



Hilary Term 2012

The School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography

Issue 3

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- **Director of COMPAS**
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Letter from the Head of Department

It is almost a year since our last newsletter and much has happened since the last one. Most significantly, in January 2012 the School will be joined by a sixth constituent unit, the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society (InSIS), led by [Professor Steve Rayner](#), which is transferring from the Said Business School. Professor Rayner studied anthropology under Mary Douglas at UCL and is now one of the world's leading experts on climate change. He also co-leads the Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities with Michael Keith of COMPAS. InSIS will be housed, with ICEA, in 64 Banbury Rd. The breadth and strength of research within SAME will also be enhanced by InSIS's other permanent member of staff, [Dr Javier Lezaun](#). Javier's doctorate is in science and technology studies from Cornell and he leads projects on bioproperty, social capital, and legal ethnography.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June [Wendy James](#) received a CBE for services to scholarship – a just recognition of her trio of ethnographic monographs on the Uduk people and her long-term commitment to the people of southern Sudan in the year in which they won their independence. Elisabeth Hsu was conferred the title Professor in the recent Recognition of Distinction exercise. The department also received recognition, both from the Computing Department and from the Vice-Chancellor's teaching awards, for the excellence of our regularly expanding [podcast collection](#), the original idea and impetus for which came from Dr Mette Berg. The collection includes [a podcast](#) of recent students discussing their experiences of anthropology in Oxford, as featured in the previous newsletter. We would welcome hearing from anyone who would like to share their reminiscences of being taught anthropology at Oxford in the past.

Due to departures and retirements, the department is in the process of appointing three University Lectureships. The first, replacing Professor Robert Barnes who retires at the end of this academic year, will be taken up by Dr Ramon Sarró, currently of the University of Lisbon. Dr Sarró did his PhD at UCL on the Baga people of Guinea, and he has also worked on the Kimbanguist Church in Lisbon, Angola, Paris, Belgium, Kinshasa and Nkamba. From 2000 to 2002 he was the Ioma Evans-Pritchard Junior Research Fellow at St Anne's College.

The second and third posts are to replace Dr Justin Barrett, who has taken up the Thrive Chair of Applied Development Science at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and Professor Robin Dunbar (of whom more below). These two posts are University Lectureships in Cognitive Anthropology and in Evolutionary Anthropology and will be combined with tutorial fellowships in Human Sciences at Wadham and Magdalen Colleges respectively. We hope to be in a position to make an official announcement on both positions very soon: there were very strong fields in both cases and the candidates were excited at the prospect of coming to Oxford to teach anthropology and Human Sciences. A fourth post, for which we had to make a special business case, is a University Lectureship in Biocultural Anthropology (with a Fellowship at Harris Manchester College); it will be advertised in January 2012.

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Letter from the Head of Department (*continued*)

The specifications of the last three posts mentioned were drawn up in line with our strategy for supporting the BA degree in Human Sciences. A further important initiative, to which I referred to in the last newsletter almost a year ago, is our plan for an endowed lectureship in the anthropology of Africa combined with a Tutorial Fellowship in Human Sciences. We are delighted that St Hugh's, which has always been a strong supporter of Human Sciences, has agreed to be associated with this position. The post is entitled the 'Clarendon-Lienhardt Lectureship in the Anthropology of Africa and Fellowship in Human Sciences'. 'Clarendon' recognizes the support of the University's Teaching Fund; 'Lienhardt' is in memory of Godfrey and Peter Lienhardt, brothers who were for many years key members of the department, teaching on East Africa and the Middle East.

As explained in the previous newsletter, thanks to transfers from OUP, the University's [Teaching Fund](#) offers £800,000 towards the £2 million cost of permanently endowing an existing tutorial fellowship (this one being the position originally occupied by Professor Wendy James). It is up to the college and the home department to raise the remaining £1.2 million. While there are many such posts being considered for eligibility across the University, we think this Lienhardt post will be especially valuable in ensuring high-quality teaching for Human Scientists and it has been selected by the Social Sciences Division as one of its highest priorities.

We are extremely fortunate in finding an anonymous donor who has pledged matching funds up to £600,000, which means that we 'only' have to raise £600,000 within the stipulated period (by September 2013) in order to endow in perpetuity a position that will help to ensure the future both of Human Sciences and of the anthropology of Africa within the University. We have the services of a university fundraiser, Dr Elisabeth Wadge, to help us talk to as many potential donors as possible, but we will only reach this target in partnership with our alumni and other



*Professor Wendy James
receiving her CBE from
HRH the Princess Royal at
the Investiture at Windsor
Castle on 20 October 2011*

*(© British Ceremonial Arts
2011)*

Letter from the Head of Department (*continued*)

supporters. If you or anyone you know might be able to help us towards this goal, please get in touch!

While new posts and the research that they will allow are exciting developments, we should not forget the important and valuable research already under way in the School, much of which is detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. One item of breaking news is that Robin Dunbar has just received a five-year grant from the European Research Council, worth £1.85m, for a project entitled 'The Psychology of Relationships, Networks and Community Cohesion'. This very much confirms the centrality of the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology (ICEA) within the School and we look forward to an ever-developing consolidation of intellectual agendas between the School's various research units as a result. Together with the new appointments mentioned above, this demonstrates, we believe, Oxford anthropology's determination to be at the forefront of moves to rejuvenate the links between the biological and socio-cultural sides of the discipline.

Student finance has been much in the news in the last year, but the UK media coverage has focused exclusively on undergraduate fees, ignoring the fact that graduate fees have operated in a comparatively free market for many years. In this climate, and given that many of our competitor departments in North America offer full funding to all their doctoral students (paid for from undergraduate fees and other endowment), I thought it would be appropriate to outline what steps the department has taken to help its own students. Approximately fifty per cent of the extra income from raised graduate fees has been recycled into bursaries for doctoral students, providing a total so far of over £70,000.

We have experimented with various formats to disburse these funds, but for the coming year we are offering three £10,000 fee waivers for up to three years. In addition, for the past two years we have been offering bursaries of up to £1500 to students within six months of finishing their doctorates. This amounts to a total of £90,000 that the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography has invested in the past few years into the education of tomorrow's anthropologists.

In addition to this we have (and hope to continue to have on a yearly basis) two ESRC studentships, which may be taken either as '+3', i.e. just for doctoral study, or as '1 + 3', i.e. for a Master's followed by a DPhil. There are also three ESRC studentships dedicated to the Migration Studies pathway as part of the Social Science Division's new Doctoral Training Centre status: these may be given to anthropologists (though other subjects, such as development studies, geography, etc., are also entitled to apply).

Each year we also put forward our strongest applicants for the University's [Clarendon Scholarships](#) (supported by surplus transfer from Oxford University Press). In recent years two or three students in Anthropology each year have benefited from these scholarships which cover all fees and a stipend. Previously, Clarendon Scholarships were for overseas students only, and as a department with a particular focus on the non-Euro-American world, we welcomed this. However, from 2012, all applicants will be eligible to apply regardless of country of origin. We hope that this will allow more British students to study in SAME, though of course we also hope to continue to train students from beyond Britain and the EU, reflecting the international nature of the discipline. Some students manage to come with full scholarships from their home country, and we continue to benefit from Rhodes Scholarships: this year four students on the Medical Anthropology MSc are Rhodes Scholars. Another Rhodes Scholar, Rebecca Richards (featured on page 19) is taking the Material Anthropology and Museum Ethnography MPhil.



Kate Atherton receives the podcasting Teaching Award on behalf of the School of Anthropology from the Vice Chancellor, November 2011. Dr Elisabeth Wadge sits behind Kate.

(© University of Oxford 2011)

Letter from the Head of Department (*continued*)

Finally, the School is associated with several endowed scholarships which become available as recipients finish their studies: the Bagby scholarship for the comparative study of urban literate cultures, the Alan Coltart Scholarship at Exeter College, the Rausing Scholarship at Linacre College, and the Alan Hughes Graduate Scholarship at Jesus College for the study of the cultures or languages of Polynesia or Micronesia. Our goal (and the University's goal) in the coming years is to enlarge the funding base for graduate scholarships, and to expand the number of full-funded and part-funded scholarships available. We have already secured co-funding for ESRC scholarships with St Cross and Wolfson Colleges and look forward to many more such partnerships.

Looking ahead to 2012 (when I will hand over to Professor Marcus Banks), I see a department with a wide range of courses with much to offer students and an exciting portfolio of research. We have grown and changed substantially in the past 15 years. We hope to maintain links with alumni and old friends in every possible way. With that in mind, we plan to have several anthropological offerings available during the Oxford Alumni weekend from 14th to 16th September 2012 – we hope to see you there, if you can make it, and to hear from you if you cannot. There is now a London-based Anthropology alumni group. And for the electronically advanced, we now have a [Twitter](#) newsfeed that you can sign up to. With best wishes for 2012,

David Gellner, December 2011

Head of Department (david.gellner@anthro.ox.ac.uk)

New Research Associates ([webpage](#))

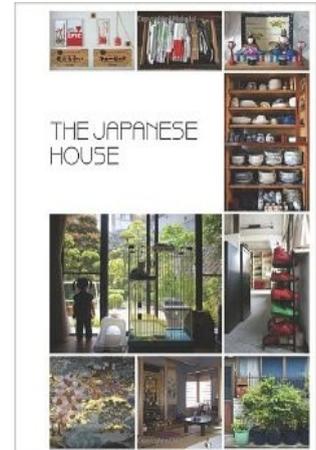
| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dr Melanie Nyhof | Professor Stella Bruzzi |
| Dr Matt Grove | Dr Sébastien Boret |
| Dr Hélène Neveu-Kringelbach | Dr William Kirby |
| Dr Barbara Gerke | Dr Justin Barrett |
| Dr Anna Machin | Dr Chiara Letizia |
| Dr Helen Carr | Dr David Brown |
| Dr Jennifer Bajorek | Dr Anna Lavis |



Research Associate Prof. Judith Okley receiving The Seal of the City of Pilsen, the Czech Republic, from the Mayor, 2011

EXHIBITION: At Home in Japan—Beyond the Minimal House
The Geffrye Museum of the Home, London,
22 March 2011—29 August 2011

The 'At Home in Japan' exhibition, curated by Inge Daniels at the Geffrye Museum of the Home, in Kingsland Road, London, featured in the *Telegraph* (22 August) as one of the top five exhibitions to see in London that week. The exhibition, which accompanied her recent book *The Japanese House: Material Culture in the Modern Home* (Berg, 2010), closed on August 29.



The exhibition drew on Inge's fieldwork in Kansai, an area that includes the cities of Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe and Nara, during which she lived with eight families in their homes and visited more than twenty other households. Some families offered unused objects from their homes.

The exhibition debunked 'Japanese minimalism' and tested the argument that we learn more about culture when we experience it through the recreation of everyday space. *At Home in Japan* placed the visitor at the doorstep of an urban middle-class Japanese home and invited them to explore rooms and objects.

The illusion of being in a house was intensified by photographs of gardens, other buildings and sunlight. Visitors were also able to interact with objects, opening drawers and trying on clothes and so discover similarities and differences between habitats.

(photos © Susan Andrews)



EXHIBITION: Generating Exile—Exploring New Tibetan Identities The Hanart Gallery, Hong Kong, September and October 2011

An exhibition of artworks by Kesang Lamdark and Palden Weinreb curated by Clare Harris, Reader in Visual Anthropology and Curator at the Pitt Rivers Museum.

'Generation Exile', an exhibition held at the Hanart Gallery in Hong Kong in September and October 2011, was a novelty in a number of ways. It presented the work of Palden Weinreb and Kesang Lamdark to the artworld of Hong Kong for the first time. It also foregrounded the achievements of two young men whose inspiration and parentage derive from Tibet but who were not born in a country of that name. Since 1959 tens of thousands of Tibetans have followed the example of the 14th Dalai Lama and left their homeland seeking sanctuary in India and many other countries around the world. The generations of Tibetans who have since grown up in exile have had radically different life experiences from those who knew what it was to live in Tibet. These diasporic generations have received relatively little attention from anthropologists but Clare Harris has been studying the visual and material culture of Tibetan exiles since the early 1990s. She has worked with many Tibetan artists (both inside and outside Tibet) and therefore agreed to curate an exhibition that would introduce two of them to a new audience in China. This was the first time she had acted as a curator outside the UK.

The biographies and artworks of Kesang Lamdark and Palden Weinreb indicate the sense in which identity is mobile and malleable, especially for those who have only known what it is to be Tibetan outside Tibet itself and who have undergone a repeated process of movement from one cultural context to another.

For example, Kesang Lamdark was born in 1963 in Dharamsala, India, but later his parents migrated to Switzerland where he was adopted by a German-speaking Swiss family. In his late twenties, Lamdark moved to the USA in order to study at the Parsons School of Design in New York City. He is now based back in Switzerland. Palden Weinreb, on the other hand, was born in the USA and has only travelled to Tibetan-speaking areas of China or the Tibetan refugee settlements of India as a visitor. He graduated with a degree in Studio Arts from Skidmore College in 2004 and now lives and works in New York.

With backgrounds such as these, it is therefore unsurprising that neither artist wishes to be defined solely in terms of their ethnicity and yet they both



Kesang Lamdark and Palden Weinreb (standing to left and right of Clare Harris) and other members of the curatorial team at the opening of 'Generating Exile' (Photo: Hanart Gallery, Hong Kong)

EXHIBITION: Generating Exile—Exploring New Tibetan Identities The Hanart Gallery, Hong Kong, September and October 2011 (contd.)

acknowledge the formative influence of those from whom they gained their Tibetan ancestry. For them Tibet is a powerful idea, a historic locus of religiosity, the source of a shared vocabulary (linguistic and more broadly cultural) and a land they might dream of recreating imaginatively through the vehicle of art. But it is not home. Artists of this generation can help to articulate these conceptions and to remake Tibet anew elsewhere but ultimately they do so with several degrees of separation intervening. This means that their work is a translation from the original, so to speak: an attempt to understand and respond to the idea of Tibet in its absence and means of evoking the multiple worlds that they, as members of the post-exile generation, now occupy.

[More information on the exhibition here.](#)



[Listen to our Podcasts](#)

Migration, Marital Instability and Divorce among British Asians: Transnationalism, Changing Conjugalities and Legal Pluralism

This project has been awarded a small grant from the ESRC. It builds upon the Principal Investigator [Dr Kaveri Qureshi's](#) previous research with transnational families, and seeks to understand the context and consequences of the increasing instability and breakdown that has been observed in British Pakistani and Indian families over the last decade. Whilst Pakistani and Indian Punjabis share the common practice of transnational marriage, differences in migratory histories and socio-economic trajectories, marriage patterns, conjugal expectations, religions and their recognition by various arms of the British state lend relevance to comparative work. Detailed research will be conducted in London with a small number of families, and will help to reorient public debates about conservatism/patriarchy in British Asian families and the strategic misuses and dangers of transnational marriage, produce valuable data concerning legal pluralism and diversity in social welfare as well as engage with theory concerning the family.

La Lenin Transnational Project

This fourteen-month pilot study, led by Dr Mette Berg, investigates the role of schools in reproducing privilege in socialist Cuba and within its diaspora. In particular, it focuses on the academically selective VI Lenin Secondary School ('La Lenin') founded in Havana in 1972, as it has a significant role in the reproduction of privilege. The project combines a focus on the virtual sociality engendered by [lalenin.com](#), real-life networking and alumni meetings in diaspora, the schooling experiences of young Cubans at the school in Havana, and their connections with alumni on and off the island. It will also involve three research trips to Madrid and New York to interview diasporic Cubans and alumni, and Havana to interview existing pupils and their parents as well as Cuba-based alumni.

[Read more about the project here.](#)

Harvard Conference on Generations and Diasporas

A small workshop took place at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute in late November, organised by Dr Mette Berg (ISCA) and Professor Susan Berg (Boston University) at which a small group of invited scholars came together to discuss generational dynamics among a wide range of diasporic groups including, apart from Cubans, Bangladeshis, Chinese, Croatians, Eritreans, Greeks, Iranians, Liberians, Peruvians, Russian Jews, and Sri Lankan Tamils, in a range of countries of settlement.

More information is available on the [COMPAS Blog](#).

Ritual, Community and Conflict

The Ritual, Community and Conflict project, with £3.2m funding from an ESRC Large Grant, commenced in June 2011 and will run for five years under the direction of Professor Harvey Whitehouse. The project has a global span, involving 13 universities and international teams of anthropologists, psychologists, historians, archaeologists, and evolutionary theorists. The aim is to examine both the acquisition of ritual and ritual's role in group cohesion, inter-group relations, and the evolution of political systems.

Cristine Legare, a cognitive scientist from the University of Texas at Austin, and Whitehouse are investigating the universal cognitive foundations of ritualized behaviour. Learning rituals, rules of etiquette, norms, and ceremonies requires persistent imitation and low levels of innovation. Legare and Whitehouse have shown that this kind of social learning requires a 'ritual stance', associated with exceptionally close attention to the style and sequence of modelled actions and low levels of innovation. Together with developmental psychologists at Harvard and the University of Michigan and a number of postdocs, students, and other research staff, Legare and Whitehouse are studying how a wide range of social cues and contexts affect the 'ritual stance'. In addition to carefully controlled experiments with 3-6 year olds, the team is currently undertaking observational studies in preschools and planning to replicate most of this work cross-culturally (starting with a series of studies in Vanuatu in 2012).

Efforts to understand the impact of ritual on social cohesion and intergroup relations are being headed up by Jonathan Lanman in a research cluster at the University of British Columbia and Ryan McKay at Royal Holloway in London. Together with Whitehouse and a team of researchers working out of Oxford, current experimental research is seeking to isolate the effects of particular aspects of ritual participation (such as synchronized movement, emotional arousal, and signaling) on cooperation and parochial altruism. Additional collaborators on this part of the project come from a range of US universities. This experimental research will be replicated and coupled with field studies of particular ritual traditions in several locations, including Fiji, Israel, and China.



Children spontaneously imitate the movements of adult dancers (photo: Harvey Whitehouse)

Ritual, Community and Conflict (*continued*)

Rituals are embedded in particular social and cultural contexts with complex histories. Together with Peter Turchin (Connecticut) and Quentin Atkinson (Auckland) Whitehouse's team of postdocs and research students at Oxford is currently building a series of databases detailing the role of ritual in the evolution of social complexity and warfare over 5,000 years of recorded history and through the prehistory of Western Asia. The models used to analyze these data derive from evolutionary biology involving theorists and modellers at universities in the USA and Europe.



In the summer 2011 Atkinson, Mazzucato, and Whitehouse started to assemble their Neolithic database at Çatalhöyük in Turkey (photo: Justin Barrett)

The project is currently also undertaking research among rebel forces fighting in the Libyan revolution. This work, led by Brian McQuinn, considers how the rituals of civil war armed groups contribute to the social cohesion required to motivate sustained violence and endure extreme risk. The Libyan case provides particular insight into the initial stages of group formation in civil war. In collaboration with Whitehouse and Caroline Betteridge (Manchester) McQuinn's empirical and theoretical findings will be linked to a comparative study of the Colombian civil war, where armed groups formed more than five decades ago.

Together with Mike Hochberg (Montpellier), Whitehouse and his students are developing models of ritual and group formation that can be simulated on a computer in order to test and refine the logical coherence of theories of both proximate and ultimate causation. In current models groups with different kinds of rituals are placed in virtual environments with different carrying capacities, influencing the rules of engagement between groups and opportunities for population growth, spread, fission and fusion. Varying these parameters allows researchers to explore the consequences of ritual behaviour for the evolution of social groups.



Libyan rebels enter Sirte 2011 (Photo: Brian McQuinn)

Ames Anthropology Award Goes to the Blackfoot Shirts Project

The Council for Museum Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association has jointly awarded the 2011 Michael M. Ames Prize for Innovative Museum Anthropology to Dr Laura Peers (Curator of the Americas, Pitt Rivers Museum and Reader in Material Anthropology, University of Oxford), Dr Alison K. Brown (Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen, who obtained her DPhil at ISCA), and Ms Heather Richardson (Head of Conservation, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford), for their collaborative 'Blackfoot Shirts Project' which brings together historic collections in the United Kingdom with Blackfoot people in Canada and the United States.

Building on relationships developed first by Brown during her doctoral research in the late 1990s and then during a photographic history project with the Kainai First Nation, Peers, Brown and Richardson developed a project to lend five historic hairlock shirts, from the Pitt Rivers Museum collection, to the Glenbow Museum in Calgary and the Galt Museum and Archives in Lethbridge, Alberta, both of which are located in traditional Blackfoot territory.

The five shirts are nearly 200 years old. They were collected in 1841 by Sir George Simpson, the governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and given to his secretary, Edward Hopkins. They have been in the Pitt Rivers Museum since 1893 but prior to the project only a handful of Blackfoot people had seen them. As most surviving Blackfoot clothing from this period is now in museums in Europe, Blackfoot people are keen to access these materials so they can learn about the skills and techniques used by their ancestors.

The shirts are made from elk and deer hide and are adorned with porcupine quill embroidery, hide fringe, and strands of horse and human hair. The quillwork designs are related to sacred stories of the Blackfoot people and one shirt has also been painted with the war deeds of its owner.

For more information, please contact [Kate Webber](#).



Digitisation of the National Sound Archives of the Union of Comoros

Iain Walker was awarded a grant of £51,658 from the British Library Endangered Archives Programme in 2011. The project, which started in September and will take 18 months to complete, is a joint one between the University of Oxford and the Comorian National Research Centre (CNDRS).

The national sound archives of the Union of Comoros consists of approximately 1,000 magnetic audio tapes, stored at the CNDRS in Moroni. The lack of climate control in the storeroom means that these tapes are deteriorating rapidly and a number of them already show signs of physical degradation. In addition to extremes of temperature and humidity, in 2005 there was a volcanic eruption on the island and ash deposits accumulated on the tapes causing some damage.

The collection is a unique record of Comorian cultural practice and social history; the core of the collection was constituted in the last quarter of the twentieth century by the founding director of the CNDRS, Damir Ben Ali, and his successors who, recognising the very real threat of loss of oral records, implemented a project to collect as much material as possible. His team conducted interviews throughout the country on oral tradition, anthropological and historical topics, and collected recordings of cultural performances, including songs, poetry and music. Many of the recorded practices and performances have disappeared, both under the influences of what might be termed modernisation and as a result of social changes during the revolution of 1975-1978.

Likewise, not only has much of the oral history been lost as an older generation disappears and the younger generation turns to radio and television, but written primary sources that could have provided material for historiographies of the early colonial period were largely destroyed during the same revolution. A lack of academic interest in the Comoros in the colonial period (and particularly prior to the second world war) means that these oral histories constitute almost the entire

corpus of extant primary material on pre- and early colonial Comorian history; they are an extremely valuable and irreplaceable source for research on cultural practice and historical change. Those recordings that have been used and analysed in the past have proved to be unique and valuable sources of data.



[SwahiliWeb](#) is a resource destined both for the research community and for the general public and intended to facilitate access to unpublished or difficult to locate documents dealing with or originating in the Swahili world. This digital archive will include journal articles, manuscripts, maps, sound files, photographs and film.

SwahiliWeb is a team effort by Iain Walker at COMPAS, Pat Caplan at Goldsmiths, Anne Bang at CMI Bergen and Marie-Aude Fouéré of IFRA, Nairobi.

(Photo: Iain Walker 2011)

Eastern Medicines and Religions (ArgO-EMR)

From Michaelmas Term 2011 the post-doctoral anthropology research group at Oxford on Eastern medicines and religions ArgO-EMR, which in 2006 was founded with John Fell seed monies, began a particularly busy year. In addition to the AHRC senior researcher **Dr Katherine Swancutt** working on icons and innovation in the shamanic practices of the Nuosu in Southwest China and the Marie Curie post-doctoral fellow **Dr Gabriel Lefevre** working on plant-words in the medical practices of Highland Madagascar, **Dr Mingji Cuomu** has joined us for three years as a Wellcome Trust post-doctoral fellow, in order to document one of the three modes of traditional Tibetan medical education, so-called 'textual initiation', which involves 'apart from memorising texts' a blessing of the lineage holder of the text.

Furthermore, in 2011-12 ArgO-EMR is hosting three visiting scholars from East Asia: **Prof Yousang Baik**, associate professor in Chinese medical literature, from Kyunghee University in Seoul, who will spend six months of his sabbatical with us, while preparing future fieldwork-based research among rural traditional Korean medical doctors; **Prof Wu Zhongping**, associate professor at the Shanghai TCM University, who together with **Profs Wu Dunxu** and **Elisabeth Hsu** is collating a handbook on the usages of qinghao in different genres of the premodern Chinese medical literature (bencao, fangji, yi'an, etc.); and **Ms Xu Fei**, a research student of Prof Guo Wu at the University of Sichuan and with affiliation at the Institute of Chinese Studies, who is currently documenting and analysing the 307 Yao manuscripts on Daoist and other texts for maintaining wellbeing in the domestic sphere in the Bodleian library.

Korea's integrated healthcare – what can be learnt for Complementary and Integrated Medicine and the NHS in the UK? Medical Anthropology and Policy Perspectives

The 2011 Argo-EMR conference, 'Korea's integrated healthcare', was co-organised with the KMD and ISCA research student Seonsam Na and funded by Green Templeton College (small academic grant) and held at 13 Norham Gardens, Osler



Korea's Integrated Healthcare conference 2011

Eastern Medicines and Religions (ArgO-EMR)

McGovern Centre, Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, on 22 October 2011.

The conference was special in that it was one of the first, if not the first conference on traditional Korean medicine and health care in the UK and Western academia at large. We flew in four Korean scholars for this purpose, three of whom had written doctoral theses in sociology, STS and medical anthropology on the topic in English (University of Illinois 2005, Cornell 2008, SUNY Buffalo 2010) and one who is a historian of medicine who will organise a conference in Korea next year on its early twentieth century developments (a topic on which many Korean historians have worked). Our question was: What led to the higher prestige and established position of Korean Medicine in the nation's integrated health care? This is an issue which would have been too politically sensitive to discuss in Korea itself. In Korea, there is a general belief in the competence of the traditional medical profession by legal administrators, policy specialists, government officials, medical professions and public opinion. Accordingly, people talk of a 'dual' medical system where Korean medical doctors (KMDs) are considered equal to MDs. Economically, KMDs enjoy a monthly income equal to MDs; intellectually, they are recruited from students who perform extremely well in high school and are high achievers. This high social status accorded to KMDs in South Korea is unparalleled for traditional medical practitioners elsewhere in the world.

The conference participants discussed this unusual situation of Korea's integrated health system from a cross-cultural and a policy perspective. The three speakers addressed considerations ranging from the history of conflicts between the traditional and modern medical professionals, to governmental policies regarding the funding of research to concrete theories and practices of traditional Korean medicine. Each of their presentations was discussed by two Oxford-based scholars, one a GTC fellow (Mark Harrison, Bledynn Davies, Elisabeth Hsu), the other a knowledgeable specialist of South Korea (Denis Noble, Inseok Yeo, Seonsam Na). Then ample time was factored in for open discussion, which turned out to be, particularly in the morning, very lively indeed.

The conference (which mentioned GTC as conference venue and sponsor) attracted the attention of the South Korean media, and was reported in a half-page article of a Korean medical weekly newspaper that enjoys a wide distribution among health care and policy professionals on [31 October](#).

Michael Palin launches new Hodgson Catalogue

David Gellner and Michael Hutt co-directed a project from 2001 to produce a user-friendly catalogue of the British Library's Hodgson papers, a treasure trove of historical and linguistic materials relating to Nepal in the 1820s-60s. Funding was received from the Leverhulme Trust, Michael Palin, and the Friends of the British Library. At a reception on 25th July Michael Palin performed a ceremonial click of the mouse to declare the website catalogue open. [Further details here](#).



Michael Palin launches the new Hodgson Catalogue
(© The British Library Board 2011)

Anthrologica is a research-based organisation specialising in the applied anthropology of healthcare in developing contexts. As founder and current director, Dr Juliet Bedford, a Post Doctoral Associate at the School of Anthropology, leads a growing team of anthropologists that work cross-sector within the healthcare structures of the countries in which *Anthrologica* operates, usually with local partners.

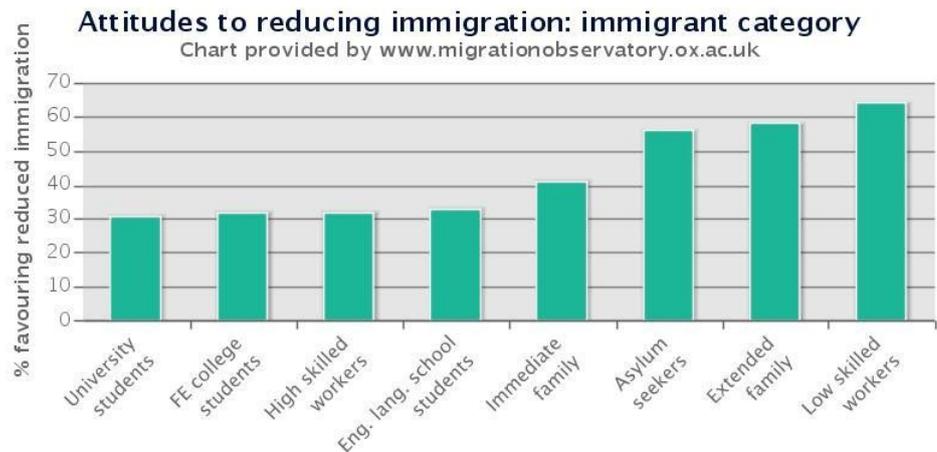
For further details, please see

www.anthrologica.com

New Migration Observatory work on public opinion about immigration

[The Migration Observatory](#)'s recent work looking at public opinion about immigration has generated substantial interest after raising some important questions for the Government.

The report, 'Thinking Behind the Numbers', shows that, while public opinion in Britain clearly favours a reduction in the number of immigrants coming to Britain, the majority of the public are concerned about immigrant groups that are most difficult for the government to reduce – asylum seekers and low-skilled workers (who come primarily from the EU).



"Policies on immigration often affect specific groups of people coming to Britain. For each of the following groups, please tell us whether the number of people coming to Britain should be increased, reduced or kept the same."

■ All respondents (n=985 weighted)

Source : Migration Observatory/Ipsos MORI, 2-8 Sep 2011. See tables 8 and 9, Appendix A

The report is based on a survey of 1,000 people, designed by the Migration Observatory and carried out by Ipsos MORI from 2-8 September 2011.

Key findings include:

Seven in ten people in the UK (69%) support reductions in immigration – this is in line with previous surveys.

People's preferences for reducing immigration are not focused on the largest groups. The largest group of legal migrants – students (37% of immigrants to the UK in 2009) – is of the lowest concern to British people, while the smallest group – asylum seekers (4% of immigrants to the UK in 2009) – is of the highest concern.

Preferences for reducing immigration are most common where government faces more constraints: the most commonly chosen targets for reductions include asylum seekers (56% of respondents) and low-skilled workers (64% of respondents).

Opposition to immigration is often focused on 'illegal' immigrants. A majority of those who wanted to see immigration as a whole reduced felt that reductions should target 'only' or 'mostly' illegal immigration.

There is broad opposition to unskilled migrant workers (64%) and low levels of opposition to skilled migrants (32%).

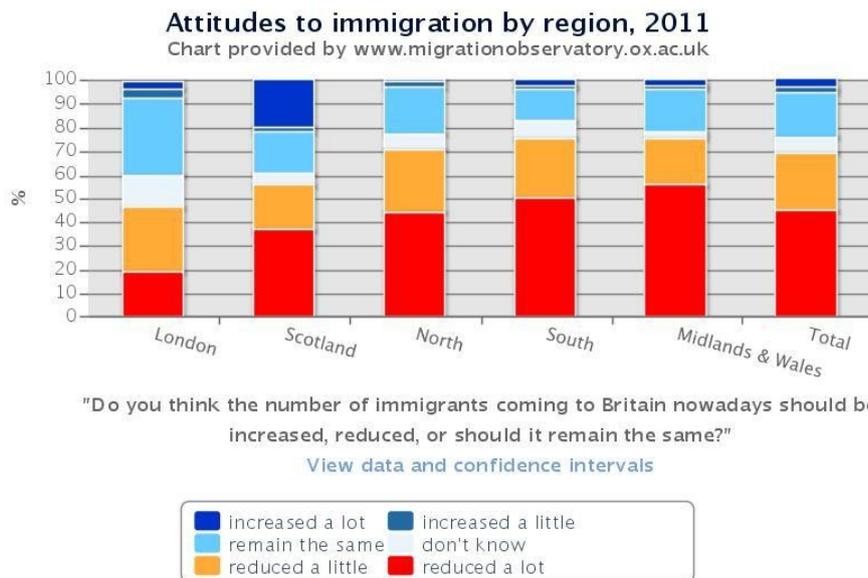
A secondary piece of work generated from the survey data was a commentary 'The Variations Enigma' which looked at the differences in public opinion around the country.

This also generated substantial media interest and, in particular, suggested that the

New Migration Observatory work on public opinion about immigration

level of concern about immigration may not to be directly related to the number of migrants in a given region

This was suggested by the finding that the two areas with the lowest level of support for cutting migration were London and Scotland, which have vastly different migrant populations, with London having the biggest, and Scotland having among the smallest. The highest levels of support for cutting migration were in Wales and the Midlands.



Source: Migration Observatory/Ipsos Mori, 2-8 Sep 2011

Ethnography, Diversity and Urban Space (22-23 September 2011)

The intensification of global flows in the current period has led scholars to describe cities like London as 'super-diverse': a 'diversification of diversity', with a population characterised by multiple ethnicities, countries of origin, immigration statuses, and age profiles. The aims of this conference are: to address the missing dimension of migration and mobility in the literature on urban space, and the missing dimension of spatiality in the literature on diversity; and to develop new modes of inquiry appropriate to the contemporary challenge of super-diversity.

Making a difference: Learning for citizenship in the 21st century

On 8 December Ben Gidley spoke at the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) event '[Making a difference: Learning for citizenship in the 21st century](#)' in the presence of HRH Princess Anne.

Drawing on the perspectives of learners, practitioners, policy makers and researchers, the conference explored what it means to 'participate' as a citizen, examining the types of learning that foster civic activity, social networking, political processes and community life. Ben Gidley, one of seven speakers on 'Who are the UK's new citizens?', presented research conducted with Birkbeck, University of London, on the Integration and Citizenship project. The research surveyed a large sample of people who applied for British citizenship last year, and conducted in-depth follow-up interviews with some of them. The research explored their journey from arrival to settlement to citizenship, their experiences of the naturalisation process (including the Life in the UK test), and their integration in terms of social interaction, local belonging and feelings of Britishness.

**THE COMPAS
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Once a week,
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blog about their
work, thoughts,
and insights.
The posts will be
provided
by COMPAS staff,
with some
contribution
from students.
We hope that this
blog will give you
an interesting
insight into
COMPAS!

[Read it here](#)

The Sixth Rome International Film Festival: Film, Food and Great Britain

Stanley Ulijaszek took part in a panel on Film, Food and... ..Great Britain. A kingdom united around the table?' at the Sixth Rome International Film Festival. He was joined by Enrico Derflingher (formerly chef to the Queen of England, President George Bush Senior, and now the Armani restaurants) and Antonio Monda (US cultural correspondent for *La Repubblica* newspaper, film critic for *The New York Review of Books* and New York University).

Together, they discussed the success of the cooking and celebrity chefs on British television and the export of this genre overseas, the ways in which the dietary habits of the British population have changed, and the extent to which food internationalism and novelty are part of everyday British life. Starting from some selected movie scenes, their aim was to enliven 'the scientific corner' of the International Film Festival with their debate.

[More details and video here.](#)



Stanley Ulijaszek and
Enrico Derflingher
[More photographs here](#)

AIDS, Sexuality and Religion: Transnational Dynamics in Africa

28-30 September 2011, School of Anthropology, 64 Banbury Road, Oxford

This international conference, convened by Dr Nadine Beckmann (Oxford), Dr Catrine Christiansen (Copenhagen) and Dr Alessandro Gusman (Riga), and co-hosted by the Fertility and Reproduction Studies Group (FRSG) and the International Network for Research on AIDS and Religion in Africa (IRNARA), brought together scholars and practitioners to analyse the ways in which transnational relations influence the interrelations between religion, sexuality and AIDS in Africa. Most religious institutions and faith-based organisations work together with partners in as well as outside the continent, but although these relations are known to be crucial for the flows of ideas and resources in relation to HIV/AIDS, there is very limited knowledge about the transnational dynamics of views on sexuality in relation to HIV/AIDS and religion in Africa.

The conference ranged widely over a large number of themes: the negotiation of policies within transnational faith-based organisations; the role of diaspora in transnational collaboration; issues of technology and transnational family planning; the role of sexual networks; the value of sex, homosexuality and transgressive sexualities; and the creation of transnational moralities through HIV programmes. We had an excellent number of speakers, including some of the pioneers in the field of AIDS research, a range of younger academics from various European, North American, and southern African countries, and activists and practitioners working in the UK as well as in the African continent. Key speakers included Professor Terence Ranger (Oxford), Professor Brooke Grundfest-Schoepf (Harvard), Professor Robert Thornton (Wits), Professor Suzette Heald (LSE), and Reverend Ijeoma Ajibade (St Philip's Church, Diocese of London). The organising team has been invited by the British Academy to submit an edited volume for publication and is also planning a special issue on homosexuality in sub-Saharan Africa. The conference was funded by the John Fell Fund, St Antony's College's Annual Fund, and the African Studies Centre, Oxford.

Conferences in Oxford

Medical Anthropology at Oxford: 10 Years at the Intersections

This conference, supported by the Wellcome Trust, took place on 23-24 June, 2011, and included presentations by past and present members of ISCA as well as current students of Medical Anthropology. [More information.](#)

New Thinking: Advances in the Study of Human Cognitive Evolution

ICEA's conference also took place on 23-24 June 2011 and included a presentation by Robin Dunbar on 'The Social Brain on the Internet'. [More information.](#)

Learning Unlearning:

Critical Dialogues Between Anthropology and Education

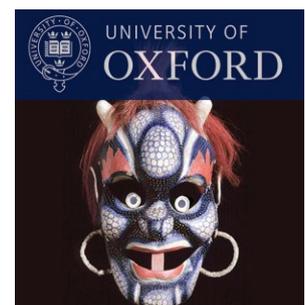
This one-day conference on teaching anthropology took place on 22 September, 2011, at Kellogg College and was organised in conjunction with the new RAI journal *Teaching Anthropology*.

Elementary Forms of Religious Life: A Dialogue between the Disciplines

On the 19-20 July, 2011, the School in conjunction with The British Centre for Durkheimian Studies, Maison Française d'Oxford, and All Souls College, held a workshop to mark the centenary of Durkheim's *Elementary Forms*.

Punjab Research Group, Wolfson College

Taking place on 29 October 2011, the workshop explored the composite culture of 19th century Punjab and its legacy for political assertions today. It was organized by Dr Pippa Virdee (Leicester De Montfort University) and Dr Kaveri Qureshi, supported by the South Asia cluster of Wolfson College.



[Listen to podcasts recorded at seminars, conferences and other events at the School.](#)

New research provides clues to why humans are so sociable these days

Humans have evolved to become the most flexible of the primates and being able to live in lots of different social settings sets us apart from non-human primates, suggests research by University of Oxford and the University of Auckland

[A research paper](#), published in the journal *Nature*, has provided important new clues to how humans network and socialise today by exploring the evolutionary history of social groupings among primates. The study analysed patterns of social groups among living primates, as well as examining the 'the root' of the family tree, in 217 primate species. The researchers then used Bayesian data modelling to reconstruct the most likely explanation for how the grouping behaviour of primates evolved over 74 million years.

Their key finding is that the main step change in social behaviour occurred when primates switched from being mainly active at night to being more active during the day. Primates started out as solitary foragers as by night they could survive by moving quietly on their own in the dark. However, once they switched to daytime activity, they could be seen and were more vulnerable to attack by predators unless they could show strength in numbers. This research paper provides evidence to show that this switch in activity coincided with a significant change in social behaviour as primates started to 'gang up' for the first time. The researchers conclude that social bonding began as a way of adapting to a new threat.

The paper also suggests that primates went directly from being solitary foragers living in large, mixed-sex groups where group members were loosely bound together. Members could come and go as needed, suggests the research, which is a behaviour still observed in some primates, like lemurs, today. The emergence of more stable groups of primates, in which individuals formed clusters that were smaller in size and maintained close social links, is likely to have developed much later says the paper.

These findings are significant as they throw into doubt previous theories about the evolution of primate social grouping patterns. Previous studies have suggested that complex primate social groups were composed of smaller units that stacked up rather like building blocks. Others have suggested that the bond between a mother and daughter later extended to include other related females, and it was this network of relationships that underpinned the social grouping patterns of mammals.

The data, studied by the research team, included a huge range of social grouping patterns: solitary individuals, family-bonds, pair-bonds, harems, multi-male and multi-female groups. The researchers discovered that the bonding behaviour of primates was strongly determined by their ancestors, with closely related species having very similar social behaviour.



Crab eating macaques
(*Macaca fascicularis*)

Once the transition from individual to group living took place – 52 million years ago in the ancestral line that gave rise to humans, and later in another branch of the primate family tree – no shift back to solitary behaviour ever occurred. Primate ancestors that

New research provides clues to why humans are so sociable these days (continued)

subsequently began living in pairs did not switch back to group living, whereas those that began living in harems could transition back and forth with large groups. There was never a transition directly from pair to harem living or vice versa.

The researchers conclude that only humans have had the flexibility to live in a range of different, complicated social settings. Throughout history, humans have lived in monogamous and polygamous societies; in nuclear family and extended family groups. Beyond the home, they have socialised in different work settings, as well as being part of the complicated social structure of wider human society.

Lead author Dr Susanne Shultz, from the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology at the University of Oxford, said: "There is an amazing flexibility in the way humans have managed to socialise, network and live together, both in groups and wider society. We have a huge variety of social settings to cope with, according to the different cultural practices and customs. This flexibility in the human lineage has not evolved to anything like this level in other primates. Our findings support previous studies that suggest that more brain power is needed for groups that have a more complicated social life."

Co-author Kit Opie, also from the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, said: "These analyses allow us to look back in time to understand major step changes in social evolution amongst our closest relatives. We now understand why primate sociality is inherently special, as bonded social groups are unusual in mammals, yet the norm in primates."

MPhil graduate Amy Duffuor given a 'Future Leader of Britain' award

In September 2011, Amy Duffuor, who graduated with Distinction from the final MPhil Migration Studies cohort this year, was given a 'Future Leader of Britain' award, which recognises 100 of the UK's most outstanding black graduates, by Powerful Media on 2nd September at City Hall. Amy is a US national and the daughter of Ghanaian migrants; she'll be in the student powerlist. She wrote an excellent thesis on Pentecostalism in Peckham, based on her own independent research. She is now working as a research assistant for Dr Kathryn Nwajiaku-Dahou in the Dept of Politics at Oxford. More details at the bottom of this [link](#).

ICEA student Isabel Behncke selected as a TED Fellow for 2011

ICEA DPhil student Isabel Behncke has been selected as a TED fellow for 2011. Isabel studies the social behaviour (and play behaviour in particular) of wild bonobos in DR Congo. 'In Wamba, a most remote jungle location I have observed unique aspects of bonobo lives (from imaginary play and laughter to inter-group encounters to accidents and death) that challenge and illuminate our understanding of human evolution. I aim to link the play of adult bonobos to insights on human laughter, joy, creativity and our capacity for wonder and exploration.' [More details here.](#)

TED [defines itself](#) as 'small nonprofit devoted to 'Ideas Worth Spreading.' Its annual conferences, in Long Beach/Palm Springs and Edinburgh, 'bring together the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives (in 18 minutes).'

MPhil student Rebecca Richards is Young South Australian of the Year

In 2011, the first Aboriginal Australian student to win a Rhodes scholarship, began her MPhil in Material Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. Rebecca Richards has been nominated for the 'Young Australia of the Year' award having already been named as the 2012 Young South Australian of the Year. Rebecca plans to work on the Aboriginal Australian collections held at the Pitt Rivers Museum.



Susanne Shultz



Kit Opie



Isabel Behncke

The School of Anthropology Photography Competition 2011

Although the COMPAS Photography Competition is well established, this year the first competition for the whole School took place. With thanks to all those who entered, we're delighted to announce here the winners.

The first prize is awarded to Juliet Gilbert, a DPhil student in Social Anthropology (supervised by David Pratten).



'Chiefs and Mobile Phones: Traditional and emerging symbols of status and community at the Le-boku Yam Festival, Ugep, south-eastern Nigeria'
(Juliet Gilbert 2011)

Ivan Costantino, a DPhil student in Social Anthropology (supervised by Clare Harris and David Gellner) won second and third prizes.



'Two young monks about to open the door to a monastery's assembly hall '
(Ivan Costantino 2011, Tibet)

The School of Anthropology Photography Competition 2011



'Following a monk into the main courtyard of the Bon (hence the counter-clockwise swastika) monastery of Yundrungling, Tibet (Ivan Costantino 2011)

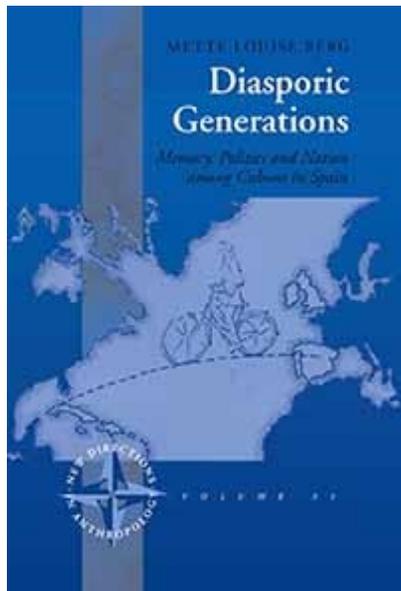
The University of Oxford Anthropology and Museum Ethnography Alumni Society

By the time this Newsletter goes to press, the University of Oxford Anthropology and Museum Ethnography Alumni Society www.ouameas.org.uk will have held our first New Members Coffee and Cakes morning, on 3 December 2011, 10.30-12.30 at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, London. In the last month, we have been contacted by alumni from all over the world who work in areas unrelated to Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, but who would desperately like to maintain contact with the School and the discipline to discuss shared interests and experiences, and learn more about how they can support current students. So far, Members have said they would like to receive and contribute towards: Free lectures and workshops; exclusive talks; trips and visits to places of interest; social events in interesting (but affordable!) restaurants; a regular newsletter; a 'spotlight on' event designed to support and promote a small, local museum; PayPal facilities. A number of overseas alumni expressed an interest in attending some sort of summer school – themes raised included how to respond to crisis in areas such as Sudan – peoples and regions we are all familiar with through study if not actual fieldwork.

This is still very much a work in progress and we will continue to update our website according to your comments and suggestions and provide more details – what's happening, where, and what we are planning for the future – through the usual channels, this Newsletter, our website, and your personal requests. We will be organising events and talks in Oxford later on in 2012 for those of you who will become Alumni at the end of the academic year. In the mean-time, please get in contact if you are struggling with ideas and themes for dissertations and thesis – it is all hands on deck these days, and one of us may be able to help or point you in the right direction as we have contacts and connections all over the world.

Dr Helen Carr (helen.carr@anthro.ox.ac.uk)

Please do keep an eye on our [Events calendar on the website](#) to see details of the seminar programmes as well as other events that may be of interest to you.



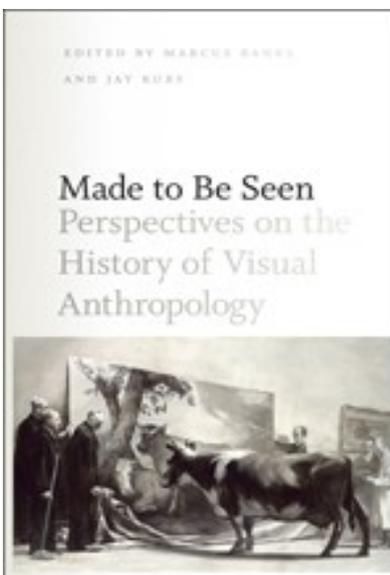
Mette Louise Berg – *Diasporic Generations: Memory, Politics and Nation among Cubans in Spain* (Oxford: Berghahn 2011).

"Highlighting key generational differences, dynamics and trajectories, Mette Louise Berg's work adds an exceptionally significant approach to studies on diasporas and transnational migration. Her case study of Cubans in Spain also interestingly reflects deep changes in Cuban society over a number of decades" – Steve Vertovec, Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity.

Read about the booklaunch at the ISA, London, [here](#).

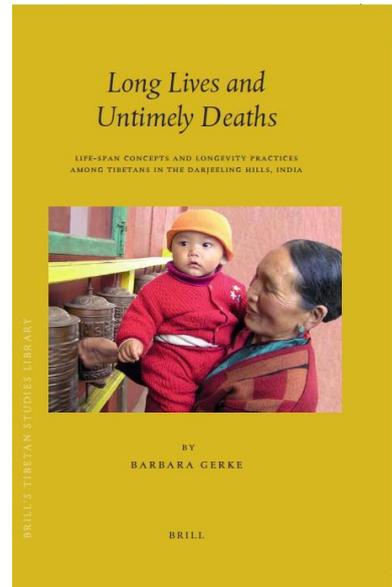
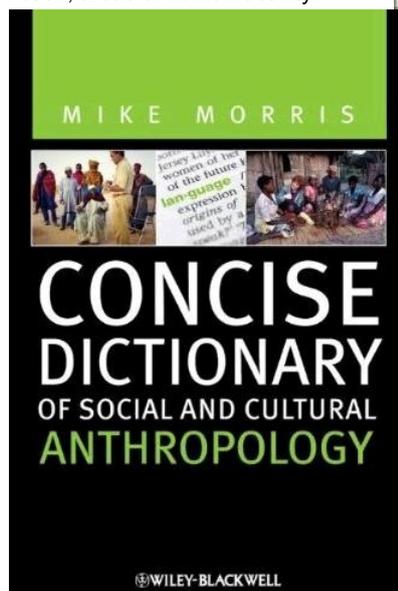
Edited by Marcus Banks and Jay Ruby – *Made to Be Seen: Perspectives on the History of Visual Anthropology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press 2011).

The first attempt to present a comprehensive overview of the many aspects of an anthropological approach to the study of visual and pictorial culture, *Made to be Seen* will be the standard reference on the subject for years to come. Students and scholars in anthropology, sociology, visual studies, and cultural studies will greatly benefit from this pioneering look at the way the visual is inextricably threaded through most, if not all, areas of human activity.



Mike Morris – *Concise Dictionary of Social and Cultural Anthropology* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell 2012).

"The Concise Dictionary of Social and Cultural Anthropology will provide invaluable assistance to anthropological researchers both old and new. It provides an authoritative single point of reference to the wide range of technical terms which professional anthropologists are expected to understand." – David Zeitlyn, Oxford University



Barbara Gerke – *Long Lives and Untimely Deaths: Lifespan concepts and longevity practices among Tibetans in the Darjeeling Hills, India* (Leiden: Brill 2011).

This book presents ethnographic accounts and textual material demonstrating how Tibetans in the Darjeeling Hills, India, view the life-span and map out certain life-forces in various areas of knowledge. Loss, exhaustion, or periodic weaknesses of life forces are treated medically or through Tibetan Buddhist practices and rituals. In all these events, temporality and agency are deeply interlinked.

The Tylor Library has a new website which provides full details on its lending and reference collections, its e-resources and its services.

[Visit it here](#)

[Connect with members of the School of Anthropology at Oxford Academia.](#)



The School of Anthropology is now on Twitter! Do follow us and keep in touch

http://twitter.com/oxford_anthro

All comments and suggestions for the School Newsletter are welcomed by the editor Kate Atherton (kate.atherton@anthro.ox.ac.uk)