

**Ilana Miriam Gershon**

Office Address: 800 East Third St., Bloomington IN 47405

Email: [igershon@indiana.edu](mailto:igershon@indiana.edu)

Website: <http://mypage.iu.edu/~igershon/>

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor, Dept. of Communication and Culture, Indiana University, Bloomington

**Research Interests:** ethnography of new media; anthropology of democracy; indigenous self-representation; Samoan migrants; multiculturalism; globalization; migration; kinship; anthropology of knowledge, Oceania, New Zealand, United States

**Education**

Ph.D. University of Chicago, Cultural Anthropology, 2001.

Dissertation title: "Making Differences Cultural: Samoan Migrants Encounter New Zealand and the U. S. Governments"

Dissertation committee chairman: John Kelly.

M.Phil. Cambridge University, Social Anthropology, 1994.

Thesis title: "The Place of Siblingship in Melanesian and Polynesian Ethnography"

Supervisor: Marilyn Strathern.

B. A. with honors, Stanford University, History & Philosophy of the Social Sciences, 1993.

Thesis title: "Seeing the Savage: Photographing Papua New Guineans and Samoans."

Advisor: Akhil Gupta.

**Previous Positions**

2004-2005 Global Studies scholar-in-residence, Emerson College

2002-2004 visiting lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Yale University

1999-2002 Editorial associate for reviews, American Ethnologist

## **Fellowships, Grants, and Honors**

- 2010 CAHI Travel Grant  
2008-2009 NZ Society Fellow in New Zealand Studies, Centre for New Zealand Studies, Birkbeck, University of London  
2008 Project on African Expressive Traditions Research and Travel Grant  
2007 IU International Studies Program Excellence in Teaching Award  
2007 IU Campus Writing Program Summer Writing-Teaching Grant  
2002 Young Scholars Fellowship, The 2002 Jacobs Foundation Conference in Switzerland, Jacobs Foundation  
1998 SSRC International Migration Dissertation Fellowship  
1997; 99 Wenner-Gren Foundation Doctoral Research Grant  
1996-97 Spencer Foundation travel grant  
1994-1997 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship  
1994-95 Mellon Graduate Fellowship  
1994-99 Century Fellowship, University of Chicago

## **Publications**

### **Books**

*The Break-Up 2.0: Disconnecting Over New Media*, (in press, Cornell University Press)

*Making Differences Cultural: Samoan Migrants in New Zealand and the United States* (forthcoming, Cornell University Press)

### **Special Journal Issues**

2008 *Culture in the Spaces of No-Culture*, Guest Editor (with Janelle Taylor) for In Focus section of *American Anthropologist* 110 (4).

2006 Guest editor for “Reflexivity in Others’ Contexts” special issue of *Ethnos* 71(4).

2000 Guest editor for “The Symbolic Capital of Ignorance” special issue of *Social Analysis* 44(2).

### **Articles**

“Bruno Latour” for *Agamben to Zizek: Contemporary Critical Theorists*. Edited by Jon Simons. Edinburgh University Press. (forthcoming)

“Stabilizing Truths: Actor-Network Theory and Documentary Studies” co-authored with Joshua Malitsky (in press) *Studies in Documentary Studies*.

“Neoliberal Agency” (in press, *Current Anthropology*)

2009 “Living Theory” *Critique of Anthropology* 29: 397-422.

“Email My Heart: Remediation and Romantic Break-Ups” *Anthropology Today* 24(6): 13-15.

2008 “Being Explicit about Culture: Maori, Neoliberalism and the New Zealand Parliament” *American Anthropologist* 110 (4): 422-431.

2008 “Introduction to Culture in the Spaces of No-Culture” co-written with Janelle Taylor. *American Anthropologist* 110 (4): 417 - 421.

2008 “Don’t Push Send: Breaking Up via New Media” *Anthropology News* 49 (9): 58. [not peer reviewed]

2008 “Mirrors and Numbers Among Others in Papua New Guinea” *Paideuma* vol. 54.

2007 “Indigeneity for Life! Bro`town and its Stereotypes.” *FLOWTV* 5(12).  
<http://flowtv.org/?p=377> [not peer reviewed]

2007 “Outraged Indigenes and Nostalgic Migrants: Māori and Samoan Cultural Groups in a Competitive Cultural Festival” with Solonaima Collins. *Teachers College Record* 109 (7): 1797-1820.

Reprinted in: *Alternative Anthropological Perspectives on Education*. Edited by Herve Varenne. Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2008.

2007 “Viewing Diaspora From the Pacific: What Pacific Ethnographies Offer Pacific Diaspora Studies” *The Contemporary Pacific* 19(2): 474-502.

2007 “Compelling Culture: The Rhetoric of Assimilation among Samoan Community Workers in the United States.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 30 (5): 787-816.

2006 “Reflexivity in Others’ Contexts: An Introduction” *Ethnos* 71(4): 445-452.

2006 “When Culture Is Not A System: Why Samoan Cultural Brokers Can Not Do Their Job” *Ethnos* 71(4): 533-558.

2006 “The Meaning of Conversion and the Conversion of Meaning in Samoan Moral Economies” *The Limits of Meaning*. Edited by Matt Tomlinson and Matthew Engelke. Berghahn Press. Pp. 147-164.

2005 “Seeing Like A System: Luhmann For Anthropologists” *Anthropological Theory* 5(2): 99-116.

Translated into Italian. published in *Lares. Rivista quadrimestrale di studi demo-etno-antropologici*. December 2007.

2003 “Adopting Knowledge” *American Ethnologist* 30 (3): 439-446. [Review essay]

2001 “Becoming Minor Minorities in the United States and New Zealand: Samoan Migrant Experiences with Government Funding,” in *Selected Papers on Refugees and Immigrants (9)*, edited by MaryCarol Hopkins and Nancy Wellmeier. American Anthropological Association.

2001 “Going Nuclear: New Zealand Bureaucratic Fantasies of Samoan Extended Families” in *New Directions in Anthropological Kinship*, edited by Linda Stone. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers: 303-321.

2000 “Introduction to the Symbolic Capital of Ignorance” co-written with Dhooleka Sarhadi Raj for special issue of *Social Analysis* 44(2).

2000 “How to Know When Not to Know: Strategic Ignorance When Eliciting for Samoan Migrant Exchanges.” *Social Analysis* 44(2): 84-105.

1999 “Muffy Sione’s Pisupo on White Bread: Assimilation in Western Samoa?” *Cambridge Anthropology*, vol.21(2): 58-74. [not peer reviewed]

1996 “Representing Resistance in Holocaust Museums: How to be an American or an Israeli Citizen” *Chicago Anthropology Exchange* 14. [not peer reviewed]

#### *Works Submitted*

#### **Special Issues of Journals**

“Media Ideologies” (special issue of *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*)

“The Ethics of Disconnection” (special issue co-edited with Allison Alexy, *Anthropological Quarterly*)