



# Culture Inscribed

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



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*Special Anthropology Day 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. We will also be unveiling our new club T-shirt "**Turtles all the Way Down**" in honor of Geertz' final symbolic passage. \$15 for students; \$20 for faculty to support club events.

## Phrase of the Fortnight

**"Turtles all the Way Down"**

Although most credit Stephen Hawking's 1988 book A Brief History of Time, for the introduction of this tale to the world, Clifford Geertz was the first to publish it widely 14 years earlier. Geertz uses this tale to illustrate an essential point about culture and ethnography in his best known work on thick description. To illustrate his point that, "Cultural analysis is intrinsically incomplete." (29), Geertz write,

There is an Indian story--at least I heard it as an Indian story --about an Englishman who, having been told that the world rested on a platform which rested on the back of an elephant which rested in turn on the back of a turtle, asked (perhaps he was an ethnographer; it is the way they behave), what did the turtle rest on? Another turtle. And that turtle? "Ah, Sahib, after that it is turtles all the way down (Geertz 1973: 28-29).

If one considers turtles to symbolize "culture", one quickly realizes that explaining one facet of culture will inevitably lead one to explain another facet, and another ad infinitum.

## Contributing Editorial Board

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Celebrate “Anthropology Day”

# Distinguished Anthropology Lecture

*“Are nonhuman primates important in studying Anthropology: What can we learn from a nocturnal prosimian primate behavioral ecology?”*

**Kaberi Kar Gupta**

**TIME/DATE: 7:00pm, Thursday November 30, 2006**

**LOCATION: East Engineering, Room 191  
California State University Fresno**

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

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

Ms. Gupta spent several years surveying plants, reptiles, birds, and mammals, and managing field sites at several locations in India. She was a **research biologist/consultant** for Project Tiger in southern India’s Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) where she developed ecotourism, management, and research plans. She was **senior research biologist** for the biodiversity inventory and monitoring project of a World Bank-funded eco-development scheme in KMTR where she managed a model field research program.

Ms. Gupta’s early work on the effects of human disturbance (wood-cutting, forest conversion and plantations) on the slender loris earned her an M.A. in Anthropology from ASU. Ms. Gupta has taught Physical Anthropology, socio cultural Anthropology and Biology at ASU. Currently, she is teaching full time at Fresno City College.

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