

**ANTHROPOLOGISTS' FUND FOR
URGENT ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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URGENT ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH

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Ethnography is the Glory of Anthropology

Professor T. N. Madan

I have no hesitation in characterising the corpus of descriptive ethnography which we have produced as by far the greatest achievement in anthropology, the crowning glory of our discipline.

Professor George Peter Murdock

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INTRODUCTION

Since inception the AFUAR has funded thirteen Royal Anthropological Institute Fellowships in Urgent Anthropology, a special grant to digitalize the data, photographs, films, and objects of Himalayan cultures and a special grant to digitalize the old records of Nanay folklore.

The Fellows have been drawn from various nations and have done research in many regions:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fellow</u>	<u>Research</u>
1995	Dr. Roxanne P. Hakim	Vasavas of Gujarat, India
1996	Dr. Stuart Kirsch	Yonggom of Papua New Guinea
1997	Dr. Cai Hua	Na of Yunnan Province, P.R.C.
1998	Dr. Barthlomew Dean	Urarina of Peru
1999	Dr. Veronica Strang	Kowanyama, No. Queensland,
	Australia	
2000	Dr. Christopher Duncan	Forest Tobelo Halmahera Sulawesi Indonesia
2001	Professor Alan MacFarlane and Dr. Mark Turin	Himalayan region
2001	Dr. Noriko Sato	Orthodox Christians in Jazaira and Aleppo, Syria
2002	Dr. Ananda Rajah	Karen Refuges Thailand/Burma
2003	Dr. Rogaia Abusharaf	Southern Sudan
2004	Dr. Tatiana Bulgakova	Nanay, Manchuria Russia
2004	Dr. Emma Gilberthorpe	Fasu and Min people of Papua New Guinea
2005	Dr. Mark Jamieson	Sumu people of Nicaragua's Mosquito Coast
2006	Dr. M. Thanuja	Konda Reddis

THE FUND

The Anthropologists' Fund for Urgent Anthropological Research was launched in late 1993 to support basic ethnographic research on threatened or

disappearing cultures and languages of indigenous peoples. The Fund is entirely supported by individual contributions. It is expected that the research funded will make a fundamental contribution to anthropological knowledge and will also serve, where appropriate, as an aid to indigenous peoples in their struggle to control their own destinies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE FELLOWSHIPS IN URGENT ANTHROPOLOGY

The primary goal of the Fellowships is to make a contribution to anthropological knowledge. However, basic ethnographic research has proven to be of material aid and help to indigenous peoples whose cultures and languages are threatened or disappearing. Thus, grantees are encouraged, where appropriate, to:

- a) report to the people concerned relevant records made in the course of the study of their culture and history, so as to help them make use of valued aspects of these in the construction of their futures;
- b) foster respect, where this has been eroded, for their culture and language and their preservation, including the development of local interest in collecting oral histories and traditions and the incorporation of these in the educational system;
- c) collect data on the traditional patterns of land use and rights and make them available for the people;
- d) facilitate the study of local medical practices and their incorporation into the modern health delivery systems;
- e) report violations of human rights to pertinent human rights organizations.

The idea for such a fund arose at the 1993 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, D.C., as the result of discussion between G. N. Appell and Jonathan C. M. Benthall, then Director of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. There was a need to find support for research on disappearing and threatened cultures not only for the benefit of anthropological knowledge but also for the benefit of the peoples themselves. And so the AFUAR was created. Jonathan Benthall in his usual innovative style devised a plan for RAI Fellowships in Urgent Anthropology whereby the Fund and universities in the U.K. could cooperate to under take this research. This scheme owes much to the vision of Mr. Benthall!

The program was that the Fellowships in Urgent Anthropology would be under the direction of a U.K. university for a period of five years, including cost-

sharing of 1/3 of budget. Then the program would be open for bidding by other universities.

In 2000 Jonathan Benthall resigned as Director of the Royal Anthropological Institute. Hilary Callan, selected as the new director, competently took over the oversight of this scheme and ably advanced its goals.

AGREEMENT WITH THE ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

The Fund awards grants to the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland to support their Fellowships in Urgent Anthropology.

An inaugural five-year program (extended for a sixth year) of Fellowships was set up by the RAI in association with Goldsmiths' College, part of the University of London, which is the largest center for anthropological research in the United Kingdom. The heads of Goldsmiths' anthropology department agreed to maintain their interest and involvement in the program and give advice where appropriate.

In 2001 the RAI entered into an agreement with the University of Durham to continue this program of Fellowships and they hosted the programme until 2006. It is testimony to the importance the University set on the program that in financially very straitened times they had found the funds to cover their contribution over this period.

The new host for the Urgent anthropology programme, for the next 3 years 2007-2010, will be the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Applicants are invited to submit budgeted projects costed at up to £23,500, to last approximately eighteen months, with a minimum of one year and maximum of two years, this period to include field research and writing up. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute actively to the research activities of the Department and to reside for the main part in Canterbury when writing up. He/she will also be expected to publish the results of the research. The closing date for receiving applications is 1 March of each year.

The selection of RAI Fellows is made by a panel from the University of Kent at Canterbury. Academic oversight of the projects is provided by the senior members of the anthropology department. There is an RAI oversight committee on the Urgent Fellowships.

Fellowships are awarded without discrimination of ethnic or national origin, or residence, etc.

All monies contributed to the Fund are spent on research with the Fund and the Royal Anthropological Institute taking no charge for administrative services.

APPLICATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Application information on Fellowships in Urgent Anthropology may be requested from:

Mrs. Susan Simpson

Academic Administrator

Department of Anthropology

Marlowe Building

University of Kent

Canterbury, Kent

CT2 7NR

United Kingdom

Phone +44 (0) 1227 824 742

Fax +44 (0) 1227 827 289

Applicants must either already have a doctoral qualification or equivalent in anthropology, or be nearing completion of doctoral research.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE FUND - 1993 through 2006

The Fund's investments are divided and managed by the institutions: The Boston Foundation and Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund, also of Boston.

The cumulative financial activities of the Fund as of December 31, 2006, are:

Total Contributions Received since inception: \$673,825.46

Total Grants made to the RAI since inception: \$389,230.00

Net \$ 284,595.46

Net current funds invested and held for future grants: \$
625,071.00

The finances of the Fund have appreciated over this period: \$ 340,475.54

FUND RAISING GOALS

The Fund is currently seeking additional donations and legacies in order to achieve its goal of a permanent endowment of \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, the income from which will support at least two to three fellowships per year.

We would welcome any advice on further sources of contributions to this Fund.

To make contributions to the Fund checks should be made payable to the: The Anthropologists' Fund for Urgent Anthropological Research; and sent to Dr. George N. Appell, P. O. Box A, Phillips, ME 04966, U.S.A., or to the Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 5HS, UNITED KINGDOM.

All contributions are tax exempt and will be deposited in the Fund's account in the Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund, of Boston, MA, or in the account at the Boston Foundation (a community foundation). Other contributions from within the United Kingdom are held by the Royal Anthropological Institute and are also entirely tax exempt.

Dr. Appell, Founding Sponsor, will be pleased to discuss donations and legacies for the Fund with prospective donors.

We are very pleased that this Fund is progressing so well and that all contributions go to funding research. No funds are used for fund raising or administrative expenses whatsoever.

RAI FELLOWSHIPS IN URGENT ANTHROPOLOGY AWARDED

The first Royal Anthropological Institute Fellowship in Urgent Anthropology was awarded in December 1994 to **Dr. Roxanne P. Hakim**, of Bombay, India, and King's College, Cambridge. This was to continue her research on the Vasavas, of Gujarat, India. The Vasavas form a community of subsistence farmers who supplement their agriculture by forest hunting and gathering and also raising some cattle. Their language has not been recorded. Recently the community has been resettled because of the Sardar Sarovar Dam project. Dr. Hakim has been working on completing a dictionary of the Vasavas language and pursuing her collection of Vasavas myths, stories, and songs. In addition, she planned to spend time with two less isolated groups, the Tadvīs and Rathwas, who are also being resettled as part of the same project.

Amount of Grant: \$27,000

The second annual fellowship was awarded in December 1995 to **Dr. Stuart Kirsch**, of the University of Michigan, who has conducted extensive research in Papua New Guinea since 1987. Dr. Kirsch has been studying the resistance of the Yonggom of Papua New Guinea to an open-cut copper and gold mine which is polluting their river system. The project was intended to contribute to anthropological knowledge about an indigenous people's effort to maintain autonomy within the global system by defending their natural environment.

Amount of Grant: \$22,500

The third RAI Fellowship in Urgent Anthropology (June 1997 to December 1998) was awarded to **Dr. Cai Hua** for fieldwork to document the shamanic knowledge among the few remaining shaman of the Na, an ethnic minority group in the Yunnan Province, PRC, rapidly facing assimilation. The Fund and the RAI have also provided a video camera for Dr. Cai to use to video tape shaman performances. This research was an extension of the original research that Dr. Cai did for his Ph.D. (1995) from the l'Université de Paris X-Nanterre on the kinship system of the Na. Dr. Cai's dissertation was published as *Les Na de Chine: Une Société, Sans Père Ni Mari*, Presses Universitaires de France, in which he reports the absence of the institution of marriage and family.

Amount of Grant: \$25,930

The Fund also provided funds to support the completion of a video of a Na shamanistic performance by **Dr. Cai**, with the help of Dr. Paul Henley, Chair of the RAI Film Committee. This video is now available from the Royal Anthropological Institute and includes a fifty page Study Guide.

Amount of Grant for Film: \$8,820

The 1998 RAI Fellowship was awarded to **Dr. Barthlomew Dean** (University of Kansas) to continue research in Peru on Urarina social organization, cosmology, and shamanism. He also was to work with Urarina leaders and local organizations to develop an intercultural school curriculum that would revalorize the Urarina language and contribute to cultural survival, including the preservation of Urarina knowledge. This work was also to contribute to the protection of Urarina land tenure and their natural resource management.

Amount of Grant: \$27,055

The fifth RAI Fellowship was awarded in 1999 to **Veronica Strang** (D.Phil. in Museum Ethnography from Oxford), lecturer and deputy head of a new department of anthropology at the University of Wales, Lampeter. Her project was to study the maintenance of aboriginality in far north Queensland, where she has had extensive field experience since 1982. She examined the efforts of an ex-mission community, Kowanyama, to preserve a traditional Aboriginal environmental relationship while grappling with issues of land rights, tourism, mining, etc. The younger generation is very keen to acquire their elders' traditional knowledge. She used the technique of "cultural mapping" and the recording of language and other data, with special reference to the internal

debates and tensions within the community. She stated that there was a close coincidence between the aims of the project and the current urgent needs of the community.

Amount of Grant: \$24,600

The 2000 RAI Fellowship was awarded to **Dr. Christopher Duncan** (Research Associate in the Asian Cultural History Program, Smithsonian Institution). The original proposal submitted for the RAI Research Fellowship in Urgent Anthropology was for funds to document the indigenous cosmology and ritual practices of the Forest Tobelo, the forest-dwelling foragers living on the island of Halmahera in eastern Indonesia. However, due to the outbreak of violence in 1999, and continuing instability throughout 2001-2003, research plans had to be changed. A new research proposal was submitted in 2002 titled "Communal Violence in North Maluku: An Examination of the Violence and the Resulting IDP Situation in Northern Sulawesi and North Maluku, Indonesia." This new research project had two main foci: (1) documenting and better understanding the violence that broke out in North Maluku from 1999 to 2000, and (2) examining the lives of those people that it displaced. The research was undertaken in the provinces of North Sulawesi and North Maluku in eastern Indonesia. The former was home to approximately 35,000 largely Christian internally displaced people (IDPs). Approximately 10,000 of these IDPs were living in several large IDP camps in the cities of Bitung and Manado, and an additional 25,000 were scattered throughout the province in individual homes. Research

was conducted among both groups. The second research site was the province of North Maluku where the conflict that produced these IDPs occurred. Field work was concentrated in the districts of Tobelo and Kao.

Amount of Grant: \$22,860.50

Professor Alan MacFarlane and Dr. Mark Turin (Cambridge University) were awarded a special RAI Fellowship for 2001-2003. Digital Himalaya, a pilot project to develop digital collection, archiving and distribution strategies for multimedia anthropological information from the Himalayan region. They digitized a set of existing ethnographic archives comprised of photographs, films, sound recordings, field notes and texts collected by anthropologists and travelers in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and the Indian Himalayas (including Sikkim) from the beginning of the twentieth century to present.

The project had three long-term objectives:

1. To preserve in a digital medium valuable ethnographic materials that are degenerating in their current forms;
1. To make these resources available in a searchable digital format to scholars and to the Himalayan communities from which the material originated;
2. To develop a template for collaborative digital cataloging that will allow users to contribute documentation to existing collections and eventually to link their own collections to the system, creating a dynamic tool for comparison.

If successful, the project should provide a model for others which may even lead to a larger project in the future to establish a set of interconnected archives of anthropological materials.

Amount of Grant: \$45,139.50

The 2001-2002 RAI Fellowship, under the direction of the University of Durham, was awarded to **Dr. Noriko Sato** to study a group of Syrian Orthodox Christians who were originally expelled from Turkey in 1922, the year of the Great Massacre, also called the Year of the Sword.

Dr. Sato spent a large amount of time for field work among Syrian Orthodox Christians in Syria and collecting data in 2002 and is planning to publish the results as a book. The political and economic situation in Syria came to be problematic due to the long-standing Israeli military operations over Palestine and the recent war against Iraq. This has affect her research project of promoting tourism in Syria, as the number of tourists has drastically decreased during these three years. Furthermore, due to the downsized local economy, private sectors, including tourism, have lost the prospect of new investment and

scaled back their business. In such a situation, she was unable to launch a pilot scheme of historical tourism that obliged for Syrian Orthodox Christians to invest their capital and therefore had to seek an alternative way of pursuing the aim of what the project of the historical tourism attempted to achieve. The adult educational project, in which Dr. Sato organized study groups to visit historical sites of Byzantine churches and read texts related to their history, is the way that supports the Christians to understand their historical affiliation to Syria and, through this process, they might confirm their modern Syrian identity. The outcome of this group activity was similar to that of historical tourism, which was expected. An analysis of the Adult Educational activities suggests that their interest in both ancient Christian history and the religious texts is closely related to their sociopolitical aim of repossessing their past.

Amount of Grant: \$23,300

The University of Durham awarded the RAI Urgent Fellow for the years 2002-2003 to **Dr. Ananda Rajah**, of the University of Singapore, for a project entitled "Karen Refugees in the Thailand-Burma Borderlands: Ethnic Conflict, Flight and Cultural Change." Research has primarily involved a survey of the literature, published and unpublished, on the ethnic conflict in Burma leading to Karen refugee flows into Thailand and the collation of "grey" literature previously collected. Dr. Rajah also made a field visit to a Karen refugee camp along the Thailand-Burma borderlands.

Amount of Grant: \$26,000

Dr. Rogiai Abusharaf was awarded the RAI Fellowship for 2004. Her project is entitled "The Impact of Arabization and Islamization on Identity and Self-hood among the Southern Sudan's Indigenous Peoples." She will take up the Fellowship early in 2004, with two periods at Durham University separated by field work in the Sudan.

Amount of Grant: \$28,025.

A special grant was awarded to **Dr. Tatiana Bulgakova**, Professor of the Institute of Northern Peoples in Alexander I. Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia. The goal of this project is to digitalize the old records of Nanay folklore, which are under threat of being lost and to do the most urgent work for preparing a textbook "Nanay Folklore," which is the first part of the planned textbook "Traditional Nanay Culture": (1) "Nanay Folklore" and (2) "Ethnography of the Nanay." This is the way to incorporate traditional knowledge, lost in the course of rapid change, in education, to make this knowledge available to the people, from whom it has been recorded. The collaboration with native teachers and elders in the process of preparing the

textbook can foster their eroded respect for their native culture.

Amount of Grant: \$14,000.00.

The 2004 RAI Fellowship was awarded to **Dr. Emma Gilberthorpe**. She was awarded the eleventh Fellowship after open competition. She will be conducting urgent research among the Fasu and Min people of Papua New Guinea, who face the short-term threat of virtual extinction brought on by rapid resource development; particularly the effects of temporary extraction and mining projects. Both groups face the demise of traditional knowledge and are likely to be forced to abandon their historic areas of settlement and move to larger towns. Both have specifically requested anthropological assistance in documenting their indigenous knowledge. The results are being disseminated to the extraction/mining companies to obtain maximum benefits and internally generate sustainable development.

Amount of Grant \$31,000.00.

The 2005 RAI Fellowship was awarded to **Dr. Mark Jamieson**. He is working on language and identity among the Sumu people of Rio Siquia, in the Mosquito Coast region of Eastern Nicaragua. This isolated and probably disappearing population of fewer than 300, speaking an endangered language, has never been studied by professional anthropologists. Threatened during the 1980s with dispersals, kidnappings and human rights abuses during a civil war which was particularly fierce in the area, this community is now threatened with extinction under pressure from advancing Spanish-speaking campesinos and cattle farmers.

Amount of Grant \$31,000.00.

The 2006 RAI Fellowship was awarded to **Dr. M. Thanuja**, for her project entitled The Konda Reddia: Perspectives on their social organisation and shifting cultivation overlooked by developmental intervention.

Amount of Grant \$32,000.00.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FUND

Contributors to the Fund have been Nathan & Meredith Altshuler; Dr. George N. Appell; Mrs. Helen F. Appell; Mrs. Laura W. R. Appell; Mr. Louis J. Appell, III; Appleby Foundation; Scott & Annie Appleby Charitable Trust; Jonathan C. M. Benthall; Dr. Robert A. Blust; Dr. Erika Bourguignon; Dr. Ann Pat

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2003 Unwelcome Guests: Tension, Strife and Ethnic Conflict between Locals and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Paper presented at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, New York.

2003 Does the Truth Matter?: Writing Ethnography about Communal Violence and Suffering. Paper presented at the Anthropology Seminar of the Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths College, University of London.

2003 Remembering to Forget: Christianity and Social Memory among the Forest Tobelo of Halmahera, Eastern Indonesia. Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

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n.d. Uninvited Guests; Relations Between Internally Displaced Persons and Their Hosts in North Sulawesi. Submitted to *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

n.d. The Other Maluku: Chronologies of Conflict in Maluku Utara. For submission to *Indonesia*.

Abstract: The conflict in Ambon and Maluku has received a large amount of media and academic attention. In contrast, the violence in North Maluku (August 1999--June 2000) has received less coverage and then only at its most violent points. It has largely been ignored by the academic community. This seeming lack of interest despite the fact that the killing of Muslims in Tobelo has often been cited as the "spark" that led to the call for a *jihad* in the region and the subsequent arrival of the *Laskar Jihad*. This paper, based on eighteen months of fieldwork in Muslim and Christian communities in North Maluku and among North Moluccan IDPs in North Sulawesi, looks at the course of the violence as seen through local accounts. It reviews chronologies of the conflict and incorporates, often contradictory, accounts from all sides. More importantly, it examines how these events, and associated rumors, were interpreted and utilized on the ground by local leaders and local communities to influence the course of the violence.

ms. Does the Truth Matter? Writing and Ethnography of violence and suffering. To be published as a Goldsmiths Working Paper in Anthropology.

Other projects currently underway:

ms. Reconciliation and Reinvention: The Resurgence of Tradition in Tobelo.

Abstract: The recent spate of communal violence in various parts of Indonesia has contributed to a resurgence of interest in customary tradition (*adat*). This paper will look at the revival of *adat* in the eastern Indonesian Province of North Maluku that was engulfed by communal violence between Christian and Muslim communities in 1999-2000. The inability of government institutions to prevent the outbreak of violence has led people to search for alternative forms of conflict resolution, and in the post-conflict period, many people, particularly the elite, have turned to previously marginalized *adat* as a source for reconciliation. It has come to be seen as a zone of interaction free of religious bias. This process has been taking place throughout the province; from the revival of once moribund sultanates to renewed interest in local languages. In particular, I look at the resurgence of *adat* among the Tobelo people where the local elite hope that by focusing on tradition, rather than religion, they can overcome some of the tensions that contributed to the outbreak of violence, as well as prevent it from happening again. This paper looks at some of the efforts being made to reinvent and refashion Tobelo tradition, including the addition of Tobelo language courses to the school curriculum, the "revival" of pre-Christian/pre-Islamic dance forms, and an increasing interest in older forms of land tenure. (Submitted as an abstract to the 2003 American Anthropological Association and also to be presented as at Cornell Brown Bag Seminar, 2 October 2003.)

ms. An article on changing interpretations of Sasi in Halmahera.

Abstract: An article looking at local controversies over the practice of *sasi* in Halmahera. *Sasi* is a form of common property regulation in central Maluku that has been a frequent topic of academic research. Although not previously present in Halmahera, the local church has tried to import a revised version of *sasi* into Halmahera. However in the Halmahera case it is not about regulating common property, but about preventing the theft of crops. It has been introduced by a number of ministers with Ambonese backgrounds. There have been mixed reactions to the practice, such that it has become a frequent topic of debate at church councils (leading to the commissioning of a master thesis on the topic) and within some local communities. There are a range of controversies surrounding the implementation of *sasi*, including from accusations of blasphemy, and attempts by the church to increase its coffers (as people involved must pay for the use of *sasi* with ten percent of their harvest). This article will look at this controversy, local uses of *sasi* in North Halmahera,

as well as other local beliefs dealing with the protection of crops (i.e., *matakau*, *o bugi-bugo*, etc.).

Future Planned Projects Based on RAI Fellowship Research:

- An article about the effect of communal violence on family planning in Halmahera.
- An article about cannibalism and local explanations and justifications of cannibalism during the 1999-2000 violence.
- Book plans: The goal is to eventually publish a book length monograph on the violence and displacement in North Maluku.

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