

Anthropology at LSE



Suggested Readings for Applicants

INTRODUCTIONS / ON THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING AN ANTHROPOLOGIST:

Barley, N. 1983. *The Innocent Anthropologist: Notes from a Mud Hut*. Harmondsworth: Penguin. (funny, v readable, but reflects the discipline several decades ago rather than what we do these days!)

Bohannon, L. 1966. 'Shakespeare in the Bush' - online at http://www.naturalhistorymag.com/editors_pick/1966_08-09_pick.html [v readable introduction to idea of what sorts of questions the discipline deals with]

Hendry, J. (2008) *An introduction to social anthropology: sharing our worlds*. Palgrave Macmillan.

SOME ACCESSIBLE ETHNOGRAPHIES

Reading a couple of ethnographies is the best way to get a taste for the discipline and to decide whether it's for you. Having done so, I'd recommend discussing them in your Personal Statements – explain what you agreed with, what you didn't agree with, what the book made you realize about human experience, and what you'd like to explore and debate in greater depth within your degree. This helps us get a sense of your interest in the subject, but it also allows you to demonstrate your analytical and critical thinking skills to us first-hand.

These are just a few suggestions – feel free to hunt around for your own

Abu-Lughod, Lila (1986) *Veiled sentiments: honor and poetry in a Bedouin society*. Berkeley and London: University of California Press (gender, poetry, emotions)

Boellstorff, T. 2008. *Coming of Age in Second Life: An Anthropologist Explores the Virtually Human*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (cyber-ethnography, the virtual)

Davies, S. G. 2007. *Challenging Gender Norms: Five Genders among the Bugis in Indonesia*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth. (gender, sexuality)

Descola, P. 1998. *The Spears of Twilight: Life and Death in the Amazon Jungle*. New York: The New Press. (hunter-gatherers, shamanism, cosmology)

Fordham, S. 1996. *Blacked Out: Dilemmas of Race, Identity and Success at Capital High*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (race, education, achievement)

Foster, R. J. 2008. *Coca-Globalization: Following Soft Drinks from New York to New Guinea*. New York & Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. (economics, globalisation)

Ginsburg, F. 1998. *Contested Lives: The Abortion Debate in an American Community*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (medical ethics, law, feminism)

Lan, D. 1985. *Guns and Rain: Guerillas and Spirit Mediums in Zimbabwe*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (war, anti-colonialism/nationalism, religion)

Piot, C. 1999. *Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa*. Chicago: the University of Chicago Press. (postcolonialism, exchange, modernity)

Robbins, J. 2004. *Becoming Sinners: Christianity and Moral Torment in a Papua New Guinea Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Christianity, morality, conversion)

GOOD FOR ANTHROPOLOGY & LAW

Foucault, M. 1979. *Discipline and Punish: the birth of the prison*. London: Penguin. (not strictly an ethnography, but a fascinating and influential overview of the ways in which legal systems and punishments) reflect historical/cultural shifts in the way in which power is practiced and statecraft is conceptualised.

Latour, B. 2009. *The Making of Law. An Ethnography of the Conseil d'Etat*. Cambridge: Polity Press (this is the current 'gold standard' of legal anthropology; focuses on how law is brought into being).

Mamdani, M. 1996. *From Subject to Citizen: Contemporary Africa and the legacy of late colonialism*. (colonial law, legacies for postcolonial societies)

Merry S. 1990. *Getting Justice and Getting Even: Legal Consciousness Among Working-Class Americans*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (classic account of the paradoxes of legal practice)

Reed, A. 2003. *Papua New Guinea's Last Place: experiences of constraint in a postcolonial prison*. Oxford: Berghahn. (fascinating insight into how law and punishment operates in Melanesia).

INTRODUCTIONS TO ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY

Geertz, C. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books.

Kuper, A. 1983. *Anthropology and Anthropologists*. London & New York: Routledge

YOU COULD ALSO...

...check out the publications by the LSE Staff – all of which are listed on our staff pages at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/anthropology/people/departmentalstaff.aspx>

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS?

Just drop us an email at **Anthropology.Enquiries@lse.ac.uk** – we'll be happy to help!