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ROBERT R. DESJARLAIS, Ph.D.

PRESENT POSITION

Professor of Anthropology, 2001-present
Department of Anthropology, Sarah Lawrence College
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PREVIOUS POSITIONS

The Alice Stone Ilichman Chair in Comparative and International Studies, 2008-2011

Ad Hoc Fellow, 2010 – 2011
Center for the Study of World Religions
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA 02138

Assistant Professor, 1994-2001
Department of Anthropology, Sarah Lawrence College

Lecturer of Medical Anthropology, 1992-94
Coordinator, Project on International Mental and Behavioral Health, 1992-94
Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA 02115

EDUCATION

1990-92	NIMH Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Clinically Relevant Anthropology, Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School
1990	University of California, Los Angeles Ph.D. in Anthropology Thesis Title: "Samsara's Sadness: Sherpa Shamanism and the Calling of Lost Souls"
1987	University of California, Los Angeles M.A. in Anthropology
1984	University of Massachusetts, Amherst B.A. in Psychology, <i>Cum Laude</i>
1982-83	L'Université de Franche-Comté, France Study of Psychology and French Literature

LANGUAGES: Nepali, Yolmo (Tibetan); French

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2000-1 Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.
- 2000-1 Fellowship, George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation.
- 1999 Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing. For *Shelter Blues: Sanity and Selfhood among the Homeless* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1987). Awarded by the American Anthropological Association's Society for Humanistic Anthropology.
- 1996 Distinguished Citizens Award, World Federation for Mental Health, to the authors of *World Mental Health: Problems and Priorities in Low-Income Countries* (Oxford, 1995).
- 1990 University Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles
- 1986 University Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- in prep. *Subject to Death: Life and Loss in a Buddhist World*. Manuscript-in-progress.
- 2011 *Counterplay: An Anthropologist at the Chessboard*. University of California Press,
- 2002 *Sensory Biographies: Lives and Deaths among Nepal's Yolmo Buddhists*. University of California Press.
- 1997 *Shelter Blues: Sanity and Selfhood among the Homeless*. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 1995 *World Mental Health: Problems and Priorities in Low-Income Countries*. Co-authored with Leon Eisenberg, Byron Good, and Arthur Kleinman. Oxford University Press. (translated into Italian and Russian).
- 1992 *Body and Emotion: The Aesthetics of Illness and Healing in the Nepal Himalayas*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

ARTICLES

- 2013 "The Look: An Afterward." Pp. 262-274 of *Senses and Citizenships: Embodying Political Life*, eds. Susanna Trnka, Christine Dureau, and Julie Park. New York: Routledge.
- 2012 "Rhythms of Dying, of Living." Harvard Divinity Bulletin Vol. 40.
- 2011 Robert Desjarlais and C. Jason Throop. "Phenomenological Approaches in Anthropology," *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 40:87-102.
- 2004 "Movement, Stillness: On the Sensory World of a Shelter for the Homeless Mentally Ill."

- In *Empire of the Senses*, edited by David Howes, pp. 369-379. Oxford: Berg.
- 2004 "Echoes of a Life." In *Aural Cultures*, edited by Jim Drobnick. YYY Books.
- 2003 "The Cultural Construction of Emotion," Robert Desjarlais and Jim Wilce, *The Oxford Companion Encyclopedia of Sociology and Social Anthropology (Part VII, The Personal Sphere and its Articulation)*. Veena Das, Ed. Oxford University Press: Delhi.
- 2002 "'So: Ragged Woman: The Aesthetics and Ethics of Skilled Action among Nepal's Yolmo Buddhists.'" *Ethnography* 3:149-175.
- 2000 "Echoes of a Yolmo Buddhist's Life, in Death." *Cultural Anthropology* 15:260-293.
- 1999 "Introduction," Robert Desjarlais and Theresa O'Neill, for special issue on "The Pragmatic Turn in Psychological Anthropology," *Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology* 27:404-414.
- 1999 "The Makings of Personhood in a Shelter for People Considered Homeless and Mentally Ill." *Ethos* 466-489.
- 1999 "Ethnosemiotics: Speech and Writing as Echoes of a Yolmo Buddhist's Life." *Anthropology Newsletter*, April, 40(4), p. 58.
- 1997 "Violence and Well-Being." Robert Desjarlais and Arthur Kleinman. *Social Science and Medicine* 45:1143-1145.
- 1996 "The Office of Reason: On the Politics of Language and Agency in a Shelter for the 'Homeless Mentally Ill'." *American Ethnologist* 23:880-900.
- 1996 "Struggling Along." In *Things as They Are: New Directions in Phenomenological Anthropology*, edited by Michael Jackson, pp. 70-93. Indiana University Press.
- 1996 "Presence." In *The Performance of Healing*, edited by Carol Laderman and Marina Roseman, pp. 143-164. New York: Routledge Press.
- 1996 "Untold Casualties: Mental Health and the Violence Epidemic." Alex Cohen, Arthur Kleinman, and Robert Desjarlais. *Harvard International Review*, Fall, pp. 12-15, 54-55.
- 1995 "Whither Subjectivity, Whither Selfhood." Theme Commentary for the Society for Medical Anthropology. *Anthropology Newsletter*, May, 00. 31-32.
- 1995 "On the Vagaries of Bodies," *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 19:207-215.
- 1995 "Violence, Culture and the Politics of Trauma." Arthur Kleinman and Robert Desjarlais. Chapter 8 of *Writing at the Margin: Discourse Between Anthropology and Medicine*, by Arthur Kleinman, pp. 173-189. University of California Press.
- 1994 "Struggling Along: The Possibilities for Experience among the Homeless Mentally Ill." *American Anthropologist* 96:886-901.
- 1994 "Ni patients ni victimes: Pour une ethnographie de la violence politique." Arthur Kleinman and Robert Desjarlais. *ACTES de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales* 104:56-63.
- 1993 "Political Violence and Mental Health." *Working Paper, Center for the Study of Culture and Medicine, Harvard University*.

- 1992 "Yolmo Aesthetics of Person, Health, and 'Soul Loss'." *Social Science and Medicine* 34:1105-1117.
- 1991 "Poetic Transformations of Yolmo 'Sadness'." *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 15: 387-420.
- 1991 "Dreams, Divination and Yolmo Ways of Knowing." *Dreaming* 1:211-224.
- 1989 "Healing Through Images: The Magical Flight and Healing Geography of Nepali Shamans." *Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology* 17:289-307.

REVIEWS

- 2007 Review of *Death, Mourning, and Burial: A Cross-Cultural Reader*, by Antonius Robben, (Blackwell, 2005). *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 13:1044.
- 2001 Review of *Selves in Time and Place: Identities, Experience, and History in Nepal*, edited by Debra Skinner, Alfred Pach, and Dorothy Holland (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 1998). *Transcultural Psychiatry* 38:258-261.
- 1999 Review of *Bodies and Persons: Comparative Perspectives from Africa and Melanesia*, edited by Michael Lambeck and Andrew Strathern (Cambridge University Press, 1998). *American Ethnologist* 26:997-998.
- 1997 Review of *Tigers of the Snow and Other Virtual Sherpas: An Ethnography of Himalayan Encounters*, by Vincanne Adams (Princeton University Press, 1995). *Anthropos* 92:587-588.
- 1997 Review of *At Home in the World*, by Michael Jackson (Duke University Press, 1995). *American Anthropologist* 99:449-450.
- 1996 "Some Causes and Cultures of Homelessness." Review of five books on homelessness in the United States and abroad. *American Anthropologist* 98:420-425.
- 1995 Review of *Being Changed Through Cross-Cultural Encounters: The Anthropology of Extraordinary Experience*, edited by David E. Young and Jean-Guy Goulet (Broadview Press, 1994). *Transcultural Psychiatric Research Review* 32:74-78.
- 1994 Review of *The Bridge People: Daily Life in a Camp of the Homeless*, by Jackson Underwood (University Press of America, 1992). *American Anthropologist* 96:765.

EDITED JOURNAL ISSUES

- 1999 Co-editor, with Theresa O'Neill, of special issue, "The Pragmatic Turn in Psychological Anthropology." *Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology*, Vol. 27, No. 4.
- 1997 Co-editor, with Arthur Kleinman, of special issue, "Violence and Well-Being," *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol. 45, No. 8.