



# Culture Incribed

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology

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## Anthropologist of the Fortnight

**Ibn Khaldun** (1332-1406)

**Ibn Khaldun** was one of the world's first social scientists and was one of the strongest personalities of Arabo-Muslim world while he lived. Born in Tunis as Ibn Khaldun, Wali al-Din 'Abd al-Rahman b. Muhammad b. Muhammad b. Abi Bakr Muhammad b. al-Hasan in 1332, this philosopher, historian and sociologist is best known for his book **Al Muqaddimah** (the Introduction to History) which describes the rise and fall of states through a constant renewal of the ruling group by nomads conquering the towns and settled lands. Although much has changed since **Ibn Khaldun's** time, current conceptualizations core-periphery and global-local connections are reminiscent of this great thinker's analysis.

## Quotation of the Fortnight

Prestige is an accident that affects human beings. It comes into being and decays inevitably. No human being exists who possesses an unbroken pedigree of nobility from Adam down to himself. – Ibn Khaldun

## Anthropological Terms of Interest

**Eid Al-Fitr** or the Celebration of Breaking the Fast, marks the end of Ramadan (the month of fasting). **Eid Al-Fitr** is a celebration of the good things that we have received from God's (Allah's) bounty. Most donate money or food for those who cannot afford to celebrate.

## AnthroClub

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, **November 30th at 5pm in Peters 389 (Anthropology office)**. Plan on attending and get in on the ground level of what's really happening.

Stay tuned for the coming end-of-the-semester anthropology department reception. It will be one to remember!

## Anthros Closer to Home:

**John Pryor**

By Morghan Young

### **MY: What is your area of expertise?**

JP: My expertise is Archeology in general, but California Prehistory in particular. I am also interested in Material Culture Studies, Experimental Archeology and Ethnobotany.

### **MY: Describe your current research?**

JP: We have almost completed the Table Mt. Sweathouse project, and the Chukchansi cemetery recording project.

### **MY: What is most memorable about these?**

JP: In both cases these were projects that were conducted at the request of and for Native American Communities. I am proudest of this.

### **MY: Why are you interested in this topic?**

JP: Again, in both cases these were projects related to the interesting time period of Native Peoples in California adjusting to a new world of White contact. While I like the whole sweep of the prehistoric past, and have spent much research time on "old" sites, it is this period of adjustment which has long interested me.

### **MY: If you could be born into any other culture (or homind species) what would it be?**

JP: While I am fascinated by Native California cultures and feel a kindred with the Pomo, I am happy to be alive in my time and culture.

### **MY: Who's your favorite anthropologist?**

JP: Anthropologists Alfred Kroeber and the Tewa Anthropologist Alfonso Ortiz, as well as Archeologist Emil Haury.

### **MY: What is your favorite novel?**

JP: Murder Mysteries, particularly the writing of Tony Hillerman, Kathy Reichs, Patricia Cornwall, JA Jance, and Alex McCall Smith.

### **MY: Any advice for students?**

JP: Be a generalist. I strongly feel that undergrads should take a four field approach to their studies. It drives me up the wall when students say, "I don't want to take that cultural/physical class, because I am an archeologist". You need to get a firm base in all subfields of Anthropology.

## **One Last Word on Halloween: Halloween around the World**

**By Elizabeth Campos**

We all know that Halloween is celebrated with candy, parties, costumes, and tricks, here in the United States. It is very common for everyone to enjoy a day or even a week of tricks that manifest from the high sugar consumption of Americans. Kids go trick or treating in the evening dressed in their favorite personalities or superheroes. The more adult kids, like us college students, celebrate Halloween by watching scary movies, tricking friends and family members, dressing up in costumes such as the naughty nurse, and partying till the early morning. This is a mere summary of our celebration, there are many more parts to Halloween in the United States.

In other countries such as Japan and Mexico Halloween is celebrated in a more religious way. Japanese celebrations consist of the honoring of spirits with food, clean graves, family and a sort of camp fire. This is the first part of the Japanese Halloween; the second consists of dances and family gatherings around a fire to enjoy each others company.

In Mexico, honoring the dead is a big festivity. Family members get together to honor the dead through favorite cooked meals, prayers, ghost costumes, and table settings. First the family of a deceased person cleans the grave yard and brings candles, flowers and food. Then everyone with their ghost costumes parade through the town reciting prayers.

## **Culture Quip**

**By Mary Anderson**

**Included in paper version only**

## **\*\*\*Grad School Panel\*\*\***

Members of the department of anthropology will be holding an informal panel session regarding graduate schools. We will discuss which ones to apply to and how to apply.

**WHAT: Panel session on Anthropology Graduate Schools: Where and how to apply.**

**WHEN: Tue., November 16, 3:00-5:00pm**

**WHERE: Peters 390**

ALL ARE WELCOME,  
SNACKS PROVIDED!

## **Up Coming Cultural Event**

The International Education Week film screening of "Faat Kine" -- A Tribute to African Women -- will take place in the Industrial Technology Bldg., Room 101, on Monday, November 15 from 5 to 7 pm.

In Faat Kine, Ousmane Sembene, the unquestioned father of African cinema, calls his fellow Africans to a reckoning of the post-independence era at the beginning of a new century. Faat Kine is, from its first shot to its surprising last, Sembene's tribute to what he calls the "everyday heroism of African women."

Admission is free. Access to IT 101 is from Barstow Avenue or Lot L.

### **Contributing Editorial Board**

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