

Curriculum Vitae
ELISE BERMAN

Department of Comparative Human Development
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RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Truth and deception, children, giving and exchange, semiotics and language, anthropology of education, age, kinship studies, power and status, personhood and emotion, morality, Oceania, Marshall Islands

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D. in Comparative Human Development, 2012 (expected)

- Specialization in socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology
- *How Do I Say No? Childhood, Deception, and Avoiding Giving in the Marshall Islands*
- Committee: John Lucy (chair), Jennifer Cole, Don Kulick

M.A. in Comparative Human Development, 2008

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

Dartmouth College

B.A. in Anthropology (honors), 2003

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

PUBLICATIONS

Berman, Elise

2011. The Irony of Immaturity: K'iche' Children as Mediators and Buffers in Adult Social Interactions. *Childhood* 18(2): 274-288.

Berman, Elise

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.

EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING

2009-2010 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant

2009-2010 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant

2009-2010 Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Grant (declined)

2008 Lemelson Fellowship for Travel and Research, Society for Psychological Anthropology

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2011-2012 Provost Dissertation-Year Fellowship, University of Chicago (top Markovitz candidate)
2011-2012 Honorary Michael and Ling Markovitz Fellow, University of Chicago
2011 Bernice Neugarten Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago
2011 Bernice Neugarten Prize (Research), University of Chicago
2011 Research Travel Grant (Orin Williams Fund), University of Chicago
2006 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, University of Chicago
2005-2009 Century Fellowship, University of Chicago
2002 Claire Garber Goodman Grant for Anthropological Research, Dartmouth College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2011 Anthropology of Childhood and Immaturity (Instructor)
Neugarten Prize Lectureship
University of Chicago
- Winter 2009 Self, Culture and Society II: Culture (Instructor)
University of Chicago
- 2008-2009 Self, Culture and Society (Teaching intern)
University of Chicago
- 2004-2005 Anthropology and Ancient Civilizations (Full-time middle school teacher)
Ethical Culture Fieldston School, Bronx, New York
- 2003-2004 English and Math (Full-time elementary school teacher)
Kili Elementary School, Kili Island, Marshall Islands

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “They Don’t Know How To Lie: The Power of Age-Differentiated Speech in the Marshall Islands”
(American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Montreal, November 2011)
- “I Hate You: Marshallese Children’s Transparent Speech”
(‘Michicagoan’ Linguistic Anthropology conference, University of Michigan, May 2011)
- “It’s Okay To Be Greedy: Avoiding Giving Between Children and Adults in the Marshall Islands”
(Society for Psychological Anthropology biennial meeting, Santa Monica, April 2011)
- “Avoiding Giving: The Linguistic Construction of Goods”
(Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania annual meeting, Honolulu, February 2011)
- “Marshallese Children: Alienable Goods.”
(American Anthropological Association annual meeting, New Orleans, November 2010)
- “The Social Efficacy of Immaturity: Implications for our Understanding of Religion.”
(Society for Psychological Anthropology and Society for the Anthropology of Religion joint conference, Asilomar, CA, March 2009)

“Ideologies of Truth and Deception: Interactive Life Among the K’iche’ Maya.”
(‘Michicagoan’ Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Chicago, May 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, February 2008)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

June-June 2009-2010 Ethnographic fieldwork for dissertation on deception, childhood, and giving
Arno Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands

July-August 2008 Preliminary fieldwork for dissertation
Arno Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands

June-July 2006 Ethnographic fieldwork for M.A. thesis on deception, childhood, and emotion
Santa Catarina Ixtahuacan de Nueva, Guatemala

June-July 2002 Ethnographic fieldwork for B.A. honors thesis on missionaries
United Kingdom

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2011 Session organizer, “Constructing Age Differences: Language Ideology and Language Socialization,” 2011 American Anthropological Association annual meeting

2011 Session organizer, “Children and the Semiotics of Giving,” 2011 Society for Psychological Anthropology biennial meeting

2011 Session organizer, “Avoiding Giving in Oceania,” 2011 Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania annual meeting

2005-2008 Human Development Student Association (HDSA), University of Chicago

2006-2007 Member of Annual Allocations Committee, University of Chicago

2006 Member of organizing committee, ‘Michicagoan’ Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Chicago

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association, Society for Psychological Anthropology, Society for Linguistic Anthropology, Anthropology of Children and Childhood Interest Group, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Council on Anthropology and Education, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania

LANGUAGES

Marshallese, Spanish, K’iche’ Maya, English