

# Tricia Marie Redeker Hepner

## curriculum vitae

Department of Anthropology ■ 250 South Stadium Hall ■ University of Tennessee  
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### Education and Professional Training

- 2009 Certificate in Refugee Issues and Forced Migration  
Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto Canada
- 2004 Ph.D. Anthropology, Michigan State University  
Certificate Program in African Studies
- 2000 M.A. Anthropology, Michigan State University
- 1996 B.A. Anthropology, Barnard College, Columbia University  
*magna cum laude*

### Professional Positions

- 2006-present Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
  
Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Justice (CSSJ)  
Chair, Migration and Refugee Studies Division, CSSJ
- 2005 – 06 Visiting Scholar, International Institute, UCLA  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Entrepreneurial Activity in Economic  
History and Development, UCLA.
- 2004-05 Lecturer (winter), University of California, Irvine

### Research and Teaching Interests

African societies and African diasporas  
War, conflict, and violence  
Globalization, transnationalism, and  
migration

Politics, law, and rights  
Political-economy and development  
Classic and contemporary anthropological  
theory

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

### Books

- 2009 *Soldiers, Martyrs, Traitors and Exiles: Political Conflict in Eritrea and the Diaspora*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Ethnography of Political Violence Series.
- 2009 *Biopolitics, Militarism and Development: Eritrea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Co-edited with David O’Kane. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books. Dislocations Series.

### Articles and Book Chapters

- 2009 “Introduction: Biopolitics, Militarism and Development in Contemporary Eritrea.” With David O’Kane. In D. O’Kane and T.R. Hepner, eds. *Biopolitics, Militarism and Development: Eritrea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. New York: Berghahn Books. In press.
- 2009 “Seeking Asylum in a Transnational Social Field: Struggles for Autonomy and Human Rights.” In D. O’Kane and T.R. Hepner, eds. *Biopolitics, Militarism and Development: Eritrea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. New York: Berghahn Books. In press.
- 2009 “Conclusion: Biopolitics and Dilemmas of Development in Eritrea and Elsewhere.” With David O’Kane. In D. O’Kane and T.R. Hepner, eds. *Biopolitics, Militarism and Development: Eritrea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. New York: Berghahn Books. In press.
- 2008 “Transnational Governance and the Centralization of State Power in Eritrea and Exile.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 31: 3: 476-502.
- 2007 “Regional Politics, Human Rights, and U.S. Policy in the Horn of Africa.” With Lynn Fredriksson. *Africa Policy Journal of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University*, Vol. 3, Spring 2007.  
[http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/kssgorg/apj/issues/spring\\_2007\\_issue/Article.hepner.htm](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/kssgorg/apj/issues/spring_2007_issue/Article.hepner.htm).
- 2005 “Eritrea Abroad: An Introduction.” With Bettina Conrad. *Eritrean Studies Review* Special Edition, *Eritrea Abroad: Critical Perspectives on the Global Diaspora*. T.R. Hepner and B. Conrad, eds. 4: (2).
- 2005 “Transnational *Tegadelti*: Eritreans for Liberation in North America and the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front.” *Eritrean Studies Review* Special Edition, *Eritrea Abroad: Critical Perspectives on the Global Diaspora*. 4 : (2).
- 2003 “Religion, Nationalism, and Transnational Civil Society in the Eritrean Diaspora.” *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 10: (3).
- 2001 “Gender, Community and Change among the Rastafari of New York.” with Randal L. Hepner. In *New York Glory: Religions in the City*. Tony Carnes and Anna Karpathakis, eds. New York: NYU Press.

- 2000 "Pride, Prejudice, and the Ethnicization of the Eritrean Nation." *Ufabamu: Journal of the African Activist Association*. 28: (2-3).
- 2000 "Collective Memories and Embodied Events: Eritrean 'Nation History.'" *Journal of Imperial and Postcolonial Historical Studies*. 1: (1).

### **Non-Peer Reviewed Publications**

- 2007 "Transnational Political and Legal Dimensions of Emergent Eritrean Human Rights Initiatives." Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand, *Forced Migration Studies Programme Working Papers Series 36*.  
[http://migration.org.za/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2007/10/36\\_hepner.pdf](http://migration.org.za/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2007/10/36_hepner.pdf)
- 2005 *Beles for Reddi*. ["Cactus Fruit for Reddi," a children's story]. Cultures in the Classroom Series. San Diego: Worldview Press. Forthcoming.
- 2003 "Eritreans." *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Grossman, James R., Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, eds. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2000 *African Immigrants Directory: A Guide to Community Resources in the Greater Philadelphia Area*. Philadelphia: Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies.
- 1998 "Making Local Fictions International Facts." *Los Angeles Times*, Op-Ed Page, June 23. Reprinted in *Eritrea Profile*, July 1998. Translated and published in Italian, Spring 1999: "Transformare le storie locali in eventi internazionali." *Africhi E Orientali: rivisti di studi ai confini tra africa mediterraneo e medio oriente*.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2003 "Silly Mammo: An Ethiopian Tale. By Gebregiorgis Yohannes." Reviewed for <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~afртеach/>
- 2003 "From Guerrillas to Government: the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front by David Pool." *African Studies Review* 46: (2).
- 2002 "Eritrea. by Roseline Ncheong-Lum." Reviewed for <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~afртеach/>
- 1998 "The Pillage of Sustainability in Eritrea: Rural Communities and the Creeping Shadows of Hegemony, 1600s-1990s, By Niaz Murtaza." *Northeast African Studies* 5:3.

### **Works In Progress**

- 2009 "Eritreans." In *Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*. Ron Bayor, ed. Greenwood Publishing.

- 2009** “Arresting Faith: Religion and State Repression in Contemporary Eritrea.” With Randal L. Hepner. Submitted to *Journal of Human Rights*.
- 2009** “What Freedom Is This? Transnational Political and Legal Dimensions of Emergent Eritrean Human Rights Initiatives.” In *Remaking Human Rights*, edited by William Derman and Anne Hellum.

### Current Research

**Asylum process and Eritrean forced migrants:** exploring asylum as a transnational constellation of immigration, **human rights**, and foreign policy issues linked to **globalization**, and its impact on the **political and legal identity and action** of Eritreans in the US, Europe, and Africa.

Continuing analysis of data collected on Eritrean **transnationalism** and **violence, militarism, and rights in nation- and state-building**.

### Grants and Fellowships

**2008**

**UT Chancellor’s Grant for Faculty Research**

Awarded a \$6000 one-course write-off for fall 2009 to enable research development.

**2008**

**SARIF-GRA, University of Tennessee**

Awarded \$3500 to fund summer research trip by Graduate Research Assistant (Lily Harmon-Gross) to collect data with Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, May-July 2008

**2007**

**Ready for the World Initiative, University of Tennessee**

Awarded \$5000 to hold one-day workshop at the University of Tennessee on the crisis of human rights in Eritrea.

**2007**

**Special Initiative Funds, Amnesty International USA**

Awarded \$2900 to hold a one-day workshop at the University of Tennessee on the crisis of human rights in Eritrea.

**2006**

**Professional Development Award, University of Tennessee**

Awarded \$5000 for exploratory research with Eritrean asylum seekers in South Africa and Germany. [Reserved for use in summer 2008]

**2005-2007 (Declined)**

**Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany**

Postdoctoral fellowship awarded for data collection on Eritrean communities in Germany and for writing of journal articles and book manuscript.

**2001-2002**

**Social Science Research Council - International Dissertation Research Fellowship**

Funded dissertation field research in Eritrea and data analysis

**7/2001-12/2001**

**Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant**

Funded dissertation field research in Eritrea

**2000-2003**

**Michigan State University Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship**

Funded first phase of field research in Chicago, Illinois; funded dissertation completion

**1999**

**Samuel S. Fels Fellowship**

Awarded by Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, for research with African immigrants.

**1997-2000**

**National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship**

Funded three years of graduate training at MSU

**1997-2000**

**Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships (US Department of Education, Title VI)**

Funded three consecutive years of Tigrinya language training

**Awards, Honors, and Other Recognition**

**2009**

**Award of Excellence, Eritrean Community for Human Rights and Refugee Protection**

For outstanding work on behalf of human and refugee rights.

**2008**

**National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, UTK Institutional Nominee**

Selected as one of two UTK faculty members to compete nationally for NEH's summer funding.

**2007**

**Certificate of Recognition, Amnesty International USA**

For outstanding work on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers.

**1999**

**Moreau Maxwell Scholar Award**

For outstanding graduate student performance, Michigan State University, Department of Anthropology.

### Research Presentations

- 2009 “Seeking asylum, autonomy, and human rights: Eritreans in Germany and the United States.” Presented at international conference “Seeking Refuge?” School of Oriental and African Studies, London, April 15-16.
- 2009 “Displaced and Unsettled in Diaspora: Eritreans in Germany and the United States.” Presented at Society for Applied Anthropology meeting, Santa Fe, NM, March 19-22.
- 2008 “Between Policy and Persecution: Eritrean Asylum Seekers in Africa, Europe, and the United States.” Presented at the African Studies Association meeting, Chicago, IL, November 13-26, 2008
- 2008 “Cell Phones in Unlikely Places: The Strengths and Lengths of Transnational Communication Among Eritrean Activists and Refugees.” With Lily Harmon-Gross. NEXUS Conference, University of Tennessee, March 28-29.
- 2007 “What Freedom Is This? Eritrean Transnational Human Rights Initiatives.” Presented at the American Anthropological Association meeting, Washington DC, November 31- December 4.
- 2007 “Transnational Political and Legal Dimensions of Emergent Eritrean Human Rights Initiatives.” Presented at the African Studies Association meeting, New York, NY, October 17-21. Panel organizer and chair, “Ethnography, Policy and Law: (En)Countering Human Rights in the Horn of the Africa.”
- 2007 “Nationalism and Human Rights in Eritrea: Confronting Exclusion and Abuse.” Presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting, Tampa, FL, March 27-31.
- 2006 “Biopolitics, Militarism and Development in Eritrea: Some Introductory Remarks.” Presented at the American Anthropological Association meeting, San Jose, CA, November 13-19. Panel organizer and chair, “Biopolitics, Militarism and Development: Eritrea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”
- 2006 “Rights and Rumors: Transnationalism and Human Rights in Eritrea and the Diaspora.” Presented at the African Studies Association –UK meeting, London, England, September 11-14. Panel organizer and chair.
- 2006 “Religion, Conflict, and State Repression in Eritrea.” Presented at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, “New Religiosity and Intergenerational Conflict in Northeast Africa” Workshop, Halle/Saale, Germany, April 26-28.
- 2005 “The Politics of Transnationalism: Coercion and Resistance in Eritrea and Exile,” presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, November 30-December 4. Panel co-organizer and chair, “Anthropological Perspectives on Governance in the African Context: Lessons from Chad, Eritrea, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tanzania.”
- 2004 “Eritrea, Exile, and the State of Transnational Diaspora,” presentation to James S.

Coleman African Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles, December 9.

- 2004 “Transnational Tegdelti: Eritreans for Liberation in North America and the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front,” presented at the African Studies Association annual meeting, New Orleans, November 11-14. Double panel co-organizer and chair, “Community,” Politics and the Dilemmas of Diaspora: Eritrea Past and Present.”
- 2004 “Eritrea and Exile: Transnational Political Struggle in the United States and Eritrea,” presentation to the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany, July 20.
- 2003 “Expert Witnessing: Anthropology and Eritrean Asylum Seekers in the US,” presented at American Anthropological Association meeting, November 19-23, Chicago, Illinois. Double panel co-organizer and chair, “Ethnography In/Of Unstable Worlds: Activism and Structural Constraints Across Disciplines.”
- 2003 “Eritrea and Exile: The Culture of Trans/National Political Struggle,” presentation to Culture, Resources, and Power forum, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University, April 14.
- 2003 “A Tale of Two Fronts: Divergent Nationalisms in the Eritrean Trans/Nationalist Movement,” presentation to Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, February 26.
- 2002 “Faith in the Nation: Christianity and Community Among Eritreans in Chicago,” presentation to Chicago Area Group for the Study of Religious Communities (CAGSRC), Loyola University Chicago, October 26.
- 2001 “Eritrean Transnational Activism and Political Identity in the United States.” Presented at Independent Eritrea: Lessons and Prospects International Conference, Asmara, Eritrea, July 22-26.
- 2001 “Backward Glances and American Chances: Eritreans in Chicago Since 1965.” Presented at 6th Annual Midwest Graduate Students Conference in African Studies, Northwestern University, March 31- April 2.
- 2001 “Doing Ethnography Among Eritrean Refugees and Immigrants in Chicago.” Presented at Chicago Conference on Ethnography, Loyola University Chicago, February 23.
- 2000 “Understanding the Ethio-Eritrean Border War,” presentation to Swords into Plowshares Peace Center, Detroit, MI, February 16.
- 1999 “Contested Terrain and Transnational Borders.” Presented at the African Studies Association conference, Philadelphia, November 11-14.
- 1999 “Pride, Prejudice, and the Ethnicization of the Eritrean Nation.” Presented at the 4th Annual Midwest Graduate Students Conference in African Studies, Michigan State University, September 10-12.

- 1999 “‘Take These Shackles Away, Lord:’ Gender, Community and Change Among the Rastafari of New York.” Paper co-authored and presented with Dr. Randal L. Hepner at the West Indian Migration to New York: Historical, Contemporary and Transnational Perspectives Conference, Research Institute for the Study of Man, New York City, April 16-17.
- 1999 “Collective Memories and Embodied Events: Eritrean Nation-History.” Presented at the Conference on Imperial and Postcolonial Historical Studies, Michigan State University, February 13-15.

### **Courses Taught**

Political Anthropology (414)  
 Topics in African Ethnography (324)  
 Anthropology of Human Rights (459)  
 Anthropology of Policy and Law (611)  
 Theory and Method in Cultural Anthropology (510)  
 Anthropology of Policy and Law (611)  
 Anthropology Lite? Reading National Geographic (129, freshman seminar)  
 Forms of Social Inequality (517)

### **Theses Directed**

#### **Ph.D.**

“Hidden Atrocities: The Forensic Investigation and Prosecution of Genocide,” Caroline A. Tyers, defense date: April 7, 2009.

#### **M.A.**

“Seeking Resettlement, Navigating Transnational Politics and Altering Identities: the Intersection of Policies, Human Rights and Individuals in Shimelba Refugee Camp,” Elizabeth Harmon-Gross, defense date: April 22, 2009.

#### **B.A.**

“Human Rights in China,” Lindsay Sharpe, submitted May 2008.

### **Professional Association Memberships**

Society for Applied Anthropology  
 African Studies Association  
 African Studies Association-UK  
 American Anthropological Association  
 Eritrean Studies Association

### **Professional Service**

African Studies Advisory Committee, UTK  
 Anthropology Undergraduate Committee, UTK  
 Country Specialist, Eritrea, Amnesty International USA  
 Peer reviewer for *American Anthropologist*; *Urban Anthropology*; *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*;  
*Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*; *Northeast African Studies*

Editorial Board, *African Peace and Conflict Journal*  
Eritrean Studies Association, Treasurer (2004-2005); Secretary (1999-2002);  
Secretary-Treasurer (1998-1999)

### **Languages**

Spanish: proficient (but rusty)  
Tigrinya: conversational; literate  
German: basic

### **References**

**Dr. Rosalind I.J. Hackett**, Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 505 McClung Tower, 1115 Volunteer Boulevard, Knoxville, TN 37996. 865-974-6980. [rhackett@utk.edu](mailto:rhackett@utk.edu)

**Dr. Andrew Kramer**, Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, 250 South Stadium Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996. 865-974-4408. [akramer@utk.edu](mailto:akramer@utk.edu)

**Ms. Lynn Fredriksson**, East Africa Researcher, International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street London WC1X ODW. [lynn.fredriksson@amnesty.org](mailto:lynn.fredriksson@amnesty.org)

**Dr. William Derman**, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University, 354 Baker Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824. 517-355-0208. [derman@msu.edu](mailto:derman@msu.edu)