



- Oct. 2014–Sep. 2016 **Research Fellow / Diplomat-in-Residence**, Institute of International Relations, *University of the West Indies*
- Conducted book project, “Sharing Mothers: Spirituality, Sociality, and Sexuality of the Walking Statue.”
- Dec. 2011–Sep. 2016 **Visiting Scholar**, *National Museum of Ethnology, Japan* (Osaka, Japan)
- Conducted research project, “Religion and Immigrants’ Identity Construction and Social Capital Development: Experience of the South Asian immigrants and diasporas,” funded by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.
- Jan. 2012–Jan. 2014 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Center for Intercultural Studies, *Saint Louis University* (Saint Louis, MO)
- Participated in collaborative research project, “Perspectives on Interculturality,” and organized international conference drawing the findings from the project
- Apr. 2010–Jan. 2012 **Adjunct Lecturer**, Department of Sociology, *Kwansei Gakuin University* (Nishinomiya, Japan)
- Apr. 2009–Jan. 2012 **Research Fellow**, Institute for Advanced Social Research, *Kwansei Gakuin University*
- Participated in collaborative research projects, “Society arising from wars” (2009–2010) and “Lived multiculturalism” (2011–2012);
  - Organized international conferences, workshops, and study groups;
  - Served to the editorial board of peer-reviewed journal, *Advanced Social Research*, issued by the Institute
- Aug. 2007–May 2008 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, *Nova Southeastern University* (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)
- Taught four undergraduate courses per semester in various formats, including on-campus evening and off-campus online;
- May 2006–Aug. 2007 **Adjunct Professor**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, *Florida International University*
- Taught 2–3 undergraduate courses per semester in various formats, including on-campus evening and off-campus online;
- May–Aug. 2005 **Adjunct Professor**, Department of Social Sciences, *Miami-Dade Community College* (Miami, FL)
- May 2001–Aug. 2002 **Graduate Research Associate**, Immigration and Ethnicity Institute, *Florida International University*
- Conducted ethnographic research at West Indian churches in South Florida as research associate in team research project, “Religion, Immigration, and Civic Engagement” funded by Pew Charitable Trusts.

Aug. 2000–Apr. 2006 **Graduate Teaching Associate**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, *Florida International University*

## ***TEACHING EXPERIENCE***

---

### COURSE TAUGHT:

- ***Basics of Team-based Learning***: Hokkaido University (HU)
- ***Problem Finding***: HU
- ***Anthropology of People of the Caribbean I***: University of the West Indies (UWI)
- ***Anthropology of People of the Caribbean II***: UWI
- ***Sociology of Sexuality***: Nova Southeastern University (NSU); Kwansei Gakuin University
- ***Social Problems***: NSU
- ***Anthropology of Race and Ethnicity***: Florida International University (FIU)
- ***Introduction to Anthropology***: FIU
- ***Introduction to Sociology***: FIU; Miami-Dade Community College; NSU

### COURSE ASSISTED (FIU):

- *Advanced Social Theories*
- *Social Research Methods*
- *Political Sociology*
- *Sociology of International Development*
- *World Ethnography*
- *Sociology through Films*

## ***RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE***

---

Jan. 1998–July 2000 **Research Officer**, Embassy of Japan in Kingston, Jamaica, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*

- Analyzed and reported on political and economic development in Jamaica and the Bahamas;
- Assisted commercial/economic attaché in the “Grassroots Development Schemes,” which was designed to expand collaboration with local NGOs and NPOs and Trainer-Trainee Exchange Program;
- Assisted cultural attaché in MEX’s Scholarship Program and JET Program, which recruited local English teachers for public schools in Japan.

Oct. 1994–Sep. 1997 **Research Officer**, Embassy of Japan in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*

- Analyzed and reported on political and economic development in Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines;

- Assisted commercial/economic attaché in the “Grassroots Development Schemes,” which was designed to expand collaboration with local NGOs and NPOs and Trainer-Trainee Exchange Program;
- Assisted cultural attaché in MEX’s Scholarship Program and JET Program, which recruited local English teachers for public schools in Japan.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

---

- Apr. 2016–Mar. 2020 **Grant-in-Aid, Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences (JSPS)**  
“Religious Pluralism and Multiethnic Coexistence: Conflict Suppression in the Anglophone Caribbean.” Approx. **JPY6,800,000 (US\$67,000)**.
- Apr. 2011–Mar. 2015 **Grant-in-Aid, Japan Society for the Promotion of Sciences (JSPS)**  
“Religion and Immigrants’ Identity Construction and Assimilation: Experience of the South Asian Migrants and Diasporas.” Approx. **JPY5,600,000 (US\$54,000)**.
- Jan. 2012–Jan. 2014 **Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Center for Intercultural Studies, Saint Louis University.**  
“Perspectives on Interculturality: Construction of Meaning in the Relationships of Difference.” **US\$88,000**.
- Aug. 2001–July 2002 **Scholarship for Postgraduate Study at Overseas Institutions, International Development Center of Japan (IDCJ).** Approx. **JPY7,200,000 (US\$70,000)**.

## RESEARCH AREAS AND INTERESTS

---

- Diaspora, Migration, and Religion;
- Gender and Sexuality in Immigrant Faith;
- Development and Cultural Change;
- Religion and Material Culture;
- Production of Knowledge and Cultural Engineering in Postcolonial Context;
- Ethnography and History.

## FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

---

**South Florida and Trinidad and Tobago:** Feb.–Mar. 2012; Oct. 2014–Present  
“Flying Baba” Project: Conducted ethnographic observation and interview at Florida Hindu Organization (FHO)-run Shiva Mandir in Oakland Park, Broward County (3000 NW 29th Ave., Oakland Park, FL, 33311) and Shiva Mandir in Cumuto, Trinidad.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** Feb.–Mar. 2012; Oct. 2014–Present

“Sharing Mothers” Project: Conducted participant observation and ethnographic interviews in the annual feast of the statue of *La Divin* that sits in the Catholic Church in Siparia, southern Trinidad; and performed archival research at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Port-of-Spain, National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago, and West Indiana Collection at UWI’s Alma Jordan Library.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** Aug.–Sep. 2011

Conducted participant observation and ethnographic interviews at churches affiliated to Pentecostal Association of the West Indies (PAWI) to explore how and why Hindus have converted into globalized forms of Protestant faith.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** Mar.–May 2002, Apr.–June 2003, July–Aug. 2004, Feb.–Apr. 2005

For my dissertation, *Hyphenated Cultures*: Conducted participant observation, ethnographic interviews, and archival research.

**South Florida:** May 2002–Aug. 2002

For Pew Charitable Trusts-funded research project, “Religion, Immigration, and Civic Engagement,” conducted participant observation and interviews at West Indian churches, including Emmanuel Apostolic Church (16805 SW 100th Ave., Miami, FL 33157), Christ the King Catholic Church (16000 SW 112th Ave., Miami, FL 33157), and Church of the Ascension (11201 SW 160th St., Miami, FL 33157).

**Jamaica:** May–July 1993

For master’s thesis, conducted participant observation and interviews in Kingston and St. Ann’s Bay.

## ***PUBLICATIONS***

---

### **PAPERS IN REFERRED JOURNAL**

- In Progress** “Dressing the Statue: Spirituality, Sociality, and Sexuality of the Walking Statue.” For *Material Religion: The Journal of Object, Art, and Belief*.
- Under Review** “The Power of Mary: La Divina Pastora and ‘Coolie Mission’ in Colonial Trinidad.” *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*.
- 2009** “‘They don’t do culture’: Mother Kali as a Matrix of National Culture in Trinidad.” *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and Its Diasporas*, 12 (3): 59–86.
- 2008** “Villaging the Nation: The Politics of Making Ourselves in Postcolonial Trinidad.” *Callaloo: A Journal of African American Arts and Letters*, 31 (4): 1148–1174.
- 2008** “Mothers–Hyphenated Imaginations: The Feasts of *Soparee Ke Mai* and *La Divina Pastora* in Trinidad.” *Man in India: An International Journal of Anthropology*, 88 (1&2): 145–164.

## REFEREED PAPERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- 2016** “Caribbean.” In *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*, edited by J. Stone, R. Dennis, P. Rizova, A. D. Smith, and X. Hou. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2015** “Toward the Materiality of Intercultural Dialogue, Still a “Miracle begging for analysis.” In *Perspectives on Interculturality: The Construction of Meaning in the Relations of Difference*, edited by M. Rozbicki, 53–68. NY; London: Palgrave-Macmillan.
- 2013** “Postwar Japanese *Hikiage* (Returnees) as a ‘Method’: Implications for Return Migration Research.” In *Ethnography of Hikiage*, edited by T. Shimomura, 375–398. Tokyo: Shinyosha. [Written and published in Japanese]
- 2013** “The Other Half: The Articulation of Carnival in Nineteenth-century Trinidad.” In *Carnival: Theory and Practice*, edited by C. Innes, A. Rutherford, and B. Bogar, 79–91. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press/Red Sea Press.
- 2011** “Trinidadian and Tobagonian Immigrants.” In *Multicultural America: An Encyclopedia of the Newest Americans*, edited by R. H. Bayor, 2135–2189. Westport, CT: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press.
- 2010** “Colonies in the Caribbean, British.” In *Encyclopedia of Blacks in European History and Culture*, edited by Eric Martone, Vol. I: 147–149. Westport, CT: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press.
- 2010** “Rastafarianism.” In *Encyclopedia of Blacks in European History and Culture*, edited by Eric Martone, Vol. II: 437–438. Westport, CT: ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press.
- 2009** “Mothers–Hyphenated Imaginations: The Feasts of *Soparee Ke Mai* and *La Divina Pastora* in Trinidad.” In *Indian Diaspora in the Caribbean*, edited by K. Mahabir, 169–191. New Delhi, India: Serials Publications (Reprinted with revision from *Man in India: An International Journal of Anthropology*).
- 2009** (With Christine Ho and Alex Stepick) “The Struggle for Civic Social Capital in West Indian Churches.” In *Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City: Religion, Immigration, and Civic Engagement in Miami*, edited by A. Stepick, T. Rey, and S. Mahler, 208–230. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- 2008** “Trinidad.” In *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society*, edited by R. T. Schaefer et al., 1326–1329. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

## SELECTED BOOK REVIEWS IN REFEREED JOURNALS

- 2012** Glenda Tibe Bonifacio and Vivienne SM. Angeles, *Gender, Religion, and Migration: Pathways of Integration* (Lexington Books, 2010). *Religion and Gender*. 2 (1): 186–189.
- 2010** Jocelyne Guilbault, *Governing Sound: The Cultural Politics of Trinidad’s Carnival Music* (The University of Chicago Press, 2007). *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and Its Diasporas*. 13 (2): 91–94.

- 2010** Reinaldo L. Román, *Governing Spirits: Religion, Miracles, and Spectacles in Cuba and Puerto Rico, 1898–1956* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007). *Canadian Journal of History*. 45 (2): 419–421.
- 2010** Hideaki Matsuoka, *Japanese Prayer Below the Equator* (Lexington Books, 2007). *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*. 15 (2): 504–506.
- 2009** Richard Price, *Travels with Tooy: History, Memory, and the African American Imagination* (The University of Chicago Press, 2008). *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*. 9 (2): 351–353.
- 2009** Kevin Birth, *Bacchanalian Sentiments: Musical Experiences and Political Counterpoints in Trinidad* (Duke University Press, 2007). *The Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute*. 15(3), 2009: 663–665.
- 2009** John R. Hinnells, *Religious Reconstruction in the South Asian Diasporas: From One Generation to Another* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2007). *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 32 (6): 1092–1093.
- 2008** Aisha Khan, *Callaloo Nation: Metaphors of Race and Religious Identity among South Asians in Trinidad* (Duke University Press, 2004). *Transforming Anthropology*. 16(2): 176–177.

## ***PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH***

---

- 2018** The Power of Mary: Inspiration and Seduction for the Colonial Construction of Religions. *American Anthropological Association*, San Jose, November 14–20.
- 2016** Moved by Mary: Engendering Religious History in Trinidad. *IIR Seminar*. Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. September 12.
- 2016** The Power of Mary in the “Coolie Mission”: Inspiration and Seduction for the Colonial Construction of Religions in Trinidad. *Conference of Catholic Theology in the Caribbean Today*. Cardinal Kelvin Felix Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Castries, Saint Lucia. June 12–18.
- 2015** Dressing the Statue: Spirituality, Sexuality, and Sociality of the Walking Statue. *IGDS Seminar*. Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. January 28.
- 2014** Dressing the Statue: Sociality and Sexuality of the Blessed Virgin / “Indian Lady.” *American Anthropological Association*. Washington DC, December 3–7.
- 2013** Sharing Mothers: A Sociobiography of the “Walking Statue” (Poster Presentation). *American Anthropological Association*. Chicago. November 11–17.
- 2013** A Theoretical Proposal on Cultural Mixing, (still) a “Miracle begging for analysis.” International Conference, *Perspectives on Interculturality*. Saint Louis University. February 28–March 1.
- 2012** Between “Indian” and “West Indian”: Ethnoreligiosity and Social Capital Development of the Indo-Caribbean Migrants in South Florida. Special Session on

North American Hinduism, *American Academy of Religion*. Chicago. November 17–20, 2012.

- 2011** Villaging the Nation: Eric Williams and Engineering of National Culture. The International Conference, *Independence and After: Eric Williams and the Making of Trinidad and Tobago*. University of London, Center for the Study of the Americas. September 27.
- 2010** Against All Odds: Pentecostal “Conversion” and Ethnic Identity (Re)construction of the South Asian Diaspora in Trinidad.” *American Anthropological Association*. New Orleans, LA. November 17–21.
- 2010** Sharing Mothers: East Indians and Creol/ization. Kyoto Anthropology Colloquium, Kyoto University. October 22. (Invited presentation) [Presented in Japanese].
- 2010** Immigration and Religion: Ethnographical Tradition and Frontier. Association for Comparative Immigration Research. Center for Northeastern Asian Studies, Tohoku University. July 10–12. (Invited presentation) [Presented in Japanese].
- 2010** Narrating a Nation through Ethnicity: *Hikiagesha* in the Reconstruction of Japanese-ness. The Third International NIOD/IASR Workshop, *Blood: War and Racism*. The Netherlands Institute of War Documentation. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. March 24–27.
- 2008** From *Negue Jadin* to *Jamet*: The Articulation of Carnival in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Trinidad. International Conference, *Carnival, “People’s Arts,” and Taking Back to the Street*. University of Toronto and York University. Toronto, Canada. July 31–August 2.
- 2008** “They don’t do culture” Mother Kali as a Matrix of National Culture in Trinidad. International Conference, *Obeah and Other Powers: The Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing*. Newcastle University. Newcastle upon Tyne, England. July 16–18.
- 2006** Mothers: The Hyphenating Force of Distinct Imaginations. *American Sociological Association*. Montreal, Canada. August 10–14.

### ***PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS***

---

- American Academy of Religion, 2012–Present.
- American Anthropological Association, 2006–Present
- American Sociological Association, 2004–2012
- Caribbean Studies Association, 2001–2004