

SARAH A. BESKY

5240 W. H. Sewell Social Sciences Building
1180 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 262-2836
besky@wisc.edu

EDUCATION

- A.B.D. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin – Madison, Department of Anthropology
Advisor: Kirin Narayan, Professor, Department of Anthropology
Ph.D. Minor: Political Ecology of Agrofood Systems
Dissertation Title: “The Darjeeling Distinction: [An Ethnographic Study of](#) Changing Agricultural Practice, Regimes of Value, and Visions of Justice.”
- 2006 M.A., University of Wisconsin – Madison, Department of Anthropology
- 2003 B.A., Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut
Double Major: Anthropology; Asian Culture and Religious Experience

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ecological anthropology; labor; agriculture; environmental and social justice; political ecology; development; organic and fair trade industries; food security; home gardens; and the Himalayas

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

- 2008 - 2010 Thirty-month fieldwork project in Darjeeling and Kolkata (Calcutta), India
- 2006 Three-month internship at Makaibari Tea Estates; Darjeeling, India
- 2003 - 2004 Six months living and working in Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2002 Three months in Kathmandu, Nepal conducting research for senior thesis

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 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]
- 2007 Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2007 FLAS Fellowship, Hindi, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Summer 2007 FLAS Fellowship, Nepali, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2006 Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2006 - 2007 FLAS Fellowship, Hindi, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Summer 2006 Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Internship Grant; Global Studies Program, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Summer 2006 FLAS Fellowship, Nepali, University of Wisconsin – Madison [Declined]
- 2005 - 2006 FLAS Fellowship, Tibetan, University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Summer 2005 FLAS Fellowship, Nepali, University of Wisconsin – Madison

2003	B. June Macklin Award for Anthropology, Connecticut College
2003	Commencement Honors and Distinction in Major Field, Anthropology
2003	Commencement Distinction in Major Field, Asian Culture and Religious Experience
Summer 2002	Career Enhancing Life Skills (CELS) Internship Grant, Connecticut College
1999	New London Scholar, Connecticut College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2007	Associate Lecturer, East Asian Studies/Political Science 222: Introduction to East Asian Civilizations; Center for East Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison Syllabus available at: http://eastasia.wisc.edu/Academics/CoursesF07.html
Fall 2007	Instructor, East Asian Studies 699: Independent Study on Kashmir
2004 - 2006	Reader/Grader, "Introduction to Asian Civilization," Center for East Asia University of Wisconsin - Madison
2004 - 2005	Reader/Grader, "Theory and Ethnography," Department of Anthropology University of Wisconsin - Madison

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming	"Colonial Pasts and Fair Trade Futures: Agricultural Change and Regulatory 'Friction' in Darjeeling Tea Production" In <i>A New World? Ethnographies of Fair Trade</i> . Sarah Lyon and Mark Moberg, eds., Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
2008	"Can a Plantation be Fair? Paradoxes and Possibilities in Fair Trade Darjeeling Tea Certification." <i>Anthropology of Work Review</i> . 29(1): 1-9.

UNREFEREED PUBLICATIONS

2008	"Old Grievances." Letter to the Editor in response to "Unrest in India's Hill Country" <i>New York Times</i> (Sunday Travel Section). July 13
2007	"Rural Vulnerability and Tea Plantation Migration in Nepal and Darjeeling." <i>Himalayan Research Papers</i> . Nepal Study Center, University of New Mexico. Available online: https://repository.unm.edu/dspace/handle/1928/3304
2003	"Preserving Shangri-La: A History of the Western Invention of Tibetan Culture." Senior Honors Thesis, Connecticut College

PROFESSIONAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS

2007	"Can a Plantation be Fair? Paradoxes and Possibilities in Fair Trade Darjeeling Tea Production" presented on panel: "What's Fair: Environmental and Social Justice Through Markets." American Anthropological Association Annual Conference; Washington D.C. November 28 - December 2
2007	"Can a Plantation be Fair? Paradoxes and Possibilities in Fair Trade Darjeeling Tea Production" Department of Anthropology Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison; November 8
2007	"Indian Labor Law and the Limits of Fair Trade in Indian Tea Production" presented on panel: "Diverse Responses to Economic Globalization." Conference on South Asia; Madison, Wisconsin, October 12-14 (panel chair)

- 2007 "Rural Vulnerability and Tea Plantation Migration in Eastern Nepal and Darjeeling." presented on panel: "Education, Labor, and Migration Issues." Himalayan Policy Research Conference; Madison, Wisconsin, October 11 (panel discussant)
- 2007 "Conflicting Regimes of Accumulation and the Prospects of "Fair Trade" on Darjeeling Plantations: A Perspective from Regulation Theory." Southeast Asian Studies Language Institute Student Conference; University of Wisconsin - Madison, July 28
- 2007 "Potentials for Action Anthropology in the Fair Trade Organic Movement" presented on panel: "Service Learning and Action Anthropology: Going Public." Central States Anthropology Association Meetings; Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 13-15
- 2007 "How 'Fair' is Fair Trade Tea in India?" Graduate Student Paper Series on Public Anthropology; Dept. of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin - Madison, March 5
- 2006 "Organic and Fair Trade Certification in Darjeeling Tea Production," SociETAS; Dept. of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin - Madison, December 8
- 2006 "Who's the Ethnographer Here? Lessons from Nepal," Midwestern Conference on Asian Affairs; Madison, Wisconsin, October 20-22
- 2006 "A Canadian, a Criminal, and a Cupboard Filled with Glass" AnthroCircle Colloquium; Dept. of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin - Madison, October 11
- 2005 "Jewelers, Tourists, and Power in Kathmandu," Southeast Asian Studies Language Institute Graduate Student Conference; University of Wisconsin - Madison, July 23
- 2005 "Voices of the Kathmandu Gem Scam," South Asian Summer Language Institute Graduate Student Conference; University of Wisconsin - Madison, June 25
- 2000 "East Meets West: A Study of Buddhists in New London," Conference on Religions in New London: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives; Religious Pluralism Project, Connecticut College - Harvard University, December 10

INVITED LECTURES

- 2008 "Environmental Change and Tea Production in Darjeeling." Lecture for Class 8 -12 Environmental Science students, St. Paul's School; Darjeeling, India, August 5
- 2008 "Darjeeling Tea Plantations and the Reality of Fair Trade." Lecture for Where There Be Dragons Himalayan Studies Semester Study Abroad Program; Darjeeling, India, March 8
- 2008 "Introduction to Darjeeling Politics and Environment." Lecture for Where There Be Dragons Himalayan Studies Semester Study Abroad Program; Darjeeling, India, February 22
- 2007 "Gender and Long-Distance Running," Guest Lecture, Anthro. 120: Anthropology of Sport, Professor Larry Nesper; University of Wisconsin - Madison, November 9
- 2007 "India and Nepal." Presentation for seventh-grade Language Arts students at Fitch Middle School; Groton, Connecticut, May 25
- 2006 "Nature and Capitalism," Guest Lecture for Anthro. 470: Ecological Anthropology; University of Wisconsin - Madison, Professor Paul Nadasdy, April 4

ACADEMIC SERVICE (Selected)

- 2007 - present Graduate Student Affiliate, Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE), Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies; University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2006 - 2007 Organizer, Graduate Student Paper Series, Department of Anthropology; University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2006 - 2007 American Indian Studies Program Volunteer; University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2005 Project Assistant for South Asian Bibliographer; University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2004 - 2005 Member, Global Studies Reading Group; University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2003 - 2004 Library Staff, Social Science Baha; Himal Association, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 2003 - 2004 Curatorial Assistant, Lyman Allyn Art Museum; New London, Connecticut
- 2003 Research Intern, "In a Nutshell: The Visionary Art of Elizabeth Tashjian;" Mimetic Media, Brooklyn, New York.
- 2002 - 2003 Asian Area Studies Search Committee Representative, Department of Anthropology; Connecticut College
- 1999 - 2003 Chairperson/Member, Anthropology Student Advisory Board; Connecticut College
- 2000 - 2003 Member, East Asian Studies Student Advisory Board; Connecticut College

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

- 2006 - present Member, Nepali - American Friendship Association; Madison, Wisconsin
- 2000 - 2004 Sushi Chef, Go Fish Restaurant; Mystic, Connecticut

PERTINENT GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Ecological Anthropology; Seminar in People-Environment Geography; Seminar on Sociology of Environment, Technology, and Agrofood Systems; Reading and Research - Rural Sociology 999 (with Jill Harrison); Commodities in the Global Economy; States and Empires; Concepts and Categories in Anthropology; Public Anthropology; Anthropology of Drugs; Anthropology of South Asia; and Ethnographic Writing

Ph.D. Candidacy Exam Field Statements: "Himalayan Area Studies"

"Nature and Capitalism"

"Social and Environmental Justice in Agriculture"

LANGUAGES

Nepali (advanced speaking, writing, and reading)
Hindi (intermediate speaking, writing, and reading)
Tibetan (intermediate speaking, writing, and reading)

PERSONAL WEBSITE

<http://mywebspaces.wisc.edu/besky/homepage/index.html>