

## Elise Berman

Department of Anthropology  
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### POSITIONS

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2012-present    *Assistant Professor*  
Department of Anthropology  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

### RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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The politics of language and exchange  
Semiotic analyses of deception, truth, and knowledge  
The social construction of age, childhood, and immaturity  
Socialization and education  
Adoption, kinship, and families  
Personhood and the self  
Oceania and the Marshall Islands

### EDUCATION

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#### University of Chicago

2012    Ph.D.

Department of Comparative Human Development

- Specialization in linguistic and sociocultural anthropology
- Dissertation: *Children Have Nothing to Hide: Deception, Age, and Avoiding Giving in the Marshall Islands*
- Winner of William Henry Award
- Committee: John Lucy, Jennifer Cole, Don Kulick, Richard Shweder

2008    M.A.

Department of Comparative Human Development

- Thesis: *It's a Heart Biter: K'iche' Maya Children as Buffers of Malicious Adult Interactions*

#### Dartmouth College

2003    B.A.

Anthropology

- Thesis: *Why Try to Change Others? Missionizing as an Act of Identity Formation*
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Magna cum Laude

## **FUNDING (RESEARCH AND WRITING)**

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### **External Funding**

- 2015 Wenner-Gren Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship (7% acceptance rate, \$40,000)  
2013 Distinguished Guest Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Univ. of Notre Dame  
(\$60,000, I was only able to accept \$30,000)  
2009-2010 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$17,792)  
2009-2010 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$15,000)  
2009-2010 Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Grant (declined)  
2008 Lemelson Fellowship, Society for Psychological Anthropology (\$5,000)

### **Grants, Awards, and Fellowships**

- 2013 Faculty Research Grant, UNC Charlotte (\$6,000)  
2013 William Henry Award for best dissertation in the Department of Comparative  
Human Development in 2012, University of Chicago (\$1,000)  
2011-2012 Provost Dissertation-Year Fellowship, University of Chicago (\$23,000)  
Awarded to top Markovitz Dissertation-Year Fellowship candidate  
Co-designated honorary Michael and Ling Markovitz Fellow  
2011 Bernice Neugarten Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago (\$5,000)  
2011 Bernice Neugarten Prize (Research), University of Chicago (\$2,000)  
2011 Research Travel Grant (Orin Williams Fund), University of Chicago (\$1,000)  
2005-2009 Century Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago (\$200,000 including tuition)  
2006 Title IV FLAS summer language fellowship (Guatemala), University of Chicago  
(\$5,000)  
2002 Claire Garber Goodman Grant for Anthropological Research, Dartmouth College  
(\$6,000)

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

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- 2012 Ethnographic fieldwork in the Marshall Islands on early childhood language  
socialization (6 weeks, funded by UNC Charlotte)
- 2009-2010 Ethnographic fieldwork for dissertation on deception, childhood, and giving  
Arno Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands (12 months, funded by NSF and  
Wenner-Gren)
- 2008 Preliminary fieldwork for dissertation  
Arno Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands (2 months, funded by Society for  
Psychological Anthropology)
- 2006 Ethnographic fieldwork for MA thesis on deception, childhood, and emotion  
Santa Catarina Ixtahuacan de Nueva, Guatemala (2 months, funded by FLAS)
- 2002 Ethnographic fieldwork for anthropology honors thesis on missionaries  
United Kingdom (3 months, funding from Goodman Grant)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Peer reviewed articles**

- 2014 Negotiating Age: Direct Speech and the Sociolinguistic Production of Childhood in the Marshall Islands. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. 24(2).
- 2014 Holding on: Adoption, Kinship Tensions, and Pregnancy in the Marshall Islands. *American Anthropologist*. 116(3).
- 2011 The Irony of Immaturity: K'iche' Children as Mediators and Buffers in Adult Social Interactions. *Childhood* 18(2):274-288.
- 2009 Voices of Outreach: The Construction of Identity and Maintenance of Social Ties among Chabad-Lubavitch Emissaries. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48(1):69-85.

### **Additional Publications**

- 2013 Passive First-Person Recordings: A New Way to Study Children. *Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group (ACYIG) Newsletter*, February 15. (Peer reviewed)

### **Works in Progress**

Producing Age: Children, Deception, and Avoiding Giving in the Marshall Islands (Book manuscript in preparation)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Invited Talks**

- 2014 The Road to Liklob: Avoiding Giving in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the University of South Carolina Anthropology Department Colloquium series. February 20.
- 2013 Avoiding Giving: Language, Deception, and Exchange in the Marshall Islands. Talk given to the Notre Dame Anthropology Department, May 20.

### **Conference and Workshop Presentations**

- 2014 Sociolinguistic Negotiation of Age: Aggressive and Direct Speech Among Children in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the 6th International Symposium on Intercultural, Cognitive and Social Pragmatics (EPICS VI): Pragmatic Perspectives on Language Aggression and Conflict. University of Seville. May 12-14.
- 2014 Producing Childhood: Aggressive Speech in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the joint meeting for the Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group, the Society for Cross-Cultural Research, and the Division of International Psychology. Charleston, SC. February 12-15.

- 2013 The Insights of Age: New Perspectives on Economics and Socialization. Presented at the joint meeting for the Society for Psychological Anthropology and the Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group, San Diego, CA, April 4-7
- 2013 Adoption and Kinship in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania Conference, San Antonio, TX, February 6-9.
- 2012 Performing Difference: The Socialization and Construction of Aged Selves in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the AAA annual conference, San Francisco, November 14-18.
- 2012 Avoiding Giving to Give: Deception, Age, and Power in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania Conference, Portland, OR, February 7-12
- 2012 The Faces of Deception: Childhood, Age, and Avoiding Giving in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Comparative Human Development Workshop, University of Chicago, January 10.
- 2011 Performing Immaturity: Transparency, Economics, and the Socialization of Self in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the AAA annual conference, Montreal, November 16-20
- 2011 I Hate You: Marshallese Children's Transparent Speech. Presented at the Michicagoan Linguistic Anthropology conference, Ann Arbor, MI, May 6-7
- 2011 It's Okay To Be Greedy: Avoiding Giving Between Children and Adults in the Marshall Islands. Presented at the Society for Psychological Anthropology conference, Santa Monica, CA, March 31-April 3
- 2011 Avoiding Giving: The Linguistic Construction of Goods. Presented at the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania conference, Honolulu, HI, February 9-12
- 2010 Marshallese Children: Alienable Goods. Presented at the AAA annual conference, New Orleans, LA, November 17-21
- 2009 The Social Efficacy of Immaturity: Implications for our Understanding of Religion. Presented at the joint Society for Psychological Anthropology and Society for the Anthropology of Religion conference, Asilomar, CA, March 27-29
- 2008 Ideologies of Truth and Deception: Interactive Life Among the K'iche' Maya. Presented at the Michicagoan Linguistic Anthropology conference, Chicago, IL, May 2-4
- 2008 How to Avoid a 'Bitten Heart': K'iche' Maya Children as Buffers of Malicious Adult Interactions. Joint Society for Anthropological Sciences and Society for Cross-Cultural Research conference, New Orleans, LA, February 20-23

## TEACHING

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### University Level Courses

- 2012-2014 Introduction to Anthropology [four-field]  
UNC Charlotte
- 2012-2014 Intercultural Communication (graduate and undergraduate, taught as an applied linguistic anthropology course)  
UNC Charlotte
- 2011, 2014 Anthropology of Childhood and Immaturity  
University of Chicago and UNC Charlotte
- 2009 Self, Culture, and Society II: Culture  
University of Chicago, Winter
- 2008-2009 Self, Culture, and Society (Teaching Intern)  
University of Chicago, Fall-Winter-Spring

### Graduate Committees

Michelle Gray, MA in progress (chair)

### Other Teaching Employment

- 2004-2005 Anthropology and Ancient Civilizations, Middle School Teacher  
Ethical Culture Fieldston School, Bronx, New York  
The seventh grade social studies curriculum at Fieldston is anthropology. I taught units on biological, archaeological, linguistic, and sociocultural anthropology.
- 2003-2004 English and Math, Elementary School Teacher  
Kili Elementary School, Kili Island, Marshall Islands

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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- 2013-2014 Committee member, Anthropology Department search committee for new chair
- 2013-2014 Referee, *Ethos*
- 2013 Session organizer, Society for Psychological Anthropology and Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group Joint Meeting
- “From Childhood and Youth to Age: New Directions in Psychological Anthropology”
- 2012 Referee, Anthropology of Childhood and Youth Interest Group (ACYIG) Newsletter
- 2012 Working session organizer, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania conference
- “Avoiding Giving in Oceania”
- 2011 Session organizer, American Anthropological Association conference
- “Constructing Age Differences: Language Ideology and Language Socialization”

- 2011 Session organizer (with Allison Fasoli), Society for Psychological Anthropology conference  
 • “Children, Adolescents, and the Semiotics of Giving”
- 2011 Informal session organizer, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania conference  
 • “Avoiding Giving in Oceania”
- 2011 Referee, *Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education*
- 2009 Referee, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*
- 2005-2008 Human Development Student Association (HDSA), University of Chicago
- 2007 Member of Annual Allocations Committee, student government, University of Chicago
- 2006 Member of organizing committee, ‘Michicagoan’ Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Chicago

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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American Anthropological Association

*Sections:* American Ethnological Society, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Society for Psychological Anthropology, Anthropology of Children and Childhood Interest Group, Council on Anthropology and Education, Society for Linguistic Anthropology

Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania

## LANGUAGES

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Marshallese (Excellent), Spanish (Intermediate/Advanced), K’iche’ Maya (Beginner)

## REFERENCES

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John Lucy

William Benton Professor, Department of Comparative Human Development  
 University of Chicago  
[johnlucy@uchicago.edu](mailto:johnlucy@uchicago.edu)  
 (773) 702-3517

Jennifer Cole

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Susan Blum

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 University of Notre Dame  
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Elizabeth Miller  
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