

ROBERT JOHN FOSTER

University of Rochester
Department of Anthropology
Rochester, NY 14627-0161 USA
Tel: 585-275-3691
Fax: 585-273-5331
Robert.Foster@Rochester.edu

PERSONAL

Born: August 22, 1957, Brooklyn, New York

EDUCATION

- 1981 - 1988 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
Thesis: "Social Reproduction and Value in a New Ireland Society, Tanga Islands, Papua New Guinea."
- 1980 - 1981 Diploma in Social Anthropology, University of Oxford, Oxford, England.
- 1979 - 1980 M.A., Anthropology, Columbia University, New York, New York.
M.A. Paper: "Hierarchy and Value: The Organization of Mehinaku Ideology."
- 1975 - 1979 B.A. (Hons.), Anthropology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Honors Thesis: "Exchange, Ritual, and Identity among the Maring of Papua New Guinea."

CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2004 - Professor of Anthropology, The College, University of Rochester; (Professor and Mercer Brugler Distinguished Teaching Professor, 2005-2008; Professor & Chair of Anthropology 2004-2005; 2008-2011; 2012-2015; Assoc. Professor & Chair of Anthropology 2001-2004; Associate Professor 1996-2001; Assistant Professor 1990-1996).
- 2007 - Professor of Visual and Cultural Studies; Associated Faculty Member, Graduate Program in Visual and Cultural Studies (1994-2007); Steering/Advisory Committee Member (1995-).
- 2007 - Research Associate, Buffalo Museum of Science
- 2010 - Adjunct Professor, College of Asian and Pacific Studies, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

- 2011 Wyse Visiting Professor, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge.
- 2011 Visiting Fellow, Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Queensland.
- 2010 Visiting Fellow, College of Asian and Pacific Studies, School of Culture, History and Language, The Australian National University.
- 2009 Visiting Fellow, Gender Relations Centre, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University.
- 2005 Visiting Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.
- 1991 - 92; 1995 Visiting Fellow, Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University.
- 1987 - 1990 William Rainey Harper Postdoctoral Instructor, University of Chicago, Social Sciences Collegiate Division; Associated Faculty Member, Department of Anthropology.
- 1987 Lecturer, University of Chicago, Social Sciences Collegiate Division. Social Sciences 103: "Interpretations of Culture," Spring Quarter.
- 1986 - 1987 Lecturer, University of Chicago, Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences. Social Sciences 300: "Perspectives in Social Science Analysis," Autumn Quarter, 1986; Program Advisor (Preceptor) to 25 M.A. students.
- 1986 Lecturer, DePaul University, Department of Sociology. Sociology 202: "Cultural Anthropology," Winter and Spring Quarters.

MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 1984 - 85; 1992 Papua New Guinea (PNG). Eighteen months of anthropological fieldwork and archival research on the economic and cultural history of a rural island community (Tanga Islands, New Ireland Province), focusing on the social organization of mortuary feasting and gift exchange.

- 1989 - 2002 Ethnographic and historical research on the formation of nation-states and national cultures, especially in the post-colonies of the Pacific Basin, including PNG.
- 1997 - present Multidisciplinary, multi-sited research on globalization, media, consumption, corporations and commodity chains, especially soft drink commodity chains.
- 2006 - present Research on the history of the P.G.T. Black Collection of Pacific Islands artifacts at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING SPECIALIZATIONS

Topics: Social Theory, Political Economy, Nationalism, Globalization, Material Culture, Consumption, Commodity Chains, Mass Media, Ritual.

Ethnographic Areas: Papua New Guinea, Melanesia, Oceania.

Courses Taught: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology; Modern Social Theory; Ethnographic Themes; Theories and Debates in Anthropology; Nations and Nationalism; Culture, Consumption, Consumerism; Ritual and Cosmology; Global Culture; Senior Seminar; The Corporation.

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2013 Central New York Humanities Corridor Award, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (with Marina Welker).
- 2011 - 2012 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for College Teachers.
American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship.
- 2009 Australian National University Vice-Chancellor's Travel Award for Visiting International Academics.
- 2008 Robert B. Goergen Award for Distinguished Achievement and Artistry in Undergraduate Teaching.
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend.
University of Rochester Bridging Fellowship, Spring Semester.
- 2007 Honorary Member, Keidaeans, Senior Undergraduate Honor Society at the University of Rochester.

- 2006 Honorary Member, Golden Key International Honour Society.
- 2005 Appointed Mercer Brugler Distinguished Teaching Professor (2005-2008).
- 2003 Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.
- 2002 Nominee, University of Rochester Student's Association Undergraduate Professor of the Year Award.
- 1999 - 2000 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for College Teachers.
- 1998 Nominee, University of Rochester Student's Association Undergraduate Professor of the Year Award.
- 1997 Advertising Educational Foundation, Visiting Professor Program, (Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising, New York).
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend.
- 1994 - 95 Spencer Foundation Small Grants Program Award.
- 1993 University of Rochester Student's Association Teacher of the Year Award, Honorable Mention.
- 1991 - 92 Fulbright Senior Scholar Award (Australia), Council for International Exchange of Scholars.
- 1991 American Council of Learned Societies Research Fellowship for Recent Recipients of the Ph.D.
- 1990 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend.
- 1989 Center for International Studies, University of Chicago. Hewlett Foundation support for initiating new research.
- 1984 - 1985 Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education (Grant No. 600-83-008510).
National Science Foundation Grant for Doctoral Dissertation Research (BNS-8312747).
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Grant-In-Aid (Declined).
- 1980 - 1983 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship.

1979 - 1980 Herbert H. Lehman Graduate Fellowship in the Social Sciences,
New York State Education Department.

1978 Phi Beta Kappa; Appointed Student Marshal.
Hedwig Loeb Scholarship for Undergraduate Research.

BOOKS

2008 Coca-Globalization: Following Soft Drinks from New York to
New Guinea. New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, Global Publishing
at St. Martin's Press.

2002 Materializing the Nation: Commodities, Consumption and Media
in Papua New Guinea. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

1995 Social Reproduction and History in Melanesia: Mortuary Ritual,
Gift Exchange and Custom in the Tanga Islands. Cambridge:
Cambridge University Press.

1995 Nation Making: Emergent Identities in Postcolonial Melanesia.
Edited Volume. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (1997,
paper edition).

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

Submitted "On Dumont, Strathern and Coming to Terms with Mortuary
Feasting and Exchange in Melanesia." In Dumont in Oceania.
Eds. S. Tcherkezoff and J. Robbins. New York: Berghahn Books.

In Press "Adversaries into Partners? Brand Coca-Cola® and the Politics of
Consumer-Citizenship." In Green Consumption: The Global Rise
of Eco-Chic. Eds. B. Barendregt and R. Jaffe. London:
Bloomsbury.

2012 "Coca-Globalization." In The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of
Globalization. Ed. George Ritzer. Volume 1. Pp. 228-30. Oxford:
Blackwell.

2011 "The Uses of Use Value: Marketing, Value Creation, and the
Exigencies of Consumption Work." In Inside Marketing:
Practices, Ideologies, Devices. Eds. D. Zwick and J. Cayla.
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 42-57.

- 2006 “Tracking Globalization: Commodities and Value in Motion.” In The Sage Handbook of Material Culture. Eds. C. Tilley et. al. London: Sage. pp. 285-302.
- 2005 “Afterword: Frustrating Modernity in Melanesia.” In The Making of Global and Local Modernities in Melanesia: Humiliation, Transformation and the Nature of Cultural Change. J. Robbins and H. Wardlow, (eds.). U.K.:Ashgate Publishing. pp. 207-216.
- 2002 “Bargains with Modernity in Papua New Guinea and Elsewhere.” In Critically Modern: Alterities, Alternatives, Anthropologies. B. Knauft, (ed.). Bloomington: Indiana University Press. pp. 57-81.
- 2001 “Oceania, sociocultural overviews: Melanesia.” International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences. Oxford: Elsevier Science Limited.
- 2001 “Unvarnished Truths: Maslyn Williams and Australian Government Film in Papua and New Guinea.” In N. MacPherson, (ed.) In Colonial New Guinea. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. pp. 64-81.
- 1999 “In God We Trust? The Legitimacy of Melanesian Currencies.” In J. Robbins and D. Akin, (eds.) Money and Modernity: State and Local Currencies in Melanesia. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. pp. 214-231.
- 1998 “Your Money, Our Money, the Government’s Money: Finance and Fetishism in Melanesia.” In Patricia Spyer (ed.) Border Fetishisms: Material Objects in Unstable Places. New York: Routledge. pp. 60-90.
- 1996 “State Ritual: Ethnographic Notes on Voting in the Tanga Islands, Namatanai Electorate, New Ireland Province, June, 1992.” In Yaw Saffu (ed.) The 1992 Papua New Guinea Election: Change and Continuity in Electoral Politics. Canberra: Department of Political and Social Change, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University. pp. 144-167.
- 1995 “Introduction: The Work of Nation Making.” In Robert Foster (ed.) Nation Making: Emergent Identities in Postcolonial Melanesia.
- 1995 “Nation Making and Print Advertisements in Papua New Guinea.” In Robert Foster (ed.) Nation-Making: Emergent Identities in

Postcolonial Melanesia. (**Reprinted** in Advertising and Society Review, Issue 1, 2000; **Reprinted** in Consumption: Critical Concepts in the Social Sciences. Daniel Miller, ed. London: Routledge, 2001; **Reprinted** in Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands. Victoria Lockwood, ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2004; **Reprinted in Chinese Translation** in Sea of Islands: Anthropological Studies of Oceania. Yuan-chao Tung, ed. Taipei: Taiwan Commercial Press, 2009.)

- 1993 “Dangerous Circulation and Revelatory Display: Exchange Practices in a New Ireland Society.” In Jane Fajans (ed.) Exchanging Products: Producing Exchange. Sydney: Oceania Monograph Series, No. 43, pp. 15-31.

ARTICLES

- 2013 “Things to Do with Brands: Creating and Calculating Value.” In The Paradox of Value(s). Eds. T. Otto and R. Willerslev. Special Issue, HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory 3(1): 44-63.
- 2012 “Big Men and Business: Morality, Debt and the Corporation. A Perspective.” Social Anthropology 20(4): 486-90.
- 2012 “Notes for a Networked Cultural Biography: The P.G.T. Black Collection of Oceanic Things.” Museum Anthropology 35(2): 149-169.
- 2012 “Art/Artifact/Commodity: Installation Design and the Exhibition of Oceanic Things at Two New York Museums in the 1940s.” TAJA: The Australian Journal of Anthropology 23: 129-157.
- 2010 “Corporate Oxymorons and the Anthropology of Corporations.” Dialectical Anthropology. 34 (1): 95-102. (published online 26 September 2009)
- 2008 “Show and Tell: Teaching Critical Fetishism with a Bottle of Coke®.” Anthropology News (April), 49 (4): 38.
- 2008 “Commodities, Brands, Love and Kula: Comparative Notes on Value Creation.” Anthropological Theory 8 (1): 9-25.
- 2007 “The Work of the ‘New Economy’: Consumers, Brands and Value.” Cultural Anthropology 22 (4): 707-731. **Reprinted:** Cultural Anthropology, Vol. 4. Eds. M. and K. Fortun, Sage, 2010.

- 2006 “From Trobriand Cricket to Rugby Nation: The Mission of Sport in Papua New Guinea.” International Journal of the History of Sport 23 (5): 739-758.
- 2005 “Consumer Citizenship, Nationalism, and Neoliberal Globalization in Turkey: The Advertising Launch of Cola Turka” (Derya Özkan and Robert Foster) Advertising & Society Review 6 (3).
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/asr/v006/6.3ozkan_foster.html
- 2005 “Commodity Futures: Labor, Love and Value.” Anthropology Today 21 (4): 8-12.
- 2005 “Negotiating Globalization: Contemporary Pacific Perspectives.” In M. Kaplan, ed. Outside Gods, Foreign Powers: Making Local History with Global Means in the Pacific, Special Issue, Ethnohistory 52 (1): 167-77.
- 2003 Comment. “The Archaeology and Ethnohistory of Exchange in Precolonial and Colonial Roviana: Gifts, Commodities and Inalienable Possessions” by S. Aswani and P. Sheppard. Current Anthropology 44, Supplement, p. S72.
- 2002 “Boys and Their Trading Cards.” In Consumers, 1e. Eric J. Arnould, Linda Price, George Zinkhan. Boston: McGraw-Hill, p. 682. (Excerpt from Foster and Foster 1994; see Papers Presented).
- 2002 “Bargains with Modernity in Papua New Guinea and Elsewhere.” Anthropological Theory 2 (2): 233-251.
- 2001 Interview with Myra Stark, Director of Knowledge Management and Consumer Insights, Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising. Advertising and Society Review 2 (2).
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/asr/v002/2.2stark.html>
- 1999 “The Commercial Construction of ‘New’ Nations.” Journal of Material Culture 4 (3): 263-282
- 1999 “TV Talk in Papua New Guinea: A Search for Policy in a Weak State.” Pacific Journalism Review 5 (1): 53-78, November 1998/March 1999.
- 1999 “Melanesianist Anthropology in the Era of Globalization.” The Contemporary Pacific. Vol 11 (1): 140-159, February 1999.

- 1996/97 “Commercial Mass Media in Papua New Guinea: Notes on Agency, Bodies, and Commodity Consumption.” Visual Anthropology Review 12 (2): 1-17.
- 1992 “Commoditization and the Emergence of Kastam as a Cultural Category: A New Ireland Case in Comparative Perspective.” In M. Jolly and N. Thomas (eds.) The Politics of Tradition in the South Pacific, Special Issue, Oceania 62 (4): 284-94.
- 1992 “Take Care of Public Telephones: Moral Education and Nation-State Formation in Papua New Guinea.” Public Culture 4 (2): 31-45.
- 1991 “Making National Cultures in the Global Ecumene.” Annual Review of Anthropology 20: 235-60. (**Chinese translation** in Bulletin of Anthropological and Folkloric Research, Institute of Sociology and Anthropology, Peking University, Issues 26-27, September 1996, Beijing, trans. by Yue Mei.)
- 1990 “Nurture and Force-feeding: Mortuary Feasting and the Construction of Collective Individuals in a New Ireland Society.” American Ethnologist 17 (3): 431-448.
- 1990 “Value Without Equivalence: Exchange and Replacement in a Melanesian Society.” Man (N.S.) 25 (1): 54-69.
- 1987 “Thick Beyond Description: Ethnography and Culture as Trope.” Review Article on Asiwinarong: Ethos, Image, and Social Power among the Usen Barok of New Ireland, and Symbols That Stand for Themselves by Roy Wagner. Oceania 58 (2): 148-156.
- 1987 “Komine and Tanga: A Note on Writing the History of German New Guinea.” Journal of Pacific History 12 (1): 56-64.
- 1985 “Production and Value in the Enga Tee.” Oceania 55 (3): 182-196.

REVIEWS

- 2012 Review of Managing Modernity in the Western Pacific, M. Patterson and M. Macintyre, eds. The Journal of Pacific History 47(4):523-24.
- 2010 Review of The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen by Warwick Anderson. Pacific Affairs 83 (2): 430-32.

- 2008 Review of Unstable Images: Colonial Discourse on New Ireland, Papua New Guinea, 1875-1935 by Brenda Johnson Clay. The Australian Journal of Anthropology. 19 (3): 352-53.
- 2006 Author's Response. Book Review Forum. Materializing the Nation. Pacific Studies 29 (3/4): 126-137.
- 2000 Review of Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa by Charles Piot. American Ethnologist 27 (4): 961-962.
- 1997 Review of To Remember the Faces of the Dead: The Plenitude of Memory in Southwest New Britain by Thomas Maschio. The Contemporary Pacific 9 (1): 268-70.
- 1995 Review of From Muyuw to the Trobriands: Transformations along the Northern Side of the Kula Ring by Frederick H. Damon. Canberra Anthropology 18 (1&2): 186-87.
- 1995 Review of Inalienable Possessions: The Paradox of Keeping-While-Giving by Annette B. Weiner. American Ethnologist 22 (3): 628-29.
- 1994 Review of Nation-States and Indians in Latin America, Gregory Urban and Joel Sherzer, eds. American Ethnologist 21 (4): 1087-88.
- 1993 Review of Big Men and Great Men: Personifications of Power in Melanesia, Maurice Godelier and Marilyn Strathern, eds. The Contemporary Pacific 5 (1): 177-79.
- 1991 Review of Ku Waru: Language and Segmentary Politics in the Western Nebilyer Valley, Papua New Guinea by Francesca Merlan and Alan Rumsey. The Australian Journal of Anthropology 2 (3): 342-44.
- 1991 Review of Nationalist Ideologies and the Production of National Cultures, Richard G. Fox, ed. American Anthropologist 93 (2): 497-98.
- 1991 Review of Death Rituals and Life in the Societies of the Kula Ring, Frederick Damon and Roy Wagner, eds. Pacific Affairs 64 (1): 147-49.

- 1991 Review of Wage, Trade, and Exchange in Melanesia: A Manus Society in the Modern State by James and Achsah Carrier. Oceania 61 (3): 269-70.
- 1991 Review of Mass Consumption and Material Culture by Daniel Miller. Man (N. S.) 26 (3): 170-71.
- 1990 Review of The Heart of the Pearlshell: The Mythological Dimension of Foi Sociality by James F. Weiner. Man (N.S.) 25 (3): 561-562.
- 1983 Review of The Kula: New Perspectives in Massim Exchange. Eds. J. Leach and E. Leach. Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford 14 (3): 311-314.

PAPERS PRESENTED, SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- 2013 Invited Speaker. "Adversaries into Partners?: Brand Value, Consumer-Citizens, and The Coca-Cola Company." Marjorie Helen Stewart Speaker Series. Department of Anthropology, SUNY Brockport, April 22nd."
- 2012 "Corporations as Partners: Connected Capitalism" and The Coca-Cola Company." Paper presented at the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 16th.
- 2012 "The Social Life Things: What Can One Museum Collection Tell Us About Entanglements Around Objects from Oceania?" Melanesian and Pacific Studies Center Seminar, University of Papua New Guinea, May 10th.
- 2012 "The Hidden Life of Things: The Untold Story of the P.G.T. Black Collection of Pacific Island Artifacts at the Buffalo Museum of Science." Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery, May 4th.
- 2012 "New Perspectives on Global Commodity Chains: The Case of Coca-Cola®." Vice-Chancellor's Public Lecture Series, University of Papua New Guinea, April 25th.
- 2012 "The Hidden Life of Things: The Untold Story of the P.G.T. Black Collection of Pacific Artifacts at the Buffalo Museum of Science." Conable Distinguished Lecture Series in International Relations, Rochester Institute of Technology, March 28th.

- 2012 “Installation Design and the Exhibition of Oceanic Things: Two New York Museums in the 1940s.” Paper presented at the Dornsife International Museum Institute, University of Southern California, February 3rd.
- 2012 “Commodity Forensics: The Secret Life of the P.G.T. Black Collection.” Paper presented at Art/Artifact/Commodity: The Currency of Oceanic Things. International Symposium, Buffalo Museum of Science, January 6th.
- 2012 Organizer, International Symposium. Art/Artifact/Commodity: The Currency of Oceanic Things. Buffalo Museum of Science, January 6-7. Held in conjunction with Co-curated Exhibition, Journeys Into Papua, September 16, 2011-January 8, 2012.
- 2011 Invited Participant. “Calculating Value: What does Brand Valuation Say about the Present and Future of Capitalism?” Workshop on the Anthropology of Value. The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Cairns, December 15th.
- 2011 Invited Speaker. “How ‘Natives’ Think (About Money, For Example): Maslyn Williams’s Reserve Bank Films.” *New Guinea Patrol: One-Day Symposium*. College of Asian and Pacific Studies, School of Culture, History and Language, The Australian National University, December 9th.
- 2011 “Commodity Forensics: The Secret Life of the P.G.T. Black Collection.” Paper presented at the 110th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, November 18th.
- 2011 “Installation Design and the Exhibition of Oceanic Things: Two New York Museums in the 1940s.” Paper presented at the Manchester Museum and Department of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester, November 8th.
- 2011 “New Perspectives on Global Commodity Chains: The Case of Coca-Cola®.” Paper presented at the Departments of Anthropology and Geography, University College London, November 3rd.
- 2011 “Adversaries Into Partners?: Coca-Cola® and the Politics of Consumer-Citizenship.” Paper presented at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, October 28th.
- 2011 Invited Speaker. “Adversaries Into Partners?: Coca-Cola® and the Politics of Consumer-Citizenship.” European Science

Foundation/University of Linköping Research Conference. Eco-Chic: Connecting Ethical, Sustainable and Elite Consumption. Linköping, Sweden, October 10th.

- 2011 “Installation Design and the Exhibition of Oceanic Things: Two New York Museums in the 1940s.” Paper presented at The Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies and the Contemporary Culture and Society seminar series, School of Social and Political Sciences. University of Melbourne, June 2nd.
- 2011 “Things to Do with Brands: Creating, Calculating, and Contesting Value.” Paper presented at Markets, Materiality and Consumer Practices: An Interdisciplinary Research Workshop with Professor Robert J. Foster. Organized by Professor Gay Hawkins and Dr. Anna Pertierra, Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Queensland. May 26 and 27, 2011.
- 2011 “Installation Design and the Exhibition of Oceanic Things: Two New York Museums in the 1940s.” Paper presented at the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, The University of Queensland, May 24th.
- 2011 Invited Speaker, “End of the Chain? The Place of Consumption in Value Chain Analysis” and “Shaking the Chain: Coca-Cola® and the Global Politics of Consumer-Citizenship.” Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Northeastern University, Second Annual Conference on Globalization, “Global Commodities: Chained and Unchained.” Boston, March 31st.
- 2011 Panel Moderator, “Technology, Taste and Innovation.” Inaugural Conable Conference in International Studies, Rochester Institute of Technology, March 25th.
- 2010 “Installation Design and the Exhibition of Oceanic Things: Two New York Museums in the 1940s.” Paper presented at the College of Asian and Pacific Studies, School of Culture, History and Language, The Australian National University, June 25th.
- 2010 “On Value(s): Dumont, Strathern and Coming to Terms with Mortuary Feasting and Exchange in Tanga.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Washington, DC, February 12th. [Session Cancelled due to Weather]

- 2009 “The Uses of Use Value.” Paper presented at the 108th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 4th.
- 2009 Invited Discussant: Branding and Goods Beyond the Socialist/Post-Socialist Divide. Session organized for the 108th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 2nd.
- 2009 “The Uses of Use Value: Brands, Rent and Consumption Work.” Paper presented to the Department of Marketing, Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto, November 20th.
- 2009 “Block that Metaphor?: Personhood, Citizenship and the Corporation.” Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, Cornell University, September 25th.
- 2009 “Block that Metaphor?: Personhood, Citizenship and the Corporation.” Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, College of Asian and Pacific Studies, Australian National University, August 5th.
- 2009 “Two or Three Things that I know about Use Value.” Paper presented to the School of Archeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University, July 31st.
- 2009 “The Cultural Biography of the P.G. Black Collection of Pacific Islands Artifacts.” Public Lecture, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, July 28th.
- 2009 “The Cultural Biography of the P.G. Black Collection of Pacific Islands Artifacts.” Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, July 23rd.
- 2009 A discussion of Warwick Anderson’s *The Collectors of Lost Souls*. Melanesia Symposium, Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, July 20th.
- 2009 Palm Oil Research Collective (PORC). Organized inaugural workshop at Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester, May 12-13th.

- 2009 Keynote Address: “Block that Metaphor?: Personhood, Citizenship and the Corporation.” Michicagoan—11th Annual University of Michigan and University of Chicago Linguistic Anthropology Graduate Conference. Ann Arbor, May 8th.
- 2009 “The Cultural Biography of the P.G. Black Collection of Pacific Islands Artifacts.” Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, March 30th.
- 2009 Invited Speaker: “Three Things that I Know About Use Value.” Material Geographies Workshop, University of Exeter, March 13th.
- 2009 “The Cultural Biography of the P.G. Black Collection of Pacific Islands Artifacts.” Paper presented to the Department of Geography, University of Exeter, March 12th.
- 2008 Invited Discussant. Corporate Oxymorons. Session organized for the 107th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 23rd.
- 2008 “Native Curios, National Patrimony, Primitive Art: Three Moments in the Biography of the P. G. Black Collection.” Paper presented to the Macleay Museum and Department of Archaeology, University of Sydney, March 7; to the Department of Anthropology, College of Asian and Pacific Studies, Australian National University, August 6th.
- 2008 “Native Curios, National Patrimony, Primitive Art: Three Moments in the Biography of the P. G. Black Collection.” Presentation for Bridging Fellowship with Dept. of Art and Art History, University of Rochester, February 1.
- 2007 Co-Organizer with D. Gewertz and F. Errington, Seminar on Critical Fetishism and Commodity Chains, Amherst College, October 19-20. Funded by Amherst College.
- 2007 “Consumer Agency, Product Networks, and a Politics of Value: The Case of Brand Coca-Cola.” Paper prepared for the Seminar on Critical Fetishism and Commodity Chains. Amherst College, October 19-20.
- 2007 “Native Curios, National Patrimony, Primitive Art: Three Moments in the Biography of the P. G. Black Collection.” Paper presented at the 9th International Symposium, Pacific Arts Association, Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, July 5.

- 2006 “The Politics of Consumption: Soft Drink Perspectives.” Paper presented in the Department of Anthropology, Hamilton College, December 5th.
- 2006 “Brands and Kitomu: Comparative Notes on Value Creation.” (AAA Presidential Session) Paper presented at the 105th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, November 16th.
- 2006 “The Politics of Consumption: Soft Drink Perspectives.” Paper presented in the Department of Anthropology, Vassar College, November 2nd.
- 2006 “Muscular Christianity, Decolonization and Sports: A Famous Anthropological Case Revisited.” Paper Presented to the Department of Anthropology, University College London. May 24th.
- 2006 “Creating Value in the Economy of Qualities.” Plenary Paper given at the Biennial Spring Conference of the Society for Cultural Anthropology, Milwaukee, May 5th.
- 2006 “From Trobriand Cricket to Rugby Nation: The Mission of Sport in Papua New Guinea.” Invited Paper presented to the Anthropology Graduate Student Association and Department of Anthropology, University of Buffalo. March 24th.
- 2006 “Muscular Christianity, Decolonization and Sports: A Famous Anthropological Case Revisited.” Paper Presented to the UCIS Cluster on Global Studies, University of Rochester. March 7th.
- 2005 “From Trobriand Cricket to Rugby Nation: The Mission of Sport in Papua New Guinea.” Invited Paper presented at the MAPSS Conference on Muscular Christianity in the Postcolonial World, University of Chicago. April 19th.
- 2005 “Consumer Agency: What is This Idea Good For?” Paper presented at the Annual Spring Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, San Diego, April 8th.
- 2004 Co-Organizer and Moderator, SCA Open Forum on AAA and Labor Relations. Held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Atlanta, December 17th.

- 2004 “Globalization: A Soft Drink Perspective.” Invited Paper presented to the Anthropology Graduate Student Association and Department of Anthropology, University of Buffalo. October 14th.
- 2004 Chair. “Subverting the Currency of the Sovereign.” Session organized for the Society for Cultural Anthropology Spring Conference, Portland, Oregon, May 1st.
- 2004 “Globalization: Soft Drink Perspectives.” Invited Lecture. Rochester Institute of Technology Caroline Werner Gannett Lecture Series, March 25th.
- 2003 Invited Discussant. Rethinking Scholarly and National Boundaries: The Case of West Papua. Session organized for the 101st Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 20th.
- 2003 Invited Discussant. The Cultures of Capitalism: Crisis of Confidence and New Directions. Conference. Rochester Institute of Technology. Commentator on Plenary Talk by Professor Leslie Sklair. April, 17th.
- 2002 “Labor and Love: An Anthropological Approach to Value-Chain Analysis.” Paper presented at the 101st Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 22nd.
- 2002 “Globalization, Anthropology, and Papua New Guinea.” Invited Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, University of Papua New Guinea. August 15th.
- 2001 “Globalization: A Soft Drink Perspective.” Invited Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, Amherst College. April 19th.
- 2000 “Bargains with Modernity in Papua New Guinea and Elsewhere.” Paper presented at the 99th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 16th.
- 2000 Organizer and Chair. Melanesia Interest Group Special Event, Panel Discussion: Contemporary Research in Melanesia—Issues and Questions. 99th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 17th.

- 2000 Invited Speaker. Plenary Session, "Marginality in this Era of Globalization: Millenarian Christianity and the Olympic Torch Relay in Papua New Guinea." Invited Discussant, Plenary Session, "The Relations of Global and Local Histories." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, London, Ontario. October 18th.
- 2000 "Globalization: A Soft Drink Perspective." Invited Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, University of Buffalo. March 17th.
- 1999 Organizer and Chair. Melanesia Interest Group Special Event, Panel Discussion: The Future of Regional Anthropologies. 98th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 20th.
- 1999 "Globalization: A Soft Drink Perspective." Invited Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, Syracuse University. October 20th.
- 1999 Invited Speaker. "Marginal Modernities: Identity and Locality, Mass Media and Commodity Consumption." German-American Frontiers of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Symposium. Dölln, Germany, March 25-28th.
- 1998 Invited Discussant. Humiliation and Transformation: Emotion, Subjectivity and Modernity in Melanesia. Session organized for the 97th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 5th.
- 1998 Organizer and Chair. Melanesia Interest Group organizing session, 97th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 5th.
- 1998 "Globalization: A Soft Drink Perspective." Invited Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, Cornell University. October 2nd.
- 1998 "Consuming Modernity in Papua New Guinea." Invited Informal Presentation to the Emory Consumption Group, Emory University. June 18th.
- 1998 "Globalization: A Soft Drink Perspective." Invited Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University. March 30th.

- 1998 “Making and Unmaking New Guinea Patrol: Paul Hasluck, Maslyn Williams, and Representations of Contact.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Pensacola, February 4th-7th.
- 1997 “Globalization: A Soft Drink Perspective.” Invited Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. December 8th.
- 1997 “Marginal Materialism: Fantasy and Frustration at Modernity’s Edges.” Paper presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November 19.
- 1997 “A Melanesianist Agenda for Transnational Cultural Studies.” Invited Paper presented at the From Myth to Minerals Conference, Australian National University, Canberra. July 17th-20th.
- 1997 “The Commercial Construction of ‘New’ Nations.” Keynote Speaker. Duke University Conference on Nationalism and Identity, Organized by the Fellows of the 1996-97 Mellon Seminar. April 26-27, Duke University.
- 1997 “Making and Unmaking New Guinea Patrol: Paul Hasluck, Maslyn Williams, and Representations of Contact.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, San Diego, February 19th-23rd.
- 1997 “Commercial Mass Media in Papua New Guinea: Notes on Agency, Bodies, and Commodity Consumption.” Invited Paper presented at the Ethnohistory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, January 30th.
- 1996 Invited Discussant. Flows, Borders, Hybrids: A Conference on Cultural Processes in Contemporary Society. U. Hannerz, O. Löfgren, A. Linders-Laursen, Organizers. Arild, Sweden, October 25-27th.
- 1996 “In God We Trust? The Legitimacy of Melanesian Currencies”;
 “Ten Years of TV Talk in Papua New Guinea: The Search for Policy in a Weak State”;
 “Projecting Australia Through Papua and New Guinea or Notes on New Guinea Patrol: Paul Hasluck, Maslyn Williams, Government Film, Nationalism and UN Trusteeship”

- Papers presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Kona, Hawai'i, February 9th-12th.
- 1995 "Your Money, Our Money, The Government's Money: Fetishism and Finance in Melanesia." Invited Paper presented at the International Conference on Border Fetishisms, Research Centre Religion and Society, University of Amsterdam, December 11-13th.
- 1995 "Globalization and Melanesia: An Agenda for Transnational Cultural Studies." Invited Paper presented at the 94th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November 19.
- 1994 "Learning Fetishism? Boys' Consumption Work with Marvel Super Heroes™ Trading Cards." (co-authored with Nancy Foster) Paper presented at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 30.
- 1993 "Bodies, Commodities, and the Nation-State in Papua New Guinea." Paper presented at the Department of Anthropology, University of Western Ontario, February 5; at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Hawai'i, March 27; Anthropology Alumni Conference, University of Chicago, November 2.
- 1992 "Individuals and Individuated Bodies: Official Nationalism and Consumerism in Metropolitan Papua New Guinea." Paper presented at "Nation, Identity and Gender in the Pacific," a Workshop of the Politics of Tradition Project, Humanities Research Center, Australian National University, July 19.
- 1992 "The Hyphen in 'Consumer-Citizen'." Paper presented at "Nation Making and Consumer Culture in Asia and the Pacific," a One Day Workshop in the Dept. of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, May 29. Co-organizer of the workshop with James Fox.
- 1992 "Dangerous Circulation and Revelatory Display: The Logic of Exchange in a New Ireland Society." Paper presented at the Department of Anthropology, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, W. A., April 16; Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, June 3.

- 1992 “Owning the Nation: Advertisements and Nation Making in Papua New Guinea.” Paper presented at the School of Social Sciences, Curtin University, So. Bentley, Western Australia, April 8, 1992; Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, May 21; Department of Anthropology, University of Adelaide, May 26.
- 1991 "Studying National Culture in Papua New Guinea." Paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, November 10.
- 1991 “Nationalism and National Culture in Melanesia.” Working Session organized for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Victoria, B. C., March 27-31.
- 1991 “Consuming the Nation: Mass Consumption and National Culture in Papua New Guinea.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Victoria, B. C., March 27-31.
- 1991 “Commoditisation and the Emergence of Kastam as a Cultural Category: A New Ireland Case in Comparative Perspective.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Victoria, B. C., March 27-31, and at the Department of Economics, Murdoch University, Murdoch, Western Australia, April 13, 1992.
- 1991 “Take Care of Public Telephones: Moral Education and Nation-State Formation in Papua New Guinea.” Paper presented at the 113th Annual Spring Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Charleston, S.C., March 14-16, and at the Australian Anthropological Society Annual Conference, Sydney, October 1-3.
- 1990 “Comparative Nationalisms.” University of Chicago Graduate Workshop in the Social Sciences, Winter and Spring Quarters of 1990. Co-organizer with John MacAloon.
- 1990 “Nationalism and National Culture in Papua New Guinea.” Informal session organized for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Kaua'i, March 21-26.
- 1990 “Commoditization and the Emergence of Kastam as a Cultural Category.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Kaua'i, March 21-26.

- 1990 “The Creation of National Cultures in the Southwestern Pacific.” Paper given to the Department of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University, January 17. (Earlier version given to the Dept. of Anthropology, University of Rochester, December 6, 1989.)
- 1989 “Death, Sex, and Food: Mortuary Ritual in a Melanesian Society.” Paper given to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tufts University, March 13.
- 1989 “How to Make a Difference: Gifts and Commodities in a Melanesian Society.” Paper given to the Department of Anthropology and Committee on Social Studies, Harvard University, February 1.
- 1988 “The Genesis of Kastam in a New Ireland Society.” Paper presented at the 87th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Phoenix, November 16-20.
- 1988 “Making Others Eat: Mortuary Feasting and Ceremonial Exchange in a Melanesian Society.” Paper given to the Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester, April 1.
- 1988 “Consumption and Nonconsumption in a New Ireland Society (Tanga Islands, Papua New Guinea).” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, Savannah, February 17-22.
- 1987 “Images Made Real: Symbolism in a New Ireland Society.” Paper presented at the 86th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 18-22.
- 1986 “Exchange and Replacement in Tangan Mortuary Rites.” Paper presented at the 85th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, December 3-7.
- 1983 “Outline of a Production/Value Analysis of the Enga Te.” Paper presented at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society, Cleveland, April 7-9.
- 1982 “Margaret Mead's Redbook Project: A Problem in the Sociology of Culture.” Paper presented at the 59th Annual Spring Institute of the Society for Social Research, Chicago, April 23.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Fellow, American Anthropological Association (AAA)
 Fellow, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania
 Member, Society for Cultural Anthropology

Founder and Convener (1998-2000), AAA Melanesia Interest Group
 Treasurer and Board Member, Society for Cultural Anthropology (2001-2006)
 AAA Nominations Committee Member, 2008-2011

Series Editor, Tracking Globalization, Indiana University Press
 Editorial Board Member, Advertising and Society Review
 Editorial Board Member, HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory
 Editorial Board Member, Consumption Markets & Culture

Conference Co-Organizer, “Translations of Value.” Biennial Spring Conference of the Society for Cultural Anthropology. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. May 5-6, 2006.

Co-curator, “Journeys into Papua,” Buffalo Museum of Science, September 17, 2011 to January 8, 2012. Symposium Co-Organizer, “Art/Artifact/Commodity: The Currency of Oceanic Things.” Buffalo Museum of Science, January 6-7, 2012.

Manuscript referee for American Anthropologist; American Ethnologist; Man; History and Anthropology; Psychoanalytic Psychology; Canberra Anthropology; Public Culture; Journal of the American Academy of Religion; Sex Roles; Oceania; Journal of Ritual Studies; Contemporary Pacific; Visual Anthropology Review; Cultural Anthropology; Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute; Ethnohistory; Ethnos; Pacific Studies; Advertising and Society Review; Anthropology Today; Museum Anthropology; Culture, Theory and Critique; Anthropological Theory; Consumption Markets & Culture.