

Curriculum vitae

Brigitte M. French, PhD

Contact Information

Grinnell College, Department of Anthropology, 1127 Park Street, Grinnell, IA 50112

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Academic Employment

Professor

Anthropology Department, Grinnell College, May 2016-present.

Associate Professor

Anthropology Department, Grinnell College, June 2011-May 2016.

Chair, Anthropology Department, July 2014-2016

Chair, Peace and Conflict Studies Program, August 2009-July 2019.

Assistant Professor

Anthropology Department, Grinnell College, August 2005-May 2011.

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow

Anthropology Department, Grinnell College, July 2003-July 2005.

Visiting Assistant Professor

Anthropology Department and Women's Studies, University of Iowa, August 2001-May 2003.

Visiting Appointments

Affiliated Scholar

USC Shoah Foundation and Advanced Center for Genocide Research, University of Southern California, FA 2019.

Fulbright Scholar

School of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies, Dublin City University, FA 2012.

Education

Ph.D. in anthropology, University of Iowa, May 2001.

Dissertation title: Language Ideologies and Collective Identities in Post-Conflict Guatemala.

Post-graduate study, Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, University of New Mexico, Summer 1995.

M.A. in anthropology, University of Iowa, 1995.

Thesis title: Women in Guatemalan Markets: Language Use and Social Hierarchy.

B.A. with honors in anthropology, University of Iowa, 1993.

Areas of Focus

Linguistic anthropology, violent language, nationalism, post-war states, testimony, discourse analysis, history of anthropological theory, collective memory, gender, indigenous movements, Guatemala, Latin America, Republic of Ireland

Publications

Books

- 2020 Anthropological Lives: An Introduction to the Profession of Anthropology. Virginia Dominguez and Brigitte French. Newark, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, forthcoming.
- 2018 Narratives of Conflict, Belonging and the State: Discourse and Social Life in Post-War Ireland. New York: Routledge.
- 2010 Maya Ethnolinguistic Identity: Violence, Cultural Rights, and Modernity in Highland Guatemala. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Articles

- 2015 "Cartographies of Communicability and the Anthropological Archive: Civil War Executions and the Harvard Irish Study," Anthropological Journal of European Cultures 24(1): 102-119.
- 2015 "Commentary: Anthropologies in/of Ireland: Postcolonial Subjectivities and Institutional Locations." American Anthropologist 117(1): 143-145.
- 2013 "Ethnography and 'Post-Conflict' Violence in the Irish Free State." American Anthropologist 115(2):160-173.
- 2012 "The Semiotics of Collective Memories." Annual Review of Anthropology. Volume 41: 337-353.
- 2010 "Commentary: The Limits and Possibilities of Speaking Truth to Power." Dialectical Anthropology 34(2):205.
- 2009 "Linguistic Science and Nationalist Revolution: Expert Knowledge and the Making of Sameness in Pre-Independence Ireland." Language in Society 38(5):607-626.
- 2009 "Technologies of Telling: Discourse, Transparency, and Erasure in Guatemalan Truth Commission Testimony." Journal of Human Rights 8(1):92-109.
- 2007 "We're All Irish": Transforming Irish Identity in a Midwestern American Community." New Hibernia Review 11(1): 9-25.
- 2005 "Partial Truths and Gendered Histories: Ruth Bunzel in American Anthropology." Journal of Anthropological Research 61 (4): 513-532.
- 2004 "The Politics and Semiotics of Sounds: Linguistic Analysis and Nation-Building in Guatemala." Collegium Antropologicum 28: 249-256.
- 2003 "The Politics of Mayan Linguistics in Guatemala: Native Speakers, Expert Analysts, and the Nation." Pragmatics 13(4): 483-498.
- 2000 "The Symbolic Capital of Social Identities: The Genre of Bargaining in an Urban Guatemalan Market." The Journal of Linguistic Anthropology 10(2): 155-189.
- 1999 "Imagining the Nation: Language Ideology and Collective Identity in Guatemala." Language and Communication 19(4): 277-287.

Book Chapters

- "Dangerous and Maledictive Language," International Encyclopedia of Linguistic Anthropology. Edited by James Stanlaw, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, forthcoming.
- 2018 "Vigilantism," International Encyclopedia of Anthropology. Edited by Hilary Callan, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, (Published on-line September 4).

- 2017 "The Anthropology of Language and Discourse," Ethnology, Ethnography, and Cultural Anthropology, Volume 28, Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS). Edited by Paolo Barbaro, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, published on-line as e-book.
- 2015 "Gendered Speech and Engendering Citizenship in the Irish Free State: Ordinary Women and County Clare District Courts 1932-1934," Women, Reform, and Resistance in Ireland 1850-1950: Ordinary and Outcast. Edited by Cara Delay and Christina Brophy, Palgrave MacMillan, 139-161.
- 2015 "Narratives of Violence in 'Post-Conflict' Guatemala: Impunity and the Transnational Politics of Misrecognition," The Performance of Memory as Transitional Justice. Edited by Elizabeth Bird and Fraser Ottanelli, Antwerp, Belgium: Intersentia Publishers, 153-166.
- 2008 "Guatemala: Essentialisms and Cultural Politics," Companion to Latin American Anthropology. Edited by Deborah Poole, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 109-127.
- 2008 "Maya Ethnolinguistic Identity: Violence and Cultural Rights in Bilingual Kaqchikel Communities." Bilingualism and Identity: Spanish at the Crossroads with Other Languages. Edited by Mercedes Nino-Murcia and Jason Rothman, John Benjamins Co: Amsterdam: Netherlands, 127-150.
- 1998 "Communications Styles and Gender." Reader's Guide to Women's Studies. Eleanor Amico, ed. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 139-141.

Conference Proceedings

- 2016 "Sites of Collective Memory in the Classroom and in the Field: The Pedagogy of Course-Embedded Travel and Public Engagement" In Proceedings of the 2015 Symposium on Field Study. Edited by Drew Cavin and Emily Chan, Colorado College, June 27-30.
- 2003 "The Maya Movement and Modernity: Local Kaqchikel Linguistic Ideologies and the Problem of Progress." Tenth Annual Proceedings Symposium about Language and Society (SALSA). Inger Mey et. al, eds. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Linguistics Department, 58-68.

Book Reviews

- 2019 Who Counts: The Mathematics of Death and Life after Genocide by Diane M. Nelson (Duke University Press, 2015), Ethnohistory 66(2): 401-402.
- 2013 Pathways to Post-Nationalism: A Critical Ethnography of Language and Identity by Monica Heller (Oxford University Press, 2011), Journal of Sociolinguistics 17(1): 133-136.
- 2013 "And He Knew Our Language:" Missionary Linguistics on the Pacific Northwest Coast by Marcus Tomalin (John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2011), Journal of Linguistic Anthropology, 23(1):105-107.
- 2011 Mayas in Postwar Guatemala: Harvest of Violence Revisited edited by Walter E. Little and Timothy J. Smith (University of Alabama Press, 2009), Journal of Anthropological Research, 67(1): 143-145.
- 2006 Mayan Voices for Human Rights: Displaced Catholics in Highland Chiapas by Christine Kovic (University of Texas Press, 2005), American Anthropologist, 108 (3): 597-598.
- 2005 Blowback: Linguistic Nationalism, Institutional Decay, and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka by Neil DeVotta (Stanford University Press, 2004) Journal of Anthropological Research 61 (2): 244-245.

- 2005 Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala by Victoria Sanford (Palgrave MacMillan, 2003), American Ethnologist, 32 (2).

International Conference Papers

- "Rios Montt's Public Discourse and the Cultural Logic of the Guatemalan Genocide," A Conflict? Genocide and Resistance in Guatemala," USC Shoah Foundation and Center for Advanced Genocide Research, University of Southern California, September 11-14, 2016.
- "Cartographies of Communicability in the Anthropological Archive: Excavating Memories of Irish Civil War Executions." ACIS/CAIS Annual Meetings, Dublin, Ireland June 11-15, 2014.
- "Re-imagining Rural Ireland: Silences and Erasures in Functionalist Anthropology." NEICN Irish Studies Conference, University of Sunderland, England, November 14-16, 2008.
- "Darse la palabra: Violencia y testimonios desde un perspectiva del análisis discursivo." International Congress of Latin American Studies, Toronto, Canada, September 8-10, 2007.
- "From Fenians to Farmers: Remembering Irish Identity in America's Heartland." Gender and Memory: Documenting, Transmitting, Recording, Women's Studies Department, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland, June 9-10, 2005.
- "Sovereignty and Saussure: Cultural Nationalism in MacNeill's Gaelic Revival." American and European Conference for Irish Studies, Liverpool, England, July 8-12, 2004.
- "Native Speakers, Analysts, and the Politics of Mayan Languages Linguistics in Guatemala." Symposium on Language Dynamics and Linguistic Diversity, Florence, Italy, July 5-7, 2003.
- "El cambio del idioma y la cuestión del género." 4th Congreso de Estudios Mayas, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala City, Guatemala, August 4-6, 2001.
- "Ser moderno, ser tradicional: Hablando kaqchikel y español en Guatemala." XXII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Miami, Florida, March 16-18, 2000.
- "Ideologías lingüísticas é identidad: un caso kaqchikel." 4th Congreso de Mayaistas, Antigua, Guatemala, August 3-7, 1998.
- "A Language, A People, A Nation: Language Ideology and Nationhood in Guatemala." XXI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois, September 24-26, 1998.

National Conference Papers and Presentations

- "Linguistic Violence and Social Consequences in the Guatemalan Genocide," Commemorating Violent Conflicts and Building Sustainable Peace, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, October 24-26, 2019.
- "Not Your Mother's Anthropology: "Memory, Violence and an Uncertain Future," Discussant response to organized panel, Central States Anthropological Association, Bloomington, Indiana, April, 19-21 2018.

- "Disciplining Future Irish Citizens: Ordinary and Extraordinary Punishment in Post-Colonial National Education," Central States Anthropological Association, Bloomington, Indiana, April, 19-21 2018.
- "Remembering Tammy Zywicki: The Specter of Femicide in the Americas," Central States Anthropological Association, Lincoln, Nebraska, April 4-6, 2017.
- "Neoliberalism, Indeterminacy, and Market Discourse," Discussant response to organized panel, American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, November 21, 2015.
- "Sites of Collective Memory in the Classroom and in the Field," Symposium on Field Study, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO, July 9-11, 2015.
- "Active Learning and Pedagogy in Linguistic Anthropology," Central States Anthropological Society, Saint Paul, MN, April 9-12, 2015.
- "Entailments of Expertise: Privilege and the Politics of Generosity," American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, November 24, 2014.
- "Communicability in the Anthropological Archives: Civil War Executions and the Harvard Irish Study," Central States Anthropological Association, Normal, Illinois, April 10-13, 2014.
- "Echoes of 1922: The Free State, the IRA, and American Anthropology," American Anthropological Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 26, 2013.
- "From Colonial to Post-Colonial Irish Law: A View from the Judge's Bench in the Free State," Midwest American Conference of Irish Studies Meeting, Iowa City, Iowa, September, 2014.
- "Violence, Commemoration, and the Everyday in Post-Civil War County Clare, Ireland." American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 10-13, 2013.
- "Human Rights in Post-War Guatemala: Transnational Testimonies and the Politics of Misrecognition." Central States Anthropology Society Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, April 4-6, 2013.
- "Gendered Speech and Engendering Citizenship in the Irish Free State." American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 15-18, 2012.
- "Linguistic Ideologies of Belonging and Subversion: Mayan Language Politics and State-Sponsored Violence in 20th Century Guatemala." American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Jan 5-8, 2012.
- "Disciplining Gender, Making Citizens: District Courts in Post-Civil War Ireland." Central States Anthropology Society Annual Meeting, University of Iowa, Iowa City, April 6-8, 2011.
- "Towards an Historical Ethnography of the Irish Free State: Filthy Words, Bold Women, and County Clare District Courts." American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, March 31-April 2, 2011.
- "District Courts in the Irish Free State: Bad Language, Violence, and Democracy." American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania State, May 5-8, 2010.
- "Anthropological Icons and Ethnographic Erasures: Tradition and Violence in the Irish Free State." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 3-6, 2009.
- "Epistemological Reflexivity: Experts and Contexts." Discussant for panel, "Cross-Examining Evidence: Historical and Anthropological Approaches," Central States Anthropology Society Annual Meeting, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, April 3-5, 2009.

- "Critical Departures from the *Irish Countryman*: Silences and Erasures in the Work of Conrad Arensberg and Solon Kimball." American Conference for Irish Studies Midwest Regional Meeting, Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN, October 9-11, 2008.
- "American Functionalist Anthropology and the Irish Free State." American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, Davenport, Iowa, April 16-19, 2008.
- "The Right to Speak: Survivor Testimony and Human Rights in Guatemala." Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November 28-Dec 2, 2007.
- "Nationalist and Carnavalesque Commemorations of Irishness." American Conference for Irish Studies, CUNY, New York City, April 18-22, 2007.
- "Linguistics and the Struggle for Irish Sovereignty." International Society for the History of Linguistic Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Sept 1-4, 2005.
- "Guns and Grammars: Two Forms of Irish Nationalism." Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow Conference, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, Nov 3-6, 2004.
- "Local Histories and Collective Selves: Debating Definitions of Mayan Language Varieties in Guatemala." Language and Politics Conference, Baruch College, CUNY, New York, Sept 29-Oct 1, 2004.
- "Traditional or Innovative Maya Women? Reframing the Language and Gender Question." 102nd Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 2003.
- "Regimenting Languages, Crafting Nations: Mayan Languages and Linguistic Experts in 20th Century Guatemala." 101st Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2002.
- "The Maya Movement and Modernity: Local Kaqchikel Linguistic Ideologies and the Problem of Progress." 10th Annual Symposium about Language and Society (SALSA), University of Texas, Austin, April 12-14, 2002.
- "The Discourse of Progress: Grass-Roots Language Ideologies and Modernity in Highland Guatemala." 99th Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, California, November 2000.
- "Canche and/or Gringa, Anthropologist and/or Other: Gender and Ethnography in Highland Guatemala." 98th Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 1999.
- "Language Ideology and Collective Identity in Guatemala: A New Multicultural Nation?" International Conference, When Languages Collide: Sociocultural and Geopolitical Implications of Language Conflict and Language Coexistence, Columbus, Ohio State University, November 1998.
- "Whose Partial Truth? Theoretical Innovation in Ruth Bunzel's Chichicastenango: A Guatemalan Village." Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Seattle, Washington, March 1997.
- "Imagining Guatemala: Competing Nations, Competing Language Ideologies." Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 1996.
- "Women Negotiate Power: Maya and Ladina Women in the Marketplace." Women and Power Conference, Middle Tennessee State University, March 1995.

Grants and Awards

- Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, "After the Troubles: Discourse, Conflict, and Belonging in Post-War Ireland," Summer 2016.
- Fulbright Faculty Scholar Award, "Disciplining Gender, Making Citizens: County Clare District Courts in the Irish Free State," Dublin City University, School of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies, FA 2012.
- NEH Summer Stipend Grant Institutional Nomination, "Nationalism and Social Science Theory: Descriptive Linguistics and Functionalist Anthropology in the Irish Free State," Grinnell College, AY 09-'10.
- Faculty Research Grant, "American Anthropology and Irish Nationalism," CSFS, Grinnell College, Summer 2009.
- Faculty Research Grant, "Nationalism and Social Science Theory: American Anthropology and Local Knowledge in Ireland," CSFS, Grinnell College, AY '08-'09.
- Associated Colleges of the Midwest Travel Grant to Newberry Library, Summer 2007.
- Faculty Research Grant, "Linguistic Tradition and National Identity," CSFS, Grinnell College, Summer 2006.
- Mellon Grant for Grinnell-Oberlin Faculty Collaboration, Summer 2005.
- Faculty Research Grant, "National Identities and Cultural Politics," CSFS, Grinnell College, Summer 2004.
- Faculty Workshop for Instruction in General Education Courses, Center for Teaching, University of Iowa, Summer 2002.
- Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship in Humanities, University of Iowa, April 1998.
- T. Anne Cleary Dissertation Fellowship for International Research, University of Iowa, May 1997.
- Conference Travel Grant, American Ethnological Society, March 1997.
- Graduate Fellowship for summer research, University of Iowa, June 1995.
- Ruth Landes Training Grant, Research Institute for the Study of Man, June 1994.
- Bowman Scholarship Travel Grant, Council on International Educational Exchange, June 1992.

Invited Lectures

- "Consequences of Conflict: Anthropological Perspectives," Panelist, Human Rights and the Academy, University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, Iowa City, IA, March 7, 2014.
- "Anthropologists Look at Irish Families and Communities: Solidarity and Strife, Conflict and Cooperation," Keynote address, The Irish Family at Home and Abroad Symposium," University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, March 9, 2013.
- "Engendering Cultural Citizenship in Irish Free State Courts: A Discursive Perspective," Dublin City University, School of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies, October 24, 2012.
- "See, Hear, and Report No Evil: Anthropology and Violence in Post-Conflict Ireland," University of Iowa, Department of Anthropology, Nov 11, 2011.
- "Nationalism and Social Science Theory: Descriptive Linguistics and Functionalist Anthropology in the Irish Free State," University of Iowa, European Studies Group, April 29, 2008.

“Strategic Essentialisms and the Cultural Politics of Language: Maya Revitalization in Guatemala,” Oberlin College, Anthropology Department, April 11, 2006.
“Mayan Linguistics and Modernity in Guatemala,” University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Department of Linguistics, Nov 29, 2005.
“Mayan Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inclusion,” University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology, November 21, 2005.

Editorships

Co-Editor, Book Reviews, *American Ethnologist*, Sept 2019.
Associate Editor, *International Encyclopedia of Linguistic Anthropology*, April 2018-present.
Book Review Editor, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, Sept 2013-present.

National Appointments and Committees

James F. Donnelly Prize for Outstanding Book in the Social Sciences Committee, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2017-2018 Academic year.
Nominations Committee, Appointed, Executive Board, Society for Linguistic Anthropology, November 2015-November 2017.
Nominations Committee, Elected Representative, Executive Board, Central States Anthropological Society, July 2015-July 2017.
Executive Board, Elected Member, Central States Anthropological Association, 2012-2018.
Dublin City University, School of Applied Languages, External Promotion Review, 2014, 2015, 2016
National Endowment of the Humanities Review Panel, Washington DC, 2014
Executive Board, Elected Social Sciences Representative, American Conference for Irish Studies, June 09-11 and 11-13.
Chair, James F. Donnelly Prize for Outstanding Book in the Social Sciences, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2009-2011 and 11-13.
Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book in Irish Studies Review Committee, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2008-2009.

Manuscripts Reviewed

American Ethnologist 2002- 2008, 2010, 2018
Cambridge Handbook of Language Standardization, 2018
Journal of Linguistic Anthropology 2009, 2015, 2017, 2018
American Anthropologist 2008, 2013, 2015,
Anthropologica (Canada), 2017
Journal of Multicultural Discourses 2016
Ethnography 2015
Language Sciences 2015, 2016
Nations and Nationalism 2015
Anthropological Theory 2014
New Hibernia Review 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014
Human Organization 2013
Language and Communication 2012

Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (United Kingdom) 2012
PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review 2012
Language Policy 2011
Journal of Human Rights 2009,
Sociology of Sports Journal 2009
John Benjamins Book Series Language and Identity 2007
Anthropology and Education Quarterly 2003

Research and Fieldwork

Guatemala, Summer 2019
Co. Clare, Ireland, Summer 2006, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016.
Dublin, August-November, 2012.
Chimaltenango, Guatemala, August 2005 and January 2006.
Dublin and Galway, Ireland, Summer 2004.
Guatemala City, Guatemala, August 2001.
Galway, Ireland, May 2001.
Chimaltenango, Guatemala, Aug 1997-July 1998.
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, June-August 1994.
Antigua, Guatemala, June-July 1992.

Courses Taught

Introductory

ANT 104 Introduction to Anthropology (four fields)
LIN 114 Introduction to Linguistics
TUT 100 Tutorial: Speaking Truth and Telling Lies
TUT 100 Women Writing Culture

Intermediate

ANT 247 Anthropology of Europe
ANT 260 Language, Culture, and Society
ANT 265 Ethnography of Communication
ANT 268 Language, Gender, and the Social Self
ANT 280 Theories of Culture
ANT 285 Anthropology, Violence, and Human Rights

Seminar

ANT 355 Collective Memory in Anthropological Perspective
ANT 365 Fighting Words: Conflict, Discourse, and Power
ANT 395 Approaches to Social Identity: Selves and Others

At other institutions

Introduction to Latin American Studies
The Maya: Histories, Cultures, and Representations

Dissertation Committees

Scott Olson, University of Iowa, Department of Anthropology, 2016-Present.
Lydia Saravia, University of Illinois--Chicago, Department of Education, 2013-2017.

Languages

English fluency (native), Spanish fluency, Kaqchikel (Mayan language) beginning conversation and grammar, Irish beginning grammatical analysis only