



Culture

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology

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Anthropologist of the Fortnight

Margaret Mead (b. Philadelphia, 1901–1978)

Margaret Mead is the most well known personality in American Anthropology. She earned a doctorate at Columbia, studying with Franz Boas and Ruth Benedict. Her earliest ethnographic work resulted in the best-seller *Coming of Age in Samoa*. Mead was able to illustrate that biologically determined features of human development like adolescence and sexual development were influenced by cultural constraints. Although “cultural relativity” is a commonly understood concept today, her work was the first presentation of such findings to the public. The political impact Mead achieved through her publications, speaking engagements and her 43 years of work at the American Museum of Natural History insured the significance of anthropology while bringing terms like “culture” into the vernacular.

Quotation of the Fortnight

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. M. Mead

Anthropological Terms of Interest

The **Neolithic** (literally, “New Stone Age”) **Revolution** was an era when humanity started domesticating plants and animals about 10,000 years ago. The food surpluses that resulted from this lifestyle shift allowed for the development of complex societies and the first civilizations. Although considered an improvement by most, the costs of civilization include longer working hours, large-scale organized warfare, slavery, the population explosion, epidemics and gaps between classes and sexes.

Join the AnthroClub

The Anthropology Club is organizing a variety of activities for this semester. Join now and get in on the ground floor. Non-majors welcome. Call 278-7574.

“Anthros” Closer to Home

“My Summer Vacation”

This was a particularly busy summer for members of the Anthropology Department. The next few issues of *Culture Inscribed* will include descriptions of some of these activities.

Sociocultural Anthropologist Hank Delcore reports the following:

“Over the summer, I spent five weeks in China, most of it in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. I was chosen by the University Studies Abroad Consortium (which includes Fresno State) to be a student in a study abroad program, to learn about these programs in general. I also got to fulfill a lifelong desire to go to China, and I was not disappointed. Chengdu is a “small city” by Chinese standards (about 8 million people), and there was no end to interesting social and cultural events and situations to take in. The Chinese people I met generally seemed abuzz with optimism and self-confidence about their national future, proud of their economic progress and political assertiveness. In spite of what one might expect, most people there have a positive view of the United States and of individual Americans. I felt welcome and experienced many kindnesses, both big and small. I'll have more to say about my trip in some of my classes this semester.”

Up-Coming Events

The Department of Anthropology will be hosting an **anthropology student reception** in September (TBA). This will be an opportunity for the students of the Summer Archeology Field School to report on their findings as well as give us all a chance to visit with others of “our tribe”.

Stay Informed

Join the department Listserve and receive periodic announcements. To join, send an e-mail to Jim Mullooly (jmullooly@csufresno.edu). Feel free to include multiple addresses.

AnthroNews

Need a GE class?

Anthropology just added a section of ANTH 161: Biological and Behavioral Evolution. TIME: T/TH 9:30 – 10:45 am. INSTRUCTOR: Lisa Anderson. SEC. 1, CLASS #: 75181.

Departmental Changes

A variety of changes in the department of anthropology are worth noting.

Due to budgetary considerations, the support staff of Anthropology has merged with the departments of Africana and American Indian Studies and Economics. Whereas one used to find Geri in Peters 389, one will now find **Sherry, Karen** or **Cynthia** in 393. We apologize in advance for the confusion this merger may cause you in the coming months.

We want to congratulate **Dr. John Pryor** on his promotion from Associate to Full Professor.

Finally, we welcome **Dr. Ellen Gruenbaum** to our faculty. Ellen was the Dean of Social Sciences before coming to Anthropology.

Who's Who in Anthropology

As "identity" is a rather important concept in some fields of anthropology, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a brief description of Anthropology Department "identities".

Administrative Leadership

Roger LaJeunesse. Professor of Biological and Forensic Anthropology and **Chairman of the Anthropology Department**. **Interests:** Physical anthropology, mathematical modeling, population studies, human evolution, forensics, bone chemistry.

Franklin Ng. Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology and **Coordinator of Asian American Studies**. **Interests:** Cultural anthropology, Asian-Americans, ethnicity, East Asia, Hawaii.

Administrative Support Staff

Without whom we would be lost!

Sherry McCulloch

Karen Lowe

Cynthia Valdez

Department Faculty

Lisa Anderson. Instructor of Physical Anthropology and Archaeology. **Interests:** Pacific Archaeology, Traditional and Transitional Hawaiian Culture, Osteology, Historic Preservation, Pacific Islands.

Henry Delcore. Assistant Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology. **Interests:** Life history, Development, Popular Thai Buddhism and animism, Social memory, Southeast Asia, Thailand.

Walter Dodd. Assistant Professor of Archaeology and Sociocultural Anthropology. **Interests:** Ethno-archaeology, agrarian ecology, lithic analysis, Southwestern North America.

Charles Ettner. Instructor of Sociocultural Anthropology. **Interests:** Ethnicity, identity, minority group education, linguistic anthropology, Native American peoples, East and Southeast Asia.

Ellen Gruenbaum. Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology. **Interests:** Gender, anthropology of health, culture, Islam and women, Sudan.

James Mullooly. Assistant Professor of Sociocultural and Educational Anthropology. **Interests:** Applied anthropology, ethnomethodology, social reproduction, culture theory, North America.

Shaylah Padgett-Weibel. Instructor of Sociocultural Anthropology. **Interests:** Law and family, critical thinking, North America.

John Pryor. Professor of Archaeology and Sociocultural Anthropology. **Interests:** Complex hunter gatherers, style, and material culture studies, teacher education, California.

C. Kristina Roper. Instructor of Archaeology. **Interests:** Hunter-gatherers, high-altitude adaptation, exchange, historic preservation, obsidian studies, GIS, collections management, Western US.

Penny Verin-Shapiro. Instructor of Sociocultural Anthropology. **Interests:** Medical and psychological anthropology, religion, mental health and identity, Latin American and the Caribbean.

Tony Yamamoto. Instructor of Sociocultural Anthropology. **Interests:** Asian-Americans, status and identity, ethnicity, East Asia, Japan.

Contributing Editorial Board

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