

Micah Marie Trapp, Ph.D.

curriculum vitae

Personal Information

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Education

Ph.D., Anthropology – December 2011

American University

Dissertation: *Shadow Colony: Refugees and the Pursuit of the Liberian-American Dream*

Areas of Specialization: refugees; migration; political economy of food; household food economies; humanitarianism; development; anthropological research methods; transnational class; social inequality; West Africa (Liberia, Ghana).

Master of Arts, Public Anthropology – August 2007

American University

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology/Anthropology – May 2002

Denison University, cum laude

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor

University of Memphis, Department of Anthropology

Dates: August 2013 – present

Courses: Cultural Anthropology; Nutritional Anthropology (co-teach); Human Rights

Visiting Lecturer

University of Maryland Baltimore County, Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Dates: August 2012 – May 2013

Courses: Cultural Anthropology; Contemporary Problems in Anthropological Perspective; Anthropology of Food; Directed Independent Study – Graduate Level

Professorial Lecturer

George Washington University, Department of Anthropology

Dates: January 2012 – May 2012

Courses: Development Anthropology

Teaching Assistant

American University, Department of Anthropology

Dates: August 2004 – May 2007

Courses: Culture: the Human Mirror; Sex, Gender and Culture; India: Living Traditions; Politics of the Body; American Dreams, American Lives

Teaching Assistant

Denison University, Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Dates: August 2001 – May 2002

Courses: Introduction to Sociology and Anthropology, honors; Baseball and the American Dream

Grants

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant

Award No. BCS-050719; Award Amount: \$12,700; Dates: February 2009 – January 2010

American University College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship

Award Amount: \$10,000; Dates: August 2008 – May 2009

American University College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Fellowship

Award Amount: \$48,000 plus tuition; Dates: August 2004 – May 2008

Liberian Studies Association Conference Travel Grant

Award Amount: \$700; Dates: May 2009

Academic Publications

Already in America: Transnational Home-making Among Liberian Refugees

In Review, *Home Cultures*

What's on the Table: Nutrition Programming for Refugees in the United States

North American Association for the Practice of Anthropology Bulletin, Special Theme Issue: Anthropological Perspectives on Migration and Health. Vol. 34, 2010.

Professional Publications

USAID ADVANCE Midterm Performance Evaluation Final Report

USAID, Jan. 2012. Co-author with Alice Willard

Food and Nutrition Outreach Program Final Report

Submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services
US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, September 2008

A Cambodian Story

Director, Documentary Video of Eiko and Koma's *Cambodian Stories*
Available at www.eikoandkoma.org, 2006

Conference Presentations

Inhospitable Tastes: the Politics of a Liberian Refugee Camp Food System in Ghana

American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2013. FORTHCOMING

From "Refugee Mansions" to Traveling Homes: How Transnational Constructions of Home Influence Migratory Decisions Among Liberian Refugees

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Annual Conference, Jan 2013.

Rice is Like Diamonds: Reconsidering Food (In)Security in Concept and Practice

American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 2012.

Solutions and Strategies: navigating refugee aid policy in a long-term camp

Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD. March 2012

Transnational Torborgi: tools and prospects for evaluating food insecurity in Liberia

Liberian Studies Association Annual Meeting, Monrovia, Liberia. May 2009

Delicious Food in Moderation: Healthy Eating for Refugees

Office of Refugee Resettlement Refugee Summit, Washington DC September 4, 2008

US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Food and Nutrition Outreach for Refugees

Ethiopian Community Development Council Annual Conference, Arlington, VA. May 2008

What's at Stake in Image-Making: a case study of Liberian refugees in Ghana

American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, California. November 2006

Refugees and Displacement

Public Anthropology Workshop, American University, Washington, DC. October 2005

Refugee Spaces: building a framework for a rights-based critique of US refugee resettlement

Forced Migration Student Conference, Oxford Brookes University, U.K. May 2005

Bright, Resilient Human Beings: US Refugee Resettlement, Human Rights Violation or Durable Solution?

Graduate Student Anthropology Conference, Stanford University, California. April 2005

US Refugee Resettlement

Public Anthropology Workshop, American University, Washington DC. October 2004

Research

Shadow Colony: Refugees and the Pursuit of the Liberian-American Dream

Dissertation field research, Buduburam refugee settlement, Ghana and Monrovia, Liberia

Dates: May – July 2005; December 2008 – June 2009

Research Methods:

- Developed overall research questions, methodology, and design, including semi-structured household interviews, stakeholder interviews, participant-observation, social network mapping, focus groups and a Household Food Economy Survey
- Created, tested, and carried out an ethnographically informed measurement tool for Household Food Insecurity
- Designed and implemented a random sampling method for the household survey (n=148)
- Trained 4 local community health workers on research methods to implement survey
- Designed a Microsoft ACCESS database to store and analyze household economic and food sharing practices and strategies

Education and Skills Baseline Survey

Researcher, Self-Help Initiatives for Sustainable Development, Buduburam refugee settlement, Ghana

Dates: May – July 2005

Research Methods:

- Designed, implemented and analyzed an education and skills baseline survey
- Trained and led 12 data collectors to carry out the household survey (n=160) using cluster sampling methods

Professional Experience

Consulting Evaluator

USAID ADVANCE Midterm Performance Evaluation Team

Dates: October 2011 – present

Grant Reviewer

Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health and Human Services

Dates: April 2010; July 2010; July – August 2011; April 2012; May 2013; August 2013

Grant Reviewer

Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security

Grant Writer

US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Dates: November 2008 – January 2009

Food and Nutrition Outreach Program Officer

US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Dates: April 2008 – September 2009

- Conducted seven nutrition outreach trainings for refugee resettlement staff and refugees at regional locations throughout the US
- Wrote and designed 13 nutrition handouts that were translated into 15 languages
- Designed the research questions, methodology, and metrics for the final program evaluation
- Collected and analyzed evaluation data, including three focus groups and a survey

Development Associate

US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Dates: September 2007 – April 2008

- Developed program concepts and wrote grant proposals for USCRI departments and programs, including the Campaign to End the Warehousing of Refugees, the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children, Refugee Health and Nutrition Programming, and Resettlement Field Offices that resulted in more than \$200,000 in grant funding
- Trained USCRI staff in grant proposal development and writing skills

AmeriCorps*VISTA Volunteer

Financial Education Coordinator, International Rescue Committee, Baltimore, Maryland

Dates: July 2003 – July 2004

- Developed and implemented financial education program, including needs assessment, individual intakes and education, and curriculum development to service 119 refugees
- Created and used financial education materials for non-literate Liberian & Somali Bantu refugees
- Authored successful grant proposals to secure \$30,000 for a second year programming

Non-Academic Teaching Experience

Instructor, Dance Improvisation

Chance Academy, Mt. Rainier, MD

Dates: January 2012 – March 2012; February 2011 – May 2011

Instructor, American Desserts

Independently employed by a visiting Japanese women's group, Arlington, VA.

Dates: September 2009 – February 2010

Instructor, Community Service and Video Production

Summer Discovery Program, Georgetown University Washington DC.

Dates: July 2007; June- July 2006

Teacher, Social Studies (Breads of the World)

ASPIRE Summer School at Hathaway Brown, Cleveland Heights, OH

Dates: June – July 2002

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association

Society for Applied Anthropology

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration

Additional Skills

- Microsoft Applications: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, ACCESS
- Final Cut Pro Video Editing software
- Intermediate French reading
- Basic spoken French and Spanish

References available upon request