

# LEO COLEMAN, Ph.D.

## Curriculum Vitae

August 2020

### **Contact Information:**

Department of Anthropology  
Hunter College  
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### **Research Areas**

Political & Legal Anthropology; Cultural Studies & Critical Theory; Technology & Infrastructure; Imperialism & Nationalism; Law & Personhood; Urbanism; History of Anthropological Theory; India, British Empire, Scotland.

### **Academic Employment**

#### *Current Appointments*

City University of New York

- Chair, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College (2020-present)
- Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College (2015-present)
- Associate Professor, PhD Program in Anthropology, The Graduate Center (2019-present)

#### *Previous Positions*

The Ohio State University

- Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Studies (2014-2015)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Studies (2008-2014)

#### *Visiting Positions*

- Visiting Associate Professor of Anthropology, Hunter College (2014-2015, on leave from OSU)

### **Education**

2008 Ph.D., Anthropology, Princeton University

2002 MA (Hons) [BA-equivalent], 1st Class, Anthropology & Art History, University of St Andrews

### **External Research Grants and Fellowships**

2011–12 Vanderbilt University, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities,  
William S. Vaughn Visiting Fellowship

2005–06 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Individual Research Grant, “Power Privatization in Delhi”

### **Institutional Research Support**

2016 PSC-CUNY Research Grant, “Building a Constitutional Culture in Scotland”

2013 The Ohio State University, 2-year Faculty Grant for research in Scotland

2012 The Ohio State University, Mershon Center, Faculty Research Grant,  
“Scottish Independence, In-Migration, and Political Belonging in Europe”

2007–08 Princeton University Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Pre-Doctoral Fellow

2007 Princeton University Institute for International and Regional Studies,  
Dissertation Writing Grant (declined)

**Honors and Awards**

- 2011 Comparative Studies Faculty Teaching Award (departmental), Ohio State University  
 2003 Malcolm S. Forbes Merit Scholar, Princeton University  
 2002 Miller Prize for Outstanding Graduate In Arts, 2nd Place, University of St Andrews  
 2002 Departmental Prize in Social Anthropology, University of St Andrews  
 2002 O. Elfrida Saunders Prize for Excellence in Art History, University of St Andrews

**Publications****Monograph**

2017. *A Moral Technology: Electrification as Political Ritual in New Delhi*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.  
 [South Asian Edition] 2017. *Electrification as Political Ritual in New Delhi: A Moral Technology*. Delhi: Speaking Tiger Books.  
 Reviewed in *American Anthropologist*, *Technology and Culture*, *South Asia*, and *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*

**Edited Book**

- Coleman, Leo, ed. 2011. *Food: Ethnographic Encounters*. New York: Berg.

**Journal Special Issue**

2020. "Infrastructure and Global Political Aesthetics," Jessamyn R. Abel and Leo Coleman, editors. *Verge: Studies in Global Asias* 6(2): <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5749/vergstudglobasia.6.issue-2>

**Journal Articles**

2020. [Co-authored with Jessamyn R. Abel]. Editors' Introduction: Dreams of Infrastructure in Global Asias. *Verge: Studies in Global Asias* 6(2): vi-xxix.  
 2018. Building Scotland, Building Solidarity: A Scottish Architect's Knowledge of Nation. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 60(4): 873-906.  
 2017. "Functionalists Write II": Weird Empathy in Malinowski's Trobriand Ethnographies. *Anthropological Quarterly* 90(4): 973-1002.  
 2016. Inside and Outside the House: A Narrative of Mobility and Becoming in Delhi. Special issue on "Migrant Narratives," edited by Susan Coutin and Erica Vogel, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. 45(6): 692-715  
 2014. Infrastructure and Interpretation: Meters, Dams, and State Imagination in Scotland and India. *American Ethnologist* 41(3): 457-472.  
 2014. Corporate Identity in *Citizens United*: Legal Fictions and Anthropological Theory. *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, 37(2): 308-329.  
 2012. Consequences of *Citizens United*: Notes on Citizenship and Corporate Personhood. Special Issue on "Appropriation" edited by Erin Fitz-Henry. *Intergraph: Journal of Dialogical Anthropology* (3)2: [www.intergraph-journal.net](http://www.intergraph-journal.net).  
 2009. Being Alone Together: From Solidarity to Solitude in Urban Anthropology. *Anthropological Quarterly* 82/3: 755-778.

**Chapters in Edited Books**

- In Press. Afterword: People Thinking Energetically. In *Ethnographies of Power: A Political Anthropology of Energy*, Tristan Loloum, Nathalie Ortar, and Simone Abram, eds. New York: Berghahn Books.  
 2019. Widened Reason and Deepened Optimism: Electricity and Morality in Durkheim's Anthropology and Our Own. In *Electrifying Anthropology: Exploring Electrical Practices and Infrastructures*, Simone Abram, Britt Ross Winthereik, and Thomas Yarrow, eds., pp. 43-63. New York: Bloomsbury.

2015. Power and Ignorance in British India: The Native Fetish of the Crown. In *Regimes of Ignorance*. Roy Dilley and Thomas Kirsch, eds. Pp. 159-187. New York: Berghahn.
2015. The Imagining Life: Reflections on Imagination in Political Anthropology. In *Reflections on Imagination: Human Capacity and Ethnographic Method*. Mark Harris and Nigel Rapport, eds. Pp. 195-214. Burlington, VT: Ashgate.
2014. A View from Anthropology: Anomie and Urban Solitude. In *The Handbook to Solitude: Psychological Perspectives on Social Isolation, Social Withdrawal, and Being Alone*. Robert Coplan and Julie Bowker, eds. Pp. 483-498. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons.
2011. Introduction and Guide for Further Reading. In *Food: Ethnographic Encounters*. L. Coleman, ed. Pp. 1-16, 151-160. New York: Berg.
2011. Transnational India: Diaspora and Migration in the Anthropology of South Asia. In *A Companion to the Anthropology of India*. I. Clark-Decès, ed. Pp. 445-463. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
2009. The Obligation to Receive: The Countertransference, The Fieldworker, Protestants and Proselytization in North India. In *Being There: Fieldwork Experience and the Making of Truth*, J. Borneman and A. Hammoudi, eds. Pp. 113-150. Berkeley: University of California Press.

#### ***Selected Book Reviews, Essays, and Other Publications***

2019. Review of *Climate Without Nature: A Critical Anthropology of the Anthropocene* by Andrew Bauer and Mona Bhan. *American Anthropologist* 121(2): 526-27.
2018. New Release Book Review Essay, *The Mana of Mass Society* by William Mazzarella. *Anthropological Quarterly* 91(2): 799-810.
2017. Beauty's Knowledge: Hawthorne's Moral Fable "Rappaccini's Daughter." *Somatosphere: Science, Medicine, Anthropology*, 8 September: <http://somatosphere.net/2017/09/beautys-knowledge.html>.
2017. Material as Opposed to What? Three Recent Ethnographies of Welfare, Biological Labor, and Human Dignity. *Somatosphere: Science, Medicine, Anthropology*, 20 January: <http://somatosphere.net/2017/01/material-as-opposed-to-what-three-recent-ethnographies-of-welfare-biological-labor-and-human-dignity.html> [4,800 words].
2016. Why to Read Winnicott after the US Election, and How. *Somatosphere: Science, Medicine, Anthropology*, 18 November: <http://somatosphere.net/2016/11/why-to-read-winnicott-after-the-us-election-and-how.html> [1,600 words].
2014. *The Institutions of Meaning: A Defense of Anthropological Holism*, by Vincent Descombes [Book Review]. *Somatosphere: Medicine, Culture, Anthropology*, 18 August: <http://somatosphere.net/2014/08/descombes-the-institutions-of-meaning.html> [4,300 words].
2012. An Accounting for Taste [review of Paul S. Allen, *The Omnivorous Mind*]. *The Wall Street Journal*, May 21: A13.
2012. New Release Review Essay [review of Paul Rabinow, *The Accompaniment: Assembling the Contemporary*]. *Anthropological Quarterly*, 85(1): 283-292.
2012. Universes of Kinship [review of Maurice Godelier, *The Metamorphoses of Kinship*, transl. Nora Scott]. *Somatosphere: Medicine, Culture, Anthropology*, 20 January, <http://somatosphere.net/2012/01/universes-of-kinship.html>.
2010. From Honey to Ashes: The Intellectual Journeys of Lévi-Strauss [review of Patrick Wilcken, *Claude Lévi-Strauss: The Poet in the Laboratory*]. *Somatosphere: Medicine, Culture, Anthropology*, 01 September, <http://www.somatosphere.net/2010/09/from-honey-to-ashes-intellectual.html>.

**Interviews/Other Media**

- Cultures of Energy Podcast, "A Moral Technology," discussion with Cymene Howe & Dominic Boyer. July, 2018. <http://culturesofenergy.com/134-leo-coleman/>
- New Books Network Podcast, "A Moral Technology," discussion with Madhuri Karak. January, 2018. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/leo-coleman-a-moral-technology-electrification-as-political-ritual-in-new-delhi-cornell-up-2017/>

**Invited Talks**

2019. Ambedkar's Constitutional Morality: Towards an Anthropology of Legal Form. Yale University Department of Anthropology/South Asian Studies, Oct. 28.
2018. Equality: An Anthropology of Legal Form. Columbia University Seminar, December 10.
2017. Against the Invisibility of Infrastructures. CUNY Graduate Center Anthropology Colloquium, March 10.
2016. Magical Words and Political Speech. Plenary Address at *CUNY Language, Society & Culture Conference*, Borough of Manhattan Community College, May 20.
2012. Noir Urbanism: Privatization and Political Imaginations in New Delhi. Program in Asian Studies, Vanderbilt University, March 30.

**Invited Participation in Workshops/Seminars**

2020. "Voluntary Solitude" Colloquium, Pathologies of Solitude Research Group, University of London, June 11.
2019. Kula Ring and International Order: Malinowski's Notion of Order, Mauss's Order of Gifts. Workshop on "Emergence of a Science of 'the International' in Interwar Europe." Swiss Graduate Institute, Geneva, Nov 6.
2019. Malinowski, Isabelle Clark-Decès, and the Anthropology of Law. Clark-Decès Memorial Conference, Princeton University, March 29.
2014. Imperial Trust: Colonial Citizenship and the Constitution of Political Desire. Workshop on "Affinities, Affiliations, and Affects: Queer Theory in South Asia and its Diaspora," Center for Global Culture and Communication, Northwestern University, March 7.
2012. Ignorance and Government in British India: The Native Fetish of the Crown. Invited seminar paper for "Regimes of Ignorance," University of Konstanz, Germany, August 2.
2012. High Walls and Mobile Affects: Gating, Desire, and Danger in Neoliberal Delhi. "Global Fusions: International Media Studies," University of Ohio, October 27.
2011. Imagination and Solidarity: Key Concepts in Political Anthropology. Invited seminar paper for "The Imagination: A Universal Process of Knowledge?" St Andrews Centre for Cosmopolitan Studies, University of St Andrews, Sept 22.

**Workshop & Panel Organization**

2018. Co-organizer (with Jessamyn Abel) & Workshop Leader. Asian Studies Summer Institute on "Infrastructure." Pennsylvania State University, June 10-16.
2018. Co-organizer (with Leilah Vevaina), "The Uses of the Trust: Law, Property, and Collective Purposes." American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 16.

**Recent Conference Papers & Participation** (full list to 2006 available upon request)

2019. Opening Remarks, "Interrogating Infrastructures: Interdisciplinary Conversations," Seminar at Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, Oct. 17.
2019. Panel chair, "Imaging Infrastructure." Global Asias 5, Pennsylvania State University, April 5.

2019. Roundtable Participant, "What's Law Got to Do with It?" Law & Society Association, Washington, DC, June 1.
2018. Technology's Constitution: Electricity Grids and State Boundaries in Scotland after 1943. Society for the History of Technology, St Louis, MO, October 12.
2017. Personification, Trust, and Corporate Life in British Constitutional Politics, 1904/2017. On panel "Prospects for a Critical Anthropology of Corporations." American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 1.
2017. Roundtable Participant, "Law, Techno-Science, and Society: Research at the Intersection." Law & Society Association, Mexico City, June 21.
2016. Broadcast Mantras: Radio Rakhi and Emotional Integration in "Village India." American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November 19.

### **Professional Service & Editorial Experience**

- 2019–2021 Book Reviews Editor, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*
- 2015–2021 Editorial Board, *Political And Legal Anthropology Review*
- 2015–2018 Editorial Collaborative, *Somatosphere: Medicine, Culture, Anthropology*
- 2013–2015 Communications editor and *ex-officio* Board Member, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology
- 2010 Peer Reviewer for *Journal of Energy History / Revue d'histoire l'énergie,,*  
 –present *American Anthropologist, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society, Cultural Anthropology, South Asia, Ethnos, Anthropological Quarterly, American Ethnologist, Political and Legal Anthropology Review*
- 2012  
 –present Manuscript Reviewer for Duke University Press, Berghahn Books, SAGE, Bloomsbury, Stanford University Press, and Berg Press
- 2004–2008 Co-Founder and Contributing Editor, *The Princeton Report on Knowledge*

### **Recent Courses Taught**

- CUNY Graduate Center, Certificate Program in Critical Theory  
*Critical Theory: Foundations* (Fall 2020)
- CUNY Graduate Center, PhD Program in Anthropology  
*Anthropology of Science & Technology* (Spring 2020)  
*Contemporary Anthropological Theory* (Spring 2019 & Spring 2021)  
*Science and Law: Anthropology of Knowledge and Expertise* (Fall 2017)
- Hunter College, Department of Anthropology  
 ANTHC 101: *Introduction to Anthropology* (2014-2016, 2019)  
 ANTHC 320: *Symbolic Anthropology* (Spring 2019)  
 ANTHC 345: *Anthropology of Science* (Fall 2018, Spring 2020)  
 ANTHC 401: *Anthropology & Energy* (Fall 2019)  
 ANTHC 703/318: *History of Anthropological Theory* (annually)  
 ANTHC 720/310: *Political Anthropology* (Fall 2015)  
 ANTHC 321: *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion* (Fall 2014)