



The Australian Anthropological Society Newsletter

Number 86, March 2002

REGISTRATION NO. Y02862.32 ABN 27 776 118 160 INCORPORATED IN NSW 1988

Contents

This edition.....	1
Updating the AAS Code of Ethics	1
Letters to the Editor.....	1
AAS website update.....	2
AAS 2002 conference.....	2
Publication announcements.....	3
Conferences, calls for papers	3
Positions Vacant.....	5

This edition

As discussed in the letter to the Editor opposite, from Francesca Merlan and Jeremy Beckett, a letter was submitted to the AAS Newsletter which the acting Editor, David Martin, referred to a lawyer for legal advice as to whether the Society should publish it.

To avoid any possible inference of a conflict of interest on the part of David Martin, this edition has been prepared under the guidance of an Editorial Committee, comprising three members of the AAS Executive – Michael Allen, Kingsley Palmer, and Wendy Asche. The letter involved is not published in this edition, since the Editorial Committee has as yet made no final decision on the matter, pending further advice.

Updating the AAS Code of Ethics

It is arguable that the existing AAS Code of Ethics is anachronistic in a number of important respects, and does not take account of the diverse circumstances in which members of the Society are engaged

in their anthropological practice. The code is available on the AAS website (see below).

A small working group has been established to update the code of ethics. They are David Trigger, Fiona Powell, John Morton, Jan Anderson, Brian Fegan, David Martin and Julie Finlayson.

Submissions to the working group from members would be greatly appreciated. They should be made to Julie Finlayson (Julie.Finlayson@anthropos.com.au).

Letters to the Editor

The Law and Academic Debate

We understand that a letter lately submitted to the AAS newsletter has been referred to a lawyer for a legal opinion. We do not wish to comment on this particular case, but it seems to us that the recent intrusion of lawyers and the law in the exchange of views among scholars raises some matters of concern to anthropologists and other social scientists. Anthropology like other the other social sciences has a long tradition of robust debate - think only of C.Wright Mills on Talcott Parsons, or Leach and Fortes. Doubtless, feelings have been bruised, but since the door is always open for reply, the question of legal proceedings has almost never arisen. Editors commonly tone down extravagancies and trim ad hominem attacks, but beyond that take a generous interpretation of what the lawyers call 'fair comment'- more generous perhaps than the lawyers would find prudent. Strictly speaking the comments of a book reviewer (for example) could be taken as defamatory in the sense that the author might claim that his/her prospects for an appointment or a promotion have been affected. Up to now, however, we have

assumed that the opportunity to debate issues before our peers is the appropriate way to air and resolve differences. If lawyers are called upon to report on material of this kind, they come without an appreciation of the scholarly culture, and a training that alerts them to possible risk of legal action. Acting on behalf of clients, whose interests they are required to protect, they are bound to err on the side of caution in stating whether such and such a statement could result in legal action. Subject to this kind of regulation, debate will be reduced to polite murmuring and books reviews to exercises in faint praise. The present situation is no doubt given impetus by the participation of anthropologists and other social scientists in statutory, regulatory, legislative, legal and other processes in which many of the ground rules are laid down in legal terms and by legal convention. We engage to a certain extent in risk-taking behaviour by these forms of involvement, but they are necessary and important. BUT we cannot forget that we are called there because we are assumed to have kinds of expertise and ways of thinking that are not the SAME as those exercised by the legal profession. We must make sure that we do not lose the basis of that expertise by preventing debate (which (for our purposes) can also include scrutiny and analysis of the ways in which we and others in our society relate to the law and its institutions), or by forcing our scholarly community to repair to the law at every turn.

Francesca Merlan, Jeremy Beckett

AAS website update

David Martin

The revised AAS website is now up and running successfully. It has been moved from the ANU server, and can be found at <http://www.aas.asn.au>. The web designer, Gregor Murray, has done an excellent job in making the site more professional and accessible. We are doing our best to keep it up-to-date and informative. The next major step will be to provide information on the next AAS conference, preliminary details of which are provided below.

The site is already attracting quite a number of 'virtual visitors', several hundred

a month. It provides a useful gateway to the profession in Australia, and a vehicle for publicising the Society.

AAS 2002 conference

Mark Mosko

AAS Conference 2002

**3-5 October,
Australian National
University,
Canberra
2002**

Anthropology and Diversity

This year's AAS conference will be held in Canberra from 3-5 October.

The conference will highlight discussion of the present and future of anthropology, especially but not only in Australia. We wish to consider the stability and re-configuration of disciplinary boundaries. Attention will be paid to the combining of research and teaching emphases, and to disciplinary distinctions in our teaching and research institutions: where does anthropology figure in the new disciplinary mix? In light of this we will be looking for speakers and panel organisers on the present and future relations of Anthropology with research and teaching on Environment, Development, Social Policy, the range of ethics frameworks

The session 'Anthropology and Diversity' will run as Session I throughout the conference. All those interested in participating, organizing part of it or speaking in it, please send in a proposal as below.

There will be parallel sessions, and we invite those who wish to propose a panel or a paper to contact us.

The conference organizer and central contact person is:

Liz Bell, at aas@anu.edu.au

Ph. 61 (2) 6125 3208

FAX 61 (2) 6125 2711

The venue will be the Manning Clarke Theatre complex, in the centre of the campus.

Honours Roundtable

One of the special events we propose to hold as part of Session I is an all-Australia discussion of Anthropology Honours programs. We invite all coordinators of Honours Programs to contact us and join in the planning and the event. We hope to encourage and facilitate student participation. We'd like to discuss how different Honours programs are structured, their content, Honours as an academic degree, professional qualification, and in relation to career and job possibilities. Central contact is again Liz Bell.

First Call for Sessions

To express interest in organizing a session, whether in Session I, or along other lines which will be scheduled as parallel session, please send in your session proposal (title and short paragraph posing the issue) with your contact details (e-mail, phone and FAX).

The next newsletter will have **registration fees** and details of **registration**. There will be a special 'Early Bird' rate including a conference dinner on the night of October 4; announcement of student and other discounted rates, and regular rates.

There will also be details of **accommodation**: cheaper rates in the local colleges, and a few slightly more luxurious possibilities.

The organizing committee comprises:

- Jon Altman (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research)
Margaret Jolly (Gender Relations Centre, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies)
- Francesca Merlan (School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Arts Faculty)
- Howard Morphy (Centre for Cross-Cultural Research)
- Mark Mosko (Anthropology, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies)
- Julie Finlayson, (AAS President and independent consultant)

Publication announcements

Vicki Lukere and Margaret Jolly (ed), *Birthing the Pacific: Beyond Tradition and Modernity*. University of Hawai'i Press.

Sanjay Srivastava, *Constructing Colonial India: National Character and the Doon School*. Routledge.

James F. Weiner, *Tree Leaf Talk: a Heiggerian Anthropology*. Berg.

Conferences, calls for papers

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

The Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA), The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA), and The Australian Archaeological Association (AAA):

Combined Annual Conference 2002

Land and Sea: Common ground and contemporary issues for Australasian archaeology

This first combined conference between the three major Australasian archaeology associations AIMA (Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology), ASHA (Australasian Society for Historic Archaeology) and AAA (Australian Archaeological Association) is to be held in Townsville from **17 November to 22 November 2002**. This will provide participants with the first 'formal' opportunity to discuss common themes and issues in the world of Australasian archaeology and to consider future directions. It will also be a rare opportunity to become familiar with new and innovative research from the diverse fields of interest of the Australasian archaeological community.

The Conference will be jointly hosted by the Maritime Museum of Townsville and the School of Archaeology, Anthropology and Sociology at James Cook University. The venue is the Southbank Hotel and Convention Centre in Palmer Street, South Townsville (www.southbankhotel.com.au).

The general format of the conference will be as follows:

Morning: 'Common Ground' – daily joint session with a combination of invited papers and / or panel discussions, addressing one of these daily themes:

- Archaeology and Heritage Practices
- Public Perceptions, Promotion, and Interpretation
- Management and Sharing of Data and Resources
- Teaching and Training

Late morning and afternoons: 'Contemporary Issues' - three concurrent sessions, each 'sponsored' by one of the societies, but open to any speaker or participant. The sessions will reflect a wide range of innovative research programmes and current regional studies from all of the sub-disciplines of Australasian archaeology. Papers are invited for all of these sessions, with preference given to presentations that cross boundaries between the sub-disciplines and/or explore interesting directions for the future of Australasian archaeology. Papers presented in the afternoon sessions that address also the main themes of the conference are especially welcome. Consideration will also be given to proposals for other sessions.

Suggested theme topics

New Directions and Developments:
Technologies and Techniques in the Service of Archaeology
Theory and Practice
Archaeology and the Public in Australia
Museums and Archaeologists
Professional Training and Opportunities
Landscapes and Seascapes
Colonization, Contact and Cultural Transference

Frameworks for Historic and Maritime Artefact Analysis
The Pacific at War
Marine Parks and heritage management

Regional Australasia: Progress and Prospects

The Tropics and Torres Strait

Both Sides of Bass Strait

Australia: West and Northwest; South and Central

The Pacific and Beyond

Archaeology of Urban Areas

A 200-word abstract should reach the Conference Organisers by Friday 21 June:

Land and Sea Conference Organisers
School of Anthropology, Archaeology & Sociology,
James Cook University
Townsville, 4810
Queensland

Email:

Martin.Gibbs@jcu.edu.au

Phone: + (61) 7 4781-4759

Fax: + (61) 7 4781-4045

For further information on Townsville and possible accommodation:

<http://www.townsvilleonline.com.au>

Further conference information, travel details and contact websites will be advertised by 30 April 2002 through the list servers.

Monash Asia Institute
Centre of Southeast Asian
Studies

**NINTH ANNUAL
WORKSHOP
ON SOUTHEAST
ASIAN WOMEN**

**MONASH UNIVERSITY
Clayton, Victoria**

FRIDAY JUNE 28, 2002

The aim of the Workshop is to bring together researchers and others interested in the study of matters relating to Southeast Asian women, in any field, such as politics, geography, literature, the arts, history or health.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Please send brief offers of papers to Dr Susan Blackburn, School of Political and Social Inquiry, PO Box 11A Monash University, Victoria, 3800. Email address:

sue.blackburn@arts.monash.edu.au
telephone (03) 9905 2384

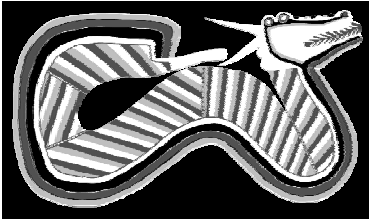
***The deadline for offers
is June 1.***

Positions Vacant

**Madura, Indonesia
Women's Health**

The International Medical Corps (incorporated in L.A.) is in urgent need of a female sociologist to support a program on women's reproductive health based on the island of Madura, East Java. Further

details as follows: Wanted:- one female sociologist with a background in gender based violence, steeped in Islam and the interpretation of the Koranic verses as they relate to reproductive health (including VD and contraception). She will need to be able to liase with heads of public schools and other institutions and also with the religious leaders who run the pesantren (Islamic schools) in order that the medical and psycho-social teams are able to do their work in a sensitive, culturally and religiously acceptable way. Based in Madura but required to travel fairly extensively to meet UN and GOI offices. Obviously fluency in Bahasa Indonesia would be a distinct advantage although I have an excellent interpreter (a Gadjah Mada!!). USD 2,500 per month + USD25 per diem. Travelling etc is paid for by the International Medical Corps (IMC), incorporated in L.A For further details or inquiries please contact Dr Beckett Rosemary drhermia@yahoo.com.au



**NORTHERN
LAND
COUNCIL**

The NLC invites highly motivated individuals to apply for the vacancy below. The role is in the Anthropology Branch and is in line with NLC's strategic directions. Attractive flexible remuneration packaging arrangements are provided and NLC is negotiating a new enterprise agreement.

Please call (08) 8920 5100 for a copy of the relevant duty statement or email employment@nlc.org.au. All applications must address the selection criteria listed in the duty statement, include a comprehensive resume and nominate three referees.

**REGIONAL ANTHROPOLOGIST –
DARWIN/DALY/WAGAIT/VICTORIA
RIVER**

Package Range P02 \$50,000 - \$60,000

The Regional Anthropologist will join a team of people who provide anthropological services and advice to the Northern Land Council, and to Aboriginal groups in the Northern Territory for whom the Land Council has responsibility pursuant to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1993 and other relevant legislation.

The successful applicant will be involved in a wide range of matters including: the identification of Traditional Owners and Native Title holders; research for the distribution of royalty monies; research for native title applications and land claims; and the supervision of anthropological consultants and dispute resolution and mediation.

The position will be filled on the basis of a three (3) year contract of employment. This position requires a minimum of an Honours Degree in Anthropology, field experience in Aboriginal Australia, experience in working in teams and the ability to work under pressure.

For details of this position contact Mr Jeff Stead, Manager Anthropology on (08) 8920 5150.

Applications for the position close

*Successful applicants may be required
to undergo a security check*

*A three month probation period applies
to all positions*

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
people are encouraged to apply*

Applications need to be forwarded to :

The Recruitment

Officer

NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL

PO Box 42921, Casuarina NT 0810

Fax: (08) 8945 2633 Email: employment@nlc.org.au