

TOWNSEND MIDDLETON

Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

PhD 2010 Cornell University, Socio-cultural Anthropology
MA 2006 Cornell University, Socio-Cultural Anthropology
MA 2002 University of Chicago, The Master's Program in Social Science
BA 1999 University of Virginia, Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012 - Current Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, UNC-Chapel Hill
Affiliations: Joint-Adjunct Faculty, UNC Curriculum for Global Studies
Faculty Fellow, UNC Center for Urban and Regional Studies
Faculty Fellow, UNC Institute for the Arts & Humanities
**Promoted to Associate Professor, July 1st, 2018*
2010 - 2012 Lecturing Postdoctoral Fellow, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Middleton, Townsend. 2015. *The Demands of Recognition: State Anthropology and Ethnopolitics in Darjeeling*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. 278 pages

Edited Books

Middleton, Townsend and Sara Shneiderman, Eds. 2018. *Darjeeling Reconsidered: Histories, Politics, Environments*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, India. Manuscript 391 pages.

Edited Journal Special Issues

Carse, Ashley, Jason Cons, Townsend Middleton, Eds. 2019. *Limn Ten-Chokepoints*. Online & Hardcopy at <https://limn.it/issues/chokepoints/>

Middleton, Townsend and Jason Cons, Eds. 2014. *Fieldwork(ers): Research Assistants, Researchers, and the Production of Ethnographic Knowledge*. A Special Issue of *Ethnography* 15 (3). 121 pages

Refereed Articles

Middleton, Townsend. 2021. "Becoming-After: The Lives and Politics of Quinine's Remains". *Cultural Anthropology* 36 (2): 283-311

Middleton, Townsend. 2020. "Connective Insecurities: Chokepoint Pragmatics at India's Chicken Neck." *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00141844.2019.1705369>

Middleton, Townsend (2nd author) with Ashley Carse, Jason Cons, Jatin Dua, Elizabeth Dunn and Gabriela Valdivia. 2020. "Chokepoints: Anthropologies of the Constricted Contemporary." *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00141844.2019.1696862>

Middleton, Townsend. 2020. "Provincializing Bengal: The View from Darjeeling." *South Asia: Journal of South Asia Studies* 43 (1): 32-51.

Middleton, Townsend. 2018. "The Afterlives of a Killing: Assassination, Thanatos, and the Body Politic in South Asia". *Public Culture*, 2018 30 (1): 85-112.

- Carse, Ashley, Jason Cons, Townsend Middleton. 2019 Hardcopy/2018 Online. "Chokepoints: Preface." *Limn - Chokepoints*. Ashley Carse, Jason Cons, Townsend Middleton, Eds.. www.Limn.it. Article Manuscript Approx. 7 pages.)
- Middleton, Townsend. 2019 Hardcopy/2018. "The Art of In/Detectability." *Limn – Chokepoints*. Ashley, Carse, Jason Cons, Townsend Middleton, Eds. www.Limn.it. Article Approx. 7 Pages
- Middleton, Townsend and Jason Cons. 2014. "Coming to Terms: Reinserting Research Assistants into Ethnography's Past and Present." Introduction to *Fieldwork(ers)*. Special Issue of *Ethnography* 15 (3): 279-290.
- Middleton, Townsend and Eklavya Pradhan. 2014. "Dynamic Duos: On Partnership and the Possibilities of Postcolonial Ethnography." in *Fieldwork(ers)*. Special Issue of *Ethnography* 15 (3): 355-374.
- Middleton, Townsend. 2013. "Anxious Belongings: Anxiety and the Politics of Belonging in Subnationalist Darjeeling." *American Anthropologist* 115 (4): 608-621
- Middleton, Townsend. 2013. "States of Difference: Refiguring Ethnicity and its 'Crisis' at India's Borders." *Political Geography* 35. (Special Issue: Geographies at the Margins: Interrogating Borders in South Asia): 14-24.
- Middleton, Townsend. 2013. "Scheduling Tribes: A View from Inside India's 'Ethnographic State'." *FOCAAL: Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology* 65. (Special Issue: Affirmative Action in South Asia): 13-22.
- Middleton, Townsend. 2011. "Across the Interface of State Ethnography: Rethinking Ethnology and its Subjects in Multicultural India." *American Ethnologist* 38 (2): 249-266.

Refereed Book Chapters

- Middleton, Townsend. 2021. Forthcoming. "Struggles of Difference: On Gorkhaland and the Borders of Recognition" in *Exploring Borderlands in South Asia*. Farhana Ibrahim & Tanuja Kothiyal, Eds. Cambridge University Press, India. Article Manuscript 20 pages.
- Middleton, Townsend. 2019. "Frontier 2.0: The Recursive Lives and Death of Cinchona in Darjeeling, India" in *Frontier Assemblages*. Michael Eilenberg & Jason Cons, Eds. London: Wiley Blackwell. Antipode Book Series: Antipode Book Series. 195-212.
- Shneiderman, Sara and Townsend Middleton. 2018. "Reconsidering Darjeeling: An Introduction" in *Darjeeling Reconsidered: Histories, Politics, Environments*. Townsend Middleton & Sara Shneiderman, Eds. New Delhi: Oxford University Books, India. 1-26
- Middleton, Townsend. 2018. "Unwritten Histories: Difference, Capital, and the Darjeeling Exception" in *Darjeeling Reconsidered: Histories, Politics, Environments*. Townsend Middleton & Sara Shneiderman, Eds. New Delhi: Oxford University Books, India. 27-52
- Middleton, Townsend. 2015. "Ethnography and Social Theory: A Dialectic to Hang Our Hats On." In *Theory Can Be More Than It Used To Be: Learning Anthropology's Method in a Time of Transition*. Dominic Boyer, James Faubion, & George Marcus, Eds. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 197-203
- Middleton, Townsend. 2011 "Ethno-logics: Paradigms of Modern Identity" in *Modern Makeovers: A Handbook of Modernity in South Asia*. Saurabh Dube, Ed. Oxford University Press. 200-213

Encyclopedia Entries

- Cons, Jason & Middleton, Townsend. 2019. "Research Assistants & Ethnographic Fieldwork". In *Sage Research Methods Foundations*. Paul Atkinson, Sara Delamont, Alexandru Cernat, Joseph W. Sakshaug & Richard A. Williams, Eds. New York: Sage.

Engaged Scholarship

- The Darjeeling Studies Collective (12+ scholars). 2017. "Op-Ed: What's Brewing in Darjeeling." *The Hindu*, July 25, 2017. (a collective scholarly response to ongoing crisis in Darjeeling, India).
- Middleton, Townsend and Sara Shneiderman. 2008 "Reservations, Federalism, and the Politics of Recognition in Nepal." *Economic and Political Weekly*. May 10, 2008: 39-45

Middleton, Townsend. 2003. "Ruminations From/Against the Ivory-Tower." *American Anthropology Association News Letter*. February 2003.

Organized Panels & Symposiums (Recent)

- 2019 Panel Organizer. "Material Temporalities: Things, Times, Anthropologies." *American Anthropology Association Annual Meetings*. Vancouver, BC. November 24th.
- 2018 Workshop Organizer. "NSF Collaborative Research – Chokepoints". Asheville NC. May 9-14
- 2018 Speaker Series Event Coordinator. UNC South Asia Speaker Series, Saiba Varma, April 6th
- 2015/6 Speaker Series Co-Coordinator. New Directions in South Asia Studies Speaker Series. UNC-CH
- 2015 Pre-Conference Organizer (with Sara Shneiderman). "Darjeeling Histories, Environment, Politics." Pre-Conference at the Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin-Madison. November.
- 2014/5 Speaker Series Co-Coordinator. New Directions in South Asia Studies Speaker Series. UNC-CH.
- 2013/4 Speaker Series Co-Coordinator. New Directions in South Asia Studies Speaker Series. UNC-CH.
- 2012 Panel Organizer (with Mara Kaufman). "Autonomy and Anthropology: Critical Engagements". *American Anthropology Association Annual Meetings*. San Francisco. November.
- 2011 Panel Organizer. "Fieldwork(ers): Research Assistants, Researchers, and the Production of Ethnographic Knowledge." *American Anthropology Association Annual Meetings*. Montreal. November.
- 2008 Panel Organizer (with Jason Cons). "Uncomfortable Belongings: Rethinking Inclusions and Exclusions in Bengal." Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin-Madison. October.

Invited Unpublished Oral Presentations (Recent)

- 2021 "The Remarkable History—and Afterlives of Quinine; UNC Institute for the Arts & Humanities Bay Area Salon. April 20.
- 2019 "Connective Insecurities: Chokepoint Pragmatics at India's Chicken Neck." *Logistics: Rethinking Economies of Circulation*. Stockholm University, Sweden. October 9-10
- 2018 "Connective Insecurities: Traffic and Trepidation at India's Chicken Neck". NSF Collaborative Research – Chokepoints Workshop. Asheville NC. May 9-14
- 2017 "The Afterlives of a Killing: Assassination, Thanatos, and the Body Politic in South Asia". University of Texas – Austin, South Asia Institute. September.
- 2017 "Anthropology on the Move: Some Disciplinary Reflections (on) *After Ethnos*." 'Anthropology'—Conference. Swiss Graduate Program in Anthropology (CUSO). Ueberstorf, Switzerland. June.
- 2017 "The Afterlives of a Killing: Toward an Anthropology of Assassination." Shiv Nadar University. New Delhi/Greater Noida. April.
- 2016 "Readings from *The Demands of Recognition*." Book Launch Event. Stanford University. January.
- 2015 "Commentary on *Provincial Hinduism*". National Humanities Center. Raleigh. April.

Refereed Unpublished Oral Presentations (Recent)

- 2019 Presenter. "After Quinine: Alkaloid Anthropology in the Darjeeling Hills." American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting. Vancouver, BC. November 24
- 2019 Participant. "Cinchona and the Un/Makings of Empire" *Anthroposcene Palaver Roundtable*. American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting. Vancouver, BC. November 22.
2016. Discussant. "Commentary on the Affective Economies of Recognition." American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis. November.
- 2016 Presenter. "The Work of Traffic: Circulation and Regulation in India's Chicken Neck". American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis. November.
- 2015 Presenter. "Locating Darjeeling: The Hills as Exceptional Space". Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin-Madison. November.

Book Reviews

- Middleton, Townsend. 2019. Review of *Malarial Subjects: Empire, Medicine and Nonhumans in British India, 1820–1909* (Rohan Deb Roy). *Somatosphere* September 6, 2019.
- Middleton, Townsend. 2012. Review of *The Politics of Belonging in the Himalayas*. (Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka & Gerard Toffin, Eds.)” *Himalaya* 31: 70-71.
- Middleton, Townsend. 2007. "In Search of 'Postcolonial Subjectivity'." Review of *The Insurrection of the Little Selves* by Aditya Nigam. *Economic and Political Weekly*. October 20, 2007: 4232-4233.

Dissertations and Theses

- Middleton, Townsend. 2010. “Beyond Recognition: Ethnology, Belonging, and the Refashioning of the Ethnic Subject in Darjeeling, India.” Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University.
- Middleton, Townsend. 2002. "Belief, Practice, and Analytic Mediums: A Study of Spirit-Mediumship Amongst the Matwali Chettri of North-West Nepal." M.A. Thesis, Masters Program in Social Sciences, *University of Chicago*, 2002.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Courses Taught (Recent)

Fall 2020

- ANTH 63: The Lives of Others Exploring Ethnography
- ANTH 691H: Honors Thesis Project Seminar

Spring 2020

- ANTH 142: Local Cultures/Global Forces
- ANTH 461: Colonialism & Postcolonialism

Fall 2019

- ANTH 898: State. Power. Politics
- ANTH 691H: Honors Thesis Project Seminar

Spring 2019

On Parental Leave

Fall 2018

- ANTH 701-001: Sociocultural Theory and Ethnography
- ANTH 691H-001: Honors Thesis Project Seminar
- ANTH 901-083: State, Power, Politics Independent Reading and Research

Spring 2018

- ANTH 142: Local Cultures/Global Forces
- ANTH 461: Colonialism & Postcolonialism.
- ANTH 901: State, Territory, Rights Independent Reading and Research

Fall 2017

- ANTH 701-001: Sociocultural Theory and Ethnography
- ANTH 691H-001: Honors Thesis Project Seminar
- ANTH 901-083: Plants & Power. Independent Reading and Research
- ANTH 901-083: Infrastructure & Anthropology, Independent Reading and Research

Spring 2017

On Research Leave; No Courses Taught

Fall 2016

- ANTH 701-001: Social Theory and Ethnography
- ANTH 691H-001: Honors Thesis Project Seminar
- ANTH 901-083: The Anthropology of the State. Independent Reading and Research

Supervision (Active)

Graduate Supervision - Chair

- Parag Saikia, Chair, Anthropology, Dissertation Title TBD
- “North-East India: Contested Infrastructure in the ‘Future Powerhouse of India’”

Lauren Nareau, Chair (as of September, 2017), Anthropology, Proposed Dissertation, “From Invasive Species to Burgeoning Commodity: Marabú’s Transformation into Cuba’s New Hope.”

Graduate Supervision – Committee

Julio Villa-Palomino, MA/FSP Committee Member, Anthropology

Anusha Hariharan, PhD Committee Member. Anthropology, Dissertation Title TBD,

Francesca Sorbara, MA Committee Member, Anthropology, MA Completed Fall 2018

Marwa Koheji, Committee Member, Anthropology, Dissertation Title TBD

Sugandh Gupta, Committee Member, Anthropology, Dissertation Title TBD;
MA completed Fall 2018

Aaron Delgaty, Committee Member, Anthropology, “Heart and Matter: Fermentation in a Time of Crisis”, Dissertation Defended Spring 2020.

Chu-Wen Hsieh, Committee Member, Anthropology, Dissertation Title TBD

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (Recent)

2021	UNC Institute of the Arts and Humanities Fellowship. Spring Writing Leave. \$42,500
2020-2021	Wenner-Gren Post-Ph.D. Research Grant. “Quinine’s Remains: The Lives and Afterlives of a World-Historical Substance.” \$17,108
2020	American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Short-Term Research Fellowship. “Quinine’s Remains: The Lives and Afterlives of a World-Historical Substance.” \$7,000
2016-2019	National Science Foundation, “Collaborative Research ChokePoints: A Comparative Global Ethnography,” (PI, \$60,721 UNC, [\$136,290 Multi-Institutional Total], 100%, NSF)
2017	Cox Asia Initiative Award - Carolina Asia Center, “Imperial Bark: An Ethno-History of Quinine” (PI, \$5000, 100%, UNC-Chapel Hill)
2016-7	UNC Junior Faculty Development Award, “Imperial Bark: An Ethno-History of Quinine,” (PI, \$7500, 100%, UNC-Chapel Hill)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer *American Anthropologist, American Ethnologist, Anthropological Quarterly, Cultural Anthropology, Contemporary South Asia, Contributions to Indian Sociology, Ethnography, Himalaya, Political and Legal Anthropology Review (POLAR), National Science Foundation; University of Washington Press, South Asia: Journal of South Asia Studies*

Internal to the University (Recent)

2020	Department of Anthropology IRB Coordinator
2020	Anthropology Department Undergraduate Career Advisor
2019-20	Department of Anthropology Awards Committee
2019-20	Global Engagement and Heritage Concentration Coordinator
2019-20	Anthropology Department Undergraduate Career Advisor
2019-2020	Faculty Advisor, UNC Society of Undergraduate Anthropologists
2018-Present	Modern Indian Studies Faculty Advisor Board
2018-19	Department of Anthropology Curriculum Committee
2018	Tenure Review Committee
2018	Anthropology Department Undergraduate Career Advisor
2018	Faculty Advisor, UNC Society of Undergraduate Anthropologists
2018-19	Global Engagement and Heritage Concentration Coordinator
2017-18	Global Engagement and Heritage Concentration Coordinator -co-developer of Global Engagement and Heritage Minor

REFERENCES

Provided Upon Request