

# **2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY**

**March 10<sup>th</sup> - 12th, 2011, Notre Dame, Indiana**

## **Social Economies of Greed and Excess: Lessons from Recessions, Past and Present**

Co-Chairs: Rahul C. Oka and Ian Kuijt (University of Notre Dame)

Greed and excess have been repeatedly blamed for the global recession and near-collapse that marked the years 2008 and 2009. Economic observers from both the left and the right have focused on predatory and excessive behaviors as the driving forces behind the economic downturns. Recent popular narratives, including Jared Diamond's *Collapse* also blame excess for the decimation of ancient societies, drawing uncomfortable parallels between contemporary and past social unravelings. Anthropologists have accumulated ample evidence on greed and excess from our historical and archaeological pasts. At the same time, anthropologists have evidence that spectacular outlays of wealth can yield stable, community affirming rituals. Moreover, long-term cultural heritage often has its roots in literally monumental plays for personal status. In the SEA 2011 Meetings, we bring together scholars from archaeology, history, cultural anthropology, and economics to problematize the view of greed and excess as a human universal. The papers will examine how different societies' have tolerated or encouraged greed and other excessive behaviors and/or took measures to control them.

### **PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

All activities and sessions will be held in McKenna Hall, at the University of Notre Dame, unless specified otherwise. All listed meals are included in the registration fee unless stated otherwise.

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011**

- |             |                                                                                                      |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.00 - 5.00 | Registration                                                                                         |
| 4.00 - 5.00 | SEA Editorial Board Meeting                                                                          |
| 5.00 - 6.00 | Executive Board Meeting                                                                              |
| 6.00 - 7.00 | Keynote Speech by James Surowiecki ( <i>New Yorker</i> ), followed<br>by Question and Answer Session |
| 7.00 - 8.00 | Reception                                                                                            |

8.30 – 10.00 Dinner with Keynote speaker, SEA Executive Board, Co-Organizers and Guests/Honorees at The Mark Restaurant, Notre Dame, IN<sup>1</sup>. (By Invitation)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011**

8.00 – 8.40 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8.40 – 9.00 Opening Remarks: Rahul Oka and Ian Kuijt (*University of Notre Dame*)

**Session One (9.00 – 11.45)**

**BEGINNING WITH GREED AND EXCESS IN THE PAST: SEEING DIACHRONIC**

**SIMILARITIES**

9.00 – 9.40 WHAT ANTHROPOLOGY CAN TEACH US ABOUT PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE ECONOMIC CRISES.

Gay Biery-Hamilton (*Rollins College*),

Vance Geiger (*University of Central Florida*)

9.45 – 10.25 THE POTENTIALITY, SUBJECTIVITY, AND CONSEQUENCES OF SURPLUS: FARMSCAPE, CONFLICT, AND INVOLUTION IN THE NORTHERN BASIN OF MEXICO

Christopher T. Morehart (*Northwestern University*)

10.25 – 10.40 Coffee Break

---

<sup>1</sup> Participation by other members/participants is optional but advance notice required for reservation. Located in the Eddy Street Common, The Mark is a 10 minute walk from McKenna Hall. There are numerous dining establishments in Eddy Street Commons. This information will be included in the Welcome Packet

- 10.40 – 11.25 IS SURPLUS A GOOD THING? THE ROLE OF EXCESS IN CARIBBEAN  
SLAVERY  
Mark W. Hauser (*Northwestern University*)
- 11.25 – 11.45 General Discussion  
Lunch (12.00 – 2.00)
- 12.00 – 1.15 Luncheon
- 1.15 – 2.00 Presentation by Winner of the Harold K. Schneider Graduate  
Essay Award  
MORAL ECONOMY AND THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF COAL AND ENERGY  
PRODUCTION IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA  
Julie Shepherd-Powell (*University of Kentucky*)

**Session Two (2.00 – 4.45)**

**MOVING FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT: SOCIALIST REGULATION, POST-**

**SOCIALIST EXCESS**

- 2.00 – 2.40 THE PROBLEM OF GREED IN ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY: SUMPTUARY  
LAWS AND NEW CONSUMERISM IN CHINA  
Joseph Bosco (*The Chinese University of Hong Kong*)
- 2.40 - 2.55 Coffee Break
- 3.00 – 3.40 BOOMS AND BUSTS: ASSET DYNAMICS AND THE POLITICS OF ACCESS  
AND EXCESS IN RURAL MONGOLIA  
Daniel J. Murphy (*University of Kentucky*)

- 3.45 – 4.25 MASS-MEDIATED CONSUMPTION AND SOCIAL COMMENTARY ON  
“STEALING”: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES FROM POSTSOCIALIST  
BULGARIA  
Yuson Jung (*U of Chicago*)
- 4.25 – 4.45 General Discussion
- 4.45 – 5.15 Coffee Break
- 5.15 – 6.15 **Plenary Discussion: Reflection on Social Economies of  
Greed and Excess**  
**Robert Hunt (*Brandeis University*), Virginia Dominguez  
(*University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*), and Carolyn  
Nordstrom (*University of Notre Dame*).**
- 6.15 – 7.00 General Discussion
- 7.00 – 8.00 Reception and Cocktails
- Dinner for Honorees, Co-Organizers, and SEA Board/guests (By Invitation)
- 8.30 – 10.00 Dinner at Ian Kuijt/Meredith Chesson Residence with SEA  
Board, Bob Hunt, Irene Winter, and Invited Guests<sup>2</sup>.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12**

- 8.00 – 9.00 Continental Breakfast

**Session Three (9.00 – 11.45)**

**REGULATION AND TRANSITIONS OF GREED AND EXCESSIVE BEHAVIORS IN  
SMALL-SCALE SOCIETIES AND/OR PERIPHERAL ECONOMIES**

---

<sup>2</sup> Transportation will be arranged for board members/guests between ND and  
Kuijt/Chesson residence and back

- 9.00 – 9.40 GREED IN A “TRIBAL” ECONOMY?  
E. Paul Durrenberger (*Penn State University*)  
Kathleen Gilgoly (*University of Wisconsin-Parkside*)
- 9.45 – 10.25 LOCI OF GREED IN A CARIBBEAN PARADISE  
Gayatri Thampy (*Ohio State University*)
- 10.25 – 10.40 Coffee Break
- 10.40 – 11.25 RISK-SEEKING PEASANTS, EXCESSIVE ARTISANS: SPECULATION IN THE  
NORTHERN ANDES  
Jason Antrosio (*Hartwick College*)  
Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld (*U. North Carolina-Chapel-Hill*)
- 11.25 – 11.45 General Discussion  
Lunch (11.45 – 1.30)
- 11.45 – 12.45 Buffet Lunch (Optional, \$ 20, Must be booked in advance by the  
25<sup>th</sup> February)
- 12.45 – 2.00 Poster Session  
**Session Four (2.00 – 5.45)**

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROBERT HUNT TO ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY and  
REFLECTIONS ON THE ROLE OF GREED IN MICRO AND MACROECONOMIC  
PROCESSES**

- 2.00 – 2.40 THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PRODUCTION OF GREED, COOPERATION AND  
TASTE IN AN OHIO FOOD AUCTION  
Jeffrey H. Cohen (*Ohio State University*)  
Susan Glover (*Dennison University*)

- 2.40 – 2.55 Coffee Break
- 2.55 – 3.35 POVERTY AND EXCESS IN A BINGE ECONOMY  
Richard Wilk (*Indiana University, Bloomington*)
- 3.40 – 4.20 CULTURE TRUMPS REASON: HOW WALL STREET MANIPULATED THE  
AMERICAN DREAM TO ENRICH ITSELF AND WHY THE VICTIMS OF THE  
SCAM WERE PUT OUT ON THE STREET WHILE THE PERPETRATORS  
WERE RESCUED BY THE GOVERNMENT  
Sidney M. Greenfield (*University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*)
- 4.25 – 5.05 HONOREE ADDRESS: AN ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA  
1700 TO 1940  
Robert C. Hunt (*Brandeis University*)
- 5.05 – 5.25 General Discussion
- 5.25 – 5.45 Closing Remarks, Rahul Oka and Ian Kuijt (*University of Notre  
Dame*)

SEA Dinner Banquet at Ciao (optional, \$ 45, must pre-register by February 25)<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>3</sup> Transportation to and from McKenna Hall and Ciao Restaurant will be provided by Notre Dame. Departure will be from outside McKenna Hall at 6:15.