

# berkeley anthropology matters — *BAM!*

anthropology department † kroeber hall † university of california † berkeley

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<http://anthropology.berkeley.edu/>

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## Update on Department Centennial Events

The Department's Centennial celebration has commenced with an exhibit titled *Anthropology at Berkeley: A Century of Pathbreaking Scholarship, 1901-2001*, in the Bernice Layne Brown Gallery of the Main Library.

On display through January 2001, are more than 100 selected faculty publications and 38 framed photographs showing Berkeley anthropologists engaged in fieldwork. A large scale world map punctured with 751 colored tacks, one for each Ph.D. dissertation, shows the growth and global reach of Berkeley's graduate program in anthropology over the century. Everyone is encouraged to see the exhibit. The map in particular is a strikingly graphic representation of Berkeley's influence.

Two centennial lectures will be held in The Morrison Library, adjacent to the exhibit. The first will be *A Conversation with Ursula Kroeber LeGuin*, on Friday, November 16 at 4pm, and the second will be a lecture by Dr. Orin Starn entitled "Native Americans Across the Americas." Dr. Starn's lecture is scheduled for December 4 at 4pm.

## Students for a Democratic Social Science (SDSS) Mobilizes

From the warm response by the department to the forum on September 21 organized by K.A.S. to discuss the 9/11 events, a new group—the Students for a Democratic Social Science (SDSS)—has mobilized. SDSS had its first meeting on October 10 with more than 50 people in attendance, mostly anthropologists but also including individuals from other departments. Word got around and two spokespeople from the SDSS coordinating committee—Annie Richard and Adrian McIntyre—were invited to participate in Larry Bensky's Sunday morning program on KPFA on October 14. SDSS received enthusiastic responses from that radio show, and the group continues to grow.

The aim of SDSS is to promote interdisciplinary collaboration in outreach and education projects that pool collective resources and direct them towards public-service projects, thus linking academic interests with a commitment to democratic education. SDSS believes that in the wake of September 11, the need for basic information and critical perspectives to understand the events, their historical and international contexts, and possible responses has become abundantly clear.

Current projects include: 1) a reader, 2) teach-ins and other educational forums, 3) community/school outreach, 4) study and letter-writing groups, 5) web and media dissemination, and 6) skills training.

Students, faculty, staff, and community members alike are all welcome to get involved.

More information can be found on the newly launched web site for SDSS: <http://www.mactia.berkeley.edu/sdss>. Those interested in joining can write, [sdss\\_members@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:sdss_members@uclink.berkeley.edu).

## Alan Dundes Studies September 11 Folklore

Alan Dundes is always interested in new folklore, and not surprisingly, a lot of it has been created in response to the events of September 11.

Professor Dundes says that any crisis produces a comedic response. Examples from the recent past include the O.J. Simpson case, the Challenger explosion, Waco, and the Gulf War. The amount of folklore generated is usually in proportion to the size of the tragedy.

"Comedy is a way of coping. It's as if our minds cannot grapple with the immensity of what we are witnessing, so we use humor as a release mechanism. It's like 'whistling in the dark,' an act that helps dispel the tension," says Professor Dundes.

The folklore in response to September 11 has shared these characteristics: 1) most of it has been transmitted via e-mail, 2) most of it has been along the themes of "we're going to rebuild and we're going to get you for what you have done," and depictions of Osama Bin Laden as feminine, 3) most has been anonymous.

These characteristics are not unique. All were present in the Gulf War folklore, Challenger folklore, etc. The only thing that surprised Professor Dundes is that September 11 folklore took longer to appear. Professor Dundes says that this type of humor usually surfaces in 24 hours. In the case of September 11, there was first a long period of shock and silence.

## Laura Nader, Invited Lecturer at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

Professor Laura Nader was invited to give the Edward A. Seegars Lecture at the Valparaiso University School of Law in October. Her lecture, "The Life of the Law" was an exposition of her 45 years of research on the role of the justice motive in shaping the law in small and large democracies.

## Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Invited Lecturer at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Professor Nancy Scheper-Hughes is giving the 2001 Surjit Singh Lecture in Comparative Religious Thought and Culture on Wednesday November 7 at 7pm at the Pacific School of Religion Chapel. The title of her talk is "The Genocide Continuum—Peace Times Crimes and Everyday Violence." The talk is sponsored by the Graduate Theological Union.

## Berkeley at AAA, November 28—December 2

Please check out the American Anthropological Association's web site, [http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/search\\_prelim.htm](http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/search_prelim.htm), where you can find the presenting times and paper topics of everyone at Berkeley—and elsewhere—that you are interested in hearing.

## November Happenings

Thurs., Nov. 1

Graduate Committee Mtg. for Lowie/Olson decisions

Opening of Stanley H. Brandes  
*South Indian Notebook* photography exhibit  
at the Townsend Center Gallery  
Gallery talk by Lawrence Cohen  
Reception following  
5-6:30pm, 220 Stephens Hall  
*Exhibit runs 11/1/01—12/15/01*

Fri., Nov. 2—Nov. 19

Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival 2001  
Pacific Film Archive Theatre, 2575 Bancroft, Berkeley  
642.1412

Mon., Nov. 5

Lynn Meskell (Columbia University)  
*Sites of Violence: Terrorism, Tourism and Heritage in the  
Archaeological Present*  
4pm, 160 Kroeber Hall

Tues., Nov. 6

Dr. Alice Kehoe (Marquette University)  
*Cahokia Data and Osage Text*  
Noon, 101, ARF (2547 Channing)

Wed., Nov. 7

Kira Blaisdell-Sloan (UC-B Anthropology)  
*A Summer of Cows, Digging Round Holes, and Looking at  
Colonialism: A Preliminary Season's Work at the Site of Rancho  
Ires, Honduras*  
Noon, 101, ARF (2547 Channing)

Nancy Scheper-Hughes  
2001 Surjit Singh Lecture sponsored by the Graduate  
Theological Union  
*The Genocide Continuum — Peace Time Crimes and Everyday  
Violence*  
7pm, Pacific School of Religion Chapel, 1798 Scenic Ave.,  
Berkeley

Mon., Nov. 12

Veteran's Day Holiday

Tues., Nov. 13

AUA session to help undergrads plan a Senior Honors Thesis  
5-6:30pm, Gifford Room, 221 Kroeber Hall

Wed., Nov. 14

Dennis Ogburn (ARF)  
*The Stones of Paquishapa: Evidence for Long-Distance Transport  
of Andesite Blocks in the Inca Empire*  
Noon, 101, ARF (2547 Channing)

Thurs., Nov. 15

Portuguese Studies Program and Folklore Roundtable  
Speaker: Francisco Vaz da Silva, University of Lisbon  
*Seventh-born Children in Iberian Folklore: Mythism and  
Everyday Life*  
4pm, Gifford Room, 221 Kroeber Hall

Fri., Nov. 16

*A Conversazione with Ursula Kroeber Le Guin*  
4pm, The Morrison Library

Mon., Nov. 19

Ex-Comm Mtg. (10-12am)

Sherry Hour(s)—A welcome for visitors to the Anthro. Dept.  
4-6pm, Gifford Room, 221 Kroeber Hall

Wed., Nov. 21

Kathleen Hull (UC-B Anthropology)  
*Culture Contact in Context: A Multiscalar View of Catastrophic  
Depopulation and Culture Change in Yosemite Valley*  
Noon, 101, ARF (2547 Channing)

Thurs., Nov. 22—23

Thanksgiving Holiday

Wed., Nov. 28—Dec. 2

AAA Meetings

## SOUTH INDIAN NOTEBOOK

Photographs  
by  
Stanley H.  
Brandes

11.1.01—  
12.15.01

Gallery talk with  
Lawrence Cohen  
on 11/1/01



## Anthropology Centennial Trivia Contest

Laura Leung, workstudy student in the front office, guessed the trivia question correctly again. The question was: *Who among the faculty in the Anthropology Department has won the Margaret Mead Award from the Society for Applied Anthropology?*

Answer: John Ogbu-1979 and Nancy Scheper-Hughes-1981

Laura Leung and Sandy Jones are our repeat trivia contest winners. Perhaps we will sponsor a sudden death playoff to determine who rules anthropology department trivia.

Next question: *What four countries have been the most popular fieldwork sites of Berkeley Ph.D.'s?*

Clue: Check out the map at Anthropology's Centennial Exhibit at Doe Library. E-mail your answer to: [hollyh@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:hollyh@uclink.berkeley.edu)

## The Ear

Congratulations to **Kira Foster**, who is expecting a baby boy in November. . . . Professor **Nelson Graburn** will be one of four Berkeley faculty to represent the campus at a conference on "Methodology in North East Asia Regional Studies" at the University of Shimane, Hamada, Japan. He hopes that his paper on the Ainu, "Approaches to the Northeast Asian World System, Mediated by Native Trade in the 18th and 19th Centuries," will enlighten the political scientists and historians about regional-historical research. . . . **Pasanthi Koduru**, who received the Senior Honors Thesis Award last May at commencement, won the American Anthropological Association's Sylvia Forman Undergraduate Prize. The prize is awarded for feminist research in anthropology. Congratulations, Pasanthi! . . . Professor **John Ogbu** has published a chapter called "Cultural Amplifiers of Intelligence: IQ and Minority Status in Cross-Cultural Perspective" in *Race and Intelligence: Separating Science From Myth*, Jefferson M. Fish (ed.), Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. . . . Congratulations to **Maria Teresa Agozzino**, who will be marrying James Rourke on November 9. . . . Everyone who attends the Cal football game on November 3 *should not leave at halftime* but stay until the end, when the Cal band will go onto the field, form a circle and play a composition called *California Centennial*. The music for *California Centennial* was written by our **Alan Dundes** (the lyrics were written by Cyril Birch). Dr. Dundes wrote the music in 1968, the same year it was played for a tree-planting ceremony on campus. Dr. Dundes missed the tree planting and with it his composition's one and only debut. He will be at the game this Saturday, though. . . . In the October **BAM! The Ear** reported a man who brought a head in a suitcase to show anthropology's front office. This reminded **Gerald Berreman** of a man *he* knew who would carry heads in a suitcase. The Ear sincerely hopes others in the department aren't prompted to recollect people *they* know who carry heads in suitcases.