ortiz: Transculturación, Vanguardia y Diversidad Cultural, Havana, November 24-27.

#### CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2006 “Writing Practice.” Panel accepted for the American Anthropological Association annual meetings, San Jose.
- 2004 “Transgression, Politics, and the Sacred.” American Anthropological Association annual meetings, San Francisco, November 18-22.
- 1998 *Poetry as Ethnography*. Columbia University. April 18-19.
- 1997 *From Field to Text: An Ethnographer’s Forum*. Columbia University Department of Anthropology. Fall Semester.

#### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association  
American Ethnological Society  
Latin American Studies Association  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion  
Society of Applied Anthropology

#### PUBLISHED TRANSLATIONS

- 2005 Aguilera, Carlos Alberto. “Mao.” *The Island of My Hunger: Cuban Poetry Today*. Francisco Morán, ed. San Francisco: City Lights Books.
- 2004 Aguilera, Carlos Alberto. “BC-E.” *Mandorla 7: Journal of New Writing from the Americas* (2004): 62-70.

#### LANGUAGES

Spanish (native)  
French (reading)

**REFERENCES**

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