

berkeley anthropology matters – *BAM!*

anthropology department † kroeber hall † university of california † berkeley

march 2004

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Interview with our Newest Faculty: Saba Mahmood

What are some of your first impressions of being at Berkeley?

It is exciting to be here. First of all it feels like coming home. Because I did my graduate work at Stanford, then wrote my dissertation in the East Bay, and then stayed in the East Bay while on a Chancellor's postdoc, the Bay Area landscape is very welcoming and speaks to me like no other part of the country really does.



Saba Mahmood

I find the student politics alive in ways that say, Chicago where I was for the past four years, wasn't. Even compared to Stanford, Berkeley students are much more politically involved. It isn't just a caricature, but Berkeley students really are more connected to world events.

Teaching the students here has been sheer pleasure. My class is very interdisciplinary in its make up, and everyone comes prepared and committed to engaging with the text and with others in the class. The level of discussion is sophisticated and you can tell that the students have a personal stake in what they are saying. It certainly compares favorably with my experience of teaching at Chicago.

Do you have any specific goals you are contemplating as you start out here?

I respect the strength and the diversity of my colleagues here and I want to offer a set of courses that speak to what my colleagues teach and yet offer something unique. I'm impressed by the commitment to rigor in the department and am pleased at the fact that this does not translate into producing one type of student. Instead there is a commitment to training a diverse body of students. I'm interested in cross-fertilization with what is already being offered here, and am pursuing how to go about this.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes' International Work on Organ Trafficking

Professor Scheper-Hughes was invited to address the National Assembly of Brazil at its ongoing CPI (Comissão Parlamentar de Inquérito), official government public investigations of human and organs trafficking. Her testimony was given at the Palácio

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NSH & organ trafficking continued...

Joaquim Nabuco, introduced by Senator Raimundo Pimentel. From Brazil, she went to Sao Paulo to work with Judge Wálter Fanganiello Maierovitch, Head of the Falconi Institute in Human Trafficking. From there she went to Durban, South Africa where she was asked to assist the Ministry of Health, Kwa-Zulu Natal and with the South African Police investigating human trafficking 'global triangle' for organs involving South Africa, Brazil, and Israel.

Recent News on Our Graduate Students Progress

JOHN ERTL studied with anthropologist Shinji Yamashita (former Berkeley visiting scholar in our Department) at the University of Tokyo in fall 2003 before starting fieldwork in Ishikawa Prefecture. He recently rejoined his wife Emiko at her parent's home in Nagoya before she gave birth to their daughter Emily. Nelson Graburn will see all three when he visits Japan over the spring break.

ZEYNEP GURSEL has finished the first of two years of ethnographic research on the world's photo documentary system. She spent much of her time in New York at CORBIS, a global image bank "visual content provider" owned solely by Bill Gates. She also worked with *Newsweek* and *Time* and will spend some time at the *New York Times*. She attended the "Visa Pour L'Image" annual photo-journalism festival in Perpignon, France, a photo-journalism seminar in Turkey run by the Dutch NGO World Press Photo, and the Eddie Adams Training Workshop run by the foremost Viet Nam war photographer and his followers in upstate New York. Zeynep will move to Paris this month where she will work with Agence France Press (which has recently become a partner with American giant Getty), with the elite agency VII, with Reuters wire service and possibly with Corbis-France. She hopes to be an observer at World Press Photo's annual documentary photo competition in Holland. She may attend Cyprus' entry into the E.U. in May as a field site for witnessing the photo documentary community "in action," in preference to offers which would have taken her to Palestine or Iraq.

JENNY CHIO's movie "Film the People" has been selected for the Ethnographic Film Festival in Goettingen this May. It examines the Communist Chinese filmic representations of stages on the sociocultural evolutionary scale as illustrated by the Minority Nationalities in the 1950s. This film was made in 2003 in partial fulfillment of her M.A. in Visual Anthropology at Goldsmith's College of the University of London.

March Happenings in Anthropology

All **Brown Bag Lectures** noon, 2251 College, unless otherwise noted.

All **290 Lectures** 4pm, 160 Kroeber, unless otherwise noted.

- 3/3 ARF Brown Bag Lecture:** Burcu Tung
A History of Turkish Archaeology: Theoretical Concerns
noon, 2251 College seminar room.
- 3/8 290 Lecture Series**
Timothy Pauketat (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)
The Physicality of Culture—Making and the Archaeology of an American Indian Legend
160 Kroeber, 4-6pm.
- 3/10 ARF Brown Bag Lecture:** Anna Naruta:
Developing Oakland: Land and Policy in the Context of California's Chinese Exclusion Movements, 1850-1910—Some Multiscalar Archaeological Perspectives
noon, 2251 College seminar room.
- 3/12** Spring '04 Lowie Olson applications due.
Language Exam.
Block grant applications for '04-05 available.
- 3/15** Excom Mtg., 10-12, Faculty Lounge.
House Mtgs., 3-5pm.
- 3/17 ARF Brown Bag Lecture:** Marta Diaz Guardamino
Theoretical Trends in Spanish Archaeology since the 1930s: The Late Bronze Age Stone Decorated Stelae as a Paradigm
noon, 2251 College seminar room.
- 3/19 Special Lecture:** Eileen Walsh (Lawrence University),
'Tasting the Others' and Consuming Modernity: Mosuo Identity in the 'Daughter's Kingdom'—Toward Theorizing Ethnotourism, Authenticity, and Orientalist Desire'

Sponsored by the Tourism Studies Working Group and the Beatrice M. Bain Research Group on Gender.
221 Kroeber, (Gifford Room), 4pm.
- 3/22-26 Spring Recess**
- 3/29 290 Lecture Series**
Rafael Sanchez (University of Amsterdam)
Intimate Publicities: Retreating the Political-Theoretical in the Chavez Regime (Venezuela)
160 Kroeber, 4-6pm.
- 3/31 ARF Brown Bag Lecture:** Sven Ouzman
The Frankenstein Project: An Archaeology of Graffiti
noon, 2251 College seminar room.

Publications from Berkeley Anthropologists

Aihwa Ong.

"The Chinese Axis: Exception and Variegated Sovereignty," *Journal of East Asian Studies* (March 2004).

Patrick Kirch Presents at American Association for the Advancement of Science

In February Patrick Kirch attended the recent annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle and presented a paper on the results of his major NSF-funded biocomplexity research project in a symposium featuring several of these large-scale interdisciplinary projects.

A Teaching Opportunity

by *Burton Benedict*

Tired of lecturing to a sea of beady-eyed youngsters? Try giving a course in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, a division of UC Berkeley Extension. Students have to be 50 or older. Instructors are mostly superannuated professors. The course can be on a subject of the instructor's choosing. It meets for 7 two-hour sessions per week. No papers or exams. You are paid a pittance.

I am offering a course on "The Anthropology of Museums" and I have 35 students, mostly retired UC administrators, many with higher degrees. An interesting bunch. One, for instance, collects museums in small towns in the midwest, which often have to be opened especially for her.

To find out more, contact the Director of the Osher Institute, Velma Paness, at 643.2184.

Aihwa Ong Invited to Give Three Key Lectures this Spring

Aihwa Ong delivered the opening lecture in a Gender Studies Program conference at the University of Chicago on February 28. The lecture was entitled, "A Tai Chi Sense of Feminism: Ethics and a Politics of Sheer Life." On March 23, she will give a lecture, entitled "Re-Engineering Chinese Personality for a Global Age" in Metropolitan Studies at New York University. And then on March 27, Aihwa Ong will be attending an SSRC conference at Oxford University where she will be speaking on "A New Ecology of Life: (Re)mobilizations of Knowledge, Actors, and Genes."

The Ear

Extremely technical e-mail exchange between two of anthropology's staff:

j,
we just tried to set up the audiotaping for the 290 and discovered that some cord that is used to hook up to the microphone? i think it connects the recorder to the mic?—was missing. it's round on one end and pointy on the other? (i tried hard to get the technical specs.) is it possible that you whisked this cord off to mactia with the cameras? if so, can we have it back?

i can forgive you, but the poor media support woman who had to run to dwinelle and back in 5 minutes flat will be coming to SEE YOU. —h

yikes!

i believe you are looking for the XLR (large roundy looking end) to mini (pointy like a tiny headphone jack). are you sure you don't have one? i thought i left one with the mic in the pouch. two are left here, and i thought a third one was left in anthro. but maybe we're talking about two different things. certainly possible. i'll stop by tomorrow to check and have a look. —j

j,

okay, i *think* there was a skinny round-end/pointy-end cord in the mic pouch, but she needed a fatter version of the same. i think. i'd need to review the box to be sure.

in any case, i think it's too late to intercept the mad media support woman. so just look out wherever you go, okay? —h