

Curriculum vitae

Brigitte M. French, PhD

Contact Information

Grinnell College, Department of Anthropology, 1118 Park Street, Grinnell, IA 50112
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Academic Employment

Associate Professor

Anthropology Department, Grinnell College, June 2011-present

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 International Appointments

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, ethnonationalism, post-conflict states, testimony, discourse analysis, history of anthropological theory, cultural politics, collective memory, indigenous movements, Guatemala, Latin America, Republic of Ireland

Publications

Books

2010 Maya Ethnolinguistic Identity: Violence, Cultural Rights, and Modernity in Highland Guatemala. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Articles

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.
- 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.
- 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

- 2008 "Guatemala: Essentialisms and Cultural Politics." *In* 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." *In* Bilingualism and Identity: Spanish at the Crossroads with Other Languages. Edited by Mercedes Nino-Murcia and Jason Rothman, John Benjamins Co: Amsterdam: Netherlands, Pp. 127-150.
- 1998 "Communications Styles and Gender." Reader's Guide to Women's Studies. Eleanor Amico, ed. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 139-141.

Book Reviews

- 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 MacMillian, 2003) American Ethnologist, 32 (2).

International Conference Papers

- "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

- "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

- 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

- “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.

Courses Taught

Introductory

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

Intermediate

- ANT 247 Anthropology of Europe
- ANT 260 Language, Culture, and Society
- ANT 265 Ethnography of Communication
- ANT 280 Theories of Culture
- ANT 285 Anthropology, Violence, and Human Rights

Seminar

- 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
- Language and Gender
- The Maya: Histories, Cultures, and Representations
- Women Writing Culture

National Service

Appointments and Committees

Book Review Editor, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, Sept 2013-present.

Executive Board, Elected Member, Central States Anthropological Association, 2012-2015.

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.

Associate Editor for Reviews, *American Ethnologist*, Sept 2002-Aug 2007.

Manuscripts Reviewed

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 Linguistic Anthropology, 2009

Journal of Human Rights, 2009

Sociology of Sports Journal, 2009

New Hibernia Review, 2009, 2011, 2013

American Anthropologist, 2008, 2013

American Ethnologist, 2002- 2008, 2010

John Benjamins Book Series Language and Identity, 2007

Anthropology and Education Quarterly, 2003

Fieldwork

North Co. Clare, Ireland, Summer 2006, 2009, 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.

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