

Michele M. Verma

EDUCATION

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Ph.D. in Anthropology and Education

Advisor: Professor Hervé Varenne

October 2008

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Master of Philosophy in Anthropology and Education

May 2006

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, New York, NY

Master of Arts in Anthropology

May 2002

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies Education

May 1999

TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Rice University, Houston, TX

Assistant Director, Chao Center for Asian Studies

December 2008 – July 2010

Director: Professor Tani Barlow

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Writing Consultant, Graduate Writing Center

May 2007 – May 2008

Supervisor: Tiffany DeJaines

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology and Education

September 2003 – December 2003

Granada East Middle School, Alhambra School District, Phoenix, AZ

Language Arts and Creative Writing Teacher

August 1999 – June 2001

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Chao Center for Asian Studies, Rice University, Houston, TX

Houston Asian American Archive (HAAA) Project

November 2009 – present

Team member: Michele Verma

Project description: collaborative project initiated by the Chao Center leadership team aimed at fostering deeper understanding of the Asian American experience and Asians' contribution to the city of Houston.

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Ph.D. Dissertation Research

April 2006 – May 2008

Advisor: Professor Hervé Varenne

Dissertation title: Indo-Caribbean Hindu Practice in Queens: Ethnomethods of Constituting Place, Practice and Subjects

Pluralism Project, Harvard University, Boston, MA

Graduate Student Research Affiliate

June 2003 – August 2003

Supervisor: Professor Diana Eck

Research description: an ethnographic study of the discursive construction of Hinduism in two Hindu summer camps in New Jersey

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Independent Student Researcher

June 2005 – August 2005

Advisor: Professor Hervé Varenne

Research description: an ethnographic study of the production and interpretation of gender ideology among ethnically diverse, middle-to upper class New York women devoted to Sai Baba, an Indian guru living in India regarded as an incarnation of God himself

Columbia University, New York, NY

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Anthropology

Sept. 2001 – Dec. 2001

Faculty: Associate Professor Sandhya Shukla

Research description: assisted Prof. Shukla with research for her book, *India Abroad: Diasporic Cultures of Postwar America and England* (2003) on the production of a South Asian diaspora through literature, press, music, film and the formation of ethnic enclaves in London and New York City

PUBLICATIONS

Verma, M. (Forthcoming 2010). *Becoming (known as) a Hindu Pandit in Queens*. Volume Three – Educating Comprehensively: Varieties of Educational Experiences. Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press (edited by Linda Lin, Edmund W. Gordon, and Hervé Varenne).

Verma, M. (2009, August). *The Education Of Hindu Priests In The Diaspora: Assessing The Value Of Community Of Practice Theory*. Teaching and Teacher Education. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2009.08.003>

Verma, M. (2004). *Two Hindu Education Programs for Youth in New Jersey*. The Pluralism Project at Harvard University. http://www.pluralism.org/affiliates/student/verma/verma_paper.pdf

Verma, Michele Moritis. (2003). *Arshya Vidya Gurukulam: People, Place, Meaning*. Hinduism Here. Retrieved December 17, 2007, from <http://www.barnard.edu/religion/hinduismhere/michele.html>

PRESENTATIONS

- Verma, M. (2010, April), *East and West Indians: Social and spatial configurations in Houston and New York City*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies, Austin.
- Verma, M. (2009, December), *Indo-Caribbean Hindus: Educating Others in Process of Settling*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia.
- Verma, M. (2009, November), *Hindu Pandits' Qualifications: Deliberations among Indo-Caribbeans in Queens*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto.
- Verma, M. (2008, October), *Encounters of East and West Indian Hindus in New York City: Representations of the Other Within*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago.
- Verma, M. (2007, November). *Non-School Based Education*. Panel organized at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
- Verma, M. (2007, November). *Hindu Priest Apprenticeships*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C.
- Verma, M. (2007, April). *Religion and Ethnicity in a Multicultural Frame*. Panel chaired at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies, New York.
- Verma, M. (2007, April). *Traditions of Hinduism in Diaspora*. Panel organized at the annual meeting of the Society for Anthropology of Religion, Phoenix.
- Verma, M. (2007, April). *Anthropology of Religious and Spiritual Education*. Panel organized and chaired at the annual meeting of the Society for Anthropology of Religion, Phoenix.
- Verma, M. (2007, April). *On Becoming a Hindu Priest in Guyana and Queens*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Anthropology of Religion, Phoenix.
- Verma, M. (2007, April). *Doing Yagnas in NYC: The Social Significance and Transformation of an Indo-Caribbean practice*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Phoenix.
- Verma, M. (2007, March). *Becoming Sixteen: Transformations of Hindu Indo-Caribbean Practices in Queens*. Paper presented at the annual Graduate Student Ethnography Conference, SUNY-Stony Brook, New York City.
- Verma, M. (2007, February) *Factoring Researcher's Religious Identity into Social Science Research*. Paper presented at Teachers College Columbia University, New York City.
- Verma, M. (2006, November). *Assuming an Unwanted Identity in a Polity of Practice*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose.

Verma, M. (2006, November) *Tips to Maximize your Experience at the American Anthropological Association Meetings*. Presented at Teachers College Columbia University, New York City.

Verma, M. (2005, May). *Arsha Vidya Gurukulam: People, Place and Meaning*. Paper presented at a one-day conference, Hinduism Here, sponsored by the Department of Religion Barnard College, New York.

Verma, M. (2005, March). *Using Conversational Analysis for Analysis of Gender Constructions*. Paper presented at a one-day conference, Under Construction, sponsored by the Department of Religion, Columbia University, New York.

Verma, M. (2004, November). *The Occasioned Usage of Gender Categories: a Sai Baba Satsang*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association Meeting, New Orleans.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

- Council on Anthropology and Education (CAE)
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR)
- Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges (SACC)

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Proficiency in French

Basic reading, writing and conversational skills in Hindi