



Culture Incribed

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology

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Anthropologist of the Fortnight

Sir E.E. Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973)

Evans-Pritchard was one of Great Britain's most significant figures in the development of social anthropology. He is best known for his work amongst the Azande and Nuer tribes of southern Sudan and his theoretical work in the area of religion is still influential. Evans-Pritchard argued against the notion of anthropology as a natural science (argued by Radcliffe-Brown and others) and believed that the field is best understood as one of the humanities. In terms of the study of religion, he claimed that the researcher's personal perspective on religion heavily influenced that person's research of religion. Evans-Pritchard argued that non-believers are more likely to explain religious experience in terms of biological or psychological theories that accommodate illusion, whereas believers are more likely to explain religion in terms of humans' conceptualization of reality.

Anthropological Terms of Interest

Cultural anthropologists describe **rites of intensification** as opportunities for members of a culture to strengthen the bonds that hold them together or reaffirm processes germane to their survival (e.g., the Roman Catholic rite of confirmation).

-- Breaking Anthropology News --

The Department of Anthropology will be hosting its own "rite of intensification" in the form of an **anthropology student reception on Thursday, September 23rd in Peters 389 from 3:00-5:00pm**. This will be an opportunity for 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". All Anthropologists, Anthropology majors, minors and those considering a major are welcome.

"Anthros" Closer to Home

"My Summer Vacation" Continued

This was a particularly busy summer for members of the Anthropology Department. The September issue of the University Journal reports that Sociocultural and Medical Anthropologist Ellen Gruenbaum recently returned from Sudan, where she spent part of her sabbatical as a Visiting Professor at Ahfad University for Women in Omdurman.

During February and March she advised students in their master's degree program in Gender and Development Studies and did research on the social movement against traditional female genital cutting practices. Being in Sudan also gave her the opportunity to return to the two villages she has been studying since the 1970s for additional research.

In May, Dr. Gruenbaum returned to Khartoum as a consultant for UNICEF, carrying out four community studies for a research project on female genital cutting in West Kordofan and Kassala states. Although the original plan included communities in South Darfur as well, Gruenbaum's research team had to postpone that portion of the project. Instead, Gruenbaum worked on research for CARE, investigating the results two years later of one community's declaration of intent to discontinue female genital cutting.

In addition to writing, Gruenbaum will be using this new research in her teaching in anthropology and women's studies this fall.

Culture Quip

By Mike Mullooly

Digging up the Past Report of the Summer 2004 Archaeology Field Class

By Elizabeth Campos

Archaeology is an anthropological subfield that studies cultures based on materials left behind or in some cases still present and in much use. In this case Fresno State students, including myself, camped near Mariposa for three weeks during the summer. We dug and studied the material culture of the Native American Miwoks from the local area. Our group found many arrowheads and flakes made out of different types of material such as chert and obsidian. We also found polishing stones and milling slabs used by the Miwoks to crush seeds and nuts.

An important part of this field class was that we learned hands on, and really got to enjoy the area. The discovery of one arrowhead fully paid off any frustration incurred during days of hard, apparently fruitless, work. We learned a lot about the environment and the different types of plants there. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about field methods in a "real research" setting. I also want to mention that it was, as well, great to get to know my fellow college students better.

Our free time was well spent going to town or telling stories as the sun set over the hills. This course is not only great for those interested in archaeology but also for those in fields such as cultural anthropology (like me), history, forensics, geology, geography and more. If interested, please contact me by e-mail (campos_4_6@hotmail.com) or the Department of Anthropology.

News from the Anthro Club Report on the Student Services Expo

By Tara Ders

The Anthro Club participated in the Student Services Expo this year held on August 25th in the Free Speech Area. Although we were not handing out free bagels and soda, we were intent on informing many people about anthropology and the department at Fresno State. We gladly signed up some new members and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the Anthro Club!

Anthro Club Meeting Minutes

The Anthro Club had its first meeting of the year last week and discussed a number of exciting events planned for this year. Predominant among them was a desire to get involved with Stone Soup Fresno's efforts to assist in the relocation of about 3000 Hmong refugees that will be arriving in Fresno in the coming months. Members of the Anthro Club attended the forum, "Living Well in America: The University's Role in Hmong Refugee Resettlement," on September 7th and decided to look into how our association can assist in this culturally significant humanitarian need that has local as well as global implications. If interested in helping out, contact Anthro Club President Gilberto Lopez at <yinyin71@yahoo.com>.

Future meetings will be held on Wednesdays in the Union at 12:00pm. For more information contact Gilberto Lopez or join the department Listserve by sending an message to <jmullooly@csufresno.edu>.

Up Coming Cultural Events Armenian Studies Lecture

The Armenian Studies Program cordially invites you to attend a lecture by Dr. Hans-Jürgen Feulner on "**The Development of the Armenian Liturgy: The Divine Liturgy - Surb Patarag**" Thursday, September 23 at 7:30 PM at the University Business Center Room 194 A-C. This event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program office at 278-2669.

Japanese Drumming

USU Productions CenterStage presents **One World Taiko** on Saturday, September 25 at 7 P.M. at the Satellite Student Union. The event is free for Fresno State students and \$5.00 for the public.

It's a Boy!

On personal note, I would like to announce the birth of my son **Seán Fergus Mullooly** on the 17th of September. Mother and child are well, and dad could not be more proud. JM

Contributing Editorial Board

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