

Jeffrey Wescott

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Education

- 2012 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA.
Dissertation: "The good lake, the possible sea: Ethics and environment in northern Vanuatu." Joel Robbins (chair), Rupert Stasch, Steven M. Parish, Paul K. Dayton, Richard Madsen.
- 2003 MA, Anthropology, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA.
Thesis: "Anthropology, morality, and the new materialist ecology: A critical synthesis."
- 2001 Dual BA, Anthropology and Cognitive Psychology, SUNY Buffalo.
- 1991 BA, English, SUNY Fredonia.

Fellowships and projects

- 2010-11 Fellow, climate change science and policy, Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD.
- 2006-07 Coordinator, National Biodiversity Database, Vanuatu Cultural Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu.
- 2005-07 Fellow, marine conservation science and policy, Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD.

Related Employment

- 2012-13 Ocean Policy and Science Researcher, Barbuda Blue Halo Marine Protected Area Project, Waitt Institute, Washington, DC.
- 2001-05 Writing Instructor and Teaching Assistant, Eleanor Roosevelt College and Department of Anthropology, UCSD.

Professional memberships

- 2010 Member, American Anthropological Association.
- 2005 Member, Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania.

Field research

- 2011 Fieldwork in East Gaua (6 weeks).
- 2009-10 Fieldwork in East and West Gaua (5 months).
- 2008 Fieldwork in East and West Gaua (5 months).
- 2007 Fieldwork in East Gaua (5 months).

2006 Pilot field visit, Gaua, Vanuatu (2 weeks).
2000-01 Fieldwork among Sri Lankan Tamil war emigrants in Toronto (8 weeks).

Language skills

English First language (L1).
Spanish Early intermediate, written and spoken (B1).
Bislama (Vanuatu) Fluent, written and spoken.
Nume (Vanuatu) Well, written and spoken.
Solomons Pidgin Intermediate, written and spoken.
Māori Basic, written and spoken.

Publications

In preparation: Intertidals: Possible lives and environmental transformations on Gaua, Vanuatu. Monograph to be submitted to Berghahn Press.

Papers and presentations

2012 “What every sorcerer knows about air: Indigenous politics in the Pacific Anthropocene.” Paper presented at the New Environments Forum, UCSD, La Jolla, CA.
2011 “Vulnerability, proximity, and the ideal sharing community: The case from northern Vanuatu.” Paper presented for the session, “Politics of the Good: On Ethics and Community,” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Montreal, QB, Canada. November. Co-organizer.
2011 “Anthropologists can breathe underwater (if they have to).” Paper presented at the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Spring Mixer, Birch Aquarium, La Jolla, CA. April.
2010 “Reimagining environmental change in contemporary Melanesia.” Paper presented at the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation IGERT Speaker Series, La Jolla, CA. November.
2010 “Social and cultural challenges of global change in Vanuatu.” Paper presented at the Scripps Marine Conservation Panel, UCSD, La Jolla, CA. October.
2005 “*Thunnus*’ last run: Projecting the decline of the tuna industry.” Paper co-presented at the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Summer Plenary Lecture. August.
2001 “Elegy to papyrus: Environmental perspectives of Sri Lankan Tamil war refugees in suburban Toronto.” Paper presented for the 2001 Valedictory Lectures, College of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo. April.
2000 “The problem of natural kinds in anthropological perspective.” Paper presented for the Van Ness Award Annual Lecture, Department of Anthropology, SUNY Buffalo. May.

Courses Taught

SEA Semester: Protecting the Phoenix Islands – Toward a Sustainable Ocean: Conservation and Management, Advanced Ocean Policy Research.

SEA Semester: Sustainability in Polynesian Island Cultures and Environments – Marine Environmental History, Maritime History and Culture.

Grants and awards

2011 Research Grant, Center for Marine Diversity and Conservation, UCSD.

2005 Dean of Social Sciences Research Grant, UCSD.

2001 Valedictorian Scholarship Award, Depts. of Anthropology and Psychology, SUNY Buffalo.

2000 Van Ness Award for Anthropology and the Environment, SUNY Buffalo.