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Teaching and Research Interests:

Cultural Anthropology, transnationalism, globalization, migration, alcohol consumption, identity, rural development, social change, violence, gender hierarchies, caste stratification, class formation, social constructionism, South Asia, Sri Lanka, West Asia.

Employment:

Professor of Anthropology, Portland State University, Sept. 2008 – present.
Associate Professor of Anthropology, Portland State University, Sept. 2003 – June 2008.
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Portland State University, Sept. 1995 – June 2003.
Overseas Faculty Director, Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Exchange (ISLE) Program July – Dec. 2003 (Leave of absence, Portland State University)

Education:

Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Michigan, 1995.
M.A. in Anthropology, University of Michigan, 1991.
B.A. in Philosophy and Theology, Balliol College, Oxford University, 1989. (M.A. Oxon Philosophy and Theology 2000)
B.A. with High Honors in English Literature with minors in Sociology-Anthropology and Mathematics, Swarthmore College, 1987.

Selected Grants, Fellowships, and other Honors:

2007 Phi Kappa Phi
2005 *National Science Foundation*, Co-PI, Research Grant.
2005 *American Institute for Sri Lanka Studies (AISLS)* Research Grant.
2003 John Eliot Allen *Outstanding Teaching Award*, Portland State University
2000 John Eliot Allen *Outstanding Teaching Award*, Portland State University
1999 *National Science Foundation*, Principal Investigator, Research Grant.

- 1998 *Guggenheim Foundation*, Principal Investigator, with eight other Portland State faculty, coordinating qualifying proposal in competition for interdisciplinary Introductory Curriculum in Violence Studies.
- 1996 *Oregon Council for the Humanities*, Principal Investigator, Research Grant.
- 1994 *Andrew W. Mellon* Dissertation Fellowship.
- 1992 *National Science Foundation* Dissertation Research Award.
- 1990 *National Science Foundation* Graduate Research Fellowship
- 1989 *Regents Fellowship*, University of Michigan
- 1987 *Keasbey Memorial Foundation Fellowship*, Oxford University
- 1987 Phi Beta Kappa
- 1983 *Theodore And Elizabeth Friend Scholarship*, Swarthmore College

Selected Publications

Books

- Forthcoming *Tsunami Recovery in Sri Lanka: Ethnic and Regional Dimensions*, edited by Michele Gamburd and Dennis McGilvray. Routledge.
- 2008 *Breaking the Ashes: The Culture of Illicit Liquor in Sri Lanka*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- 2005 *Wisdom of the Kitchen Spoon's Handle*. Swarnakanthi Rajapakse, translator. Nugegoda, Sri Lanka: Sarasavi Publishers. (Sinhala translation of my 2000 book).
- 2002 *Transnationalism and Sri Lanka's Migrant Housemaids: The Kitchen Spoon's Handle*. New Delhi: Vistaar Publications. (South Asian reprint of my 2000 book).
- 2000 *The Kitchen Spoon's Handle: Transnationalism and Sri Lanka's Migrant Housemaids*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press

Articles

- 2009 Advocating for Sri Lankan Migrant Workers: Obstacles and Challenges. *Critical Asian Studies* 41(1):61-88.
- 2008 "Milk Teeth and Jet Planes: Kin Relations in Families of Sri Lanka's Transnational Domestic Servants." *City and Society* 20(1):5-31.
- 2004 "Money that Burns Like Oil: A Sri Lankan Cultural Logic of Morality and Agency." *Ethnology* 43(2):167-84.
- 2003 In the wake of the Gulf War: assessing family spending of compensation money in Sri Lanka. *International Journal of Population Geography* 9 (6): 503-515. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/106567007/ABSTRACT>, posted 21 Nov. 2003.
- 1999 "Class Identity and the International Division of Labor: Sri Lanka's Migrant Housemaids" *Anthropology of Work Review* (19)3:4-8
- 1997 "Wearing a Dead Man's Jacket: State Symbols in Troubled Places" in *South Asia Special Issue No. XX.: Conflict and Community in Contemporary Sri Lanka*. Siri Gamage and Bruce Watson, eds. pp. 181-194.
- 1995 "Sri Lanka's 'Army of Housemaids': Control of Remittances and Gender Transformations." *Anthropologica* 37: 49-88.
- 1990-1994 "Images of Working Women." *Kalyani: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Kelaniya*, 9-13: 352-357.

- 1993 "A Village View of the Provincial Council Elections." *The Thatched Patio*, 6(5): 32-47. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Centre for Ethnic Studies.

Book Chapters

- 2005 "'Lentils There, Lentils Here': Sri Lankan Domestic Labour in the Middle East. In *Asian Women as Transnational Domestic Workers*, edited by Shirlena Huang, Brenda S.A. Yeoh, and Noor Abdul Rahman, pp. 92-114. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish.
- 2004 "The Economics of Enlisting: A Village View of Armed Service" in *Economy and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka*, Deborah Winslow and Michael Woost, eds. Pp. 151-167. Indiana University Press.
- 2002 "Breadwinner No More," in *Global Women: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, edited by Arlie Hochschild and Barbara Ehrenreich. New York: Metropolitan Books: pp. 190-206. (Reprint of chapter 7 of my 2000 book.)
- 2000 "Nurture for Sale: Sri Lankan Housemaids and the Work of Mothering," in *Home and Hegemony: Domestic Service and Identity Politics in South and Southeast Asia*, Sara Dickey and Kathleen M. Adams, eds. University of Michigan Press: 179-205.
- 1999 "Wearing a Dead Man's Jacket: State Symbols in Troubled Places" in *Conflict and Community in Contemporary Sri Lanka*. Siri Gamage and Bruce Watson, eds. Sage India. Pp. 165-177. (Reprint of my 1997 article by the same title.)
- 1998 "Absent Women and Their Extended Families: Sri Lanka's Migrant Housemaids" in *Negotiation and Social Space, a gendered analysis of changing kin and security networks in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa*, Carla Risseuw and Kamala Ganesh, editors. Sage India. pp. 276-291.

Selected Professional Presentations:

- 2008 "Care Crisis in the Global South: Demographics, Transnational Migration, and the State." Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in San Francisco, CA, 20 November 2008.
- 2008 "Gender, Migration, and the Gulf: Explaining Stunted Labor Activism in Sri Lanka." Presented at a conference entitled "G.C.C. - Gender, Connectivity, and Change in the Gulf Arab States," University of California, Irvine, April 18-19 2008
- 2008 "A Puzzling Paucity: Inter-Asian Migration and Stunted Labor Activism in Sri Lanka." To be presented in a workshop entitled "Distant Divides and Intimate Connections: Migrant Domestic Workers in Asia," at the Social Science Research Council's "International Conference on Inter-Asian Connections." Dubai, UAE, 21-24 February 2008.
- 2007 "Home Wars: Gendered Consumption Struggles over Alcohol and Migrant Remittances," to be presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, March 23, 2007.
- 2006 "The Golden Wave: Southern Viewpoints on Sri Lanka's Tsunami," presented on a panel entitled "Comparative Sri Lankan Perspectives on the Indian Ocean

- Tsunami,” (M. Gamburd, organizer), at the 35th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison, October 21, 2006.
- 2006 “Community dynamics: Sri Lankan responses to transnational labor migration,” invited plenary presentation at the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society [COMPAS] Annual International Conference, “International Labour Migration: In Whose Interests?” Centre for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, Oxford University, July 5th-6th, 2006.
- 2005 “Improving Labor Conditions for Transnational Migrants: Government Intervention and Local Activism in Sri Lanka,” presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in Washington, DC, December 3, 2005.
- 2005 Organized the Roundtable Presentation “The Indian Ocean Tsunami” at the 34th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison, October 8, 2005.
- 2005 “Domestic Labor Abroad: Sri Lankan Migration to the Middle East,” presented at a conference entitled “Transnational Migration: Foreign Labor and Its Impact in the Gulf,” at the Bellagio Center, Italy, June 20 – 25, 2005.
- 2005 “Missing Mothers: Children of Sri Lanka’s Migrant Housemaids,” invited presentation at a conference entitled “Gender, Ethnicity and Identity: The ‘New Maids’ in the Age of Globalisation,” at the NIAS (Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences) in Wassenaar, The Netherlands, May 26 – 29, 2005.
- 2005 “Labor Migration and Social Action: Sri Lanka’s Migrant Housemaids,” invited presentation at a conference entitled “Economic Globalization and Its Implications for Democracy in South Asia,” Austin, Texas, 8 April 2005.
- 2004 “Milk Teeth and Jet Planes: Children of Sri Lanka’s Migrant Housemaids,” presented at the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, Washington, 1 October 2004.
- 2004 “Sri Lankan Migration to the Middle East: Policy Alternatives and Suggestions,” presented at the Social Scientists Association, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 26 March 2004.
- 2004 Invited presentation, “‘Lentils There, Lentils Here!’ Sri Lankan Domestic Labor in the Middle East” at the conference “Contemporary Perspectives on Asian Women as Transnational Domestic Workers (TDWs),” 23-25 February, sponsored by the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, National University of Singapore on 23 February 2004.
- 2003 “Poisonous Parents and Lion’s Liver Curry: Family Feuds and Affiliation in a Sri Lankan Village” presented in absentia at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in Chicago, IL November 2003.
- 2003 “Family Feuds and Affiliation in Sri Lanka” presented at the American Ethnological Society’s Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, 26 April 2003.
- 2002 “The Economics of Enlisting: Currency, Corruption, and Sri Lanka’s Ethnic Conflict,” presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in New Orleans, LA, 21 November 2002.

- 2002 “‘That Money Burns Like Oil’: A Sri Lankan Cultural Logic of Morality and Work” presented on the panel “Politics and Identity: Women and Work in South Asian Contexts” (M. Gamburd, organizer), Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., 5 April 2002.
- 2001 “‘That Money Burns Like Oil’”: A Sri Lankan Cultural Logic of Morality, Agency, and Identity,” presented on the double panel “Critiquing Theories of Identity: Agency, Social Context, and the Self” (M. Gamburd, organizer), American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in Washington, DC, 1 Dec. 2001
- 2001 Invited presentation, “In the Wake of the Gulf War: Assessing Family Spending of Compensation Money in Sri Lanka,” at the conference “Migration and the ‘Asian Family’ in a Globalizing World,” 16-18 April 2001, sponsored by the Asian Metacentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, National University of Singapore.
- 2000 “The Economics of Enlisting: A Village View of Armed Service,” AISLS (American Institute for Sri Lanka Studies) Workshop Conference on Economy and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka. University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, August 26, 2000.
- 2000 “‘Sri Lankan Domestic Workers in the Middle East: Witnessing and Identity,” Women's Studies: Asian Connections conference at The University of British Columbia's Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations, in collaboration with the UBC Institute for Asian Research and the Simon Fraser University Women's Studies Department, Vancouver, Canada, 4 November 2000
- 1999 “Victims of America's National Enemy: Popular Representations of Migrant Laborers in the Middle East,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in Chicago, IL, 21 November 1999.
- 1999 “Sri Lanka’s Migrant Housemaids: Rethinking ‘the Village’” presented on the panel “The Local in Global Perspective” (M. Gamburd, organizer), 28th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison, October 1999.
- 1999 “Female Labor Migration: Global Links and Local Changes in Two Sri Lankan Villages,” 51st Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA, 12 March 1999.
- 1998 “Class Identity and the International Division of Labor: Sri Lanka’s Migrant Housemaids” presented on the panel “Women’s Work and the Global Economy in South Asia” (M. Gamburd, organizer), American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in Philadelphia, PA, 6 Dec. 1998.
- 1998 “Violence and the Transformation of Masculinity, Motherhood, and National Identity” presented on the panel “Emerging Identities in Sri Lanka: Nationality, Religion and Violence” (M. Gamburd, organizer), 27th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 16 October 1998.
- 1998 “Female Migration from Two Sri Lankan Villages, One Sinhala, One Muslim” presented on the panel “Social Change and Feminist Analysis” (M. Gamburd, organizer), 11th Annual Women’s Studies Conference at the University of South Carolina – Columbia, 27 February 1998.
- 1997 “Immoral Maid and Abusive Employer: Fact and Genre,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in Washington, DC, November 1997.

- 1997 "Barriers to Grass-roots Development," 6th Sri Lanka Studies Conference, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, August 1997.
- 1996 "Altercation at the Crossroads: Dueling Discourses of Marginality and Modernity", American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in San Francisco, 23 November 1996.
- 1996 "Status Markers and Social Change in a Sri Lankan Village", presented on the panel "Women and Work: Changing Ideologies of Gender and Class" (M. Gamburd organizer), 25th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 19 October 1996.
- 1995 "Wearing a Dead Man's Jacket: State Symbols in Troubled Places", presented on the panel "Ritual and Violence: Recreating Community in Sri Lanka's Shattered World" (M. Gamburd, organizer), American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in Washington, DC, 19 November 1995.
- 1995 "Nurture for Sale: Sri Lankan Housemaids and the Work of Mothering," 24th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 21 October 1995.
- 1995 "Migrant Women and the Microprocesses of Village Change," 5th Sri Lanka Conference, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, 12 August 1995.
- 1994 "Land Reform and Caste Relations in a Sri Lankan Village," 23rd Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin—Madison, 5 November 1994.
- 1994 "Social Mobilization and the Status of Women: The Janasaviya Programme in Theory and Practice," Fourth National Convention on Women's Studies, Centre for Women's Research, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 4 March 1994.
- 1993 "Military Men and Housemaids: Poverty, Work, Discipline, and the Body," Conference on Violence, Suffering, and Healing, Sociology Department, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, India, 28 August 1993.
- 1993 "Rural Women and the Labor Market: The Global Market from a Local Perspective," Fourth Sri Lanka Studies Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 12 1993.

Teaching Experience: Courses Taught

Anthropology 103: Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
 Anthropology 300: The Modern World in Anthropological Perspective: Gender, Race and Nationality
 Anthropology 304: Social Theory: Social Structures and Practices
 Anthropology 317: Peoples and Cultures of South Asia
 Anthropology 399: Mead Film Festival
 Anthropology 399: Food and Culture
 Anthropology 412 - 512: Research Methodology in Social and Cultural Anthropology
 Anthropology 426 - 526: Transnationalism and Migration
 Anthropology 432 - 532: Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
 Anthropology 447 - 547: Advanced Topics in South Asian Anthropology
 Anthropology 490 - 590: Anthropology of Violence

Anthropology 511: Graduate Core Seminar: Socio-Cultural Anthropology

Language Proficiencies:

French (spoken and written)

Sinhala (spoken)

Professional Affiliations:

American Anthropological Association

Association for Asian Studies

American Ethnological Society

American Institute for Sri Lanka Studies

Board Member 1995-2004; Membership Chair 1996-2002

Council for General Anthropology