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| FULL NAME | NANCY RIES | FIELDS OF INTEREST, RESEARCH AREAS, FIELDWORK |
| YEAR OF BIRTH | 1955 | Postsocialism |
| POSITION, TITLE | Associate Professor and Peace Studies, Chair, Sociology and Anthropology Department Co-Director, Center for Ethnixs and World Societies | Urban anthropology |
| DISCIPLINE | Anthropology | Symbolic analysis; interpretive anthropology; discourse; language |
| INSTITUTION OF EMPLOYMENT | Colgate University, Hamilton, NY USA | Class stratification; marketization and postsocialist subsistence |
| | | Social Theory; practice theory |
| | | Russia |
| | | Anthropology of conflict, terror, and trauma |



RECENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Anthropology in Russia--wealth, poverty and survival: My current project is a book manuscript based on fieldwork in Russia (Moscow, Yaroslavl, Vladimir, and other cities) over the past decade (1992-2003). Its overarching theme is class stratification, but it is concerned with the intersection of material and symbolic processes and practices: the meanings of exchange, subsistence techniques, social memory and nostalgia, cynicism and political discourse. I have chapters on »Discourses about Power.« »the Potato Economy,« »Discursive fetishes of the Nouveaux Riches,« »Social Memory and Survival,« and »Business collectivism,« and »Cynical faith.« (Ongoing/forthcoming work).
- Capitalism, Consumption, and Culture: this is both a teaching and research interest. Political economy and symbolic analysis combined in comparative study of the meaning of resource extraction, labor, forms of hegemonic entertainment and ritual consumption.
- Mafia and Money in transitional discourse: fieldwork in 1994-1999 on class stratification, consumption, and expansion of mafia as both social network and social symbol. (»Honest Bandits« paper – 2002).
- The Anthropology of trauma – comparative study of how everyday life practices are the target of state terror and vigilante terror, cross-culturally, with focus on dirty wars in Latin America, civil wars in Mozambique, central Africa, Kashmir, Balkan states, etc. My central theoretical concern is the employment of ritual and symbolic violence alongside physical violence to destroy cultural integrity. (»Everyday Comfort and Terror: Anthropology and Local Theory.« In *New Literary History*, Vol. 33, No. 4. 2002). Ongoing teaching and research.
- Postsocialism – comparative political and symbolic economies of postsocialist societies, including FSU, East/Central and South Europe, China; working with authors on monographs for Cornell University Press series on postsocialism (Books out or forthcoming by: Caroline Humphrey, Elizabeth Dunn, Katherine Verdery, Michael Urban; many others under contract). Co-coordinating annual SOYUZ conferences, networking, editing *Anthropology of East Europe Review* and other collaborative projects on post-socialism. (Ongoing since 1993).
- Fieldwork in Moscow on Perestroika and post-perestroika for my book, *Russian Talk* (1997), focusing on discursive practices during political crisis and change in Russia. Specific focus on the social-historical and political meanings of everyday litanies and laments, the »folkloric« content and structure in daily conversation, ideologies of mystical poverty. (1988-1997).

| COURSES TAUGHT | | RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE, PRACTICE, METHODS |
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| 1. | Anthropology Theory and Research Seminar | I have taught at Colgate University since 1991, and my teaching could be divided into four overlapping spheres: 1) social theory, broadly defined, including classical social theory, theory of interpretation, 20th century anthropological theory, symbolic analysis (mythology, ritual, language, discourse, genre), and contemporary theory (post-modernism, neo-Marxism and political economy, post-colonial theory, theory of representation); 2) Ethnography-based courses on particular themes such as ritual, gender, etc.; 3) Russian cultural studies, including social history, folklore studies, political and social anthropology of contemporary Russia; postsocialism; and film and literature; and 4) the anthropology of peace and conflict, which includes both theoretical and ethnographic elements, covering such topics as: conflict and human evolution, war, weaponry, the political economy of conflict, genocide, state terror, trauma and healing, conflict resolution, gender and conflict, symbolic issues in war and peace studies. My teaching is generally conducted in a non-lecture based, interactive, seminar style. In teaching young undergraduates, I commit to valuing all students as co-educators in a shared process of learning and thinking about the social world. As Paolo Friere put it, "education must begin with the solution of the teacher-student contradiction," wherein "the teacher teaches and the students are taught." This is something of an ethnographic approach to teaching, where going into the classroom is like going into the field as an anthropologist. The most crucial method of the fieldworker is active listening – even <i>radical</i> listening, whereby one contemplates not just the immediate significance of an utterance but the many other possible layers of meaning, structure, and value associated with it. In the anthropology classroom, where we are talking about power, class, identity, and social structures (among many other things) as these manifest cross-culturally, listening entails seeking to understand students' own images of the world, their ideological commitments, their socially-channeled fears, dreams and desires, and well as their understanding of their own everyday life practices and the connection of these to systems of power, knowledge, and classification. |
| 2. | Peace Studies Theory and Research Seminar | |
| 3. | Introduction to Anthropology | |
| 4. | Approaches to Social Analysis (Marx, Durkheim, Weber) | |
| 5. | Anthropology of Peace and Conflict | |
| 6. | Ethnography of Russian Culture and Civilization (taught in Moscow) | |
| 7. | Russian Culture and Society; Core Russia (interdisciplinary seminar); First-year seminar on postsocialism in Russia | |
| 8. | Myth, Ritual, and Symbol | |
| 9. | Men and Masculinities | |
| 10. | Religion, Culture, and Social Change | |

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| 11. | Introduction to Peace Studies | Most classes involve significant research and writing components, rather than more traditional examination processes, and I work with students throughout the writing process to help them develop research skills, arguments, and theoretical grounding. |
| 12. | Weapons and War (3 disciplines: anthropology, film, arts, geology) | |

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS IN LAST FIVE YEARS

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| 1. | »Novaia Elita o Sebe« In "Semeinye uzi: modeli dlia sborki". Ed. by S. Oushakine. Moscow: NLO, 2003 (English version: »Reading the New Elite: Charmed Realms of the Russian Bourgeoisie«) |
| 2. | "Everyday Comfort and Terror: Anthropology and Local Theory." In <i>New Literary History</i> , Vol. 33, No. 4. 2002 |
| 3. | "'Honest Bandits' and 'Warped People': Russian Narratives about Money, Corruption, and Moral Decay." In <i>Ethnography in Unstable Places</i> . Carol Greenhouse, Elizabeth Mertz, and Kay Warren, eds. Duke University Press. 2002 |
| 4. | "Russian Culture" chapter for <i>Encyclopedia of Russian History</i> . NY: MacMillan. 2003 |
| 5. | "Russia," chapter for <i>Encyclopedia of National Cultures</i> . NY: MacMillan. 2001 |
| 6. | "Business, Taxes, and Corruption in Russia." <i>Anthropology of East Europe Review</i> , Vol. 17, No. 1 Spring, 1999 |
| 7. | <i>Russian Talk: Culture and Conversation during Perestroika</i> . Cornell U. Press 1997. (Heldt Prize winner) |
| 8. | Book reviews in: <i>American Ethnologist</i> , <i>Slavic Review</i> , <i>Russian Review</i> , <i>Slavonica</i> , <i>American Anthropologist</i> , <i>Anthropology of East European Review</i> |

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS, FORUMS ETC.

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| 1. | American Anthropological Association (member) |
| 2. | American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS Board of Trustees, 2004-2006) |
| 3. | American Ethnological Society (member) |
| 4. | National Council of Eurasian and East European Studies (Board of Directors) |
| 5. | Slavic Review (Editorial Board) |
| 6. | Co-editor, Cornell University Press Book Series: »Culture and Society after Socialism« |
| 7. | Anthropology of East Europe Review (Editorial Board) |
| 8. | SOYUZ: Research Group for Postsocialist Cultural Studies (Co-founder) |