

Suma Ikeuchi

Department of Religious Studies
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

the anthropology of religion, psychological anthropology, migration studies, Global Christianity, return migration, the self, ritual, race, ethnicity, national identity, Japanese diaspora, Japan, Brazil

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2016 - Present

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track), Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

2012 Visiting Research Fellow, Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture, Nagoya, Japan

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of Anthropology, Emory University, Atlanta, 2016

Dissertation: *Borders of Self: Return Migration and Global Pentecostalism among Nikkei Brazilian Migrants in Japan*

Committee: Chikako Ozawa-de Silva (chair), Bradd Shore, Jeffrey Lesser

M.A. Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University, Waltham, 2010

B.A. Department of History and Cultural Anthropology, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Forthcoming in Spring 2017.

From Ethnic Religion to Generative Selves: Pentecostalism among Nikkei Brazilian Migrants in Japan. *Contemporary Japan*.

Forthcoming in Spring 2017.

Accompanied Self: Debating Pentecostal Individual and Japanese Relational Selves in Transnational Japan. *Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology*.

- 2015 Back to the Present: The ‘Temporal Tandem’ of Migration and Conversion among Pentecostal Nikkei Brazilians in Japan. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*. Early online publication 11/10/2015.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Jesus Loves Japan: Diasporic Return and Global Pentecostalism in a Brazilian Migrant Church. Book manuscript in preparation.

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2015 Richard G. Condon Prize, The Society for Psychological Anthropology
- 2015 Theodore C. Bestor Prize, Honorable Mention, The Society for East Asian Anthropology

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Extramural Grants & Fellowships

- 2017 Global Summer Semester Residential Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) InterAsia Program and the University of Göttingen’s Transregional and Global Studies Initiative
- 2013 Dissertation Research Grant, The Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2011 Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace, Intensive Summer Language School, Middlebury College
- 2008 Long-Term Study Abroad Funding, The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Japanese Government

Intramural Grants & Fellowships

- 2012 Pilot Research Funding, Department of Anthropology, Emory University
- 2010 Doctoral Study Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Emory University
- 2008 Merit Scholarship, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University

INVITED TALKS

- 2014 *State of Latin American Pentecostalism in Japan*. Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture, Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan, June 20.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2016 *Borders of Self: Return Migration and Global Pentecostalism among Nikkei Brazilians in Japan*. The Department of Anthropology at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Oct 31.
- 2015 *Pentecostalism Across Borders: Religion, Migration, and Conversion In and Beyond Brazil*. Panel with Dario Paulo Barrera Rivera, Universidade Metodista de São Paulo. Forum for the Ethnographic Study of Religion and Emory Graduate Division of Religion, Atlanta, November 4.

EXHIBITIONS AND FILM SCREENINGS

- 2016 Film Screening and Discussion with Filmmaker: *In Leila's Room: Identities among Nikkei Brazilian Migrants in Japan*. Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA) Film & Media Festival, Minneapolis, MN, November 16-20.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2017 Troubling the Kin: Race, Kinship and Affect in Psychological Anthropology. The Society for Psychological Anthropology, New Orleans, LA, March 9-12.
- 2016 Envisioning the Future In, Through, and Against "Japan": Interdisciplinary and Heterolingual Approach to Hope. AAS-In-Asia Conference. Association for Asian Studies, Kyoto, Japan, June 24-27.
- 2015 The Strange Self: Exploration of Mind through Buddhism and Christianity. Society of Psychological Anthropology, Invited Panel. American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, November 18-22.
- 2015 Morality of Movement: Migration, Pilgrimage, Diaspora, and Return. The Society for the Anthropology of Religion, San Diego, CA, April 16-19.

Papers

- 2017 Becoming Latino in Japan: Race, Religion, and Mobility among Japanese Brazilian Migrants in Japan. The Society for Psychological Anthropology, New Orleans, LA, March 9-12.
- 2016 Futures Lost, Futures Found: Pentecostal Conversion as the Making of New Future, or Why Nikkei Brazilian Migrants Convert in Japan. Association for Asian Studies, Kyoto, Japan, June 24-27.

- 2016 The Future of Return Migration in East Asia: Nation, Kinship, and Religion among Nikkei Brazilians in Japan. The Society for East Asian Anthropology, Hong Kong, China, June 19-22.
- 2015 “Non-Religious” Selves: Brazilian Pentecostalism Meets Japanese Syncretic Religions in Japan. American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, November 18-22.
- 2015 Temporal Return of Migrant Pilgrims: Japanese-Brazilian Pentecostal Converts in Japan. The Society for the Anthropology of Religion, San Diego, CA, April 16-19.
- 2015 Jesus Loves Japan: On “Love” Among Japanese-Brazilian Pentecostals in Japan. The Society for Psychological Anthropology, Boston, MA, April 9-12.
- 2013 “God Is Like an iPhone”: New Media, Transcendence, and Authenticity among Brazilian Pentecostals in Japan. The Annual Graduate Student Conference of the Columbia University Department of Religion, New York, NY, April 26.
- 2013 Alive in the Gaze of the Other: YouTube and Authenticity among Brazilian Pentecostals in Japan. The Society for Psychological Anthropology, San Diego, CA, April 4-7.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Alabama, Instructor of Record

Honors Introduction to Religious Studies (Spring 2017)

Myth, Ritual, and Magic: Theories of Ritual (Spring 2017)

Emory University, Instructor of Record

Religion, Health, and Healing (Fall 2015)

Ritual: Its Nature and Culture (Spring 2015)

Emory University, Teaching Assistant

Methods and Concepts in Cultural Anthropology (Fall 2012)

Introduction to Anthropology (Fall 2011)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2012-2014 Fieldwork on Japanese-Brazilians and their religious networks, São Paulo, Brazil (2 months) and Toyota, Japan (14 months), Advisor: Chikako Ozawa-De Silva
- 2008-2009 Fieldwork on Japanese women with mental health issues who participate in self-help movements, Sapporo, Japan, Advisor: Tomohiko Ōhira

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2013-2014 Japanese Instructor for Children from Brazilian Migrant Families at NGO/NPO Torcida, Toyota, Japan
- 2010-2011 Volunteer in Management and Research: Advocates for Responsible Care, Atlanta

LANGUAGES

Japanese: native

English: professional proficiency

Brazilian Portuguese: fluent in reading and speaking, good in writing

French: good in reading (DELF B2)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association

Association for Asian Studies

American Academy of Religion

Society for Psychological Anthropology

Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Society for Medical Anthropology