

Sussex Anthropologist

Special points of interest:

- MA programmes open for applications, go to: www.sussex.ac.uk/anthropology/1-2-3.html
- Sussex Anthropology appoints new faculty with expertise in Development, Economic Anthropology, Material Culture and Migration.
- New research grants for work on mining, representations of the nuclear industry, soil ecology and marathon running.

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Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, University of Sussex

Volume 1, Issue 1

Sussex Anthropology 5th in UK for research

The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which measures the quality of research output of individual research units, were published early in 2009. Sussex Anthropology was ranked 7th—but 5th among anthropology departments of socio-cultural anthropology. Above it are SOAS, Cambridge, LSE and UCL. This is a huge achievement for what is now also the largest solely socio-cultural anthropology department in the UK.

55% of the Department's work was judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent in terms of its originality, significance and rigour.

The success of the Department has been built on maintaining a broad base of research activities,



without specifically identified research groups, and emphasizing faculty-led research agendas.

The RAE process nevertheless identified the key strengths in Sussex Anthropology research:

Social Transformation & Development

Migration

Rights Citizenship & Conflict

Religion

Science Technology & Policy

These and other themes will continue to be at the centre of the Departmental research agenda.

Sussex anthropology is distinctive in its interdisciplinary thinking, and in combining empirical and theoretical enquiry with a commitment to interpret and intervene in an increasingly complex, changing and materially unequal world.

At once epistemological, ethical and political, this approach has generated a body of work that has as its common thread a concern with politics and social transformation, characteristically (though not exclusively) investigated through a focus on everyday practices.

Plus ca Change...

Summer 2009 saw the retirement of three much-loved and respected colleagues, Ann Whitehead, Jeff Pratt and Jock Stirrat. All three have in their different ways made major contributions to the development of the Department. All three served as head of Department (or Subject Group) at some point during their career, and successive cohorts of students benefitted from

their wise counsel. Their research has had a central role in defining Sussex Anthropology and establishing its international reputation. We will miss them.

The summer also saw a number of new appointments in Anthropology. Evan Killick joins us from LSE, to a post in Development Studies and Anthropology, and Rebecca Prentice, who has taught

at Sussex for several years, was given a permanent contract in Anthropology. Both will finish the post-doctoral fellowships they are currently on, before coming full-time to Sussex.

We also appointed Dimitrios Dalakoglou, Elizabeth Cory-Pearce and Mattia Fumanti to temporary contracts. We welcome them all.

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Anthropology Goes Global



Becky Anderson, CNN Anchor and Sussex alumna, who helped celebrate the launch of Global Studies.

“My objective in scrutinizing how various authors deploy the terms culture and rights is to draw out their implicit assumptions about the social world.”

From 1st August, the Department of Anthropology became part of the new School of Global Studies, alongside Development Studies, Geography, International Relations and Migration Studies.

Part of the restructuring has involved the physical movement of administrative and support staff, and the establishing of a new school office in Arts C168, which houses the Departmental Administrators, including our own Grazia di Tomassi.

It has also involved the appointment of new office holders in the

school. Anthropologist Buzz Harrison has become Director of Development Studies, whilst Jon Mitchell has become the new Director of Doctoral Studies within the School. The new Director of Student Support is the Geographer Dominic Kniveton, and the Director of Research is Stefan Elbe from International Relations.

The school also has a new Resource Centre, behind C168, which has a suite of open-access PCs and space which can be booked for meetings, parties, etc.

The Global Research Centre's first official event was the Launch of Global Studies, which saw Sussex alumna and CNN Anchor Becky Anderson demonstrating the Global nature of our school by conducting online skype interviews with an IR student who is currently studying at Berkeley University in California, and our own Maya Unnithan, who is conducting fieldwork in Rajasthan, India on reproductive health. The research is supported by the ESRC and DfID.

Jane Cowan Article in top 25 Downloaded items on Anthrosource

Professor Jane Cowan's article: "Culture and Rights After Culture and Rights" *American Anthropologist* 108(1): 9-24, 2006

was ranked 21st on **Anthrosource's** list of Top Downloaded Articles. **Anthrosource** is run by the American Anthropological Association, and is the premier portal for access to Anthropology journals.

The article reflects and builds

upon the intellectual agenda set by the Sussex-originated publication *Culture and Rights: Anthropological Perspectives* (Cambridge, edited by Jane Cowan, Marie-Benedicte Dembour and Richard Ashby Wilson: 2001).

Culture and Rights was a landmark in the anthropological and interdisciplinary study of human and cultural rights.

Sussex Anthropology continues

to make a major international contribution to the empirical and theoretical study of rights processes.

This is manifest both in our research and publications, and in our teaching, particularly the **MA in Human Rights:**

www.sussex.ac.uk/development/1-2-3-2-4.html

to which Professor Cowan contributes.

Book Corner

A number of books have appeared in recent months, by authors based at Sussex, or whose research was conducted at Sussex.

Marianne Maeckelbergh (Leiden University), published her first book, *The Will of the Many: how the alterglobalisation movement is changing the face of democracy* (Pluto Press). It is based on DPhil research conducted at Sussex.

Dimitrios Dalakoglou (Temporary Lecturer in Anthropology) published, as associate editor, *The International Encyclopedia of Revolution and Protest* (Wiley-Blackwell). Also online at: www.revolutionprotestencyclopedia.com/public

Jon Mitchell (Reader in Anthropology) published an edited volume (jointly edited with Marit Melhuus, Oslo, and Helena Wulff,

Stockholm), *Ethnographic Practice in the Present* (Berghahn Books).

The volume also includes an Epilogue by Simon Coleman.

Geert de Neve (Senior Lecturer in Anthropology) published *Industrial Life and Work: an anthropological reader* (Berg Publishers), jointly edited with Massimiliano Mollona (Goldsmiths) and Jonathan Parry (LSE).



Marianne Maeckelbergh's *The Will of the Many*. Her first book, based on research conducted for her DPhil at Sussex.

Recent Research Grant Successes

Sussex Anthropology's success has been underwritten by our ability to attract outside funding for our research projects.

In recent months, a number of Sussex faculty and research fellows have successfully competed for research funds, in a variety of different areas.

Raminder Kaur (Senior Lecturer in Anthropology) received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to write up her research findings on public perceptions and representations of the nuclear industry in

India. The research includes an investigation of how nuclear debates have percolated into aspects of Indian popular culture, such as fiction, dramas, festivals, film and comics.

James Fairhead (Professor of Anthropology) has a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to look at the implications of dark earth, a particularly fertile soil, in West Africa. This builds on his ongoing research in the environmental anthropology.

Jon Mitchell (Reader in Anthro-

pology) has a grant from the Higher Education Funding Council, under the Creative Campus Initiative, for a research project on marathon running, motivation and self-transformation.

Katy Gardner (Professor of Anthropology) received funding from ESRC and the Department for International Development, for a project on *Mining, Livelihoods and Social Networks in Bangladesh*. The project investigates the relationships between transnational migration, global capitalism and resistance.



Representations of the nuclear and space industries in India. Rockets, computers and Ganesh.

Sussex Anthropology Student wins Scholarship for Excellence

A Sussex student currently studying abroad at City University, Hong Kong, has won one of the British Council's scholarships for excellence.

Anthony Elliott (BA International Relations and Anthropology) is spending the first term of his third year on voluntary study abroad at City, and applied for the scholar-

ship via the British Council website. He had to complete an application that detailed why he chose to study in Hong Kong and how he intended to bring benefits to the communities in Hong Kong and the UK.

Anthony proposed to do an art project, which also extends into social sciences,

about what Hong Kong Artists think of the UK.

An exhibition of the work will then be held in London Summer 2010.

He was awarded £2,045.

"Many congratulations to Anthony! I'm sure his work in Hong Kong will be as engaging as his participation in our seminars."

*Genner Ortiz
(Associate Tutor,
Anthropology)*

Featured Anthropologist: Margaret Sleeboom-Faulkner

Margaret Sleeboom-Faulkner acquired her doctorate on academic nationalism in China and Japan from the Amsterdam School of Social Science Research (ASSR) at Amsterdam University in 2001. After her doctorate, her 5-year Socio-genetic Marginalization in Asia Programme (SMAP) was funded, and she continues

working on it with five researchers at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden. In 2004, Margaret became a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and she joined the Anthropology Department of the University of Sussex in 2006, where she has received funding for two projects on stem cell research

and society. Margaret's post-doctoral work shifted focus to the anthropology of medical and biological sciences. She set up a comparative research project on 'Genomics in Asia', exploring the socio-political and economic consequences of the application of the new genetic technologies in China, India and Japan.



Dr Margaret Sleeboom-Faulkner (Reader in Anthropology)

Sussex Anthropology is a vibrant and energetic community of students, teachers and researchers with a strong commitment to anthropology that addresses contemporary social and political problems. We have long been world leaders in the anthropology of gender, and of international development, whilst more recently Sussex Anthropologists have pioneered work in the anthropology of human rights, of migration, of medicine and biogenetics, and of religion. Our regional expertise centres on South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, though we also have colleagues working in East and Southeast Asia, Amazonia and the Caribbean.

For further information about Undergraduate Anthropology Courses contact: anthoffice@sussex.ac.uk

For further information about Graduate Anthropology Courses contact: k.gardner@sussex.ac.uk

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Anthropology
now on
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Elsewhere: Anthropology Mourns Death of Levi-Strauss



Claude Lévi-Strauss who died this term, aged 100

The fame of Claude Lévi-Strauss, who has died aged 100, extended well beyond his own subject of anthropology. He was without doubt the anthropologist best known to non-specialists. This is mainly because he is usually considered to be the founder of the intellectual movement known as structuralism, which was to have such influence, especially in the 1970s. He was one of those French intellectuals – like Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Michel Foucault, Roland Barthes, Jacques

Derrida and Paul Ricoeur – whose influence spread to many other disciplines because they were philosophers in a much broader sense of the word than the academic philosophers of the British and American tradition.

As a result, these French writers have seemed more stimulating to some Anglo-Saxon thinkers, working in intellectually more imaginative, but perhaps less rigorous, areas such as literature, history or sociology than the home-grown product. Yet it

is something of an irony that Lévi-Strauss should have been thought of in this way, as he considered himself, above all, a technical anthropologist, and he was a little surprised, if not also a little suspicious, of the enthusiasm for structuralism manifested by students of literature and others. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that he relished the literary fame that his work acquired, especially for his 1955 book *Tristes Tropiques*.

(this entry taken from www.guardian.co.uk)