



# Culture Inscribed

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology  
California State University - Fresno



November 21, 2006 Vol. V, Issue 5  
*Special Primate Issue*

## Anthro News

Sarah Cairns

Our last anthro social night was fun. Many of the regulars attended and we were even joined by **Dr. Jendian** of the sociology department. We are looking forward to the last social night of the calendar year on December 5, 2007, bring your friends and join the festivities. See you there!!!

The anthro club has been meeting every other Tuesday during the semester. Members have been planning the events of Anthro Day, which will be held on Thursday November 30, 2006. Our last club meeting was a special one. I'd like to give special thanks to **Hank Delcore, Ellen Gruenbaum, and Jim Mullooly** for providing important information about the Grad school process and experience.

We are entering the season of special need in our community. Often times we forget about all the good things we have and wonderful people we know. On Saturday November 18, 2006 students from the Anthro and Sociology departments joined nearly 1,200 members of the community for **Serving Fresno Day**. Citizens of Fresno passed out food at Edison High School, sorted books for Read Fresno, along with a number of events. The day was a huge success and showed that Fresno has a culture of giving.

The semester is winding down but there are many exciting events still ahead for Anthros on campus:

- November 28 Anthro club meeting
- November 30 Anthro Day:
  - 3-6pm Department Reception
  - 7-9pm Distinguished Lecture
- December 5 Anthro Social Night

## AAA Reports

Stay tuned for more reports from the AAA meetings from CSUF students who attended the annual meeting in San Jose this year.

## Anthro Day

*Thursday November 30, 2006*

We are very excited about the fall semester Anthro day. Anthro day will feature a **department reception** from 3pm to 6pm in Peters 390. This semester we have special guest speaker **Ms. Kaberi Kar Gupta**, a primate behavioral ecologist. Ms. Gupta will be giving a lecture entitled "*Are nonhuman primates important in studying Anthropology: What can we learn from a nocturnal prosimian primate behavioral ecology?*" at 7:00pm, East Engineering 191. Please join professors and students alike to share in a day dedicated to anthropology.

Look for a special issue of *Culture Inscribed*, out Monday November 27, 2006 with more exciting information about the upcoming events.

## AAA Conference

Jim Mullooly

Rare is the treat to have a panel be elevated to the level of an "Invited Session". I was fortunate to receive such an honor at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Society. Although you all may assume the panel received such an honor due to my work, I must confess it was more likely due to the following three panelists: **Gilberto Lopez** (Senior) "Why are Mexicans so Fat?": Chicano and Mexican perceptions of obesity in California's Central Valley.

**Morghán Vélez Young** (Class of '04, now on a full scholarship for a PhD at Stanford U.). Critical Intersections: Schools, Rural Latinas, and Mass Media.

**Anne Visser** (Class of 06, now in an MA program at CSUF) Surveillance, Infiltration, and Threats of Danger: "Contra-vergences" in the Anti-Globalization Movement.

I encourage you all to follow the careers of these bright scholars. Their passage will illuminate the cosmos in exciting ways few can predict. Check out their abstract on the CALPO website:

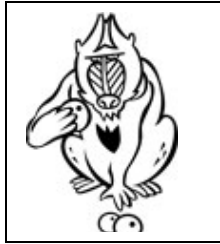
<http://www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/CALPO/index.htm>

## Contributing Editorial Board

Nicole Engle, Jenny Morgan, Rebecca Allen, Robin Trayler

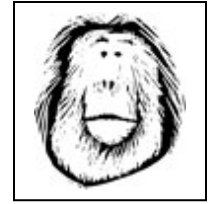
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# *Primates*

## *Human and Nonhuman*



### ***On Being a Primate in Love*** **A Mythical Tale**

By: Robin Trayler

Love was never meant for humans who travel the earth upon two legs with an un-even gait. Long ago before man was human they were something else entirely. Their hands were feet and their feet were hands. Men walked on all fours, traveling with ease upon the ground or through the trees. Men had hardly a care in the world, for when it came time to court a mate they had a fifth arm, allowing them to maintain their balance. The fifth arm was rooted just below man's waist on his backside, yet this made it no less effective. It snaked, long and thin without fingers, to wrap around branches and rocks to steady man should he "fall" in love.

Over time, for reasons unknown to me, man forgot about his fifth arm and it began to dwindle until it was no more. With out his fifth arm man began to rely on the two arms mounted just below his head for balance.

As the eons passed these two arms grew shorter until they were barely two thirds the side of his legs and man could no longer travel the earth using all of his limbs, and was forced to rely on only two feet and two legs for transport. However Man thought nothing of it since having his upper arms unhindered allowed him to perform all sorts of feats he could not perform before.

All this was fine until love returned. You see long ago when a man fell in love he always had his fifth arm to catch him should his other four fail him. But now should he fall he had nothing to stop himself and he becomes clumsy, stumbling around trying to catch his balance. No other animal has this problem. Have you ever seen the graceful gazelle stumble as it pursues a mate? Even birds with only two legs have wings to slow themselves should the fall in love. Humans however are cursed to walk upon two legs. So when two humans fall in love, they catch each other in their arms and walk hand in hand, bringing balance.

***Happy Thanksgiving***  
***Enjoy the Holiday Break!!***

### **About Kaberi Kar Gupta** **Guest Speaker for Anthro Day**

Ms. Kaberi Kar Gupta is a primate behavioral ecologist, with broad training in conservation biology, animal behavior and ecological anthropology about to defend her dissertation. Ms. Gupta studied slender loris (*Loris tardigradus*), particularly, the influence of human activities and landscape modification on the ecology and behavior of this endangered species.

In her biographic statement, Ms. Gupta writes: I earned my first Masters degree in Wildlife Biology from the Wildlife Institute of India. For my M.Sc. thesis I studied food selection and leaf chemistry of common langurs (*Presbytis entellus*) in Rajaji National Park in the Himalayan foothills.

I then spent several years surveying plants, reptiles, birds, and mammals, and managing field sites, at several locations in India. I was a research biologist/consultant for Project Tiger in Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) in southern India, developing ecotourism, management, and research plans.

I was senior research biologist for the biodiversity inventory and monitoring project of a World Bank-funded eco-development scheme in KMTR and managed a field research program. I simultaneously developed and managed the first field project on the slender loris, indigenous to India and Sri Lanka. This was considered a model study by KMTR management.

My early work on the effects of human disturbance (wood-cutting, forest conversion and plantations) on the slender loris earned me an M.A. in Anthropology from ASU. At ASU, I TA'd and taught several courses in physical Anthropology, socio cultural Anthropology and Biology. Currently I am teaching full time at Fresno City College.

**Come hear Kaberi Kar Gupta**  
**speak about the influence of**  
**nonhuman primates in the study**  
**of Anthropology.**  
**Thursday November 30 at 7pm**  
**at CSUF, East Engineering 191.**