

BRENDA CHALFIN

12/07

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Current Position

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Affiliate Faculty, African Studies
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
2007-present

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and Affiliate Faculty, African Studies
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
2001-2007

Research Interests

Anthropology of the State, Political Economy, International Commerce, Commodities,
Globalization, Bureaucracy, Borders, Interdisciplinarity, African Studies

Education

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Ph.D. Anthropology, 1998

Dissertation: "Contingent Conjunctures: Market Reforms, the State and Rural Women's
Livelihoods in Northeastern Ghana"

Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts
B.A. Anthropology, Magna cum Laude, 1986

Fellowships

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC
Awarded 2005-2006 Fellowship [Accepted Spring 2006 only]

Institute for Advanced Study, School of Social Science, Princeton, NJ
One-year Residential Fellowship, 2002-2003

National Science Foundation, Research Design in Cultural Anthropology Program
Fellowship to participate in Summer Institute, University of California at Irvine, 1997

Awards and Grants

DFID/ODI (UK), Africa Power and Politics Programme Collaborative Grant, Co-PI through
Center for African Studies, University of Florida. 2007-2011

US Dept. of Education, Center for Business Education and Research, University of Florida
Summer Research Award (\$18,000), Summer 2006, Summer 2007

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida,

- Humanities Enhancement Award (\$7500), Summer 2005.
- University of Florida International Center, Internationalizing the Curriculum Award (\$3000) Summer 2005.
- Center for African Studies, University of Florida, Course Development Grant (\$1000), Summer 2005.
- Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
Post-Doctoral Grant (\$15,000) to fund research in Ghana
“Working the Border: Constructing Sovereignty in the Context of Liberalization,” 2001
- National Science Foundation, Cultural Anthropology Program
Small Grant for Exploratory Research (\$25,000) to fund research in Ghana
“Working the Border: Constructing Sovereignty in the Context of Liberalization”, 2000
- Southwest Institute for Research on Women, University of Arizona
Fellowship to participate in “Global Processes, Local Lives: Comparative Approaches to Women’s and Area Studies” Summer Institute, 1997
- Fulbright Award, Institute for International Education
Dissertation Research Grant (\$23,000), 1994-95
- Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
Pre-Doctoral Grant to fund Dissertation Research in Ghana (\$12,000), 1994-95
- Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship – US Dept. of Education, Title VI
Tuition and Stipend for Intensive Hausa, Yale University, Summer 1993
- William Penn Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
Four years full tuition plus stipend, 1988-1992
- Research Grant, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
Dissertation Feasibility Study Grant (\$4,000), Summer, 1990
- Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society, Grant-in-Aid
Dissertation Feasibility Study Grant, Summer 1990
- Amherst College, Alumni Fellowship
Dissertation Feasibility Study Grant, Summer 1990

Book Manuscripts

Shea Butter Republic: State Power, Global Markets and the Making of an Indigenous Commodity, Routledge, New York, 2004

Sovereignty and the Fault Lines of Neoliberalism. Book Manuscript. (under review)

Refereed Publications

“Cars, the Customs Service and Sumptuary Rule in Contemporary Ghana,” Comparative Studies in Society and History, Forthcoming, Winter 2007

“Customs Regimes and the Materiality of Global Mobility: Governing the Port of Rotterdam,” American Behavioral Scientist, vol. 50, no. 12, pp. 1610-1630.
<http://ABS.sagepub.com/content/vol50/issue12>.

“Enlarging the Anthropology of the State: Global Customs Regimes and the Traffic in Sovereignty,” Current Anthropology, v. 47, no.2, April 2006, pp. 243-276

“Old Commodities in New Niches: The Case of Shea,” Journal of African Economic History, Fall 2004, pp. 51-63

“Border Scans: Sovereignty, Surveillance and the Customs Service in Ghana,” Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power, June- Sept. 2004, vol.11, no. 3, pp. 397-416

“Border Zone Trade and the Economic Boundaries of the State in North-east Ghana,” Africa, June 2001, vol. 71, no. 2, pp. 197-224

“Working the Border: Constructing Sovereignty in the Context of Liberalization,” Political and Legal Anthropology Review, May 2001, vol. 24, no.1, pp. 129-148

Risky Business: Economic Uncertainty, Market Reforms and Female Livelihoods in Northeast Ghana,” Development and Change (The Hague), November 2000, vol. 31, no. 5, pp. 987-1008

“Market Reforms and the State: The Case of Shea in Ghana,” Journal of Modern African Studies September 1996, vol. 34, no. 3, pp. 421-439

Non-Refereed Publications

“Working the Border in Ghana: Technologies of Sovereignty and Its Others,” School of Social Science Occasional Paper, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J., November 2003, Paper Number 16

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“The North Goes Global: Export Markets and Indigenous Commodities,” The Northern Ghana Reader , Franz Kroeger and Barbara Meier eds., Peter Lang (2003)

“The Changing Face of ‘One-Mouth’: Household Labor and Commercial Intensification in Northern Ghana,” At the Interface: The Household and Beyond, Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Proceedings, D. Small and N. Tannenbaum eds., University Press of America, 1999.

Book Reviews

Lynne Brydon and Karen Legge, *Adjusting Society: The World Bank, the IMF and Ghana*, Africa Today, November 1997, vol. 44, no. 4

Jane Guyer, *Marginal Gains: Monetary Transactions in Atlantic Africa*. Journal of Anthropological Research, 2004

Karen Hansen and Mariken Vaa, *Reconsidering Informality: Perspectives from Urban Africa*, International Journal of African Historical Studies, 2006, vol. 39, no.1

Presentations

“Criminalized Economies, Customs Regimes and the Security Industry on the Maritime Frontier,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Jose, CA. November 15, 2006.

“Trafficking Sovereignty: Customs Regimes and Material Governance in a Multilateral Age,” Paper presented at the Fellows Seminar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Washington, DC. April 18, 2006.

“Customs Regimes, the Sub-terrain of governance and the Materiality of Things: A View from the Port of Rotterdam,” International Boundaries Research Unit, Border Management in an Insecure World Conference, Durham University (UK), April 6, 2006.

“Trafficking Sovereignty: Borders, Commerce, and the Global Customs Industry,” 37th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology, Territorial Mobilities: Control, Order and Counterstrategies Panel, Stockholm, Sweden, July 6, 2005.

“Customs, the State and the Making of Neoliberal Sovereignty in West Africa: Excursions in Airport Anthropology,” Indiana University, African Studies Seminar, Bloomington, Indiana, Dec. 1, 2004.

“Cars, Customs and the Moralities of State Modernity in Ghana,” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Panel: The Symbolics of State Modernity in Ghana, New Orleans, Louisiana, Nov. 12, 2004.

“Sovereignty as Industry: Producing a Global Customs Regime,” Society for Cultural Anthropology, Annual Meeting, Panel: Border Regimes, Portland, Oregon, April 29-30, 2004.

“Airport Anthropology: Globalization and the Shifting Frontiers of Customs, Class and Corruption in Ghana,” Institute for Advanced Study, Corruption Seminar, Princeton, NJ, Mar. 12, 2003

“Sovereignty, Surveillance and Subversion: Transnationalizing the Ghana Customs Service,” University of Pennsylvania Anthropology Seminar, Philadelphia, PA, Mar. 3, 2003

“Working the Border in Ghana: Technologies of Sovereignty and its Others,” School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, Feb. 6, 2003

“What does it mean for an anthropologist to study the state in Africa?” African Studies Association Annual Meetings, Roundtable: “Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the State in Africa,” Washington DC, Dec. 6, 2002

“Panoptics, Place and Power: Locating Truth in a West African Customs Regime” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Panel: “Surveillance, State power and Civilian Status in Colonial and Post-Colonial Contexts,” New Orleans, LA, Nov. 21, 2002

“Navigating State Power in Ghana: The Frontiers of Customs and Class” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Wash. DC, Nov.28-Dec.2, 2001

“The Frontiers of Customs and Class: Reframing the Boundaries of State and Citizenship in Ghana” African Studies Association Annual Meetings, Houston, TX, Nov. 15-18, 2001

“Working the Border: Constructing Sovereignty in the Context of Liberalization,”
Masters Seminar, Institute for African Studies, University of Ghana, Sept. 21, 2000

“Reforming Sovereignty: Cross Border Trade and the Nation-State in Northern Ghana,”
American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Nov. 17-21, 1999
African Economies Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, March 5, 1999.

“The ‘Body’ Shops the World Market: Naturalizing Cosmetics Production and Consumption”
American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Phila., PA, Dec. 2-6, 1998

“Risky Business: Rural Traders, Structural Adjustment and Economic Uncertainty in Northeast Ghana” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 1998

“Centering the Margin: The Border Zone Economies of Northeast Ghana” African Studies Association Annual Meetings, Columbus, OH, Nov. 13-16, 1997

“The Changing Face of ‘One-Mouth’: Household Labor and Commercial Intensification in Northeast Ghana,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 20-24, 1996; African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 23-26, 1996; Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meetings, Lehigh University, March 22-23, 1996

“Embattled Markets: Export Promotion and Women’s Role in Market Reform in West Africa – A Case Study from Northern Ghana,” Colloquium, Dept. of Anthropology, Colorado College, Nov. 6, 1996

“Market Reforms and the State: The Case of Shea in Ghana,” Institute of Economic Affairs, Accra, Ghana, Aug. 22, 1996

“State-Owned Enterprises and Market Reforms under Structural Adjustment: The Case of Ghana’s Shea Economy,” African Studies Association Annual Meetings, Orlando, FL., Nov. 3-6, 1995

Fieldwork and Research

Interviews and Observations, Ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam, June 2006, July 2007.

Interviews and Tour, Ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam, March 2006.

Interviews, USAID, USTR, Booz-Allen, Bearing Point, Washington DC, January-June 2006

Interviews, European Commission, Customs and Taxation Division, June 2005, June 2006.

Interviews, Participant-Observation, Library Research, World Customs Organization,
Brussels, June 2006, Brussels, June 2005, Brussels, July 2004, Johannesburg, October
2003, Cancun, April 2003.

Pilot Study, Urban Ethnography, Accra, Ghana, May 2005.

Ethnographic Study of State Sovereignty and the Ghana Customs Service, Aug. 2000-Sept. 2001

Ethnography of Ghana's Shea Economy, March 1994 – August 1995

Study of Marketing Systems in Northeast Ghana, July-October 1990

Research on the Female Lifecycle among the Mende of Sierra Leone, Fall 1985

Community Development Volunteer, Operation CrossRoads Africa, Ghana, Summer 1985

National Museum of Kenya Internship, Gede Ruins, Malindi, Kenya, Spring 1984

Additional Academic Employment

Research Affiliate, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana,
2000-2001, 1994-5, 1990

Co-director, Summer Program in Ghana, University of Denver
August 1996, July 1998, July 2000

Honorarium Faculty, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Colorado at Denver
1998, 1999

Instructor, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver
1999, 2000

Service

Advisory Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, 2005-2007.

Advisory Committee, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, 2005-2007

Grant Reviewer, Social Science Research Council, IDRF Program, 2001, 2002, 2003

Organizer and Chair, Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the State in Africa Roundtable,
African Studies Association Annual Meetings, Washington DC, Dec. 6, 2002

Organizer and Co-Chair, Surveillance, State power and Civilian Status in Colonial and Post-
Colonial Contexts Panel, American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, New Orleans,
LA, Nov. 21, 2002.

Co-Chair, Sustainable Development, Quality of Life and the Environment Deliberative Session,
National Summit on Africa, Washington, DC, Feb. 18-21, 2000; National Summit on Africa,
Regional Summit, Denver, Colorado, Sept. 23-24, 1999

Organizer and Chair, Cartographies of Value: Space, Property and Power in Africa Panel
American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Nov. 17-21, 1999

References:

Dr. Jane Guyer
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