

Susan Shepler, Ph.D.

<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~shepler>

980 57th St., Oakland CA 94608 • (510) 654-6121 • shepler@berkeley.edu

EMPLOYMENT:

(Starting Fall 2006) Assistant Professor, International Peace and Conflict Resolution division, School of International Service, American University, Washington D.C.

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., 2005, University of California Berkeley, Social and Cultural Studies in Education.
Dissertation: "Conflicted Childhoods: Fighting Over Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone"
Committee: Professors Jean Lave (Chair), Gillian Hart, and Carol Stack

M.A., 1992, University of California Berkeley, Mathematics

B.A. (honors), 1987, University of California Santa Cruz, Mathematics

AWARDS AND HONORS:

- 2006. Outstanding Dissertation in Comparative Education – Gail P. Kelly Award from the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES).
- 2004. Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation dissertation year fellowship.
- 2003, 2004. Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation dissertation fellowship.
- 2003. American Association of University Women, American Dissertation Fellowship.
- 1999, 2000. Rocca Memorial Fellowship for doctoral research in African Studies, University of California Berkeley, Center for African Studies.
- 1996. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grant for study of Mende language (a Sierra Leonean language.) Summer 1996.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- *Lead Researcher*, UNICEF, "Transnational Fostering of War-affected Children in West Africa: Immediate Coping Capacities across Borders." Designed and led survey and ethnographic research in South East Guinea with refugee children in informal fostering arrangements. 10/05 – 12/05.
- *Expert Consultant*, "Where are the Girls? Girls in Fighting Forces in Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone, and Mozambique: Their Lives During and After War" a CIDA sponsored study with Prof. Susan McKay, University of Wyoming. 1/03.
- *Evaluation of Talking Drum Studio programming* in Sierra Leone for Search for Common Ground. Working with a team of researchers, designed and implemented a nationwide listener survey, held interviews with key informants and wrote qualitative case studies of particular projects. 1/02
- *Project Proposal Evaluation* for Children at Risk, Holland. Traveled to sites of four proposed grass roots development projects around Sierra Leone and conducted interviews and observation to report on project feasibility. 2/01 - 4/01
- *Ethnographic fieldwork throughout Sierra Leone* for Ph.D. dissertation. Participant observation with former child soldiers in Interim Care Centers and in communities post-reintegration. 10/99-11/01

- *Research Assistant* for Professor Jean Lave. Organized field notes and materials, conducted literature searches, aided in preparation of manuscripts. 1995-1998.

TEACHING INTERESTS:

Youth and childhood studies, humanitarianism, the anthropology of violence, education and economic development, human rights in Africa.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- *Teaching Assistant* for “Technology and the American Experience.” U.C. Berkeley, 2002.
- *Lecturer*, Milton Margai College of Education, Sierra Leone. 2000-2001.
- *Graduate Student Instructor*, U.C. Berkeley, 1990-1998.
 - Courses taught include undergraduate mathematics and computer science.
- *Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor*, U.C. Berkeley, Spring 1998, for work designing the course “Introduction to Computers.”
- *Instructor*, Academic Talent Development Program, Summer 1998.
- *Instructor*, Summer Bridge, U.C. Berkeley. Summer 1993 and 1994.
- *Instructor*, Summer Math Institute for talented undergraduate women, Mills College. Summer 1992.
- *Peace Corps Volunteer*, Secondary School math teacher, Sierra Leone, West Africa. 1987-1989.

PUBLICATIONS:

- “The Rites of the Child: Global Discourses of Youth and Reintegrating Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone” *Journal of Human Rights* 4(2). Nancy Scheper-Hughes, ed. June 2005.
- “Globalizing Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone” in *Youthscapes: The Popular, The National, The Global*. Sunaina Maira and Elisabeth Soep, Eds. University of Pennsylvania Press. December 2004.
- “Educated in War: The Rehabilitation of Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone” in *Conflict Resolution and Peace Education in Africa*. Ernest E. Uwazie, Ed. Lexington Books. August 2003.
- “Les Filles-Soldats: Trajectoires d’apres-guerre en Sierra Leone.” *Politique Africaine* 88: 49-62. December 2002.
- “Education as a Site of Political Struggle in Sierra Leone.” *Antropológicas* Vol. 2. 1998.

PRESENTATIONS:

- “‘War Boys,’ Youngmen, and Child Soldiers: Patterns of Children’s Participation in Armed Conflict in Sierra Leone, 1860- present” presented at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis’ Spring Conference, “Children and War.” April 7-9, 2005.
- “Formal and Non-Formal Education in the Rehabilitation of Former Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone: A Dichotomy Resolved in Practice” presented at the Comparative and International Education Society 2005 Conference “Beyond Dichotomies” at Stanford University, March 24.
- “Made Bulletproof by Magic, Armed with an AK: The Politics of Traditional Warriors and Modern Warfare in Sierra Leone” presented at the 2004 American Anthropological Association meetings in Atlanta, GA. December 15, 2004.

- “The Social and Cultural Context of Child Soldiering in Sierra Leone” presented at a Workshop on Techniques of Violence in Civil War, Centre for the Study of Civil War, International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Norway. August 20, 2004.
- “The Rites of the Child: Global Discourses of Youth and Reintegrating Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone” presented at the American Anthropological Association meetings, Chicago, IL. November 20, 2003.
- “Child Soldiers and the Ambivalent Effectiveness of Discourses of Abdicated Responsibility in Sierra Leone” presented at the African Studies Association meetings. Boston, MA. October 30, 2003.
- “Combatants into Innocents: Remaking Child Soldiers” presented at the Ethnography in Education Forum at the University of Pennsylvania. February 28, 2003.
- “Forgiving Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone.” The Townsend Center for the Humanities Working Group on Reconstructing Communities in Crisis. September, 2002.
- “Globalizing Child Soldiers.” Rethinking Globalization from an African Perspective, Joint Berkeley-Stanford Center for Africa Studies Annual Spring Conference. April 27, 2002
- “Post-war trajectories for girls associated with the fighting forces in Sierra Leone.” Conference : “Boundaries in Question – Women and War.” Berkeley, California. April 5, 2002.
- Participant in “Endangered Childhoods,” an interdisciplinary workshop on violence and childhood in Africa, sponsored by the Center for African Studies at U.C. Berkeley. December 2001.
- “Educated in War: The Rehabilitation of Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone.” *Conflict Resolution & Peace Education in Africa: Lessons and Opportunities* sponsored by the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution at California State University at Sacramento. May 1, 1999.
- “Education and War: The Rehabilitation of Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone.” Brown-bag talk for the Anthropology of Childhood Working Group at U.C. Berkeley. March 9, 1999.
- “The Circulation of Representations of the Educated African.” Berkeley Stanford Joint Center for African Studies Conference, South Africa in Comparative Perspective. Spring 1998.
- “The politics of Krio as *Lingua Franca* in Sierra Leone.” Panel on the politics of language in Africa at the 1996 Summer African Language Institute in Columbus, Ohio.
- “Bo School in Sierra Leone: a Site for Political Struggles over Futures.” American Anthropological Association Meetings in San Francisco, California. Fall 1996.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Anthropological Association
 African Studies Association
 Comparative and International Education Society

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Book Reviewer: Anthropology and Education Quarterly

Peer Reviewer (journals): Ethnos, Childhood, Feminist Studies

Conference and Scholarly Society Organization:

Co-organizer, Reconstructing Communities in Conflict Working Group, UC Berkeley Review Committee, Youth and Conflict Conference, American University (May 2006)