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**David Rolfe Graeber**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

Department of Anthropology  
Yale University  
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Birth date: February 12, 1961

**Education:**

Doctorate in Anthropology, University of Chicago: June 1996  
dissertation: *The Disastrous Ordeal of 1987: Memory and Violence in Rural Madagascar*.  
Masters in Anthropology, University of Chicago: June 1987  
BA in Anthropology, State University of New York at Purchase: June 1984

**Teaching and Professional/Administrative Experience:**

2004-present, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Yale University  
1998-2004, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Yale University  
Instructor: "Theories of Value in Anthropology" (Spring 2000, Spring 2003, Spring 2005), "A History of Anthropological Theory" (Junior Seminar, Spring 2000), "Power, Violence and Cosmology" (Fall 1999, Fall 2003), "Myth and Ritual" (Spring 1999, Spring 2001, Spring 2003, Spring 2005), "Anthropology and Classical Social Theory" (Spring 1999, Fall 1999, Fall 2000, Fall 2002, Fall 2003), "The Ritualization of Power in Africa" (Fall 1998, Spring 2001), "Societies and Cultures of the Indian Ocean Region" (Fall 1998, Fall 2000, Fall 2002); "Direct Action and Radical Social Theory" (Spring 2004), "Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology" (Spring 2004).  
2004, Seminar, "Value in a Neoliberal World", Institute of Anthropology, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2004-2005, coordinator of the anthropology colloquium series, Yale, along with numerous additional administrative duties (Williams Fund, African Studies Admissions, Prize Committees, etc, from 1998-present)  
1997-1998, Visiting Scholar, New York University  
Instructor, "Human Society and Culture" (NYU, Spring 1998)  
1996-1997, Visiting Assistant Professor at Haverford College  
Instructor, "Fetishism: Theirs and Ours", "Political Anthropology", "Economic Anthropology: Wealth and Power" (Spring Term 1997) "Cultures of the Indian Ocean" (Fall 1996)

Co-Instructor, "Introduction to Anthropology" (with Wyatt MacGaffey and Laurie Hart; Fall 1996)

1994-Present, reader for papers for *American Ethnologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *American Anthropologist*, and *Anthropology Quarterly*, books from Palgrave Press, Rutgers University Press, etc.

1993-94, Teaching Assistant to Marshall Sahlins, "The Nature of Culture" (University of Chicago)

1993, Research Assistant to Marshall Sahlins for the preparation of "How 'Natives' Think".

1993, Instructor, "African Civilizations II: Ritual, Cosmology and the Person" (University of Chicago)

At Yale: African Studies Admission Committee (2000-2002), Silver Prize Committee (2002, 2005), Williams Fund Committee (2005), Colloquium series organizer (2004-2005), I was also co-organizer Autonomous Caravan conference (2003) and numerous minor events.

## **Publications:**

### **a. By invitation/request of editor(s):**

- in preparation** "Rethinking World-Systems Theory", for Review: Journal of the Fernand Braudel Society, co-written with Andrej Grubacic.
- in preparation** "The Very Idea of Consumption: Desire, Phantasms, and the Aesthetics of Destruction in Western Culture" for submission for a special issue of *Current Anthropology*.
- forthcoming** "Democracy Emerges from the Spaces in Between", to appear in Revue du MAUSS Semestrielle, No. 25 (special issue: "Que reste-t-il de l'idéal démocratique?") Premiere Semestre 2005
- forthcoming** *Direct Action: An Ethnography*. Rutgers University Press.
- forthcoming** "Towards An Anarchist Anthropology", to appear in the volume *Beyond Resistance: The Future of Freedom* (Nova Science Press, Robert Fletcher, editor)
- forthcoming** "The Auto-Ethnography that Can Never Be and the Activist Ethnography that Might Be," to appear in *Academic Life Passages*, edited by Donna Young and Anne Meneley, Toronto..
- forthcoming** "Value", a chapter in *A Reader on Economic Anthropology* edited by James Carrier, Elgar Press, 2005.
- forthcoming** "Introduction: The Political Metaphysics of Stupidity" in *The Commoner* ([www.thecommoner.ac.uk](http://www.thecommoner.ac.uk)), Spring 2005 (it appears as the introduction to a special issue on value theory.)
- forthcoming** "O Comunismo de Mauss" co-written with anthropologist Marcos Lanna, to appear in the Brazilian journal *Revista de Antropologia*.
- 2005 "Value", a chapter in *A Reader on Economic Anthropology* edited by James Carrier, Elgar Press.

- 2005 "Azione Diretta e Anarchismo da Seattle in Poi", in *Affinità sovversive: i movimenti sociali americani nella guerra globale* Franco Barchiesi, editor, (Rome: DeriveApprodi, 2005), pp. 65-144.
- 2005 "Alienation", in the Charles Scribner *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*.
- 2004 Review of *Ethnohistory: Emerging Histories in Madagascar* (Jeffrey Kaufmann, ed.), in *Journal of Anthropological Research*, volume 60, pp.145-147.
- 2004 "The Twilight of Vanguardism," in "The World Social Forum: Challenging Empires" (Jai Sen, Anita Anand, Arturo Escobar, Peter Waterman eds.) New Delhi, Viveka Foundation, 2004. (This volume has also appeared in Spanish and German translation.)
- 2004 "La sociologie comme science et comme utopie." In *Revue du MAUSS Semestrielle No. 24*, "Une théorie sociologique générale est-elle pensable?" Second Semestre 2004.
- 2004 *Fragments of an Anarchist Anthropology*. Prickly Paradigm Series (Chicago, University of Chicago Press), April 2004. (This book is due to appear in French translation in the "Instinct de liberté" series from Lux Editeur, Montreal, in March 2005. Negotiations are under way concerning possible editions in Spanish, Turkish, Portuguese, Italian, Korean, and Serbo-Croatian.)
- 2003 "Azione diretta negli Usa e crisi della coalizione del movimento di Seattle (Direct Action in the USA and the crisis of the Seattle coalition)", in *Derive Approdi, special issue In movimento: Stati Unida, Canada, Australia*, Winter 2003/4.
- 2003 "The Globalization Movement and the New New Left", in *Implicating Empire: Globalization and Resistance in the 21st Century* (Stanley Aronowitz and Heather Gautney, eds.), New York: Basic Books, January 2003. This book has appeared in Chinese translation as well.
- 2002 "The New Anarchists", *New Left Review* 13 January/February 2002. It has been translated into Spanish, Turkish, Japanese, and other languages. It also has also appeared in a collection of essays from Verso Press entitled "Movement of Movements" (Tom Mertes, editor, 2004).
- 2002 "Anthropology of Globalization (with Notes on Neomedievalism, and the End of the Chinese Model of the Nation-State)" review essay in *American Anthropologist*, December 2002.
- 2001 "The Globalization Movement: Some Points of Clarification." *Items and Issues* (Newsletter of the Social Science Research Council), November 2001. This essay also appeared on the autonomeia webpage and numerous other webpages and listserves, as well as having been translated into Turkish for the magazine Varlik.

#### **b. Peer-reviewed work:**

- forthcoming "Fetishism and Social Creativity, or Fetishes are Gods in Process of Construction: a Contribution from West Africa", to appear in *Anthropological Theory*.

- forthcoming "Turning Modes of Production Inside Out: Or, Why Capitalism is a Transformation of Slavery (short version)," to appear in a special issue of *Critique of Anthropology* in honor of Terence Turner, Fall 2005.
- 2001 *Toward an Anthropological Theory of Value: The False Coin of Our Own Dreams*. New York: Palgrave. November 2001.
- 1997 "Manners, Deference and Private Property" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (Spring 1997) volume 39 number 4.
- 1997 "Painful Memories" *The Journal of Religion in Africa* (December 1997) dedicated to Madagascar, which also appeared as a book.
- 1996 "Love Magic and Political Morality in Central Madagascar, 1875-1990", *Gender and History* volume 8 no 3 (November 1996). Special issue on "Gendered Colonialisms in African History". This volume also appeared as a book of the same name in May 1997. .
- 1996 "Beads and Money: Notes toward a Theory of Wealth and Power", *American Ethnologist* volume 23 number 1 (February 1996.) This reappeared as chapter 4 of *Towards an Anthropological Theory of Value*.
- 1995 "Dancing with Corpses Reconsidered: an Interpretation of Famadihana in Arivonimamo, (Madagascar)" *American Ethnologist* , volume 22, no 2 (May 1995). This essay was reprinted in a collection called "Religion in Culture and Society" (John R. Bowen, ed.); it is also in the process of being translated into Malagasy for a book of essays in that language to be published under the direction of Maurice Bloch and Michael Lambek.

### c. Work in progress:

- in preparation *On the Nature of Politics: Narrative and Historical Agency in Central Madagascar*: a long-since completed historical ethnography of the Malagasy community of Betafo, under consideration at Indiana University Press. This book has already received four favorable peer reviews at major publishers
- in preparation "The Very Idea of Consumption: Desire, Phantasms, and the Aesthetics of Destruction in Western Culture" in preparation for submission to a special issue of *Current Anthropology* on "The New Keywords".
- In preparation "Value as the Meaning of Actions", to appear in *Revue du MAUSS*, No. 26, Second Semestre, 2005.
- in preparation "Oppression", an essay about political protest and spirit mediumship in Madagascar.

### d. Briefer essays and publications:

- 2004 "Anarchism: The Revolutionary Movement of the 21st Century", with Andrej Grubacic. Published in *MakeWorlds (special issue: Crisis of Representation and the Politics of Space)*, February 2004. This essay has also appeared on the internet in Russian translation, and appeared in Italian translation in the journal *Libertaria* (2004 no 4), and in German in *Kleine Anfrage* (Spring, 2005)
- 2004 "Democracy", in *Momentum*, Summer 2004.
- 2004 "Lying in Wait." *The Nation*, April 19, 2004.

- 2004 Review of *Ethnohistory: Emerging Histories in Madagascar* (Jeffrey Kaufmann, ed.), in *Journal of Anthropological Research*, volume 60, pp.145-147.
- 2002 "A Democratic Multitude" (report on the European Social Forum), *In These Times* November 22, 2002.
- 2002 "When Police Attack", *In These Times*, October 11, 2002.
- 2002 "Reclaiming Democracy", *In These Times*, February 19, 2002.
- 2001 Review of *Border Fetishisms: material Objects in unstable Places* (ed. Patricia Spier, London: Routledge 1998) and *Money and Modernity: State and Local Currencies in Melanesia* (eds. David Akin and Joel Robbins, Pittsburg: University of Pittsburg Press, 1999) in *American Ethnologist*, volume 30, no.1, 2001.
- 2001 "Among the Thugs: Genoa and the New Language of Protest" (first-hand account and analysis of the events surrounding the G8 meeting in Genoa), *In These Times* August 2001. This essay has been widely reprinted in radical magazines, newspapers, and on the internet.
- 2001 Review of *One Market Under God: Extreme Capitalism, Market Populism, and the End of Economic Democracy* (New York: Doubleday, 2001), by Thomas Frank. *In These Times*, March 19, 2001.
- 2000 "What Did This Man Do to the Yanomami?", *In These Times*, November 12, 2000.
- 2000 "Give It Away" (essay on Marcel Mauss and the MAUSS group) *In These Times*, August 21, 2000. This essay now appears in French translation on the group's web homepage (revuedumauss.org), as well having been translated into Turkish for the magazine Varlik. It has also been translated into Portuguese to appear as the introduction to a collection of essays by members of the MAUSS group in Brazil, entitled *A Dádiva Entre Os Modernos: Discussao Sobre Os Fundamentos E As Regras Do Social* ((Paulo Henrique Martins, editor. Petrópolis:Vozes, 2004)
- 2000 "The Riot that Wasn't", *In These Times*, May 29, 2000.
- 2000 "Anarchy in the USA", *In These Times*, January 10, 2000.
- 1999 "We Are All Utopians" (a review of "Whose Millenium, Theirs or Ours?" by Daniel Singer and "The End of Utopia" by Russel Jacoby), in *In These Times*, March 1999. Rewritten and reissued in the anthology "Embracing Utopia" in *Appeal to Reason* (Craig Aaron, ed.), NY: Seven Stories Press, 2002.
- 1998 "Rebel Without A God", a review of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, in *In These Times*, December 1998.
- 1998 "The Politics of Magic", a review of *Magic in the Ancient World* (Fritz Graf, 1998) in *The Nation*, March 1998.
- 1996 "Epilogue" to "The Disastrous Ordeal of 1987". Available from the H-Africa archive on the World Wide Web (<http://h-net2.msu.edu/~africa/sources/graeber.html>), January 1996.
- 1995 Review of "The Pursuit of Certainty: Religious and Cultural Formulations" (Wendy James, ed., 1995), in *American Ethnologist*, volume 24, no. 3.
- 1988 "A Tie is not a Tie" (a critique of the symbolic status of neckties) in *The Grey City Journal*, February 1988.
- 1987 "Why Airports?" (an analysis of the semiotics of terrorism): published in *The Grey City Journal*, March 1987.

## Presentations/Papers

- 2005 "Anthropology, Law, and Anarchism", presented at the seminar "Why Law?" at Cardozo Law School, New York, January 31 2005. This essay is due to be included in an eventual edited volume.
- 2004 "On the Phenomenology of Giant Puppets", presented at Haverford College, October 25, and at the University of Chicago, November 2.
- 2004 "Value Theory in Anthropology", and "Activism and Anthropology", presented at Stockholm University, May 10, 2004.
- 2004 "The New Keywords", paper presented at the Institute of Anthropology, Copenhagen.
- 2004 "Anarchist Anthropology: political engagement and theory in the twilight of vanguardism." Presented at University of Lund, Sweden, April 29, 2004.
- 2004 "Turning Modes of Production Inside out," paper presented at the Conference in Honor of Terence Turner, Cornell University, April 16-17, 2004.
- 2004 "Fetishes are Gods in the Process of Construction: Misunderstandings about Value in Early Modern West Africa", paper presented at the anthropology department, University of Michigan, March 21, 2004.
- 2004 "Alternative Tentacles: Anarchist Globalization and the New Planetary Uprising", paper presented at the Other Globalizations conference, U Cal Santa Cruz, February 21, 2004.
- 2003 "Consumption", paper presented at the session "The New Keywords: Unmasking the Terms of an Emerging Orthodoxy" at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 22 2003.
- 2003 "Does the prospect of a general sociological theory still mean anything in times of globalization?", paper presented at the GEODE international symposium on Sociological Theory (organized by Alain Caillé and Stéphane Dufoix), Paris, June 12-13 2003.
- 2003 "The Twilight of Vanguardism", keynote address at the History Matters conference, The New School, New York, May 3, 2003..
- 2003 "Direct Action and Direct Democracy", keynote paper at the 12th Annual Open Estonia Foundation conference, Tallinn, Estonia, April 25 2003.
- 2002 "The Very Idea of Consumption", essay delivered in the 2002 Social Theory series, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2002 "Ethnography, Vanguardism, and Direct Democracy", paper presented at the session "Against Neoliberal Globalization: Towards New Ethnographic, Theoretical and Political Tools," at the Annual Meeting, American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 24, 2002
- 2002 "Globalization in Very Long Perspective", presented at the Anarchist Forum on Globalization, Brecht Forum, New York, May 14 2002.
- 2001 "Value, Desire and the Consumption of Phantasms", paper presented at the American Anthropological Association meetings in Washington D.C., November 2001.
- 2001 "What Professional Intellectuals Really Ought to Know About Direct Action", paper presented at panel 'Direct Action', at the 'Globalization and Resistance' conference at the CUNY Graduate Center, December 8-9, 2001. I was also the organizer of this panel.

- 2000 “Value, Fetishism and Historical Change”, paper presented at the American Anthropological Association meetings, San Francisco, November 2000 at a session on “Theories of Value in Anthropology” of which I was co-organizer with Tania Forte.
- 2000 “Rumor and Narrative Form”, paper presented at the American Ethnological Association meetings, Tampa, March 2000.
- 1998 “Magic as Unfetishized Consciousness: Kings and Coins in Central Madagascar.” Talk presented at New York University, Haverford College, Yale University (Spring 1998).
- 1996 “Red Clothes, Hidden Power, and Imaginary Books.” Paper presented at the session “What’s the Big Secret Anyway?” at the 1996 meetings of the American Anthropological Association.
- 1995 “The imaginary existence of the state in rural Madagascar.” Paper presented at the session on “Alternative Political Organizations, Religion and History”, at the 1995 meetings of the American Anthropological Association.
- 1995 “Dueling Ancestors: ancestral politics in a divided community in Central Madagascar.” Paper presented for the session on “Ancestral Politics in Central Africa and Madagascar”, at the 1995 meetings of the African Studies Association, Orlando.
- 1993 “Love Magic and Colonial Labor Policy in Central Madagascar.” Paper presented in the session on “Magic, Colonialism, and Power” at the 1993 meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 1993 “Narrative and the Framing of Social Action: Towards a Theory of the Narrativity of Power”, paper presented at the 3rd African and African-American Studies Conference, February 1993, Chicago.

**Research, Skills and Interests:**

**Dissertation Research:** "Magic, History and Slavery in Rural Imerina", a 20-month research project conducted in Madagascar between 1989 and 1991, funded by a Fulbright-IEE. I conducted about seven months of detailed archival research, largely in the Arsivam-Pirenena, or National Archives with court and administrative documents written in Malagasy during the 19th century. The archival work also overlapped with ethnographic fieldwork in and around the town of Arivonimamo and especially the rural community of Betafo in Western Imerina. Topics ranged from the gathering of oral histories to participat observation in mortuary ritual, spirit mediumship, research on magical practice, astrology, narrative, and collective decision-making; all of it conducted in the Malagasy language.

**Current Research Project:** “The Ethnography of Direct Action”, a study of the Direct Action Network and related anarchist and radical democracy movements in the New York Area and elsewhere. In pursuit of this project I have participated in major actions in Washington D.C. (A16, J20, S26, A20), Philadelphia (R2K), New York (WTO, and WEF), Quebec City (FTAA), Genoa (G8), Ottawa (G8), and minor ones too numerous to mention, and worked with groups like NYC-DAN, Ya Basta!, the NYC-ACC, NYC Independent Media Center, and so on.

This project was initiated in April 2000, received funding between 2001 and 2002 from the Junior Faculty Fellowship fund, and has already born fruit in a forthcoming monograph.

**Languages:** Malagasy, French, Spanish

**Interests:** classical social theory, theories of value, exchange and the person; historical change and collective agency; theories of gender, narrativity, and social action; ritual, conflict and social change; manners, class and social power; magic and fetishism; theories of desire; Madagascar; Africa and the Indian Ocean; Classical, Medieval and Early Modern Europe, Anarchism and Radical Social Movements, Direct Action, collective agency.