

SARAH BESKY

Department of Anthropology &
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
Brown University
sarah_besky@brown.edu

111 Thayer Street
Providence, RI 02912
608-354-2103
www.sarahbesky.com

EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Anthropology
2006 M.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Anthropology
2003 B.A., Connecticut College; New London, CT

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2015 - Charles Evans Hughes 1881 Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International and Public Affairs; Brown University, Providence, RI
2012 - 2015 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and School of Natural Resources and Environment; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2012 - 2015 Postdoctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows

PUBLICATIONS (All single-authored, except where indicated)**Books** (single authored except where indicated)

In preparation. *Market Qualities: Indian Tea and the Composition of Value.*

In preparation. *How Nature Works.* Sarah Besky and Alex Blanchette, editors. Santa Fe, NM: School for Advanced Research (SAR) Press (manuscript submission in July 2017)

2014. *The Darjeeling Distinction: Labor and Justice on Fair-Trade Tea Plantations in India.* Berkeley: University of California Press.

---- Forthcoming (2017). Mandarin language edition of *The Darjeeling Distinction* with new preface. Tsinghua University Press.

---- *Winner*, 2014 Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) Book Award

---- *Finalist*, 2015 Society for Anthropology of Work Book Award

Reviewed in:

Allegra Laboratory; American Anthropologist; American Ethnologist; Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal; Food & Foodways; Gastronomica; Human Ecology; International Journal of Comparative Sociology; International Sociology Reviews; Journal of Agrarian Change; Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute; Mountain Research and Development; Pacific Affairs; Review of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Studies; Social Anthropology; Taiwan Journal of Anthropology (in Chinese); "Tea for Me Please" Blog; Work, Employment & Society

Peer-Reviewed Articles (all single authored except where indicated)

Forthcoming. "Fixity: On the Inheritance and Maintenance of Tea Plantation Houses in Darjeeling, India." *American Ethnologist*.

2017. "The Land in Gorkhaland: On the Edges of Belonging in Darjeeling, India." *Environmental Humanities* 9(1): 18-39.

2017. "Tea as 'Hero Crop'? Embodied Algorithms and Industrial Reform in India." *Science as Culture*. 26(1): 11-31.

2016. "Placing Plants in Territory" (co-authored with Jonathan Padwe). *Environment and Society: Advances in Research* 7: 9-28.

2016. "The Future of Price: Communicative Infrastructures and the Financialization of Indian Tea." *Cultural Anthropology* 31(1): 4-29.

2015. "Agricultural Justice, Abnormal Justice? Fair Trade's Plantation Problem." *Antipode* 47(5): 1141-1160.

2015. "Looking for Work: Placing Labor in Food Studies" (co-authored with Sandy Brown). *Labor: Studies of Working-Class History of the Americas*. 12(1-2): 19-43.

2014. "The Labor of *Terroir* and the *Terroir* of Labor: Geographical Indication on Darjeeling Tea Plantations." *Agriculture and Human Values* 31(1): 83-96.

---- Won the 2014 Anthropology & Environment Society Junior Scholar Award

2008. "Can a Plantation be Fair? Paradoxes and Possibilities in Fair Trade Darjeeling Tea Certification." *Anthropology of Work Review* 29(1): 1-9.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

2010. "Colonial Pasts and Fair Trade Futures: Changing Modes of Production and Regulation on Darjeeling Tea Plantations." In *Fair Trade and Social Justice: Global Ethnographies*. Sarah Lyon and Mark Moberg, eds. Pp. 97-122. New York: NYU Press.

Forthcoming (2017). "Subnational Occupations: Managing Darjeeling Tea." Book chapter in *Darjeeling Histories, Politics, and Environments*. Townsend Middleton and Sara Shneiderman, editors. New Delhi: Oxford University Press India.

Online Essays and Blog Posts

Forthcoming. "Monoculture." In *Lexicon for an Anthropocene Yet Unseen*, edited by Anand Pandian and Cymene Howe. *Cultural Anthropology* website (www.culanth.org)

2016. Response to Daniel Münster's review of *The Darjeeling Distinction* on Allegra Lab. (www.allegralaboratory.net). Posted January 25. [\[LINK\]](#)

2015. "Inheriting the Hill Station." Essay for "Edge Effects" Blog. Center for Culture, History, and

Environment, UW-Madison (www.edgeeffects.net). Posted May 19. [\[LINK\]](#)

2015. “Can’t Get There from Here? Writing Place and Moving Narratives.” Essay in the “Writer’s Workshop” Series on “Savage Minds” (www.savageminds.org). Posted March 26. [\[LINK\]](#)

2014. “The Promise of Fair Trade for Plantation Laborers.” *For a Better World*. Fair World Project: Portland, Oregon. Issue 9 (Fall): 15-16. (<http://fairworldproject.org>) [\[LINK\]](#)

Invited Book Reviews

2017. Review of Townsend Middleton. *The Demands of Recognition: State Anthropology and Ethnopolitics in Darjeeling* (Stanford U. Press, 2015). In *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 23(2): 432-433.

2016. Review of Kamran Asdar Ali. *Communism in Pakistan: Politics and Class Activism, 1947-1972* (I.B. Tauris, 2015). For Chapati Mystery book forum [www.chapatimystery.com].

2016. Review of Jeffrey Witsoe. *Democracy against Development: Lower Caste Politics and Political Modernity in Postcolonial India* (U. of Chicago Press, 2013). In *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (Online Book Reviews).

2016. Review of Andrew Willford. *Tamils and the Haunting of Justice: History and Recognition in Malaysia's Plantations* (U. of Hawaii Press, 2014). In *American Ethnologist*. 43(1): 173-174.

2015. Review of *Empire of Tea: The Asian Leaf that Conquered the World* (Reaktion Books, 2015). In *Times Literary Supplement*. 7 October.

2015. Review of Jinghong Zhang. *Puer Tea: Ancient Caravans and Urban Chic* (U. of Washington Press, 2013). In *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. 21(3): 696-697

2015. Review of David Gellner, editor. *Borderland Lives in Northern South Asia* (Duke University Press, 2013). In *American Ethnologist*. 42(1): 195-196.

2014. Review of Paige West. *From Modern Production to Imagined Primitive: The Social World of Coffee from Papua New Guinea* (Duke University Press, 2012). In *Journal of Anthropological Research*. 70(3): 457-458.

2013. Review of Jayeeta Sharma. *Empire's Garden: Assam and the Making of India* (Duke University Press, 2011). In *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*. 13(3): 81-82.

2013. Review of Neil White. *Company Towns: Corporate Order and Community*. (University of Toronto Press, 2012). In *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 55(4): 1021-1022.

Other Publications

Forthcoming (2017). Preface to the Chinese language edition of *The Darjeeling Distinction*. Tsinghua University Press.

-- Also published on “Chapati Mystery;” May 16, 2017. [\[LINK\]](#)

2013. "Anthropology and Environment Society's Inaugural Dissertation Workshop." *Anthropology News*. 54 (2).
2013. "Fair for All? Plantations and the Future of Fair Trade." *Minpaku Anthropology Newsletter* (Issue Theme: "The Anthropological Study of Fair Trade"). Osaka, Japan: National Museum of Ethnology. No. 36. [Invited Essay]
2012. "Kolkata, India." In *The Encyclopedia of Consumption and Waste: The Social Science of Garbage*, Bill Rathje and Geoffrey J. Golson, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
2012. "Dump Digging." In *The Encyclopedia of Consumption and Waste: The Social Science of Garbage*, Bill Rathje and Geoffrey J. Golson, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
2008. "Indian Labor Law and the Limits of Fair Trade in Darjeeling Tea Production." *Darjeeling Times*. 1(8): 15-16.
2008. "Old Grievances." Letter to the Editor in response to "Unrest in India's Hill Country." *New York Times* (Sunday Travel Section). July 13.
2007. "Rural Vulnerability and Tea Plantation Migration in Nepal and Darjeeling." *Himalayan Research Papers*. Nepal Study Center, University of New Mexico [Research Report]

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Major External Research Fellowships

- 2016 - 2017 School for Advanced Research (SAR) Advanced Seminar Grant for "How Nature Works." (co-organized with Alex Blanchette and Naisargi Dave)
- 2015 European Commission Marie Curie Actions Fellowship [\$225,000] [Declined]
- 2012 - 2015 Michigan Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2011 - 2012 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2011 - 2012 American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowship [Declined]
- 2008 - 2009 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship
- 2007 - 2008 Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship – India
- 2007 - 2008 Fulbright Institute for International Education Fellowship – India [Declined]

Grants from Brown University

- 2017-2018 Faculty Lectureship Award (with Bhrigupati Singh and Parsa Bastani)
- 2017 Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Humanities Research Grant.

- 2016 Faculty Travel Grant (for conference travel)
- 2016 Watson Institute Collaboration Grant (with Elizabeth Williams)
- 2016 Brown India Initiative Faculty Research Grant
- 2016 Undergraduate Teaching and Research Assistant (UTRA) Award
- 2016 Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) Humanities Research Grant.
- 2015 Faculty Travel Grant (for conference travel)

Grants from the University of Michigan

- 2014 Conference Travel Award, College of Letters and Sciences
- 2014 Office of Research and Sponsored Projects Book Publication Subvention
- 2014 International Travel Grant, Center for South Asian Studies
- 2012 & 2013 Faculty Research Top-up Grant, Center for South Asian Studies
- 2012 - 2014 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Faculty Funding

Grants from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

- 2011 Vilas Grant for Conference Travel, The Graduate School
- 2011 Center for Culture, History, and the Environment (CHE) Travel Award; Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
- 2010 Vilas Grant for Conference Travel, The Graduate School
- 2009 - 2010 Raymond J. Penn Fellowship, Nelson Institute Land Tenure Center
- 2009 Vilas Travel Grant for Dissertation Research, The Graduate School
- 2007 Academic Year Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Hindi
- 2007 Summer FLAS Fellowship, Nepali
- 2007 Travel Award, Department of Anthropology
- 2006 - 2007 Academic Year FLAS Fellowship, Hindi
- 2006 Summer FLAS Fellowship, Nepali
- 2006 Travel Award, Department of Anthropology
- 2006 Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Internship Grant; Global Studies Program
- 2005 - 2006 Academic Year FLAS Fellowship, Tibetan
- 2005 Summer FLAS Fellowship, Nepali

HONORS AND PRIZES

- 2014 Anthropology & Environment Society Junior Scholar Award
- 2014 Society for Economic Anthropology Book Award (awarded every 3 years)
- 2012 Miller-Hitchcock-Weinstein Award, Department of Anthropology, UW-Madison
- 2011 Dor Bahadur Bista Prize, Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies
- 2011 Finalist for the Early Excellence in Teaching Award, UW-Madison
- 2011 University Housing Honored Instructor Award, UW-Madison
- 2011 Honorable Mention, Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award for Outstanding Research in Social Studies, Office of the Secretary of the Faculty, UW-Madison
- 2010 Roy A. Rappaport Graduate Student Prize Winner, Anthropology and the Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association
- 2003 B. June Macklin Award for Anthropology, Connecticut College

INVITED LECTURES

- 2017 TBD. Mumbai International Literary Festival. Mumbai, India, November 16-19
- 2017 “Can a Plantation Be Fair? Fair Trade in the Tea Industry.” World Tea Expo, Las Vegas, NV, June 15
- 2017 “Cheap Tea and the Endurance of Monoculture in the Dooars, India.” Annual Hunt Lecture in Economic Anthropology. Brandeis University, April 28
- 2017 “Exhaustion and Endurance in Sick Landscapes.” Department of Anthropology, Rice University, January 24
- 2016 “Can a Plantation Be Fair? Fair-Trade Certification in Darjeeling Tea.” Seattle Museum of Art’s Asian Art Museum, December 3
- 2016 “Spaces for Labor: Inheritance, Inequality, and Infrastructure on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, December 2
- Also presented at:*
- Institute for Work and Employment Research. Sloan School of Management, MIT, November 1, 2016
 - Legal History Colloquium, Brown University, October 28
 - Dept. of Anthropology, University of Freiburg, April 22, 2016
 - Department of Geography, Dartmouth College, April 18, 2016
 - Center for Asian Studies, Southern Methodist University, April 12, 2016
 - Watson Institute; Brown University, April 7, 2016
 - Department of Anthropology; UW-Madison, March 7, 2016
- 2016 “Cheap Tea and the Work of Monoculture in India.” Advanced Seminar on “How Nature Works.” School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM, September 24-30
- 2016 Commentary on Research Program: “Moving Crops and the Scales of History.” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany, July 18-19
- 2016 “The Land in Gorkhaland: On the Edges of Belonging in India.” Department of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology; University of Chicago, March 14
- Also presented at:*
- South Asia Center; University of Heidelberg, April 26, 2016
 - Center for South Asia; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dec. 3, 2015
 - Brown-India Initiative; Brown University, October 16, 2015
 - Department of Geography; University of Zurich, March 3, 2015
 - Agrarian Studies Colloquium; Yale University, January 16, 2015
- 2016 Keynote roundtable participant at “E is for Environment” Symposium, Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE); University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 4-6.

- 2015 “Financializability: On the Changing Nature of Numbers in Kolkata’s Tea Auction.” Invited Speaker at “Transformations in the Global South -- Taking Stock.” Global South Studies Center; University of Cologne, May 26-28
- Also presented at:*
- Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, NC State University, April 17, 2015
 - Environmental Studies Department; UC-Santa Cruz, January 21, 2015
- 2015 “Can a Plantation be Fair?” Ethics of Consumerism Symposium; University of New Hampshire, April 23
- 2015 “Agriculture and Ethical Standards.” Global Economic Geographies of Agriculture and Food Systems Seminar, Department of Geography; University of Zurich, March 4
- 2015 “Fair Trade, Subnational Politics, and Environmental Justice in Darjeeling, India.” Environmental Studies Program; University of Colorado, Boulder, January 25
- 2014 “Decolonizing Tea? Industrial Reform and the Governance of Price in India.” Watson Institute for International Studies and Department of Anthropology; Brown University; December 12
- 2014 Society for Economic Anthropology Book Prize Lecture, American Anthropological Association Meetings; Washington, D.C., December 4
- 2014 “Can a Plantation Be Fair? Fair Trade and Darjeeling Tea Production.” Peace & Justice Studies Program, Michigan State University, November 14
- 2014 “Sustainability at Industrial Scales?” Sustainable Food Initiative’s “Fast Food for Thought;” University of Michigan, October 21
- 2014 “Socially Responsible Tea: Labor Conditions, Corporate Branding, and Indian Tea Plantations.” Co-panelist with Max Bearak (*New York Times*), Ashwini Sukthankar (Columbia), and Phyllis Robison (Equal Exchange). Human Rights Institute; Columbia University Law School, March 24
- 2014 “‘Large Farms’ and the Limits of Fair Trade: Value-Added Relations on Indian Tea Plantations.” Department of Human Ecology; University of California, Davis, January 29
- 2013 “Composing Value: Brokerage and the Politics of Taste in the Indian Tea Auction.” Department of Anthropology; University of Michigan, November 25
- 2013 “Inheriting the Plantation: Tripartite Moral Economies and Gendered Understandings of Labor and Landscape in Darjeeling, India.” Department of Women’s Studies; University of Michigan, November 18
- 2012 “Fair for All? Fair Trade Plantations and the Implications of Hired Labor Standards in Indian Tea Production.” Presented at the “Global Ethical Consumption: New Dimensions of Fair Trade” Symposium. National Museum of Ethnology; Osaka, Japan, March 24-25

- 2012 “Nostalgia, Revitalization, and the Meaning of Justice on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Dept. of Environmental Science, Planning, and Management; UC-Berkeley, March 9
- 2012 “Labor, Tea, and Fair Trade in India.” Human Rights Institute; Columbia University Law School, New York, NY, February 29
- 2008 “Environmental Change and Tea Production in Darjeeling.” Environmental Science Department; St. Paul’s School; Darjeeling, India, August 5

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Panel Organization

- 2017 “How Nature Works:” set of three panels organized with Alex Blanchette. American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Washington, DC, November 29-December 3. [under review]
- 2015 “Labor, Landscape, and (De)colonial Desires: Rethinking the Plantation as a Socio-Ecological Category.” [Co-organized with Mythri Jegathesan] American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Denver, CO, November 18-22.
- 2014 “Beyond the Material/Immaterial Divide: Aesthetics, Affects, and the End(s) of Work.” [Co-organized with Alex Nading] Society for Cultural Anthropology Meetings; Detroit, MI, May 9-10.
- 2014 “Categories, Difference, and In/Visibility.” [Co-organized with Reighan Gillam] American Ethnological Society Meetings; Boston, MA, April 10-12.
- 2014 “New Directions in Human-Environment Relations in the Himalayas.” [Co-organized with Shaila Seshia Galvin] Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS) Conference; New Haven, CT, March 14-16
- 2013 “Doing Justice?” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Chicago, IL, November 20-24
- 2012 “Enumerating Environments: Ethnographies of Brokers, Middlemen, and Analysts.” [Co-organized with Nicholas D’Avella] American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; San Francisco, CA, November 14-18
- 2011 “People, Plants, and Practice: Garden Variety Investigations of Domesticated Nature.” [Co-organized with Jonathan Padwe] American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Montreal, QC, November 16-20
- 2011 “The Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalaya: Interfaces and Interrogations.” Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS) Conference; St. Paul, MN, October 28-30

Paper Presentations (selected)

- 2017 “Exhaustion and Endurance in Sick Landscapes.” To be presented on panel: “How Nature Works 2” (Besky and Blanchette, organizers). American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Washington, DC, November 29-December 3 [under review]
- 2016 “The Land in Gorkhaland.” Presented on the panel: “Sovereignty and the Environment” (Dana Graef, organizer). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 16-20
- 2016 “Plantation Landscapes and the Work of Abandonment.” To be presented on the panel: “Reincarnation after Ruination: The Afterlives of Technologies, Industries and Labor in South Asia” (Maura Finkelstein and Nikhil Anand, organizers). Annual Conference on South Asia, October 20-22
- 2016 “Spaces for Labor.” To be presented on the panel: “Making up Anthropology, Part One: Objects” (Matthew Wolf-Meyer, organizer). Society for Cultural Anthropology Meeting; Ithaca, NY, May 13-15
- 2015 “Transparent Futures? Digitization, Documentation, and Tea Auction Reform in Kolkata, India.” Presented on the panel: “The Paper Life of Politics: Documents as Mediators in Political Struggles” (Aniket Aga, organizer). American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Denver, CO, November 18-22
- 2015 Discussant for “Labor, Landscape, and (De)colonial Desires: Rethinking the Plantation as a Socio-Ecological Category.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Denver, CO, November 18-22 [*panel organizer*]
- 2015 “Tea, Territory, and Tacit Knowledge: Managing Darjeeling Tea.” Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 22-25
- 2015 “Postcolonial Pricing: On the Changing Nature of Numbers in Kolkata’s Tea Auction.” Society for Economic Anthropology Meeting; Lexington KY, April 9-11
- Also presented on the panel: “The Pursuit of Quality: Distinction and Fungibility in Emergent Agro-food Regimes.” (Karen Hébert and Shaila Seshia Galvin, organizers). American Ethnological Society Meeting; San Diego, CA, March 12-14, 2015
- 2014 “Analog Relations, Digital Transparency: Taste, Price, and Value in the Indian Tea Auction.” Presented on the panel: “Sensory Politics.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Washington D.C., December 3-7
- 2014 “Houses as Imperial Ruins: Infrastructure and Inheritance on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Presented on the panel: “Building South Asia.” Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 17-19
- 2014 “Rootedness and Circulation: Tea’s Place in the Gorkhaland Agitation in Darjeeling, India.” Presented as part of “Animal, Mineral, Vegetable: Feminist Provocations” (Priti

- Ramamurthy and Naisargi Dave, organizers). Feminist Studies South Asia Pre-Conference; Madison, WI, October 16
- 2014 “Narrative or Scenario: Nature and Price in the Indian Tea Auction.” Presented at the “Anthropology for Sale” workshop (Jamie Cross and Luke Heslop, organizers). University of Edinburgh, September 19
- 2014 “The Future in Ruins: Aesthetic Legacies and Practices of Care in Darjeeling’s Tea Plantation Landscape.” Presented on the panel: “After Development: Critical Aesthetics of Past Futures” (John Manton, Wenzel Geissler, and Noemi Tousignant, Conveners). Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth; Edinburgh, UK, June 19-22
- 2014 “The Labor of Taste.” Presented on the panel: “Beyond the Material/Immaterial Divide: Aesthetics, Affects, and the End(s) of Work.” [Co-organized with Alex Nading] Society for Cultural Anthropology Meetings; Detroit, MI, May 9-10
- 2014 “On Rootedness and Circulation: Tea’s Invisibility and the Gorkhaland Agitation in Darjeeling, India.” Presented on the panel: “Categories, Difference, and In/Visibility.” [Co-organized with Reighan Gillam] American Ethnological Society Meetings; Boston, MA, April 10-12
- 2014 “Brokering Taste: Meanings and Metrologies in the Indian Tea Auction.” Presented at the symposium: “When Nature and Numbers (Don’t) Meet.” Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, UW-Madison, April 4-6, 2014
- 2014 “The Buds and Roots of Subnationalism in Darjeeling.” Presented on the panel “New Directions in Human-Environment Relations in the Himalayas.” Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies Conference; New Haven, CT, March 14-16 [*panel organizer*]
- 2013 “In the Market for Justice.” Presented on the panel: “Doing Justice.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Chicago, IL, November 20-24 [*panel organizer and chair*]
- 2013 Roundtable Participant for “Nongovernmental Politics” (Greg Beckett, Organizer). Future of NGO Studies Conference; Chicago, IL, November 19-20
- 2013 “‘Essentially Attributable’: Geographical Indication and the Place of Labor in the *Terroir* of Darjeeling Tea.” Presented on the panel “Value Chains, Neoliberal Regulation, and Global Restructuring” (Jennifer Bair and Marion Werner, Organizers). Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting; Los Angeles, CA, April 9-13
- 2012 “Brokering Taste: Middlemen in the Indian Tea Auction.” Presented on the panel “Enumerating Environments: Ethnographies of Brokers, Middlemen, and Analysts.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; San Francisco, CA, November 14-18 [*Panel Organizer*]

- 2012 “Analog Relations, Digital Transparency? Indian Tea Auction Reform and the Question of the ‘Middleman.’” Presented on the panel “The State's Relations: Emergent Forms of Technology and Transparency in South Asia” (Organized by Nikhil Anand). Annual Conference on South Asia; Madison, WI, October 11-14
- 2012 “Crossings and Cultivations: Tea Production and Identity Politics in Darjeeling.” Presented on the panel “People, Plants, and Food: Transnational Flows in the Himalayas” at “Foodways: Diasporic Dinners, Transnational Tables, and Culinary Connections” (organized by Jill Didur); Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto; October 4-7
- 2012 “Gender, Affective Labor, and the Home/Work Paradox on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Presented at the Socio-Cultural Workshop, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Michigan, September 28
- 2012 “Imperialist Nostalgia, Agrarian Imaginaries, and the Meaning of Justice on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Dimensions of Political Ecology: Conference on Nature and Society; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, April 13-15
- 2012 “Celebrity Planters and the Remaking of Darjeeling Tea.” Presented on the panel “Food Media Politics” (Organized by Michael Goodman and Christine Barnes). Association of American Geographers Annual Conference; New York, NY, February 23-28
- 2011 “Gardening the Tea Plantation: Human-Plant Relationships in Darjeeling, India.” Presented on the panel “People, Plants, and Practice: Garden Variety Investigations of Domesticated Nature.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Montreal, QC, November 16-20 [*panel organizer*]
- 2011 “Land, Belonging, and Justice on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Presented on the panel “The Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalaya: Interfaces and Interrogations.” Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS) Conference; St. Paul, MN, October 28-30 [*panel chair and organizer*]
- 2010 “Garden Variety Kinship: Shifting Moral Economies, Nostalgia, and Relationships of Care on Darjeeling Tea Plantations.” Presented on the Roy A. Rappaport Graduate Student Prize Panel, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; New Orleans, LA, November 17-21
- 2010 “Darjeeling after Fair Trade: Moral Economies of Land, Labor, and Ownership.” Presented on the panel: “Natural Circuits: The Political Ecology of Environmental Commodities” (Organized by Paige West and Molly Doane). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; New Orleans, LA, November 17-21

Guest Lectures (selected)

- 2016 “Anthropology and Development.” In *Development 2000: “Theory and Research in Development.”* Brown University, November 3

- 2016 “Making the Most of a Postdoctoral Fellowship.” Michigan Society of Fellows, September 16
Also presented at:
- Watson Institute, Brown University, October 24, 2016
- 2016 “Applying for Postdoctoral Fellowships.” Dept. of Anthropology, Brown University September 9
Also presented at:
- Department of Anthropology, Brown University, September 28, 2015
- 2016 “Ethnography.” RISD Continuing Education “Design and Public Policy Institute” for state of Rhode Island officials, August 4
Also presented at:
- RISD Design and Public Policy Institute (for State of Rhode Island), June 6, 2016
- RISD Design and Public Policy Institute (for federal employees), August 4, 2015
- 2016 “Slow Violence in Shadow Places.” Guest lecture for graduate seminar in environmental anthropology, University of Heidelberg, April 25
- 2015 “How to Write a Journal Article.” Department of Anthropology, Brown University, December 14
- 2015 “The Death of the Indian Tea Auction.” Brown Club of New Hampshire and Vermont; Claremont, NH, November 18
Also presented at:
- Brown Club of Wisconsin; Madison, WI, Oct. 23, 2015

Invited Discussions of The Darjeeling Distinction in Colleagues’ Classes:

- 2016 In “Anthropology of Natural Wealth,” Amherst College (Skype), October 5
2016 In “Political Ecology,” University of Texas, Austin (Skype); April 22
2016 In “Moral Economies of Development,” Dartmouth College; April 19
2016 In “Environmental Anthropology,” University of Hawaii (Skype); January 23
2015 In “Anthropology of Food,” Connecticut College; November 5
2015 In “The Anthropology of Good Intentions,” Oberlin College; April 21
2015 In “The Global Intimate,” Dartmouth College (Skype); January 28
2014 In “Sociology of Food and Agriculture,” NC State (Skype); November 5
2014 In “Environmental Anthropology,” U. Michigan; October 30
2014 In “Environmental Anthropology,” Florida International U. (Skype); March 20
2014 In “Culture and Global Environment,” U. of Oklahoma (Skype); February 19
2013 In “Global Environmental Justice,” U. of Oklahoma (via Skype); October 10
2012 In “Environmental Anthropology,” U. of Michigan; October 13

COURSES TAUGHT

At Brown University

“Anthropology and Global Social Problems.” [introductory undergraduate class]

“Research Design and Methods in Anthropology.” [graduate seminar]

“Labor and Social Life.” [graduate seminar]

“Anthropology of the Himalayas.” [undergraduate seminar]

At the University of Michigan

“Food, Politics, and Environment.” [combined graduate and undergraduate seminar; cross-listed in Anthropology and Natural Resources]

“Social and Environmental Justice in South Asia.” [combined graduate and undergraduate seminar; cross-listed in Anthropology and Natural Resources]

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Introduction to East Asian Civilizations.” [undergraduate lecture course; cross-listed in East Asian Studies and Political Science.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Grant Reviewer for:

National Science Foundation, Cultural Anthropology Program (2014)

Manuscript Reviewer for:

Agriculture and Human Values; American Ethnologist; Anthropology of Work Review; Antipode; Comparative Studies in Society and History; Culture, Agriculture, Food, and Environment (Culture & Agriculture); Economic Anthropology; Economy and Society; Gender and Society; Global Networks: A Journal of Transnational Affairs; Himalaya: Journal of Cultural Economy; Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies; Human Organization; Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute; Political and Legal Anthropology Review (PoLAR); Studies in Nepali History and Society; University of Washington Press

2017- Scientific Advisory Board, Danish Council for Independent Research (Ministry of Higher Education and Science) for project entitled “Sustainability’s Infrastructure: Ethnographies of the Global Value Chain of Certified Tea in Kenya and Beyond” (PI: Martin Skrydstrup)

2016 Rappaport Prize Panel; Anthropology and Environment Society

2016 Junior Scholar Award Reviewer; Anthropology and Environment Society

2016 Co-Chair, Society for Economic Anthropology Book Prize Committee

2015 - 2018 Board Member; Society for Economic Anthropology (section of the American Anthropological Association)

- 2014 Faculty Mentor, Anthropology and Environment Society Dissertation Workshop, American Anthropological Association Meetings, Washington D.C., December 6
- 2011 - 2013 Board Member, Anthropology and Environment Society (section of the American Anthropological Association)
- 2011 - 2013 Organizer, Anthropology and Environment Society Dissertation Workshop

At Brown University

- 2016 Watson-Smith Prize Committee Member, Department of Anthropology
- 2016 - Food Studies Working Group, American Studies Department
- 2016 - Graduate Program in Development Executive Committee, Watson Institute
- 2016 Co-convener, Article Writing Workshop (for grad students), Dept. of Anthropology

Student Committees (graduate):

Hannah Marshall (Anthropology, Masters thesis committee member)

Student Committees (undergraduate):

Isabelle Thenor-Louis (Anthropology, thesis second reader, 2016)
Laura Durand (Development Studies, thesis second reader, 2016)

At the University of Michigan

- 2012 - 2015 Reviewer for Postdoctoral Applications to the Michigan Society of Fellows
- 2012 - 2015 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award Reviewer
- 2012 - 2015 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Sponsor
- 2015, 2014 Center for South Asian Studies Summer in South Asia Fellowship Committee
- 2014 Fulbright IIE Application Review Committee
- 2014 Lectured on "Using Twitter in the Classroom" for Center for Research on Teaching and Learning's (CRLT) New Faculty Workshop, May 15.
- 2014 Planning Committee Member, Michigan Meeting on Food Sovereignty
- 2014 Center for South Asian Studies M.A. Admissions Committee
- 2013 Panelist on "Applying for Postdocs;" part of the four-field graduate-organized Professionalization and Job Skills Series, Dept. of Anthropology, February 19

External Committees

- 2012 Honors Thesis Committee Member, International Studies, Franklin & Marshall College

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison

- 2006 - 2007 Organizer, Graduate Student Colloquium Series, Department of Anthropology

MEDIA, INTERVIEWS, AND CONSULTATIONS (archived online at www.sarahbesky.com)

My research has been covered in Indian print media: *The Times of India* (2014), *The Economic Times* (2014), *The Business Standard* (2014), *The Darjeeling Times* (2014)

- 2017 Syntalk (radio program based in Mumbai, India). Scheduled: November 16
- 2017 Interviewed for report on Right to Food in India. Peace Research Institute; Oslo, Sweden, April 28

- 2017 “Ten Questions.” Chapati Mystery Blog, January 27
- 2016 - 2017 Consultant for tea sector study, Rosa Luxemborg Stiftung (Berlin, Germany)
- 2016 Commentator on Al Jazeera’s “The Stream” show on tea plantations. December 14
- 2016 Interviewed for *Rhein Neckar Zeitung* (Heidelberg, Germany), April 27
- 2016 Interviewed for Asia Experts Forum (Claremont McKenna College), April 6
- 2016 Interviewed for CNN Freedom Project, April 7
- 2016 Interviewed on Edge Effects Blog, March 29
- 2016 Interviewed for *Cultural Anthropology* website, March 17
- 2015 Interviewed for a BBC article on labor conditions in Indian tea, August 19
- 2015 Interviewed for the “New Books in South Asia” podcast series. January 14
- 2014 Interviewed on BBC Radio 4 “Thinking Allowed.” Airdate: October 22
- 2014 Interviewed for an article in *The Guardian* on smallholder tea. August 9
- 2014 Interviewed for documentary on fair trade for BBC Dispatches
- 2014 Interviewed on “The Farm Report.” Heritage Radio News. Airdate: May 22
- 2014 Interviewed on “It’s Hot in Here.” WCBN Ann Arbor. Airdate: January 17
- 2013 Interviewed for Friends of the Earth UK “Make it Better Campaign.” October 17
- 2010 Interviewed on “Against the Grain,” on “Fair Trade’s Impact.” KPFA Berkeley, CA.
Airdate: November 22
- 2010 Consultant for International Union of Foodworkers (IUF) for a study on the effects of fair trade certification on unionization; Darjeeling, India
- 2009 Consultant on Plantation Social Welfare, Community Health and Advancement in India (CHAI) Project, Mercy Corps (US NGO); Darjeeling, India

REFUGEE ADVOCACY AND INTERPRETATION

- 2012 Led “Cultural Workshop” on Bhutanese Refugees for Health and Educational Service Providers at “It Takes a Community: Optimizing Refugee Resettlement in Southeastern Pennsylvania;” Lancaster, PA, March 30
- 2010 - 2011 Nepali Interpreter for Bhutanese Refugees and Nepali Immigrants at:
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics • Public Health Madison Dane County •
Madison Metropolitan School District • St. Mary’s Hospital • Meriter Hospital • Dean
Health System • Imagine a Child’s Capacity (non-profit) • Wisconsin Disability
Determination Board (Social Security Administration) [*all in Madison, WI*]

LANGUAGES

Nepali: Excellent (speaking, writing, and reading) *See above for interpreting experience*

Hindi: Proficient (speaking, writing, and reading)

Tibetan: Elementary (speaking, reading, and writing)

Bengali: Elementary (comprehension and speaking)

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association • American Ethnological Association • Anthropology and Environment Society • Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies • Society for Cultural Anthropology • Society for Economic Anthropology