

## Curriculum Vitae

### Bettina Ng'weno

African American and African Studies  
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### Education

- 1995-2002 **Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, Maryland  
**Ph.D.**, Cultural Anthropology May 2003  
**Dissertation:** "The State in Question: Afro-Colombians, Ethnic Territories and Governing in the Andes" defended August 2002  
Advisor: Michel-Rolph Trouillot  
**MA** Cultural Anthropology May 1998
- 1992-1995 **Stanford University**, Stanford, California  
**MA**, Cultural Anthropology  
Thesis topic: "(Re)identifying Ground Rules: Inheritance of Land among the Digo of Southern Kenya"
- 1984-1989 **University of California, Davis**  
**B.Sc.**, Agricultural Science and Management  
Animal Science option

### Current Employment

Associate Professor, in the African American and African Studies Program at the University of California, Davis

### Current Work

My current research project *Opening the Pacific Frontier: Community Responses to Neo-Liberal Reterritorialization in Colombia and Mexico* sets out to compare the impact of development projects, aimed at opening the Pacific regions of Colombia and Mexico, on ideas and practices of territoriality among Indigenous and African descendant populations with community land titles. It is an interdisciplinary research project, funded by the Pacific Rim Research Program of the Office of the President at University of California, that investigates how local communities are adjusting to the new attention and economic policies of their nation-states as these states seek to make most of the new Pacific economy

**Selected Academic Awards**

- 2007 Faculty Development Award, University of California Davis
- June 2006 Small Grant in Aid of Research, Committee on Research, University of California Davis (\$2000)
- May 2006 UC. Office of the President, Pacific Rim Research Program Faculty Grant Principal investigator. for “Opening the Pacific Frontier: Community Responses to Neo-Liberal Reterritorialization in Colombia and Mexico” (\$24,000)
- July 2005 UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Research Grant with Dr. Varese, Dr. Rodriguez, Dr. Sesia for “Environment, migration and development in the Indigenous and afromestizo communities of the Costa Chica of Oaxaca, Diagnostic and social environmental model”
- June 2005 Undergraduate Instructional Improvement Program Grant, Teaching Resources Center (TRC) University of California, Davis
- May 2005 Committee on Research Grant Program to Promote Extramural Funding New Initiative Grant (CSHRA)
- August 2004 Undergraduate Instructional Improvement Program Grant, Minigrant Teaching Resources Center (TRC) University of California, Davis
- June 2004 Academic Senate Research Travel Grant, University of California, Davis
- February, 2004 New Faculty Research Grant, Committee on Research, University of California Davis
- January 2004 Undergraduate Instructional Improvement Program Award, Teaching Resources Center (TRC) University of California, Davis
- 2002-2003 Post-doctoral Fellow in the Diaspora Program in Anthropology at the Center for African and African American Studies at the University of Texas in Austin
- Spring 2000 Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University: Course title: “Governing Property in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Anthropological Perspectives”
- 1998-2000 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Predoctoral Grant
- June 1996 Best student paper award at the Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property (Berkeley, California, 5-8 June 1996)

## **Publications**

- 2007 "Can Ethnicity Replace Race?: Afro-Colombians, Indigeneity and the Colombian Multicultural States" *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* special issue 12(2): 414-440
- 2007 *Turf Wars: Territory and Citizenship in the Contemporary State*. Stanford: Stanford University Press
- 2007 Commentary on "Public Rights and Private Commerce: A Nineteenth-Century Atlantic Creole Itinerary" by Rebecca Scott *Current Anthropology*
- 2006 Commentary on "A Happy Coincidence?: Symbiosis and Synthesis in Anthropological and Indigenous Knowledges" by Veronica Strang *Current Anthropology* 47(6): 997
- 2005 "'Vuelvan a África'; 'Me voy para África aun cuando sea en una foto': África y la identidad afrocolombiana en el norte del Cauca" in *Retornando la Mirada: una Investigación Colaborativa, Interétnica sobre el Cauca a la Entrada del Milenio* Joanne Rappaport (ed.), Popayán: Editorial Universidad del Cauca 119-127
- 2001 "Reidentifying Ground Rules: Community Inheritance Disputes Among the Digo of Kenya" in *Communities and the Environment: Ethnicity, Gender, and the State in Community-Based Conservation* Arun Agrawal and Clark C. Gibson (eds.), 111-137, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press
- 1997 "Inheriting Disputes: The Digo Negotiation of Meaning and Power through Land" in *Journal of African Economic History*, 25:59-77

## **Other Published Works**

- 2007 "Women, Diamonds and War" Book and video review *Against the Current* Vol. 22(1):27-28
- 2006 "In Post-Structural Adjustment Kenya: Bumper Harvests and Famine" *Against the Current* Vol. 21(4):22-24
- 2003 "A War Against Community: Displacement, Violence and Afro-Colombians" *Against the Current* Vol. 18(2):31-34
- 2000 "On Titling Collective Property, Participation, and Natural Resource Management: Implementing Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Demands." The World Bank.  
<http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/lac/lacinfoclient.nsf/590e830e72216ab88525694c00781195/bcde50205c210abe85256a370077b14a?OpenDocument>

1992 "Seasonal Pools in Nairobi", with Fleur Ng'weno, in *Swara*, the magazine of the East African Wild Life Society, November-December

### **Commissioned Papers**

“Overview of Titling ‘Collective Territories for Black Communities’ in Colombia” for *Derechos Comunes de Tierras de los Afro-Descendientes en América Latina*. Ford Foundation Project on Afro-Latin Land Rights in central and South America, Pearl Lagoon, Nicaragua, August 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2003

### **Papers Presented**

“Law as Place-maker: Legality in National and International Constitution of Ethnic Territories in Colombia” Meetings of the Law and Society Association and Canadian Law and Society Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada May 29<sup>th</sup> June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008

“Ethno-Education: Transforming Education in Brazil and Colombia” with Melissa Gormley for What is Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies? Conference, University of Oklahoma, Norman May 3-5 2007

“Ethno-Education: Transforming Education in Brazil and Colombia” Latin American Studies Committee Kalamazoo College 9<sup>th</sup> April 2007

“Seminar Training in Methodology,” *College of Humanities and Development, China Agricultural University*, Beijing China, June 2006

“Can Ethnicity Replace Race?: Territorial Claims Indigeneity and Multicultural States” Anthropology Department University of Texas Austin 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006

“Property Rights in Biological Materials and Local Communities in Latin America” at the International House “Critical Issues” Series, University of California, Davis 11<sup>th</sup> January 2005

“Autonomy, Self-governance and the Status of Afro-Colombian Collective Territories” at the Latin American Studies Association Conference, Las Vegas 7-9<sup>th</sup> October 2004

“Our Common Future? States, Land and Knowledge in a Time of Global Property Systems” presented as part of the panel “Finding Common Ground under Globalization: International Agreements, States, Communities” which I organized and chaired at the International Association for the Study of Common Property IASCP 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Oaxaca 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

- “Indigeneity, Territory and State: the Effect of Imperial Remnants in Afro-Colombian Territorial Claims” presented as part of the panel “Vestiges of Empire: Race, Ethnicity and State in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” which I organized, at the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Chicago 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2003.
- Commentator on Distinguished Lecture by Mahmood Mamdani and panel “Making Sense of Violence in Postcolonial Africa,” at the Institute for Global Studies in Culture, Power and History’s Conference “the Political Economy of Africa Revisited” Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April 2002.
- “Go Back to Africa” “I am Going to Africa Even if Only in a Photo” presented at the Johns Hopkins University Graduate Student Conference, Picturing Relatedness, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2002.
- “Being Black and Indigenous in a Mestizo Nation: Race and Ethnicity in Colombia” presented at Hunter College, City University of New York, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2002.
- “Ethnicity, Politics and Land Rights: Collective Land Titling of Afro-Latin Communities on the Pacific Coast of Colombia” panelist at colloquium at Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies (the Graduate Center, City University of New York) sponsored by the Bildner Center, Center for Latin American and Caribbean studies (Hunter College, City University of New York) and North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), 19<sup>th</sup> February 2002.
- “Titling Collective Property and Participation: World Bank Experience in the Colombian Natural Resource Management Program (NRMP)” presented at the World Bank Lawyers’ Forum III: Meeting the New Challenges of the Legal Profession Through Partnerships, Washington DC, 16-17<sup>th</sup> May 2001.
- “Titling Collective Property, Participation, and Natural Resource Management: A Review of World Bank Experience in Colombia” presented at the Land Policy and Administration Thematic Group of the World Bank Brown Bag Lunch Presentations, World Bank, Washington DC, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2000.
- “‘Vuelvan a África’; ‘Me voy para África aun cuando sea en una foto’: África y la identidad afrocolombiana en el norte del Cauca” (“Go back to Africa” “I am going to Africa even if only in a photo”: Africa and Afro-Colombian Identity in Northern Cauca) presented at the IX Colombian Anthropology Congress, Popayán, Colombia, July 19-23, 2000.
- “Big Dams and Small Change: Common Property as an Adaptation to Political and Economic Change Among Afro-Colombians” presented at the eighth biennial conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property, Bloomington, Indiana, May 31-June 4, 2000.

"Mining Constitutions for Community Properties: Territory, Law and Ethnicity in Cauca, Colombia", presented at the General Seminar Series of the Institute for Global Studies in Culture, Power and History, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, 11 February 1997.

"Inheriting Community: Social Identity and Common Property among the Digo of Kenya", presented at the sixth biennial conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property, Berkeley, California, 5-8 June 1996.

"Inheriting Disputes: The Digo Negotiation of Meaning and Power through Land", presented at University of California and Stanford University joint Symposium "Law, Colonialism, and Property in Africa", Stanford, California, May 1995.

"Avenues of Evasion: Changes in Land Law Among the Digo", presented at University of California and Stanford University joint Symposium "Law, Colonialism, and the Control over Bodies in Africa", Stanford, California, May 1993.

### **Research Experience**

2007 **University of California, Davis**, Davis California

One month fieldwork in the Pacific coast of Chocó Colombia as part of the project *Opening the Pacific Frontier: Community Responses to Neo-Liberal Reterritorialization in Colombia and Mexico* that sets out to compare the impact of development projects, aimed at opening the Pacific regions of Colombia and Mexico, on ideas and practices of territoriality among Indigenous and African descendant populations with community land titles.

1998-2000 **Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore Maryland

Fourteen month Ph.D. dissertation fieldwork in the Andean region of Cauca, southwestern Colombia. The dissertation examines the reordering of territory and property by different local and national actors as a means to govern, control, constrain or extend the power of the state, armed groups, local communities or individual citizens. Claims to ethnic territories by Afro-Colombians made possible by the 1991 constitution raised new issues regarding governance, property and categorization of peoples.

1996 **Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, Maryland

Three months summer fieldwork in Cauca, Colombia. This research concentrated on claims over territory, natural resources, community autonomy and authority among Afro-Colombian mining communities of an Andean municipality, in the context of the new 1991 Constitution of Colombia. The fieldwork involved participant observation, formal and informal interviews, as well as local policy and record analysis.

1993 **Stanford University**, Stanford, California

Six months fieldwork for Master's thesis, in Tiwi on the southern coast of Kenya. The fieldwork concerned the use, material and symbolic importance of land, law and identity in a fast changing social environment among the Digo, a sub group of the Mijikenda.

1990-1991 **African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)**, Nairobi, Kenya  
Field Research: National study of recycling and resource use in five major Kenyan cities for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

### **Related Employment**

2002-2003 Post-doctoral Fellow in the Diaspora Program in Anthropology at the **Center for African and African American Studies** at the **University of Texas in Austin**. Taught undergraduate research workshops for two semesters. Participated in colloquia and center activities.

2002 July-August Short-term consultant for the **Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank**, Washington DC. Evaluated the inclusion of Afro-Colombians in current education projects carried out by the World Bank.

2000-2001 Graduate Research Assistant at the **Center for Comparative American Cultures, Johns Hopkins University**. Undergraduate advising to majors, Administration support to intellectual program. Conference and seminar planning and organization.

2000 June-September Summer Intern, **Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank**, Washington DC. Compiled the final evaluative report for the Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Land Titling and Regional Committees components of the Colombian Natural Resources Management Program, from World Bank, Government of Colombia, and external sources.

1997, July-August Short-term consultant for the **Africa Environment Group of the Africa Region of the World Bank**. Identification and analysis of practices and trends in land tenure security and natural resource management in World Bank projects since 1988, for the Sub Saharan region, with the aim of identifying best practice procedures for policy recommendations.

2001 Research assistant to Leslie Obiora at **Indiana University School of Law**, Indianapolis. Socio-cultural analysis of gender issues in customary property law in Oguta, Nigeria, from transcribed fieldnotes.

1990-1991 Programme Officer, Biotechnology and Biodiversity programme at **African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)**, Nairobi Kenya. Principal organizer of the International workshop and Consultation on Property Rights, Biotechnology and Genetic Resources: Incentives for Conservation and Innovation, June 1991.

- 1990 Indigenous Food Plant Programme, **National Museums of Kenya**, Nairobi, Kenya. Data entry and update of taxonomic nomenclature of research materials on food plants indigenous to Kenya into original archival database.

### **Selected Teaching Experience**

#### **University of California, Davis**

- 2007 African Descent Communities and Cultures of the Caribbean and Latin America (Fall)  
Diaspora and New Black Identities (Fall)  
Race and Ethnicity in Latin America (Winter)  
Graduate Group Study in Topics in African Diaspora studies (Winter)
- 2006 Black Intellectuals (Fall)  
States and Territory (Anthropology Graduate course) (Fall)  
African Descent Communities and Cultures of the Caribbean and Latin America (Winter, Fall)  
Race and Ethnicity in Latin America (winter)  
Diaspora and New Black Identities (Spring)  
Governing Property in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Social Theory Graduate Course) (Spring)
- 2005 Race and Ethnicity in Latin America (Winter)  
My Country. My Land? (Winter)
- 2004 Graduate Tutorial in Cultural Studies (Fall)  
Black Intellectuals (Spring and Fall)  
African Descent Communities and Cultures of the Caribbean and Latin America (Spring and Fall)
- 2003 Introduction to African Studies (Winter)

#### **University of Texas, Austin**

- 2003 Undergraduate Anthropology Write-up Methodology Workshops (Spring)
- 2002 Undergraduate Anthropology Research Methodology Workshops (Fall)

#### **Johns Hopkins University**

- 2000 Governing Property in the Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Anthropological Perspectives  
**Dean's Teaching Fellowship**  
Responsible for course design, curriculum and teaching.
- 1997 Eating and Thinking: The Anthropology of Food

**Hewlett Freshmen Seminar**

Teaching assistant for Professor Sidney Mintz,

- 1993 Human Being and Becoming: Introduction to Anthropology  
Teaching assistant for Professor Sidney Mintz,

**Stanford University**

- 1995 Seminar on African Law Guest lecturer on negotiation of law in Digo land disputes

- 1994 Images of African-American Culture in Film (Anthropology)  
Teaching assistant for Professor James Lowell Gibbs Jr., \

- 1994 Introduction to International Development (Human Biology)  
Teaching assistant for Professor Ben Crow

- 1994 Dances of Latin American (Anthropology/Dance)  
Teaching assistant for Professor Susan Cashon

- 1992-1995 Windsurfing, Physical Education  
**Instructor** under Blake Middleton, Director of Sailing

**Campus Activities**

- 2003 to date Organized the African Diaspora Brown Bag Seminar Series  
May 2006 /2007 Center for History, Society and Culture dissertation writing workshop

**Service**

- 2005-2006 Center for the Study of Human Rights in the Americas  
2004 to date Center for History, Society and Culture  
2004 to date Cultural Studies  
2004 to date Hemispheric Institute of the Americas  
2004 to date Gender and Global Issues Committee  
2003 to date African American and African Studies Program committee  
2003 to date Departmental Library Representative  
2003 to date African Studies Committee

**Professional Associations**

- American Anthropological Association (AAA), since 2000  
International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) since 1996.  
Administrator of the IASCP African Regionalization Program listserv 2000-2004  
Latin American Studies Association (LASA) since 2001  
Nature Kenya, East African Natural History Society since 2001.