

## JOHN LEWIS OSBURG

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### EDUCATION

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- 2008      PhD, University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology  
Dissertation: “Engendering Wealth: China’s New Rich and the Rise of an Elite Masculinity”
- 2001      MA, University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology  
MA Thesis: “Commemorating By Consuming: Re-Examining the Mao Craze of the Early Nineties”
- 1997      BA, Columbia College, Columbia University, New York NY, Major: Anthropology  
Honors: Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors in Anthropology

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 2017-      Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Rochester, Rochester NY
- 2010-2017      Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Rochester, Rochester NY
- 2009-2010      Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg VA
- 2008-2009      Postdoctoral Fellow in Chinese Studies, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University, Stanford CA

### FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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- 2018-2020      Andrew Carnegie Fellowship (US\$200,000)
- 2016-2018      Fellow, Public Intellectuals Program, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations
- 2014-2015      Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS China Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship (US\$50,000)
- 2014-2015      Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange Junior Scholar Grant (US\$30,000)

- 2008-2009 Stanford University, Center for East Asian Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chinese Studies
- 2008 Ruth Murray Prize for Best Essay in Gender Studies at the University of Chicago
- 2007-2008 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange Dissertation Fellowship
- 2007-2008 University of Chicago, Division of the Social Sciences, Honorary Markovitz Fellow
- 2007-2008 University of Chicago, Center for Gender Studies Dissertation Fellow
- 2007 University of Chicago, Dept. of Anthropology, Watkins Post-Field Fellowship
- 2004-2006 U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
- 2004-2006 Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship
- 2004-2005 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Research Grant
- 2002-2003 People's Republic of China Chinese Cultural Scholarship
- 2002 University of Chicago, Dept. of Anthropology, Leiffer Pre-Field Fellowship
- 2000, 2001 Foreign Language and Area Studies Title VI Fellowship
- 1999-2002 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
- 1998-1999 University of Chicago Century Fellowship

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Books**

2013 *Anxious Wealth: Money and Morality Among China's New Rich*. Stanford University Press.

In Progress. *Consuming Belief: Tibetan Buddhism and the Search for Meaning in Urban China*.

### **Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

2020. "Consuming Belief: Luxury, Authenticity, and Chinese Patronage of Tibetan Buddhism in Contemporary China." *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*. 10(1): 69-84.

2018 "Corruption, Anti-Corruption, and the Dynamics of Class Formation in Post-Mao China." *Polarized Cities: Portraits of Rich and Poor in Urban China*. Ed. By Dorothy Solinger. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

- 2018 “Making Business Personal: Corruption, Anti-Corruption, and Elite Networks in Post-Mao China.” *Current Anthropology* 59:S18, S149-S159.
- 2018 “Goudui and Yingzhou” *The Global Encyclopedia of Informality*. Alena Ledeneva, editor. University College London Press.
- 2017 “The Ups and Downs of ‘Studying Up’: Fieldnote on Researching Elites.” In *Undertaking Research in Global Development: Fieldwork Issues, Experiences and Reflections*. Ed. by Gordon Crawford et al. Sage Publishing.
- 2016 “El Lujo y Sus Malestares en la China Contemporánea [Luxury and Its Discontents in Contemporary China].” *Etnografías Contemporáneas* 2(2): 52-72.
- 2016 “Corruption, Masculinity, and Jianghu Ideology in the PRC” In *Changing Chinese Masculinities: From Imperial Pillars of State to Global Real Men*. Ed. by Kam Louie. University of Hong Kong Press.
- 2016 “Pleasure, Patronage, and Responsibility: Sexuality and Status Among New Rich Men in Contemporary China.” *The Cultural Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Asia*. Ed. by Tiantian Zheng. University of Hawaii Press.
- 2016 “Morality and Cynicism in a ‘Grey’ World.” *Irony, Cynicism, and the Chinese State*. Ed. by Hans Steinmüller and Susanne Brandtstätter. Routledge.
- 2014 “Can’t Buy Me Love: China’s New Rich and Its Crisis of Values.” *Foreign Affairs*. September/October 2014: 144-149.
- 2013 “Meeting the Godfather: Fieldwork and Ethnographic Seduction in a Chinese Nightclub.” *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 36(2): 314-320.
- 2013 “Global Capitalisms in Asia: Beyond State and Market in China.” *Journal of Asian Studies*. 72(4): 813-829.
- 2005 谁是中国财富阶层的榜样? (Who is the Role Model for China’s Wealthy Class?) 头等舱 (First Class Magazine). 12/2005, pp. 108-110, Chengdu, China.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2018 *Fragile Elite: The Dilemmas of China’s Top University Students*. By Susanne Bregnbæk. *American Ethnologist* 45(1): 150-1.
- 2017 *Occupational Hazards: Sex, Business, and HIV in Post-Mao China*. By Elanah Uretsky. *Nan Nü: Men, Women, and Gender in China*. 19(1): 148-150.
- 2017 *The Government Next Door: Neighborhood Politics in China*. By Luigi Tomba. *American Ethnologist* 44(1): 184-5.

2015 *Ordinary Ethics in China*. Edited by Charles Stafford. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 21(3): 692-3.

2015 *Go Nation: Chinese Masculinities and the Game of Weiqi in China*. By Marc Moskowitz. *Women and Gender in Chinese Studies Review*. Issue 9:  
<http://www.wagnet.ox.ac.uk/wagrev/journals/issue9.html>

2014 *Men and Masculinities in Contemporary China*. By Geng Song and Derek Hird. *Nan Nü: Men, Women, and Gender in China*. 16(2): 381-384.

## **INVITED LECTURES**

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**“Funny Money and Political Authority in China,” Australian Centre on China in the World, Australian National University**

“Gifts to the Guru: Han Chinese Patronage of Tibetan Buddhism in Urban China” 3/2020

**Columbia University Modern China Seminar**

“Consuming Belief: Tibetan Buddhism in Modern China” Invited Paper for Discussion 11/2019

**Franklin & Marshall College, International Studies Program**

“Money and Morality: The Predicament of China’s New Rich” Invited Lecture 3/2019

**Harvard University, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies**

“Consuming Belief: Han Chinese Practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the PRC” Invited Lecture 10/2018

**U.S. Department of State, East Asia Roundtable: Evaluating the State of China's Anti-Corruption Campaign** "Commoners and the Red Aristocracy: The Impact of the Anti-Corruption Campaign on State-Business Networks" 5/2018

**“Beyond Self and Other: Contemporary Ethnography in and beyond China,” University of Chicago Center Beijing, China** “The Authenticating Foreigner: Deploying Whiteness on a Chinese Variety Show” Invited Conference Presenter 4/2018

**Syracuse University, East Asia Program**

“Consuming Belief: Han Chinese Practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the PRC” Invited Lecture 3/2018

**Cornell University, Cornell Contemporary China Initiative**

“Consuming Belief: Han Chinese Practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the PRC” Invited Lecture 2/2018

**University of Michigan, Center for Chinese Studies**

“Consuming Belief: Han Chinese Practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the PRC” Invited Lecture 11/2017

**“Exit Strategies: Nationalism, Secession, and Deglobalization” 6<sup>th</sup> Conable Conference in International Studies, Rochester Institute of Technology** “Exit Strategies of China’s New Rich: Capital Flight and Spiritual Retreat.” Keynote Lecture 4/2017

**Univ. of California-Santa Barbara, China Studies Forum**

“Consuming Belief: Han Chinese Practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the PRC” Invited Lecture 3/2017

**Wenner-Gren Foundation Symposium, “The Anthropology of Corruption” Sintras, Portugal**  
“Corruption, Anti-Corruption, and the Dynamics of Class Formation in Post-Mao China” Invited Symposium Participant 9/2016

**“Poor China/Rich China: Wealth, Poverty, and Inequality” Univ. of California-Irvine Annual China Conference:** “Corruption, Anti-Corruption, and the Dynamics of Elite Class Formation in the PRC” Invited Lecture 5/2016

**Univ. of Colorado, Dept. of Geography and Center for Asian Studies** “Business and Belief Among Han Chinese Practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the PRC” Invited Lecture 4/2016

**UCLA, Center for Chinese Studies**

“Conspicuous Dharma: Han Chinese Practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism in the PRC” Invited Lecture 3/2016

**“True, Good, Beautiful: Politics and Forms of Virtue in Xi Jinping Era China” Symposium, New York University,** “Belief and Moral Authority in a Post-Belief Society.” Invited Lecture, 2/2016

**University of Buffalo Asian Studies Program**

“Elite Networks and the Moral Economy of Corruption in China” Invited Lecture 4/2015

**The Field of Guanxi Studies Conference, Univ. of California-Berkeley**

“From *Goudui* to *Beijing*: Notes on *Guanxi* and Class Formation in the PRC” Invited Lecture, 3/2015

**Routes of Luxury Workshop, College d'etudes Mondiales Paris, France**

“Luxury and Its Discontents in Contemporary China” Invited Lecture, 1/2015

**Li An-che Lecture Series, Sichuan University, China**

“American Anthropological Research on China and Its Cultural Roots” [In Chinese], Chengdu, China, 11/2014

**“Chinese Masculinities on the Move: Time, Space, and Cultures” International Conference, Univ. of Hong Kong** “Corruption, Patronage, and Masculinity in the PRC” Invited Lecture, 11/2013

**Univ. of California at Berkeley, Center for Chinese Studies**

“From ‘Big Brothers’ to ‘Little Honeys’: Corruption and Masculinity in the PRC” Invited Lecture, 10/2013

**JAS at AAS: Global Capitalism in Asia Roundtable, Association for Asian Studies 2013 Meeting**  
Invited member of roundtable on global capitalism in Asia. San Diego, California, 3/2013

**“Irony, Cynicism, and the Chinese State” Symposium, London School of Economics**  
Invited to participate in a two-day symposium and present paper “Morality and Cynicism in a ‘Grey’ World” 6/2012

**York University, Schulich School of Business, Marketing Department, Toronto, Canada**  
“Social Networks and Luxury Consumption Among China’s New Rich” Invited Lecture 2/2012

**12th Li An-che Memorial Lecture, Sichuan University, China** “Money, Morality, and Status Among China’s New Rich: A Field Study” Invited Lecture 6/2011

**Stanford University, China Social Science Workshop** “Elite Networks and the Moral Economy of Corruption in China” 6/2009

**Washington University in St. Louis, Department of International and Area Studies** “Social Networks, Masculinity, and Morality Among China’s New Rich” Invited Lecture (Job Talk) 2/2009

**Princeton University, Department of East Asian Studies** “Social Networks and Morality Among China’s New Elite.” Invited Lecture (Job Talk) 1/2009

**Sichuan University, Institute of Literature and Anthropology**  
Invited Lecture “What is Anthropological Analysis and Research?” 4/2005  
Invited Lecture “New Trends in Anthropological Theory in the United States” 12/2003

**University California-Berkeley’s Center for Chinese Studies 2001 Annual Symposium *Memory and Media in and of Contemporary China*** Invited to present “Commemorating By Consuming: Re-Examining the Mao Craze of the Early 90’s.” 3/2001

## **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

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**American Anthropological Association 2018 Meeting**  
“Karmic Consequences of Prosperity: Tibetan Buddhism as Social Critique in China” as part of panel, “Beyond the Chinese Dream: Imagination, Resistance, and Collective Futures in China” San Jose, CA, 11/2018

**American Anthropological Association 2017 Meeting**  
“The Authenticating Foreigner: Deploying Whiteness on a Chinese Variety Show” as part of panel, “Ways of Doing Media in Asia” Washington, DC, 12/2017

**Association for Asian Studies 2017 Meeting**  
“Banqueting with the Guru: Tibetan Buddhist Practitioner Communities in the PRC” as part of a panel I organized, “Patronage, Appropriation, and Transformation: Han Chinese Encounters with Tibetan Buddhism.” Toronto, 3/2017

**American Anthropological Association 2016 Meeting**

“Bodies, Banquets, and Business: The Carnality of China’s State Capitalism” as part of the panel, “Vital Knowledge and Lively Carnality: Inspirations from the Work of Judith Farquhar on Medicine, Bodies and Vitalities” and Discussant for panel, “Beyond Feminization: The Geopolitics of Asian Hypermasculinities” Minneapolis, 11/2016

**American Anthropological Association 2015 Meeting**

“Luxury and Its Discontents: Nationalism, Spirituality, and Emerging Modes of Distinction Among China's New Rich” as part of the panel “Beyond Value: Rarity, Luxury, and Relational Consumption in China” Denver, Colorado, 11/2015

**Association for Asian Studies 2014 Meeting**

“Unwritten Rules: Corruption, Patronage, and Reciprocity Among China’s Elite” as part of the panel “Elastic Rules: Everyday Legality and Morality in Post-Mao China” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 3/2014.

**Norms in the Margins & Margins of the Norms: The Social Construction of Illegality International Conference** “The Hidden Rules of Officialdom: Elite Social Networks and the Moral Economy of Corruption in Contemporary China” as part of the panel “The Ethics of Illegality” Brussels, Belgium, 10/2012

**New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) 2012 Meeting**

“Luxury Brands and Social Networks Among China’s New Rich” as part of a panel I organized, “Consumption and Sociality in East Asia” SUNY-New Paltz, New Paltz, New York, 9/2012

**American Anthropological Association 2011 Meeting** “Police and Thieves are All One Family: State-Criminal Alliances in a Chinese City” as part of the panel “Illegal Anthropology and Anthropologists” Montreal, Canada, 11/2011

**American Anthropological Association 2009 Meeting** “Relationships are the Law: Elite Networks and the Masculinization of Business in Post-socialist China” as part of the panel “Gender and Comparative Socialisms” Philadelphia, PA, 12/2009

**Stanford University, Center for East Asian Studies Brown Bag Talk** “Relationships are the Law: Elite Networks, Masculinity, and Corruption in Contemporary China.” 10/2008

**University of Chicago’s *Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop*** “Entertaining is My Job: Masculinity, Sexuality, and Leisure Among Chengdu’s New Rich Entrepreneurs.” 10/2007

**American Anthropological Association 2006 Meeting** “From Fruit Plates to License Plates: Signifying *Guanxi* in Urban China,” part of the panel “Anxious Wealth in Growing Cities: The Urban Middle Classes of South Asia and China.” San Jose, CA, 11/2006

**University of Chicago’s *China’s Long Twentieth Century Workshop*** “Commemorating By Consuming: Re-Examining the Mao Craze of the Early 90’s.” 11/2001

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

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### **Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester**

**Assistant/Associate Professor**

2010-present

“Introduction to Anthropology”

“Theory and Method in Anthropology”

“Chinese Society After Mao”

“Anthropology of Socialism and Post-socialism”

“Culture and Consumption”

“Contemporary Issues and Anthropology”

“Advanced Topics: Money and Morality”

“Anthropological Approaches to Gender and Sexuality”

“(Il)legal Anthropology”

“Global Masculinities”

“Anthropological Theory: Past and Present”

### **Department of Anthropology, College of William and Mary**

**Visiting Assistant Professor**

2009-2010

“Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality”

“Peoples and Cultures of East Asia” (Required Course)

“Introduction to Cultural Anthropology”

“Culture and Consumption”

### **Stanford University**

Instructor for “Gender and Class in Post-Mao China”

2009

### **Center for International Studies, University of Chicago**

2007

Instructor for “Contemporary Global Issues II”

### **Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago**

Instructor for “Critical Perspectives on Masculinity”

2006

### **Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago**

Teaching Assistant for “Anthropological Methods”

2006

### **History Department, University of Chicago**

Teaching Assistant for “East Asian Civilizations” (China Quarter)

2001

### **Guangdong College of Education, Guangzhou, China**

English as a Second Language Teacher

1997-1998

### **Pedagogical Training**

**Writing Program, University of Chicago**

2006

**Workshop on Teaching in the College, University of Chicago**

2006



## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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### **Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies**

**Director (Interim)** Fall 2017

**Grants Committee** 2017-2018

### **Project Imagine Committee Member**

Summer and Fall 2020

### **Faculty Council Steering Committee Member**

2017-2018 Academic Year

### **Faculty Council Departmental Representative**

2011-2012, 2016-2018

### **Humanities Center Director Search Committee Member**

April-May 2016

### **Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Search Committee Member**

October-November 2019

### **Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dept. of Anthropology**

Fall 2013-Summer 2014, Fall 2015-Spring 2017

### **East Asian Studies Curriculum Committee**

Developed and drafted a proposal for the East Asian Studies major and minor curriculums, Fall 2010-Summer 2012

### **Freshman Adviser**

Fall 2012-Summer 2014

### **Dissertation Committee Member**

Bo Zheng (Defended 7/12), Matilda Tang (Defended 8/19), Ching Hung Hsiao (Defended 11/13), Shaofei Lu (Defended 3/16), Sohl Lee (Defended 7/14), Hairong Shang (Defended 6/2015), Nan Zhang, Yangyang Yu (Defended 10/18)

### **Honors Thesis Primary Reader**

Christine Rose, Spring 2012

Joseph Orman, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Amelia Kelly, Fall 2017-Spring 2018

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### **Professional Organization Service**

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, Early Career Mentoring Committee Member  
2017-2019

### **Tenure Case Review**

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ohio University

### **Peer Review**

#### **Articles**

American Ethnologist (5x); Current Anthropology (2x); Cultural Anthropology; Journal of Asian Studies; Transnational Cultural Studies; China Quarterly (3x); The China Journal (4x); Modern China (2x); Journal of Sexualities: Studies in Culture and Society; Men and Masculinities; The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology; Crime, Law and Social Change; East Asia: An International Quarterly; City and Society; Social Forces; China Perspective

#### **Books**

Springer Publishing, Routledge (2x), Brill, Stanford University Press, Cornell University Press, Rowman and Littlefield

#### **Research Grants**

Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship 2014  
Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Insight Grant 2018

### **External Thesis Examiner**

Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies PhD Dissertation, University of Copenhagen 1/2015  
Dept. of Anthropology BA Thesis, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, 5/2016  
Dept. of Anthropology PhD Dissertation, Australian National University, 8/2018  
Dept. of Political and Social Change, Australian National University, 1/2021

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

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#### **St. Louis Sister City Delegation to China, Nanjing and Wuhan, China**

Translator/Cultural Consultant 9/2004

Member of the delegation that renewed and/or signed sister city agreements with Nanjing and Wuhan. Served as a translator during trade and business negotiations and guided delegation members through banquets and other ceremonial events.

#### **Sichuan Television (SCTV-8), “Exchange” (*Jiaoliu*) Program, Chengdu, China**

Program Host 2/2003-3/2004

Performed monologues, conversed with my co-host, and interviewed guests in Chinese. Developed and translated program content and met with area businessmen to develop special feature programs profiling a particular company or business.

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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Advanced skills in Chinese (Mandarin), including conversational fluency, advanced comprehension of technical written materials, and advanced writing skills. Intermediate listening comprehension ability in the Chengdu dialect.

**Language Training:** 8 quarters of Chinese at the University of Chicago (1998-2001), Princeton in Beijing Summer Language Program (1999), Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University (Summer 2000 and Summer 2001), Sichuan University Chinese Language Program (2002-2003)