

## MARY KATHERINE SHENK

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Department of Anthropology  
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### EDUCATION

**Ph. D. Anthropology**, March 2005

University of Washington Seattle, WA

**Dissertation Title:** The Evolutionary Economics of Marriage and Parental Investment in South India

**M. A. Anthropology**, June 1996

University of Washington Seattle, WA

**Thesis Title:** The Hairless Niche: A Consideration of the Thermoregulatory Adaptations of the Early Australopithecines Compared to Genus *Homo*

**B. A. Anthropology**, Biology minor, June 1994

University of New Orleans New Orleans, LA

### PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

*Journal Articles*

- Shenk, Mary K., M. Borgerhoff Mulder, J. Beise, G. Clark, W. Irons, D. Leonetti, B.S. Low, S. Bowles, T. Hertz, A. Bell, and P. Piraino. 2010. Intergenerational Wealth Transmission among Agriculturalists: Foundations of Agrarian Inequality. In press, *Current Anthropology* (special section on Intergenerational Wealth Transmission and Inequality in Pre-Modern Societies).
- Smith, E.A., M. Borgerhoff Mulder, S. Bowles, M. Gurven, T. Hertz, and **Mary K. Shenk**. 2010. Production Systems, Inheritance and Inequality in Pre-Modern Societies: Conclusions. In press, *Current Anthropology* (special section on Intergenerational Wealth Transmission and Inequality in Pre-Modern Societies).
- Smith, E.A., S. Bowles, T. Hertz, M. Borgerhoff Mulder, **Mary K. Shenk**, and M. Gurven. 2010. Intergenerational Wealth Transmission and Inequality in Pre-Modern Societies: Reply. In press, *Current Anthropology* (special section on Intergenerational Wealth Transmission and Inequality in Pre-Modern Societies).
- Borgerhoff Mulder, M., S. Bowles, T. Hertz, A. Bell, J. Beise, G. Clark, I. Fazzio, M. Gurven, K. Hill, P.L. Hooper, W. Irons, H. Kaplan, D. Leonetti, B.S. Low, F. Marlowe, S. Naidu, D. Nolin, P. Piraino, R. Quinlan, R. Sear, **Mary K. Shenk**, E.A. Smith, and P. Wiessner. 2009. Intergenerational Transmission of Wealth and Dynamics of Inequality in Pre-Modern Societies. *Science* 326:682-688.
- Shenk, Mary K. 2009. Testing Three Evolutionary Models of the Demographic Transition: Patterns of Fertility and Age at Marriage in Urban South India. *American Journal of Human Biology* 21:501-511.

- Shenk, Mary K. 2007. Dowry and Public Policy in Contemporary India: The Behavioral Ecology of a Social 'Evil.' *Human Nature* 18(2):242-263.
- Shenk, Mary K. 2005. Kin Networks in Wage-Labor Economies: Effects on Child and Marriage Market Outcomes. *Human Nature* 16:81-114.
- Shenk, Mary K. 2004. Embodied Capital and Heritable Wealth in Complex Cultures: A Class-Based Analysis of Parental Investment in Urban South India. *Research in Economic Anthropology* 23:307-333 (special issue on *Socioeconomic Aspects of Human Behavioral Ecology*).

### ***Working Papers***

- Shenk, Mary K. 2005. How Much Gold Will You Put on Your Daughter? A Behavioral Ecology Perspective on Dowry Marriage. University of Washington Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE) Working Paper Series, Publication 2005-07.

### ***Book Reviews***

- Shenk, Mary K. 2009. Rewriting the Book on Human Female Sexuality: New Thinking on Old Questions. *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology* 7(2009)2, 185–189.

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

### ***Research Awards***

- National Science Foundation Senior Research Award entitled “Collaborative Research: Evolutionary and Comparative Models of the Demographic Transition” for three years of research support including fieldwork in Matlab, Bangladesh. This award was funded jointly by NSF’s Cultural Anthropology Program and Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program. Awarded December 2009 in the amount of \$280,000. (A collaborative award of \$70,000 was awarded to Mary C. Towner at Oklahoma State University.)
- Center for Statistics in the Social Sciences Seed Grant entitled “Analyzing Density-Dependent Birth and Death Rates in Rural Bangladesh” for analysis, pilot field work, and support for grant writing on fertility regulation and transition in Bangladesh. Awarded January 2006 in the amount of \$16,554. This grant is joint with Darryl J. Holman, University of Washington.
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship, Application Number 1 F32 HD048064-01 entitled “Evolutionary Studies of Marriage and Parenting,” funded by the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Awarded July 2004 in the amount of \$45,000-\$50,000 annually for three years of postdoctoral research. Start Date: March 17, 2005.
- National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant funded by the National Science Foundation’s Cultural Anthropology Program for research on marriage change in South India. Awarded May 2000 (ID No. BCS-0001523) in the amount of \$11,882.

### ***Small Awards***

- University of Missouri Faculty Development Project Award to study the Bengali at the Bangla Summer Institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Awarded summer 2009 in the amount of \$7,400.
- Ruby Weitzer Morris Memorial Fellowship awarded May 2000 for dissertation research on marriage change in South India in the amount of \$2,000.
- Seed Grant awarded 1999 by the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology at the University of Washington (funds provided by the Andrew Mellon Foundation) for pilot research on the determinants of Indian marriage change in the amount of \$3,500.
- Pre-dissertation Seed Grant awarded May 1999 by the University of Washington Department of Anthropology for pilot research on the determinants of Indian marriage change in the amount of \$2,000 (declined).

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

### **Assistant Professor of Anthropology**

Department of Anthropology, University of Missouri  
January 2008 – present

### **NIH Postdoctoral Fellow**

Individual National Research Service Award (NRSA)  
Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
January 2006 – December 2007  
Advisors: Paul Leslie (Anthropology) and Tom Mroz (Economics)  
*and*  
Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington  
March 2005 – December 2005  
Advisors: Darryl Holman (Anthropology) and Shelly Lundberg (Economics)

### **Graduate Instructor & Teaching Assistant**

Department of Anthropology, University of Washington  
Fall 1998-Spring 2005

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- “Do parents know better? Testing the evolutionary benefits of arranged marriage in urban South India”  
American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.
- “The Consequences of Paternal Investment for Child Status: A Test Case from South India.” Co-Author  
Brooke Scelza. Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual meeting, Fullerton, CA, May 2009.
- “On the Importance of Arranged Marriage: Testing the Evolutionary Significance of Joint Mating  
Decisions in South India.” European Human Behaviour & Evolution Association annual meeting,  
St. Andrews, Scotland, April 2009.
- “The Importance of Paternal Investment for Status-Related Child Outcomes: A Test Case from South  
India.” Co-Author Brooke Scelza. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, San  
Francisco, CA, November 2008.
- “Investment and Risk-Related Approaches to the Demographic Transition: Transitions in Fertility and  
Age of First Reproduction in Urban South India.” International Seminar on Trade-offs in Female  
Life Histories: Raising New Questions in an Integrative Framework, Bristol, England, July 2008.
- “Causes and Consequences of the Demographic Transition in Urban South India.” American  
Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November-December 2007.
- “Marry Your Daughters First: Indian Weddings as Costly Signals,” American Anthropological  
Association annual meeting, San Jose, CA, November 2006.
- “Applying Costly Signaling Theory to Indian Wedding Costs: A Theoretical Model and Preliminary  
Analyses.” Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual meeting, University of Pennsylvania,  
June 2006.
- “(Over) Spending on a Daughter’s Future? Dowry and Public Policy in India.” American  
Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington, DC, December 2005.
- “How Much Gold Will You Put On Your Daughter? An Embodied Capital Perspective on Dowry and  
Dowry Inflation.” Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual meeting, Austin, June 2005.
- “Parental Investment in an Emerging Wage-Labor Economy: Investigating the Relationship between  
Investments and Outcomes.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago,  
November 2003.
- “The Evolutionary Ecology of Class Differences in Urban South India: Strategies in Relation to  
Parental Investment and Marriage Practices.” Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual  
meeting, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, June 2003.

“The Evolutionary Ecology of Parental Investment in Urban South India: A Class-Based Analysis of Differential Investment in Sons and Daughters.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, New Orleans, November 2002.

“*Homo hierarchicus* meets Human Behavioral Ecology: Caste and Class-Based Marriage Strategies in Urban South India.” Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual meeting, Rutgers University, June 2002.

“Evolutionary and Economic Determinants of Dowry Inflation.” Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual meeting, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, June 2000.

### ***Sessions Organized***

Co-Organizer, “The End/s of Kinship: The convergence of ethnography and quantitative methods.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.

Co-Organizer, “Expanding Frontiers in Evolutionary Anthropology: Approaches to Complex and Modernizing Societies.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C., November-December 2007.

Co-Organizer and Chair, “Cultural Dimensions of Kin Investment: The Foundations of Kinship and Family.” sponsored by the Evolutionary Anthropology Society. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, San Jose, November 2006.

Organizer and Chair, “Social Strategies of Production and Reproduction.” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago, November 2003.

Organizer and Co-Chair, “Reproductive Effort: Trade-offs in Mating and Parenting.” Human Behavior and Evolution Society annual meeting, Amherst, Massachusetts, June 2000.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Professional Memberships and Positions***

Contributing Editor to *Anthropology News* for the Evolutionary Anthropology Society (a section of the American Anthropological Association), October 2004 – December 2007. Wrote 17 columns and edited 8.

Member, American Anthropological Association, 2002- present

Member, Human Behavior and Evolution Society, 2000-present

Member, European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association, 2008-present

Member, Population Association of America, 2006-2007

### ***General Service***

Article reviewer for *American Journal of Human Biology*, *Current Anthropology*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *Human Nature*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, *Research in Economic Anthropology*, and various edited volumes.

Grant reviewer for the U. S. *National Science Foundation*.

Guest on public radio show *Peoples and Cultures* hosted by Texas A&M anthropologist Michael Alvard, August 1 and October 24, 2006.

### ***Invited Workshops and Training***

Faculty Grant Writing Institute, May-June 2008, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

2<sup>nd</sup> Stanford Workshop in Formal Demography, August 7-18 2006, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Fe Institute Graduate Workshop in Computational Social Science Modeling and Complexity, July 9-22 2006, Santa Fe Institute, Santa Fe, NM

Economic Demography Summer Short Course, May 15-19 2006, Institute for Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

***Letters of reference, publications, and teaching portfolio available upon request.***