

## CURRICULUM VITAE: DEBORAH E. TOOKER

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### EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

**Ph.D.**, 1988 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** (Anthropology)

**A.M.**, **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** (Anthropology)

**A.B. *summa cum laude***, **BRYN MAWR COLLEGE** (Major: Anthropology)

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2012-present **LE MOYNE COLLEGE**, Syracuse, N.Y.- Professor of Anthropology;  
*Director*, Anthropology Program

2015-2018 **LE MOYNE COLLEGE** Joseph C. Georg Endowed Professor

2001-present **CORNELL UNIVERSITY**, Faculty Associate in Research, Southeast  
Asia Program

2012-2015 **LE MOYNE COLLEGE**, Syracuse, N.Y.- *Chair*, Department of  
Anthropology, Criminology, and Sociology

2002 (Jan.-Dec.) **CORNELL UNIVERSITY**, Visiting Fellow, Southeast Asia Program

2000-2012 **LE MOYNE COLLEGE**, Syracuse, N.Y.- Associate Professor of  
Anthropology; *Director*, Anthropology Program

1994-96 **INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES**, Leiden University,  
The Netherlands- Research Fellow and Programme Director, Postdoctoral  
Collaborative Research Programme on "Cultural Traditions of Endangered  
Minorities in South and Southeast Asia" (on leave from Le Moyne)

1993-2000 **LE MOYNE COLLEGE**, Syracuse, N.Y.- Assistant Professor of  
Anthropology, *Director*, Anthropology Program

1991-92 **CORNELL UNIVERSITY**- Rockefeller Resident Fellow in the Humanities,  
Southeast Asia Program

1990-91 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**- Lecturer on Anthropology and Lecturer on Social  
Studies, Department of Anthropology and Committee on Degrees in Social  
Studies

1988-90 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**- Lecturer on Social Studies,  
Committee on Degrees in Social Studies

### RESEARCH AREAS

Psychological Anthropology and emotional practices, Anthropology of Space and Place, Upland Southeast Asia/Southwest China minority groups (especially Akha), Identity Politics, Ethnicity and Collective Identity, Glocalization and "Modernity", Essentialist Concepts and Interiority Discourses, Multiplicities in Southeast Asia, Social and Economic Change

### TEACHING

Introduction to Anthropology (4 field), Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia, Anthropological Linguistics, Social Theory, Critical Ethnography, Field Methods

### FIELD RESEARCH

Recurring fieldwork among Akha and Tai peoples of Northern Thailand (1982-2018).

Brief fieldwork among Akha peoples of China and Laos.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Book and Edited Volume:**

2012. *Space and the Production of Cultural Difference among the Akha Prior to Globalization: Channeling the Flow of Life*, Amsterdam University Press, 338 pages. Distributed in the U.S. by the University of Chicago Press. Peer-reviewed

2020. (Co-editor with Erik de Maaker). *Special Forum: Agrarian Change in Zomia*, In *Asian Ethnology*, Vol. 79 Issue 2. Peer-reviewed

### **Articles, Peer-Reviewed:**

2020. First author with Ian Baird as second author. "Agrarian Change in "Zomia": Social, Religious, and Cosmological Dimensions of Swidden Cultivation and Upland Livelihoods in the Consolidation of the "Modern" State: Introduction to the Special Forum" in *Special Forum: Borderland Modernities, the Territorialization of Swidden Societies*, In *Asian Ethnology* Vol. 79 Issue 2, pp. 301-310.

2019. "Rethinking Depth Metaphors with a Cosmocentric Self: The "Steep" and the "Level" in Akha Emotional Practices", in *Ethos* Vol. 47, Issue 3, pp. 346-366.

2004. "Modular Modern: Shifting Forms of Collective Identity among the Akha of Northern Thailand", *Anthropological Quarterly*, vol. 77, no. 2, pp. 243-288.

1996. "Putting the Mandala in Its Place: A practice-based approach to the spatialization of power on the Southeast Asian 'periphery'-- the case of the Akha", *The Journal of Asian Studies* 55:2 (May), pp. 323-358.

1992. "Identity Systems of Highland Burma: `Belief', Akha *zán*, and a critique of interiorized notions of ethno-religious identity", *Man* [currently *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*], vol. 27, no.4, pp. 799-819.

1979. "Some Basic Trobriand Attitudes about Sex as Expressed in the *Kula* Trade", in *The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (January 1979), pp. 44-65. Cambridge University, Great Britain. [1986 revised and updated as "When Gender Moves Around: The Sexual Nature of *Kula*", Special Paper, Harvard University]

### **Articles, Non-Refereed**

1999. "From Culture to Ethnic Group: the Compartmentalization of Group Identity in Northern Thailand", working paper published in *Multiculturalism: Modes of Coexistence and Conflict in Asia*. Washington, D.C.: Sasakawa Peace Foundation, pp. 358-401.

1995. "The Aini zu of the Hani Minority Nationality: Comparative Thoughts on Akha in

China, Thailand and Myanmar (Burma)", in *Yearbook of the International Institute of Asian Studies I, 1994*, pp. 27-34. Leiden.

1993. "Response to Rhum", in "Comment" section, in *Man*, vol. 28, no. 4, December.

1993. "The Hani of China", in *State of the Peoples*, ed. by Marc S. Miller, pp.118-119. Cultural Survival. Boston: Beacon Press.

1990. "Some Continuities in the Communication of Hierarchy in Tai (Dai) and non-Tai (Akha/Hani) Groups", in *Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Thai Studies, 11-13 May, 1990, vol. III*, pp.83-94, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Kunming, China.

### **Work in Progress**

*Border Emotions: Akha Emotional Style on the Margins of Modernity*. Book Manuscript in progress.

### **CONFERENCES AND SELECTED TALKS**

2023c. "Multiplicity Tolerance in Changing Akha (Thailand) "Self" Concepts", in the panel I co-organized with Claudia Strauss, Pitzer College, titled "Alternatives to the Neoliberal Self", Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Toronto, November 15-19, 2023. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2023b. "Indigenous Interpretations of Changing Self and Society among the Akha of Thailand" in the panel (I organized) titled "Changing Political Economies and Changing Selves", Biennial Meeting of the European Network for Psychological Anthropology, University of Oslo, Norway, June 7-9, 2023. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2023a "Indigenous Interpretations of Changing Self and Society among the Akha of Thailand" in the panel (I organized) titled "Changing Political Economies and Changing Selves", Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, University of San Diego, April 27-30. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2021. "The multiple valences of western psychology among the Akha of Northern Thailand" for the panel I organized titled "Predatory Psychologies East and West", for the First Biennial Meeting of the European Network for Psychological Anthropology, June 2-4, 2021, University of Helsinki (virtual due to covid). Peer-reviewed acceptance

2019. "Unfeeling Facebook: Social Media Usage in an Akha Community in Thailand and the Foucauldian Confessional of Modernity" for the panel "Making known: co-presences with persons and their media" organized by Narmala Halstead, University of Sussex, U.K. for the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver. November, 2019. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2019. "Alternative Constructions of the Interiority Discourse with Incorporation in a Market Economy among the Akha of Northern Thailand" in the panel "The Inner State of Others: Psychological Attribution in Institutional Context", at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, April 4-7, 2019. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2018. "'We do it for each other': Akha 'other' inclusiveness in subsistence and capitalist contexts", paper presented in the panel "Moving between self and other: Navigating hierarchy and alterity in cosmopolitical encounters", Theodoros Kyriakides, Convenor (The Open University UK), at the European Association of Social Anthropology Biennial Conference, Stockholm, August 14-17, 2018. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2018. Two **invited** talks (February and August) at book clubs (Syracuse and Thousand Island Park Library, New York) on *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. Novel takes place among the Akha people.

2017f. "Affective dimensions of the self in the turn to a market economy among the Akha of Northern Thailand: is the 'soft skills' discourse relevant?", paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C., November 29-December 3, 2017 in the panel titled: "Soft Skills in Changing Societies". Peer-reviewed acceptance

2017e. "'My Heart is Too Steep': Emotional Moderation and the 'Level' Self Among the Akha of Thailand and Burma", presented at the Social Science Seminar Series, Le Moyne College, September 19, 2017.

2017d. "Collective desire and moral-spiritual resistance to individual emotional interiority in the rising market economy among the Akha", presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Asian Scholars, 7/20-7/23/17, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Organized panel (3 panelists) and served as Chair for panel titled: "Emotional And Intimate Variations: Historicizing And Contextualizing Affect Amid Changing Political Economies". Peer-reviewed acceptance

2017c. "Contradictions in Emotion Worlds Among Entrepreneurial Akha in the Thai Border Regions", paper presented at the 13th International Conference on Thai Studies, 7/15-7/18/17, Chiang Mai, Thailand, in panel titled: "Neo-Liberalizing Border: State, Market, Religion, and Identity in Motion". Peer-reviewed acceptance

2017b. "Collective desire and moral-spiritual resistance to individual emotional interiority in the rising market economy among the Akha", presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, March 16-19, 2017 in Toronto. This was the Thailand/Laos/Cambodia Studies Group Sponsored Panel at Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting; Organized double panel (8 panelists and 2 discussants/Chairs) titled: "Emotional and Intimate Variations: Historicizing and Contextualizing Affect Amid Changing Political Economies in Mainland Southeast Asia".

## Peer-reviewed acceptance

2017a. "Collective desire and moral-spiritual resistance to individual emotional interiority in the rising market economy among the Akha", presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, March 9-12, 2017 in New Orleans. Organized and served as Chair for panel (7 panelists) titled: "Emotional and Intimate Variations: Historicizing and Contextualizing Affect Amid Changing Political Economies". Peer-reviewed acceptance

2016. "Changing Concepts of Self, Psyche, and Emotion among the Akha", presented at Research Center for Sustainable Development (RCSD) and Center for Ethnic Studies and Development (CESD), Chiang Mai University, March 25, 2016.

2014c. "Shifting Agriculturalists and Modernities at the Borderlands", Discussion paper presented in the panel "Who Owns the Hills? Cosmologies, Claims and Resources of the South and South East Asian Uplands", as part of the 4th Asian Borderlands conference, Hong Kong, December 8-10. Also served as panel Chair. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2014b. "Emotional Scripts of Modernity", paper presented (in absentia) at the inaugural Association for Asian Studies in Asia conference in the panel "Multiple and Shifting Akha Engagements with Modernity amidst a Transforming Upper Mekong Region", July 17-18, 2014 National University of Singapore. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2014a. "Emotional Diversity among the Akha of Northern Thailand", paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the AsiaNetwork in the panel "Emotional Dimensions of Asian Minority Identities" (panel organizer), April 11-13, Bloomington, IL. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2013. "Continuing the Flow of Life (*gylà*) in a Global World: Cultural Sustainability across the Generation Gap" collaborative student project; Introductory talk and Final Discussion presentation, Center for Ethnic Studies and Development (CESD) and Research Center for Sustainable Development (RCSD), Chiang Mai University, Thailand, July 5, 2013

2010b. "Border Emotions", paper presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Borderlands conference, November 5-7, 2010, Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2010a. "Space and Emotional Practices among the Akha of Northern Thailand", paper presented in the panel "Practice and Emotional Geographies" at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, April 13-18, 2010, Washington, D.C. Peer-reviewed acceptance

2007. Panel Co-organizer along with Saipin Suputtamongkol, Felicity Aulino and Prista Ratanapruck for **Invited Panel** (AES/APLA) entitled "Different and Unequal: Violence and the Scope of Rationality in the Work of Stanley J. Tambiah", Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 28-December 2, 2007, Washington, D.C. Also served as Panel Discussant with discussion paper entitled: "Decolonizing

Anthropology: power and knowledge in the work of Stanley J. Tambiah". Peer-reviewed acceptance

**2006b. Invited** paper entitled "The Soul Market and the Other in Akha 'Tradition' presented at the international conference "Imagined Centers, Diverse Peripheries", Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, December 11-13, 2006

2006a. "The Language of Rice in Akha Healing Rituals", presented to the Social Empirical Analysis Laboratory seminar series, Le Moyne College, February 22, 2006

2004. "Modular Modern: Shifting Forms of Collective Identity among the Akha of Northern Thailand" **Invited** lecture presented at the Brooks Museum, SUNY, Cortland, NY, March 24, 2004.

2002. "Modular Modern: Changing Forms of Collective Identity among the Akha of Northern Thailand", presented to the Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, March 7, 2002. **Invited**.

2000. "Cultural and Sociological Translation: Akha Spatial Practices and the Structure of Meaning", **invited** paper presented at "Translationes--Conference on Intercultural Understanding", the University of Leipzig, Germany, September 28-30, 2000

1999. "Modular Modern: the Compartmentalization of Group Identity among the Akha of Northern Thailand", paper presented at the 7th International Conference on Thai Studies, July 4-8, 1999, Amsterdam, the Netherlands in the panel entitled "Ethnicity and Nation-State". **Invited** co-Chair of this panel which consisted of seven sessions. Peer-reviewed acceptance

1998. "The Location of Conflict, Accommodation and Ethnicity: Notes from the field", **invited** paper presented at the Workshop on "Models of Ethnic Accommodation in South and Southeast Asia", 9-10 January, 1998, Oxford University, U.K.; sponsored by the International Center for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1997. "Inter-ethnic Relations on the Periphery of the Thai State", **Invited** report presented to the Collaborative Project on "Culture and Identity: Ethnic Co-existence in Asia", International Center for Ethnic Studies, Colombo; Cochin, India, March 28-30, 1997

1996d. "Technologies of Political Penetration: Indigenous Southeast Asian Constructions of 'Insiders' and 'Outsiders'-- the Case of the Akha", **invited** paper presented at the Conference on "Asian Minority Cultures in Transition: Diversity, Identities, Encounters", University of Munster, Germany, December 12-15, 1996

1996c. "Akha Curing Practices and the Politics of Identity", **invited** paper presented at the Workshop on "Poverty, the Politics of Marginality and Cultures of Resistance", Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics, September 27-29, 1996

1996b. "Current Research in the Anthropology of Southeast Asia", **invited** lecture at Institut für Ethnologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany, June 27, 1996

Co-Organizer: "The Second International Conference on Hani-Akha Culture", May 12-18, 1996, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand

1996a. "Irrigation Systems in the Ideology and Ritual Practices of Akha Shifting Agriculturalists" (Akha title: *àkhàzán-eu ýxhè heu dō*), paper presented (in English and Akha) at the Second International Conference on Hani-Akha Culture, May 12-18, 1996, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand.

1995. "Between Two (or More) Worlds: the Ethnography of a Tribal society after the Post-modern Turn", Luncheon Lecture series, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands, June 8, 1995

1994c. "Tribal Mandalas? The Case of the Akha of Northern Thailand", paper presented at the International Institute of Asian Studies conference on "Space and Identities in Southeast Asia", December 2, 1994, Leiden, The Netherlands; conference co-organizer

1994b. "Akha Cosmography and the 'Individual'", invited paper presented at the Research Centre for Religion and Society, University of Amsterdam, November 9, 1994

1994a. "The Space of the Akha Body", **invited** talk presented to the 'Indonesia Circle' of the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Sociology of Non-western Societies, Leiden University, October 25, 1994

1993. "The Aini zu of the Hani Minority Nationality: Comparative Thoughts on Akha in China, Thailand and Myanmar (Burma)", paper presented at the International Conference on Hani Culture, Yunnan, P.R.C., Feb. 28-Mar.5, 1993. Peer-reviewed acceptance

1992b. Akha Oral Tradition", **invited** talk presented to the Faculty Research Circle, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, May 1, 1992

1992a. "Explaining Cultural Differences: the Case of Akha Twin Infanticide", **invited** talk presented at Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, April 21, 1992

1991b. "Asymmetric Alliance in a Non-Stratified Society: Mechanisms of Egalitarianism among the Akha", paper presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meetings, November, 1991, Chicago, in the panel titled "Non-evolutionary approaches to egalitarianism" for which I was organizer and chair. Peer-reviewed acceptance

1991a. "A non-western perspective on 'belief' in spirits", **invited** paper presented at the

Institute on Religion in an Age of Science annual conference on "The `God' Question in an Age of Science", Star Island, New Hampshire, August 2, 1991

1990. "Some Continuities in the Communication of Hierarchy in Tai (Dai) and non-Tai (Akha/Hani) Groups", paper presented at the 4th International Conference on Thai Studies held in Kunming, Yunnan, People's Republic of China, May, 1990. Peer-reviewed acceptance

### **REVIEWS AND INVITATIONS**

Peer Reviewer for: *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Sojourn* (a journal on Southeast Asia), *Ethnography*, *Critical Sociology*, *Asian Ethnicity*, and others.

Invited proposal reviewer for the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Fund for Scientific Research (Brussels), and others.

Invited book reviewer for the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Colleges and Universities Book Prize

Reviewer for the textbook, *Anthropological Theory*, McGee/Warms (McGraw-Hill)  
Reviewer for the textbook *Anthropology: A Global Perspective*. Pearson

Review of *Lisu Religion* (E.P. Durrenberger), *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 49, #1 (Feb. 1990), pp.205-206.

### **GRANTS AND HONORS (SELECTED)**

2023 Panel I co-organized at the Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association (see above) selected as one of two Invited Sessions of the Society for Psychological Anthropology

The Joseph C. Georg Endowed Professorship, Le Moyne College, 2015-2018

ASIANetwork Freeman Foundation Student-Faculty Grant for research project "Continuing the Flow of Life (*gylàn*) in a Global World: Cultural Sustainability across the Generation Gap"; \$24,650. Grant covered all expenses for 4 students to carry out individual research projects in Thailand under my mentorship in summer 2013.

Social Science Research Council (SSRC)/Association for Asian Studies (AAS) grant; Selected as Faculty Mentor for Workshop for 12 graduate students writing dissertations on the topic of generational change in Asia, San Diego, March 18-21, 2013 (travel grant and stipend) (24 faculty applied, 4 accepted)

*Space and the Production of Cultural Difference* Book nominated for ICAS International



Book Prize, 2012

2007 Panel I co-organized at the Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association (see above) selected as an Invited Panel of both the American Ethnological Society and the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend (2006) for work on book manuscript (10% acceptance rate)

Howard Foundation Fellowship Finalist (top 25%) for the project *Space and the Production of Cultural Difference among the Akha of Northern Thailand*, 2006.

"Scholar of the Year" Award, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, 1998

International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, awarded Research Grant for Individual Project on "Inter-ethnic Relations on the Periphery of the Thai State", as part of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (Japan) research programme on "Culture and Identity: Ethnic Coexistence in Asia"; awarded December, 1995

International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands, Research Fellowship (2 years), 1994-96

Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China, National Academy of Sciences: China Conference Travel Grant (for International Conference on Hani Culture, 1993, Yunnan, P.R.C.)

Rockefeller Resident Fellow in the Humanities, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, 1991-92

Harvard University Innovative Teaching Funds Award for Cambodian community study course, 1990-91

American Council of Learned Societies Travel Grant (to May, 1990 International Conference on Thai Studies, Kunming, Yunnan, P.R.C.)

Social Science Dissertation Fellowship (1986-87), Harvard University

Charlotte Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 1984-85

Institute for Intercultural Studies Research Grant 1983-84

Department of Anthropology Research Grant, Harvard University, 1983-4

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship: for Thailand, 1982-83

Peter Livingston research grant (Harvard Medical School), 1982

Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University, 1981-82

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, 1977-80

PLUS: Various research grants from the Le Moyne College Research and Development Committee and the O'Leary International Fund at Le Moyne College

## **LANGUAGES**

English: native

Akha: proficient speaking and writing (emergent script)

Thai: conversational

French: reading and speaking (with acclimatization)

Dutch, Indonesian, Latin: studied in the past, currently little proficiency

## **OTHER POSITIONS:**

2018-2023, 2012-2014 and 1999-2001 Elected Member of the Executive Board of the Thailand/Laos/Cambodia Studies Group, Association for Asian Studies

1994 Research Consultant to National Geographic Television, for the film, "Mountain Sculptors" on the Hani of China, aired on U.S. TV, December 25, 1994 in the *Explorer* series

Dec. 23, 1989-Jan.3, 1990 Guest Expert Lecturer on Southeast Asia for Cunard Line cruise in Indonesia and Malaysia

1980 Research Assistant, Prof. Stanley J. Tambiah; -translated selections from French to English for Prof. Tambiah's research on his book, *The Buddhist saints of the forest and the cult of amulets*