

George Mentore

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Specialization and Regions of Interest

- Anthropology of Knowledge, Power, Subjectivity, and the Body.
- Lowland South America, the Antilles.

Education

- 1984: Ph.D., Social Anthropology, University of Sussex.
"Shepariymo: The Political Economy of a Waiwai Village."
- 1977: Postgraduate Diploma in Social Anthropology,
London School of Economics and Political Science.
"An Exercise in Ritual Symbolism: With Reference to the Waiwai."
- 1973: B.A. (Hons), Graphic Design, Brighton School of Visual Communication.

Professional and Academic Positions

- 2010-2012 -- Editor of *ANTHROPOLOGY and HUMANISM* journal of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology, section of the American Anthropological Association
- 2002 -- Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for *ARCHEOLOGY and ANTHROPOLOGY* Journal of Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology
- 2002 - 2008 Member of the Advisory Board for *TIPITI* the Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America
- 1998-2000 -- Director of New World Studies, University of Virginia
- 1993 -- Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia
- 1986-93 -- Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia
- 1988-89 -- Research Fellow, Research Institute for the Study of Man, New York
- 1985-99 -- Research Associate, Centro de Investigaciones Indigenas de Puerto Rico
- 1988-89 -- Research Associate, National Anthropological Archives, Walter Roth Museum, Guyana.

Publications

- 2011: *Abandoned People, Madness, and the Untranslatable*. Centre for Amerindian, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of St. Andrews Occasional Publications No.32.
- 2010: (unpublished manuscript) *The Doubling: Preliminary Essays on Empathic Anthropology*.
- 2009: Entrevista a Edith Turner" en *AIBR. Revista de Antropología Iberoamericana*. WWW.aibrlorg. Volumen 4, Número 3. Septiembre-Diciembre. Pp. i-xviii.
- 2008: *The Tropol Dynamics of a Waiwai House*. Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, Guyana Government, Georgetown.
- 2007: "Guyanese Amerindian epistemology: the gift of knowledge from a pacifist insurgence" in *Race and Class*, 49:2.
- 2007: "Spiritual Translucency and Pornocratic Anthropology" in *Anthropology and Humanism* Vol. 32, Issue 2, pp 192-201.
- 2006: "The Triumph and Sorrow of Beauty: Comparing the Recursive, Contrapuntal, and Cellular Aesthetics of Being" in *TIPITÍ: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America*, Vol.4; No.1&2
- 2006: *Amerindian Modes of Knowledge* co-edited with Fernando Santos-Granero in *TIPITÍ: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America*, Vol.4; No.1&2

- 2006: "O triunfo e a dor da beleza: coparando as estéticas recursive, contrapontística e celular do ser" in a Special Issue in honor of Professor Joanna Overing: In the World and About the World Amerindian Modes of Knowledge eds., George Mentore and Fernando Santos-Granero. *Revista de Antropologia* Vol 49. No 1.
- 2005: *Of Passionate Curves and Desirable Cadences: Themes on Waiwai Social Being*. University of Nebraska Press.
- 2004: "The Glorious Tyranny of Silence and the Resonance of Shamanic Breath" in *In Darkness and Secrecy: The Anthropology of Assault Sorcery and Witchcraft in Amazonia* eds., Neil Whitehead and Robin Wright. Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2003: "Passionate Speech and Literate Talk in Grenada" in *Language and Social Identity* ed., Richard K. Blot. Connecticut: Praeger.
- 2002: "Georgetown: Guyana" in *Encyclopedia of Urban Cultures: Cities and Cultures around the World* eds., Melvin Ember and Carol R. Ember (Vol. 2) 234-242. Danbury, Connecticut: Grolier.
- 2000: "Society, Body, and Style: An Archery Contest in an Amerindian Society" in *Games, Sports and Cultures* ed., Noel Dyck. Oxford, Berg Press.
- 1999: "Anger in the Forest, Death by Documentation: Cultural Imaginings of the Taruma" *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford* Vol. XXX, No. 3, 261-287.
- 1999: "Notting Hill in Carnival" in *Visual Anthropology Review* 15:3.
- 1999: Review article for *From Oral to Literate Culture: Colonial Experience in the English West Indies* by Peter A. Roberts in *New West Indian Guide* 73 (1&2) 175-177.
- 1995: "Epilepsy as Social Power, Silent Pain, and Episodic Memory" *Archaeology and Anthropology* 10, 58-60.
- 1995: "Peccary Meat and Power among the Waiwai Indians of Guyana" *Archaeology and Anthropology* 10, 19-35.
- 1993: "Tempering the Social Self: Body Adornment, Vital Substance, and Knowledge among the Waiwai." *Archaeology and Anthropology* 9, 22-34.
- 1993: "Alienating Emotion: Literacy and Creolese in Grenada." *Ethnic Groups*.
- 1988: *The Relevance of Myth: An Amerindian Case*. The Edgar Mittelholzer Lecture Series, Georgetown: Georgetown Printers.
- 1987: "Waiwai Women: The Basis of Wealth and Power." *Man (N.S.)* 22, 511-527.
- 1983-84: "Waiwai Labour Relations in the Production of Cassava." *Themes in Political Organization: The Caribs and Their Neighbours* (eds.) A.B.Colson & H.D.Heinen, *Antropologica* 59-62. Fundacion La Salle: Caracas.

Papers Presented

June 6th to 8th 2011: "Of Vital Spirit and Precarious Bodies in Amerindian Socialities" paper presented at the Wrenn-Gren sponsored workshop *Passages and Afterworlds: Anthropological Perspectives on Death and Mortuary Rituals in the Caribbean*, University of West Indies, Barbados.

March 26th 2011: "Sublime Suffering" paper presented to the session "Beauty" at the Southern Anthropological Society annual meeting, Richmond, Virginia, March 23–26.

December 14th 2010: "Abandoned People, Madness, and the Untranslatable" paper for the workshop: "The Riddle of Place in the Caribbean and Latin America," at the Centre for Amerindian, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Department of Social Anthropology, University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

November 20th 2010: "The Surrendering Sense of Well-Being" a paper presented at the Invited Session: "Flow and Fixity: the Question of Intersubjectivity in Amazonia" at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, New Orleans.

July 14th 2010: "The Riddle Basket: An Amerindian Political Philosophy" paper presented to the general public, Georgetown, Guyana, sponsored by the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology and the Ministry of

Culture, Youth, and Sports.

December 3rd 2009: "Empathy as Ethnographic Device" a paper presented at the Invited Session: "Translating Feeling in the Americas: New Approaches in the Anthropology of Emotion" at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Philadelphia.

July 9th 2009: "The Seeking and Encountering of Difference in 'Amerindian'" paper presented to the public, Georgetown, Guyana, sponsored by the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology and the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports.

October 12th 2007: "'Excerpts from 'an empathetic anthropology': what we can still learn from indigenous Amazonian societies'" paper presented to the Senior Seminar, University of Cambridge.

October 20th 2006: "Guyanese Amerindian epistemology: the gift of knowledge from a pacifist insurgence" paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, University of York, Toronto.

April 14th 2006: "The Triumph and Sorrow of Beauty: Comparing the Recursive, Contrapuntal, and Cellular Aesthetics of Being" paper presented to the Department of Anthropology, Cornell University.

November 28-29, 2005: "Pakara: the Basket of Knowledge" paper presented at the international conference *In the World and about the World: Amerindian Modes of Knowledge* held at the University of Virginia.

August 16, 2005: "A Familiar Ailment" paper presented at the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology, Georgetown, Guyana on the occasion of the first pre "Amerindian Lecture Series."

June 9-12, 2005: "The Enigmatic Weave: A Waiwai Strategy for Dispelling the Propensity for Violence" paper presented at conference of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America, Estes Park, Colorado.

March 11, 2005: "The Enigmatic Weave: A Waiwai Strategy for Dispelling the Propensity for Violence" paper presented at Department of Philosophy and Anthropology, the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

January 13, 2005: "Dark Shamanism" paper presented at Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Oxford.

July 14-18, 2003: "The Fart that Leads to Laughter: Waiwai Revelations about the Power of the Absurd" presented in the session *Absurdities of Human Nature* at the 51st Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, Santiago, Chile.

November 2002: "Waiwai Vignettes: the Space Between Difference" presented in the session *Moral and Political Dimensions of Ethnographic Research and Writing in Indigenous Latin America: Indigenous and Academic Perspectives* 101st American Anthropological Association annual meetings, New Orleans.

November 2002: "Yaskomo: the 'Catcher of Spiritual Vitalities'" presented in the session *Dark Shamans: Occult Power and the Cosmology of Violence in South America* 101st American Anthropological Association annual meetings, New Orleans.

November 2002: "Comments on the Papers Presented at the Session" *Back to Aesthetics: Critical Anthropological Perspectives on Beauty, Power and Truth* 101st American Anthropological Association annual meetings, New Orleans.

June 13th, 2002: Public Lecture, Tower Hotel, Georgetown, Guyana "An Anthropology for Guyana"

June 12th, 2002: "brown bag" presentation at the Iwokrama International Centre for the Rain Forest Conservation and Development, Georgetown, Guyana.

January 11-14, 2001: "The Glorious Tyranny of Silence and the Resonance of Shamanic Breath" presented at the conference *Indigenous Amazonia at the Millennium: Politics and Religion*, Tulane University, New Orleans.

November 1999: "A Quiet Fearlessness: Waiwai Masculinity and the Jaguar" presented in the session *Human -Animal Relationships* 98th American Anthropology Association annual meetings, Chicago.

December 1998: "Death by Documentation, Anger in the Forest: Cultural Imaginings of the Taruma/Kuase" presented at the *Festschrift for Peter Rivière*, Linacre College, Oxford.

December 1998: "Little Eagle Dying: Body, Society, and Mystical Violence among the Waiwai" presented in the session *Violence and Population: Bodies and the Body Politic in Indigenous Amazonia* 97th American Anthropology Association annual meetings, Philadelphia.

July 1997: "Southern Forest: Provincial Homeland or Edge of the World" presented in the session *Indigenous Culture, Identity, and Collective Rights in the Guyanas* 49th Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, Quito, Ecuador.

November 1995: "Magic and Medicine as Metapragmatic Discourse" presented in the session *The Metapragmatics of Socio-cultural Discourse* 94th American Anthropology Association annual meetings, Washington DC.

July 1995: "Redeeming the Past: Anthropology's Other Rewriting the Discipline" presented at the conference *Anthropology and the Indigenes*, Georgetown, Guyana

December 1992: "The Buck and the Boviander: Being Amerindian in Multicultural Guyana" presented in the session *Current Topics in the Anthropology of Consciousness* at the American Anthropology Association annual meetings, San Francisco.

January 1992: "Feathers in the Face: Waiwai Somatic Symbols" presented at *ALILA/LAILA X Simposio Internacional*, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

October 1991: "The Past and Present of Indigenous Peoples" on televised course *Latin American Encounters*, University of Virginia, Division of Continuing Education.

June 1991: "Conquering the Americas" presented at the World Studies Program for Teachers, on *Global Change: Latin America*, University of Virginia, Division of Continuing Education.

February 1991: "Black Orality White Literacy: Contrasts in Identity and Power" presented at the Commonwealth Center of Literary and Cultural Change, University of Virginia, seminar series "Is Knowledge Gendered?" in the session *Humanistic Knowledge: Issues of Race and Gender*

November 1990: "Alienating Emotion: Literacy and Creolese in Grenada" presented in the session *Cultural Construction of Gender in the Caribbean* at the American Anthropology Association annual meetings, New Orleans.

November 1990: "Tempering the Social Self: Body Adornment, Vital Substance, and Knowledge in Lowland South America" presented at the Department of Anthropology Speakers Series, University of Virginia.

January 1990: "Sacred Tones" presented at the *Callaloo Speakers Series*, Virginia.

November 1987: "The Relevance of Myth: An Amerindian Case." Lecture one "Mythic Discourse," lecture two "Society in Shodewika," lecture three "The Self Constructed;" *The Edgar Mittelholzer Memorial Lectures*, the 11th Series, Georgetown, Guyana.

April 1987: "Objectifying Culture for Consumption: Ideology and Politics in Guyana;" 109th American Ethnological Society, Annual spring meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

September 1982: "Waiwai Labour Relations in the Production of Cassava;" *44th International Congress of Americanists*, Manchester, England.

Awards and Honorary Societies

- 2006 *Of Passionate Curves and Desirable Cadences* nominated for the 2006 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Non-fiction
- 2006-07 Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall, University of Cambridge
- 2002 University of Virginia Summer Grants Award
- 1991 University of Virginia Deans' Teaching Award
- 1991 University of Virginia Faculty Summer Research Award
- 1988-89 Research Fellowship from the Spencer Foundation
- 1975-79 Social Science Research Council Quota Award
- Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge
- Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute
- Member of the American Association of Anthropology
- Licentiate of the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers
- Fellow of the Research Institute for the Study of Man

Selected Courses Taught

- Anth737/337 *On Power and the Body*
- Anth705 *Data Analysis*
- Anth702 *Current Theory*
- Anth565 *Creole Narratives*
- Anth369 *Guiana Amerindian Studies*
- Anth352 *Amazonian Peoples*
- Anth330 *Tournaments and Athletes: A Cross-cultural Study of Sports*
- Anth254 *The Anthropology of God*
- Anth219 *Desire and World Economies*
- Anth101 *Introduction to Anthropology*