

## ROBERTO I. ARMENGOL

Sociocultural Anthropologist  
University of Virginia

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### Education

- 2013 *Ph.D. Anthropology*. University of Virginia.  
Thesis: “Invention of the Market: The Political Economy of Everyday Life in Late Socialist Cuba.” Dissertation Chair: Ira Bashkow.
- 1999 *B.A. Liberal Studies*. University of Delaware. Allison Scholar.
- 1997 *Spanish Studies Certificate*. Universidad de Granada.

### Recent Positions and Fellowships

- since 2015 *Postdoctoral Fellow*. University of Virginia. College of Arts and Sciences.
- 2014-2015 *Editor*. BackStory. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. National radio show.
- 2012-2013 *Dissertation Fellow*. University of Virginia. Jefferson Scholars Foundation.
- 2009-2011 *Research Assistant*. University of Virginia. Engineering and Society.
- 2007-2008 *Fulbright-Hayes Fellow*. Doctoral field research in Cuba.
- 2003-2007 *President’s Fellow*. University of Virginia. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

### Specializations

*Research*. Political economy, alternative economic practices, capitalism and globalization, state socialism, science and technology, language and media. Audio documentary and public anthropology.

*Regions*. Cuba, Caribbean, and Latin America; United States; Eastern Europe. Conducted two years of ethnographic fieldwork in Havana.

*Media*. Professional experience in nationally syndicated radio production as a coordinating editor, and in print journalism as editor, staff writer and reporter for newspapers and wire services.

*Languages*. English, Spanish, Portuguese.

*Teaching and curriculum development*. Designing new foundational courses for Arts and Sciences undergraduates at the University of Virginia, with inaugural cohort of College Fellows. Leading teaching workshops. Mentoring faculty peers. Training in course design and active learning. Advising undeclared students on academic progress. Supporting senior theses and independent studies. Working on faculty teams across disciplines and schools.

### Publications

- 2014 [With D.G. Johnson and P.M. Regan.] Secure Flight: Hidden Terms of Accountability. *In* Transparency and Surveillance as Sociotechnical Accountability: A House of Mirrors. D.G. Johnson and P.M. Regan, eds. Routledge Studies in Science, Technology and Society. Pp. 40–58. New York: Routledge.
- 2014 [Case Study] American Red Cross: Institutional Surveillance Requires Surveillance of Institutional Actors. *In* *ibid.* Pp. 59–78. New York: Routledge.
- 2013 Competitive Solidarity and the Political Economy of *Invento*. Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy. *Cuba in Transition*. Vol. 23.

- 2012 [With K. Wayland and D.G. Johnson.] When Transparency Isn't Transparent: Campaign Finance Disclosure and Internet Surveillance. *In* Internet and Surveillance: The Challenges of Web 2.0 and Social Media. C. Fuchs et al., eds. Pp. 255–272. Routledge Studies in Science, Technology and Society. New York: Routledge.
- 2011 *Review of* Cuba in the Shadow of Change: Daily Life in the Twilight of the Revolution, by A.R. Weinreb. *American Ethnologist* 38(4): 835–836.

### Teaching Positions

- since 2014 *Postdoctoral Lecturer*. University of Virginia. Anthropology.
- 2016 *Participant*. University of Virginia. Active Learning Course Design Workshop.
- 2014 *Lecturer*. Roanoke College. Sociology and Anthropology.
- 2013-2014 *Instructor*. University of Virginia. International Studies Office. CORE Seminars.
- 2012-2013 *Graduate Instructor*. University of Virginia. Anthropology.
- 2010-2011 *Lecturer*. Washington and Lee University. Sociology and Anthropology.
- 2008-2010 *Graduate Associate*. University of Virginia. Center for Teaching Excellence.
- 2006-2010 *Teaching Workshop Instructor*. University of Virginia. College of Arts and Sciences.
- 2006-2007 *Teaching Workshop Coordinator*. University of Virginia. Anthropology.
- 2004-2008 *Teaching Assistant*. University of Virginia. Anthropology, Media Studies, Engineering.

### Teaching Awards

- 2012 *Best Graduate Instructor*. University of Virginia. Anthropology.
- 2007 *Class of 1985 Fellowship for Creative Teaching*. University of Virginia.

### Courses

#### *Taught*

Anthropology of Politics	Journalism and the Media
Cuba in the U.S. Imaginary	Language and Culture
Cultural Theory	Racism, Nationalism, Multiculturalism
Documentary Radio	Semiotics and Materiality
Ethnography of the Caribbean	Technology and Democracy
Ethnophotography	Technology and the Future
Markets and Moralities	Theory and History of Anthropology
Introduction to Anthropology	Understanding Cultural Relativity
Introduction to Globalization	

#### *In development*

Anthropology of Socialism  
 The Art of Fact  
 Qualitative Human Research  
 Sustainable Cultures  
 Technology and the Myth of Progress

### Presentations, Interviews, Public Panels

- 2016 *Organizer*. What is the Opposite of Neoliberalism? Ethnographic Evidence, Accidental Affinities, Paradoxical Struggles. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Minneapolis. Nov. 16.

- 2016 Whatever Neoliberalism Is, State Socialism Is Not Its Opposite: Notes on the Cuban Revolution. *In* What is the Opposite of Neoliberalism? Ethnographic Evidence, Accidental Affinities, Paradoxical Struggles. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Minneapolis. Nov. 16.
- 2015 *Invited Lecture*. The Morality of Invention: Or, the People's Socialism in Contemporary Cuba. UVa Darden School of Business. Charlottesville. Dec. 1.
- 2015 *Discussant*. Film screening: *Return to Cuba: In the Footsteps of Walker Evans*. Virginia Film Festival. Charlottesville. Nov. 8.
- 2013 *Participant*. Anthropologies of Socialism and After. Student–Faculty Workshop. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Chicago. Nov. 22.
- 2013 *Expert source*. BBC. Cómo el ‘cuentapropismo’ está cambiando en Cuba. August 16.
- 2013 *Moderator*. Re-Examining Cuba. Virginia Festival of the Book. Charlottesville. March 22.
- 2012 *Organizer*. Recycling Mauss: ‘Old’ Solidarities in New Times of Crisis. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. San Francisco. Nov. 18.
- 2012 Introduction: Anthropology and the ‘Obscure Aspects of Social Life.’ *In* Recycling Mauss: ‘Old’ Solidarities in New Times of Crisis. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. San Francisco. Nov. 18.
- 2011 Making Heroes and Heretics: On Symbolic Tension in Socialist Cuba. *In* Tropical Socialism: Rethinking Socialism and Postsocialism in / through Cuba. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Montreal. Nov. 17.
- 2010 Democracy as Game and Ritual: Notes on a Cuban Election. *In* Democracy and Personhood: Meditations on a Theme from Tocqueville. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. New Orleans. Nov. 21.
- 2010 Sunshine — or a House of Mirrors? Rethinking Transparency in Campaign Finance Disclosure. *In* A Global Surveillance Society? Surveillance Studies Network Biannual Surveillance and Society Conference. London. April 13.
- 2010 *Invited Panelist*. Virtual Reality Check, Cuba: The Social Uses and Meanings of Information Technology in Everyday Life. *In* Reality in Cuba Today. Cuba IT & Social Media Summit. Cuba Study Group. New York. Jan. 15.
- 2009 Driving with the Enemy: The Meanings of American Cars in Cuban Culture. *In* Charon: Vehicles as Metaphors and Metaphors as Vehicles. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Philadelphia. Dec. 4.
- 2009 Transparency Practices at the American Red Cross. *In* Surveillance and Transparency as Sociotechnical Systems of Accountability. Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science. Washington, D.C. Oct. 29.
- 2009 Buying Chicken Under the Counter and Other Ethnographic Problems. *In* Suspicion, Transparency, and the Uses and Meanings of Secrecy. Center for Critical Human Survival Issues Annual Symposium. Charlottesville. April 16.
- 2008 *Radio guest*. NPR. Cubans Talk Baseball, Not Castro. Interview from Havana. Feb. 20.
- 2006 Aftermath, Improvised: Reinventing New Orleans Online and On-Air. *In* Humanities Section. College of William & Mary American Cultures Conference. Williamsburg, Va. March 24.
- 2006 Island of Ambiguity: Informal Networks and Daily Life in Contemporary Cuba. *In* Cuba in the '90s. CRI Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies. Miami. Feb. 6.

## Academic Service and Memberships

- 2013-2014 *Chair*. Anthropology Department Professional Speaker Series. University of Virginia.
- 2012-2013 *Board Member and Translator*. Revista de Antropología Iberoamericana.
- 2012-2013 *Social Sciences Editor*. The Jefferson Journal of Science and Culture.
- 2012-2013 *Chair*. University of Virginia. Anthropology Graduate Awards Committee.
- 2012-2013 *Peer Referee*. PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review.
- 2010-2012 *Assistant Editor*. Anthropology and Humanism.
- since 2009 *Member*. American Anthropological Association.
- since 2009 *Member*. Society for Cultural Anthropology.
- 2005-2006 *Graduate Faculty Representative*. Anthropology Department. University of Virginia.

## Other Professional Experience

- 2004-2005 *Culture Editor and Columnist*. The Hook. Charlottesville, Va.
- 1999-2002 *Staff Writer*. The Intelligencer. Bucks County, Pa.
- 1999 *Reporter*. Bloomberg News. Based in Wilmington, Del.
- 1997 *Staff Reporter*. The News Journal. Wilmington, Del.
- 1996-1998 *Senior Editor et al*. The Review. Newark, Del.

## Other Awards and Honors

- 2013 *Jorge Pérez-López Best Paper Prize*. Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy.
- 2013 *Best Dissertation Chapter*. University of Virginia. Anthropology
- 2001 *Environmental Reporting Award*. Society of Professional Journalists. Pennsylvania Chapter.
- 2001 *Daily Newspaper Writing Award*. Philadelphia Press Association.
- 2001 *Public Service Reporting Award*. Philadelphia Press Association.
- 1997 *Chips Quinn Scholarship for Excellence in Journalism*. The Freedom Forum.

## Public Service

- since 2010 *Youth Soccer Coach*. SOCA. Charlottesville, Va.
- since 2012 *Founding Member*. Garden Committee. Venable Elementary School. Charlottesville, Va.
- 2009-2010 *Member*. Charlottesville Public Schools. Foreign Language Advisory Board.