



10:

Undergraduate  
Papers  
in American  
Studies

---

## INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

The *Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers* publishes articles in the general field of anthropology. In addition to articles of theoretical interest, the *Papers* will welcome descriptive studies putting factual information on record, as well as bibliographies and historical documents of anthropological interest. The Society welcomes student research papers of high quality.

Manuscripts must be typewritten, double-spaced throughout, and submitted in duplicate. Endnotes (the *Papers* do not employ footnotes) and bibliography should be placed on separate sheets. Prospective contributors should consult recent issues of the *Papers*, or the *American Anthropologist*, for manuscript style. Authors will receive without charge twenty reprints for their articles. Additional reprints may be ordered at extra charge.

Manuscripts should be sent to:

Editor

Kroeber Anthropological Society

Department of Anthropology

University of California

Berkeley, CA 94720

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Kroeber Anthropological Society gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Graduate Division of the University of California. Their support has made possible the continuing success of the *Papers*.

Copyright ©1977 by the Kroeber Anthropological Society. All Rights Reserved.

Cover by Jeff Howard (See pages 4 and 83).

---

**kroeber anthropological society**

---

THE KROEBER ANTHROPOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY PAPERS

Number 49

UNDERGRADUATE PAPERS IN  
AMERICAN STUDIES

Co-Editors  
Laurence Michalak  
Linda Draper

Published by the  
Kroeber Anthropological Society  
Berkeley, California  
1977

## CONTENTS

Foreword	
Jack Potter .....	1
Introduction	
Linda Draper and Larry Michalak .....	3
<b>PART ONE: SEX ROLES</b>	
Nursery School Sex-role Play among Four- and Five-year Olds	
Amy Goldfarb .....	7
Cohabitation in a Student Community	
Sue Lyon .....	13
The Attitudes of Undergraduate Women Toward Marriage	
Alice Sung .....	23
<b>PART TWO: ETHNICITY</b>	
Ethnic Groups and Boundary Crossers: A Study of Asian-White Relations in a College Dorm	
Candy Reynolds .....	31
Portrait of One Japanese-American Family	
Janelle Sumida .....	37
<b>PART THREE: SUBCOMMUNITIES</b>	
The Education of the Deaf: A Sub-Community in the Making	
Barbara LeMaster .....	45
The Re-Entry of Ex-Offenders: A Study of a Halfway House	
Linda Sue Miller .....	51
Life in a Hare Krishna Temple	
James Nail .....	57
<b>PART FOUR: THE ELDERLY</b>	
An Analysis of Life Histories of the Elderly in a Retirement Home	
Tracy Williams .....	65
A Study of the Staff of a Convalescent Hospital	
Maria Protti .....	75
Biographical Notes on Contributors .....	83

## Foreword

During the Spring Quarter of 1976 a group of talented student teaching assistants and I taught an experimental version of Anthropology 3, U.C. Berkeley's Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology. The course emphasized the anthropology of United States culture and society and required original fieldwork by each student as its central focus. Each of the several hundred enrolled students worked under the close individual supervision and guidance of a teaching assistant. Each student was required to select the topic of his or her research by the third week of the quarter, and to turn in an outline to be discussed with teaching assistants and fellow students during the weekly section meetings. In the seventh week of the course, students handed in a first draft of their papers which were read and criticized for both style and content and then returned so that the students had the remaining three weeks of the quarter to do additional fieldwork and to revise and improve their papers.

The final papers were of high quality. Two of the teaching assistants in the class — Larry Michalak and Linda Draper — have arranged for the publication of the best papers in this special issue of the *Journal of the Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers*, which they have edited. I am very proud of the results.

Jack M. Potter



## Introduction

Even the best work of undergraduates usually goes unshared — read hastily by a professor or teaching assistant, graded, returned, and consigned to a desk drawer or a wastebasket. In Spring 1976 the students' papers were especially good, since the emphasis of the course was on an original fieldwork project in American Studies. The results clearly seemed to merit a wider audience, so we contacted the editors of the Kroeber Society, who shared our enthusiasm for the idea.

The next step was to choose the papers from among the 394 completed for the course. Each teaching assistant chose the best papers from his or her sections. Several of us then read and independently evaluated the twenty papers submitted in order to select the best ten. Next each student whose paper was chosen for publication worked with a graduate student to produce the final versions presented here. All together, the process of selecting, revising, and printing the papers has taken nine months.

The topics chosen by the students seemed to us to fall under four headings. Part One of this issue includes three papers on sex roles. *Amy Goldfarb* addresses the question of how and when children are socialized into male and female roles. The author draws a surprising amount from observing and interviewing children at play. *Sue Lyon* is interested in the increasing occurrence of cohabitation, especially among college students. Based on a set of interviews, she suggests that cohabitation may involve a new stage in post-industrial courtship and marriage practices and a redefinition of traditional sex roles. *Alice Sung* discusses the relationship of different variables — such as family background, age, religious affiliation and type of university residence — to undergraduate women's attitudes toward marriage. She gives five contrasting case studies to illustrate the range of opinions she found.

In Part Two, two students deal with aspects of ethnicity. *Candy Reynolds* analyzes Asian-White relations in a student dormitory. Her account of how people categorize each other and interact across ethnic boundaries is directly relevant to the severe problem of group relations in America today. *Janelle Sumida* traces the experiences of three generations of a Japanese-American family in what is essentially an account of acculturation accelerated by cultural oppression.

The essays in Part Three have a common focus on subcommunities. *Barbara LeMaster* argues that language ability and self-image among deaf children are closely related to whether the child is a product of deaf or hearing parents. She demonstrates how a particular school for the deaf socializes students into a separate subcommunity in American society, defined by its dependence on a unique linguistic system. *Linda Miller's* paper is a sympathetic presentation of an unusual world-view — that of people getting out of prison. Through life histories and observations at an urban halfway house she shows the dangerous double-bind that we impose on ex-convicts. *James Nail* describes life in a Hare Krishna temple from the devotee's perspective. He is particularly interested in the values that motivate the members and in the structure of their daily activities.

The two papers in Part Four are both concerned with the predicament of the elderly in American society. *Tracy Williams* gives life histories of five residents of a Berkeley rest home and demonstrates that a diversity of backgrounds is subsumed into the common condition of age. *Maria Protti* approaches the topic from the vantage point of the staff of a convalescent hospital. Through interviewing people in different job categories, investigating the pay scales and hierarchies, and observing the conditions in which the staff functions, she presents a rather stark view of their demeaning work and its ultimate influence on the elderly under their care.

Some anthropologists have speculated on the question of what anthropology would be like if, instead of arising from a specific historical context, it were to be reinvented today. In a way these articles are an answer to that question: anthropology was reinvented by these students last spring — just as it is reinvented each time an introductory class is taught. Provided with a minimal basis in fieldwork methodology, the students were encouraged to apply it to their own problematic interests and to follow their own insights.

The essays which resulted have a number of common points. The students were all quick to respond to contemporary American social problems and to select contexts close to their personal experience. Another feature shared by the papers is that they contain no literature reviews and few references to other studies. The data are all first-hand and the analyses are independent — unaided but also unprejudiced by the work of previous researchers. One aspect of the pap-



ers which does vary a great deal is style. Some of the students adopted a frankly subjective “first person” approach while others wrote in a “third person” mode.

A final point is that the students in our sections had a keen awareness of the ethical implications of their work. In several cases where teaching assistants wanted to nominate papers for inclusion, students felt ethically compelled to decline. For example, one student wrote an excellent paper on interethnic dating patterns but withdrew it at the last minute out of consideration for the privacy of his informants. Still another student phoned just before we went to press to delete a quarter of her paper. She had checked with all her informants for permission to publish (even though she was using pseudonyms); one informant had been reluctant, and so she promptly struck out a key section of her data. In this and in other ways, our students taught us a lot.

Many people had a part in the production of this issue. Jack Potter designed and taught the course that produced the papers, and led one of the discussion sections as well. The teaching assistants and other graduate students who helped select and edit the papers were Pat Chavez, Diana deTreville, Micaela diLeonardo, John Grant, Nancy Gray, Lane Hirabayashi, Nancy Lutz, Beverly Stone, John Stough, Fred Walden, Mira Zussman, and ourselves. We would also like to acknowledge the other undergraduates in the course, who in the weekly section meetings provided encouragement, suggestions and criticism for each other’s work, demonstrating that even a large class can be a sharing experience.

We think these papers reflect a fresh approach to anthropology and an extraordinary amount of energy.

Tony Dubovski, a graphic design instructor in the architecture department, suggested that we have an undergraduate design the cover for the issue. He introduced us to Jeff Howard, also of the architecture department, who extended our theme visually on the cover. We are grateful for his enthusiasm, energy and creative approach to graphic design. Albany Press produced the cover and in addition Noel Boaz, of the Kroeber Society and Judith Ogden composed several of the drawings, charts and maps included in the text. Heliographics did the typesetting and were very patient with a pair of novice editors.

Linda Draper and Laurence Michalak