

Robin Ann Shoaps

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Academic Employment

Fall 2006- present Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago
(Tenure track)

Fall 2004- Spring 2006 Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University of
Massachusetts, Amherst (Tenure track)

Education

Ph.D. Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara, September 2004
Dissertation title: "Morality in grammar and discourse: stance-taking and the
negotiation of moral personhood in Sakapultek (Mayan) wedding counsels."
M.A., Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1998
B.A., Anthropology, University of Chicago, 1993 (Honors)

Research Interests

- Personhood and linguistic conventions for indicating stance and subjectivity
- Moral discourse and the ethnography of moralities
- Pentecostalism in the U.S. and Guatemala
- Mayan ethnography and linguistics
- Radio broadcasts in political and religious spheres
- Family interaction and socialization
- Contemporary American Conservative media
- Prophecy and contemporary Christian prophetic movements

Honors, Competitive Fellowships and Grant Awards

US Department of Education, researcher and K'iche' program coordinator on "Digital
Chicago Maya: Modern Spoken Yucatec and K'iche'," a grant awarded to the
Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Chicago. Grant period
covers 2007-09. I will be awarded summer salary, consultation fees and travel
expenses to Guatemala.

University of Chicago, Center for Latin American Studies Junior Faculty Curriculum
Grant, \$1500 contribution toward field research in Guatemala, awarded Spring
2007.

University of Chicago Women's Board Grant, Summer 2006
\$37,179 for establishing a Discourse Analysis Lab

Nomination for University of Massachusetts Distinguished Teaching Award,
Fall 2005

University of Massachusetts Social and Behavioral Sciences Proposal Preparation Grant

- Course release for Fall 2005 and \$1000 in research money.
- University of Massachusetts Faculty Grant for Teaching
Spring 2005, \$1000 for equipment for course development of "Communication and the Family."
- University of California Graduate Dissertation Fellowship
Fall 2002. \$5,000 stipend plus tuition and fees.
- Wenner-Gren Predoctoral Grant (grant number 6602)
Funded twelve months of fieldwork in 2000-01. \$17,800.
- UCSB Social Sciences Humanities Small Grant
Spring 2000. \$2,000 for field research.
- University of California Humanities Research Assistantship
1999-2000 academic year. \$12,000 stipend plus tuition and fees.
- National Science Foundation/UCSB Research Funds
Summer 1999. \$1300 to attend the LSA Linguistics Institute at the University of Illinois.
- National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow Travel Stipend
Summer 1998. \$1000 for travel to fieldsite in Guatemala.
- UNESCO Endangered Language Fund
Spring 1998. \$1200 for linguistic documentation of Guatemalan Mayan languages.
- National Science Foundation/UCSB Research Funds
Summer 1996. \$1400 for travel to fieldsite in Guatemala.
- University of California Regents Fellowship
1995-6, 1996-7 Academic years. \$12,000 stipend plus tuition and fees.
- Summer Research Grant, UCSB Linguistics Department
Summer 1995. \$800 toward field research in Guatemala.
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (in Anthropology)
1994-5, 1997-8, 1998-9 Academic years. \$14,400 stipend plus tuition and fees.

Publications

- 2007 Moral irony: modal particles, moral persons and indirect stance-taking in Sakapultek discourse. *Pragmatics* 17(2): 297-335.
- 2002 "Pray earnestly:" the textual construction of personal involvement in Pentecostal prayer and song. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 12(1):34-71.
- 1999 The many voices of Rush Limbaugh: the use of transposition in constructing a rhetoric of common sense. *Text* 19(3): 399-437.
- 1997 The dueling voices of Rush Limbaugh. In A. Chu, A. Guerra and C. Tetreault, eds., *SALSA IV (Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Symposium About Language and Society, Austin)*, pp. 256-265. Austin, TX: Texas Linguistics Forum.

Works in Preparation

Moral authority and moral voices: The Testament of Judas as ritual discourse genre in the communicative ecology of the Sakapultek Maya, 35 pages. Paper to be submitted to *American Ethnologist* January 2008.

Word and self, God and man: Agency, authority and self-transformation in the contemporary Christian prophetic movement, 30 pages. Paper to be submitted to *Ethnos* during Winter 2008.

Conditionals and moral reasoning in Sakapultek. Paper to be submitted to the *Journal of Pragmatics*.

Gained in translation: Bible translation as a strategy for mapping religious identities in Sakapultek (Maya) radio broadcasts. Manuscript in preparation.

Religious conversion and the rhetorical contestation of moral authority in Sacapulas, Guatemala. Manuscript in preparation.

Where stance-taking and culture meet: Sakapultek Maya conventions for taking and evaluating stances. Manuscript in preparation.

Talk, Family and Rituals of Moral Instruction in a Maya Community, Book manuscript in preparation, with target completion winter 2009.

Field Research

United States

Participant observation and discourse analysis research with two Assemblies of God congregations (in MI and CA), February 1995-March 1996.

Discourse data transcription and analysis of MI Assemblies of God and a new Pentecostal splinter church in MI, October 2005-present.

Discourse data transcription and analysis of Pentecostal mass-mediated "training" materials on how to be a prophet. January 2006-present.

Guatemala

Ethnographic fieldwork in Cobán, Alta Verapaz, June 2007-July 2007.

Linguistic and ethnographic fieldwork in an outlying village of Sacapulas, Quiché. March 2000-June 2001, October 2001-December 2001, August 2002, January 2005, July-August 2005, July 2007.

Linguistic and ethnographic fieldwork in Sacapulas, Quiché. August-September 1997, July-August 1998.

Linguistic and ethnographic fieldwork in Sacapulas and Uspantán, Quiché. June-August 1996.

Kaqchikel language study in Antigua, followed by linguistic and ethnographic fieldwork in San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango. June-September 1995.

Mexico

Spanish and Yucatec Maya language study in Mérida, Yucatán. August 1993-May 1994.

Course Offerings

University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology

Language in Culture I (Graduate Lecture, cross-listed in Linguistics) Fall 06, 07.
 Readings and Research in Anthropology: Evangelicalisms in the US, Winter 07.
 Advanced Methods in Discourse Analysis (Graduate Seminar, cross-listed in Linguistics), Spring 07.
 Readings and Research in Anthropology: Hopi ethnography, grammar and songs, Spring 07.
 Talk Radio and Discourses of the American Right (undergrad/grad seminar, cross listed in Linguistics), Winter 08.

University of Chicago, Undergraduate Core

Self Culture and Society-3, SOSC 123, University of Chicago, College, Spring 07, 08.

University of Chicago, Center for Latin American Studies

Spoken K'iche' (co-instructor and co-facilitator of a six week graduate summer immersion course), Nahuala, Guatemala, July-August 08.

University of Massachusetts, Department of Communication

Moral Discourse (Graduate Seminar), Fall 05.
 Talk Radio and Discourses of the American Right (Undergraduate Seminar) Spring 05, 06
 Communication and the Family (Undergraduate Seminar) Fall 04, Spring 05, 06.
 Communication and Culture (Undergraduate Lecture), Fall 04.

University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Linguistics

Language and Culture (Undergraduate Lecture class), Summer 02.

Invited Presentations

2006 "Strategies of stance-taking and textbuilding in North American religious and political spheres." Invited presentation to the Department of Communication, University of California, San Diego, January 2006.

2006 "Moral authority and moral voices: approaching the Testament of Judas as a

- ritual discourse genre in the Sakapultek communicative ecology." Invited paper presented to the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, January 9, 2006.
- 2005 "Moral authority and moral voices: the Testament of Judas as ritual discourse genre in the communicative ecology of the Sakapultek Maya." Invited paper presented to the Five Colleges' Crossroads in the Study of the Americas Faculty Seminar, Amherst, MA, December 5, 2005.
- 2005 "Moral authority and moral voices: the Testament of Judas as ritual discourse genre in the communicative ecology of the Sakapultek Maya." Invited paper presented to the Anthropology Department at the University of Chicago, October 31, 2005.
- 2005 "Religious conversion and the rhetorical contestation of moral authority in Sacapulas." Invited paper presented at the 3rd Rhetoric Culture Conference: Religion and Social Relations, Mainz Germany, February 17, 2005.
- 2005 "Morality in grammar and discourse: The conjunction of grammar and genre as resources for moral stance-taking in Sakapultek wedding counsels." Paper presented to the Departments of Anthropology and Linguistics, NYU, January 28, 2005.
- 2005 "Locating morality in grammar and discourse: Some methodological and theoretical considerations." Workshop presented to the Working Group in Urban Sociolinguistics, NYU, January 28, 2005.
- 2004 "The technology of proselytization: Sakapultek Pentecostal radio and its challenge to the pragmatics of local moral discourse." Paper presented at the 103rd annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, as part of an invited panel on "Talk, technology and social transformation." Atlanta, GA, December 16, 2004.
- 2004 "Where stance meets culture: Sakapultek ethnopragmatic conventions for representing and evaluating stances." Invited paper presented at "Stance-taking in Discourse: Subjectivity in Interaction," the 10th Biannual Linguistics Symposium at Rice University, Houston, TX, March 31-April 3, 2004.
- 2004 "Charting moral landscapes in American talk: Strategies of stance-taking and textbuilding in religious and political spheres." Invited presentation to the Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, March 22, 2004.
- 2004 "Performing moral authority: the language of Sakapultek (Maya) wedding counsels." Invited presentation to the Linguistics Department at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, February 23, 2004.

- 2003 "Morality in grammar and discourse: modal particles and evaluative stance-taking in Sakapultek wedding counsels." Invited presentation to the Center for Language, Interaction and Culture at UCLA, February 21, 2003.
- 2003 "Language and moral authority: linguistic analyses of Sakapultek Maya ritual." Invited presentation to the Department of Anthropology at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, January 28, 2003.
- 2002 "Sakapultek *pixab'*: deontic stance-taking in the construction and inhabitation of a voice of moral authority." Invited colloquium presented to the Department of Anthropology at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, April 12, 2002.

Selected Conference, Colloquia and Workshop Presentations

- 2007 "Camping out in Club G'itmo: Rush Limbaugh, camp sensibilities and the culture war," paper to be presented at the 106th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., December 1, 2007.
- 2007 "Word and self, God and man: Some preliminary thoughts on agency, authority and self-transformation in the contemporary Christian prophetic movement," paper presented to the Clinical Ethnography workshop, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago, February 15, 2007.
- 2006 "Prophetic etiquette: Metalinguistic judgments, group membership and the stakes of sincerity in contemporary Christian prophetic training materials," paper presented at the 105th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, California, November 2006.
- 2005 "Becoming His voice: the end-times chronotope as a technology of the self among prophetic Pentecostals," paper presented at the 104th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., November 2005.
- 2005 "The Testament of Judas: shameful memories in a Sakapultek Maya ritual," paper presented at the "Contesting Public Memories" Conference, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, October 8, 2005.
- 2005 "The performance of immoral authority in a public shaming ritual: the Testament of Judas in Sacapulas, Guatemala," paper presented at "Getting our act together: performance studies in uncertain times," Amherst, MA, June 3, 2005.
- 2005 "Crafting a medium for transgression: moralizing in an immoral voice in the Sakapultek Testament of Judas," paper presented at the joint meeting of the American Ethnological Society and Society for Psychological Anthropology, San Diego, CA, April 9, 2005.

- 2005 "Religious conversion and the rhetorical contestation of moral authority in Sacapulas," paper presented at the Center for the Study of Communication, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, February 7, 2005.
- 2005 "The Testament of Judas as a performance of immoral authority," presentation to the Working Group on Christianity and the Media, NYU, January 21, 2005.
- 2004 "Gained in translation: Bible translation in a Sakapultek radio broadcast." Presentation to the Working Group on Christianity and the Media at NYU's Pew Center for Religion and the Media, NY, NY, November 5, 2004.
- 2004 "Conditionals and moral reasoning in Sakapultek (Mayan) discourse." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (jointly held with the 78th annual meeting of the Linguistics Society of America), Boston, MA, January 8-11, 2004.
- 2003 "Shifting representations of subjectivity and the contestation of loci of moral authority in Sakapultek (Mayan) Pentecostal conversion." Paper presented at the 102nd annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, November 19-23, 2003.
- 2003 "Sakapultek (Maya) *pixab'*: wedding counsels and the voice of moral authority." Paper presented at the International Colloquium for Vernacular, Hispanic, Historical, American and Folklore Studies, Puebla, Mexico, October 9, 2003.
- 2003 "Gained in translation: the use of Bible translation in negotiating local religious identities in Sakapultek radio broadcasts." Paper presented at the joint meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion and the American Ethnological Society, Providence, RI, April 26, 2003.
- 2002 "Modal particles and moral irony in the negotiation of Sakapultek Maya moral personhood." Paper presented at the 101st annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, November 21, 2002.
- 2001 "The dos and don'ts of Sakapultek moral personhood: the complementarity between advice and insult." Colloquium presented to the Linguistics Department at UCSB, February 22, 2001.
- 2001 "Gesture in a Sakapultek Maya protection ceremony." Paper presented to the Language, Interaction and Social Organization Workshop at UCSB, February 9, 2001.
- 1999 "Locating moral personhood in the authority of tradition: contemporary Sakapultek (Maya) voicings in conversation." Paper presented at the 98th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, December 1999.

- 1998 "‘Pray earnestly’: the language of religious experience among a Pentecostal Christian Group." Colloquium presented to the Linguistics Department at UCSB, October 1998.
- 1998 "Transposition and replication: entextualization strategies in contemporary American rhetoric." Paper presented to the Language and Society Workshop at the University of Chicago, February 1998.
- 1997 "A discourse-based study of aspect in Kaqchikel." Paper presented at the 96th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., November 1997.
- 1996 "Rush as rhetor: Rush Limbaugh’s construction of a rhetoric of ‘common sense.’" Paper presented at Georgetown Linguistics Society I: Discourse as Mosaic. Washington D.C. October 1996.
- 1996 "The dueling voices of Rush Limbaugh." Paper presented at the fourth annual Symposium about Language and Society, Austin. University of Texas, Austin, April 1996.
- 1993 "The image schema of the body in Fox." Paper presented at the 25th annual Algonquian Conference. University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada, October 1993.
- 1993 "Body parts in Fox." Paper presented to the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas Annual Meeting (held at the LSA Institute). Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, July 1993.

Additional Professional Training

- 2005 Participated in two day-long faculty workshops on digital video editing using i-Movie and Final Cut Pro, offered by Academic Computing at UMass.
- 2004 Participated in a workshop in web site design and site construction using WebCT, offered by Academic Computing at UMass.
- 1999 Linguistics Society of America Summer Institute at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Took courses in linguistic anthropology methodology, use of digital video in ethnography, language and space and religious language.
- 1998 Graduate student-at-large, University of Chicago
Enrolled as a visiting student in the Department of Anthropology, Winter- Spring. Studied Mesoamerican ethnography, language and the self, discourses of mensuration and language and transgression
- 1995 Intensive Kaqchikel Course, University of Texas, Austin/ Tulane University
Took a six-week immersion course in Kaqchikel Maya in Antigua, Guatemala

Other Professional Activities

Institutional Affiliations

Affiliated Faculty, Friedrich Katz Center for Mexican Studies, University of Chicago
Affiliated Faculty, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Chicago

Fellowships and Participation in Seminars and Working Groups

- 2006 Invited participant in the Phonetics and Conversation Workshop at York University, York, England, March 27-29, 2006.
- 2005-6 Invited fellow in the Five Colleges Crossroads in the Study of the Americas Faculty Seminar
- 2004-5 Invited participant in Christianity and the Media, a working group at the Pew Center for Religion and the Media, New York University
- 2003-4 Visiting fellow at the Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture at the University of California, Los Angeles

Organization of Panels and Meetings

- 2007 Co-organizer (with Susan Gal and Michael Silverstein) and coordinator of "Technology in Interactional Analysis," a two-part series of training sessions in the use of technology in the analysis of interaction data and the use of GIS in sociolinguistics. The University of Chicago, April 9-13, 2007, May 31-June 1.
- 2007 Co-organizer of "Data Forum on Identity and Personhood: Subjectivity/Intersubjectivity," a panel for the biennial meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, March 9, 2007, Manhattan Beach, CA.
- 2004 Co-organizer (with Jack Sidnell) of "Talk, Technology and Social Transformation," a panel invited by the Society of Linguistic Anthropology to the 103rd annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Atlanta, GA, December 15-18th, 2004 [Panel cancelled due to change of conference venue, my paper was still presented].
- 2003 Chair of "Emotions: Discourses/Regimes," a double session held at the 102nd annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL, November 19-23rd, 2003.
- 2003 Co-organizer and reviewer of abstracts, 9th annual conference on Language, Interaction and Culture, jointly held by UCLA and UCSB graduate students, UC Santa Barbara, May 8-10, 2003.

- 2002 Organizer and co-chair (with Paul Kockelman) of "Morality and Epistemology: Stance-taking and the Discursive Constitution of Personhood," a double session held at the 101st annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, November 21, 2002.
- 1999 Reviewer of abstracts, 5th annual conference on Language, Interaction and Culture, jointly held by UCLA and UCSB graduate students, UC Santa Barbara, May 1999.
- 1995-7 Organizer of the Linguistic Anthropology Graduate Student Workshop at UC Santa Barbara, Fall 1995- Spring 1997.

Panel Discussion

- 2007 Discussant for "the Body as Text," a panel of the Michiganian annual graduate student conference on linguistic anthropology, Ann Arbor, MI, May 5, 2007.
- 2007 Discussant for a panel of the "Iberian Imperialisms" conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 13, 2007.
- 2006 Discussant for "Critical dialogues at the interface of psychological and linguistic anthropology," a panel organized by Karen Sirota at the 105th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 2006.

Peer Review

- American Anthropologist*, Manuscript Referee, Fall 2005
- American Association of Applied Linguistics, conference abstract reviewer, Fall 2005
- Ethos*, Manuscript referee, Fall 2007.
- Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, Manuscript Referee, Fall 2002.
- Journal of Pragmatics*, Manuscript Referee, Fall 2007
- Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, Manuscript Referee, Winter 2007
- Language in Society*, Manuscript Referee, Summer 2005.
- National Science Foundation, linguistics research proposal referee, Spring 2007
- Oxford University Press, book chapter referee, Fall 2007.
- Pragmatics*, Manuscript Referee, Fall 2003.

University Service and Workshop Sponsorship

- 2007-8 Chair, Technology Committee, Anthropology, University of Chicago
- 2007-8 Graduate affairs committee, University of Chicago
- 2006-8 Faculty co-founder of the Workshop on Religion and the Social, University of Chicago (granted official workshop status in Spring 2007)
- 2006-8 Faculty co-sponsor of the Workshop on the Anthropology of Latin America, University of Chicago.
- 2006-7 NRC Summer visiting scholar selection committee, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Chicago.

- 2006-7 Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.
- 2006-7 Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.
- 2005-6 Personnel Committee (elected position), Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts.
- 2005 Board Member for the Bacherman Undergraduate Scholarship in Communication, University of Massachusetts
- 2004-5 Departmental co-representative of the University of Massachusetts' Institutional Review Board.

Languages

Native English speaker. Fluent in spoken, and written academic and colloquial Spanish. Proficient (near fluency) in spoken and written Sakapultek Maya. Conversational and written competence in K'iche' and Kaqchikel Maya. Proficient in written academic and colloquial French. Linguistic field research experience with Yucatec (Maya), Uspantek (Maya), Fox (Algonquian) and Central Alaskan Yup'ik.