This seminar focuses on the relationship between anthropological theory and the practice of applied anthropology. We will meet approximately every other week for two hours, in addition to your weekly field placement experiences (1 day per week). Class may run somewhat longer on the evenings we have a guest speaker. Come to class having digested the assigned material and having completed the journal entries assigned for that period. A discussant will assume responsibility for summarizing the readings, bringing to light any additional readings that may be pertinent, and facilitating a discussion based both on the readings and on your field experiences.

Your grade will come from 3 sources: (1) 45% will come from a journal you will put together over the semester, which addresses key questions in applied anthropology; (2) 45% will come from your field supervisor’s assessment of your field performance; (3) 10% will come from my assessment of your progress (preparation, interest, and other contributions) over the course of the semester. Make each journal entry 3-5 pages, typed, single spaced. Submit copies to me electronically (handwerker@uconn.edu). Plan on making entries at least once a week. Entries should integrate the experiences you have had that week in the field with the questions raised on the syllabus. Keep in mind that the emphasis of this course is on the relationship between practice and theory. Therefore, journal entries not only need to reflect your experiences, but how your experiences relate to what you read. Feel free to use additional sources in your entries. You may want to discuss any or all of the issues you are considering for your journal with your field supervisor.

Class Meetings

Beginnings

Date: September 14
begin placement, begin readings, begin journal

Date: October 5
Van Willigen, John
Grillo, R.
Partridge, W.L., and E.M. Eddy

Characterize the historical relationship between anthropology and domestic and international colonialism. What distinguishes a colony from a non-colony? What are the various ways in which this relationship has been constructed? What are the salient arguments? What are the theoretical arguments that influence the debate? How does the construction of anthropology's relationship to colonialism parallel changes in anthropological thought? Why is this issue important in contemporary applied research? Are there strains of this argument/debate evident in your field placement? How have/do the applied anthropologists with whom you work dealt/deal with these issues?
Models

Date: October 12
van Willigen, Chapters 4-9
Doughty, Paul L.
Bennett, John W.

Identify the key components of the principal models of intervention developed in the course of doing "applied" anthropology. Critique (i.e., identify the strengths and weaknesses of) each model.

Today's Issues

1. Research Context

Date: October 26
van Willigen, Chapters 10-13.
Dobyns, H.F.
Heighton, R.H., Jr. and C. Heighton
Hicks, G.L., and M.J. Handler
Kandel, Randy Frances
Pelto, P. and J. Schensul

In your field setting, what is "research?" What is the relationship between "researcher" and "researched?" How are research projects decided, defined, funded? What is the relationship between "politics" (institutional, personal, departmental, national), research, research agendas and research outcomes? That is, whose interests and agendas (what are they?) determine what research is undertaken, by whom, in what ways? Who controls what the outcome will be, and what will be done with the outcome? Characterize the relationship between "theory" and research. Who chooses the theory used to formulate, carry out, and interpret the research? Whose interests are represented in the research being conducted in your setting? What is the role of the anthropologist is shaping the agenda for the research? van Willigen talks about being "linked to the communities we study." Is this true in your setting and if so, how is it true? Characterize the relationship between research and policy. Who establishes policy and on what basis?

2. Identities and Relationships

Date: November 9
Cerroni-Long, E.L.
HanSEN
Within your field setting, who are the principal people with whom you interact? Who are the principal people with whom your field supervisor interacts? Characterize the way in which you/your supervisor interacts with each of these people. Identify the agendas that influence how you/your supervisor interacts with each person.

What relationships are formed over the course of a research project? What type of relationships are they (personal, professional, other, combinations of all)? How and under what conditions do relationships change? Based on your experience and your supervisor's experience, in what ways do the interactions with the people in your environment and the issues you deal with shape and condition issues of professional identity? What is "an anthropologist" for the people with whom you work? How does this influence your/supervisor's conceptualization of "an anthropologist"?

3. Ethics

Are there immutable ethical standard(s) for anthropological research? How does interaction with the research settings shape/condition the ways in which these standards are defined, evaluated, implemented? How are "ethical standards" themselves historical and conditional and how in both the literature and your experience are "ethical standards" constructed today, i.e. what is emphasized in codes of ethics, what is not included, what is marginalized? Does the construction of ethical behavior parallel other social processes?

In doing applied anthropology, what are your responsibilities, to whom, and why?