

Curriculum Vitae

Rebecca A. Seligman

Department of Anthropology
Northwestern University
1810 Hinman Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60208

r-seligman@northwestern.edu
ph: 847/491-7207
fax: 847/467-1778

Areas of Specialization

Culture and mental health; cultural psychiatry; global health; medical anthropology; psychological anthropology; embodiment; religion, ritual and altered states of consciousness; Latin America

Appointments

- 2008- Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Global Health, Northwestern University
- 2006-2008 Dial Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Global Health, Northwestern University
- 2004-2006 Canadian Institute of Health Research Post-Doctoral Fellow
Department of Psychiatry, Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry,
McGill University

Education

- 2004 PhD, Emory University, Department of Anthropology
- 2002 Certificate, Transcultural Psychiatry Training Program, Department of Psychiatry,
McGill University
- 2001 MA, Emory University, Department of Anthropology,
- 1995 BA, Anthropology, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
summa cum laude

Research Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

- 2009-2012 Three-year Institute for Policy Research Faculty Fellowship, Northwestern University.
- 2000-2003 National Institutes of Health, National Research Service Award Predoctoral Fellowship, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine: “Psychobiology and Mental Health in a Spirit Possession Religion”

- 2003 Charles Hughes Fellowship awarded for best student paper by the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture: "From Affliction to Affirmation: Narrative Transformation and the Therapeutics of Candomblé Mediumship"
- 2000 National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, Programs in Cultural and Physical Anthropology: "A Call to Mediumship: Social, Psychological, and Psychobiological Predispositions Among Mediums in a Brazilian Spirit Possession Religion"
- 2000 Emory University Internationalization Fund, Research Grant Award
- 1997-2003 Four Year Graduate Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Emory University
- 1999 Summer Research Grant Award, Mellon Foundation
- 1995 Fulbright Institute of International Education (IIE), Grant for Independent Research Abroad: "Calypso and Carnival: A Psychosocial Study of a Trinidadian Mass Ritual"
- 1995 O. Roger Gallagher Memorial Award for Outstanding Student in the field of Anthropology, Skidmore College
- 1995 Periclean Honor Society Award for Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis, Skidmore College: "Synthetic Anthropology: A Biocultural Examination of the Trinidadian Carnival."
- 1995 Phi Beta Kappa
- 1995 Periclean Honor Society

Publications

In preparation

Seligman, R. Depression and diabetes in a Mexican American population: Cultural, emotional, and physiological vulnerabilities. To be submitted to Social Science and Medicine.

Under review

Brown, R. and **R. Seligman** Anthropology and cultural neuroscience: Creating productive intersections in parallel fields. Invited paper for Progress in Brain Research volume on cultural neuroscience.

Mendenhall, E., **R. Seligman**, A. Fernandez and L. Jacobs Speaking through

trauma: Rethinking the uses of “trauma” in Mexican-American diabetes narratives.” Submitted to Medical Anthropology Quarterly.

Revise and resubmit

Seligman, R. The unmaking and making of self: Embodied suffering and mind-body healing in Brazilian Candomblé. *Ethos*.

In Press

Seligman, R. and R. Brown Theory and Method at the Intersection of Anthropology and Cultural Neuroscience. Invited paper for special issue of Journal of Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience.

- 2008 **Seligman, R.** and L. Kirmayer. Dissociative experience and cultural neuroscience: Narrative, metaphor, and mechanism. *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* 32(1):31-64.
- 2005 **Seligman, R.** Distress, dissociation, and embodied experience: Reconsidering the pathways to mediumship and mental health. *Ethos* 33(1):71-99.
- 2005 **Seligman, R.** From affliction to affirmation: Narrative transformation and the therapeutics of Candomblé mediumship. *Transcultural Psychiatry* 42(2):272-294.
- 2002 Rilling, J. and **R. Seligman**. A Quantitative morphometric comparative analysis of the primate temporal lobe. *Journal of Human Evolution* 42(5):505-534.

Book Reviews

- 2009 **Seligman R.** Mental Health among Taiwanese Americans: Gender, Immigration, and Transnational Struggles, by Chien-Juh Gu. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 23(1):72-74.

In press **Seligman, R.** Religion and the Politics of Ethnic Identity in Bahia Brazil, by Stephen Selka. *American Ethnologist* 36(4).

Presentations

- 2009 **Seligman, R.** and R. Lester Co-Organizers and Chairs of “Volition and self-direction in subjective experience, emotional distress, and healing.” Panel for the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meeting. March 27-29, Asilomar, CA.
- 2009 **Seligman, R.** Losing control and choosing to lose control: The complex role of volition in dissociative experiences across cultures. Paper presented at Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meeting. March 27-29, Asilomar, CA.

- 2008 **Seligman, R.** Cultural Neuroscience and the Anthropology of Dissociation. Presented at the American Anthropological Association meetings, November 19-23, San Francisco, CA.
- 2008 **Seligman, R.** The unmaking and making of self: Embodied suffering and mind-body healing in Brazilian Candomblé. Presented at the joint meetings of the Society for Medical Anthropology and the Society for Applied Anthropology, March 25-29, Memphis, TN.
- 2008 **Seligman, R.** and KA McKinney Suffering and the Self. Session organized for the joint meetings of the Society for Medical Anthropology and the Society for Applied Anthropology, March 25-29, Memphis, TN.
- 2008 E. Mendenhall, **R. Seligman**, A. Fernandez, and L. Jacobs *Un Cuento de Coraje: Anger, Depression, and Diabetes in a Chicago Mexican population.* Presented at the joint meetings of the Society for Medical Anthropology and the Society for Applied Anthropology, March 25-29, Memphis, TN.
- 2008 **Seligman, R.** Culture and Mental Health: Integrating Anthropological and Psychiatric Perspectives on Dissociation. Presented at the BCICS Faculty and Fellows Colloquium, January 18, Northwestern University.
- 2008 **Seligman, R.** Toward a Cultural Psychiatry of Dissociative Experience: Integrating Narrative, Metaphor, and Mechanism. Presented at the Clinical Ethnography Workshop, February 14, University of Chicago.
- 2007 **Seligman, R.** Culture and Mental Health. Presented for Cultural Evolution and Health Speaker Series, Sponsored by Department of Psychology, IPR, and C2S, January 8, Northwestern University.
- 2006 **Seligman, R.** International Mental Health. Presented at C2S/CICS Workshop on International Dimensions of Social Disparities in Health, October 12, Northwestern University.
- 2006 **Seligman, R.** A Biocultural Perspective on Dissociation: Metaphors and Mechanisms. Presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Medical Anthropology, March 28-April 4, Vancouver, BC.
- 2005 **Seligman, R.** A supernatural guide to the self: emotional distress, personal identity, and the Orixas. Presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, April 7-10, San Diego.
- 2004 **Seligman, R.** Sometimes affliction is a door: a bio-psycho-cultural analysis of the pathways to Candomblé mediumship. Presented at Culture and Mental Health

Research Meeting, Institute for Community and Family Psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital, Montreal, November 5.

- 2003 **Seligman, R.** From affliction to affirmation: Narrative transformation and the therapeutics of Candomblé mediumship. Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture, October 2-5, Montreal.
- 2003 **Seligman, R.** Mediumship and mental health: insights from Brazilian Candomblé. Presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, April 10-13, San Diego.
- 2003 **Seligman, R.** Mental health and Spirit Possession Mediumship: biocultural findings from a study of religious participation in northeastern Brazil. Presented at “Building Biocultural Anthropology” conference, Emory University March 5-7, Atlanta.
- 2002 **Seligman, R.** Mediumship and mental health: preliminary results from a biocultural study in northeastern Brazil. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 19-23, New Orleans.

Consultancies

- 2007-present **Consultant**, Study on Immigration, Culture, and Health Care. Russell Sage Foundation. Elizabeth Jacobs, PI.
- 2004-2006 **Consultant**, Psychiatric Cultural Consultation Service, Institute for Community and Family Psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital, Montreal. Service provides cultural consultants to work with Doctors in diagnosing and treating immigrant and refugee patients.
- 2004 **Consultant**, McGill University, Stigma and the Dynamics of Social Exclusion Dr. Laurence Kirmayer and Dr. Duncan Pederson, PIs.

Work in Progress

Exploratory study on diabetes and depression among Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans in Chicago. Data will be used to develop NIH and NSF grant proposals for a larger study of stress, immigration, and mental health among Latinos in the U.S.

Other Research Experience

- 2000 **Pilot Research**, validation of psychophysiology methods for use in field-based anthropological research. Results also used to develop psychophysiology training materials offered by the Laboratory for Comparative Human Biology: www.anthropology.emory.edu/CHB/psychophys/psychophys.html

1999 **Co-Investigator**, Emory University, comparative MRI study of primate neuro-anatomy with Dr. James Rilling and Dr. Melvin Konner

1999 **Pilot Research**, on *Candomblé* spirit possession religion in Salvador, Brazil

Courses taught

Graduate Seminar in Medical Anthropology
Medical Anthropology
Gender and Global Health
Psychological Anthropology
International Perspectives on Mental Health
Ritual: Its Nature and Culture

Professional Service

2008-2009 Member, Global Health Committee, Northwestern University
2008 Chair, Condon Student Paper Prize Committee, Society for Psychological Anthropology
2006-2008 Member, Condon Student Paper Prize Committee, Society for Psychological Anthropology

Professional Memberships

American Anthropological Association
Society for Psychological Anthropology
Society for Medical Anthropology

Language Skills

Fluent in Portuguese
Some Spanish
Some French