

Recent Publications

Community Fellow: Peter Pels

(as of 1/08/2016)

name: Peter (Petrus Johannes) Pels

born: 21 October 1958

(This list omits articles in *Skript*, *Sociodrome*, *Facta*, the *Newsletter of the American Anthropological Association*, and *De Volkskrant*, and book reviews in *Africa*, *Africa Today*, *African Studies Review*, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land-, and Volkenkunde*, *Etnofoor*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Krisis*, *NRC-Handelsblad*, and *Social Anthropology*.)

work in progress:

- (1) *The Spirit of Matter. Modernity, Religion, and the Power of Objects*. Under review for an advance contract with Chicago University Press (estimated completion December 2017).
- (2) *Imagining Elections. Publicity, Secrecy, and Modern Politics in Late Colonial Uluguru (Tanzania)* (book length-manuscript, ¾ finished).
- (3) The Extended Case for Method, to be submitted to *Social Anthropology*.
- (4) Rumors of Nationalism. Contesting public authority in late colonial Tanganyika, to be resubmitted to the *American Ethnologist*.
- (5) Magic and Technology, to be submitted to the *Journal of Material Culture*.
- (6) The Fervor of Objectivity, or: Why Modernity Defeats the Definition of Religion (Any Time), to be submitted to *Critical Studies in Religion*.
- (7) (with Anke Kamerman) A Family of Forms: A Pattern Analysis of the Çatalhöyük 'Brick' Paintings. To be submitted to an archaeological journal.

Books (*invited):

- (2008)* (ed. with Peter Geschiere and Birgit Meyer) *Readings in Modernity in Africa*. Oxford/Bloomington: James Currey/Indiana University Press.
- (2007) (ed. with Romain Bertrand and Jean Louis Briquet) *Cultures of Voting. The Hidden History of the Secret Ballot*. London/Bloomington: Hurst & Co./Indiana University Press (vii + 256 pp.).
- (2005)* (ed. with Lynn Meskell) *Embedding Ethics*. London/New York: Berg (x + 326 pp.).
- (2003) (ed. with Birgit Meyer) *Magic and Modernity. Interfaces of Revelation and Concealment*. Stanford: Stanford University Press (viii + 390 pp.).
- (1999) (ed. with Oscar Salemink) *Colonial Subjects. Essays in the Practical History of Anthropology*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press (354 pp.) (first paperback edition: 2000).
- (1999) *A Politics of Presence. Contacts between Missionaries and Africans in Late Colonial Tanganyika*. Chur: Harwood Academic Publishers (354 pp.).
- (1998) (ed. with A.L. Molendijk) *Religion in the Making. Essays on the History of the Sciences of Religion*. Leiden: Brill (318 pp.).
- (1994) (ed. with Oscar Salemink) *Colonial Ethnographies*, special issue of *History and Anthropology* 8 nos. 1-4 (356 pp.).
- (1991) (ed. with Lorraine Nencel) *Constructing Knowledge. Authority and Critique in Social Science*. London: Sage Publications Ltd. (224 pp.)

articles in journals:

- (2017) Enchanted Reason: Science Fiction, Print Capitalism, and the Magic of Anthropology, *Anthropology Today* (in press).
- (2015) Modern Times: Seven Steps to an Anthropology of the Future, *Current Anthropology* 56/6: 779-796.
- (2014) After Objectivity: An Historical Approach to the Intersubjective in Ethnography, *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 4(1): 211-236.
- (2011) 'Global' experts and 'African minds': Tanganyika Anthropology as Public and Secret Service, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 17 (4) : 788-810.
- (2008) What has Anthropology Learned from the Anthropology of Colonialism?, *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie sociale* 16/3: 280-299.
- (2008) The Modern Fear of Matter: Reflections on the Protestantism of Victorian Science, *Material Religion* 4/3: 264-283.
- (2006) Response to Matt Bradshaw, *LATISS (Learning and Teaching in the Social Sciences)* 2(3): 207-210.
- (2002) The Confessional Ethic and the Spirits of the Screen. Reflections on the Modern Fear of Alienation, *Etnofoor* 15 (1/2): 90-118.
- (2002) Creolization in Secret. The Birth of Nationalism in Late Colonial Uluguru, *Africa* 72/1: 1-28.
- (2001) Imaginer les élections. Modernité, médiation et vote secret en Tanganyika á la fin de la période coloniale, *Politique Africaine* no. 83 (Oct.): 135-50.
- (1999) The Magic of Africa. Reflections on a Western Commonplace, *African Studies Review* 41/3: 193-209.
- (1999) Professions of Duplexity. A Prehistory of Ethical Codes in Anthropology, *Current Anthropology* 40/2: 101-136 (with CA comments and reply).
- (1997) The Anthropology of Colonialism: Culture, History and the Emergence of Western Governmentality, *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26: 163-83.
- (1996) *Kizungu* Rhythms. Luguru Christianity as *Ngoma*, *Journal of Religion in Africa* XXVI: 163-201.
- (1996) The Pidginization of Luguru Politics. Administrative Ethnography and the Paradoxes of Indirect Rule, *American Ethnologist* 24: 738-61.
- (1995) Spiritual Facts and Super-Visions: The Conversion of Alfred Russel Wallace, *Etnofoor* 8/2: 69-91.
- (1994) (with Oscar Salemink) Introduction: Five Theses on Ethnography as Colonial Practice, *History and Anthropology* 8: 1-34.
- (1994) The Construction of Ethnographic Occasions in Late Colonial Uluguru, *History and Anthropology* 8: 321-56.
- (1992) Mumiani: the White Vampire. A Neo-Diffusionist Analysis of Rumour, *Etnofoor* 5: 165-187.
- (1989) (with Lorraine Nencel) Critique and Reflexivity in Anthropology. A Report on the Bob Scholte Memorial Conference, held in Amsterdam, December 1988, *Critique of Anthropology* 9(3): 81-9.
- (1989) Africa Christo! The Use of Photographs in Dutch Catholic Mission Propaganda, 1946-1960. Photographic Essay, *Critique of Anthropology* 9: 33-47.
- (1986) Defensief, teruggetrokken, veilig en voorzichtig: de stijl van de Nederlandse antropologie, *Kennis en Methode* 10: 150-168.

articles in books (*invited):

- (2017)* The Legitimacy of Exotic Entertainment: Reflections on the Confinement of Ethnographic ‘Specimens’ Within and Outside Museum Walls, in P. ter Keurs (ed.) *Museums and Confinement* (in press).
- (2017)* Ethnography, intersubjective, in H. Callan, *The International Encyclopaedia of Anthropology*. London: Wiley.
- (2015)* The Future is NOW: The Global Sixties and its Fragments, in M. Shatanawi & W. Modest (ed.) *The Sixties: A Worldwide Happening*, 110-121. Amsterdam: Lecturis and Tropenmuseum.
- (2015)* Magic, in S. Brent Rodriguez Plate (ed.) *Key Terms in Material Religion*, p. 117-22. London: Bloomsbury.
- (2014)* Magic, *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics* (2nd Edition), ed. Michael Kelly; Vol.4: 233-236. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- (2014) (with Carolyn Nakamura) Using ‘Magic’ to Think from the Material: Tracing Distributed Agency, Revelation and Concealment at Çatalhöyük, in I. Hodder (ed.) *Religion at Work in a Neolithic Society: Vital Matters*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 187-224.
- (2013) Amazing Stories. How Science Fiction Sacralizes the Secular, in J. Stolow (ed.) *Deus in Machina. Religion, Technology, and the Things in Between*. New York: Fordham University Press, 213-238.
- (2013)* The Moral Ordeals of Anthropology, in Didier Fassin and Samuel Lézé (eds.) *Moral Anthropology. A Critical Reader*. London and New York: Routledge, 347-356.
- (2012)* The Modern Fear of Matter: Reflections on the Protestantism of Victorian Science, in B. Meyer & D. Houtman (eds.) *Things: Material Religion and the Topography of Divine Spaces*. New York: Fordham University Press, 27-39.
- (2011)* Taboe en geheim. Waarom wordt er gezwegen? In P. Schnabel et al. (red.) *De gammacanon. Wat iedereen moet weten van de menswetenschappen*, 54-57.
- (2010)* Ethics, Anthropological, in A. Barnard and J. Spencer (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology*, 236-238. (2nd edition) London/New York: Routledge.
- (2010)* Magical Things: On Fetishes, Commodities and Computers, in M. Beaudry and D. Hicks (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Material Culture Studies*, 613-633. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- (2010) Temporalities of ‘Religion’ at Çatalhöyük, in I. Hodder (ed.) *Religion in the Emergence of Civilization*, 220-267. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- (2010) (with Ian Hodder) History Houses, in I. Hodder (ed.) *Religion in the Emergence of Civilization*, 163-186. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- (2009)* Missionaries, in A. Iriye and P-Y. Saunier (eds.) *Dictionary of Transnational History*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- (2008) (with Stef Aupers and Dick Houtman) Cybergnosis. Technology, Religion, and the Secular, in H. de Vries (ed.) *Religion. Beyond a Concept*, 687-703. New York: Fordham University Press.
- (2008) (with Peter Geschiere and Birgit Meyer) Introduction, in P. Geschiere, B. Meyer & P. Pels (eds.) *Readings in Modernity in Africa*, 1-7. Oxford/Bloomington: James Currey/Indiana University Press.
- (2008) The Pidginization of Luguru Politics. Administrative Ethnography and the Paradoxes of Indirect Rule, in P. Geschiere, B. Meyer & P. Pels (eds.) *Readings in Modernity in Africa*, 57-71. Oxford/Bloomington: James Currey/Indiana University Press (reprint of 1996).

- (2007) (with R. Bertrand and J-L Briquet) Introduction: Towards a Historical Ethnography of Voting, in R. Bertrand, J-L Briquet and P.Pels (eds.), *Cultures of Voting. The Hidden History of the Secret Ballot*, 1-15. London/Bloomington: Hurst & Co./Indiana University Press.
- (2007) Imagining Elections: Modernity, Mediation and the Secret Ballot in Late Colonial Tanganyika, in R. Bertrand, J-L Briquet and P.Pels (eds.), *Cultures of Voting. The Hidden History of the Secret Ballot*, 100-113. London/Bloomington: Hurst & Co./Indiana University Press.
- (2007)* Afterword: Writing in the Margins of a Marginal Discipline, in Peter Hulme and Russell McDougall (eds.), *Writing, Travel and Empire: On the Margins of Anthropology* (in press). London/New York: I.B. Tauris.
- (2006)* 'Wo's Keine Zehn Gebote Gibt'. Eine Revision des Verständnisses von Ethik anlässlich des Darkness-in-El-Dorado-Skandals, in A. Hornbacher (red.) *Ethik, Ethos, Ethnos. Aspekte und Probleme Interkultureller Ethik*, pp. 37-73. Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag.
- (2005) (with Lynn Meskell) Introduction: Embedding Ethics, in L. Meskell and P. Pels (eds.) *Embedding Ethics*, 1-26. London/New York: Berg.
- (2005) 'Where There Aren't No Ten Commandments': *Darkness in El Dorado* and the Anthropological Moralities Beyond Ethical Codes, in L. Meskell and P. Pels (eds.) *Embedding Ethics*, 69-99. London/New York: Berg.
- (2003) Introduction: Magic and Modernity, in: B. Meyer and P. Pels (eds.) *Magic and Modernity. Interfaces of Revelation and Concealment*, 1-38. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- (2003) Spirits of Modernity: Alfred Wallace, Edward Tylor and the Visual Politics of Facts, in: B. Meyer and P. Pels (eds.) *Magic and Modernity. Interfaces of Revelation and Concealment*, 241-271. Stanford: Stanford University Press (revised version from 1995).
- (2002) How Anthropology Dissolves its Object: 'Critical Anthropology' at the University of Amsterdam from 1975 to the present, in: H.F. Vermeulen and J.H.M. Kommers (eds.), *Tales from Academia: History of Anthropology in the Netherlands*, part I: pp. 365-391. Nijmegen/Saarbrücken: NICCOS/Verlag für Entwicklungspolitik (Nijmegen Studies in Development and Cultural Change no. 39).
- (2000) Occult Truths: Race, Conjecture and Theosophy in Victorian Anthropology, in: R. Handler & G.W. Stocking (eds.) *Excluded Ancestors, Inventible Traditions: Essays Towards a More Inclusive History of Anthropology* (History of Anthropology vol. 9), 11-41. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- (2000) The Trickster's Dilemma. Anthropological Ethics and Method as Liberal Technologies of Self, in: Marilyn Strathern (ed.) *Audit Cultures. Anthropological studies in accountability, ethics and the academy*, 135-172. London/New York: Routledge.
- (2000) *Kizungu* Rhythms. Luguru Christianity as *Ngoma*, in Frank Gunderson & Gregory Barz (eds.), *Mashindano! Competitive Music Performance in East Africa*, 101-142. Dar es Salaam/London: Mkuki na Nyota Publishers/African Books Collective Ltd. (reprint from 1996).
- (1999) (with Oscar Salemink) Introduction: Locating the Colonial Subjects of Anthropology, in: P. Pels and O. Salemink (eds.) *Colonial Subjects. Essays in the Practical History of Anthropology*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, pp. 1-52.

- (1999) The Rise and Fall of the Indian Aborigines. Orientalism, Anglicism and the Emergence of an Ethnology of India, in: P. Pels and O. Saleminck (eds.) *Colonial Subjects. Essays in the Practical History of Anthropology*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 82-116.
- (1998) The Spirit of Matter: On Fetish, Rarity, Fact and Fancy, in: Patricia Spyer (ed.) *Border Fetishisms. Material Objects in Unstable Spaces*. New York/London: Routledge, p. 91-121.
- (1998) From Texts to Bodies: Brian Houghton Hodgson and the Emergence of Ethnology in India, in: J.G. van Bremen and A. Shimizu (eds.), *Anthropology and Colonialism in Asia*. London: Curzon Press, pp. 65-92 (revised version of 1994d).
- (1996) (with Rijk van Dijk) Contested Authorities and the Politics of Perception: Deconstructing the Study of Religion in Africa, in: R. Werbner and T.O. Ranger (eds.) *Postcolonial Identities in Africa*. London: Zed Books, pp. 245-270.
- (1994) The Politics of Aboriginality. Brian Houghton Hodgson and the Making of an Ethnology of India, *First Yearbook of the International Institute for Asian Studies* 1994: 147-168.
- (1992) Africa Christo! The Use of Photographs in Dutch Catholic Mission Propaganda, 1946-1960, in: J.-W. Gerritsen and H. Sonneveld (eds.), *Tweede jaarboek Onderzoeksschool Sociale Wetenschap Amsterdam*. Amsterdam: Thesis Publishers. (Revised reprint of 1989a.)
- (1991) (with Lorraine Nencel) Introduction: Critique and the Deconstruction of Anthropological Authority, in L. Nencel and P. Pels (eds.), *Constructing Knowledge. Authority and Critique in Social Science*. London: Sage Publications Ltd, pp. 1-21.
- (1990) Anthropology and Mission: Towards a Historical Analysis of Professional Identity, in: R. Bonsen, H. Marks, J. Miedema (eds.), *The Ambiguity of Rapprochement. Reflections of anthropologists of their controversial relationship with missionaries*. Nijmegen: Focaal.

scientific reports:

- (2013)* (with Michiel Baud en Susan Legène) *Draaien om de werkelijkheid. Rapport over het wetenschappelijk werk van Prof. Em. M.M.G.Bax*. Amsterdam: Vrije Universiteit (67 pp.).

review essays (* invited):

- (2015)* The Raw and the Overcooked. Some Comments on Stephan Palmie's *Cooking of History, Magic, Ritual and Witchcraft* 10: 219-225.
- (2013)* A 'Black Hole' of Imperial Amnesia (review of P. Chatterjee, *The Black Hole of Empire*), *Current Anthropology* 54/5.
- (2009)* In Difficult Order: Anthropology, History, Politics, Discipline, *Current Anthropology* 50/5.
- (2001)* Review of *Darkness in Eldorado* by Patrick Tierney, *Current Anthropology* 42/2: 268-269.
- (1998) Religion, Consumerism and the New Age Movement - A review essay, *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford* 29/3: 263-272.
- (1996)* The Visions of Anthropology, *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 38/2: 376-79.

- (1995) Colonialism and Culture, *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 151-2: 312-3.
- (1995)* Alterity as Intellectual Involvement, *Semiotica* 106-3/4: 393-8.
- (1991) De droom van een gevangene. Ton Lemaire in de cirkels van de intellectuele verbeelding, *Etnofoor* 4: 145-67.
- (1990) How did Bishop Arkfeld get his Feathered Mitre? Contradiction and Irony in the Ethnography of Missions, *Critique of Anthropology* 10 (1): 103-112.

unpublished:

- (1993) *Critical Matters. Interactions between Missionaries and Waluguru in Colonial Tanganyika, 1930-1961*. Ph.D. Thesis, Department of Cultural Anthropology, University of Amsterdam.
- (1986) *Barriers and Boundaries. An Essay on the Production of Scientific Authority in Academic Education*. M.A. thesis, Sociology, University of Amsterdam.
- (1986) *Customary Legalists. Steps to a Reflexive Legal Anthropology*. M.A. thesis, Anthropology, University of Amsterdam.