

Curriculum Vitae Heidi Swank

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Education:

- 2006** **Ph.D. in Anthropology**, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
My interests lie in the areas of discourse analysis, anthropological approaches to literacy, language and identity, and social theory, working with Tibetan exile youth in North India.
- 2000** **M.A. in Linguistics**, Department of Linguistics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 1990** **B.A. in French**, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

Selected Grants, Fellowships and Awards:

- 2008 UNLV Research Development Award
2007 UNLV Faculty Travel Grant
2007 UNLV Summer Research Fellowship
2006 UNLV Faculty Travel Grant
2001 – 2004 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
2001 Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant
1999 – 2001 Northwestern University Teaching Assistant Fellow (Anthropology)
1999 Explorers Club Research Grant (pre-dissertation research)
1999 NSF Ethnographic Training Grant

Books:

In Preparation. *Rewriting Shangri-la: Tibetan Exile Youth, Literacy and Social Change*.

Articles and Chapters:

In Preparation. Literacy Histories: Ideology and Everyday Literacy in the Tibetan Diaspora.
For submission to the *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*. Routledge.

In Preparation. Colonel Sanders, E.T., and Viagra: Texting Gendered Identities amid Global Flows of Media.

Under Review. Free Tibet Movement. *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media*. Sage Publications.

Under Review. 'Beautiful, Elegant, Brave, and Modern': The Miss Tibet Pageant, Exile Youth, and Hybridity. *American Ethnologist*.

Under Review. Shangri-la. *Encyclopedia of Asian American Popular Culture*. Greenwood Press.

2008. It all hinges on the vowels: Reconsidering the alphasyllabary classification. *Written Language and Literacy*, 11:1.

2002. Identity and script variation: Japanese lesbian and housewife letters to the editor. In *Language and Sexuality: Contesting Meaning in Theory and Practice*. CSLI Publications: Stanford, CA.

Other Publications:

2008. Book review of *Tibetan Borderlands*. P. Christiaan Klieger, ed. *American Anthropologist*.

2008. Imagining Community. *Nevada Public Radio's Desert Companion*. Spring Issue.

2007. Cultural Pioneering. *Nevada Public Radio's Desert Companion*. Fall Issue.

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations:

Constructing Continuity: Tibetan Literacy and Religion in Exile.

Paper presented at the Society for Cross-Cultural Research, Las Vegas, NV. February 2009.

'A Wanderer in a Distant Place': Tibetan Exile Writings of Transnational Nostalgia and Disillusionment

Paper presented at the American Anthropological Meetings, San Francisco, CA. November 2008. Panel co-chaired and co-organized with Deborah Boehm, University of Nevada, Reno.

'I who am sad with a wanderer's longing': Youth writings of nostalgia and disillusionment from the Tibetan Diaspora in India

Poster presented at the International Conference on Youth Language, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. March 2008.

Rewriting Shangri-la: Tibetan exile youth and literacy in the everyday

Invited talk presented at the Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture. Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles. October 2007.

Rewriting Shangri-la: Languages and identities in the Tibetan Diaspora

Invited talk presented at Rutgers University in conjunction with a lecture by H.H. The Dalai Lama. September 2005.

The Miss Tibet pageant: Tibetan youth culture, nationalism, and internationalism
Paper presented at the 33rd Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison, October 2004.

Databases and ethnographic methods: A hands-on approach
Workshop given for the School for International Training, Dharamsala field site, February 2004.

English as a modern Tibetan identity? Literacy practices of Tibetans in Dharamsala
Paper presented to the School for International Training, Dharamsala field site, October 2003.

Identity and script variation: Japanese lesbian and housewife letters to the editor
Paper presented at the International Gender and Language Association Conference, Stanford University, May 2000.

Script variation in Japanese housewife and lesbian letters to the editor
Paper presented in Department of Sociology, Loyola University, Chicago, March 2000.

Japanese script proportion analysis and some sociolinguistic implications
Paper presented in Department of Anthropology, DePaul University, Chicago, February 2000.

Interviews in the Media:

Las Vegas Review Journal, November 11, 2007. "High School Lunchrooms a Picture of Social Cliques: Not Sitting Alone Paramount for Students"

The Australian, October 16, 2006. "Trying Quest for the Face of Tibet"

Times of London, October 14, 2006. "Swimsuit Pageant Parades Beautiful Dream of Free Tibet"

Field Experience in Asia:

Summer 2008 *Anthropological Fieldwork*. Dharamsala, India.

Spent ten weeks conducting participant observation and interviews for linguistic and cultural analysis. Data will be incorporated into book manuscript *Rewriting Shangri-la*.

Fall 2006 *Anthropological Fieldwork*. Dharamsala, India.

Conducted field research on Miss Tibet 2006 pageant. Interviewed

contestants, participated in pre-pageant training and events, filmed pageant and pageant events for analysis.

- 2002 – 2004 *Anthropological Dissertation Fieldwork.* Dharamsala, India.
Examined everyday literacy practices in the context of rapid social change within this Tibetan refugee community with continual in and out migration. Spent fourteen months during this period using qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze the use of everyday literacy to demarcate and transgress inter-group boundaries among the youth of this community.
- Summer 2001 *Language Study and Anthropological Field Observation.* Lhasa, Tibet.
Observed everyday activities of Tibetans in Lhasa with particular attention to the uses of literacy and language choice. Participated in Tibetan intensive language program at Tibet University, Lhasa, Tibet.
- Summer 1999 *Anthropological fieldwork.* Dharamsala, India.
Assessed the importance of literacy in everyday activities through interviews and participant observation in preparation for dissertation research.
- Spring 1995 *Travel.* Nepal, India and Tibet.
Initial travel to locate future fieldwork site.
- 1993 – 1995 *Field Participant/Observation and English Instructor.* Funabashi, Japan.
Participated in everyday life of Tokyo suburban community including participation in local taiko performance group. Gave special consideration to the diversity of Japanese women's lived experience, which served as background for Masters thesis in linguistics.

Languages:

English: Native

Japanese: Intermediate

French: Advanced

Tibetan: Reading: Advanced; Speaking: Intermediate/Advanced

Professional Experience:

2005-Present *Assistant Professor.* University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies.

Graduate and undergraduate courses taught include: *Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology* (Anth 106), *Youth Languages* (Anth 371), *Language and Culture* (Anth 485/685), *Language and Gender* (Anth 486/686), *Ethnographic Field Methods* (Anth 438/637), *Seminar in Linguistic Anthropology* (Anth 730),

and *Core Seminar in Ethnology and Linguistic Anthropology* (Anth 703). Serve on several committees including the Departmental Graduate Curriculum Committee, faculty search committee, and faculty advisor to UNLV Anthropology Society; revitalized and expanded the linguistic anthropology program; established graduate/undergraduate linguistic anthropology digital video/audio lab. Sit on and chair graduate thesis committees and chair undergraduate honors thesis.

- 2004-2005 *Field Methods Instructor*. Northwestern University, Chicago Field Studies. Co-taught course and oversaw undergraduate students semester-long fieldwork, data collection, and analysis.
- Fall 2004 & Winter 2002 *Access Database Instructor/Teaching Assistant*. Ethnographic Methods and Analysis. Northwestern University, Department of Anthropology. Taught Access Database software to undergraduate anthropology majors as part of ethnographic methods course taught by Dr. Caroline Bledsoe.
- 2000-2003 *Teaching Assistant*. Northwestern University, Department of Anthropology. Taught discussion sections and corrected homework and exams for students in five undergraduate courses: *Culture through Language*, *Culture and Society*, *The Social Life of Language*, *Human Origins*, and *Living Primates*. Taught half of *The Social Life of Language* due to professor illness.
- Spring 1998 *Instructor*. Writing within the University for Second Language Learners. Northwestern University, Department of Linguistics. Developed course syllabus, selected textbooks, gave weekly course lectures, assessed students' progress, and assigned final grades.
- Fall 1997 *Teaching Assistant*. Language and Prejudice. Northwestern University, Department of Linguistics. Met with students one-on-one and corrected homework and exams for students in this undergraduate course.

Service to UNLV:

UNLV Electronic Thesis/Dissertation Committee, Chair

Service to the Department of Anthropology, UNLV:

Cultural Anthropologist Search Committee, 2007-2008

Graduate Curriculum Committee, 2005-Present

Faculty Advisor to UNLV Anthropology Society, 2005-2008

Archaeologist Search Committee, 2006-2007

Committee to Redesign Ph.D. Admissions Requirements, 2006-2007

Graduate Handbook Development Committee, 2006

Service to the Anthropology Profession:

Reviewed article manuscripts for: *Evolutionary Psychology*, *The Canadian Journal of Education*, and
Written Language and Literacy

Professional Memberships:

American Anthropological Association

Linguistic Society of America

The Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

February 2009