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Ecological Feminism and Liberation Theology: An Anthropological Reflection on the Philippines

Sadly, in the name of neoliberal economic modernization and globalization, Philippine political elites, outside business interests, and real estate developers have long been making huge profits by uprooting small farmers from their lands and livelihoods, and deforesting the natural environment to build big mining concessions, golf and recreation resorts, shopping malls, and upscale housing complexes.

Hillsides are left barren, depleted of deeply rooted trees and plants that oxygenate the air we breathe and help prevent landslides when typhoons and flooding occurs.

This kind of mal-development and lack of compassion for small farmers and indigenous communities is linked to global warming, which causes natural disasters such as the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan to occur.

By contrast, Philippine ecological liberation theology is offering bottom-up solutions that identify the interdependent relationship between culture and nature in small agricultural villages and resettlement sites in cities. Practitioners are looking at the links between ecofeminism and indigenous anthropology in order to include local ideas about religion, as an aspect of culture, and the tender care and nurturance of the environment.

They consider humans and every other species as connected with each other and the environment. Like ecological feminists and engaged anthropologists, eco-liberation theology practitioners, generally, view the exploitation of the natural world as being linked with a past colonial mentality and a contemporary acquisitive mindset.

However, the struggle for social, economic, and environmental well-being for all is a long and patient process. Millions of Filipinos continue to struggle to rebuild their homes and livelihoods, in the face of having been traumatically uprooted and displaced by Typhoon Haiyan and, more recently, Typhoons Ruby (November 2014), and Senyang (December 2014).

One of the projects that I am currently collaborating on looks at the responses of local social action workers, involved in these impacted communities, in empowering and working with local people, to rebuild and improve their livelihoods.

While the results are not yet in, we will look at local-level responses to the effects of climate change and disasters from the perspective of ecological theology and feminism, which provides a solution-based and gender-equitable approach to some of the problems of climate change.

We also will look at how local social and religious action workers are partnering with local communities to transform and reconstruct their livelihoods in the 21st century.

Kathleen Nadeau
Anthropology’s First MA Program

In the fall of 2015 we will welcome our first graduate students in anthropology.

Our new MA in Applied Archaeology will train students for supervisory positions in the cultural resource management industry of the Inland Empire and regions further afield.

The core of the two-year program will comprise courses in archaeology and cultural resource management with an emphasis on combining practical experience in field and laboratory studies with an internship and research project undertaken in collaboration with a government agency or private firm that conducts archaeological investigations in the context of CRM.

We expect to welcome about 10 students per year into the program, with the core courses being offered on a two-year cycle.
New Faculty!

Dr. Amy Gusick

We are delighted that not one but two people will be joining us as full-time, tenure-track faculty in the fall of 2105. Dr. Amy Gusick is an archaeologist who has been hired to lead our new MA program in Applied Archaeology. Dr. Gusick is a native of California who received her Ph.D. from UC Santa Barbara in 2012. For her doctoral dissertation she conducted fieldwork on Santa Cruz Island, one of the northern Channel Islands, in order to study the ecology of Early Holocene hunter-gatherers. While completing her dissertation, Dr. Gusick also undertook a project, with major funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Ocean Exploration Program, titled "Mal de Mer no Mas: Exploring Baja California's Submerged Landscapes," which examined the potential for underwater late Pleistocene archaeology in Baja. Since obtaining her Ph.D., Dr. Gusick has worked as a program manager for a major consulting company in San Diego in which she manages millions of dollars' worth of CRM contracts in Southern California. Dr. Gusick already has several academic publications to her credit, and also recently received a major grant to extend her underwater explorations to the region around the northern Channel Islands.

Dr. Arianna Huhn

Dr. Arianna Huhn also hails from California, San Diego to be precise. Dr. Huhn has been hired both to take over the reins of our Anthropology Museum and to teach courses and undertake research in cultural anthropology. Ari, as she is known, received an MA in Museum Studies from Georgetown University, for which she did a project at the National Museum of Ghana, and then went on to complete a Ph.D. in anthropology at Boston University. Since completing her Ph.D., she has spent this last year as a lecturer at San Diego State University. Dr. Huhn has held various jobs and internships in museums, including the Smithsonian, and also worked at the headquarters of the American Association of Museums. Her Ph.D. dissertation was in the field of medical anthropology and was based on fieldwork in a town in Mozambique, where she studied the relationship between food and people's perceptions of their social and sexual well-being. Dr. Huhn has published several papers on her research, which she plans to continue when she returns to Mozambique next summer.

ALUMNI AND STUDENT NEWS

Caitlin Andrade, who is majoring in both anthropology and philosophy, received a Carnegie Mellon Fellowship for this summer to undertake research and participate in a philosophy conference.

Kelli Dahlhauser, BA 2011, obtained an MA in Postsecondary Educational Leadership from San Diego State University in 2014 and now works as a program administrative coordinator for the SAIL program here at CSUSB.

Amber Gray, B.A. 2002, M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies, 2009, whose pen name is Mavican Hawk, has authored several academic papers, two novels, and various novellas available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. She also started her own small business, Timeless Sentiments.

Chelsea Parham, BA 2011, is currently pursuing an MSc in Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology at Cranfield Defence Academy in England. Prior to this she was a volunteer first responder for the Special Operations Response Team at the County of Los Angeles Department of Coroner for two years, where she also worked as an intern.

Corey Ragsdale, BA 2009, Ph.D. 2015 (University of New Mexico) will be working at the University of Montana. He is replacing a forensic anthropologist who left recently, and he will be bringing in a bioarchaeology focus. It is a two-year visiting assistant professor position.

Jacque Swartout, BA 2003, is a district registered nurse at Apple Valley School district.

Student Awards and Recognition

The following students were recognized at the 2015 college awards ceremony:

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Julian Acuna
Taviana Cain
Hunter O'Donnell

Outstanding Service to the Department
Felix Padilla

Mike Swank Scholarship
Julian Acuna received a scholarship that will assist him in participating in an archaeological field school in Spain this summer.

ASA Southern California Archaeology Scholarships
Valerie Bergman, Alexandrea Bulato, Shannon Clarendon, and Jeremy Crowley received departmental scholarships to facilitate their participation in our own archaeological field school, which is sponsored in part by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the National Forest Service.
Faculty News

Another Farewell to Dr. Berdan
Fall 2014 marked the (probable) end of Dr. Berdan's teaching career at CSUSB as she has now completed her time in the university's early retirement program. We wished Frannie farewell when she entered this program, so now we wish her farewell again as she leaves it. However, Dr. Berdan intends to continue as an active research scholar and we expect that she will often be found at work in our Laboratory for Ancient Materials Analysis. To mark her retirement, this year's ALPACA party in honor of graduating seniors was combined with a celebration dinner for both Dr. Berdan and another departing faculty member, Dr. Miller-Thayer.

Farewell to Dr. Miller-Thayer
We hired Jennifer Miller-Thayer in 2005 as a part-time instructor of various cultural anthropology courses. Over the last decade her teaching load has increased and, with it, her legion of adoring students. During this period she also completed her Ph.D. at UC Riverside, where she specialized in the anthropological study of the provision of health care at the U.S.-Mexico border. Sadly for us, but not for Jenn, she has now obtained a full-time, tenure-track position as an anthropologist at Citrus College in Glendora. Jenn has promised to return for visits and to bring her new students with her so that we can recruit them as anthropology majors at CSUSB.

'Silver and Silk' exhibit

This spring we opened a new exhibit, “Silver and Silk: Diversity and Resilience among China’s Ethnic Minorities.” This exhibit celebrates the joy, resilience, and diversity of these minority populations (shaoshu minzu). The collection features images, dress, and daily life items of several of China’s ethnic minorities.

Guest curator William Pink (in the top far left photo), who spoke at the well-attended exhibit opening on June 4, has visited China countless times to meet and share in the rituals and daily life of China’s ethnic minority communities.

The result is a collection that takes the viewer on a journey through China’s ethnic landscape, honoring the strength and beauty of a diverse population.

Come and see the exhibit for yourself. It’s open during regular university office hours and admission is free!

Seeking Support

The Anthropology Department and department Chair Pete Robertshaw are very grateful to those who have donated to the department during the last year. As a result of your generosity, we have given some student scholarships and used money to buy materials for exhibits in our Anthropology Museum. Most of our own faculty are also continuing to contribute via payroll deduction to a scholarship fund for our anthropology majors. We hope that some of you will consider adding your donations to the department or designating a larger gift in your name or in someone else’s honor. We have many needs, including scholarships, our museum, student fieldwork and travel, and lab equipment.

If you would like to make a gift to Anthropology Department, you may make your check payable to the CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation, and in the memo section write Anthropology Department. You may send your check to the Director of Development, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, California State University, San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407.

To give online, go to https://development.csusb.edu/makeagift.
To kick off the year, ALPACA began its adventures with a visit to the Riverside Metropolitan Museum. Many interesting exhibits were displayed there, such as Native American blankets and historical documents of the early days of Riverside. Afterwards we traveled to Redlands for an ethnic dine at the Phoenicia Chicken and Shawerma.

The next major event for ALPACA was a special archaeological dig in Rancho Cucamonga. Dana, a young softball player, died 12 years ago and her team members buried a softball underneath her favorite softball field in her honor. Fast forward to Nov. 10, 2014, her team members now felt it was time to dig up the time capsule and contacted ALPACA for archeological assistance. Fortunately the softball was found, albeit in a poorly withered state, leading to an unforgettable emotional experience for those who were involved in this special project.

In the beginning of the winter quarter, fearless ALPACA members paid a visit to the infamous Museum of Death in Hollywood!

After the museum visit, ALPACA went out to an ethnic dine at the highly rated Hoy-Ka Thai Noodles!

Spring proved to be ALPACA’s most event-filled quarter. Throughout this time, exposure to ALPACA and the Anthropology Department focused mainly on freshman and sophomore classes, as well as a few junior and senior lectures. Classes were engaged through a fun-filled quiz, done by phone on the Kahoot platform, which posed questions about anthropology in general as well as the Anthropology Department and club. ALPACA also hosted a cosmic bowling event to wind down after midterms. We also had a well-attended trip to the Museum of Man in San Diego. Finishing off the spring quarter was the annual anthropology end-of-the-year party, held at Zacatecas Cafe in Riverside in honor of Dr. Berdan to mark her retirement.

ALPACA would like to thank all who participated in our events and ethnic dives. We would also like to give special thanks to Patricia Massei, the CSUSB Anthropology Department, and Dr. Berdan for her countless years of service to CSUSB and its students.

2014-2015 ALPACA Officers
President: Matt Mancha, Vice President: Julian Acuna, Treasurer: Eric Naranjo, Secretary: Felix Padilla, Historian: Jasmine Dean, Honorary Shaman: Jeremy Crowley.
Russell Barber
I have three projects brewing at the moment: two that are nearly completed and one that has just begun. The revision of Doing Historical Archaeology seems to have turned into a never-ending task, but I have decided to revise one more chapter, at which point it should go to the editors to emerge as the second edition. Also, I have had to conclude that I am never going to find the elusive pinky at the Fairview School site, so I need to finish the last bits of the analysis and write the site report. Finally, I am returning to one of my favorite subjects — food history — and preparing a critical edition (with commentary) of a Yorkshire cookbooks published in the eighteenth century, wherein are found recipes for crepe rice, making one egg the size of six, and preparing zoons.

Frannie Berdan
First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who contributed to my memorable retirement party (combined with the end-of-year-department party). It was tremendous fun and I appreciated so very much the thought and effort that went into it. Less fun has been the project of cleaning out my office of 42 years of accumulated rubbish, rather like an archaeological excavation — never knew what one might find in the next layer.

I enjoyed another memorable occasion at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in April, where a symposium was presented in my honor (or at my expense, I’m not sure which!). It was particularly special in that Dr. Robertshaw was one of the presenters (the lone Africanist in a sea of Mesoamericanists). I was the symposium discussant, so I got my own rebuttals in at the end! This symposium was selected by the Amerind Foundation as their choice for an extended conference at their research center in Arizona. So most of us will be meeting again in September to solve more Aztec cultural riddles.

At the same meeting I also presented a paper in a symposium on Aztec artistic styles — the paper focused on Aztec phonetic glyphs, a project I have been working on for the past few years. One of my articles on the subject has just appeared in the book Images Take Flight. For the moment I’m engrossed in writing Aztec Daily Lives (with Michael Smith of Arizona State University) for Cambridge University Press. I guess this is what retirement looks like.

Kathleen Nadeau
Lubos PASO, to encourage and promote Philippine and Filipino American heritage studies. My role continues to be to help facilitate the Celebration of Filipino Culture performance event. This year’s musical skit and dance show, Echoes, held at San Bernardino’s Sturges Center for the Fine Arts, was another great success. A couple of anthropology majors in attendance exclaimed that it was “spectacular, especially the singing and dances, and a good belly laugh.”

This past January 2015, I enjoyed my sabbatical by doing research in the Philippines on the issue of local community resilience to disasters caused by climate change.

In March I was invited to present my preliminary findings at the International Philippine and Filipino Studies Conference held at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.

Wes Nieboeher
I have been invited to contribute a chapter to an edited volume from Cambridge University Press with the preliminary title of Neandertal and Neandertal Skeletal Anatomy: Form, Function and Paleobiology that is scheduled to be published in 2016. This volume will present the most current and comprehensive anatomical review of Neandertals to date. It will have 15 chapters, each written by a prominent researcher, that focus on specific anatomical regions. Additional chapters will detail our most current knowledge on Neandertal growth and development, thermoregulation, and ancient DNA. At the present there is no complete overview of Neandertal skeletal anatomy that brings together all of the primary literature to form an all-inclusive view of these last representatives of pre-modern humans. The idea is to produce a volume that will not only appeal to specialists for use as a reference tool but will also be of use in graduate-level courses on later Pleistocene human evolution. It has the potential to become one of the classic edited volumes in paleoanthropology.

I am excited to contribute my chapter that will focus on Neandertal and modern human comparative hand anatomy. Writing this chapter allows me to bring together all my previously published (and some unpublished) work on Neandertal hand anatomy and function. While working on my dissertation research I became convinced that many aspects of hand anatomy are developmentally plastic, that is, they reflect habitual manipulatory repertoires, not evolutionary relationships. The central focus of my research program has been to document the similarities and differences between Neandertal, early modern human and recent human hand morphologies and to determine the extent to which specific anatomical differences can inform us about the evolution of manipulation since the last Pleistocene.

The key to understanding Neandertal hand anatomy is to study as many modern human populations as possible to document within-human variation in hand anatomy. To date I have done research on European, Asian and medieval humans, prehistoric Northwest Coast and Southwest Puebloan Indians, and numerous recent human groups. I have even looked at chimpanzees and gorilla hands! To me, one of the most interesting observations is that in all modern human populations males have indications of greater hand muscularity than do females (within the same population). This contrasts with Neandertals in that both male and female Neandertals equally display indications of increased hand strength relative to the modern human samples. This is probably due to a lack of sexual division of labor among Neandertals. If true, this is a valuable insight into Neandertal social behavior.

Teresa Velásquez
Another year flies by. I spent much of the year balancing teaching, writing and service. The sex/gender class (ANTH 333) became my favorite class to teach. I had a great group of students that were engaged and thoughtful in their discussions. They made it so much fun to teach. On the writing front, I had a paper accepted for publication in Latin American Perspectives, a regional interdisciplinary journal. It will appear in a special issue on “Neo-extractivism.” The issue editor liked my paper so much that she asked me to contribute a popular version of it for a well-respected regional online news magazine (NACLA). It was exciting to see the paper get “tweeted” and “liked” in the digital universe.

In May, I travelled to the Latin American Studies Association conference in Puerto Rico to deliver a paper on ethnographic refrains. It’s my favorite paper so far and was well received by the audience. My only regret is not being able to stay on the island for a vacation. On the morning of my flight I was trekked to visit Castillo San Cristóbal, an old fortress built in the 1500s to fight off the Dutch. So much to explore.

Last but not least, I served on a few search committees, including the SBS College Dean Search Committee.

Peter Robertshaw
I have done quite a bit of traveling in the last few months. In February I flew to England for a long weekend as a guest examiner of a doctoral dissertation at University College, London. There are plans to publish the papers as a book next year.

After Leicester, where I also saw the new museum on the discovery of Richard III’s body in a car park in the city center, I enjoyed a few days with family before going to London to serve as the external examiner of a doctoral dissertation in African archaeology submitted to University College, London.

Mid-April found me in San Francisco presenting a paper at the huge annual conference of the Society for American Archaeology, on the results of new chemical analyses of pottery I excavated from a Kenyan site a long time ago. Several different types of ceramics, dating back as much as several thousand years, occur at this site, so I was interested to see if they were chemically distinct, which would suggest use of different clay sources. Unfortunately the results were murky, but they have given me ideas for a larger project that I may embark on with a colleague at the University of Arizona.

From San Francisco I flew straight to England for a small conference at the University of Leicester on “Trans-Saharan: Mobile Technologies.” This conference was part of a major project, funded by the European Research Council, to investigate the nature and consequences of the inter-connectivity of the Trans-Saharan zone in the Pre-Islamic period. Each participant was asked to write a paper for the conference and the papers were circulated among the participants before we arrived in Leicester. My paper was on “African Glass Beads: Beyond Chemistry and Provenience.” There are plans to publish the papers as a book next year.

After Leicester, where I also saw the new museum on the discovery of Richard III’s body in a car park in the city center, I enjoyed a few days with family before going to London to serve as the external examiner of a doctoral dissertation in African archaeology submitted to University College, London.
Gustatory Corner: APPLES

When "apple" first entered the English language, it referred to any fruit, not just the one that we now call by that name. In fact, the earliest known usage of the word, by Ælfred in the year 885, writes of "Da readan apla," to distinguish the red fruit of the apple tree from other apples. Over the years, various fruits and vegetables came to be distinguished as particular types of apples: brembel apples (raspberries), cucumer apples (cucumbers), palm apples (dates), Punic apples (pomegranates), custard apples (chirimoya, familiar as a Caribbean fruit), egg apples or mad apples or Jew's apples (eggplants), and love apples (tomatoes, considered an aphrodisiac).

The heyday of using "apple" to denote any fruit was mostly prior to 1650, so it saw the voyages of discovery that acquainted Europe with Africa, Asia, and the Americas. This led to a host of new apples, such as the monkey apple (India), the alligator apple (Caribbean), and the kangaroo apple (Australia), none of which is known widely beyond the zone where it originally grew.

But the broad usage of "apple" does live on, in a few places. In English, the only current usage refers to that tropical American fruit usually called "pineapple" in English (though originally written "pine apple," referencing the similarity between the surface of a pine cone and the armored skin of the fruit). In many European languages -- and even a Middle Eastern one -- potatoes are known as "earth apples": pomme de terre (French), Erdapfel (German), aardappel (Dutch), and tufáh al-ard (Arabic). And in Italian, tomatoes are called pomidori ("golden apples").

So, the next time you have french fries with ketchup, think of them as earth-apple chips with golden-apple sauce.